

# The Beacon of Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

APRIL 2020

## *Pastor's Corner*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Well we have just emerged from a March all of us will never forget. Years from now we will all be recounting stories about the great COVID -19 pandemic and how it changed our lives with social distancing, at home lock downs, food and toilet paper shortages. New for many of us, there is no going to church on Sunday. Rather, we have to watch Pastor John on our website or Facebook page. All around us there seems to be a sense of heightened anxiety and foreboding.

At the same time, we do not want to or need to live in fear. Our God promises to be with us. We do not need to be afraid. I am not afraid of the coronavirus. I am not afraid of the possibility it might infect somebody in my own life, including even me. I am concerned and I want to be wise, but I am not afraid, because I walk with Jesus

I have other concerns related to the coronavirus. I am concerned for the elderly who are most at risk. Cindy and I are included in that group as are most of the members of Hope Lutheran. I am also concerned for the loss of reason that seems to have overtaken so many in our country and their response to which should be a communal concern. I am concerned when people are stockpiling supplies they don't need, so much that those who do need them are not able to find them. As a former physician, I am concerned for our hospitals and clinics and for the doctors and nurses working in overcrowded emergency rooms, makeshift hospitals that are without the proper supplies and equipment to do the jobs they are asked to perform in safety while caring for patients. I am concerned for our economy and for those whose lives will be impacted by the loss of their jobs. I am concerned for all the members at Hope Lutheran and our neighbors in Floodwood. Yes, I am concerned, but I am not afraid. Neither should we as a church be afraid. *(Continued on Page 2)*

## *Hope Lutheran Church Women*



Check out our Facebook page and our church website (see last page of this newsletter) for future information regarding HLCW opportunities.

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Not ready for publication

*(Continued From Page 1,  
"Pastor's Corner")*

Rather than living in fear, let us together approach the challenge in faith. We can use this opportunity to model for our children, and for our families, and for each other what a faith-filled and faithful response can be. Instead of living in panic and fear, being reactionary and taking a self-centered response. We Christians have been given a chance by God to remain rational and reasoned while we approach this pandemic in a spirit of trust in our God. Martin Luther reminds us that faith is letting God be God. We need to step back and stay centered, and remember and remind each other that we belong to Christ.

COVID-19 does not appear to be ending soon. I will be having messages for you each week on Wednesday and worship on Sunday via our website and Facebook page. Special thanks to Susan Coccie, for helping to make this possible. Since we have so much additional time each day now with the new lifestyle, we have to live, I encourage you to use that time wisely. I believe God is speaking. No, make that God is shouting. He is calling us out of our complacency. He is calling us to realign our values and purposes with His. During this time of uncertainty, we need to take the

extra time He has given you to go to him in prayer and ask God what hard to reach areas of your life need to be refocused on Him. It starts with prayer, then reading His Word daily. I will be putting out some short, easy prayers to get you started each day. Use them, build on them, and develop a conversation with your God. He wants to hear from you.

This Easter will be very different this year. I ask you to pause and remember the love God showed to you by giving His Son to suffer, die and rise again that you might have eternal life with Him. He will take care of all your cares and concerns. Just trust Him. Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed!

May God Bless you and keep you safe,

Pastor John

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Tracy Zieroth  
Courtney Romanek
- 4 Pat Manee
- 5 Tad Farrell
- 6 Pastor Julie Gellert
- 7 Lilyana Johnson
- 9 David Zieroth  
Imijyn Thompson
- 10 Sylvia (Shafer) Romosz  
Hunter Rauvola  
Morgan Kuehl
- 13 Tracy Hutchinson
- 14 Neva Polo

- 15 Ethel Pensak  
Jazmine Johnson
- 16 Caleb Fries  
Lane Grady  
David Shafer
- 17 Maija Hunt
- 18 Roy Autio
- 21 Marion Shafer  
Jeff Romosz (Sylvia  
Shafer)
- 22 Tabitha Tollgaard  
Quinn Kuehl
- 24 Hannah Zieroth
- 30 Faith Romanek

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 30 Bonnie & Steve Hall

## HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH GIVING

### General Fund Giving

March            \$5,317.00

*Offerings can be  
mailed to:*

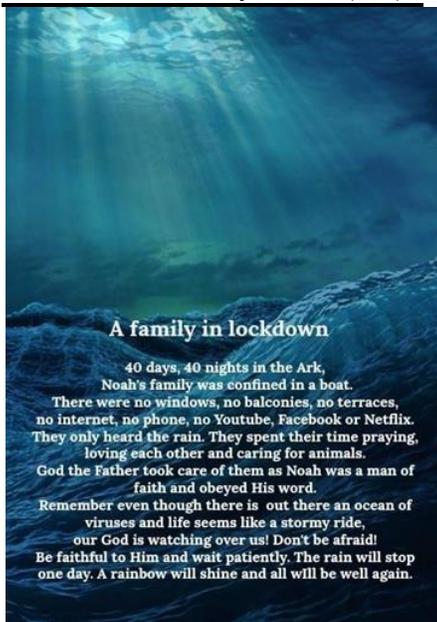
**Hope Lutheran Church  
PO Box 288  
Floodwood, MN 55736**

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Telisha Bennett  
9 Alice Shafer  
11 Tasha Belter  
12 Rob Benson  
14 Keven Johnson  
19 Joyce Andrews  
Jacob Seredinski  
22 Don Rosemore  
23 Grace Autio  
Ben Rosemore  
28 Carol Schminski  
29 Kathy Johnsen  
30 Laverne Hutton

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Grace & Roy Autio ('55)



## PRAAYER REQUESTS APRIL 2020



### For those who are ill or struggling

Dinah	Lorraine
Bob	Danette
Sadie	Grace W.
Gary	Dean S.
Frances	Lilly
Nick	Willa
Theresa	Lois
Bradley	Coach
Rosie	Phil
Heather	Liz

Those suffering from natural disasters  
Spiritual healing and salvation for our family and friends

### For those in the military

David Shafer  
Owen Seredinski  
Cody Farrell

### For places where wars and conflict take place

Syria and Iraqi Christians and missionaries threatened by  
ISIS and the refugees

Those suffering from terrorism  
Israel and Palestine and the peace of Jerusalem  
Persecuted church around the world

### For our missions and world missionaries

Ekka family & WMPL  
Robert & Ulla Suhonen  
Vision Petrozavodsk  
Judy Yund and Bethel Hospital  
Peace\*Love\*Haiti  
Madagascar Mission Project

\*For our congregation and Church Council

\*Pastor Julie

\*For Pastor Carl, Jodi, and Greta

\*Floodwood Police Department Officers and all law  
enforcement officers

**\*For our world and nation on dealing with the Covid-19  
virus**

## **VBS**

POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. NO  
NEW DATE HAS BEEN SELECTED.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE  
AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR  
INFORMATION AND UPDATES**

## **HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH WEB SITE**

Hope Lutheran Church now has its  
very own web site. Visit us at:

[www.hopelutheranfloodwood.org](http://www.hopelutheranfloodwood.org)

**Also visit us on FACEBOOK:**

Hope Lutheran Church,  
Floodwood, MN

*The Beacon of Hope is published each month  
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Church, Floodwood, Minnesota. News items  
should be given to Ann Bolstad (476-2130,  
cell 343-0943 or send to [draseal@aol.com](mailto:draseal@aol.com))  
by the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month.*

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Contact Pastor John Burgess  
(218) 476-2259 (Church) or  
(419) 571-0299 for pastoral care

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED