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# The Voice of Hope Lutheran Church

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Sunday School 9:00 am  
 Adult Bible Class 9:00 am  
 Worship 10:00 am  
 (Holy Communion on 1st  
 and 3rd Sundays)



**Sunday Morning Worship  
Service  
with  
Pastor Oddi**

KNIM 1580 AM or 95.9 FM  
10:00 am to 10:30 am

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## What Changes – What Remains the Same

**T**he world changes. The world in which we live is decidedly different from the world of the early Church. In fact, it is decidedly different from the world in which our grandparents lived, and will be decidedly different from the world in which our grandchildren will one day find themselves living. To be truthful, the world in which we find ourselves living is decidedly different from the world we were living in just a few short months ago.

A few months ago, the world's borders were open, and people went to work every day; they freely and without fear or hindrance went to restaurants, went to sporting events, and participated in a great many activities with no thought of danger. Now, well, things are so very much different.

Borders are closed between nations. Jobs have disappeared. Some restaurants and other businesses have closed their doors for good, even in our own community. Cities and states are in lockdown under stay at

home orders, with orders not to be within six feet of a nonfamily member.

Many churches, including us here at Hope, have found the way in which they worship changed. Of course, I am not talking about the elements of worship, these things remain the same, and they have been passed down to us from our brothers and sisters in Christ over the centuries. But, our worship has gone online. Recently, our worship attendance has been restricted due to orders calling for "social distancing," a new phrase in 2020 that may well be the phrase that 2020 becomes known for.

We here at Hope are prayerfully considering the next steps. We will as always honor the Lord our God and His Son our Savior Jesus Christ first and foremost.

We will honor the governmental authorities as God's Word calls for us to do in Romans 13, providing that our worship is not interfered with because of our faith in Christ, which so far it has not been.

Yes, a great many things have changed and we don't know if these changes are temporary or if they will become permanent.

But in this world of uncertainty and change we can rest assured that we who have built our faith on the solid rock of Christ and not on the shifting sands of this world can rely on the promises of God fulfilled in Christ. That though some things about our worship are now different, what remains the same is worship of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; the Triune God who does not change and we worship Him in spirit and in truth. We confess our sins and receive absolution, we confess the creeds, we pray the Lord's Prayer, we hear God's Word read and proclaimed, we receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and the wine in Holy Communion.

Some things change, as they always will, but others remain the same and will never and can never change. Our God remains the same yesterday, today, and forever; we pray, praise, and give thanks to Him always for the gifts of forgiveness, salvation, and love that He gives to us for the sake of Jesus the Christ our Lord and Savior. Worldly things change, our God remains the same.

*God's Blessings  
Pastor Dave*

Our Sunday Servants



6/7 – Nancy Jenkins  
 6/14 – Nancy Jenkins  
 6/21 – Pam Shannon  
 6/28 – Pam Shannon

*I thought I would devote the rest of this column to thank the many members who do things around the church that make it such a great place to work and worship. Thank you, and thanks to all our volunteers here at Hope. I truly appreciate all you do.*

**Bob and Carolyn Henry** come every week to set out Bibles and make coffee for the Sunday Bible Study.

**Marie Walsh** makes sure our pencils are always sharp and the attendance pads are full.

**Marcia Droegemueller** sets out seasonal decorations in the Bible Study room and women's restroom.

**Pam Myers** makes sure there is always a bouquet of flowers on the altar and a wreath and flowers in the narthex.

**Liz Mandrick** beautifully decorates our bulletin boards.

**Lesley Oddi** prepares our communion table.

**Phyllis Abbot** takes care of acknowledging our memorial contributions.

**Matt Gaarder** has been our cameraman for all our online worship services.

**Pastor and Lesley Oddi** have worked out all the logistics so we can have worship services during this pandemic. Lesley has served as our usher during these services.



**H**ere are the items that were discussed at the last Church Council Meeting on April 29.

The meeting was called to order by President Matt Gaarder. Others in attendance were Larry Abbott, Pam Myers, Karla Roush, Royce Duncan, Pastor Oddi, and Kim Hullinger.

Reports:

**Pastor:** Pastor Oddi reported that he has been unable to make any visits due to Covid-19. He has been emailing out Words of HOPE on Monday-Saturday to members that have an shared their e-mail address with the church.

**Treasurer –** Royce Duncan provided the quarterly report as well as a balance sheet for the month of April. In April we received an economic stimulus payment which was reflected in his report. He reported Kate McKee had made a bequest to the church. Council members will review payout options for this bequest and make a recommendation to the voters at the July Voters' meeting.

