



470 Winter Street Ext.  
Troy, NY 12180  
(518) 283-1372  
[www.HOPELC.ORG](http://www.HOPELC.ORG)

We are a community empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to bring God's comfort, to work for God's justice, and to share the hope and love of Jesus with all.

# MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

March 24<sup>th</sup>

A graphic for Palm Sunday featuring a wooden cross with a palm frond leaning against its base. The words "Palm Sunday" are written in a gold, cursive font to the right of the cross.

Service at 10 AM

March 28<sup>th</sup>

A graphic for Maundy Thursday showing a close-up of a golden-brown braided bread next to a ceramic jar.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Service at 7 PM

## *Our Core Values*



*faith  
acceptance  
compassion  
gratitude  
love*

March 29<sup>th</sup>

A graphic for Good Friday showing a silhouette of a cross against a bright, glowing sun setting behind a hill.

Good Friday

Service at 7 PM

March 31<sup>st</sup>

A graphic for Easter Sunday with a purple background, featuring a cross and the text "EASTER Sunday HE IS RISEN".

EASTER Sunday  
HE IS RISEN

Service at 10 AM



It's so strange to be thinking about Holy Week and Easter when we're still so deeply in the midst of Lent. Easter is on the last day of March, so just for timings sake, let's begin with Lent. During our midweek Lenten devotionals we are looking at some of the saints of the Christian church. As Lutherans we do not worship the saints nor see them in particular as intermediaries between ourselves and Christ. But they can serve as beacons of light pointing us to Christ in a world that at times seems intent on distracting us away from Christ and his teachings. Oftentimes, these saints serve as examples of a life lived in Christian service and can exemplify what it costs to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Not that these saints were perfect, far from it-but in their imperfection they chose to courageously live lives committed to Christ and their Christian faith. They, like us, are (as Martin Luther says) both Saint and Sinner. During our Sunday worship we will often include these saints in our prayers as we commemorate their lives and give thanks to God for the gift of their service: Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess; George Herbert, hymn writer; John and Charles Wesley, renewers of the church; Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage; Harriet Tubman, Moses for her people (helped more than 300 slaves escape to freedom); Sojourner Truth, evangelist and preacher against slavery; Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, established a lectionary and prayers to correlate with scriptural readings, established a school to train church musicians-the Gregorian chant is named in his honor; and Joseph, Guardian of Jesus, to name a few. These saints, like so many, point us towards the grace of God revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Through their witness they point us to Holy Week and the promise of an Easter resurrection.

But note that you too are both Saint and Sinner, called to let your life witness to God's grace in the world. This Easter may the light of your life be a beacon to a world so in need of God's healing, forgiveness, and love.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Pamela Hoh

## Council President

Spring is just around the corner... or so it seems! With Easter so early this year, we wouldn't be surprised to see some snow! We can only hope that Spring will bring fresh air and healing to all. There's been so much sickness among our members this winter and our Prayer/Healing Team have been keeping busy with prayers of healing for everyone.

February has been a busy month with activities, meetings, and plans for LENT – highlighting the Wednesday Soup-Suppers with an interesting and thought-provoking service by Pastor Pamela. All are welcome.

In March, we will be presenting a Stewardship Campaign. The Committee will be meeting soon to formulate plans to present to the congregation. This is held every year to encourage pledging, not only of our finances, but also of our time and talents for all the many activities and committees of the church. Your help is needed and appreciated wherever you feel comfortable.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, (mark your calendars) we will be holding our Annual Congregational meeting. I will be sending out reminders to the church committees for their annual reports. We hope everyone can attend this meeting.

Some other information to share from recent meetings:

- I met as part of the Finance Committee recently, to discuss the upcoming 2024-2025 Budget and finances of the church. This will be shared with the congregation soon, with a presentation by Charlie Huff and Greg Whitney.
- I attended the Worship and Music Committee, representing the Altar Guild. There is a need for the Altar Guild to meet and outline a plan for better organization for each of the Holidays and where items are stored, etc.
- The CLI team (Congregational Lead Initiative) will be meeting again soon to continue with plans for creating the Community Garden - Pastor Pamela and team.
- Most of the building projects have been completed and are looking great – with bathroom and closet updates, and various other improvements you will notice around the building – Thank you to Marilyn Dyer and team.
- We had a successful and interesting presentation by our DEM, Reverend Imani Olear last Sunday, sharing results of the Mission Under Development survey from last Fall. Much was learned and we look forward to her continuing with future meetings, both with the Council and the Congregation.

