

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.

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

**Food Drive/Bake Sale
a Success!**
~ see pg. 9 ~

NEW!
**Food, Fellowship &
Fun Night!**
~ details on pg. 13 ~

**Christmas
Poinsettia
Order Form**
~ see pg. 14 ~

Our Core Values



*faith
acceptance
compassion
gratitude
love*



Fall is here—the temperature is steadily getting cooler, and the leaves are beginning a faint turn towards the browns, reds, and golden colors of autumn. In the church year, a change of season is also being signified by October's onset of Fall holidays ending in December.

This month we celebrate Reformation Sunday on October 27th.

“Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an every-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God’s grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work.” (Sundays and Seasons 2024, pg. 278).

We worship a living God and thus participate in a living church. We refuse to see the movement of the Holy Spirit at our own risk. The church was never meant to be static, but to adapt to the needs of God’s people throughout each century. And so we celebrate the reformation not just in the past, but we live it today as well.

And then on November 3rd we celebrate All Saints Sunday. We gather together on this day especially to remember the loved ones we’ve lost throughout the year.

“On All Saints Sunday we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah’s feast to come.” (Sundays and Seasons 2024, pg. 294)

And so there is grief and there is joy, and there is joy and there is grief. God meets us wherever we find ourselves on life’s journey with open arms. For God sent his son that we might have life and life abundantly, in all our griefs and in all our joys.

Peace,

Pastor Pamela

HEALING TEAM NEWS:

St. Luke, Apostle & Evangelist: October 18

October 18th is the day the Church traditionally recognizes St. Luke, the writer of the Gospel Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. Scholars believe that Luke was born between 1 CE and 16 CE in modern Turkey. He died between 84 CE and 100 CE in modern Greece at the age of 84.



St. Luke is our go to when we think of healing ministry. Luke is often depicted as a Physician with a book or pen, accompanied by a winged ox or calf as well as a brush or a palette. Luke is the patron saint of artists, notaries, bachelors, physicians, goldsmiths, butchers, brewers, and glass workers.

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles give us the stories of Jesus and the early Church with great detail. Traditionally, Luke's birth stories of Jesus are the favorite readings during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The Acts story of the coming of the Holy Spirit is read on Pentecost Sunday. Because of Luke's account, many congregations include Pentecost readings in diverse languages and voices. We learn about the Apostle Paul, his conversion and three journeys in the first-person voice of Luke who was his companion on much of his travels. St. Paul mentions Luke in his letters to Philemon, Colossians and 2nd Timothy.

Consider reading both the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles during the next two months. On December 1st we will begin to hear Luke's Gospel in the third year of our Common Lectionary readings.





hello community™ podcast

Catherine Jura, host

Jim Macris and Shameka Andrews –are lovely examples of how different people can be in many ways-- and at the heart of their lives be very similar. Spirituality enlightens their connections and community building.

Jim Macris's podcast is aptly titled "Finding community in surprising places!" Learn how Jim's irrepressible energy, fearlessness, and love of Jesus--drives his community building. One podcast watcher told me she loved Jim's interview and summarized it with "WOW!"

Shameka Andrews has been described to me by several podcast watchers as inspiring and "a beautiful human being." Shameka explains in her interview that she has used a wheelchair for mobility her whole life—and this indeed impacts her daily life--but nevertheless she has blossomed into a traveling, dancing, leader, and community builder. Her spunk is captured in her contribution to the title of her podcast-- "Keep rolling on: from loneliness to connection!"

New to how to enjoy a podcast? The podcast is both video and audio: you can pull up the link/QR Code/Hope website below and either sit and watch the conversation or just listen while you are driving, walking, gardening, or relaxing.

The mission of *hello community™ podcast* is to bring stories of how to create connection and community building to all of us—but especially to those feeling isolated and lonely. Right now there are three ways to find and share the podcast:

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@hellocommunity-tv8tv>

Hope's website: <https://www.hopelc.org/> (upper right corner)

hello community QR code



My prayer is that, together, we can support each other to lives of social connection and community.

Till next time,

Catherine



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The news I'm about to share with you is BIG and full of LOVE.

The LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry is expanding to reach neighbors in need in the United States. This means that quilts and kits will now comfort families here in the U.S. and abroad.

We couldn't be more excited — and it is all because of faithful congregations like yours.

