



Mission News from SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Wednesday, September 1, 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

This Sunday is the final Sunday of our summer series titled “God Has a Plan” (see above). Pastor Wendy will be preaching on Ephesians 6:10-20, which describes the full armor of God – a gift to all the saints! God has provided this for us as part of the plan He has for us so that we can defend the faith, ourselves, and others against spiritual attacks, which come in many different forms. This Sunday is also a praise band Sunday!

NEW FALL OFFICE HOURS!

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

Tuesdays: 11:30 am – 2:00 pm @ Spirit of Hope*

Wednesday - Friday: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm @ Spirit of Hope

Please know that Pastor Wendy is available by appointment at the church as well as off site as needed outside of regular office hours.

Sunday evening through Monday is her Sabbath time. During that time, she is off phone and email. In case of an emergency, please call the church phone, 303-841-3553, as this number will be forwarded to the Church President who knows how to reach Pastor Wendy if needed.

FREE ACCESS TO RIGHTNOW MEDIA

If you would like free access to thousands of Bible studies, theological conferences, apologetics studies, discipleship programs, Christian children's programming and more, please copy and paste this link into your browser:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/SOH>

This is a free gift (and will always be free!) from Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church, to you! We are even in the process of creating our own channel where you will have easy access to recorded worship services and more!



The graphic features a central image of a woman holding a book, displayed on a computer monitor. To the right, a tablet shows 'PSALM 23' and a smartphone shows a grid of study materials. The background is decorated with stylized autumn leaves in shades of orange, green, and yellow.

rightnow MEDIA

Break out the pumpkin spice and jump into some leaves

SPIRIT OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH members and friends now have FREE ACCESS to thousands of video Bible studies and learning materials for individual and group study.

➤➤➤ Get Started ➤➤➤

- 1 Check your email for the invite from RightNow Media. *If you'd like an invite, simply email us at office@spiritofhopelcmmc.org
- 2 Open the email and click "Get Started"... yeah, it's that easy.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 3 BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2022

According to the by-laws of Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church (B1.01)

“There shall be six lay members of the Church Board, who shall be selected by unanimous decision of the Church Board. Eligible members may volunteer or (with their consent) be nominated by any confirmed member no later than three months prior to the annual meeting.” What this means is that any confirmed member of the congregation may volunteer themselves or nominate another confirmed member (with that member’s consent) to serve on the

board. Our current church board is scheduled to replace three of its six members in January 2022. Susan Spancers, Carol Palin, and Gary Flora are scheduled to go off the board while John Parsons, Steve Gutknecht and Sheri Giles are scheduled to remain on the board for one more year. Church Board terms are normally two years in length. If you would like to be considered for the board or nominate someone for consideration, please contact any board member or Pastor Wendy in writing (letter or e-mail) between now and October 31. After October 31 those nominated will go through the vetting process described in the by-laws before being selected by the board before the next annual meeting.

NAME TAGS

As we are now receiving more and more visitors at Spirit of Hope, Pastor Wendy would like for us to start wearing our name tags again. This is really helpful for visitors and even to help each of us to get to know one another better. Please check the name tag board in the narthex prior to entering the sanctuary. If you need a new name tag, please let Pastor Wendy know.

NEW DIRECTORY COMING SOON!

Spirit of Hope is in the process of creating a new and updated directory. Please send an updated photo (especially if your current photo is more than three years old) and contact information (name, emails, cell phone number, home phone number, etc.) to Rene Nefee at

reneeneffe@yahoo.com. If you have photos of recent events at Spirit of Hope, please send them to Pastor Wendy. Due to recent events at Spirit of Hope, we are extending the deadline through September.



SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 12th

One week from this Sunday we will be starting a brand-new Sunday School year! Beginning September 12th, Sunday School will start at approximately 11:00 am. The adult class will begin the Sunday School year by watching The Chosen (episodes are approximately 30 minutes) and then discussing the biblical content. This class series

will be facilitated by Lee Case and is open to everyone in 7th grade through adults. An elementary aged class will be taught by Pastor Wendy with help from Pat Schmidt. In this class we will focus on the Scripture of the day and dig deeper into the text in a very kid-friendly way! **We are looking for a few more kid-sized bean bag chairs that are red, blue, brown, black, or gray. If you have one you are willing to donate to our Sunday School room, please contact Pastor Wendy.**

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!



