VOL. 25 ISSUE 3 FALL 2025

WORDS OF HOPE



Beginner's Guide to Growing in Your Faith pg. 4



THIS FALL AT HOPE

This issue of Words of Hope is filled with articles about connecting, serving, and growing in your faith. Please take a moment to read through these articles and plan how you and your family will stay connected and growing in faith this autumn.



SERMON SERIES

The Lord's Prayer July 23-August 31

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, the Lord's Prayer is what he taught them. This special prayer is how we tap into our Holy God, it reveals to us the very nature of God.

Vision Week: Called. Equipped. Engaged. September 3 & 7

On the Rock -Bible Week

September 10 & 14
Just as solid rock lays a sturdy foundation for any structure, the written Word of God lays such a foundation for our lives. When we build our lives on the foundation of God's Word, we will not waver when the winds of life come.

Bible Week contd.

Bibles will be distributed to 2nd graders during worship at all Campuses.

Gather at the Table

September 17-November 23 Life and relationships happen around tables. Holy Scripture is full of table stories. These stories teach us about our relationships with each other and invite us deeper into relationship with God. In this series we will examine "table stories" from the Bible and discover what they mean for our lives together.

All Saints Week October 29 & November 2

Important Dates

August 12—Summer Movie Night, 6:30-8:30pm at South Campus viewing The Forge (2024, Rated PG).

August 18—Grief Support Group, 6:30pm at South Campus in Room 100.

August 20—Open house for Hopetots & Preschool Hopekids, 5:15-7:15pm at all Campuses.

August 25—GriefShare Loss of Spouse seminar | 6:00-8:00pm | South Campus

August 27—Hopekids Volunteer Training is at 12:15pm or 5:15pm, at all campuses.

August 27—Last MSM & HSM Summer Bonfire, 7:00-8:30pm at South Campus firepit.

August 31—Worship moves indoors

September 3—HSM All Campuses Bonfire Kick-off, 7:15pm at South Campus firepit.

September 3 & 7— First Day of Youth Programming & Vision Week.

September 22-January 5—GriefShare, 6:30pm at North Campus in the Lounge. More details at fargohope. org/hopecare.

October 2-March 5—Stephen Ministry Training, more details at fargohope.org/hopecare

October 6-January 19—DivorceCare, 6:00pm at South Campus in Room 100. More details at fargohope.org/hopecare.

Coming Soon—Rhythms of Hope is a small group resource written by Hope's pastors. We want adults of all ages to engage in setting the rhythms of your life to hope. Watch for more details, coming soon.

All Saints' Day

¹ Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." - Revelation 21:1-4

Since the 9th century, Christians in the western world have been celebrating the lives of the Saints (all who have joined Christ in heaven, receiving their eternal inheritance through Him) on November 1st. All Saints' Day is a day to remember and celebrate the lives of those who lived incredible lives of faith, our loved ones who have gone to heaven before us and all who shined their light for Jesus while they were on earth. We also celebrate that death doesn't have the final say on our lives, Jesus Christ does, and Jesus promises us eternal life with him as described in Revelation 21. All Saints' Day is a worship experience for everyone!

During Hope's All Saints' worship services (October 29 & November 2, 2025) we will commemorate the day by singing songs that proclaim the eternal promise of God in Christ, share photos of people who had their celebration of life service at Hope, pray for all who lost loved ones this last year, and have small mementoes available after each service for those who wish to have a physical reminder of God's eternal promises, love and grace.





YOUNG LIVES ARE FOREVER CHANGED AT BELIEVE RETREAT

The vision for Middle School Ministry at Hope Lutheran is for our students to 'BELIEVE' (Romans 10:9). There is nothing more crucial in this life than for our students to know Jesus and have a growing relationship with Him. One way that we encourage students to grow in their belief is through our Believe Retreat, October 3-5 at Castaway Club on Pelican Lake.

The purpose of the Believe Retreat is to dive deeper into the three core focuses of Martin Luther's Small Catechism: 1.) The Apostle's Creed, 2.) The Lord's Prayer, 3.) The Ten Commandments. Each of these three areas are instrumental in our faith formation and were promised by parents, sponsors, and the church at your baptism.