Blessings and thank you to all!

Bonny A. Munteer  
Council President



Our church family will have the opportunity to gather on Wednesday evenings during Lent to share a simple soup and bread supper as we walk with Jesus on his journey to the cross.

Supper will begin at 6:30 PM with devotions/worship at approximately 7:00 PM.

If you are able to provide soup and/or bread for the suppers, it would be most appreciated. Marion will need 3 people each week to make their favorite soup and 2 people each week to bring bread to share. Please email Marion Daus at [mjd12198@gmail.com](mailto:mjd12198@gmail.com) to sign up for soup/bread and let her know which date and what kind of soup you will do, or use the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Soup should arrive hot at about 6 PM so we can sit down promptly at 6:30 PM.

Hoping lots of our folks will come out for this time of fellowship and faith. Thanks so much!

Ash Wednesday Service ~ February 14<sup>th</sup> @ 12 PM & 7 PM ~ In-Person & Online

Here's the scheduled dates for the Lenten Soup Suppers:

- |           |                           |                       |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Wednesday | February 21 <sup>st</sup> | 6:30 – SOUP SUPPER #1 |
| Wednesday | February 28 <sup>th</sup> | 6:30 – SOUP SUPPER #2 |
| Wednesday | March 6 <sup>th</sup>     | 6:30 – SOUP SUPPER #3 |
| Wednesday | March 13 <sup>th</sup>    | 6:30 – SOUP SUPPER #4 |
| Wednesday | March 20 <sup>th</sup>    | 6:30 – SOUP SUPPER #5 |

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

From the Treasurer,  
Greg Whitney



Over the last couple of years, several people have inquired as to how we are doing with finances. As you are aware, we vote on a budget at our Annual Meeting.

Sometimes, we miss the most important details with so many numbers in front of us. At our last Annual Meeting it was proposed that we take 30,000 dollars out of our investments to balance our budget. This is above and beyond the amount people are pledging.

What this means is that every Sunday for 52-weeks, we spend 576 dollars more than we receive in pledges and other revenue.

With stewardship fast approaching, it was suggested that we make available to the congregation an informational meeting, in order to explain some of the more important points in discussing next year's budget.

We recognize that giving is a very personal agreement between you and God. All I would propose is that you consider praying about your giving to Hope and that you consider if there is any way in which you might be able to increase that giving, if only by a small amount.

I would also encourage you to consider utilizing Simply Giving. This is a great tool that allows you to set up weekly or monthly giving that comes directly out of your bank accounts to the church.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

## *HEALING TEAM UPDATE*

**March Announcement Prayers** will highlight ministries shared by conference, synod, or ecumenical partners. They will include Appleseed Feeding Ministry, Syracuse, NY; Albany Maritime Ministries; NYS Council of Churches; Hudson Mohawk Conference; Capital Area Council of Churches.

**Daily Prayers:** Remember to pray for members and friends of Hope. The list is sent in the weekly update from the church by Tonya in office. Plans are in place to create a paper monthly calendar for your use. It will be available on the first Sunday of each month.

**Prayer concerns** may be sent via e-mail or by text/cell phone to Pastor Elaine Berg: [meb312@aol.com](mailto:meb312@aol.com) or 3.315.882.3732. Prayer cards are on the narthex table if you prefer. They are placed in the offering plate and sent to the church office for Tonya to forward. Please obtain permission for prayer concerns and indicate if they may be shared in the Sunday Bulletin.



A Study Curriculum on Civic Life and Faith  
Session 3: What are Lutheran views on civic life?

The resources cited are:

1. The Book of Concord
2. The teachings of Martin Luther
3. The Augsburg Confessions of 1530
4. The reflections and actions of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and
5. The collective wisdom of Christians from all walks of life.