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Are you interested in learning more about Spirit of Hope? Come attend a new member class! During the class, Pastor Wendy will walk you through Spirit of Hope's history and core beliefs,

answer any questions about Spirit of Hope, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, or any theological questions you may have. Participants will be given a new member packet. If you would like to be an official member, you can turn the packet in. If you're not sure, you can just hold on to it. Please know that while you need to be a member to vote at congregational meetings or to serve on the Church Board, you are still welcome to fully participate in congregational life without formal membership. Pastor Wendy is happy to set up a new member class for you and/or your family at a time that works well for you. Just let her know!

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!



**BIBLE STUDY THIS
WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 PM
“HOW TO BE A CHRISTIAN
WITHOUT BEING RELIGIOUS”**

This Wednesday is our last class on “How to be a

Christian Without Being Religious”, taught by Ken Carpenter. This class has been focusing on how to apply the book of Romans to our lives. It’s not too late to join us! We’d love to see you there!

COMING SOON: CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Starting Wednesday, September 8th, our Wednesday evening Bible study will be focused on Christ in the Old Testament. We will be watching theological lectures on this fascinating topic presented by one of the world’s leading Lutheran theologians, Chad Bird. Each lecture is approximately 40 minutes long. After viewing the lecture, Pastor Wendy will lead a discussion and will supplement with material from Chad Bird’s new book, “The Christ Key”.



**COMING SOON:
DIGGING DEEPER WITH PASTOR WENDY
LUNCH TIME BIBLE STUDY**

Starting Tuesday, September 14th, Pastor Wendy will be leading a day-time Bible study that will dig deeper into the text from Sunday, explore the daily Bible readings, and will also dig into the text for the upcoming Sunday. As we begin the Narrative Lectionary, which will include many of the Old Testament pericopes that we were taught as children, this is an opportunity to ask those questions you’ve always wondered about and also to share your own biblical insights with others. We will learn and explore the texts together! This class will meet on Tuesdays from 12:00 – 1:00 pm. You are welcome to bring a lunch!

UPCOMING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 7:00 PM:

9/8 – 10/13

Christ in the Old Testament

10/20 – 11/17

Heroes of the Faith: Inquiring Heroes

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP (BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12th)

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

COMING SOON: THE NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

Beginning September 12th (the Sunday after Labor Day through Pentecost, 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 SIXTH COMMANDMENT
“You shall not commit adultery.”
(Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18).**

FROM THE SMALL CATECHISM

“What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.”

FROM THE LARGE CATECHISM

“But among us there is such a shameful mess and the very dregs of all vices and lewdness. Therefore, this commandment is directed against all kinds of unchastity, whatever it may be called. Not only is the outward act of adultery forbidden, but also every kind of cause,

motive and means of adultery. Then the heart, the lips, and the whole body may be chaste and offer no opportunity, help, or persuasion toward unchastity. Not only this, but we must also resist temptation, offer protection, and rescue honor wherever there is danger and need. We must give help and counsel, so as to maintain our neighbor's honor. For whenever you overlook it as if it did not concern you, you are as truly guilty of adultery as the one doing the deed. To speak in the briefest way, this much is required of you: everyone must live chastely himself and help his neighbor to do the same. So by this commandment God wishes to build a hedge round about (Job 1:10) and protect every spouse so that no one trespasses against him or her. [LC I 202-5]



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**

Gracious God, as we begin a new education season at Spirit of Hope, we ask that you would draw us closer to you, that you would reveal to us new and important insights into who you are and give us an increased understanding of your Word. Bless both instructors and class participants and help us all to learn from one another. Most importantly, Lord, help us to share what we learn with others rather than keeping the love and grace found in your Word to ourselves. We thank you, Lord, for the freedom to gather in your name, to study your Word, and to proclaim your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. 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 the families of our military members who gave their lives trying to set others free.

For the Americans that have been left behind in Afghanistan.

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)

September Birthdays

9/5 Dylan Poch
9/8 Anne Carpenter
9/8 David Giles
9/11 Shelly Blazier
9/12 John Malone
9/12 Pat Schmidt
9/13 Carol Byers
9/14 Gary Flora
9/18 Ben Potthoff
9/19 Sarah West
9/30 Lee Case



September Anniversaries

9/10 Steve & Nancy Howland
9/13 Bill & Carol Byers
9/30 Julie & Lee Case

QUICK SPIRIT OF HOPE FINANCIAL UPDATE

August Income = \$44,633

General Fund Offerings = \$18,149

Debt Reduction Offerings = \$25,050*

Dedicated Offerings = \$2,032

Other Income = \$76

August Expenses = \$26,798**

Checking Accounts Balance = \$26,118

Debt Reduction Account Balance = \$33,838

Money Market Account Balance = \$106,065

*Plus approximately \$33,000 in loan forgiveness from promissory note holders.

**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.