Speaking of baptism and belief, hear this story about one of our students, Addison, who attended this retreat last year. Faith has never come easy to Addison. She has always had questions about her faith journey but never had anyone to answer them. By God's grace, she got plugged into a middle school small group at Hope where her small group guides expressed interest in her and her questions.

The past two years, Addison has attended our Believe Retreat at Castaway Club, where her faith in Jesus has continued to be challenged and stretched. This past October, after being at camp and feeling led by the Holy Spirit, she made the decision to be baptized down in the lake, something that she had never had an interest in doing prior. This was a pivotal moment for Addison in her faith journey and has held great meaning in her life since, knowing that she is not only loved by her friends and family who supported her, but by her God who gave His life and rose again for her. God is on the move in Addison's life, along with many of our youth at Hope.

This year at the Believe Retreat, we will dive into the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20. In this special weekend, we will discuss how God gave us the Law. We will ask questions, like – What is the Law? Why do we need to follow the Law? What happens when we break the Law? We will also see how Jesus summarizes the Law through two commands – Love God and love your neighbor as yourself (Matt. 22:36-40). During Middle School Ministry at Hope, we will continue the journey through the story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation so students get to know God's character more deeply.

This is a retreat your middle schooler will not want to miss. We highly encourage all of our 6-8 grade students to attend every year. For more information or to register, visit fargohope.org/middleschool.

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO G

By Andria Messelt, Pastoral intern

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Faith

The people in the Hebrews Hall of Faith (Hebrews 11) have something in common. They all walked by faith. Not faith in humanity or faith in themselves, but faith in God and in His promises.

They were confident in the hope of these promises fulfilled and assured of what was currently not visible for them. And for each person in the Hebrews 11 Hall of Faith, there was action involved in their faith. That action, led to growth.

Growing our faith...

- · Getting in the Word
- · Getting uncomfortable
- Getting in a group
- · Getting eyes to see what

God is doing around us

Muscles grow when they are worked, nourished, and rested. In the same way, our faith grows when we put our faith to work (James 2:14-26), when we nourish our faith (Romans 12:2), and when we rest from our work (Exodus 20:8-10).

In Hebrews 11, there is a long list of bible Hall of Faithers – people like Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Rahab and more. All these people had faith in God and His promises, and they acted on their faith.

Abraham had faith in God, that the promise God made to him, regarding being the father of many nations, would happen. Abraham flexed his faith muscle when God asked him to leave his home and everything he knew and go to a place God would show him.

Isaac flexed his faith when he believed God for many descendants as he blessed his two sons, Jacob and Esau. Moses' parents flexed their faith muscle when they hid him for three months, not fearing the king's orders. Moses flexed his faith muscle when he chose to be identified with God's people rather than Pharoah's people.

In all these instances and more, the faith of God's people grows as they exercise their faith.

How will you exercise your faith?

GET IN THE WORD.

- This fall, you will have the opportunity to join a Rhythms of Hope group. This study, written by Hope's Pastors, will be an important first step to growing your faith.
- Maybe you feel like your next step would be facilitating a small group. Stepping into this role is a step in growing your faith.
- Download the YouVersion Bible App and start a Bible reading plan.
- Listen to Hope's Deeply Rooted Podcast.

ROWING IN YOUR FAITH

GET UNCOMFORTABLE.

Anytime we are stretched beyond what we think we can handle, there is opportunity for our faith to grow. This can happen through:

- Volunteering on a worship team, helping with a Habitat for Humanity build, or greeting people as they come
 through the doors of the church.
- Serving at the Great Plains Food Bank, the Emergency Food Pantry, Salvation Army these opportunities grow our faith.
- When someone close to us gets sick or has a major diagnosis, and we find ourselves looking to God, our faith can grow.
- When a family member or someone close to us struggles with addiction and we find ourselves looking to God, our faith can grow.

GET IN A GROUP.