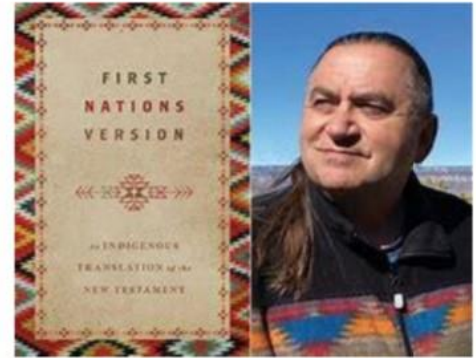
We are reminded that good order cannot happen if people of faith do not engage the political arena either as leaders or as well-informed people who advocate for justice and equity for all through such means as voting, being law-abiding citizens, contributing to agencies which serve the poor and needy, writing letters to government officials, participating in peaceful marches, and signing petitions (to name a few). It is noted that, sometimes, the government is so contrary to God's intention of justice and good order, that actions of resistance, like those of Dietrich Bonhoeffer under the Third Reich, are necessary.

The Lutheran tradition gives us the chance to confess our mistakes and try again. We are called to a sense of balance as we seek to improve political conditions. There are no directives on how we arrange our political, church, and personal situations. The great diversity and variety among all people of the earth remind us of how far and wide God's care continues to reach all according to their needs and situations.

We do not have all the answers for the complexities of God's and our actions. We embody a spirit of shared deliberation and authority -- a shared work of instruction, correction, and reflection -- as we sort out what needs to be upheld and what should be set aside. We are called to allow the power of God's love to embolden us to be the political creatures that we are, a people wrapped in God's Grace.

The showing of all videos and the ensuing discussions have been completed. However, ongoing reflections and conversations are encouraged and welcome. All six videos can be accessed and viewed at:  
<https://www.elca.org/civicsandfaithstudy> .

First Nations Version: Indigenous Translation of the New Testament, Terry M. Wildman, author, published 2021.



In 2021 the ELCA issued "[A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People](#)." The declaration is a direct result of the social policy resolution "Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery," which was passed by the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. You can read the declaration on [ELCA.org](#). There are a variety of opportunities to learn more about our First Nation sisters and brothers. Recently I discovered a recent translation that offers a view of scripture in another voice.

Here is what Amazon writes about this translation:

*Many First Nations tribes communicate with the cultural and linguistic thought patterns found in their original tongues. The First Nations Version (FNV) recounts the Creator's Story—the Christian Scriptures—following the tradition of Native storytellers' oral cultures. This way of speaking, with its simple yet profound beauty and rich cultural idioms, still resonates in the hearts of First Nations people.*

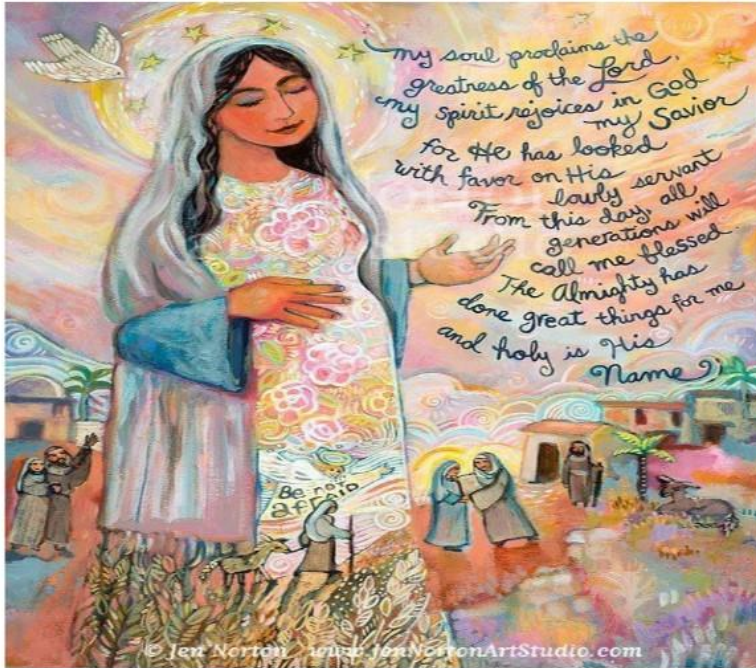
*The culmination of a rigorous five-year translation process, this new Bible translation is a collaboration between organizations like OneBook and Wycliffe Associates, Indigenous North Americans from over twenty-five different tribes, and a translation council that consisted of twelve Native North American elders, pastors, young adults, and men and women from different tribes and diverse geographic locations. Whether you are Native or not, you will experience the Scriptures in a fresh and new way.*

The book is available through Amazon, eBay and Barnes and Noble.

