



AUGUST | 2022

*“Sharing and showing the love of Christ to all through God’s grace.”*

### From the Pastor:

It seems like each year we say this, but where has the summer gone? The past two months have flown by as I imagine they have for you. Over this time, I have been able to visit with many of you in a variety of places such as: your home, at church, your workplace, over a meal, at the ball diamonds, and other locations. If we have not been able to connect yet, please send me an email at [pastormark.nassen@gmail.com](mailto:pastormark.nassen@gmail.com) or give me a call and I would love to set up a time to visit with you/your family. Also, if you have not submitted a few of your favorite hymns, there is still time to do so! Music is a wonderful gift from God and one way that we can worship and glorify Him.

Thank you for allowing me to take some vacation time during the month of July. Gretchen and I were able to go up to a cabin with her family in northern Minnesota for a couple of days and fish.

Whenever we all go fishing together, she consistently catches the most fish! After a quick turnaround, I was then off to Valley Fair with high school youth from Hope. We were fortunate to stay overnight at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN on Sunday night before spending Monday at Valley Fair.



Thank you again to Michelle Hofer and Rob Lord for chaperoning! Closing out July we also had our VBS Night with the theme “Under the Sea”. A fun and wet time was had by all as youth learned that no matter where they go, not even to the deepest part of the sea, nothing can separate them from the love of God (based on Romans 8:38-39). Thank you to the Education Committee, volunteers, and those of you who brought supplies for helping make this event possible.

As we start August, the focus turns to planning for fall and a restart for various church activities that have been paused for the summer as well as prior to the pandemic. It is no secret that attendance and involvement within churches across the US has fallen. This can, however, provide us with opportunities to try new ideas to re-engage others as we continue to proclaim and deliver God’s unchanging Word. I am encouraged by our attendance numbers this summer and hope we can build off this going forward!

## Save the Dates!

### Upcoming Events:

#### Ice Cream & Game Night:

August 10<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 9 p.m.

We will have indoor/outdoor games as well as an inflatable bouncy house here at Hope.

#### Rally Sunday:

September 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday school starts again. Our annual “Rally Sunday” will follow Worship service.

*In Christ,  
Pr. Mark*



## Baby Bottle Fundraiser

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone that supported the Plus One baby bottle donations.

Our combined bottle donations was \$852.89. Pastor Mark and I delivered the cash to Plus One and they were very thankful for your support. Mary Helen gave Pastor Mark and me a tour of the facilities, which has changed a lot since I was there last. Their ministry is impacting lives and to listen to Mary Helen and her passion for what she does makes me thankful that we support them financial and prayfully. You can continue to show support by praying for Plus One staff and clients which helps *make an eternal difference in the life of an unborn baby!*

~**Barbara Lorenz**



Coborn's receipts are submitted quarterly. Women of Hope receive the proceeds from these receipts. There is a box at the Welcome Center where gas, pharmacy and grocery receipts may be placed at any time. It's time to submit Coborn's receipts for the months of May, June, & July. Please have the receipts at the church by Sunday, August 14th. Thank you!

## "Sleep in Heavenly Peace"

This program is moving forward. We have delivered 14 beds and have additional application. Bobby Simon has been reaching out to the applicants to make sure they fall into the parameters required, then a delivery will be scheduled. Because of work schedules, language issues some applications take a little longer than others.



I met with Curt from the Plainsman and he will be doing an article on SHP to help spread the word that beds are available for ages 3-17. The article will be letting the community know that we need new sheets, pillows and pillow cases, plus quilts/comforters. We are looking for volunteers from beyond our congregation.

If you would like to get involved with us please speak up. We could use more to help deliver the beds. That is the most rewarding to see the excitement on the kids faces & claiming the bed.

Kiwanis gave us a donation toward bedding so if you know a Kiwanian tell them THANKS. Thrivent action team approved a grant to purchase shelves to store the bedding on and to help with cost for promotion of SHP.

~**Barbara Lorenz**

## Thank you!



"Under the Sea" VBS Night was a fun and successful evening! Thank you to the Education Committee, those who volunteered, and those who brought supplies.

## Volunteer Opportunities: Worship Assistant Please Sign-Up to Help with Worship.

We are still in looking for several individuals to help with the Sunday audio/video system for worship and livestreaming. The system is quite easy to learn and we will provide training. If you could even help once a month, it would provide the Lords and the Hadley's a little break. For high-school students looking for volunteer hours, this is a great opportunity. Please consider signing up to help with the worship service and/or fellowship. Sign-up sheets are at the Welcome Center or call the Church Office.

## Grief Support Program:

A new grief support program called GriefShare is starting on Mondays this fall beginning September 12 from 7-9 p.m. at Living Hope Alliance Church. This grief group is geared specifically to individuals who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The program is nondenominational and offers biblical concepts for healing from your grief. To learn more about GriefShare, visit [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org). If you are interested in signing up or volunteering as a program leader, please call group leader Jim Schmidt at 605-461-9360.