- Growing in our faith happens best in a group. Did I mention "Rhythms of Hope" this Fall? You don't want to
 miss it! This will grow your faith.
- When we share our prayer needs with a group and our physical needs with a group, we have the opportunity
 to be a part of growing one another's faith.
- When we worship together, lifting our voices and leaning into the sermon, our faith can grow.

GETTING EYES TO SEE WHAT GOD IS DOING AROUND US.

- When we take notice of the little things God is doing in our lives each day, our faith can grow.
- When we ask God for wisdom and direction and we receive it, acknowledge it and act on it, our faith can grow.
- When we share how we've seen God move with others, our faith can grow (and so can someone else's).

There is no ONE way to grow our faith - but to grow in faith we must act. Even if that action is rest.

How might you intentionally seek to flex your faith muscle today?

In Luke 5:17-26, some friends flexed their faith muscle when they brought their paralyzed friend to the feet of Jesus. Luke 5:20 says "When Jesus saw their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven." The faith of these friends resulted in forgiveness of sin for their friend and a restored body! Talk about faith growing!

When we step out in faith, Jesus sees our faith, he gives us a story to share, and all of this works to grow our faith and the faith of the people around us! To God be the glory!



Jamie was totally dependent, needing around-the-clock care, yet she had acute hearing in spite of her other disabilities. So, we learned to see things through Jamie's world. She loved being outdoors, music, listening to our family audio tapes, the water, animals and car rides. She listened intently, hearing and sensing the love that surrounded her. Through our eyes she saw, through our feet she ran, through our lips she spoke. What mattered most was that she felt loved, was healthy, happy, and well cared for. Many people would judge what Jamie couldn't do and ponder the quality of her life. But she was God's child, and she had a purpose. It was our job to make Jamie's world safe, happy and full of love. And we did exactly that.

by overcoming. Jamie's tough spirit and love of life inspired everyone around her.

Bob and I were young parents, but we had such a great team to support us – our parents, pastors, therapists, and medical professionals. We had many struggles, as do all couples. We all have choices, we accept what life gives us and make the most of it, or we dwell on the difficulties, which leads to anger and bitterness. We chose to accept them and together, with God's love and guidance, we knew we could get through anything. When I asked a former pastor why things like this happen, he replied, "if we ask 'why', we better be ready to ask 'why not?"" Being a Christian doesn't mean we are exempt from pain and suffering—it's quite the opposite. Our faith gives us the fortitude to endure all life's challenges. The power of prayer and receiving prayer is like a hug from God himself—it completely covers you. There were many times that He had to carry us. And it is by the Grace of God that we were able to stand firm in our marriage and in parenting, shaken but not defeated. For us, no matter what we face, it always comes back to our faith.

On Monday, October 2, 2011, Jamie woke up in the arms of Jesus, at the tender age of 31. Through her we learned the true meaning of life; love one another, be patient, compassionate and kind; don't be afraid, make the most of every moment and be grateful for the simple things in life.

My Experience as an Open Arms Buddy

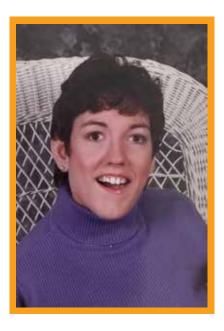
Approximately 5 years ago, I was contacted by a friend to be an Open Arms Buddy in youth ministry—subbing for her for 2-3 months. She thought that, given my experience as the mother of a special needs child, I might be uniquely qualified to help students and parents as a Buddy. But really, anyone who has a heart for children could be a Buddy. Each of us are created to fill a need in different ways. We really only need to be open, because God is trying to connect us to exactly where we need to be.

After subbing, I was contacted by Judy Siegle Aamodt, Director of Women's Ministry, to be a full-time Buddy. The timing was incredible. Here, God had put a tug on my heart, and then Judy reached out. Only God can work out that kind of timing!

My buddy and I have developed a close relationship. We trust each other, and a big part of any successful relationship is trust. One of the things I learned in parenting a severely handicapped child is that we need to look at the individual and help them to be involved. It is easy for us to pass judgement on others, but God gives us grace and we, in turn, give grace to others.

