

HOPE HIGHLIGHTS

August 2023

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Dear Members of Hope,
Lord, listen to our prayer, let your life-giving rains pour down on the parched earth, returning the green and growing season to your people. Amen

Water! Something we often take for granted is now something we worry about. We are desperately in need of rain. Farmers are worried about yield, water levels in rivers and lakes are low, gardeners are trying to water gardens in order to keep vegetables alive, in some places the water tables are low requiring water to be rationed. It is hot and it is dry. Our eyes watch the sky for signs of rain clouds. Since we are thinking of and praying for rain . . . let's reflect on water in scriptures.

Since water was, and is, precious in the Middle East, significant events in scripture take place in people's lives at water. Jacob's life involves both a river and a well. Jacob leaves home after tricking his father, Isaac into giving him the family blessing. He leaves home and begins a new life after crossing the Jordan river. Jacob meets Rachel at a well, falls in love and becomes embroiled in Laban's scheming, until he finally outsmarts Laban and returns home, crossing the Jordan River again, making peace with his brother Esau, beginning a new life of peace with his brother. Moses led the Israelites from slavery to a new life of freedom across the Red Sea. Joshua led the people to the promised land across the Jordan River. Peace agreements were frequently signed at wells, community gatherings happened

at wells, and people's lives often changed in scripture when they went to a well. The woman at the well was forgiven by Jesus, her life changed forever as she embraced the living water Jesus offered her; belief in Jesus as the promised one. John the Baptist poured water over people, calling them to repent and change their lives. Ancient people lived in the country side, but the cities were built on high ground and mountain tops. In times of war, people took refuge in the city which became a fortress to protect them. They had ingenious ways to get water to the city. They dug down, from the top of the city mountain top, straight down to the bottom of the mountain, carving out steps on the inside of the mountain, then digging a tunnel to the well or water source just at the foot of the mountain. The access to the tunnel was hidden, and during an attack people would walk down the mile or two long stairway and out the tunnel to the water source. Israel's mountains have amazing tunnels that it is still possible to visit today. David conquered the city he renamed Jerusalem by finding the water source tunnel and following the tunnel into the city.

We all begin our new life in Christ with the waters of Baptism. We cross from the dry land of unbelief through the water to new life, being nurtured in our faith by Jesus, the living water and bread of life. Isaiah tells us that when we walk through flood waters, God is with us, keeping us from harm. In the season of Advent we read from Isaiah, chapter 35, "when the Messiah comes springs of water will burst out in the wilderness, streams will flow in the desert, thirsty ground will become a splashing fountain, and even the jackal (an animal the ancients did not like, so jackal means the least) will have enough to drink."

Praying, we remember the significance of water all through time. God has blessed us with abundance in the past, may God continue to bless us with enough. Here is a reflection about waters and wells by, Marcrina Wiederkehr, to use as we pray for rain together:

"What makes this world so lovely is that somewhere it hides a well. Something lovely there is about a well, so deep unpiped and real. filled with buckets and buckets of that life-giving drink. A faucet will do in a hurry, but what makes the world so lovely is that somewhere it hides a well! Sometimes people are like wells,

deep and real natural (unpiped), life-giving, calm , cool, and refreshing. They bring out what is best in you. They are like fountains of pure joy. They make you want to sing, or maybe dance. They encourage you to laugh even when things are rough. And maybe that's why things never stay rough once you've found a well. Some experiences are like wells too. People create them. They are life-giving happenings. They are redeeming experiences. They are wells of wonder and hope. When you find a well, and you will someday, drink deeply of the gift within. And then maybe soon you'll discover that you've become what you've received, and then you'll become a well for others to find. So lift up your eyes and look all around you: Over the mountains, down in the valley, out in the ocean, over the runways, into the cities, into the country, sidewalks and highways, paths in the forest, into the hearts of a thirsty people. What makes the world so lovely is that somewhere it hides a well, a well that hasn't been found yet."

Blessings, Pastor Rhea

May your life be a river.
 May you flow with the purpose
 of the One who created
 and called you,
 who directs your course
 and turns you ever
 toward home.

May your way shimmer
 with the light of Christ
 who goes with you
 who bears you up
 who calls you by name.

May you move
 with the grace of the Spirit
 who brooded over
 the face of the waters
 at the beginning
 and who will gather you in
 at the end.

CHOIR

Choir meets for practice every Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 pm.

Now is a great time to join the choir. Cody is back and we can always use a larger variety of voices.



