

Hope Highlights

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The Family that Prays Together . . . Stays Together

The month of May has customarily been the month during which churches have emphasized the importance of the Christian family. In our day when we see and feel the effects of family disruption and deterioration, how important it is for us as the people of God to work diligently and tirelessly to strengthen and maintain our Christian homes.

Family togetherness is a real problem today. Family cohesiveness is weakened as each member goes his or her own way. Home for many is chiefly a place to sleep. School, work, sports, and a variety of social events are keeping family members apart. It is difficult for many families to have even one daily common meal (with, it is hoped, a family devotion).

Many families are drifting away from their God-intended center: God. The Christian faith gives to a family a common purpose for living, a new sense of values, and a Christian philosophy of life. No person can really become or be a believer in isolation. We become disciples of Jesus Christ and align ourselves with God's people through other Christians. And this unity and mutual support can nowhere be better expressed than in the warmth and intimacy of the Christian family, the "*church in your house*."

The foundation for Christian family living is family worship. Christian nurture - training and education - is primarily the responsibility of the home. i.e., parents. Deuteronomy 6:1-7 records, "*These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe . . . so that you, your children, and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all His decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy a long life . . . Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*" St. Paul reminds Christian parents: ". . . bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Family worship provides opportunities for confession and forgiveness, for intercession and petition, for praise and instruction. This is a time for

witness to one another, for expressions of love and forgiveness, for addressing the temptations and concerns of everyday living, and offering encouragement and support to one another.

Worshiping together takes place not only at home, but in the congregation as well. Worship together strengthens our convictions and relationships. It fortifies us in times of need. It enriches us in days of blessing. It strengthens in days of adversity. Worship involves the use of God's Word - the written Word in the Scriptures; the visible Word in the sacraments; the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ. The study of Scripture together by the family is appropriate and crucial for healthy Christian family development. God's Word strengthens us mightily through the working of His Holy Spirit. Christ joins our family circle as His Word is read, as our hymns and prayers are offered to Him. **Where God's Word is in use, God Himself is at work.** And no agency can do as much to establish meaningful use of the Bible and the development of godly standard for Christian living as the Christian family.

Is your family growing in the Lord?

Pastor Gary Albert

Almighty Creator and Preserver, You have wisely created the family as the foundation of society. Help us as we pray in behalf of homes throughout our communities and country. Let every dwelling that shelters Christian families be Your dwelling place also. Let Your Word abide richly and daily in our hearts and homes. Let Your grace cover the sins that war against family unity and peace. Let Your love build harmony among all family members. Let each one of us fill his/her assigned place in the family circle in obedience to Your will and in love toward one another. Hear our pleas for those many homes and families where faith in Christ is not present. Graciously bring them to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. In our day when the devil and his unholy allies seem bent on the destruction of our nation's homes and families, we need Your help and guidance more than ever before. Keep us in the family of the faithful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

In Our Worship This Month We Will Celebrate . . .

- + The Ascension of Our Lord - Sunday, May 12
- + The Day of Pentecost - Sunday, May 19
- + The Festival of the Holy Trinity - May 26



An Ascension Day Prayer

Ascended Lord, we adore You! Once You lived a human life subject to the limitations of time; now You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Once You were limited to one particular place; now You are present wherever people turn to You. Once only those who met You face to face knew You; now Your divine love extends through all the world. Jesus Christ, ascended Lord of time and space, love as wide as life, we adore and worship You. Amen.

MAY BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays . . .

3	Lynn Kahlenberg
5	Tina Beer
10	Erin Bramstadt
16	Robyn Perlewitz
17	Nancy Lapp
18	Paul Schultz
23	Will Johnson
26	Florence Ninko

No anniversaries this month.



This is the 4th article of 14 reminding us of the meaning of the various parts of worship service and the Divine Service liturgy.

KYRIE: In this world of sin and death, Christians have plenty of opportunities in the brief, yet all-encompassing prayer of the Kyrie: “*Lord, have mercy.*” All around us we see the results of hatred, envy, lust, and greed. Surely, the world is in need of God’s mercy. It’s no wonder that the church, in her worship, pleads

before God on behalf of the whole world. It’s a prayer that no one else is going to pray. Yet, when we cry out, “*Lord, have mercy,*” there is confidence in our voices because we know that God is indeed merciful. He desires to bring relief to the suffering that is all around us. Our prayer may not always bring an immediate response — at least, not the response that we are seeking — but even then, we commend ourselves and the whole world to a merciful God.

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Mark your calendars for the **Precepts Bible Study**, studying the third section of the book of John, beginning on **Tuesday, May 21st 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.** Jane Reilley will lead the study. If you have any questions, please contact Jane at (847)212-1026. Plan to join this study!



Ladies of Hope and the community got together on Saturday, April 20th, for a class on how to design and arrange spring wooden flowers. A very special thank you to Mary Noordyk for teaching the class. There were 14 ladies who attended and with the help of 4 helpers it was an enjoyable time. Look for another class in the fall.

Kay Yanke

Special Gifts Received during April . . .

We express our heartfelt appreciation to . . .

Tom L. Kind - Thank offering

Tom H. Kind - Thank offering

Gary & Cheryl Chapman - Faith, Hope and Love Campaign

Christopher Johnston - In loving memory of my father, Rodney Bathke, Faith, Hope & Love Fund

Jim & Vicky Holbrook - Faith, Hope and Love Campaign

Bob & Nancy Vogt - Faith, Hope and Love Campaign

Bill & Ellen Minchik - Faith, Hope and Love Campaign

Jeanne Dicka - Faith, Hope and Love Campaign

Tom & Darleen Behling - Faith, Hope and Love Campaign

Tom L. Kind - Faith, Hope and Love Campaign

Tom H. Kind - Faith Hope and Love Campaign



Gracious God, You love us and care for us in all our needs.

