First Lutheran Church of Hope

Growing in Christ. Sharing His Love. Reaching the World.

Worship Time: 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am

"Come join our Family of God"

Location: 8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope, MN 56046

Mailing Address: PO Box 7, Hope MN 56046

507-451-3854

Pastor Sandy Miller

Cell phone: 507-456-1794



PASTOR SANDY'S OFFICE HOURS

Tues/Wed/Thurs 2pm - 5pm

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

Genesis 50:20

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ ~



This is a time that will certainly go down in history as we remember the challenging effects of COVID-19 on our lives and in our ministry. As of March 22, 2020 we had to cease having worship services on Sunday morning because of the "Stay at Home" order given by the State of MN. It appears this will continue at least through the month of May. Going through Lent and Easter was especially difficult as we had to forego the many meaningful and worshipful services that celebrate the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! As you can see from

the picture, Easter morning at FLC was quiet and dark.

But I tell you what! The message of Easter didn't remain quiet and dark by any means!! Why? Because Jesus Christ was being celebrated in people's hearts....exactly where it was meant to be celebrated. All of you know I'm not a fan of social media, but I have to admit that because of technology the Good News of Jesus Christ, the message of the forgiveness of sin and eternal life for those who put their trust in Him, went out far and wide as nearly every church found a way to post their messages online! Isn't it just like God to take what Satan intended for evil, and turn it to good!

Regardless of the effects of COVID-19, Jesus is no longer in the grave! He has ascended to the right hand of God and rules with all power and authority. No longer do sickness and death have the final say because Jesus has victory over sin, sickness and even death itself. Because of that we rejoice, regardless of our current circumstances! In fact, we rejoice *in the midst* of our circumstances. As the apostle Paul says, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thess 5:16-18)

Friends, we do have so much to be grateful for. At this point, all of our family and faith is healthy and provided for; the Gospel message is being proclaimed every week on YouTube; our family of faith is feeling connected through caring phone calls, email, and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit; and most importantly, we have a hope in Jesus Christ that cannot be quenched! Look at this picture! Do you see the cross? Christ is with us. He is risen! And He is with us! While we're all anxious for this to be over we need to



trust that God is doing a mighty work and that we're going to come through this stronger, closer to Christ, and even more effective in our ministry.

In His JOY ~
Pastor Sandy

SPRING/SUMMER BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNING STUDY

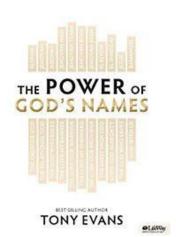
We're working our way through **THE GOSPEL PROJECT**, a three year walk through the Bible! This is a study you can join in on *at any time!!* Led by various lay leaders in our congregation, the questions and content promote relevant and interesting teaching and conversation. Please consider joining your brothers and sisters in Christ in this *low commitment* opportunity to study the Word of God. Take that step to **GROW IN CHRIST** that you might know Christ better and let His Word shape how you live life on a daily basis. *We will resume as soon as we start meeting again for worship!*

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Calling all men! You're invited to our Men's Bible study that meets every Saturday morning at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. What do we do? We simply read a few chapters in the Bible and then discuss it, what it means and how it relates to our lives as men. For a few weeks we met via Zoom, but we are back to meeting in person. Bring your own coffee and something to eat if you wish!

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

We're hopeful that we'll be able to offer the following summer Bible Study:



"The POWER of God's Names" by Tony Evans 6-week study beginning Wednesday, June 17th

6:30 -8:00 pm; Cost = \$15

Because of God's depth of character, He has a variety of names to reflect His different capacities of relating to humanity. God is called Elohim when referenced as the all-powerful Creator. When you need provision, get to know the name Jehovah Jireh, which means God, the Provider. God has a name for any and every situation that you can find yourself in. Get to know the names of God through this six-session study because it is in knowing His character and His capacity that you will rest and discover both peace and power in His covenant care.

