

Voice of Hope

Hope Lutheran Church
Milton, WI
February, 2022



*Serving All Through Jesus Christ In Thought, Word and Deed
Use whatever gift you've received for the good of one another so that you
can show yourselves to be good stewards of God's grace in all its varieties.
1 Peter 4:10*

Building Committee

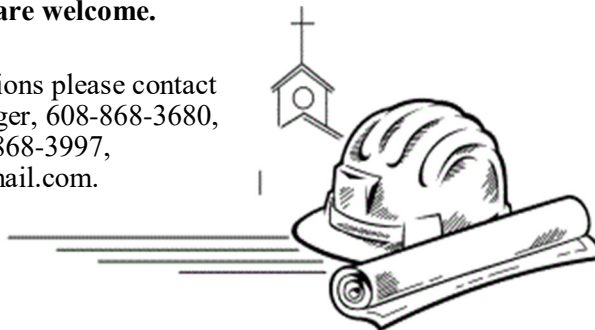
The Building Committee will reconnect on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm in Friendship Hall.

It has been a long time since we have discussed future updates for our facility and it will be a good time to sit down and vision with each other.

This is an open meeting to everyone in our congregation whether you have been on the Building Committee in the past or not; **all are welcome.**

Your input is valued.

If you have any questions please contact Kirsten, Office Manager, 608-868-3680, or Ron Parsons, 608-868-3997, email ronpatpa@hotmail.com.





Voice of Hope

Worship Schedule

Sunday

8:00 & 10:30 am Worship, with Facebook Live at 8:00 am
Education Hour (PreK-6th gr) 9:15 am

Visit us on Facebook:
Hope Lutheran Church Milton, Wisconsin

Website:
hopemilton.org

Church Council

President

Pat Parsons

Vice President

Marie Benson

Secretary

Kris Mathesius

Treasurer

Karen O'Rourke

Congregational Life

Marilyn Bittner

Buildings & Grounds

Kevin Shea

Worship & Fine Arts

Chris Burkett

Outreach

Cliff O'Beirne

Education

Janet Arndt

Finance

Cindi Benson

Evangelism

Stewardship

Chuck Hansing

Karl Westlund

Hope Foundation

Wayne Lubke, Carla Clift, Kathy Thompson, Sherry Wille, Ken Holland

CHURCH STAFF 608-868-3680

Interim Pastor

Pr. Carol Baumgartner
262-930-1072
pastor@hopemilton.org

Office Manager

Kirsten Woodcock
office@hopemilton.org

Director of Music

Carleen Courtney
music@hopemilton.org

Sextons

John Schultz, Deb Iatonna

Pastor Carol

Grace to you and peace, people of Hope!

I'm writing to you prior to our Forum with Marie Leafblad, Associate to the Bishop for Leadership Support, and Asset Mapping event on January 23 and hoping these are fruitful events in the life of our congregation. The Transition Team will use the Asset Mapping information to formulate responses to be included in the Ministry Site Profile (to be submitted to the South Central Wisconsin Synod Office in Madison at a later date).

Thank you to those of you who have completed the Call Committee Questionnaire or 'application,' provided in last month's Voice of Hope. This month we will be reviewing the questionnaires in order to return our recommendations to council for their approval. New Call Committee members will be invited to join the current Transition Team and work together on Mission Discernment and Congregational Surveys (and/or Interviews). We are hoping to complete our Ministry Site Profile following these two emphases, hopefully by the end of March.

Call Process Want Ads:

Are you a visual person who likes working with maps? Do you enjoy 'seeing the big picture' in given situations? Our building and grounds work group has found an old plat map of our area with push pins indicating where our members reside, and it needs updating for use by our transition team, call committee and new pastor.

Do you wish to be involved in our call process in some way but don't know how? Are you a person who values and practices prayer? The transition team will be forming a prayer group that will commit to praying alongside our call committee, transition team and prospective pastors in our Call Process.

Please contact Kirsten or Pastor Carol if you are interested in helping out with either of these needs.

Blessings,

Rev. Carol Baumgartner
Interim Pastor



Education News

Thank you to everyone who filled their piggy banks for the ELCA World Relief project. We collected \$284.21. The Pre-K through 6th grade classes will vote on which animals to “buy”. The Congregation added an additional \$390.00 through donations from the ornaments on the Giving Tree.

In both January and February we will collect mittens, scarves, hats and gloves to hang on the tree and then donate to a local charity. In March we will collect paper products and personal hygiene items for the Milton Food Pantry.

An egg hunt is planned for April 10-Palm Sunday. Empty eggs will be out soon. Please have filled eggs to church by April 3. Please do not put any unwrapped candy in the eggs.