Please enjoy the Magnificat (Luke 1: 41-55)

Pastor Elaine Berg, Convenor, Healing Team





Creator Is My Promise (Elizabeth) heard Bitter Tears (Mary's)

### THE SONG OF BITTER TEARS

*Bitter Tears (Mary) .... was filled with gladness, and her words flowed out like a song.*

46-47 "From deep in my heart I dance with joy to honor the Great Spirit.

48 Even though I am small and weak, he noticed me. Now I will be looked up to by all.  
49 The Mighty One has lifted me up! His name is sacred. He is the Great and Holy One." *Her face seemed to shine as she continued.*

50 "He shows kindness and pity to both children and elders who respect him. 51 His strong arm has brought low the ones who think they are better than others. 52 He counts coup with arrogant warrior chiefs but puts a headdress of honor on the ones with humble hearts." *She smiled, looked up to the sky, and shouted for joy!*

53 "He prepares a great feast for the ones who are hungry, but sends the fat ones home with empty bellies. 54-55 He has been kind to the tribes of Wrestles with Creator (Israel) who walk in his ways, for he has remembered the ancient promises he made to our ancestors—to Father of Many Nations (Abraham) and his descendants."

**Wildman, Terry M. *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* (p. 104). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.**

## Helping Our Neighbors. Period.

During February we collected "period products" -- tampons, pads, etc. -- for our local food pantries. These items, which are essential for many women, can't be bought with SNAP benefits (food stamps).

We collected about 70 packages! They have been divided between the Doors of Hope and CoNSERNS-U food pantries, both of whom were most grateful to receive them.

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed. Many women will be thankful for your generosity!





## Time to Order Easter Flowers!

It's that time again to order beautiful Easter lilies, hyacinths, tulips & begonias to decorate the altar for Easter in honor or memory of loved ones.

***Please note:***

Orders will be taken until March 10th.

Becker's Farm has asked all churches to submit their orders earlier than usual to ensure that the orders can be fulfilled.

You may mail a check to:

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
Attn: Flower Orders  
470 Winter Street  
Troy, NY 12180

**Make checks out to Hope Lutheran Church.** Put checks and this order slip in an envelope and mail it to the church or put it in the offering plate no later than March 10th. Please indicate the number of plants ordered, check "Honor of" or "Memory of" box, fill in your dedication, and if you'll be taking your plant home.

- Triple Lily: \$37.00 ea (3 plants in 10" pot): How many? \_\_\_\_\_
- Single Lily: \$11 ea (in 6" pot): How many? \_\_\_\_\_
- Tulips: \$7.50 ea (in 6" pot): How many? \_\_\_\_\_
- Hyacinths: \$7.50 ea (in 6" pot): How many? \_\_\_\_\_
- Reiger Begonias: \$11 ea (in 6" pot): How many? \_\_\_\_\_

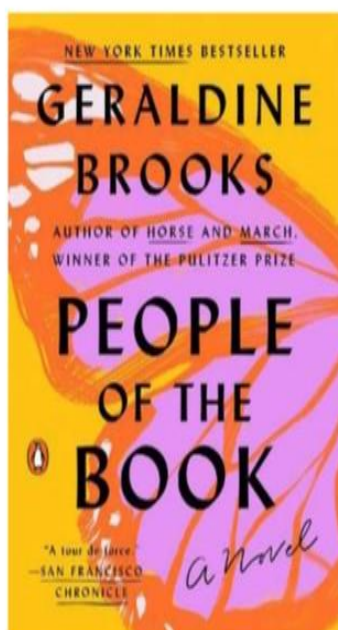
**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

Or

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Taking Home:**  Yes  No



## MARCH BOOK GROUP NEWS

The Hope Book Group will meet on March 12, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at Marilyn Dyer's home, 47 Deerhaven Lane, Rensselaer 12144; The book of the month is *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, It is available through Amazon for Kindle or in paperback or at Barnes and Noble.

In 1996, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, which has been rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. The reader is ushered into an exquisitely detailed and atmospheric past, tracing the book's journey from its salvation back to its creation.

