

HOPE HIGHLIGHTS

October 2023

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Dear Members of Hope,

October is here, somehow the summer has zipped by again and autumn is here. As much as I want to be in denial that summer has left us, the trees are waving their many colored branches at me as I walk and drive by them, telling me I have to face facts, it is fall. I am spending most Friday nights at my nephew's football games. Last Friday he played in Grinnell, an hour and half drive, so my brother and I didn't go. Louie played an amazing game and we missed it. 😞

Fortunately the team photographer sent us pictures. Here he is catching an interception. Go Louie!



Not that I'm bragging. I will be in the stands this week cheering him on.

Fall is busy with activities, the churches and communities have all kinds of fall festivals. Pumpkins and apple cider abound. Speaking of apple cider, my friend Amy is coming on October 14 to run the half marathon in the cider run in Cedar Rapids. It begins and ends at Newbo Market. I will be cheering her on that morning and will meet her at the end with any physical support she may need. Newbo Market has excellent apple cider. I will cheer her on with plenty of apple cider. Hope will contribute to the fall activities with the craft fair, the second Saturday in November.

I have spent a number of years serving in small town rural settings. Fall is harvest time in those communities. I have had the pleasure of riding in a combine after the work of harvest was complete. Combines are amazing machines. They are computerized and measure the crop, moisture levels, everything farmers need to know as it is being harvested. When I had evening meetings in the church in the town I didn't live in, I never felt alone coming home at night during harvest. The combines and their lights were in the fields lighting my way. Not that one is ever alone in the country, but especially during the harvest, the animals are more active, eating grain that falls to the ground, fattening themselves up before winter. Deer, racoon, possums often run along the side of the road with an occasional bold coyote taking advantage of the abundant possibilities for their next meal. Harvest in the country is exciting but also dangerous. I was there, sadly, for the accidents that happen when farmers get tired because of the long hours they put in, or children climbing on the big machinery thinking they are toys, not realizing they are dangerous. I almost was taken out by a grain truck late one night, when a tired trucker forgot to turn his lights on and came barreling out of a field and on to the road. It was a dark night and my head lights caught the truck just in time for me to swerve out of the way. We need to remember the farming communities during harvest and pray for them.



Autumn is also a busy time in the liturgical or worship calendar. We are still in the season of Pentecost but we have feast days we will be celebrating. At the end of October we celebrate Reformation, Luther's attempt to reform the Church of his day that began the Lutheran Church and splintered off many denominations as people discovered many ways to be church. Reformation Sunday is also the Sunday before Halloween. The children's sermon that Sunday will invite children to bring their Halloween bags and have them blessed before they go trick or treating. The following Sunday, we celebrate All Saints Sunday. We will remember those who died at Hope this year members of the congregation will be invited to light a candle for loved ones you would like to remember. Candles and lights will abound! A few weeks later we will celebrate the harvest on Thanksgiving weekend and give thanks for all the blessings we have in our lives. Thanksgiving weekend is also Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday of the liturgical year, the final Sunday of the Pentecost Season. So as we give thanks for our blessings we will Praise Christ as the only king we worship, the king who humbled himself on the cross and gave his life that we may have life forever. Let's celebrate and enjoy this autumn season together!

Blessings, Pastor Rhea

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**.

WOMEN OF HOPE

The Women of Hope will meet this month on October 14 at 9:00am. Our guest speaker will be Jenny Schultz from Kids First Law Center. Kids First provides **free and reduced-cost representation** to children in divorce and custody cases. Kids First's attorneys represent school-age children in high-conflict family law cases in Linn and Johnson Counties. This should be very interesting. All are welcome to attend. **ATTENTION – THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING IN NOVEMBER.**

October Birthdays

7	David Morgan
9	Tami Rairdin, Wendy Fisher
10	Don Schlotfeldt,
12	Sarah Hulsing
14	Jay Barnes, Monika Nordberg
28	Nancy Williamson,
31	Phill Evans, Jan Dyson



CAR CRUISE IN

A big thanks to all who worked the car cruises during the summer. Many people volunteer for this event – cooking the food, parking cars, serving and cleaning up, and making those delicious donuts! And we don't want to forget to thank all the people who bring their cars in every month to share with us.

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.

MEN OF HOPE

The Men of Hope will meet on Saturday, October 9th at 8:30 for breakfast and meeting in the Fellowship Hall. In November, they will meet **OFFSITE** due to the Craft Fair. Watch for more details.

Confirmation Class HAS BEGUN Wednesdays from 6:30P - 7:30P.

The Confirmation Program will use FaithInk curriculum. Confirmation is an opportunity for young people to affirm their baptism, to learn about their faith and make their own commitment to their faith and their church. The program will be a 2 year commitment for young people in middle school. Over the course of the 2 years study will include Old Testament, New Testament, Luther and Catechism, The Life of Jesus and Confirmation Promises. If you still haven't signed up but are interested, Please call the office at 319/365-3105



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

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!



Hope Lutheran Craft Fair



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.

SPIRITED SENIORS

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

THANK YOU TO ALL who brought in fall decorations to help brighten up the sanctuary for fall.

55+ WILL MEET at 10:30A on Tuesday, October 3rd to tour the DeWolf Innovation Center for Aging and Dementia, 8900 C Ave. N. E. Following our tour, we will meet at Mas Margaritas at 11:30 for lunch, 588 Boyson Rd. N. E.



Thanks to everyone for a great Corn Season! There are so many who make the season possible; all of our volunteers on the wagon, Gary and Kathy Knight who supply the corn and our gardeners! Let's not forget all of the customers who faithfully come year after year. This year the corn sales totaled \$12,961.00, garden, melons, salsa and tips totaled \$2,350. For a grand total of \$15,311.00!

God's Work, Our Hands

Thank you to Dave and Susan for bringing the highway clean up to our attention.
Thank you to those who planned and organized the event.
Thank you to those who provided the activities, food, equipment to use and water.
A special thanks for ALL of the volunteers and the members who showed their support.
It was a very special day.





WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP

with communion and music, will begin this Wednesday, October 4th at 6:00P.



Congratulations to Wendy Fisher and Fred Manuel on their upcoming wedding in November