Euchre

Euchre

Please join us on Friday, February 11th at 6:00 pm for a potluck supper and 8 rounds of Euchre. It is an evening filled with fun, laughter, and lots of good food, and you are all welcome to join us.

For more information or reservations, please call David & Marie Benson, 608-868-7384.

Milton Food Pantry

Needs for pantry:

Canned fruit	diced tomatoes	Ketchup
individual pudding/ jello/applesauce cups		individual bags of chips
cereals	shampoo	

As always, money donations are welcome. Food or money donations can be dropped off at the Food Pantry (36 Hilltop Dr) on Wednesday morning preferably from 9-11 or Wednesday afternoons from 2-4. You may also bring your donations to the outside bin near the church entrance.

February 2022


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 8:00 am Worship w/Livestream 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship	31	1 9:00 Volunteer Work Day 1:00 pm Quilting 3:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Transition Team	2 5:30 pm Youth Bells 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Bells	3	4	5
6 Lay Communion Distribution 8:00 am Worship w/Livestream 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship	7 6:30 pm Board of Ed	8 1:00 pm Quilting 3:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Transition Team	9 5:30 pm Youth Bells 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Bells	10	11 6:00 pm Euchre	12
13 8:00 am Worship w/Livestream 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship	14	15 1:00 pm Quilting 3:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Council	16 5:30 pm Youth Bells 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Bells	17	18	19
20 8:00 am Worship w/Livestream 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship	21	22 1:00 pm Quilting 3:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Building Comm	23 5:30 pm Youth Bells 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Bells	24	25	26
27 8:00 am Worship w/Livestream 9:15 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship	28	1 9:00 Volunteer Work Day 1:00 pm Quilting 3:30 pm Staff Meeting	2 Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm Worship	3	4	5

Prayer Shawl & Baptismal Ministry

Due to the rise of covid cases we will not meet in February. If anyone has a friend or relative that would benefit from a prayer shawl please let me, Kirsten or Pastor Carol know. We have some beautiful ones made by our group. We also have some great yarns available if anyone would like to knit or crochet one at home. Any questions call Marilyn Krause 608-751-2264. Everyone stay safe and peace to all.

Hope's Little Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who helps to keep our little food pantry stocked. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please keep the cold weather and "use by" dates in mind when adding items to the box.



Agrace Hospice

Agrace Offers Two Virtual Support Groups in February

In February, grief support specialists from Agrace are offering two virtual (accessible via Zoom with a tablet, computer or smartphone) grief support groups for adults:

- **Bridges** meets online February 2 and 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- **Spouse/Partner Loss Group** meets Mondays, February 14 to March 21, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Pre-registration is required for all groups. For details, fees or to register, visit Agrace.org/GriefGroups or call (608) 327-7118.

Hope Treasurer's Report	
December General Mission Income	\$19,492.00
December General Mission Expenses	\$18,001.57
Difference	\$ 1,490.43
Year End General Mission Income	\$170,260.50
Year End General Mission Expenses	\$174,823.53
Difference	(\$4,563.03)
Benevolences paid	\$9,611.91

LWR Quilt Ministry

Anita, one of the volunteers, shared the following with the group:

LIFE SQUARES OF A QUILT

“As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls.

Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles; an angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life. But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.

Finally, the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose; each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My Angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But, there had also been trials of illness, and wealth, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was. I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes.

Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, ‘Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles.

Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of You.’ May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through!

God determines who walks into your life...It's up to you to decide who you let walk away, who you let stay, and who you refuse to let go.’ “ Author Unknown

BeFriender Ministry



This ministry team has been continuing to do Home Bound Communion visits and sharing God's "thinking of you" through a Card Ministry.

We are working on designing a BeFriender Brochure that will be available to our congregation explaining our ministry – "God is present", we "care not cure", we are "nonjudgmental", and we are here to "actively listen" to your joys and concerns.

If you would like to be part of this listening-presence-ministry, or, if you know of someone in need of prayers, someone requesting Home Bound Communion, maybe an inspirational card, or a visit, please call the church office.

The Befrienders' are here for everyone, even those outside our church walls.

Volunteer Work Group

Hope's volunteer work group has been meeting the first Tuesday of each month. The volunteers have accomplished so many projects to update and maintain our building.

Recently, they painted the library, have secured a lovely round table, thanks to Karen O'Rourke, moved a bookcase in the room, and added soft lighting. The room door will need to be stained and windows washed. It will then be a cozy place to sit and visit, read, or just have coffee with a friend.

The kitchen cupboards have been cleaned out and new contact paper replaced. The doors have been cleaned and shined up with a lot of "elbow grease" from Lynne Woolstrum.

Along with the Board of Education, the volunteer work group has been working on cleaning, organizing and refreshing storage areas in the basement.

