

# March 2025



## Mt. Hope Lutheran Church

### *Words from Pastor Fran*

*And He said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of His name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ You are witnesses of all these things.”*

*Luke 24:46-48 (NLT)*

We have been spending much time thus far this calendar year on the Mission of the Church. We are proclaimers of this incredibly Good News.

We often poke fun at ourselves as Lutherans that we are not too comfortable with evangelism “sharing the Good News.” It’s not that we’re embarrassed or ashamed of Jesus and our faith, we simply do not want to be pushy or offend anyone. At least that is my thinking and experience. We love Jesus and the Church, but I don’t want to make waves.

As we’ve discovered and affirmed in the Scriptures though, God calls and empowers all His people to share the Good News. In his book, *Pray & Go, Your Invitation to Become a Great Commission Christian*, Thom Rainer writes:

*But Satan will do everything within his great, but limited, power to keep the truth of the gospel from spreading. Speaking of the devil, Jesus said, “He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44).*

*Simply stated, the father of lies does not want us sharing the truth. Sadly, at least in the North American context, we often see Satan winning these battles in our churches. He has given us a bevy of lies to keep us silent.*

*“I don’t have time.”*

*“I don’t want to offend people”*

*“I might get rejected.”*

*“I don’t need to talk about Jesus; I’ll just show my love to others”*

*“That’s what we pay the pastor to do.”*

*“Evangelism is not my spiritual gift.”*

I’m praying, challenging, and asking you to join me on this 30-Day Journey. Church Answers has designed a program called **Pray & Go** to help church members develop an outward focus, get out into their communities, pray for their neighbors and their cities, and invite people to church. The book with the same title, *Pray & Go*, incorporates many of the same principles into a thirty-day action plan that any church member or group can implement.

*Are you ready to make a commitment that will change your life in exciting and powerful ways? Are you ready – in God’s power – to change the world?*

Join me and get ready for a great adventure! Sign up, the adventure begins on **Wednesday, March 5**, Ash Wednesday.

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For our Lenten and Easter journey this year, we will be using a study authored by Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, titled *Singing With the Exiles*. We will gather each Wednesday at 11:30 for a time of worship followed by a light lunch.

The inspiration for the theme is drawn from the commentary [Concordia Commentary Isaiah 40–55](#) by Dr. R. Reed Lessing. Although Isaiah pulsates with richness and depth, chapters 40–55 contains some of the best-known, most-cherished, and theologically significant texts in the Bible. These chapters teach an orientation to the Lord and the world that Jesus endorsed, sharpened, and laid as the foundation for the Christian Church.

*Continued on page 2*



### Weekly Readings & Themes:

Ash Wednesday – Isaiah 41:14–16; God Has a Word for That  
Midweek of Lent 1 – Isaiah 43:1–7; I Only Have Eyes for You  
Midweek of Lent 2 – Isaiah 44:1–8; Marked  
Midweek of Lent 3 – Isaiah 45:1–8; Breaking Down the Gates  
Midweek of Lent 4 – Isaiah 48:17–22; Get Out  
Midweek of Lent 5 – Isaiah 49:1–6; One Little Word Can Fell Him  
Holy Thursday – Isaiah 49:7–13; He Prepares a Table for Us  
Good Friday – Isaiah 52:13–53:12; All  
Easter – Isaiah 55:6–13; We Are Going Home

What a fabulous time to be the church! Mount Hope *where guests become friends and friends become family!*

Serving together,

*Pastor Fran Green*

Mid-week worship: 11:30am  
Holy Week: times TBD

## *The 11:59 Hour*

As readers of the Bible, we know from scripture that we will face trials, challenges, and difficulties in this life. For the past two months that has been quite true for me. Preparing for another surgery has been time consuming what with all the pre-op doctor visits, blood tests, and more. To make matters worse, a past medical condition decided to present itself along with some new unexpected problems. I'm sure many of you know exactly what I am speaking about. So, the question is, "How do I deal with this?"

In doing so, I have depended much upon prayer for which I have put the acronym "A-S-K" "ask seek, and knock" into play. I know God hears us when we pray and He answers. I just wish He was a little clearer with the answer. At times I feel I need to return to Sunday School and remind myself that His answers are of three kinds: "yes, no, and wait." So, two questions come to mind, "What is the key to getting through tough times?" And, "What do I do when God puts me on hold until the eleventh hour?"

