

HOPE HIGHLIGHTS

July 2023

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Dear Members of Hope,

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It is July! The middle of summer. Time for vacations, sun, warm weather, enjoying the colorful displays of flowers all around us, watching the corn grow if you live in farm country or at Hope, waiting for sweet corn to sell! So often we think of all we do in the day time over the summer months, most likely because after the long dark nights of winter, we bask in the long days of light and warmth. Summer also gives us the opportunity to look to the night skies and see the lights God created to light up the night. Yes, I know they are planets, moons, and all kinds of things with a life of their own, but they gift us with their light to spark our imaginations.

This year, early July, we are able to enjoy the full moon at night. The full moon in July is called the buck moon. The name Buck Moon, comes from Native American tradition because the bucks' antlers grow to full size in July, and they shed them to regrow their antlers again. Sometimes the full moon in July is also called the Thunder Moon because of the summer storms we tend to have. This July the full moon is a super moon because in the moon's orbit around the earth, it is at its closest point to the

earth, and the moon will look extra-large, or be super-sized.

In some of the small towns I lived, there were very street lights at night, and very little to block the sky. The stars were bright and felt close enough to touch. I had a star map and learned some of the constellations. For a time, I was pretty good at finding constellations. When I used to travel to Mexico on mission trips, the big dipper was always upside down. I remember telling farmers of the upside-down dipper after a trip, and they said, "no wonder it's dry there, it can't rain if the dipper is upside down." I've had the privilege of seeing the southern cross twice, in Namibia and when I was in Lajeado Brazil, visiting Simone, a teacher from Brazil who lived with me for a year through the AFS exchange program. One night she and her husband took Amy and I to two overlooks; one where we could see the lights of their big city, then to place where we could look away from the city and see the night sky, and the southern cross. The stars, the constellations were strangers to me, but no less beautiful.

Since ancient times we as human beings have been fascinated by the night sky. That is why people saw shapes in the stars and imagined stories about the shapes they saw. People have used the stars to make decisions about their lives and to guide their way in the dark. The stars made their way into scripture from the wise men who followed a star to find the promised savior of the world, to the book of Psalms, "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; ⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" (Psalm 8) As you enjoy the long days of summer, take a moment to look to the sky at night. Notice the wonder of moon and the stars on a dark night, and say a prayer of gratitude that with the vastness of the universe, God loves you and cares about the life and light you bring to the world and the universe.

Blessings, Pastor Rhea



Outdoor Summer Worship and Picnic Sunday, July 23, Hope Lutheran will celebrate Worship, outside on the church grounds with a special worship service followed by a pot luck picnic. Bring your lawn chairs and a dish to share. Let's enjoy the beautiful summer weather and God's creation!



JULY BIRTHDAYS

2	Ron Taylor
3	Bud Carnahan
4	Jan Stegan
7	Patty Hasson
15	Karen Franks
21	Dusten Chaplin
22	Karen Pahl
27	Bill Oakley
31	Ben Halberg



CAR CRUISE IN

Outdoor Car Cruise is back! On Thursday, July 27, we will have our next Car Cruise in. Food service will begin at 5 with cars rolling in around 4pm.

MEN OF HOPE

The Men of Hope will meet Saturday, July 8 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!)

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.

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 Thursday Bible Study is taking a break until August 3rd.

QUARTER TUBE

Every week, quarters are collected from the congregation and the youth of the church decide what to do with the donations when the tube is full. This is Abbi Dyson and Felicity (Clete and Angie Mosers granddaughter), as they put quarters in the tube.



There are no words that begin to express the gratitude I feel for all the beautiful cards, phone calls, texts, messages and prayers. . . . from each and everyone of you! Your support through my treatments, surgery and now healing has given me much strength. We are so blessed to have you in our lives.

Much Love –
Beckie and Scott Foizey



WOMEN OF HOPE GARAGE SALE

THANK YOU TO ALL who had a table at the Women of Hope garage sale. Also a big thanks to all who shopped!! They raised \$540 for upcoming projects.

55+

55+ will NOT be meeting on July 4th. Instead, they will join Spirited Seniors on July 5th at noon at the church. Bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be furnished.



**SAVE THE DATE:
September 16
Come one, come all!**

As you may have seen on the roadside sign, our congregation signed up with the City of Cedar Rapids Highway Clean-Up program years ago to maintain Bowling Street between Wilson Avenue and the train viaduct. In May, Council agreed with an initiative to return to this project as a congregational activity. The Men and Women of Hope have already agreed to manage the project together as a great way to gather the entire congregation in a day of fellowship of work, food, and fun. A light lunch will be provided and we hope to have children's and adult activities as well.

There will be something to do for everyone in the congregation, young or not young, agile or not agile, hungry or not hungry, to participate in and/or contribute their time and talent. Bring your adult families and their young families for a great gathering.

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR RHEA AND COUNCIL MEMBERS



Sue Williams, Pastor Dan Kuckuck



Reception after Installation



Thank you to the Council members who served their terms: Sue Williams, Codge Jones and Clete Moser.

If you are a current Council members, please stop by the office in the afternoon so that I can take your picture for the New Council board in the hallway.



2023 New Council Members: Terry Slinger, Patty Hasson, David Adams, Karen Pahl, Ron Taylor, Betty Nelson, Pastor Rhea and Bud Carnahan (Not Pictured: Wendy Fisher, Jeanne Dahm, Cal Burchland and Linda Jones.)



**Iowa Bishops
riding bikes
across Iowa to
fight hunger**

The three Iowa Bishops have partnered up to ride the 50th annual Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) July 23-29 to raise \$50,000 to fight hunger and will be highlighting 50 anti-hunger ministries in Iowa along the way.

The Bishops' can't do it without you! If every congregation in Iowa gave about \$127 they would meet their goal! Your support makes a difference! Your gift to the Bishops' ride across Iowa will go 100% without any administrative fees to fight hunger in Iowa, across the country and across the world.

**3 Iowa Bishops
50 miles a day
\$50,000 for Hunger
50 Anti-hunger Ministries
395 Iowa Congregations in 3 Iowa Synods**

Yes! Make a one-time tax deduction gift of \$_____ to support the Bishops' RAGBRAI ride against hunger.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

You can give through your congregation or send your check directly to:

Southeastern Iowa Synod
2635 Northgate Dr.
Iowa City, IA 52245

Please indicate RAGBRAI on the check's memo line.

You can also give by credit card online at www.seiasynod.org/RAGBRAI