



SEPTEMBER | 2022

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

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From the Pastor:

Although fall has not officially started, in many cases schedule wise it is here. School has started and soon even the fair will be over. With the fall comes an increase in programs happening around town as well as at church. Sunday School, Confirmation, and High School Youth Group will all begin as the teachings of the Christian faith are passed down to the next generation of believers. For those a little more advanced in their years, I will be leading a Bible Study exploring the book of Genesis on Wednesday’s and Sunday’s later this month. With this being my first fall at Hope, what better place to start than “In the beginning”? Personally, this will be my “class” for the fall as I wrapped up my seminary studies earlier in August! Later this month I will have an interview with the Augustana District & LCMC, with ordination to follow this fall.

Looking back at the month of August, a special thank you to those who helped and participated at the Outdoor Game Night. It was a fun night of ice cream, bean bags, and bocce ball! In the future I look forward to having other fellowship events like this throughout the year. Thank you also to the council for taking the time to begin to start thinking about the future direction and goals for the church. Yes, we want to continue to grow the church and re-engage existing members, but this can’t fall on the shoulders of a small group of people. As baptized Christians, this is all of our call with Jesus’ parting words to his disciples to go out and share his good news with others. In this we give thanks that the Holy Spirit is the one to open the ears of hearers and creates faith, as God uses us to deliver His promises.

*In Christ,
Pr. Mark*

Upcoming Events!

- Council will meet on **Monday, September 12th at 5:30 p.m.** We will be discussing regular business and landscaping needs for the property.
- Visit St. Dysmas – **November 10th.**
- **Save the Date!** So Sew Saturday is back this year Saturday, **October 15th from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
- Rally Sunday and the beginning of Sunday School will be on Sunday, **September 11th.** Be sure to wear your favorite jersey!

St. Dysmas

It has been a few years since we have worshiped at St Dysmas. St Dysmas is the Lutheran Church at the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls. We are able to enter the prison to worship with the inmates. **November 10th** is the date set aside for Hope Lutheran members to worship there. You must be 18 years of age and complete an application to have permission to enter. Pastor Mark has the applications. They need to be completed **by October 17th**. If you have not participated with this in the past I would encourage you to sign up to attend. There will be a sign up sheet at the welcome center. We need to be at the prison by 5:35 p.m.

If you have questions please ask myself or someone else that has attended in the past.

-Barbara Lorenz

Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday will be on Sunday, September 11th. This is a kickoff event for the Sunday School year, so we would encourage all youth (K-5) to attend. Everyone is welcome to stay and enjoy the fun as well. We will play games with the kids and serve root beer floats. All attendees to church that day are encouraged to wear their favorite sports jersey or shirt. Sunday School will officially begin the next Sunday from 10:45-11:15.

Thank You,
-Becky Picek

OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONAL

The new copy of the devotional book, Our Daily Bread for September, October, & November is available at the Welcome Center & Gathering Area.



“So Sew Saturday!”

On **Saturday, October 15**, you are invited to come and help make quilts for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This will be happening from **9-4 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall at Hope, with lunch provided. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center if you are interested or contact the church office. "

Thanks,
Pr. Mark

Christmas Program

Do you have any gifts related to organization and the arts? Christmas seems far away right now, but the Education Committee is already beginning to think about the annual Christmas Program. We are looking for several individuals interested in directing and participating in this year's program. The sooner we begin to plan, the better we can prepare and practice. Without the help of others, the program will be difficult to put together so please consider sharing your gifts with us! If you are interested in being involved, please let Becky Picek (bpicek@live.com) or Pastor Mark know. *Thank you!*



Bible Study: Genesis

“In the beginning, God created...” With my new beginning here at Hope Lutheran, what better place to start a Bible Study than on the book of Genesis? As you will find, Genesis is a book that is constantly referred to throughout Scripture. Very clearly you will hear the many promises that God gives to His chosen people, as they cling to them in faith. Yes, even the promise of Christ is quite present across many of the passages.

For this study, there will be two opportunities to meet with both sessions covering the same material each week. You are invited to attend one or both sessions, happening on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7:35 p.m. (after confirmation). The plan is to have each session go for about an hour and we will shoot for covering about one chapter per week

-Pr. Mark

Fellowship/Family Life Needs Your Help!

This Council position has never had a job description nor a committee to advise and help the representative to the Council. It was my plan to develop both within the first year that I took over this position. Then Covid hit, Pastor Tom left and then waited for our new Pastor to join the Hope Family. So, now is the time for members of Hope to join the fun and volunteer for a committee to provide fresh ideas on how we at Hope can further energize our congregation. PLEASE give thoughtful consideration and then contact Dr. Mike (mfuchsortho@midconetwork.com) with your positive answer to this request! Your talents are needed as we all work to spread the Gospel of Christ within our community and beyond.

Thanks,
-Dr. Mike Fuchs

Salvation Army

This year, as the past several years, we have made donations to Salvation Army. Each Sunday we feature a category and members bring donations to the church and then on the last Sunday of September we invite someone from Salvation Army to worship with us to receive our donations.

- **September 4th - Paper Products**
- **September 11th - Canned goods and boxed items**
- **September 18th - Personal hygiene items**
- **September 25th - Baby products.**

However, you can bring any item on any Sunday.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Please Sign-Up to Help with Worship and Fellowship.

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 have good instructors. If you could even help once a month, it would provide the Lords and the Hadley's a little break. 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.

Pastor's Homework:

1 John

If you are looking for a brief outline of basic pastoral care, 1 John provides all that and more in a five chapter letter. Like the gospel of John, 1 John starts with the word of life, the one who is Christ. The faithful are called to walk in the light of God and not in the darkness. God is light, He is the truth. Because of our fallen humanity, we cannot bring this about or accomplish this ourselves however, as we are driven to a famous confession of sin. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (1:8-10) Many of you have said this confession in a worship service, but may not have realized the liturgy is almost an exact quote of this passage! Here now is the absolution, for cleansed by the blood of Christ, He forgives you of all your sin. What a way to start off the first chapter.

Chapter two continues the discussion of sin, and again points to the advocate we have in Christ, who not only died for our sins but for the sins of the entire world. Through the teaching and proclamation of God's Word, we come to know this through the commandments as they point out our shortcomings and drive us to Christ. John is not offering a new commandment, but rather reminding hearers of what has already been given. You are called to love God, and love one another. Try as you might though, you will never be able to do this completely. The commandments will always point out the times you missed and it becomes a never ending spiral of darkness. "I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are

forgiven for his name's sake." (2:12) Abide in the word of God, not in the ways and desires of this world.

In this old sinful world, there are many forces that try to drive you away from Christ, for there will be many antichrists that come. False teachers will try to separate you from the One who is the way, and the truth, and the light. John offers a test for hearers to apply to the many false prophets of this world. "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already." (4:2-3)

Chapter four moves from the testing of the false prophets to the love we have from God. It is not love that we produce ourselves, but rather, "let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." (4:7) God is love, yes, but this love is not that of a teddy bear or a divine acceptance as often portrayed. Instead, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (4:9-10) Here is what God's love is, it is the Father sending his Son to be the Savior of the world, taking on and dying for the sins of the world and delivering his forgiveness to sinners. This is the testimony that Scripture repeatedly gives throughout the Old and New Testament. John concludes his letter pastorally, for his purpose in writing these things is so that you who believe in Christ, have confidence in Him, and know that you have eternal life

-Pr. Mark