

Bloomington Living Hope Lutheran Church

Weekend of March 25-27, 2017

Welcome! It is a joy to have you with us today and it is our prayer that you are strengthened and uplifted through our worship and fellowship. We especially welcome those visiting. Please pick up information about our church at the kiosk located in the entry. Also, please take time after the service to introduce yourself to our pastor. We would like to get to know you better.

A Prayer in Preparation for Worship

Lord, our God, we yield to you most hearty thanks for this opportunity to worship and praise you. Grant that this time will not be in vain. Let your words make a lasting impression on our hearts, that we may be strengthened in faith, and settled in our hope. Keep us steadfast in Jesus Christ until we enter into the inheritance of the saints in light. Amen.

From the Pastor

We all have day-to-day habits in our personal lives. The good habits result in peacefulness and well-being for our own bodies and those around us, and the bad habits can hurt our bodies and those around us. Some habits can be explained and rationalized; other habits are beyond explanation and just part of who we are.

Our current series is titled, "Spiritual Habits for Ordinary People." But these "spiritual" habits are not based on our own personal preferences, they are the loving actions and reactions of the Christian who daily wants to thank a gracious and loving God. They are the result of a strong faith in Jesus and a rich way to keep Christ in focus in our modern world.

As we study these six habits week to week, some may seem more difficult than others. Be assured that we have help! We have a heavenly Father who sees us, who longs to draw close to us in his Word, and who continually gives grace to carry out these disciplines.

"Holy Spirit, power divine, fortify this will of mine;
Bend it to your own pure will, all my life with graces fill."
(Hymn 166, *Lutheran Worship*)

In Service to Christ,
Rev. Brian A. Krueger

We are One Church
with Three Campuses,
Bridged Together
with One Mission:

**to Know Christ and
to Make Him Known!**

Our PASSION is to:

- Gather Regularly** to Know Christ.
- Clarify Truth** from Error to Know Christ.
- Teach Kids** to Know Christ.
- Witness to the Unchurched** that they might Know Christ.
- Benefit People** as an expression of Knowing Christ.

Bloomington Lutheran Church

9350 Portland Ave South
Bloomington, MN 55420
952-888-2475

Living Hope Lutheran Church and School

8600 Horizon Drive South
Shakopee, MN 55379
952-445-1785

Bloomington Lutheran School

10600 Bloomington Ferry Road
Bloomington, MN 55438
952-941-9047

Our church is a member of the
Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod

We are served by:

Pastor Scott Spaulding - 612-599-3661
sspaulding@bllh.org

Pastor Rod Pudell - 612-384-2206
revpudell@yahoo.com

Pastor Brian Krueger - 952-836-5005
pastorkrueger@hotmail.com

Principal Mike Butzow - 952-941-9047
mike.butzow@mybllh.org

Youth Minister Joel Hansen - 715-321-2631
joel.hansen@mybllh.org

Connect with us online:

bllh.org

bllhschool.org

facebook.com/bloomingtonlivinghope

THIS WEEK

Please check the calendar on the back of this folder for all Bible classes and other events over the next four weeks.

Sunday, March 26

~~6:00 p.m.~~ No Sr. High Vertical Encounters at LH

Tuesday, March 28

6:30 p.m. Living Hope Outreach Committee at LH
7:00 p.m. R.I.N.G. Handbell Practice at BLC

Wednesday, March 29 – 5th Wednesday in Lent

12:00 p.m. Worship Service at BLC
12:45 p.m. Luncheon at BLC
~~5:30 p.m.~~ No 5th-8th Gr. Confirmation Class
5:45 p.m. Supper at BLC and LH
6:30 p.m. Worship Service at BLC and LH
7:15 p.m. Voices in Praise (VIP) Choir Practice at BLC

Saturday, April 1

9:00 a.m. Basic Sign Language Class at BLC
10:00 a.m. Joyful Hands Crafters for Christ at BLC