We give You thanks for our mothers who have given us life and nurtured us through all the years. Thank You that You fill a mother's heart with love, that You have instilled in her very being the need to nurture and protect her children, guiding her children to be all that You have created them to be. Thank You for Christian mothers who have instilled in us our faith,

helping us to know You and our Savior, Jesus Christ, and Your ways; mothers who taught through word and example how to love and how to sacrifice for others; mothers who taught us it is OK to cry and to always be honest, trustworthy and truthful. Grant that we may honor them; and as the years pass, to care for them with a spirit of profound respect and deepest gratitude. Then at the last, gently and lovingly take them all the way home, to be with You forever. In Your precious and powerful name we pray. Amen.

Mark Your Calendars



ROADSIDE CLEANUP will be **Saturday, May 18**. Meet at the church at 9:00AM. Safety vests, bags and water will be available. You may want to bring a pair of gloves and a "grabber" to use to pick up the trash.

JULY 4th PARADES in Land O Lakes & Watersmeet. We need volunteers to walk and hand out treats to the kids. Watch for information in June bulletins and newsletter.

JULY 14th - Hope Outdoor Worship Service & Picnic in the Park at the Land O' Lakes Community Park pavilion.

AUGUST 3rd - Land O' Lakes Area Garage Sales - Watch for information on opportunities to donate and volunteer.

WOMEN OF HOPE will be collecting **dish soap and toilet tissue** during May for the Headwaters Food Pantry in Land O' Lakes. Your donations may be placed in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you!

A Celebration of the Life of Rodney A. Bathke - Plan to join the friends and family of Rodney Bathke on Saturday May 11, at 11:00am at Hope for a Service of Praise and Thanksgiving for Rodney's earthly and now heavenly life. The funeral service for Rod was held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI. on January 11, 2024. The service at Hope is to allow those who were unable to travel to Eau Claire for Rod's funeral the opportunity to join in this Celebration of his Life. A light lunch will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall. Questions, contact Vicky Holbrook.

Meaningful Ways to Welcome Guests to Hope

Throughout the year and especially during the summer months, we are privileged to welcome many guests to our church. How do you welcome guests in worship and make them feel at home? The following is a list of meaningful ways you as a member of our congregation can welcome any and all who walk through our doors.

1. **Every church member is a host and not a guest. Making guests feel at home is the responsibility and privilege of each of our members.**
2. The most important person for a visitor to talk to in order to feel at home in a new church is **you**. One of the most impressive gestures we can extend to visitors is for **you to take the initiative and welcome them**.
3. Smile at every one and offer your hand in hospitality and welcome.
4. You take the initiative, don't wait for visitors to initiate conversation with you.
5. Learn people's names and remember them. Listening is an effective way to show genuine interest in others.
6. **Invite guests to join you for Fellowship and bring them with you into the Fellowship Hall. Sit with them** and introduce them to others around you.
7. **Never let guests sit alone. You take the initiative and join them.**
8. Help visitors by helping them find worship resources, rest rooms, etc.
9. Tell people you are glad they are here.
10. **Be yourself!**

Faith, Hope and Love Campaign Update

"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." Galatians 5:6

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and support of the Faith, Hope and Love Campaign. We have been blessed! To date we have received \$10,703. We have completed 10% of our journey to our goal of \$100,000 in 2 years.

As Pastor illustrated in his sermon this week, we will continue to follow in the steps of the Good Shepherd to make sure Hope is a viable ministry for the Northwoods for many years to come. Our journey is just beginning but we know our destination.

We continue to be blessed with new members and many visitors. We are looking forward to another summer providing opportunities for people to hear about Hope through our outreach efforts and worship opportunities.

Thank you to all the members and visitors for supporting the journey. Blessings!

Call Update

We received 4 viable candidates from members of Hope and those names will be shared with President Lueck of the North Wisconsin District. He will add those names to his list and send that list to our call committee. The call committee will then determine the top candidates after reviewing and interviews. Then the call committee will recommend a candidate for a call to the congregation. Please continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to lead a new pastor to Hope and pray for the members of the call committee as they work through the process.

Parsonage Update

We are in the final stages of completion with the kitchen cabinets being installed, flooring being completed, installation of new baseboards and appliances. We look forward to celebrating the completion of this project in the near future.

Jim Holbrook, Chairman

OUR NATION'S PERIL

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people" Proverbs 14:34.

Every May Americans observe Memorial Day, a time to gratefully reflect on the great blessings preserved for us by the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in defending and preserving our liberties. Sadly, we often forget those who fought for freedom. We forget the principles on which our nation was founded. We commit the sin of noninvolvement and irresponsibility. We stand by while abortion continues, moral depravity, crime, chaos in our streets, and anti-Americanism increases at alarming rates. Our nation's peril stems from rebellion against God.

The writer of Proverbs says, *"Righteousness exalts a nation."* God provides a hope through His Son. We have been declared righteous by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We receive forgiveness for all our sins and God's power to live righteously as citizens of two kingdoms. By God's grace we face our nation's peril - sin - and point to our nation's hope - salvation through Jesus Christ.