If you would like to help out with tasks, please mark your calendar for the next work day on Tuesday, February 1st at 9:00 am.

Outreach

Why Volunteer for Quilting Ministry

Have you ever wondered about volunteering for a charity? Well, look no further!

I am Pat Parsons, and 3 years ago, after retiring, was nudged by God to take on a mission project. I remembered years ago Hope had a very active quilt-tying group but as the members aged, it became more and more difficult to complete tying quilts due to health concerns. The quilt ministry was abandoned.

As I am not an accomplished sewer, but an organizer, I thought maybe this ministry could be resurrected. This would be the first time I did something with my hands that would help people I did not know.

When asked for donations, our congregation stepped up and donated sewing machines, fabric, cutting boards, thread, yarn, irons, ironing boards, along with volunteering of time.

“Making Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts creates a tangible, lasting bond between the people who lovingly assemble them and our neighbors around the world who receive quilts in their time of need.” (LWR Ministry Guide 2021)

Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each quilt reflects God’s loving presence in the world, they bind us together, and are signs of caring for others in times of hardships - faith in action.

Nothing gets done by one person alone, which means we have to work together, give of our time, skills and resources to make a difference to help others.


Volunteering comes with benefits not only for the mission, but, for our congregation. Volunteers that work on quilts are provided a sense of purpose, accomplishment, pride and inspiration. It creates happiness and who doesn’t want to be happy? It’s about pouring energy into something that does good for others. Also, it can be lots of fun and gives you something meaningful to look forward to each week.

The following verse is framed in the quilting area of Ben Hall:

“A group of quilters gather around a piece of cloth. It is the genesis of an act of love that, when completed and given away, will change a life for the better. Among the craftspeople are differing political opinions, theological viewpoints, and ways of looking at the world. But they are united by baptism into Christ, and in that communion they are unified by Jesus’ love. And it is a love that makes all the difference in the world.” (Author unknown)

The quilters meet every Tuesday afternoon from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Come **JOIN OUR MISSION**, enjoy Christian fellowship, while doing something good for those less fortunate. Feel free to contact Pat Parsons, 608-868-3997, if you have questions.

AUTHORIZATION FORM

The **Simply Giving** Program
 endorsed by


FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	ENVELOPE/DONOR #	DATE						
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Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below) <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #)		Routing Number: _____ <i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i> Account Number: _____ <small> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 33%;"></td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 33%;"></td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 33%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Routing Number</td> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Account Number</td> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Check Number</td> </tr> </table> </small>				Routing Number	Account Number	Check Number
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FIRST DONATION DATE: ____/____/____	FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly on _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly (transferred on 1 st and 15 th of each month)	FUNDS AND AMOUNTS: <input type="checkbox"/> Mission & Ministry \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Appeal \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ \$ _____ <p style="text-align: right;">Total \$ _____</p>						
AGREEMENT I authorize the above church and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____								

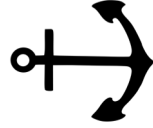
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|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Raymond Janisch | 15 | Ellen Westlund, Rosetta Neal,
Jasmine Brown |
| 2 | Jen Watson | 16 | Barbara Hartzell |
| 3 | Patricia Hubbard, Anna
Plautz, Sophia Rush | 17 | Landon Peterson-Hying |
| 4 | Rob Malewicki | 18 | Adam Niedermeier, Olivia Hall,
Randy Lebakken,
Diane Burlingame |
| 6 | Ron Sersch, Michael Rush | 19 | Bill Hughes, Brian Hoppe |
| 7 | Jake Koele, Andrew
Brookhiser, Teagan Becker | 20 | Sean Harvatine II, Caroline
Watson, Aubree Wojtkunski |
| 8 | Kirsten Woodcock | 22 | Tyler Kenyon |
| 9 | Dawson Wiswell,
Matt Williams | 23 | Gary Getchel |
| 10 | Jordan Schliem, Sarah
Harvatine | 24 | Harper Wojtkunski, |
| 11 | Jay Gasser | 25 | Elaina Maier |
| 12 | Linda Fisher, Rachel Janes,
Shirley Koniecki | 26 | David Benson, Bruce Woods |
| 13 | Xiem Au, Anne Cresswell | 27 | Scott Randall, Dean Brown,
Connie Tranter |
| 14 | Marilyn Krause,
Dan Berthiaume | 28 | Trisha Hall |

In Case of Inclement Weather

If we need to cancel worship services due to inclement weather, Hope's Facebook page will be updated. We will also get this information on the WCLO website. We are not able to change our telephone message remotely. If you don't have internet service in your home, you may consider calling a family member or friend who does and would be willing to check cancellations for you.

 **Hope Lutheran Church**
335 Dairyland Drive
Milton WI 53563

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 FEBRUARY