Reviewing some bible stories, I am realizing, like Moses and others, some mistakes I am making, namely—being too focused on the problem and possibly relying too greatly on my own strength and understanding. So how did Moses and others endure their difficulties? Answer—by FAITH and realizing that tough times are...inescapable, capable of destroying or developing a person, and survivable. The key is learning how to walk in continual awareness of God's presence. (*In Touch Ministries devotional*)

As Jentezen Franklin stated in one of his sermons, "A closed door may be the will of God." As for me and where I may be lacking, I continue to pray to the Lord that He help my unbelief and faltering.

Whatever you are facing, let's take a moment to recalibrate and center our heart and mind on God.

**Is there any place I can go to avoid your spirit?**

**To be out of your sight?**

**If I climb to the sky, you're there!**

**If I go underground, you're there!**

**If I flew on morning's wings**

**to the far western horizon,**

**You'd find me in a minute**

**you're already waiting! \***

And as Dr. Charles Stanley wrote, "There is not a single verse in the Word of God that says, 'If you do this or that, God will love you.' He is God—it is His very nature to express unconditional love."

# Events, Activities & This-n-That

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Sunday Adult Bible Study

10:45am in the Library

### Sunday School

10:45am—classroom

### Mondays - Grief Share

Grief Share began their Spring session on Feb. 24th. The program is for those who have lost a loved one and helps facilitate healing and finding a new lifepath. Registration on their website is requested. You can get more information from their leader, Joy Schneider: [lovemercy3@yahoo.com](mailto:lovemercy3@yahoo.com)

### Tuesdays @ Two

Mt. Hope hosts conversation and coffee on Tuesdays at **2:00 pm**. All are invited to attend. We usually have some treats too!



## ONGOING EVENTS

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month

There is usually a special **Children's Message** during the Sunday morning worship. Also on that day we take a **Noisy Offering!** Bring your "noisy" coins that day to drop in the bucket (paper money donations gladly accepted also!) Monies go to the Children's Ministry program.

### Card Ministry

Take a moment to fill out the **April** birthday cards in the narthex. Write a little bible verse, add a birthday greeting and bless those at Mt. Hope who have birthdays in April. We're always one month ahead so when the new month begins, we can start distributing the greetings.



### Cancelled Stamps Collection

Did you know that you can donate your cancelled stamps for charity? Save your stamps that have their perforations intact, leave at least ¼ inch on each side of the stamp when cutting it from the envelope or postcard. Place your cut cancelled stamps in the labeled bin located on the shelf above the coat rack.



### First Friday Book Club

FFBC will be Mar. 7th at 1:30pm @Marilyn's. The book for March is

### "The Thursday Murder Club".

Looking ahead, the April book is, "**Dogland**" by Tommy Tomlinson. Tomlinson was watching a dog show on television a few years ago when he had a sudden thought: Are those dogs happy? How about pet dogs—are they happy? Those questions sparked a quest to venture inside the dog-show world, in search of a deeper understanding of the longtime relationship between dogs and humans, and here, in *Dogland* he shares his surprising, entertaining, and moving adventures. All are welcome. RSVP Marilyn. *Renata Melby*

### Also Book Related

We are always looking for donations for our outdoor **Free Lending Library** out on Old Shakopee. Drop off your donations on the cart in our library.

### PRAYER CHAIN



Each month we provide for you a daily prayer topic list. You can find it located at the information table outside of the office or at a number of other places throughout the church.

If you have a personal prayer request for you, a loved one, or a friend, our prayer group will include it in our prayers, and pass it along to Pastor Fran to include during worship (if desired). And, we rejoice when prayers are answered! If there is no longer a need to be included in our prayers, also please let us know.

If you have a personal prayer request, send your prayer requests to me at [frawocor489@aol.com](mailto:frawocor489@aol.com) or by telephone at 952-707-1881. Fran W.

*Fran Wallin*



### Easter Flowers

Before you know it, it will be Easter Sunday...Hallelujah! Members will be able to sponsor an Easter flower again this year.

We do not have the particulars yet (type of flowers, cost, etc.) so watch for more details to come in mid-March.

## WOMEN OF HOPE

*“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” 2 Corinthians 5:21*

During Lent, we contemplate Jesus’ Passion. We thank Him for His indescribable gift of salvation by stepping in and taking the punishment of our sin by His own suffering and death.