**Elders:** No report

**Trustees:** Larry Abbott reported that they need to purchase and install a new sink in the kitchen. They are repairing the roof at the entryway to the office where the water runs under the gutter during hard rains. They are also looking into repairing the portion of the sidewalk by the main entrance out to the street.

**Finance:** No report.

**Evangelism:** No report

**Education:** The committee is working on planning VBS which will be held on June 20-21 at Lake Mozingo. (Note: This was later cancelled).

**Campus Relations:** Pam Myers reported that they are making plans to clean the campus center. The vacuum cleaner has been purchased.

Old Business:

**Free Standing Altar:** Drawings were provided showing the placement of a free-standing altar. The LWML has offered to help with the purchase of new paraments, if needed. Karla Roush moved to recommend to the Voters that the altar be moved forward. The motion was seconded by Larry Abbott and unanimously approved.

**Church Secretary Job Description:** Jean Memken provided a comprehensive list of office manager duties. Matt Gaarder will put together a job description for the Council to approve at our next meeting.

New Business:

**VBS and Return to Worship Services:** It looks like we may be able to join together as a congregation in June. A letter will be sent out to church members to come together for a service with an Easter celebration.

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- 6/3 – Myles Gaarder
- 6/12 – Sherlyn Theas
- 6/17 – Stacy Mason
- 6/19 – Caleb Brunnert
- 6/24 – Jessica Sheil
- 6/24 – Pierce Strauch
- 6/25 – Yesenia Estrada
- 6/30 – Allison Riley



- 6/9 – Matthew & Tenna Hazen
- 6/9 – Mike & Nancy Jenkins
- 6/15 – Merv & Marilyn Bettis
- 6/15 – Michael Rogers & Jean Memken
- 6/19 – Michael & Deanna Mandrick
- 6/26 – Joe & Hope Pappert



Once again, we are not sure when Shepherd's Kitchen will resume. Be looking for an announcement and a call for volunteers to make desserts as we have reached the end of our volunteer list. Also, volunteers from our church prepare the meal on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. If you can spare some time, they could use some help. Contact the church office if interested.



## First Things First

June will be the start of some new events for the LWML here at Hope. With the Missouri District LWML Convention that was to be held in Springfield June 12 – 14 being cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will be “attending” a one day convention online June 13<sup>th</sup>. Our delegates, Liz Mandrick and Twyla Hazen, will be voting on mission grants, changes to some of the by-laws and electing new officers for the Missouri LWML District. Our own Pastor Oddi has written the bible study for the convention. All the officers of the district and the convention planning group have put in hundreds and hundreds of hours planning, unplanning and re-planning the convention online.

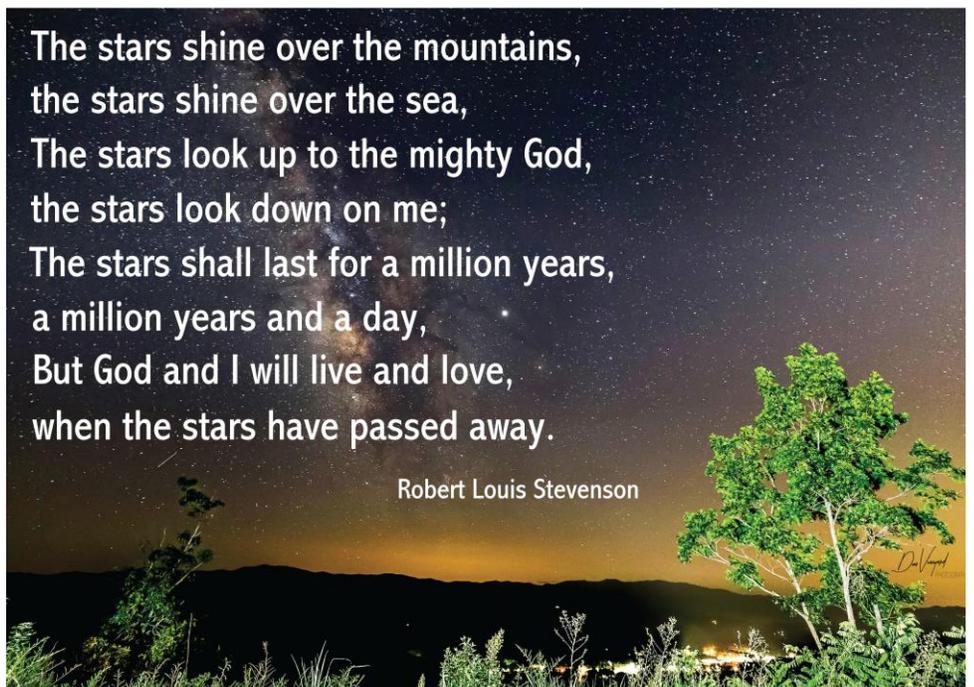
The ladies of the LWML here at Hope will be planning a rummage sale sometime after June for the first time. The garage sale is usually held in the spring. Be looking for much more information in the July newsletter.

