



Mission News from SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Questions, comments, or to unsubscribe, please contact Pastor Wendy Poch at 303-841-3553 or office@spiritofhopelcmc.org.

Visit us on the web at www.spiritofhopelcmc.org.

CURRENT PREACHING SERIES

“God Has a Plan: Excerpts from Ephesians”

The sermon topics will be:

- Aug. 15 “God’s Plan Before the Beginning”
- Aug. 22 “God’s Plan is Necessary”
- Aug. 29 “The Implications of God’s Plan”
- Sep. 05 “The Providence of God’s Plan”



Memory Verses: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:8-10).

THIS SUNDAY AT SPIRIT OF HOPE: GOD HAS A PLAN!

This Sunday, we will be launching our last four-week series of the summer, titled “God Has a Plan”. This series will highlight some of the main themes found in Ephesians. This Sunday, Pastor Wendy will be preaching on Ephesians 1:1-14 which shows us that God’s perfect plan was made before the beginning of time! Please join us after worship for a time of fellowship and then for a special Sunday School class on Living Generously!

COVID UPDATE

Please continue to read the newsletter and check emails for any last-minute updates prior to worship each Sunday. For now, the Church Board has decided keep us fully open with masks being optional should you wish to wear them. **IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, PLEASE STAY HOME AND WORSHIP ONLINE IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING**

COLD/COVID SYMPTOMS OF ANY KIND. Please also consider keeping space between household units when it is requested and check with people before shaking hands or hugging. We will continue to have an extra-protective seating area where people who have been vaccinated may sit to ensure that all those around them are also vaccinated (this is optional as the rest of the sanctuary is available to both vaccinated and unvaccinated people). The Church Board will continue to monitor the situation daily.

**THE BLESSINGS OF LIVING GENEROUSLY
SPECIAL TWO-WEEK SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: AUG. 8th & 15th**

Wayne Schultz will be leading a special two-week summer Sunday School class on the blessings of living generously. This class will include some ideas that can help you to live generously no matter what your circumstances may be, will offer some thoughts about how to move into a life of generosity, and will highlight not only the blessings for others, but also the ways that the Lord blesses the giver.

**2-YEAR BUILDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION &
DEBT REDUCTION SUNDAY, AUGUST 22nd**

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, August 22nd as we celebrate the 2nd anniversary of our church facility. The actual anniversary is August 19th. We will be celebrating by having a cake from Masterpiece Cakeshop as well as enjoying an ice cream sundae bar after worship! **As we did on our first anniversary, we will be attempting to significantly reduce our debt by collecting a special offering.** Please



dream about how much we could accomplish for God's kingdom if all the money going toward our debt could go toward mission and ministry! And please pray about whether or not the Lord is calling you to help us pay down our debt sooner so that we can do just that! Every dollar that is given now will save us multiple dollars in the years to come. We would like to ask that any/all gifts given toward debt reduction are given in addition to regular offerings so that we can continue to provide for our current mission and ministry needs.

CHANGE IN MISSION PARTNERS

The Institute of Lutheran Theology was recently blessed with two extremely large contributions specifically for MDiv. students. As such, any student wishing to enter into pastoral ministry by earning an MDiv can, for all intents and purposes, now do so with full scholarship support. This is a tremendous blessing both to ILT and also to the church at large. As such, in an effort to be good stewards of our own resources here at Spirit of Hope, Pastor Wendy has suggested to the church board that we move the funds intended for scholarship support to the LCMC Disaster Relief Fund as they are helping churches deal with western fires. The Church Board voted on this change unanimously. We will continue to monitor ILT's situation and consider establishing a new scholarship fund (should the need arise) or an intern support fund at some point in the future should God lead us in that direction.

SCRIPTURE READERS DURING WORSHIP

Beginning after Labor Day, we will be seeking readers willing to read the Scripture text of the day during worship. If you are willing to be a reader on occasion, please contact Pastor Wendy. If you have already expressed an interest in serving as a worship assistant, you will be added to this list as well.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

"HOW TO BE A CHRISTIAN WITHOUT BEING RELIGIOUS"

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm for a class titled "How to be a Christian Without Being Religious", taught by Ken Carpenter. This class will include highlights from the Letter to the Romans.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS!

Tuesdays: 8:30 am – 10:30 am @ Fika Coffee House on Mainstreet

Tuesdays: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm @ Spirit of Hope

Wednesday - Friday: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm @ Spirit of Hope

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYERS!

