

# HOPE HIGHLIGHTS

November 2023

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Dear Members of Hope,

In 1998 The Women of the ELCA published a book in commemoration of their 10th anniversary made up of creative writings and drawings from women all over the country focused on gathering around tables. They chose the theme of tables since women tend to gather family and friends around tables to serve food, talk, have meetings or Bible studies. The book was released at Thanksgiving time when we all gather around tables to eat and give thanks. There are several submissions that stand out for me. The first is the picture I am sharing with this article. Doris Jorgensen drew that piece of art. Doris was a member at St. Paul's in Thornton Iowa where I served for 7 years. She was very active in the church and community. She left us just a couple of years ago, well into her 90's. She never talked about being an artist, if asked about it, she just avoided it and said it was just a hobby. A strong, talented woman, who humbly lived among us in a tiny town.



The second is a story from Good Shepherd Church in Edina MN. When I was in college at St. Catherine's I volunteered at Good Shepherd. I was majoring in Theology and secondary education. The only thing available with that degree was to teach in a Catholic school. A new field of religious education was opening up at that time and that was what I had my sights set on. In order to get into that field I needed to take summer courses in practical theology. In those summer courses I met Sister Mary Ellen who was a religious education Director at Good Shepherd. She needed help and asked me to be her volunteer and also to learn from her. She was one of my mentors. The article in the book from the Women of the ELCA is about an elderly member of Good Shepherd, Helen, who had come

from a family of 14 and had always served people, from her family as a child, to being a waitress as a career, to her own family, and now in the nursing home in her wheel chair, she continued to go from room to room asking other residents if they needed anything and bringing them anything they needed. She was filled with joy, saying that she serves for the Lord. At the end of her story she is dying, waiting alone, praying. "She is getting ready to serve tables in a new mansion, the one that her Lord and Savior has gone to prepare for her."

What tables have you gathered around for Thanksgiving and who have you gathered with? I remember my grandmother's big rectangular table in her dining room with my uncle and my father taking turns each year to carve the turkey as we all passed our plates around to fill up on all the good food she made. But I remember even more before and after the big dinner as we all gathered around her kitchen table nibbling as she made final preparations, or put away left overs, the best stories and laughter were around the kitchen table. After my grandmother left us, we would go to my aunts in Mandan North Dakota for a few years, at Thanksgiving. We would take the train, because my mother didn't like to fly. The train and our time together was fun. My aunt wasn't the best cook, but as children we just enjoyed getting together. We always came home to a snow storm. My mother's Thanksgiving tables had to glisten with crystal and silver. My brother and son had to have the same food each year. Tradition is very important to them. I like to try new foods, but they don't allow that on holidays. My son has had to change, now that he is married and his wife has her traditions, but my brother is immovable. We have to have the foods he grew up with. Now we gather around my brother's round dining room table. We are more casual, Bill and myself, Louie, Gianni, and his girlfriend Hailey. Bill and I cook together, and I make some of the food ahead of time. We bring some of the food to my mother for her to enjoy, but it is too much for her to come eat with us. She stopped coming a few years ago. My son and grandsons will usually come visit sometime over the long weekend. Thanksgiving celebrations change, but they are still important, and I am grateful for the history, the people of the past and the surprising gifts of newness and new family that are part of my future. May you have a blessed Thanksgiving filled with blessed history and happy new memories!

## CHOIR

Choir meets for practice every Wednesday afternoon at **3:00pm**. We also have started a tone chime choir that everyone is welcome to participate in. Practice for chimes is on Wednesday also, at **4:00P**. **CHOIR AND TONE CHIMES WILL NOT BE REHEARSING ON NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>**.

## WOMEN OF HOPE

The Women of Hope will **NOT BE MEETING IN NOVEMBER**.



### November Birthdays

- 1 Urijah Fay-Guzman, Isreal Moser
- 4 David White
- 5 Emily Northup
- 7 Will Williamson
- 8 Mary Paxton-Wright
- 9 Cyndi Halberg, Kaylynn Rairdin
- 10 Elsie Patterson
- 13 Abbi Dyson
- 16 Kaye Ross
- 23 Joyce Hopfensperger
- 24 Mysti Edmunds
- 25 Bill Dougherty, Tom Hopfensperger
- 26 Gale Pierce
- 28 Terry Slinger
- 30 Sheila Hansen, John Hasson

### MEN OF HOPE

The Men of Hope will meet on Saturday, November 11 at 8:30 for breakfast and meeting. They will meet **OFFSITE** due to the Craft Fair. If you would like to attend call Codge at 319/210-6598 for location.

**Confirmation Class  
WILL NOT BE MEETING  
on November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
due to Thanksgiving**



**Pastor Rhea's Bible Study Thursday mornings at 11:00am. They will not meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays of the month as Pastor has Conference meetings.**

### 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 Chimes? Well, this is your chance to join a new group that Cody will be directing. Practice is on Wednesday, at 4:00pm. Come and check it out! (There will not be any practice on November 22<sup>nd</sup>)



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

### 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.

**55+ WILL MEET** at District 23 on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 (this is where the Old God Fathers Pizza was on 6<sup>th</sup> St. S. W.) There is a sign up sheet and Menu on the board in the narthex.

**Phill and Pam Evans** would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during and after his knee replacement surgery. Phill is now 5 weeks out from surgery and is doing well with physical therapy and recovery.

### Advent Schedule

**This year we will have Wednesday Evening Advent Services starting on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00P. This will be along with our regular Sunday morning worship at 9:00A**

## New Members



### Fred Manuel 10/8

Fred is retired Navy, he was also a volunteer EMT in Illinois and a Battalion Chief with a fire department in Illinois. Recently Fred was our griller for the latest Car Cruise. **We welcome you Fred!**

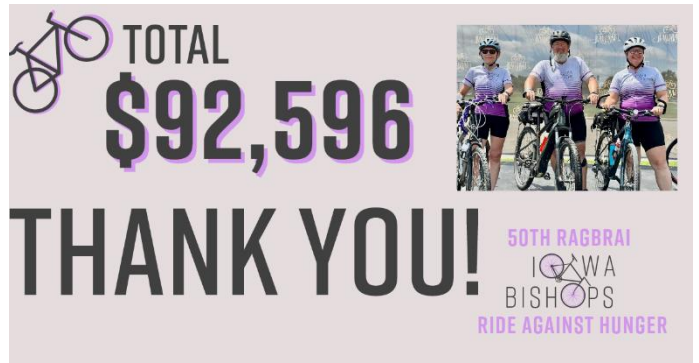


### Sherri Fox joined 9/10

**Please welcome Sherri Fox** as a new member of Hope. Sherri has been attending regularly for some time and we are pleased to welcome her into our church family.



Another "Especially for you" walk complete. Some of our Hope participants were Sharon Boardman, Linda & Codge Jones and Shirley & Richard Hartgrave.



## Bishops' RAGBRAI Ride Raises \$92,596 to Fight Hunger

Thanks to the individuals, congregations, and organizations who partnered with the Iowa Bishops in their goal of raising \$50,000 for ELCA World Hunger! The team officially surpassed its goal and has raised \$92,596. Thank you!

### 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 kiosk in the church entry way.

### FALL SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

**Following Worship on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, the congregation will be meeting to approve the new budget for 2024. This is an important meeting that all members should try to attend and cast their vote to accept this new budget.**

**THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING DAY, November 23 and the following day November 24<sup>th</sup>.** If there is an emergency, you can always contact Pastor Rhea at 507/430-8530 or Kris on her cell at 319/573-4405.

