



SEPTEMBER 2021

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## THE VOICE OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOPE EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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Sunday Morning Worship  
Service with Pastor Oddi  
KNIM 1580AM or 95.9FM  
At 10:00 am



Online Worship on  
Facebook  
9 am Bible Study  
10 am Worship  
Service

**9 am Bible Study and  
Sunday School in  
person at Hope**

**In person Worship at Hope  
Lutheran Church every  
Sunday at 10 am**  
Holy Communion is  
celebrated on the first  
and third Sundays'  
of each month.  
*Facemasks are optional*

*From the Pastor...*

### "The Tongue"

**The Eighth Commandment** – You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. Luther, in his explanation, tells us what this means. "We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, **but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.** When you consider the Eighth Commandment the idea of not telling lies about our neighbor sounds easy, but we continually prove that it is hard. I remember when I was growing up I was told, "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all." That's good advice as far as it goes. The issue is that we as Christians really should go the extra mile. This includes speaking constructively about our neighbor. We are asked to defend them when others are speaking badly of them. We are told that we are not to rush to judgment, complain, or spread rumors (**it doesn't matter if they are true or false**). We are asked to draw attention to the good qualities of our neighbor and to always explain their actions in the kindest way possible.

We read in **Zechariah 8:16-17**, "These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord."

**Ephesians 4:15** reads, "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." Some have tried to use this verse as a justification for their breaking of the Eighth Commandment. Well, let's consider the explanation. "It means to speak truthfully to others for their well-being, to build others up toward the mature fullness of life we have in Christ. It includes gently admonishing or encouraging people to repent of their sin, and pointing out the dangers of false teachings and false teachers."

We cannot even use the excuse that someone has sinned against us. **Matthew 18:15-20** lays out what we are to do in this case. We are always to keep things as private as possible. Even there is no repentance we are still not to gossip about the situation.

**James 3:5b-10** reads, "How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so."

*Continued on page 2*

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We see all around us that it is considered acceptable to attack someone you disagree with. It is considered reasonable to make fun of them. To question their intelligence. To post insulting memes about them. Rather than understanding them and explaining what they have said or done with kindness, or first instinct is to insult or attack or to incite others to rise up against them. Especially now, during a time of pandemic and fear; as a country and people when we should be supporting one another and looking out for the welfare of our neighbor we instead act selfishly and inconsiderately. We use the excuse that we have freedom and we have our rights when we do these things. We mock and insult those who would hold a different opinion than we do. We mock and insult the political authorities and others instead of trying to work constructively together. As it tells us in the text from James, "My brothers (and sisters), these things ought not to be so."

Indeed, the tongue is a weapon that we are very adept at using to harm and to hurt our neighbor, our tongues can do great harm even if we do not see it; when instead we could use it to do so much good, to defend our neighbor, to spread the Good News of Christ.

What are we to do? Consider Galatians 5:13-15, "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another."

*God's Blessings - Pastor Dave*

## *Farewell Reception*

*There will be a Farewell Reception on September 12 after the worship service—The Reception will be in the church basement We will be saying Thank you for everything that they have done for Our Church and Farewell and God's Blessings to:*

*Richard "Smiley" Oltman who is moving to the Springfield, Missouri area, to live with family*

*Frank & Judy Lehye are moving to Overland Park Kansas*

*Everyone is invited*

# Ushers & Greeters



## What do Greeters and Ushers do?

More than handing out bulletins and saying Hello  
In the back of church we have posted "General Rules for Ushers." The first two are "Be friendly, neat and courteous. Remember that you are a servant of God performing a humble duty; and Remember that a visitor's first impression of our Church involves both the ushers and the greeters."

Creating a welcoming environment by greeting others will require you to be ready with a big heart and smile. Greeting others should never be viewed as an obligation it is a privilege!