Please pray for our students from pre-K through college who are heading back to school in the coming days. Please also pray for all

the teachers and support staff in the schools. If you would like ideas on how to pray, please see the attachment that came with this newsletter or pick up a prayer guide in the church narthex.

CRAFT & BAKE SALE: SEPTEMBER 12th

The Hopeful Spirits will be having a craft and bake sale on Sunday, September 12th. All proceeds will go to one of our mission partners. Please consider making or donating items for the sale. The items don't necessarily have to be baked goods or crafts. All donations are welcome!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

This fall we will be having a Sunday School class for designed for adults and those in confirmation age and up. This class will cover a wide variety of topics. This class will begin on September 12th. Classes will run from approximately 11:00 am – 12:00 noon. Stay tuned for more information.

NEW ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!

This fall we will also be having a fun and faith-filled Sunday School class for our elementary students. Pastor Wendy

will be teaching this class and Pat Schmidt will be assisting. This class will be geared toward those in kindergarten through third grade, though elementary students in other grades are also welcome to join us. For the majority of our classes, we will focus on the sermon text of the day so that the kids can gain deeper understanding and connect the class to worship. All participants will be both challenged and encouraged at age-appropriate levels as we all grow in faith together! This class will begin on September 12th. Classes will run from approximately 11:00 am – 12:00 noon.



COFFEE with the PASTOR



NOTE: nothing personal, but your cup of coffee may not look this snazzy.

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

Pastor Wendy will be holding office hours on Tuesdays from 8:30 – 10:30 am at Fika Coffee House, located at 19559 East Mainstreet. Come and join her for some good conversation. All topics are welcome. No need to make an appointment. Just drop in! Bring a neighbor or friend!

COMING SOON: THE NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

Beginning the Sunday after Labor Day through the end of May, Pastor Wendy's preaching texts will be taken from the Narrative Lectionary.

WHAT IS THE NARRATIVE LECTIONARY?

The Narrative Lectionary was created about ten years ago and is a four-year cycle of Bible readings. On Sundays from September through May each year the texts follow the sweeping arch of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. More than 20 denominations utilize the Narrative Lectionary, including many LCMC and NALC congregations.

The Church Year helped to shape the flow of the Narrative Lectionary. Old Testament readings move through the story of God's dealings with Israel and culminate in Advent with the prophets who speak of longing and hope. Readings from the gospels fit the movement from Christmas and Epiphany to the Transfiguration, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter. Selections from the book of Acts and Paul's letters trace the outward movement of the resurrection message, culminating on Pentecost with readings focusing on the Holy Spirit. These texts help church members become fluent in the language of faith.

WHICH TEXTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE NARRATIVE LECTIONARY?

Over the course of four years, the texts include nearly all of the major episodes in Scripture. They are arranged in a narrative sequence each year to help people see Scripture as a story that has coherence and a dynamic movement. From September to mid-December the preaching texts begin with the early chapters of Genesis, move through the

stories of Israel's early history, the exodus, the kings, prophets, exile and return. From Christmas to Easter there is sustained reading of one of the four gospels. This year we will be focused on the Gospel of John. From Easter to Pentecost the texts are chosen from Acts and Paul's letters. The Gospel of John will be highlighted throughout the coming school year (showing how all the Scriptures connect to Jesus). Nearly every Sunday in the four-year cycle deals with a different episode in the Scriptures.

WHY THESE READINGS?

Texts were selected that lead well to the proclamation of what God is doing. The stories tell of hope and disappointment, suffering and redemption. In all these varied contexts, we find God dealing with the complexities of human life. Stories from the gospels differ each year, avoiding repetition and highlighting what is distinctive about each gospel's telling of the story of Jesus.

THE NARRATIVE LECTIONARY & BIBLICAL LITERACY

The Narrative Lectionary will provide our congregation with several additional opportunities to connect the dots between the selected texts and help members increase their understanding of God's Word:



1) A Special Bible Reading Plan: While we will not be reading through the Bible in a year, Pastor Wendy will be sending out a weekly list of daily readings that will help connect the dots between Sundays. The readings are, of course, optional. But they will be short enough to be practical yet important enough to bridge the gaps between stories as the Narrative Lectionary makes significant leaps as it progresses through the Scriptures.

2) Beginning on Tuesday, September 14th, Pastor Wendy will teach a "Digging Deeper" class. This class will take place on Tuesdays from 12:00 – 1:00 pm and will be an opportunity to ask questions about Sunday's sermon, to read and discuss the optional texts for the week,

and also take a sneak peek at the text for the upcoming worship service. Participants are welcome (but not required) to bring a lunch to eat while we're in class.