Over the years I have watched my buddy flourish, and others have noticed that my buddy has had a much better experience in church. If I can help in any way with that kind of growth, that is my goal. Everyone wants to belong but, because of circumstances, some might not feel like they do. So, as an Open Arms Buddy, I make it my job to make my buddy feel included and experience a sense of belonging, just like all the other children. That is the beauty of this ministry: we are encouraging all people to know the love of Christ.

A friend of mine says, "God gives us all gifts, and what we do with that is our gift back to God." In this day and age we are all so busy. That is exactly what Satan wants, for us to be too busy to root firmly in our faith and be open to God's direction. But when we are still, we can hear God's messages loud and clear. I clearly felt the tug to be an Open Arms Buddy. What will you do with your gifts?





What is Open Arms Ministry?

Open Arms Ministry provides an environment that celebrates and encourages all people of all abilities to know the love of Christ. We come alongside individuals and families impacted by disability, so they can get the support they need to participate and serve. Open Arms will provide accommodations and support for children and adults to enhance participation in Hope activities. If you would like to be involved or have questions, email adults@fargohope.org or contact Judy Siegle Aamodt at 701.235.6629

Photo Captions

Top left: Lori Satrom leading a Vaction Bible

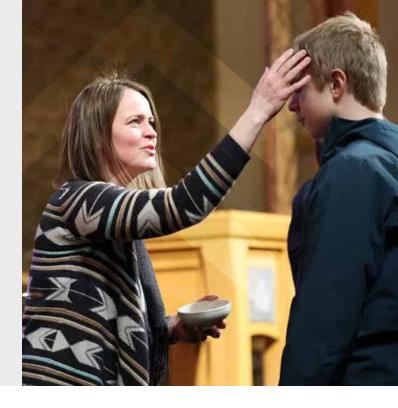
X-perience group in 2025 Bottom center: Jamie Satrom

Bottom right (LtoR): Satrom family-Heather, Justin,

Bob, Lori, and Jamie.

CALLED. EQUIPPED. ENGAGED.

by Ben Jacobson, Pastor



The disciples of Jesus had gone from the valley of the shadow of death to a mountaintop moment. Jesus, the one who had suffered and died, had risen and appeared to them. He was the Messiah, the Son of God, who was sent to free them from the grip of sin and death. As they absorbed this revelation, He appeared to his followers with a mission.

After Jesus had eaten with His disciples and shown them His scars on His hands and feet, the marks of His suffering and death, He spoke to them, revealing to them yet again that He was the one that God's people had hoped and longed for for centuries.

He said to them:

"This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things." Luke 24:46-48

Just as Jesus called His first followers to bring a message of hope and life to a weary world, so has he called us. We too as the People of Hope are called, claimed as God's people, and centered on this mission:

To encourage all people to know the love of Christ.

The world needs to know that God loves His people so much that he sent his son to die for sinners. The whole earth needs to hear the promise that God holds His hands open with an offering of forgiveness and new, eternal life. As a church, it is our great work to share the life that is found in Jesus.



In this season at Hope, that mission looks like this:

- Expanding our mission to serve the community of West Fargo by building a permanent West Campus.
- Rooting deep into God's word as congregation.
- Discipling believers at every age and stage of life through innovative and transformative worship and programming.
- Serving God's people locally, regionally, and globally through strategic mission partnerships.

We are called to be people of impact who are hard at work in our community and this world. We do not do it alone. Through God's grace and by His Spirit, we are able to encourage a broken world with the promise of His love.

Before He ascended to heaven, Jesus reminded His followers that they would not be alone. The Holy Spirit would be with them to guide them and sustain them in their task. As promised, the Holy Spirit descended on God's



people at Pentecost and sent them into the world. The old saying goes that "God does not call the equipped. He equips the called." God has equipped us at Hope to do the mission we were called to do.

- He has given us His Spirit and His Word.
- He has blessed us with remarkable resources of talent and time and treasure.
- He has shown us a clear vision for how to live as His people in this world.