If interested, please contact Pastor Sandy @ 507-456-1794 or flchopemn@gmail.com



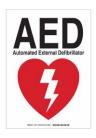
Thank you to all who contributed to the area Food Shelves. All together we contributed the following to Community Pathways (Steele County Food Shelf) \$800 and 9# of food

"Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help." Isaiah 58:7

AED (Automated External Defibrillator)



What a fun day it was on Sunday, March 1st as approximately 20 people were trained on our new **AED** ((Automated External Defibrillator). The unit is installed on the south wall of the narthex on the east side of the coatrack. And the hope is....that we will never have to use it!!









A Prayer for My \mathcal{DAD}



God, bless all the Father's in the world.
Guide them to be good role models and loving to all their children. Help them to be a Father like You are. Give them grace and patience to handle situations in a loving way.

May God's blessings be with you!

"HOLY WEEK BAG" DISTRIBUTION



On Saturday, April 4th the Board of Deacons organized a "Holy Week Distribution" for all of our members. They created bags consisting of a bottle of grape juice, elements for communion (hosts/cups), an Easter card, the Book of Life: Gospel of John, a chocolate cross (thank you Paul & Kathy Harty), and a palm. It was a beautiful day as we distributed the bags and oh, how good it was to see people....if only through their car window. It's amazing how the power of this Sacrament strengthens us and unites us together as God's family. It was a real blessing for us all.



Of course, social distancing guidelines were followed!

A second distribution is scheduled for May 2nd



SPRING CLEAN UP



On Wednesday, April 22nd, your Council members and Board of

Trustees gathered to do a spring clean up at church. We raked rocks, trimmed bushes, and washed the north side of the church. It's all spruced up just ready and waiting for the people of God to gather once again for worship.



WOMEN OF THE WORD

MAY ALTAR GUILD

Communion: Lori Springer Paraments & Banners: Chris Jensen

& Kim Pirkl

JUNE ALTAR GUILD

Communion: Lori Springer Paraments & Banners: Darla Skalicky

& Barb Hrdlicka

MAY SERVICE GROUP



JUNE SERVICE GROUP



WOW Quarterly Meeting

To Be Rescheduled

Depending on when COVID-19 Restrictions are Lifted



A Prayer for My $\mathcal{M}O\mathcal{M}$

Dear Father up in heaven, Bless my mother here on earth. You gave my spirit earthly life, My mother gave me birth.

She follows in your footsteps
Her heart is full of LOVE
Please keep her in Your loving care
And bless her from ABOVE.

YOU ARE APPRECIATED!



A big shout out to **Jim Springer** for his faithfulness to go to church every Sunday morning at 9:00 am to ring the bell....even in these days of not meeting. Not only that, but he comes on Saturday as well to ring it for the YouTube recording so that you can all hear it ring as well. The ringing of the bell has great significance for us as it reminds us that 'it's time to worship'. We are gathered as God's people and Christ is with us. There is hope in Hope and His name is Jesus! Jim, thank you!! *You are appreciated!*









July 19th 5th Annual FLC Summer Picnic

Join us after church at Borchert's farm for a great day of food and games! It's sure to be a fun time for all!



CONFIRMATION DAY

Sadly, we are postponing the Confirmation of the following boys until next fall.

Joseph Pirkl

Son of John & Kim Pirkl

&

Dakota Nappin

Son of Rhonda Nappin

In the meantime, please keep these young men in your prayers. It's a day we are all still looking forward to!



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 7, 2020

"Pray God's glory across the earth."

Habbakuk 2:14



2020 National Prayer

Kathy Branzell President, National Day of Prayer Task Force

Lord, we exist to give You glory. We exist because of Your glory, and in Your glory, as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

We give you thanks and praise for every breath and moment You have given to us. We repent of our sin; for the shameful things we have done against You and for our silence when we did not speak up to proclaim Your Name, profess Your Word, or protect and practice Your will.

We ask Your forgiveness.

We pray that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will spread across our nation and the entire earth as we seek Your Kingdom and righteousness;

as we walk in obedience to You, and in humble unity, love one another. Jesus, the Bible says that You are "the knowledge of the glory of the Lord."

You have taught us to pray, commanded us to love,
and commissioned us to share Your gospel of grace.