## A Note From Church Council

Greetings Hope Lutheran,

Just a quick note to thank all the volunteers at Hope Lutheran for everything you do. With the recent arrival of Pastor Mark and Gretchen, church council is looking to forge some new paths. As always, our church committees are always looking for new ideas and people to help implement them. We are exploring new avenues to increase our programming for youth, as well as adults. Please feel free to contact me, Dr. Mike Fuchs (chair of Family Life/Fellowship), Pastor Mark or other council members with any ideas or suggestions. Thank you for your time.

*~John Krutzfeldt  
Council President.*

# Pastor's Homework:

## A Brief Outline of *Isaiah*

"The British are coming! The British are coming!" Although Paul Revere never shouted this legendary phrase on his famous late night ride during the Revolutionary War, one can find a similar sense of urgency to the prophet Isaiah as he rebukes Israel for their many sins and warns of the swarm of enemies that will soon overtake them. At the time, Israel and Judah were at peak size and strength. The word of the Lord is revealed to Isaiah and is what much of the book is, proclamation from the Lord through the mouth of Isaiah. As a singular book, the prophecies and promises of Isaiah are some of the most frequently quoted throughout Scripture.

The Lord is angry and frustrated with the people because they disregard His word and live contrary to His ways. Previously they had been faithful, but now they have stumbled and fallen, and are actively working against the Lord. But even with the Lord's disgust, he promises to wash away the filth of the people and cleanse them of their stains, providing refuge and shelter from the wrath. But the wrath that is to come for Israel is not just storms or inclement weather, the Lord "will raise a signal for nations far away, and whistle for them from the ends of the earth" (5:25) and they will come with vengeance. Chapter six goes backward chronologically and we hear Isaiah's call story and several similarities to the call stories of Jeremiah and Ezekiel that occur later. In Isaiah's call one can see the work of the law being prepared as people will not be able to understand and their hearts will be dulled by this. Even though the people will seem spiritually and even physically dead, God will send "the holy seed" (6:13) even though the line appears

dead, and only 10% of the people will remain. "Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (7:14) Here is truly good news of the One who would come following the years of destruction that will soon begin.

First, Israel will be tormented by the Assyrian Empire, as the nation will rise up and plunder the territory and people. This will be a time of great darkness both describing the bleak conditions but also the emotional and spiritual state of things. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (9:2) and this light is the salvation that comes from the Lord for his throne will know no end. Despite the coming captivity and terror, again "a remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God" (10:21) for "there shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse" (11:1). But the people will not just see the Assyrian Empire, another empire would arise following them, the Babylonians. Destruction during this time will be brutal and there will be great wrath, says the Lord. Judgment will happen across the entire earth and people will be scattered.

But despite the distress and the ruins, this is not the end. "He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces" (25:8). As Christians we point to Christ, for He destroyed death forever through his death and resurrection, bringing new life for "Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in dust, awake and sing for joy!" (26:19) This is surely a wonderful promise, but Isaiah again reminds the people that in the near-term, there will be much pain and suffering before this. Even though your eyes see great chaos, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a found in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'" (28:16) (Continued on Next Page)

Isaiah is clear of the coming empires that will soon invade (Babylonians & Persians) and carry off the people and treasures of Israel. Again he does not leave the people in their despair but provides comfort for the One who is to come, "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." (40:3) Your Savior is coming for he will blot out your transgressions, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." (43:1) This promise of salvation is not only for Israel but also for "the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants" (56:6). Salvation is not a restoration of this old world full of sin and death, but instead the Lord will "create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind." (65:17)

*~Pr. Mark*

## Meals with Mark & Gretchen

Gretchen and I are looking forward to getting to know you, the members of Hope Lutheran Church. One way we can do this is over food! We can meet you at a restaurant, your home, or somewhere else. Please note, we are more than happy to bring something to share or pay for our own meal so do not let this stop you from reaching out. If you are interested, please email me at [pastormark.nassen@gmail.com](mailto:pastormark.nassen@gmail.com) and we can schedule something soon!



Thanks,  
*Pr. Mark*

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# HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1667 Frank Avenue Southeast

Huron, SD 57350

Pastor Mark Nassen

E-mail: [pastormark.nassen@gmail.com](mailto:pastormark.nassen@gmail.com)

Pastor's Cell: (605) 595 – 3485

Office: (605) 554 – 1002

E-mail: [hoperlutheran@midconetwork.com](mailto:hoperlutheran@midconetwork.com)

[www.hoperlutheranhuron.com](http://www.hoperlutheranhuron.com)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday – Thursday: 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. & Fridays: 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Pastor's Office Hours:** Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.. *Please call ahead of time as Pastor may be on a visit, in a meeting, or out of office.*

***Thank You!***