The disciples responded to Jesus' calling with everything that they had. Let's dig in as they did, trusting in God's leading and hoping always in His great gift of grace. The world will be transformed as we join in his work!





NOW IS THE TIME TO GET ENGAGED.

God has called you. He has equipped you with the firm foundation of the Gospel and with your own unique gifts to share. He's asking you to take a step:

- Invite someone to church. Studies have shown that many people are longing to be involved but have not been asked.
- Root deep in his Word. Join us for our allcongregation small group study "Rhythms of Hope."
- Answer the call to be generous with who you are and what you have been given. Make a commitment to the "For the ONE" campaign and to regular giving to the mission of Hope.
- Be the hands and feet of Jesus by serving here at Hope or with one of our mission partners.

We are the Church, the Body of Christ in the world. Now is the time. This year, this moment, is the moment where God has called us to rise up as His people and go into the world with His joy, His love, His grace. He has equipped us with every good gift needed to help Him transform the world. He asks us simply to join Him, to engage in His mission. We are His witnesses. Let's follow the call! The world will never be the same.

MILESTONES

April 8-July 11



Baptisms

Avianna Edelle, daughter of Brian & Fiona Rix Kolten Ryan, son of Cody & Allison States Scarlett Jean, daughter of Robert & Kaitlyn Lugert Kohlson Jay, son of Devan & Kinsi Maki Aksel Kenneth, son of Anthony & Jessica Carlquist Emery Lee, daughter of Alex & Alexis Gaulke Callahan Ray, son of Dominik & Macy Kraemer Rudy DuWayne, son of Joshua & Jenine Teigen Crew Robert, son of Nick & Shannon Neisen Hayden June, daughter of Thomas & Emily Martin Ella James, daughter of Jayse & Mickenze McLean Jaxon Shay, son of Jordan & Jade Elliott Vivian Amber, daughter of Robert & Lacy Vallie Eden Tayler, daughter of Jade & Tayler Leysring Penelope Odette, daughter of Trevor & Elizabeth Werchau Jade Lyn, daughter of Anthony & Lindsey Berreau Hattie Ann, daughter of Brian & Anna Blasey Nora Grace Nisbet, daughter of Alex Nisbet & Erin Maetzold Sara Kaye Peterson Alexander Clifton Fischer Lyla Ann, daughter of Brock & Alyssa Sweere Stella Cathryn and Zane Robert Kent, daughter and son of Jamie & Tonya Hager Archie Graham, son of Brady & McCall Goeson Andi Lyn, daughter of Nick & Tara Bujold Blake Michael, son of Dustin & Kyla Lerfald Bauer David, son of Josh & Emily Hooey Bowen Matthew, son of Brandon & Haley Lueders Bjorn Curtis and Christina Cecilia, son and daughter of Gabriel & Sara Whitney Harper G, Faye L and Beckett H, daughters and son of Josh & Stephanie Hagelstrom Ian Zhang, son of Yuanlai Zhang & Yao Joy Avery Lynn, daughter of Sam & Nicole Sletta William Timothy and Jack Frederick, sons of Thomas & Emily Radeck Kinsley Grace, daughter of William & Jessica Sholl Elsie Lyn Schultz and Hudson Jeffery Schultz, daughter and son of Wyatt Schultz & Jadyn Mikesh Erickson Mia Ashley, daughter of Carson & Brittany Schroeter Jaxon John, son of Eric & Shelby Bucholz Ophelia Sharon Louise, daughter of Mark & Faith Erickson

Rorie Mae, daughter of Alex & MaKayla Hesby Rhys David, son of Nicholas & Ashley Murray Ruth Renae, daughter of Alan & Kathryn Tellefson Wesley Sal, son of Colton & Mariah Pierce Jaxon Timothy, son of Joel & Kelsey Augustin

Harper Lee, daughter of Dave & Margo Erickson

Haiden Arlo, son of Andrew & Alyssa Halbakken

Summer Lynn Freese, daughter of Joshua Freese & Alexandra

Marriages

Martinez

Taylyn Thomspn & Alec Voss 4/12/2025 Janae Phillips & Caden Graf 5/24/2025 Bradyn Dresser & Wesley Thompson 5/31/2025 Averi Dawkins & Anderson Hagerott 6/6/2025 Tiara Zerface & Zygmund Fursa 6/21/2025 Taylor Dietz & Reid Hartness 6/28/2025