In the past the Ladies of the LWML here at church “take the summer off.” We have our last meeting on the first Tuesday of June and do not meet again until the first Tuesday of September. This year we will have the last meeting at the end of June, and at that meeting we will be planning the rummage sale, as well as voting on officers for the coming year. The last “first” is that we will be working hard to reach our goal of \$975.00 in mite donations. Reaching this goal will be the first time our church will have reached that amount of support of the LWML Mission Grants.

The wonderful women in mission here at Hope want to thank all the members of our church family. Each of you have helped us so much with mite donations, LWML Sunday, garage sale set up and clean up and so much more. We could not have been as successful at furthering God's Kingdom without your prayers and support. –Lesley Oddi, LWML President

The stars shine over the mountains,  
 the stars shine over the sea,  
 The stars look up to the mighty God,  
 the stars look down on me;  
 The stars shall last for a million years,  
 a million years and a day,  
 But God and I will live and love,  
 when the stars have passed away.

Robert Louis Stevenson



**Church Council Report**

*(continued from page 2)*

There was discussion about participation in services during May and VBS. Larry Abbott moved to cancel VBS this year. The motion was seconded by Pam Myers and unanimously approved.

Royce Duncan moved that services in May continue online with limited in-person attendance and full corporate worship will resume on June 7, as a best case scenario. The motion was seconded by Karla Roush and unanimously approved.

Purchase Camera for Recording Services: With the success of the Facebook live videos, we want to consider recording our services. The services would be made available following the services on the church website. The purchase of a camera will be explored.

Voters' Meeting: The next Voters' meeting will be in July. The next Council meeting will be on June 10. Matt Gaarder will prepare the job description for the church office manager for distribution to the Council in the next week. Changes will be made to the job description based on feedback.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 10, at 7:00 pm. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

**LCC News**



Two students are thinking about living in the LCC next year, Aiden and Collin. Pam gave a tour to Collin and his parents. Please keep them in your prayers while they make this decision. I will keep you posted on what happens. If you drive by the LCC, you will see the banner is gone. I am getting it updated from Thursday to Wednesday for Bible Study. I want to get it back up soon so if students start visiting they will see it. Thanks for your continued prayers and support.—Joyce Cronin, LCC Director



**Getting a Glimpse**

Marital love is a blessing but not necessarily “easy,” even when both spouses are Christians. When issues inevitably arise, couples who cling to one another and to God can benefit from that “threefold cord” (Ecclesiastes 4:12). During joyful times, changes, challenges and other adventures, married followers of Jesus can support one another while knowing that Jesus supports them both.

In *The Meaning of Marriage*, Timothy Keller describes falling in love as looking at another person, glimpsing what God is creating in their life, and then proclaiming: “I see who God is making you, and it excites me! I want to be part of that. I want to partner with you and God in the journey you are taking to his throne. And when we get there, I will look at your magnificence and say, ‘I always knew you could be like this. I got glimpses of it on earth, but now look at you!’”

## Zacchaeus' Midlife Crisis

Our oldest son Benjamin is a professor of political science at Norfolk State University in Virginia. Since we both have our academic degrees in the social sciences, we learned a lot of the same things when we went to college, although a generation apart. As he was working on his Ph.D., he would call me every week and we would chat about what he was learning and the kind of research he was doing. I'd share ideas about how he might approach an assignment or problem. It was always an enriching conversation for both of us, and I was so proud that he was following in my footsteps.

When Benjamin finished his degree, he gave me a copy of his dissertation and I was rather dumbstruck. I barely made it through the abstract. I had no idea what he was writing about. Had the social sciences changed that much? He was using constructs and methods I had never heard of. I was amazed at how much more sophisticated his work was than any of the papers I had ever published. I was still very proud of him, but a little bit sad that my work seemed obsolete compared to his. What was the point of all the work I did? I think I was having a bit of a mid-life crisis.

I suppose most of us reach a point in life when we wonder if what we do has any value other than to sustain our lives and preoccupations. That is, we might all experience a mid-life crisis of one sort or another. As many people are now working well into what are considered the "retirement" years, that mid-life crisis point might happen later in life, but for many, it does happen. What is the meaning of my life? What legacy am I passing on to the next generation? Does my life make any difference to anyone?

A few weeks ago, I was reading about Zacchaeus in Luke 19 and all these ideas came to mind. You all know the story well, I am sure. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, the most despised of professions, and when he heard Jesus was in his town of Jericho, he wanted to see him. But because he was short, he couldn't see through the crowds, so he climbed a tree to get a good view of Jesus as he passed by.