# Holy Week Schedule



## All Services will be In-Person & Online

March 24<sup>th</sup> ~



Service at 10 AM

March 28<sup>th</sup> ~



Service at 7 PM

March 29<sup>th</sup> ~



Service at 7 PM

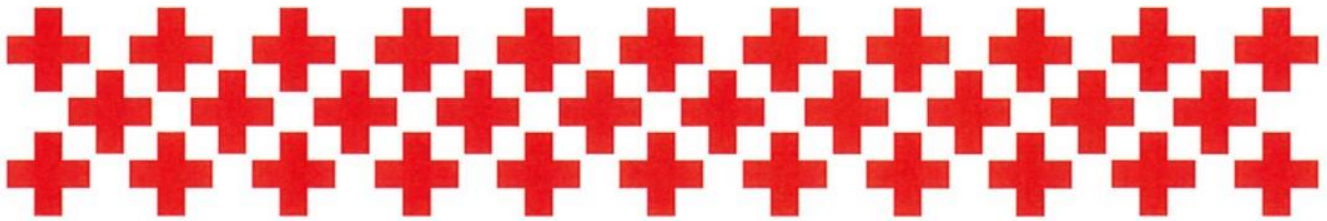
March 31<sup>st</sup> ~



Service at 10 AM

# American Red Cross

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



## **Blood Drive** **Hope Lutheran Church** 470 Winter Street Ext., Troy, NY 12180 Sanctuary

**Saturday, March 30, 2024**  
**8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

To schedule your appointment, please call 1-800-REDCROSS, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), or, download the free Blood Donor App. Use sponsor keyword: **hopelutheran**



Scan to be directed to RapidPass®



**Give blood 3/25 to 4/7 for an exclusive GODZILLA x KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE and Red Cross shirt ltd qty!**

