

# Words of hope

Monthly Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

## Worship Streaming and Radio Broadcast Available

We will stay with new sermons on Wednesday and Sunday each week as our main connecting point with people is our streamed worship services. This schedule will be in effect through May or until we can start worshipping in our sanctuaries again and will be evaluated on a week by week basis. As we engage this plan, it is imperative that we maintain CDC guidelines for best practices for leading together.

### Wednesdays at 6:00pm

Wednesday's Sermon Series is "Good for Your Soul." It was developed with the pandemic challenges in mind that you and I face. Worship will focus on what is good for your soul and what your soul needs to thrive—even in a pandemic. Worship is live-streamed at 6:00pm.

### Sundays at 9:30am

Sundays will resume with our Sermon Series "Long Story Short." We will continue to walk through the Bible and focus on how you are a part of God's magnificent story. Worship is live-streamed at 9:30am.

**NEW:** KFGO 790 AM Radio (Sunday only)

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### Watch Live-streamed and Archived Worship:

[facebook.com/fargohope](https://facebook.com/fargohope)

[youtube.com/fargohope](https://youtube.com/fargohope)

[fargohope.org/watch](https://fargohope.org/watch)

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### Featured:



Update on the Transition  
of Leadership at Hope  
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Women's Event  
ONLINE May 9  
10:00-11:00am  
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**Are you seeking to  
help those in need?  
Give to Team Hope's  
Virtual Food Drive  
through the  
Great Plains Food Bank.  
Visit [fargohope.org](https://fargohope.org)  
for details.**



# Update on the Transition of Leadership at Hope

## PREPARATION

The preparation for Pastor Chuck's eventual departure began over three years ago when Church Council formed the Succession Planning Task Force. Since that time the Task Force has been working on leadership and organizational development projects as part of succession planning including:

- Instituting 360° reviews for pastors and senior staff which include Task Force members meeting to review results with each participant
- Working with consultant Nancy Moore and Associates who led pastors and senior staff through Strengthsfinder and DiSC assessments with results shared across participants, Church Council and the Task Force
- Engaging Nancy Moore and Associates to initiate the congregational survey last spring which gave pastors and senior leaders, the Task Force and the entire congregation with deep insights into Hope Lutheran

## REPLICATING CULTURE AT HOPE

The above processes further strengthened the "replicating culture" that has defined Hope for decades, giving all members a sense of the soul-strengthening, mission-focused "transformational church." We are a healthy and vibrant church well positioned for our future! In working with Pastor Chuck, Nancy Moore, and in consultation with Interim Bishop Wohlrabe, the Task Force worked through a process that led to the consideration of Pastor Paul as an internal candidate. Across all involved, a strong belief developed that Pastor Paul has been well prepared for this call as Senior Pastor due in no small measure to his mentoring under Pastor Chuck.

## CALL COMMITTEE IS ESTABLISHED

The Church Council established the Call Committee (made up of Task Force members and the Executive Committee) at its February 18 meeting. At that meeting, the Church Council voted unanimously to consider Pastor Paul as the candidate to become Hope Lutheran's next Senior Pastor, and since then the following steps have been taken:

- The Call Committee interviewed Pastor Paul on February 28 and unanimously agreed to move the process forward by inviting Pastor Paul to a focus group meeting with the past presidents of Hope Lutheran.
- The focus group with past presidents was held on March 11 and resulted in unanimous support for the Call Committee to recommend Pastor Paul for the position of Senior Pastor at Hope Lutheran.
- The Call Committee brought their recommendation to the Church Council at its March 17 meeting and Church Council unanimously voted to present Pastor Paul to the congregation for a congregational vote.

## NOW WE WAIT

Now we wait as the process to engage a congregational vote has been brought to a halt by the coronavirus pandemic. That vote will wait for a time when we can again gather together as a congregation to consider Pastor Paul as our next senior pastor.

In the meantime, thank you for your prayers and patience regarding this important process of transition.

Dave Ferguson, Council President

Mike Slette, Succession Task Force Team Chair

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## Worship During the Coronavirus Pandemic

People of Hope,

As I write this article we are in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic characterized by social distancing and lockdowns at most institutions, including our church. But as God's church we continue to worship Him through streaming services that you are fully engaging in. Thank you for making your soul care a priority through worship.

As scripture reminds us, "Wherever two or three are gathered in my name I will be there with you." Worship connects us to God and to one another as followers of Jesus so that we are of one mind, one body, and one spirit as we join with Him in His work in this world.

**Simply stated, worshipping God is a transformational act that God uses to mold and shape us into who He wants us to be as His children.**

As one of our worship leaders, John Bedore, states, "Worship is something that wells up in me because of my relationship with

*Jesus. My soul cannot help itself but sing praise and give glory to my Lord and Savior for what He has done for me. He saved me from death and sin so I can spend eternity with Him. I can say with all my heart, soul, and mind that I love Jesus more than anyone and anything. That is why I worship with my music and my lifestyle. Without Jesus I cannot truly love my wife, family or friends. Worship is my every day, my every moment. That is why I cannot say or sing enough, 'To God be the Glory.'"*

**Romans 12:1-2 says it this way,** "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."

So we worship God at Hope via streaming services until we are on the other side of COVID-19.