And, of course, Jesus didn't just pass by. He called Zacchaeus down from the tree and declared he was going to be a guest that day in his home. Jesus dined with Zacchaeus and he and his family were saved. In fact, Jesus declared in Luke 19:9, *"Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of*

*Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

As I read this amazing account again, I began to wonder what prompted Zacchaeus outside to want to see Jesus. As a tax collector, he did Rome's bidding by collecting money from his fellow Jews, all the while keeping quite a bit of it for himself. So he would have been hated, but very, very rich!

And being rich back then was a good thing like it seems to be today. Zacchaeus probably had a life of luxury. A nice house. Servants to wait on him. Fine clothes and other material possessions. Why did he think he needed to see Jesus? Obviously, something was missing.

Maybe Zacchaeus was wondering if the luxuries he

experienced were worth the pain he caused to many others as he took their money for Caesar and himself. Maybe the jeers and scowls he experienced because of his occupation were finally getting to him. Maybe he was feeling trapped in his chosen life and resented his job. Maybe he was having his own mid-life crisis.

Except Zacchaeus was probably not in mid-life. He was probably pretty old. He was at the top of his game as the "chief" tax collector. He would have probably worked many years to achieve that position and would have had people working under him. He might have been contemplating retirement himself and taking it easy for the rest of his life.

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## Zacchaeus' Midlife Crisis

(continued from page 5)

But Jesus has a way of changing people's priorities and He certainly did so with Zacchaeus. First, he showed Zacchaeus that you can't hide from God. That would have been humbling to Zacchaeus, given the life he had led. He thought he would be safely hidden up in that sycamore tree, but Jesus knew he was there. He knew what he had done in his life. He even knew his name and he called him to come down.

Jesus showed how much he loved Zacchaeus, a truly lost soul, that day when he called to him. But Jesus did give Zacchaeus a choice to come down or stay in the tree. It didn't take long for Zacchaeus to choose to go with Jesus, and in doing so, his life was totally transformed.

If Zacchaeus was experiencing a mid-life crisis, it was pretty short-lived after he met the Savior. Remember what he did? In Luke 9:8, he declared that he planned to *"give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."* Zacchaeus went from living a self-centered life, seeing how much he could get from others, to one where he demonstrated how much he could give to others. The people around him were astonished at his complete turnaround, but Jesus wasn't. No doubt He was pleased that this lamb was safely back in the fold. And not only Zacchaeus, but his whole household with him.

So Zacchaeus might have been having a very late mid-life crisis, and perhaps because of his remorse for the way he lived or his feelings of guilt for the sins he committed, he wanted to see Jesus, but didn't want to Jesus to see him. Does that strike a chord with you? It certainly does with me. When I feel that way, I know I need a Savior. It's time to repent. If I lived back in Biblical times, I might well have tried to hide in that tree with Zacchaeus, hoping the mere sight of Jesus could take away my guilt and make me feel better.

Jesus did see Zacchaeus, and in the process of being with him, offered him salvation, just like He sees us with all our imperfections and sins and loves us enough to save us as well if we come to Him and repent. Zacchaeus is the perfect example of it's never too late to follow Jesus. It's never too late to experience God's love and forgiveness. It's never too late to answer God's call to do His will. It's never too late to live a life in Christ. Up to the day we depart this earthly life, it's never too late to be saved. What comfort that brings no matter what stage of life one is in.

*Just as an aside:* This remarkable encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus happened in the afternoon. On that same day in the morning, Jesus met with His disciples and explained to them that he would have to suffer and die and then rise again. Next, he healed a blind man as he walked on the road to Jericho, and he ended the day with Zacchaeus and his family. What an amazing day of miracles! But every day with Jesus is amazing. Isn't it great you didn't wait as long as Zacchaeus to seek out Jesus? Aren't you glad He knows your name, too, and calls on you to do some life-transforming work in His kingdom? As I read about Zacchaeus this past week, I was reminded to keep my focus on Christ and His will for my life. If I can do that, I'm pretty sure I will never experience a mid-life crisis again.—jm

## A Kindled Fire

**"I** can worship outside among nature just as well as I can inside a church building." That claim is especially common during the summer, when church attendance tends to decline.



Certainly it's possible to worship and talk to God among his creation. In fact, George Washington Carver called nature "an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in." And Martin Luther said, "God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars."

Yet corporate, or church, worship is still vital. Luther also noted: "At home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through." When we're away from God's house, we miss blessings and opportunities including communion, fellowship and support. During this pandemic, many of us can't come for corporate worship, but we look forward to the time when all of our Hope members can safely gather together as a church family in our sanctuary for worship. We continue to pray that day will come soon!