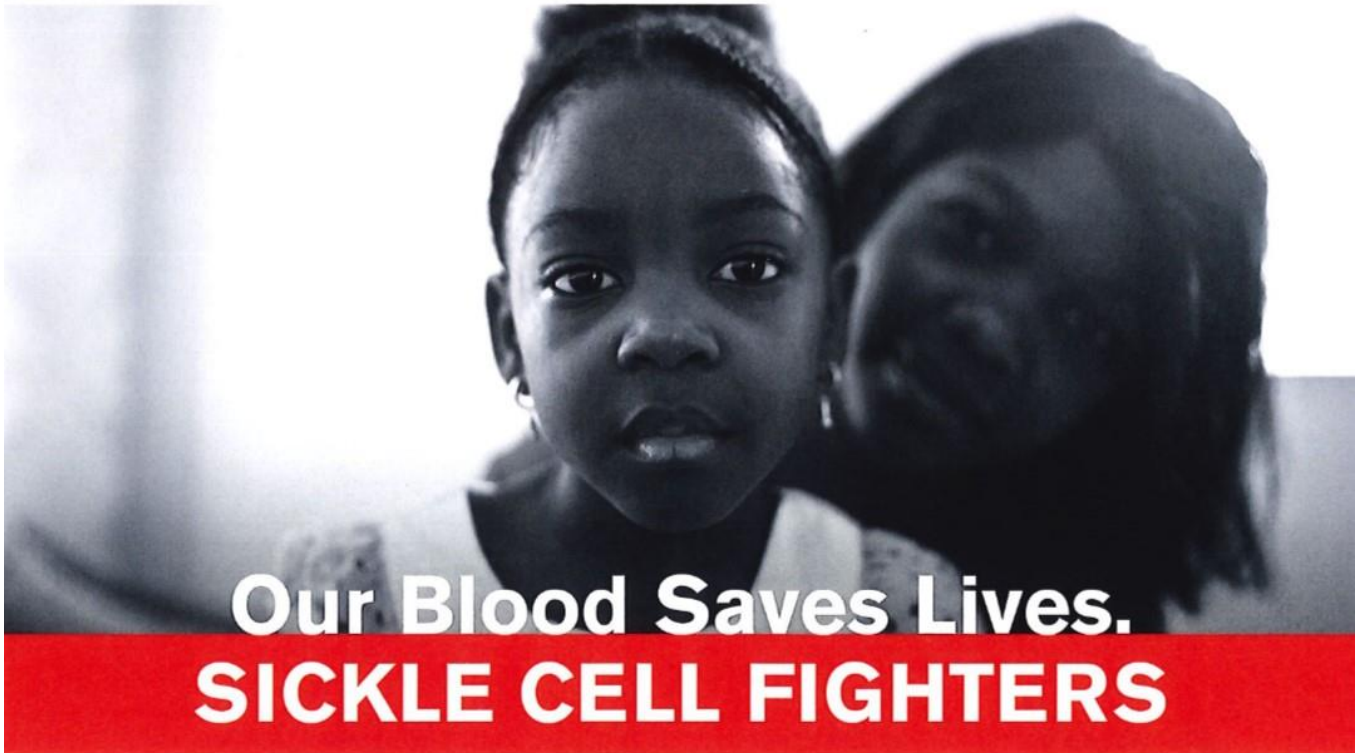


Scan to schedule an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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[ 37 ] • Order ID: 1632350 • Item ID: 7589857 • Qty: 1 of 10 • 156419 • 2023-APL-1190 - AR01 - 240818



## Our Blood Saves Lives. SICKLE CELL FIGHTERS

### **Who is impacted by sickle cell disease?**

Approximately 100,000 people in the U.S. are living with sickle cell disease. Most people with sickle cell disease are African American or of African descent. In fact, the disease affects 1 out of every 365 African American babies born in this country.

### **What is sickle cell disease?**

Sickle cell disease causes red blood cells to be hard and crescent-shaped (like a sickle) instead of soft and round. As a result, it is difficult for blood to flow smoothly and carry enough oxygen to the rest of the body, which may result in severe pain, organ and tissue damage, or even strokes.

### **How is sickle cell disease treated?**

Blood transfusions help provide a lifesaving treatment during a sickle cell pain crisis by replacing sickled red blood cells with healthy red blood cells. This helps deliver oxygen to tissues and organs and unblock blood vessels. Donated blood is the only source of this treatment.

### **How can I help?**

Blood donors who are Black have the unique ability to help patients with sickle cell disease. A person with sickle cell disease may need a precise pairing with a blood donor, especially if frequent transfusions are necessary. If a patient receives a transfusion of a blood type that is not a close match, they may form antibodies against the mismatched antigens. To help avoid transfusion-related complications, a patient is more likely to find the most compatible blood match from a donor of the same race or similar ethnicity.

**Schedule a blood donation appointment and learn more at:**  
[RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood](https://RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood)



# Thank You



(518) 434-2910  
P.O. Box 589  
Rensselaer, NY 12144

December 19, 2023

Hope Lutheran Church  
470 Winter ST EXT  
Troy, NY 12180

Dear friends at Hope Lutheran Church,

During a time when so many individuals and organizations are facing challenges, I am thankful that you chose to donate \$200 in honor of the homeless mothers and children we serve and support every day! We believe all the families in our programs have the right to choose what they get for their new homes and your amazing support will allow them to do just that.

Your dedication to us helps ensure the health and safety of all our guests while we continue to provide shelter, food, and support to the homeless mothers and children throughout our programs. I truly believe we couldn't do the work we do without YOUR help.

Thank you again for caring about the families we serve; our mothers and children will always benefit from your generosity and compassion.

With Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracy".

Tracy J. Pitcher, MSW

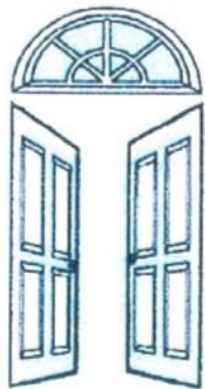
Executive Director

*St. Paul's Center's mission is to provide tools that empower independent living for those experiencing housing insecurity, using a model that incorporates empathy and honors self-determination.*





2/6/24



# Doors of Hope

Matthew 25:35

"For I was hungry and you fed me,  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
naked and you clothed me..."

Dear Friends @ Hope Lutheran,

We thank you so much for  
your donation of several bags of  
food to D. O. N. Good Pantry.