- ✦ The Women of Hope will be serving a light lunch after the Lenten Services this season. A free will offering will be available or just come and share the worship, the fellowship and food without charge.
- ✦ A big THANK YOU to everyone who came to the Valentine’s Tea— in spite of the weather. It was a blessing to hear and experience the Love of Valentine’s Day as we learned about God’s precious gift of physical and spiritual life. It also provided a way to get to know our friends from Centro Esperanza who helped prepare and serve the food!
- ✦ The Spring LWML Rally will be at Redemption Lutheran Church in Bloomington on Saturday Morning, May 3, 2025. This a good time to meet other Christian sisters of the faith and learn about ministry from a special speaker while enjoying some good food. Look for more information in the next Mt. Hope Newsletter.
- ✦ The next Women of Hope Meeting will be Saturday March 8, 2025 at 9:30am. All ladies of Mt. Hope are invited to come, fellowship and share ideas with us.

Because of Jesus’ saving actions on our behalf, the Father, no longer sees our sinfulness. Instead, He only sees the purity of Jesus. Thank you Jesus for your love and sacrifices and the Easter joy of your resurrection.



Hello Mt. Hope family!

We are approaching my second Lenten season with this congregation, and I'm so grateful for the past year with you all. Thank you for being so welcoming, gracious, and encouraging as I learn the ropes.

This season, I would like to request prayers for Mt. Hope's music ministry, since I believe prayer is the foundation and sustenance of any ministry. My requests are that we would pray in faith for increased knowledge and success with our music technology, that we would make the best use of the blessings and resources that we have, and for ever-increasing engagement. And most importantly, that our worship would continue to bless God, bless us, and transform our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit.

And just as an added note, I am SO grateful for everyone who has volunteered with music in the past year. You have been a blessing. And I would like to reiterate that the call for volunteers is always open. Please reach out to me if you would like to help our congregation worship God together with music! I pray for a blessed Lent and Easter season for all of us.--Katrina



## SAGES GATHERING XXXV



MAY 5 AND 6, 2025

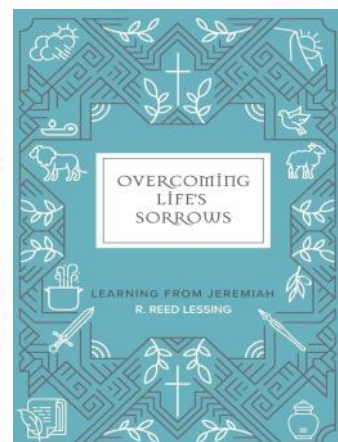
AT COUNTRY INN AND SUITES IN MANKATO MN



**Rev. Dr. R. Reed  
Lessing,  
Featured Presenter**

**“OVERCOMING  
LIFE’S  
SORROWS”**

Learning from  
Jeremiah



**WORKSHOPS, MUSIC, VENDORS, BANQUET**

**More info at the information nook in the narthex.**



From our Brothers and Sisters at Redemption Lutheran:



Join us on the evening of the first Sunday of each month for movie night! We will watch a popular movie and discuss the message through a Christian lens. Popcorn and Pop will be available for everyone joining us. So bring the whole family for our showing of "Field of Dreams" on March 2nd at Redemption Lutheran (927 E. Old Shakopee Rd). See you there!

Also, for Lent, Redemption is offering a 6:30pm Lent worship option. There will be a light supper served starting at 5:00pm. All are welcomed!



VEAP report for March:

- Two deliveries were made to VEAP in January, for a total of 119.2 pounds. At the February newsletter deadline, Birthday items had not yet been delivered.
• The theme for March is to "Restock VEAP's Pantry". March is the Food and Fund Drive to help fill the pantry to fight hunger. The goal is to raise \$300,000 and collect 75,000 pounds of food to provide nutritious meals for families in need. This campaign begins Mar. 1, and goes through Apr. 6th.
• Check out the green collection shelf for the most needed items.

Karen Mueller, Ministry Partner Rep.



If you have a Thrivent account, don't forget to direct Choice Dollars to the organization of your choice by March 31st! Instructions on how you can do that can be found at the info center in the narthex.