CAR CRUISE IN
Outdoor Car Cruise is back! On Thursday, August 24, we will have our next Car Cruise in. Food service will begin at 5pm with cars rolling in around 4pm.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cal Burchland, Deb Walderbach
- 3 Laura Mudd
- 4 Mia Moser
- 6 Sharon Boardman
- 11 Rhonda Taschner, Pat Truesdell
- 14 Jan Pierce, Terry Barnes, Kelsey Greif
- 15 Dennis Casner, Bev Dougherty
- 16 Cheryl Fratzke
- 20 Linda Jones
- 21 Erin Chaplin
- 22 Stan Donels
- 30 Jim Boardman

Journeys:

Journey's is a social group that meets monthly at the Legacy Center at Murdoch-Linwood to provide support to those in the community who have experienced the loss of someone they love. The monthly programs vary from carts to self-care tips, seminars and presentations by community experts. It is a safe space to tell your story and try new things. All are welcome. Meetings are the second Monday of the month at 2:30P. There is a brochure on the kios in the church entry way.

Council



Front: Bud Carnahan, Patty Hasson, Pastor Rhea, Terry Slinger, Ron Taylor; Back Andy Kuehl, Betty Nelson, David Adams, Wendy Fisher and Karen Pahl. (Missing Cal Burchland, Jeanne Dahm and Linda Jones)

Executive Committee



Front: Betty Nelson, Financial Secretary, Pastor Rhea, Karen Pahl, Co-President; Back: Andy Kuehl, Vice President, David Adams, Secretary and Wendy Fisher, Co-President (Missing Linda Jones, Treasurer)

HOPE COUNCIL

Wendy Fisher & Karen Pahl –
Co-Presidents
Andy Kuehl - Vice President
Betty Nelson - Financial Secretary
Linda Jones - Treasurer
David Adams - Secretary
Cal Burchland - Member
Jeanne Dahm - Member
Terry Slinger - Member
Ron Taylor – Member
Patty Hasson - Member
Bud Carnahan – Member



Pastor Rhea's Bible Study Thursday mornings at 11:00am.

WOMEN OF HOPE

The Women of Hope will meet this month on August 12th at 9:00am. The guest speaker will be Julie Palmer from Olivet Mission. We will be collecting good, clean, usable clothing of all sizes from babies to adults. We will also be collecting small miscellaneous household items. (NO FURNITURE!)

MEN OF HOPE

The Men of Hope will meet Saturday, August 12th in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast starting at 8:30 am, followed by the meeting.

SPIRITED SENIORS

Spirited Seniors meets every Wednesday at noon for lunch and cards. Bring your own lunch (unless Jim says not to!)



**NEW SAVE THE DATE:
September 17
Come one, come all!**

We changed the date! Our congregational Clean-Up of Bowling Street between Wilson Avenue and the train viaduct is now scheduled for Sunday, September 17th following Sunday worship service. This is our God's Work, Our Hands project for the year; these projects are generally reserved for Sundays following Worship Service, not Saturdays, so we adjusted the date.

Clean-Up team sign up lists are in the Narthex with lots of slots still available! Please contact your 'younger' (read: more flexible, more bendable, more maneuverable) family members to come help our effort! You can even sign them up for Hope Lutheran Church T-Shirts! Food will be provided for everyone signed up on the food list so get yourselves and your family members signed up. This should be a grand time of fun, community support and fellowship. Please plan now to attend and support; we'd all love to meet your family members.

COMPASSION KITS

Have you ever seen someone on the streets, at a crosswalk, in a Walmart parking lot with a sign asking for help? At the Synod Revival, we were encouraged to make Compassion Kits — these are simple quart size zip-type bags filled a few small items to show compassion to someone who is in need. Keep one (or a few!) in your car, in a handy place, to share as needed.

Suggested items for each bag:

- bottle of water
- pair of socks (tube socks work well for both men/women of various sizes)
- snack (granola bars work well)
- toothbrush kit
- tissues
- bandaids
- hand sanitizer
- 3x5 index card with message



MEMORIALS

In memory of Diane Hunt
From
Jan Dyson
Debbie Walderbach

DO YOU LOVE MUSIC? Can you read music? Doesn't matter! Do you like to sing but not in public? No Problem. Would you like to join in a new venture playing Hand Chimes? Well, this is your chance to join a new group that Cody will be directing. We will begin practice on Wednesday, August 30 at 3:30pm. Come and check it out!



Hand Chime Choir don't need to read music meets starting Wednesday August 30th at 3:30



PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Antonin, Sarah and their children Victoria and Ebenezer Azoti. The family joined our family at Hope on August 6, 2023.

Hope Lutheran Craft Fair



**Hope Lutheran Church
2736 Bowling St SW, CR**

ENJOY THE FAMILY ATMOSPHERE

LUNCHEON 11 -1 PM

CHILDRENS' CRAFT TABLE 10-12 PM

This year we are introducing a new section to our craft fair, including a kids craft table from 10am until 12pm.

There will be a delicious luncheon for purchase from 11am until 1pm.

If you would like to sign up for a table at the fair, please fill out one of the contracts (located on the table in the back of the sanctuary) or contact Tami Rairdin at 319.350-4925.

Time for a new Hope T-Shirt?

We need 15 shirts to order at a cost of \$15.00 each. If you are interested, please sign up on the board in the narthex.