In fact, LWR Quilts and Kits are already on the way to partners in the U.S., with the first distributions expected to happen later this year.

The LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry is our longest running program, born in 1945 — the same year as Lutheran World Relief. Over these last 80 years, the ministry has grown considerably, which means we can now expand our reach to comfort and care for more of our neighbors, both near and far.

Together, we serve a God of incredible abundance! Thank you.

You'll be happy to know that our U.S. partners are thankful, too. Humanitarian and social services organizations — including our newest partner **Lutheran Family Services of the Rocky Mountains** — are eager to share your gifts of care and comfort with children, women and men in their communities. These organizations reach people who are affected by disasters, coping with crises or struggling in poverty.

We are tremendously grateful for you and your congregation's support for making this significant and historic expansion possible. Please continue to send your quilts and kits for neighbors in need around the world, including at home in the U.S.

Joy & Blessings,



Rev. Lisa Kipp
Director, Congregational
Engagement



Lutheran World Relief, 700 Light St., Baltimore, MD 21230, United States

P.S. Please visit lwr.org/expansion for more information and for answers to frequently asked questions.

**Until your love reaches
every neighbor.**

19th Sunday after Pentecost



Our Most Sacred Duty

"If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea."

Mark 9:42

The cost of harming children. Jesus attempts to bring the disciples along through a series of really graphic pains – hanging a millstone around your neck and throwing you into the sea, followed by cutting off various limbs or tearing out your eye if they cause you to sin. Oh Jesus, that gets our attention. So, Jesus is not messing around when he tries to get the disciples to focus on who and what is important in his ministry. Protecting the children, protecting and serving all who are the most vulnerable.

In promoting our upcoming film event, I was asked to share why Cherish All Children's work is important and why we work to engage churches to prevent sexual exploitation. I shared that children and youth are experiencing significant mental health challenges at an alarming rate over these past several years. As adults, we can come together to learn more and engage in supporting young people as they navigate the pressures of social media, addictive online games and apps, and online exploitation. Identifying how we can best support youth through times of stress, anxiety, and depression will help decrease their vulnerabilities to an exploiter or trafficker. And I shared this quote:

"The protection of children is a society's most sacred duty."

~Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A. Polite, Jr., Justice Department Criminal Division

~ continued on next page ~

This, in the context of educating the public about sextortion – one of the fastest growing online crimes. Young boys are specifically being targeted (*and* youth of all genders), tragically resulting in some taking their lives as they feel trapped and afraid. We have the power to stop it. The FBI, Homeland Security, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children are urging parents and caregivers to talk to children about how to prevent this, and what to do if they are targeted online. Here's a resource to get you started: [Discussion Guides - Thorn for Parents](#).

Jesus, guide our conversations with the young people in our lives, that we may share your never-ending love and act on our sacred duty to protect children and all who are vulnerable. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

Join us Sunday, October 13 for a screening of [Screenagers Next Chapter: Addressing Youth Mental Health in the Digital Age](#) and explore solutions together!

Cherish All Children is a ministry within Lutheran Social Service MN that partners with churches to prevent child sexual exploitation.

Your donations make this ministry possible!

[Give today!](#)

Thank you for making a difference in protecting children.

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial?

[Click here!](#)

Designate your Choice Dollars to Cherish All Children - it really adds up!

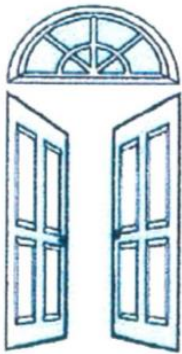
"Love born of faith in Jesus Christ calls us all to attend to, discuss, resist, and reject the system of sexual exploitation."
(ELCA Message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation, pg. 1)

www.cherishallchildren.org

Our mailing address is:
Cherish All Children
1605 Cassia Street
St. Paul, MN 55108



9/16/24



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,

*How much we appreciate your gift
of food to D. O. H. Food Pantry. Thank-
you for supporting our ministry to the
less fortunate.*

*Sincerely,
Naomi Boel*

Food Pantries - Urgent Need!

The CoNSERNS-U food pantry informs us that their funding from the NYS Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) has been reduced. This is partly because the funding for the program has stayed flat, but the number of food pantries seeking funding has increased.