Your glory fills our hearts and families, it overflows into our neighborhoods, workplaces, campuses, churches, in our entertainment and media. We give thanks for our military and ask that Your glory would spread to, and through them as they preserve freedom around the world.

We pray for our government, that all of our leaders and laws would be filled with Your glory,

that they would magnify Your Holy Word and honor Your will and ways. We pray that Your grace and glory would spread to bring hope to the hopeless, and love where there is hurt and hate.

God, use us as we pray your promise, that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

In Jesus Name, Amen!

Council Meeting Minutes 03-10-2020

Present: Sandy, Lisa, Raquel, Dave, Randy, Mary. Absent: Jim

Devotion & Prayer: Mary

Secretary's report: Randy made a motion to approve. Dave seconded; motion carried

Treasurer's Report: Raquel; explained items on the report.

- Strong offerings during year; giving continues to be favorable.
- Dave moved to approve January and February report, Randy seconded. Council approved
- Lenten services well received; Presenting at LCMC district meeting in Idaho on April 30-May
 2; Vacation planned week of June 1st and week of June 22nd (June 7th and 28th off)

Prayers for our Ministry: All

Old Business:

- Reviewed Annual Meeting minutes.
- Constitution updated and distributed to Council. To be ratified at next annual meeting in 2021
- Council retreat review- most found it helpful. The consensus was to plan for a Saturday next year, if possible, if not, we will do an evening format.
- AED discussion about placement of notices. Lisa will contact the ambulance. Update people to call, the video is available for viewing. Will continue discussion in April.

New Business:

- Keynote speaker Sunday evening May 17^{th.} Grace Johnson video on Discipleship.
- Picnic, July 19th at Borchert's
- 2020 Goal discussion
 - Invitation/Outreach
 - Postcards ordered for Easter. 2 different types one for mailing and one to handout
 - Facebook started
 - o Reach out to younger families.
 - Invite young families over the summer to come together for fellowship to find out what they might want for faith education for their children
 - Deacons will materials for childcare during Sunday service

Prayer

 Prayer partners are connecting; Suggested Prayer ministry every Sunday after service. Sandy and Lisa will coordinate.

Small Group

- Discipleship will expand in Fall
- Discuss possibility of Study/Fellowship small group formation

LCMC Connection

- Connection with New Richland for Keynote speaker night
- Sandy connection with Pastor at New Richland and South Zumbro
- Council to visit in New Richland

Outreach to Congregation

Reviewed outreach contacts by council members

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Ed (Pastor Sandy)

Sandy has possible Bible Studies recommended for Summer and Fall; Confirmation April 26;
 Men's Bible study and Sunday AM Bible study continue to go well.

Deacons (Randy)

 Prayer ministry continues to go well; welcome bags delivered to new Hope residents; in the process of reviewing possible teaching materials for Sunday AM childcare

Trustees (Dave)

Ceiling tile replaced in basement; lawn mowing duties will rotate again; AED mounted - signs
to be posted, water and furnace contacts updated; replace cement in front of basement
door; updated key list; Signs along the freeway for church needed; Spring cleanup
scheduled for April22 at 4:30 light meal following

Finance Committee (Randy)

 Discussed electronic giving but chose not to proceed because of costs and added work; New software for bank statements still being worked out; 2020 Giving Guide distributed; Money left over from AED fund will be redirected to Laundry Love

Sandy provided a handout <u>Unchanging Message</u> from a blog by Paul Anderson

Ministry reports

Laundry Love report: \$460.00 current plus 100.00 in bank. Need to bring needs before the congregation for support. Next laundry day is Monday March 16th

WOW: Sandy

- Lenten supper going well
- sign up sheet for conference April 25 at Hosanna in Mankato,

Mission

- Pastor Bob Mankaka (Congo) so appreciative of our support
- Andrew surgery in Utah doing rehab and planning to be here in April with Pastor Peter (Uganda)

Review April Monthly calendar:

Raquel moved to adjourn; Randy second; approved.