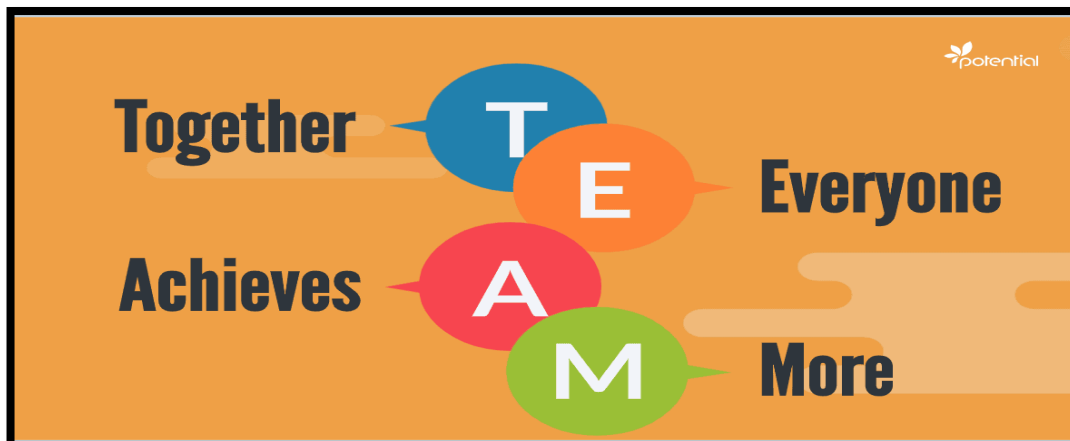
What a blessing to those  
in need!

Sincerely,  
Naomi Boel

# Worship Volunteer Duties for March of 2024

Please find your own replacement if you cannot be available on date of assignment.

	3-Mar	10-Mar	17-Mar	24-Mar	28-Mar	29-Mar	31-Mar
	<b>Worship 10:00am</b>	<b>Worship 10:00am</b>	<b>Worship 10:00am</b>	<b>Palm Sunday 10:00am</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday 7:00pm</b>	<b>Good Friday 7:00pm</b>	<b>Easter Sunday 10:00am</b>
<b>Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2</b>	Charlie H	Marilyn D	Charlie H	Maureen H	Susan R	Marilyn D	Debbie F
<b>Greeter</b>	Elaine B	Nancy D	Nancy C	Marion D	Dickie D	Pam D	Ja'net M
<b>Usher</b>	Marilyn D	Cindy W	Lois B	Mike D	Pam D	X	Marilyn D
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Luis C	Pam D	Chris N	Bonny M	Marilyn D	Chris N	Cindy W
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Bonny M	Pam D	Chris N	Debbie F	Bonny M	X	Bonny M
<b>Snack Set-Up / Clean-Up</b>	Susan C	Charlie H	Susan C	Marilyn D	x	x	Marilyn D
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Bonny M & Marilyn D	Cindy W & Pam D	Charlie H & Nancy C	Bonny M & Marilyn D	x	x	Marilyn D & Cindy W



# Upcoming Events for March of 2024

We will have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM. We will also continue to stream our services on our website, YouTube page, and Facebook page.

*Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all*

- ✚ 2<sup>nd</sup>: Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at RFB.
- ✚ 3<sup>rd</sup>: **Healing Team & Prayer Team meet at 11:30 AM in the small classroom.**
- ✚ 7<sup>th</sup>: Hope's Kitchen Free Community Dinner for those who RSVP'd, 3 PM – 5:30 PM.
- ✚ 8<sup>th</sup>: **Hope's Dine-Out Dinner Group at 6 PM, Scarborough's.**
- ✚ 10<sup>th</sup>: Daylight Savings Time - Turn clocks forward one-hour.
- ✚ 10<sup>th</sup>: **Easter Flower order forms due today.**
- ✚ 12<sup>th</sup>: Book Club at 7 PM, Marilyn Dyer's home.
- ✚ 15<sup>th</sup>: **CLI Meeting at 3:30 PM in the large classroom.**
- ✚ 17<sup>th</sup>: St. Patrick's Day.
- ✚ 19<sup>th</sup>: **Hope's Hands meets at 10 AM in the small classroom.**
- ✚ 19<sup>th</sup>: Council Meeting at 6:30 PM in the large classroom.
- ✚ 21<sup>st</sup>: **Grief Support Group at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.**
- ✚ 24<sup>th</sup>: Palm Sunday - Worship Service at 10 AM, In-Person & Online.
- ✚ 28<sup>th</sup>: **Maundy Thursday - Worship Service at 7 PM, In-Person & Online.**
- ✚ 29<sup>th</sup>: Good Friday - Worship Service at 7 PM, In-Person & Online.
- ✚ 30<sup>th</sup>: **Red Cross Blood Drive, 8 AM – 1 PM, in the sanctuary, register online.**
- ✚ 31<sup>st</sup>: Easter Sunday - Worship Service at 10 AM, In-Person & Online.

**Note:**

**Please see page 3  
for Lenten Soup  
Supper schedule.**