CoNSERNS-U is already starting to collect shelf-stable food for Thanksgiving bags. The following is their current "wish list." When you're shopping, please consider adding a few of these items to your cart. Our food collection effort is an ongoing one -- you can drop off your food items any time, and they will be delivered to the two food pantries we support.

Canned fruit

Peanut butter

White rice

Canned potatoes/spinach/collards

Tuna

Instant potatoes

Canned black beans

Cranberry sauce

Canned sweet potatoes

Stuffing mix

Turkey gravy

Toilet paper



Food Drive / Bake Sale

We were blessed with a beautiful day on September 14th for our latest Food Drive and Bake Sale. Many of our friends and neighbors stopped by to drop off bags of food and check out the yummy items on the bake sale table.

We collected well over 50 bags and boxes of food -- enough to fill up two Subaru Forester-size cars! And the bake sale proceeds and miscellaneous donations totaled over \$530. The food and money were divided between the two food pantries we support, Doors of Hope (West Sand Lake) and CoNSERNS-U (Rensselaer). Both pantries were delighted with the windfall!





Sept. 27, 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 the congregation @ Hope
Lutheran for your generous gift to D. O. H.
Food Pantry (\$265.50) 9/16/24.
We are grateful for your consistent support.

Sincerely,
Naomi Boel



OCTOBER 2024

					Saturday	Sunday
	1 Sue Anthony	2 David Armento	3 Athena Batsios	4 Lois Batsios	5 Tom Batsios	6 Nancy Clarkson
7 Luis Clemente	8 Susan Clemente	9 Daniel Clemente	10 Richard Covey	11 Karen Covey	12 Rachel Carey	13 Samantha Carey
14 Bob Crowley	15 Marion Daus	16 Mike Daus	17 Nancy Davis	18 St. Luke, Apostle	19 Pam Dodson	20 Dickie Dodson
21 Debbie Favro	22 Gary Favro	23 Anita Renault- Ford	24 Bill Frier	25 Catherine Jura	26 Sandra Governor	27 Karen Hill
28 Maureen Hoffman	29 Charlie Huff	30 Zina Huff	31 Peggy Farrell			



EACH MONTH WE LIST NAMES FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS FOR OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY. OUR PRAYERS SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. (A REMINDER... THESE ARE NOT PRAYERS FOR HEALING.)

Book Group reads “West With Giraffes “ by Lynda Rutledge

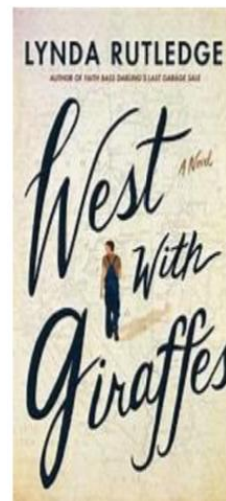
The HOPE BOOK GROUP will meet on Tuesday, October 8 (6:30 p.m.) at the home of Marilyn Dyer and Elaine Berg (315.882.3732)

(47 Deerhaven Lane, Rensselaer 12144).

Woodrow Wilson Nickel, age 105, feels his life ebbing away. But when he learns giraffes are going extinct, he finds himself recalling the unforgettable experience he cannot take to his grave.

It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Behind the wheel is the young Dust Bowl rowdy Woodrow. Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones, including the world's first female zoo director, a crusty old man with a past, a young female photographer with a secret, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes.

Part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age love story, *West with Giraffes* explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late.



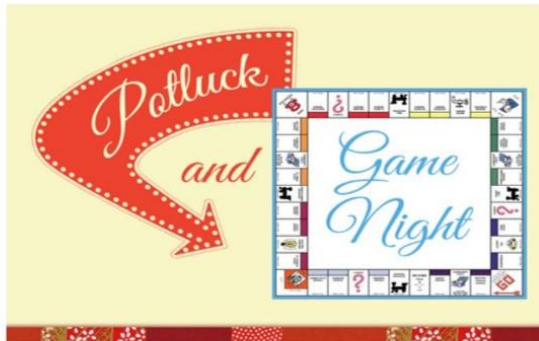
FUN FELLOWSHIP & FOOD

Saturday, October 26, 5:30 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church, we will celebrate a new ministry of fun,

fellowship and food. You are invited to bring your favorite game and a potluck dish to share. This month, we will discuss ideas for future fun nights and a new name for the group. Plans might include a movie night, a picnic progressive dinner in the summer, an indoor Olympics, an evening cabaret, paint and sip, as well as any other ideas you might suggest. We will be asking several folks to be part of a planning team with a coordinator. We currently plan to meet on the 4th Saturday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

We will ask different individuals and couples to host each evening. Because we will meet on Saturday evenings, we ask all to help with set up for worship at the end of the evening.