Pastor Chuck Olmstead

## PASTORS

Charles A Olmstead, Senior Pastor  
Paul E Nynas, Executive Pastor  
Matthew C Cordes  
Kristian H Eikevik

Sarah A Seibold  
Michael J Toomey  
Stefanie Jordheim, Pastoral Intern/WC Director  
Ben Sullivan, Pastoral Intern/Director of MSM  
Kevan F Smith, Visitation Pastor

**Worship!**  
**It's at the center of**  
**who you and I are as**  
**God's people!**



## Adult Ministry

Fight the good fight of faith.

*"But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness."* 1 Timothy 6:11-12a

We are without a doubt living in the midst of some interesting times. I use the phrase "fight the good fight" often. But I find it even more applicable now. Here is what I mean: "Fighting the good fight" sounds nice, but if you have ever been in a fight you know that it is exhausting, it takes a toll on you. Well we are now all in a fight. A fight against a global virus. My encouragement is to fight the good fight of faith, not the bad one. The good fight resists panic and reacting in fear. Not that we aren't afraid because we humans often are afraid, but we don't need to react in fear. That's fighting the good fight. We also fight for our neighbors, we check in on them, we pray for them, we stay home, we wash our hands, we do the things. The bad fight is where fear rules, it's selfish, where we hoard, and we try to control the uncontrollable. Children of God, lean into faith, trust God and allow God to work in the midst of this time. "Fight the good fight of faith"! Amen.

Pastor Matt Cordes

## Women's Ministry

**Be lifted up!**

**May 9, 10:00 -11:00am**

**ONLINE at [fargohope.org/women](http://fargohope.org/women)**

Come away for an hour to be refreshed, renewed and encouraged. **Debbie Trombley** will share a message on the "The 4 Quarters of Life – A Hope and a Future in Every Season." She will be joined by a panel of amazing Hope Lutheran Women. Details for this online program will be available May 2 at [fargohope.org/women](http://fargohope.org/women).



## Men's Ministry

**Men in Boats Event:** A decision will be made regarding this event by May 15. Check our website for updates.

**Men's Online Bible Study:** During these uncertain and sometimes anxious times, it is important to stay connected. Join the **Men's Online Study** group weekly on **Wednesdays at 7:00pm** by Zoom. Invite your friends and coworkers, this is a great way for men to connect to God's Word and to one another! Newcomers welcome. We are currently studying the Gospel of Luke.

Go to [fargohope.org/men](http://fargohope.org/men) and join by Zoom. For more information email Pastor Matt, [mcordes@fargohope.org](mailto:mcordes@fargohope.org).

### MILESTONES FOR MARCH 9-APRIL 9

#### BAPTISMS:

Autumn Micaela, daughter of Michael & Melinda Brekke  
Roy Charles, son of Adam & Ashley Voigt  
Carter Elaine, daughter of Kasey & Kelsey Karlstad  
Emmett Zane, son of Zach & Kristin Herrmann  
Ryker Allen Bommersbach, son of Jed Bommersbach & Carrie Dahl  
Alayna Grace, daughter of Tyler & Kelsey Hunter  
Bowyn Michael, son of Bryan & Jenna Nies  
Conrad James Kirsch and Ryanna Dru Kirsch, son and daughter of  
Devon & Jennifer Endres

#### DEATHS:

Frederick (Pepper) Eisenhardt 3/11/2020  
Louise Hoff 3/18/2020  
Terry Shirley 3/21/2020  
Lanny Brantner 4/4/2020

# hopecare

to love as Christ first loved us

## Face to face is always the best...

...except when it isn't.

We know in-person meeting is the best way to care for each another. Physical presence best communicates human emotion and the Gospel itself. Since mid-March we've needed to drastically change how we care for people.

And though we cannot meet face to face, we are making connections. I'm heartened to hear how many of our Visitors are sending mail. Phone calls are being made by volunteers and staff. Prayers are said as we speak via video, phone and email. Many have stepped forward and asked, "How can I help?". Generosity has been graciously extended as we look to care for the broken, hurting and poor.

What I am learning is how well we can care for others even when we cannot meet face to face. In some ways it's more nimble, quicker, and more responsive. I'm learning the church is more resilient than ever. I'm hearing of and experiencing deep love and care as it is being poured out in Jesus' name. What I know is that a virus cannot stop us from bearing one another's burdens. The doors of the building may be closed, but the church is open to care for you.

Pastor Mike Toomey

*NOTE: Please know that we continue to care for and visit those that are homebound, in care facilities and hospitalized by calling them. Please let us know if you have a loved one who is alone.*

## Feeling Anxious or Alone During this Time of Social Distancing?

We are here to support you. We have **Visitors** and **Stephen Ministers** who are available to call you and support you during this time. We tend to think that asking for help is a sign of weakness, however, that is not God's plan. Galatians 6:2 says, "*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*" God wants us to care for others—and allow others to care for us in our time of need.

