

## Mission News from SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Questions, comments, or to unsubscribe, please contact Pastor Wendy Poch at 303-841-3553 or [office@spiritofhopelcmc.org](mailto:office@spiritofhopelcmc.org).

Visit us on the web at [www.spiritofhopelcmc.org](http://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: FIRST COMMUNION

***This Sunday is a very special one!*** Four young people, Ali Robertson, Eva Morel, Lila Morel, and Alex Widerholdt, will be receiving their first communion. Kandy Parsons will be commissioned as Spirit of Hope’s Stephen Ministry Leader. And, we will be offering a special anointing and healing prayer for anyone who wishes to receive this blessing (see article below for details). Pastor Wendy will be preaching on Ephesians 4:1-16. As we continue our four-week series on “God Has a Plan” this Sunday we will be focusing on the implications of God’s plan.

### ANOINTING AND HEALING PRAYERS THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday, immediately after receiving Holy Communion, anyone who desires it will have the opportunity to be anointed and prayed over. We call this “Healing Prayer”.

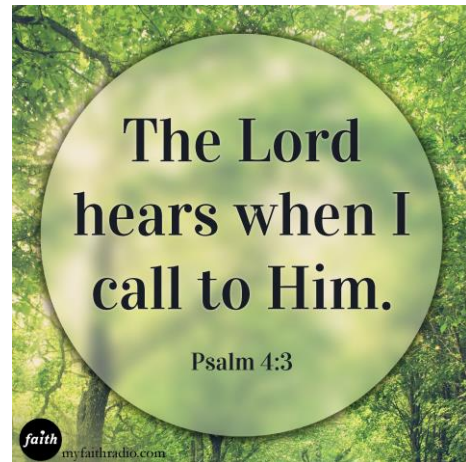
## **WHAT IS HEALING PRAYER?**

**James 5:14-15 says, “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”**

**Now, this does NOT mean that one who is sick or suffering will be immediately healed. What it DOES mean is that the one who is sick can be comforted by remembering their baptism (we anoint in the shape of the cross on the forehead) and the knowledge that the Lord does see our sufferings, hears and answers our prayers. Sometimes our prayers are answered immediately, sometimes later in life, and sometimes our healing doesn’t occur in this life at all, but occurs upon our resurrection. Regardless, the Lord has promised to hear and answer the prayers of his children.**

## **HOW DO WE KNOW THE LORD HEARS OUR PRAYERS?**

**When we pray the Lord’s Prayer, we pray the words, “But deliver us from evil”. This means we are asking the Lord to rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and that when our last hour comes, He would give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven (from the Small Catechism). And when we end a prayer with an “Amen” we are praying with the certainty that our prayers are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself commands us to pray and has promised to hear us (also from the Small Catechism).**



## **WHAT KIND OF HEALING CAN WE PRAY FOR?**

**All kinds! You may be physically sick. You may have a long-term or permanent diagnosis. You may be tired. You may be grieving. You may feel the need for forgiveness. You may be struggling with**

something that no one else can see. You may be trying to discern something about your future and are in need of peace. The list goes on. Our Father knows our needs (far better than we do!). Whatever you are dealing with, you are welcome to receive the anointing and a prayer for healing.

#### **WHAT WILL THIS LOOK LIKE?**

This Sunday, after our young people receive their first communion, the rest of the congregation will come forward to receive communion. However, this Sunday we will have two wine/juice stations, one on each side of the sanctuary. When you have received the wine/juice, Pastor Wendy will be on one side and DeDe Elliott will be on the opposite side. Each will be ready to anoint and pray for you as desired. You will be asked, "How may I pray for you?". You are welcome to share or simply say, "The Lord knows". You will be anointed on your forehead in the shape of the cross with oil from the Holy Land. This anointing is to remind you of your baptism, that you are truly a cherished child of God, that God loves you, and that He has heard and will answer your prayers according to His will.

#### **WHAT IF I CANNOT ATTEND WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY**

If you cannot attend worship this Sunday, you are welcome to make an appointment to come into the church during the week to receive communion and healing prayer. Pastor Wendy is also available to come to your house or other location (hospital, nursing home, etc.). Please be advised that some hospitals and nursing homes are once again restricting visitors, including clergy.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAYS AT SPIRIT OF HOPE**

Beginning this Sunday, when we have a month with a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, we will be utilizing some different worship elements. These may include a different liturgy setting, additional liturgies, special music, special events (like first communion!) personal testimonies, different orders of worship, and more. It will always be solidly Lutheran! When we have a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, it will give us an opportunity to experience both new and old aspects of Lutheran worship and open our eyes to all the ways God speaks to His people when he comes to us in worship.

## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM LAVONNE ZWEYGARDT**

Lavonne and her family would like to thank you for all of the prayers, love, and support they have received from Spirit of Hope. Your compassion, your cards, calls, hugs, and tears have meant the world to Lavonne and her family. Thank you for supporting them so well during this most difficult season of their lives. Lavonne sends her love to each of you!



## **DEBT REDUCTION RESULTS**

Through the generosity of the people of God at Spirit of Hope, this past Sunday we received approximately \$35,000 in loan forgiveness that came from three different loan holders. We also received an additional \$17,700 in financial gifts that came from at least a dozen different households. An additional gift of

approximately \$5,000 is expected to arrive this week. We thank all who have been and continue to pray for Spirit of Hope as well as all those who have given so freely the gift of their time and talent in so many different areas of the church. Thanks be to God for each and every one of Spirit of Hope's members and friends! Please know that we do accept gifts and loan forgiveness throughout the year. If you wish to make a special gift for debt reduction, you are welcome to explore the ideas that were sent as an attachment to this newsletter. If you wish to write a check, please put "Debt Reduction" in the memo line. If you wish to use PayPal, please let Pastor Wendy know that you intend your gift to be for debt reduction and it will be dedicated accordingly. Thank you! God is blessing His people here at Spirit of Hope as we respond to the call to be involved in His kingdom work!

## **BIBLE STUDY THIS WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 PM**

### **"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 and helps us incorporate the teachings of this letter into our lives.

## UPCOMING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at 7:00 PM:

8/25 – 9/1                      How to Be a Christian Without Being Religious

9/8 – 10/13                     Christ in the Old Testament

10/20 – 11/17                 Heroes of the Faith: Inquiring Heroes

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP (BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>)

Adults: 9/12 – 11/7         The Chosen (except for 10/3)

10/3                                Special Sunday School Class on Religious Art

Elementary Class:        Narrative Lectionary Story of the Day

TUESDAYS BEGINNING 9/14 From 12:00 – 1:00 PM:

Digging Deeper with Pastor Wendy



Watch for more details about these classes in the coming weeks!

## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS!

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

Tuesdays: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm @ Spirit of Hope\*

**\*This is a change due to ongoing conversations taking place at Fika!**

**It is possible that Pastor Wendy may be in the office before 11:30.**

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, pick up a prayer guide in the church narthex.

## CRAFT & BAKE SALE: SEPTEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>

The Hopeful Spirits will be having a craft and bake sale on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. 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!



## **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 12<sup>th</sup>. Classes will run from approximately 11:00 am – 12:00 noon.

# CHILDREN'S Sunday School

## 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 FIFTH COMMANDMENT**

**“You shall not murder.”**

**(Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17).**

### **FROM THE SMALL CATECHISM**

**What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.**

### **FROM THE LARGE CATECHISM**

**The commandment has this goal, that no one would offend his neighbor because of any evil deed, even though he has fully deserved it. For where murder is forbidden, all cause from which murder may spring is also forbidden. For many people, although they do not kill, curse and utter a wish that would stop a person from running far if it were to strike him on the neck. Now, this urge dwells in everyone by nature. It is common practice that no one is willing to suffer at the hands of another person. Therefore, God wants to remove the root and source by which the heart is embittered against our neighbor. He wants to make us used to keeping this commandment ever in view, always to contemplate ourselves in it as in a mirror (James 1:23-25), to regard the will of God, and to turn over to Him the wrongs that we suffer with hearty confidence and by calling on His name. In this way we shall let our enemies rage and be angry, doing what they can. We learn to calm our wrath and to have a patient, gentle heart, especially toward those who give us cause to be angry. [LC I 186-187]**



**Prayer Requests** - If you have a prayer request for the prayer team, please contact Pastor Wendy @ 303-841-3553 or [wendy.poch@spiritofhopelcmc.org](mailto: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**

**Loving Lord, we thank you for being present with us in, with, and under the bread and wine we receive at your holy supper. We ask you to bless the four young people who will be partaking in Holy**

**Communion this Sunday for the very first time. Bless them as well as their families. Help them to be aware of your presence. Strengthen them in their faith and in their knowledge of your grace. Lord, we also pray this for all who will receive your true body and blood this Sunday and every Sunday that you call us to receive you. In receiving this precious and holy gift, we proclaim your name and your salvation, until you return. We pray this in your name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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.

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) = \$36,292**

**General Fund Offerings = \$16,198**

**Debt Reduction Offerings = \$18,750**

**Dedicated Offerings = \$1,342**

**Other Income = \$76**

**July Expenses (to date) = \$20,539\***

**Checking Accounts Balance = \$38,507**

**Debt Reduction Account Balance = \$22,627**

**Money Market Account Balance = \$102,813**

\*Includes, \$2,200 to Marion Medical Mission and \$4,200 to the Tartu Academy of Theology 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.