A sign-up sheet will be available for you to indicate your presence as well as the dish you plan bring. For further information, you may speak to Pr. Elaine via phone or email (315.882.3732 or meb312@aol.com).



Christmas Poinsettia Orders Now Being Taken!



It's that time again to start thinking about the upcoming holiday season! We'll be ordering beautiful poinsettias from Becker's Farm Garden Center to decorate the altar for the Christmas holidays in honor/memory of loved ones. This year you can choose red or white plants!

Please note:

Orders will be taken until **December 1st**.
All orders are prepaid.

Make checks out to Hope Lutheran Church.

Put checks and this order slip in the offering plate no later than **December 1st**. You may also mail in your orders, but please plan to have your order forms arrive at church before December 1st, when the order will be called in. Please indicate the number/color of plants ordered, circle the "Honor of" or "Memory of", fill in your dedication (for inclusion in the Christmas Eve service bulletin), plant color (if not circled, "red" will be assumed), and if you would like to take your plant home.

_____ **Tabletop \$12 ea. (1 plant in 6.5" pot)**

_____ **Hearth \$28 ea. (1 plant in 8.5" pot)**

Circle plant color: RED or WHITE

Given by: _____

In Honor of:* or *In memory of:

(Please circle one of the above and include name below.)

Taking home? Yes or No (please circle one)

Thank you!

Poinsettia Plant – Poisonous to Pets?

Not according to the article "Holiday Health Hazards" from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University. In the article <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/ClientED/holiday.aspx>, it is stated that poinsettias "...are not very toxic to pets. They do contain a milky sap that can irritate the mouth but if signs develop, they are usually mild." Further research online supporting this can be found at numerous sites including the ASPCA's site (<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/poinsettia.html>) which states that for pets, poinsettias are "irritating to the mouth and stomach, sometimes causing vomiting, but are generally over-rated in toxicity" and that "While poinsettias are commonly "hyped" as poisonous plants, they rarely are, and the poisoning is greatly exaggerated" (<http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poison/poinsettia>).

Worship Volunteer Duties for OCTOBER of 2024

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

	6-Oct	13-Oct	20-Oct	27-Oct
	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Donna S	Bonny M	Donna S	Maureen H
Greeter	Lois B	Nora G	Anna-Lisa H	Nancy D
Usher	Lois B	Chamanka G	Pam D (+ candles)	Mike D
Assisting Minister	Chris N	Marilyn D	Sandra G	Luis C
Communion Assistant	Chris N	Marilyn D	Athena B	Luis C
Snack Set-Up / Clean-Up	Susan C	Marilyn D	Susan C	Marilyn D
Offering Counters	Bonny M & Susan R	Marilyn D & Cindy W	Pam D & Anna-Lisa H	Marion D & Maureen H



Upcoming Events for October 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

- 2nd:** Wednesday Bible Study, 12 – 1:15 PM, in the large classroom & via Zoom, (every Wednesday).
- 3rd:** Thursday Bible Study @ 6:30 PM at Pr. Elaine Berg's home, (every Thursday).
- 5th:** Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at RFB.
- 6th:** Hope Prays Group in the small classroom following Worship Service.
- 8th:** Hope's Book Club @ 7 PM at Marilyn Dyer's home.
- 8th:** Beginner Tai Chi begins, 7 – 8 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Tuesday).
- 9th:** Fun, Fellowship & Food Task Group meets @ 10 AM in the small classroom.
- 9th:** Qigong, 1:30 – 2:30 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Wednesday).
- 9th:** Advanced Tai Chi, 3 – 4 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Wednesday).
- 9th:** Worship & Music Committee Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the large classroom.
- 15th:** Hope's Hands meets @ 10 AM in the small classroom.
- 16th:** Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM, in the large classroom & via Zoom.
- 24th:** Grief Support Group @ 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.
- 26th:** Fun, Fellowship, & Food Night @ 5:30 PM in the sanctuary.
- 31st:** Have a safe and happy Halloween.