At our January Voter's Meeting updates were provided on Mt. Hope's various ministries and groups. The updates showed that Mt. Hope is experiencing excitement and momentum we have not had in quite some time. We need to harness this momentum. We need to foster intentional outreach and meaningful growth. In order to do this successfully, Mt. Hope needs a team of volunteers that can help with this. The board envisions this group of volunteers will serve as a communication and administrative hub that connects all our ministries. We already have some ideas to get you started but the group will be what you choose to make it.



In our last newsletter Pastor Fran shared important information, one of the facts being that 15,000 churches will close in the period of one year. Let's not wait until it is too late. Let's not let Mt. Hope be a statistic. Let's take this opportunity God has given us and see where he is leading us.

Please consider being part of this team. Pray on it. Discuss it with anyone and everyone. We need to put in the work and harness the momentum that God has provided us with. Only with your help can we avoid becoming a statistic. If you can volunteer to be on this emerging team or have questions, please reach out to a Governing Board member listed below:

- Al Johnson ♦ Bart Killam ♦ David Schleifer ♦ Fran Wallin ♦ Ina Adams ♦ Kathy Sundseth
Kirsten Buelow ♦ Lloyd Quittschreiber ♦ Pastor Fran Green ♦ Vern Traetow

# March Celebrations!!

## BIRTHDAYS

3/4 Al Johnson  
3/10 Orpha Radford  
3/10 Emily Vogland  
3/16 Erica McMullen  
3/18 Debbie Lingen  
3/20 Maria Killam  
3/21 Lloyd Quittschreiber  
3/21 Bella Blauvelt  
3/24 Darlene Buelow  
3/27 Vivian Brantner

## BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

3/2 Drew Blauvelt  
3/4 Harriet Buelow  
3/6 Katie Jacob  
3/10 Hadley Lang  
3/10 Holden Lang  
3/18 Zachery Brantner  
3/20 Candy Frein  
3/20 Al Johnson  
3/20 Todd Mack  
3/23 Karen Mack  
3/23 Anika Quittschreiber  
3/27 Charlotte Rosner  
3/27 Jack Rosner  
3/27 Penelope Rosner

## ANNIVERSARIES

3/1 Kirk & Dorene Vogland – 40yr  
3/8 Jerry & Harriet Buelow – 67yr  
3/24 Bart & Maria Killam – 41yr



## Serving in March

**Coffee/Treats & Clean up: Renata Melby**

**Kitchen/Receptions: Renata Melby and Ina Adams**

**Altar: Linda Quittschreiber and Darlene Wendt**

**Elders: 3/2 - Steve S., 3/9 - Jerry L., 3/16 - Al J., 3/23 - Dave S., 3/30 - Steve S.**

## Altar Flowers

**Mar. 2** – Kirk & Dorene Vogland—in celebration of their 40th anniversary

**Mar. 9** – (open)

**Mar. 16** – Lloyd & Linda Quittschreiber—in celebration of March family birthdays

**Mar. 23** – Kristi Voth—in loving memory of her father for his March birthday

**Mar. 30** – Renata Melby—in celebration of March family birthdays



Sponsoring the altar flowers is a beautiful way to honor loved ones. Flowers are often given to mark special life events such as birth and birthdays; anniversary of a wedding, baptism, confirmation; the memory of a loved one; or as a thanksgiving for life's blessings.

The **2025 Altar Flower Sign Up Calendar** is posted on the bulletin board in the information hallway. Please sign up for a date and place your \$30 check, payable to the Women of Hope, in Karen Mack's mailbox opposite the bulletin board. Karen Mack's phone number is 952-831-7428 for any questions you may have.

**NOTE:** Each month, by the 20th, I send to the office, the next months list of people who have signed up to donate flowers. If, by chance, there is an open spot in the next month and you sign up after the 20th, please let me know, so I don't miss your name and consequently have no flowers. Thank you.