Closed in Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Mary Arfmann

First Lutheran Treasurer's Report for March, 2020

Submitted by Raquel Hansen, Treasurer

	Beginn	ning Balance	\$ 25,603.60
Income	٦	Total Income	\$ 8,937.63
General Offering	\$	8,507.63	
Other Income	\$	-	
Designated Giving	\$	430.00	
	Tot	al Expenses	\$ 8,510.68
General Expenses	\$	6,624.37	
Designated Giving (Out)	\$	1,886.31	
	End	ding Balance	\$ 26,030.55
YTD Budge	et		
Total Tithes and Offerings	\$	25,985.38	
Amount needed for Budget	\$	26,785.00	
Amount Over/(Under)	\$	(799.62)	

<u>PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM – CARES ACT</u>



Thanks to the quick response of our Treasurer, Raquel Hansen and Church Council, FLC is blessed to have received \$12,917 through the Paycheck Protection Program of the CARES-Act Stimulus Bill. This will help assure that we are able to pay our pastor, musician and custodian even in this time in which we aren't gathering for worship.

We are so very grateful for all of you who are staying faithful in your giving. At this point we are only slightly down in offerings. But this added amount will assure that we get through this time of economic downturn due to COVID-19. God is faithful and we are grateful for His constant provision of us individually, and as a church. "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you," Matt 6:28

SCRIP FOR SALE







We continually have scrip cards available from HyVee, Fleet Farm, and Kwik Trip in \$25, \$50, and \$100 amounts. **NEW TO SCRIP**: Kwik Trip Car Wash cards. \$30 gets you 5/ea Ultimate Car Washes, a \$50 value! See Lori Springer or Dean Shankland before or after church to purchase. All proceeds remain in the Scrip Fund for future ministry needs.

Scrip Report, March, 2020

Submitted by Raquel Hansen, Treasurer

	Beginning Account Balance	\$ 3,379.50
Income:		\$ 1,741.01
Donations	\$ -	
Scrip Card Sales	\$ 1,741.01	
Expenses:		\$ 980.00
Expenses:	\$ 980.00	
	Ending Account Balance	\$ 4,140.51
	Ending Scrip Card Balance	\$ -
	Ending Account Balance	\$ 4,140.51

Scrip Sales and Profit

	Sales		Profit		YTD Profit	
Hy-Vee	\$	650.00	\$ 13.00	\$	39.00	
Fleet Farm	\$	50.00	\$ 2.50	\$	25.00	
Kwik Trip	\$	950.00	\$ 78.51	\$	286.71	
Kwik Trip Car Wash	\$	60.00	\$ 20.00	\$	30.00	
Total	\$	1,710.00	\$ 114.01	\$	380.71	

May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am BD – Dakota Nappin, Buzz Pool
Worship with Communion, 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am BD – Jim Springer	4	5	6	7 National Day of Prayer - Community Service, 5:30pm	8	9 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am BD – Nancy Brekke, Bobby THompson
Worship Service, 9:00 am Adult Bible Study, 10:30 am	11	Finance Committee, 5:30 pm Council Mtg. 7pm	13	14	BD – Doug Matthees	16 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am BD – Dawn Schwartz
17 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:00 am Key Note Speaker Night, 5:00 pm	18 Laundry Love, 6pm	19	20	21	22	23 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am
24 Worship Service 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am BD – Maryn Pool	25	26	27	28	29	30 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am
Worship Service 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am						

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed		Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2		3	4	5	6 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am
					BD – Barb Hrdlicka		BD – Jack Skalicky
7 Worship with Communion, 9:00am Adult Bible Study, 10:30 am BD – Steve	8	9		10	Board of Trustees, 4:30 pm	12	13 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am
Miller 14 Worship Service, 9:00 am Adult Bible Study, 10:30am BD – Bev	15	16 Finance Committee, 5:30 pm Council Mtg. 7:00 pm BD – Diane	Bible Study, 6:30 pm	17	18	19 BD – Kim	Hansen 20 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am
21 Worship with Communion, 9:00 am Adult Bible Study, 10:30 am	22 Laundry Love, 4:30 pm	Schmidtke 23 BD – Joey Pirkl	Bible Study, 6:30 pm	24	25	Pirkl 26	27 Me's Bible Study, 7:30 am
28 Worship Service, 9:00 am Adult Bible Study, 10:30am BD – Pastor Sandy	29 BD – Amanda Betters	30					

Bits and Pieces

We thank God for the many guests and visitors who have been attending worship at First Lutheran. Please introduce yourself and welcome them warmly. Invite them to come again and ask them to sign the guest book. And don't forget to keep handing out your Invite Cards located in the basket on the table in the lower narthex.