Deaths

Kent Hochgraber 4/5/2025 LaVonne Jordheim 4/11/2025 Matthew Lauwers 4/11/2025 Lee Olsen 5/3/2025 Thomas English 5/11/2025 Robert Johnson 5/21/2025 Orvis Stockstad 5/26/2025 Reinie Uhlich 5/29/2025 Andrew Gunderson 5/30/2025 Kyle Berg 5/31/2025 Jeanne Olson 6/1/2025 Hudson Douvier 6/1/2025 Jeffrey Fenske 6/5/2025 Peter Bilstad 6/7/2025 Rowan Douvier 6/7/2025 Gay White 6/7/2025 Maxine Henderson 6/16/2025 Milton Oestreich 6/20/2025 Michael Gast 6/28/2025 Joan Aker 6/30/2025

NEW MEMBERS

April 8-July 11



New Members

Tanya Jackson Cindy Bondy Jadene Lyste Whitney Hofstad Brandon Delorme LaDawn & Brian Lindenberg Josie Schaefer Bailey Evenson Anna Trudeau Jenna Weinhandl Derek McLister Daniel & Michelle Currier Sally Simonson Alexander Fischer Jacob Lindbo Noah Haglund Randolph & Linda Johnson Sharon & Larry Strande Jonathan Eggers Brooke Froelich Tyler Vossler Grant & Madalyn Willert Lindsay & Cole Honl



The vision is to build a permanent location for our West Campus worship community and to update youth spaces at both North and South Campuses. Our goal is to fully engage our congregation in a commitment to this initiative. Every gift matters!



To see where we currently stand or to make your commitment go to fargohope.org/fortheone.



WORSHIP TIMES



SOUTH CAMPUS Wednesday:

6:00pm Contemporary

Sunday: 8:30am Traditional (In Chapel)

9:30am Contemporary 10:45am Contemporary

NORTH CAMPUS Wednesday:

6:00pm Contemporary

Sunday: 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Contemporary 10:45am Contemporary

WEST CAMPUS

Wednesday: 6:00pm Contemporary

Sunday: 9:30am Contemporary 10:45am Contemporary



WORSHIP ONLINE

If you are unable to attend in-person, we invite you to worship with us online! You can watch live on our website at fargohope.org/watch. You can also watch on the Fargo Hope app and on YouTube: search for Fargo Hope.

FARGO HOPE APP & YOUTUBE

Wednesday 6:00pm Sunday 8:30am Traditional, 10:45am Contemporary

A sermon highlight video is available each Tuesday following worship at fargohope.org/watch, in the Sermon Series playlist on youtube.com/fargohope, or on the Fargo Hope app.



LOCATIONS

SOUTH CAMPUS

3636 25th St. S, Fargo

NORTH CAMPUS

2900 Broadway N, Fargo

WEST CAMPUS

2633 55th St S, Fargo

FARGOHOPE.ORG CHURCH OFFICE 701.235.6629

HOPE LUTHERAN PASTORS





Paul Nynas Senior Pastor



Michael Toomey Executive Pastor



Steven Dunkel Executive Pastor



Sarah Seibold



Ben Jacobson



Ben Sullivan



Stefanie Jordheim



Andria MesseltPastoral Intern



Bill Ahlfeldt Visitation Pastor



STAFF

For full list of Hope's staff please visit fargohope.org/whoweare



Membership that Matters

Sign up at fargohope.org and a pastor will contact you to visit and welcome you to Hope's family. It's that easy. Questions? Email welcome@fargohope.org.

Words of Hope Hope Lutheran Church 2900 Broadway N Fargo, ND 58102

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Our Mission: To encourage all people to use their God-given gifts as an expression of their love for Christ.

We provide quality music lessons encouraging students to honor God with their musical abilities.

fargohope.org/musicacademy