3) The new elementary Sunday School class will be focused on the sermon text for that Sunday. This class will also be taught by Pastor Wendy and will help our youngest members and their families take a deeper dive into the Scriptures together as families will receive a kid-friendly devotional guide to reinforce the lesson at home during the week.

FYI: Adult Sunday School will be taught by other adults in the congregation and will have topics that differ from the Narrative Lectionary. Our Wednesday evening Bible studies will also cover different topics of study.

HOW LONG WILL WE USE THE NARRATIVE LECTIONARY?

We will be using the Narrative Lectionary for the 2021-2022 school year. Next spring, we will evaluate our worship experience and our educational programming and will pray about where the Lord is calling us to proceed from there.



FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD (The Lutheran Confessions):

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping to holy.” (Exodus 20:8; Deut. 5:12)

FROM THE SMALL CATECHISM

“What does this mean?”

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.”

FROM THE LARGE CATECHISM

“Let me tell you this, even though you know God’s Word perfectly and are already a master in all things: you are daily in the devil’s kingdom (Colossians 1:13-14). He ceases neither day nor night to sneak up on you and to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against these three commandments and all the commandments. Therefore, you must always have God’s Word in your heart, upon your lips, and in your ears. For where the heart is idle and the Word does not make a sound, the devil breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware (Matthew 13:24-30). On the other hand, the Word is so effective that whenever it is seriously contemplated, heard, and used, it is bound never to be without fruit (Isaiah 55:11; Mark 4:20). It always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devoutness and produces a pure heart and pure thoughts (Philippians 4:8). For these words are not lazy or dead, but are creative, living words (Hebrews 4:12).
[LC 100-101]



Prayer Requests - If you have a prayer request for the prayer team please contact Pastor Wendy @ 303-841-3553 or wendy.poch@spiritofhopelcmc.org
Jesus said; "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

By Pastor Wendy

Dear Lord,

As our youth and young adults begin the third school year impacted by this pandemic, we ask you to watch over all those who are returning to school this week. Ease their fears, open their minds, and soften their hearts. Keep

them healthy and safe. We also lift up before you all teachers, administrators, and support staff. Protect them, grant them compassion for those they serve and help them to have students' best interests at heart. Show us, as your people, how to best walk alongside students and staff and support them as well as their families. May your love and your light shine brightly in our schools this year, and always. In your name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Please include the following people and situations in your prayers:

Please pray for...

Jerry R., friend of a member of our congregation, who was diagnosed with brain cancer this morning.

Steve L. and his family as they grieve the death of Steve's father, who died of pancreatic cancer.

Sara G. as she begins a new chemotherapy treatment plan.

Janie S. who has been diagnosed with a mass on her pancreas.

Bill L. as he grieves the death of his wife, Cherri, who is now a member of the Church Triumphant.

For James W. who is at Marine boot camp.

For all those being affected by the intensity of recent heat waves and fires across the western states and into Canada.

For those who are first responders to all emergencies: fire fighters, EMTs and law enforcement.

For our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world who suffer persecution to be comforted and strengthened and for the Lord God to defeat the evil of terrorism done to them.

For Spirit of Hope mission partners: Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, SECORCares, Mean Street Ministry, Alternatives Pregnancy Center, Apache Youth Ministries, LCMC Disaster Relief, Tartu Academy of Theology, Marion Medical Mission.

For Spirit of Hope mission allies: Compassion International, SONetwork, LCMC Disaster Relief Fund, Operation Christmas Child/Samaritan's Purse, the Institute of Lutheran Theology.

For missionaries around the world as they seek to proclaim the gospel.

All of our military fighting for our freedoms.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES (Members and Friends)

August Birthdays

8/4 Bill Lusk
8/5 Nancy Howland
8/9 Donna Maxwell
8/9 Carl Winkelman
8/10 Pam Malone
8/11 Carol Palin
8/29 Marvin Gates



August Anniversaries

8/2 Delmer & Lavonne Zwegardt
8/8 Tim & Nancy Lehnerz
8/22 Tom & Renee Nefe

QUICK SPIRIT OF HOPE FINANCIAL UPDATE

August Income (to date) = \$7,874

General Fund Offerings = \$6,680

Debt Reduction Offerings = \$650

Dedicated Offerings = \$542

Other Income = \$0

July Expenses (to date) = \$1,891.01

Checking Accounts Balance = \$44,094.12

Debt Reduction Account Balance = \$4,927

Money Market Account Balance = \$105,036