# March 2025

Where Guests become Friends and Friends become Family

Mount Hope Lutheran Church  
3601 W Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431

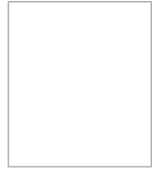
952 888 5059 [church@mthopelutheran.org](mailto:church@mthopelutheran.org) [www.mthopelutheran.org](http://www.mthopelutheran.org)



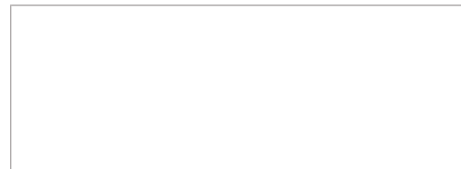
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1 10:30am Teen Discipleship	
2 9:30am Worship 10:45am Ed. Hour 1:00pm <i>Centro Esp. Worship</i>	3 10:00am IFC 6:30pm ESL Class	4 2:00pm Tues@2 5:30pm <i>Music Cls.</i> 7:00pm <i>YA Disc.</i> 8:00pm AA	5 Ash Wednesday 10:00am IFC 11:30am Worship 12:00pm Lunch 7:00pm <i>Bible Study</i>	6 7:00pm <i>Bible Prep. Institute</i> 7:00pm <i>Worship Tm Rehearsal</i>	7 10:00am IFC 1:30pm Book Club @ Marilyn's 6:30pm <i>Leaders Discipleship</i>	8 9:30am Women of Hope	
9 9:30am Worship 10:45am Ed. Hour 1:00pm <i>Centro Esp. Worship</i>	10 10:00am IFC 6:30pm ESL Class	11 2:00pm Tues@2 5:30pm <i>Music Cls.</i> 7:00pm <i>YA Disc.</i> 8:00pm AA	12 10:00am IFC 11:30am Worship 12:00pm Lunch 7:00pm <i>Bible Study</i>	13 7:00pm <i>Bible Prep. Institute</i> 7:00pm <i>Worship Tm Rehearsal</i>	14 10:00am IFC 6:30pm <i>Marriage Discipleship</i>	15 10:30am Teen Discipleship	
16 9:30am Worship 10:45am Ed. Hour 1:00pm <i>Centro Esp. Worship</i>	17 10:00am IFC 6:30pm ESL Class	18 2:00pm Tues@2 5:30pm <i>Music Cls.</i> 7:00pm <i>YA Disc.</i> 8:00pm AA	19 10:00am IFC 11:30am Worship 12:00pm Lunch 7:00pm <i>Bible Study</i>	20 6:30pm Govern Bd 7:00pm <i>Bible Prep. Institute</i> 7:00pm <i>Worship Tm Rehearsal</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 5px;">Deadline for February News</div>	21 10:00am IFC 6:30pm <i>Leaders Discipleship</i>	22 5:00pm <i>Women's Discipleship</i>	
23 9:30am Worship 10:45am Ed. Hour 1:00pm <i>Centro Esp. Worship</i>	24 10:00am IFC 6:30pm ESL Class	25 2:00pm Tues@2 5:30pm <i>Music Cls.</i> 7:00pm <i>YA Worship</i> 8:00pm AA	26 10:00am IFC 11:30am Worship 12:00pm Lunch 7:00pm <i>Prayer Service</i>	27 7:00pm <i>Bible Prep. Institute</i> 7:00pm <i>Worship Tm Rehearsal</i>	28 10:00am IFC 9:00pm-6:00am <i>Vigil</i>	29 10:30am Teen Discipleship	
30 9:30am Worship 10:45am Ed. Hour 1:00pm <i>Centro Esp. Worship</i>	31 10:00am IFC 6:30pm ESL Class	<b>Mt. Hope Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 1:00pm-5:00pm</b>					

**Note:** Centro Esperanza MN activities are indicated by *ITALICS*

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church  
3601 W Old Shakopee Rd  
Bloomington, MN 55431



Address Service Requested



*This is a monthly publication of Mt. Hope Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Bloomington, MN. Any submissions for the newsletter need to be into the office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Publication is generally around the 25<sup>th</sup>, with the goal of being sent out/available to members by the end of the prior month. It is also available for viewing/download from our website.*

Other reading material currently available at the church:



- **March** MN South District News
- **Spring** Lutheran Women's Quarterly
- **Jan-Mar** Portals of Prayer
- **Jan/Feb/Mar** Sagacity Senior News
- **Winter** LWML MN South news
- **...and more!**

**Sunday Services Online at:**

**YouTube Channel:** [Mount Hope Lutheran Church](#)

**Facebook:** [Mount Hope Lutheran Ch, Bloomington, MN](#)

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**Mt. Hope's**

**2025 Governing Board**

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Bart Killam

David Schleifer

Fran Wallin

Ina Adams

Kathy Sundseth

Kirsten Buelow

Lloyd Quittschreiber

Pastor Fran Green

Vern Traetow