## Why do we need greeters and ushers?

- To enhance our worship and praise to God.
- Seat guest
- Collect the tithes and offering
- Keep order at the entrance of the sanctuary
- Distribute bulletins and service programs
- Help the mission of our church
- To support the leadership of our church

The heart of an usher or greeter, is the heart of a servant. "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritances as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." ([Colossians 3:23-24](#)). A church usher or greeter has a true love for the people of the church and a desire to promote an atmosphere of reverence and worship in the house of God. An theme verse for ushers and greeters could very well be [Psalm 84:10](#), "I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked."

Later this month, Our Elder for the month of October, Dean Biermann, will be asking you to be an Usher and or Greeter-please say yes to the opportunity to serve the Lord with gladness.

## Serve Your Church



**Elder**—Todd Roush

**Altar Guild:** Jan Duncan and Pam Myers

## **GREETERS**

Sep 5—Dean Biermann  
Sep 12—  
Sep 19—Jan Duncan  
Sep 26—Pam Myers

## **USHERS**

Sep 5—  
Sep 12—  
Sep 19—Royce & Jan Duncan  
Sep 26—

## *Talents- Organist*

Nancy Jenkins will the organist on September 5, 12, and 19th. Hope Pappert will be the accompanist on 26th.

## Watering the Flowers

*Jan Duncan and Lesley Oddi will be caring for the flowers this month.*

## **TREASURE**

*Sponsoring the church cleaning this month is: Jan & Royce Duncan; Larry & Phyllis Abbott and Pam Myers.*

*Lawn Care for the month of September is sponsored by Jim & Joyce Cronin and Twyla Hazen.*



**Sept.  
14**



- 3rd-Matt Gaarder
- 7th-Cooper Gastler
- 10th-Tye Hunter Hoyt
- 13th—Bill Whited
- 14th-Andy Abbott
- 14th- Vanessa Pappert
- 15th- Chad Gastler
- 21st—Isabel Brunnert
- 24th-Luke C. Boone
- 24th-Michael D. Mandrick
- 27th-Terry Ewing
- 27th-Jenna Pappert
- 29th- Ralph Walsh

Do we have your correct information? Did you move? Did you get a new phone number? Do we have your email address?

It is time to update the member contact information list. With some of our members moving in the last few months, it is also time to update the "mail boxes" Notices will be sent out before the update to the mail boxes happens

Please send the church office any updates on your contact information by Sept. 15th.

You can email the church at [hopelutheranlcms@gmail.com](mailto:hopolutheranlcms@gmail.com)

Leave a note on the secretary's desk or hand the information to Lesley. Please make sure that the information is printed clearly.

*Thank you for your help.*



- 3rd- Mike & Liz Mandrick
- 8th—Larry & Phyllis Abbott
- 11th- Dean & Dottie Biermann
- 20th—Andy & Sharla Abbott
- 25th—Karl & Linda Ritterbusch

September 2021



WOW! What a crazy, busy two weeks! So, we've held the open house and ice cream sundae two weeks ago and we had some attend....two will probably be regulars! But those of us that attended had TONS of fun! Then we had the Tuesday lunch, and our upper classman, the board and I enjoyed our lunch together. The first Bible study had some of our regulars, the next week we had two new students. We were at the Organizational Fair Wednesday from 11 to 3. We had 11 Lutherans sign up to be on our contact list, one was a young man from India. 10 Indians signed up to learn about who is Jesus. We are meeting Sunday at the LCC. Wednesday we had a senior come to the Bible study and he told us it was his first extra-curricular activity he has come to in 4 years! He just saw the house and the banner. Sam and his wife will be regulars! Our plans are to have regular Friday night activities, Bible Studies, light breakfast on Sunday mornings at 9:30 and carpool to church and dinner at 6pm on Sunday nights. I will post on the billboard at the back of church what was cooked and how many attended. Thanks again for all your generous donations for Advantage Week, volunteering for Sunday night meals and for your prayers. I also want to thank Karla, Kim and Beth....YOU'RE THE BEST!