Keep Them in Your Prayers

- Those in need of on-going strength & healing: Bobby Thompson; Gary Schwartz; Mary Hoelz; Mary Arfmann; Ralph Jenkins
- Those who we are in ministry partnership with: LCMC; Pastor Bob Mankaka; Pastor Siimon Hammer, EEMN, Enrique Estrada; Pastor Peter Sewarkayanga & Andrew

May Birthdays							
2	Dakota Nappin	9	Bobby Thompson				
2	Buzz Pool	15	Doug Matthees				
3	Jim Springer	16	Dawn Schwartz				
9	Nancy Brekke	24	Maryn Pool				



Church Attendance

March 1	
March 8	
March 15	
March 22	Cancelled
March 29	Online

June Birthdays							
4	Barb Hrdlicka	16	Diane Schmidtke				
6	Jack Skalicky	19	Kim Pirkl				
7	Steve Miller	23	Joey Pirkl				
13	Todd Hansen	28	Sandy Miller				
14	Bev Meixner	29	Amanda Betters				



We recycle aluminum cans. Please place in the trash can <u>under the steps</u> (not in the WM container). Proceeds go to the building fund.

Thank you for your help.

MAY/JUNE WORSHIP at FIRST LUTHERAN

The following is all contingent upon COVID-19 restrictions for large group gatherings



May 3	9:00 am	Worship w/Communion
May 10	9:00 am	Worship Service
May 17	9:00 am	Worship w/Communion
May 24	9:00 am	Worship Service
May 31	9:00 am	Worship Service, Pentecost
June 7	9:00 am	Worship w/Communion
June 14	9:00 am	Worship Service
June 21	9:00 am	Worship w/Communion
June 28	9:00 am	Worship Service

LAY LEADER SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion</u>	Sound Technician
May 3	Randy & Lisa Borchert	Kathy Streiff	Jadan Young
May 10	Todd & Raquel Hansen		AJ Pirkl
May 17	Warren Suchanek & Darla Skalicky	Raquel Hansen	Steve Weigt
May 24	Dean & JoAnn Shankland		Warren Suchanek
May 31	Gary & Dawn Schwartz		Jadan Young
June 7	Dave & Chris Jensen	Randy Borchert	Steve Miller
June 14	Charlie & Carol Anderson		AJ Pirkl
June 21	Richard & Karlene Hansen	JoAnn Shankland	Steve Weigt
June 28	Jan Clementson & John Pirkl		Warren Suchanek

<u>Date</u>	Projection Tech	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
May 3	Angela Olson	Darla Skalicky	Todd Hansen	Joey Pirkl
May 10	Steve Miller	Paul Harty	Warren Suchanek	AJ Pirkl
May 17	Mary Arfmann	Randy Borchert	Dawn Armstrong	Dakota Nappin
May 24	Randy Borchert	Sylvia Smuland	Jan Clementson	Joey Pirkl
May 31	Angela Olson	Mary Arfmann	Wendell Peterson	Jadan Young
June 7	Mary Arfmann	Raquel Hansen	Raquel Hansen	AJ Pirkl
June 14	Steve Miller	JoAnn Shankland	Chris Jensen	Dakota Nappin
June 21	Randy Borchert	Kathy Harty	Dean Shankland	Joey Pirkl
June 28	Angela Olson	Kathy Streiff	Randy Borchert	Jadan Young

^{*}If you are unable to serve at your scheduled time, $\underline{please\ find\ a\ replacement\ and\ let}$ $\underline{Pastor\ Sandy\ know.}$ Thank you!