



Mission News from SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Wednesday, August 18, 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, Pastor Wendy will be preaching on Ephesians 2:1-22, which shows us that God’s perfect plan, which includes the unfolding of our salvation, is necessary and intended for all people. Please join us after worship for an **ICE CREAM SOCIAL!** We will also have a cake from Masterpiece Cakeshop as we celebrate two years of ministry inside of our new building. For those who feel led by God to contribute a special gift toward retiring our debt, you are welcome to make a special gift and write “debt reduction” in the memo line of your check (or on PayPal if that is your preferred giving method). We do ask that any such gifts are given on top of regular giving so that we can continue or current missions and ministries.

COVID UPDATE (NEW!)

While masks are not required at Spirit of Hope, with the rise of COVID

cases in our local area, please consider wearing a mask during worship (especially during singing) or when spending time in close proximity to others. We have quite a few people at Spirit of Hope who are dealing with significant issues that have greatly compromised their immune systems. Mask wearing is a very easy way to love your neighbor, especially when physical distancing isn't possible. **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 have moved our extra-protective seating area to the back section of blue chairs on the left side of the sanctuary.** This section is reserved for people who have been vaccinated to ensure that all those around them are also vaccinated (and 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.

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

This Sunday, August 22nd we will be recognizing the 2nd anniversary of our church facility. The actual anniversary is August 19th. We will be celebrating with 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 Fourth COMMANDMENT

“Honor your father and mother.” (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16).

FROM THE SMALL CATECHISM

“What does this mean?”

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.”

FROM THE LARGE CATECHISM

“We grow angry and grumble with impatience, and all the good that we have received throughout our life is wiped out of our memory (Psalm 78:17-31). We act the same way toward our parents, and there

is no child that understands and considers what the parents have endured while nourishing and fostering him, unless the Holy Spirit grants him this grace. God knows very well the perverseness of the world; therefore, He admonishes and urges by commandments that everyone consider what his parents have done for him. Each child will discover the he has from them a body and life. He has been fed and reared when otherwise he would have perished a hundred times in his own filth. Therefore, this is a true and good saying of old and wise people: 'To God, to parents, and to teachers we can never offer enough thanks and compensation.' The person who thinks about and considers this will give all honor to his parents without force and bear them up on his hands as those through whom God has done him all good (Psalm 91:12). [LC I 128-130]



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 **From the Lutheran Book of Worship**

With reverence and affection, we remember before you, O everlasting God, all our departed relatives and friends. Keep us in union with them here through faith and love toward you, that hereafter we may enter into your presence and be numbered with those who serve you and look upon your face in glory everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please include the following people and situations in your prayers:

Please pray for...

Lavonne Z. as she and her family grieve the death of her husband, Delmer.

For our believing brothers and sisters in Afghanistan who are now in great danger, and for all who are grieving and suffering the sudden loss of freedom under a terrorist regime.

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

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, 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) = \$11,627

General Fund Offerings = \$9,678

Debt Reduction Offerings = \$1,050

Dedicated Offerings = \$897

Other Income = \$76

July Expenses (to date) = \$14,793*

Checking Accounts Balance = \$37,288

Debt Reduction Account Balance = \$4,927

Money Market Account Balance = \$102,813

***Includes, \$2,200 to Marion Medical Mission in honor of Pastor Dave Fisher, \$5,149 to Stephen Ministries from dedicated funds to enroll Spirit of Hope and to train Pastor Wendy and Kandy Parsons, and the final checks being cashed by promissory note holders from the July payment made by Spirit of Hope.**