If you are feeling isolated, sad, anxious or struggling inside, don't suffer alone.

**Ask for help.** We are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through this tough time. Find out more about Stephen Ministry by connecting with one of our Pastors or Kim Youngquist at 701.235.6629 or email [hopecare@fargohope.org](mailto:hopecare@fargohope.org). More information can also be found at [fargohope.org/hopecare](http://fargohope.org/hopecare). We are here to care for you!



### NEW MEMBERS MARCH 15

Susan Anderson  
Alissa & Will Bayuk  
Brynn  
David Carlson  
Kyle & Lindsey Fischer  
Suttyn, Raven  
AJ & Laura Hofer  
Bodie  
Janna Knox & Matt Koble

Bridgit Nagel  
Bryan & Jenna Nies  
Danielle & Zach Page  
Aaron Pallen & Taryn Pflingsten  
Kristen Sailer  
Maria Simon  
Dain Sullivan  
Kristi & Travis Wilson  
Brent & Kristi Zimbelman  
Ruby

## REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### North Campus

2900 Broadway N

Wednesday Worship: 6:00pm

Sunday Worship: 8:30am, 9:45am,  
11:00am

### South Campus

3636 25<sup>th</sup> St S

Wednesday Worship: 6:00pm

Sunday Worship: 8:15am & 9:30am - Chapel  
9:30am, 11:00am - Sanctuary

### West Campus

Liberty Middle School

801 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, WF

Sunday Worship: 9:30am

## Words of Hope

Hope Lutheran Church

2900 Broadway N

Fargo, ND 58102

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## HOPEKIDS, MSM AND HSM

### “Have To” or “Get To”

*“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” – Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

Social Distancing.

Homeschooling.

Zoom Meetings.

There’s a lot on your family plate right now. All the tasks the world is telling you that you HAVE to be doing to keep healthy and moving forward in life. What about the things you GET to do? Doing the tasks of life are important, but it’s your relationship with God and family and friends God has given you that make life a JOY. It doesn’t matter if it’s breakfast time, schoolwork time, dinner time or bedtime. Every moment of every day we GET from God is an opportunity to deepen our relationship with Him and our family. To experience JOY even while we have to be together in being apart.

Hope’s youth ministry teams have created resources online for you and your family to go deeper in faith in Jesus and strengthening family relationships during our time apart. Giving you tools to “impress” the love of God on the hearts of your family. We pray these resources are a blessing to you and your family, a GET TO during your day to help you. Above all, we pray you take time to do the GET TO’s in life right now that God has given you, strengthening your relationship with Him and sharing His love with your family and friends. Jesus loves you and so do we!

### Hopekids

- **Hopekids in May** will continue online! We miss our Hopekids and want to stay connected!
- **VBS June 2020:** We are working hard to bring VBS into your homes! Stay Tuned!!
- **Registration** for 2020-2021 programming opens April 29
- **Celebration of Communion** for current 5<sup>th</sup> graders **September 9 & 13.** There will be a special celebration for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their families at Hope. You will receive your olive cup and bracelet. More details to come.

### Middle School Ministry

- **Confirmation** lessons, discussion questions, devotions and more online. We miss you Confirmation students, leaders and family!
- **Flower Sale Fundraiser:** Gift Card Sales only. Call the church or email [middleschool@fargohope.org](mailto:middleschool@fargohope.org). Orders and money must be received at Hope by mail no later than Thursday, April 30.
- **Registration** for 2020-2021 programming opens April 29
- **Fall Guardrails Retreat** registrations opens April 29
- **Affirmation of Baptism services** moved to September 13
- **Summer Castaway, August 5-9.** Registration still open!
- **Mission Kenosha, July 12-18.** Registration is closed. It is still scheduled to happen as of this date.

### High School Ministry

- **Online:** A message and discussion questions posted on Instagram and Facebook every Wednesday. Small Groups throughout the week via video chat. Tune in or reach out to get connected!
- **Summer Events:** We’re planning worship nights and bonfires. When the quarantine lifts, we’ll be ready!
- **Baccalaureate:** Rescheduled. Date TBA, after quarantine. It’s a priority for us!
- **HSM Mission Jamaica: CANCELLED** This one was a big loss for our students.
- **Camp House:** Planned for August. We’ll be watching and praying for this precious retreat together before summer ends.

### PRAYER:

Our graduating seniors are a special group to pray for during this season. They are carrying heavy disappointment as they’ve watched so many things slip away: sports, activities, prom and possibly their final months with their friends. But, they are also strong and inspiring young people. God doesn’t overlook any of it! Pray for wisdom, resilience, and joy.

Links to all of our youth ministry social media accounts are available at [fargohope.org](http://fargohope.org).