LOVE IN ACTION SERVERS

	Living Hope	Bloomington
This Sunday	Ezekiel	Jude
Lent 5	Mark	John
Next Sunday	Acts	Galatians

UPCOMING MESSAGES

Theme: *Spiritual Habits (For Ordinary People)*

March 5	<i>Fasting</i> ~ Philippians 2:1-18
March 12	<i>Prayer</i> ~ Philippians 4:4-9
March 19	<i>Giving</i> ~ Luke 16:1-15
March 26	<i>Bible Study</i> ~ John 17:14-19
April 2	<i>Self-Examination</i> ~ 2 Corinthians 7:8-10
April 9	<i>Community</i> ~ Romans 12:3-16 Palm Sunday

We Celebrate the Number of Worshipers in God's House the 3 rd Wednesday in Lent and Last Weekend	1,008
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OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Bloomington Living Hope Lutheran Church

Weekend of	Received Amount	Budgeted Amount	over/ (under)
Mar. 19, 2017	\$26,280	\$26,512	(\$232)
Year-to-Date	\$954,272	\$1,095,929	(\$141,657)

Last weekend, the plate and envelope total for the weekend of March 12, 2017 was incorrectly reported as \$21,522. The total was actually \$38,289.

2016 Contribution Statements are available for pick up in the church entry. If you have questions, please call the church office at 952-888-2475.

ALL CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baptisms Harper Paige, daughter of Sam and Nicole Boyles, and Avery Jane, daughter of Seth Williams and Shelby Nielsen, will be baptized on Sunday at Living Hope. We welcome Avery and Harper into God's family.

Funerals Bonnie Gatzke's funeral was held on Thursday, March 23 at Bloomington Lutheran Church. We are also mourning the passing of two other BLH members, June Fowler and Larry Seymour. Larry's funeral will be held on Monday, March 27 at Lakewood Cemetery at 12:00 p.m. in the Lakewood Chapel. Arrangements have not yet been made for June's service. Hopefully, there will be an announcement in the newspaper or online soon. *Well done, good and faithful servant! Come and share your master's happiness! Matthew 25:21*

Divine Call Extended for School Staff Member

On March 1, 2017, the Bloomington Living Hope Board of Education extended a divine call to Mr. Thomas Flunker of Mankato, MN. The call is a new middle grades teaching position to accommodate our increasing enrollment in those grades. Mr. Flunker has also been called to serve as vice principal.

Mr. Flunker has served in the WELS and ELS for many years as an elementary principal, high school Spanish teacher, and as a college instructor at Bethany Lutheran College. He holds a master's degree and is presently working in the cultural diversity center at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. His wife, Mrs. Sandra Flunker, is a lower grades teacher at Risen Savior Lutheran School in Mankato. The Flunkers have three children who will be a freshman in college, a freshman in high school, and a sixth grader for the 2017-2018 school year.

Please include the Flunker family in your prayers as they deliberate upon our call to serve at BLH. Feel free to forward any questions to Mike Butzow.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) at Bloomington Lutheran School –STEM Grant Update

In May of 2015, we heard the fantastic news that upper grades at Bloomington Lutheran School were awarded a \$20,000 STEM Grant! We are now in the 2nd year of the 2-year grant. **Thanks to funding from the Cargill Foundation, 82 students in grades 6-8 are learning automation and robotics using VEX Kits and ROBOTC programming in the 2016-2017 school year.** PLTW teaches 21st Century skills in a unique way. Students are given problems to solve and collaborate to develop unique solutions. They learn so much about how to work together using creative and critical thinking-skills while building and programming robots. We are thankful for the blessing of this grant where fun and learning are combined in science class!

Build More, Do More, Serve More Campaign Update

The second anniversary of our three year Build More, Do More, Serve More campaign is quickly approaching. The campaign continuation committee is now working hard on reaching out via letters and phone calls to various member groups to invite members to participate in the campaign for the first time as well as to confirm member's intentions who are currently giving without a commitment. As of the end of February, the Lord has moved more than 3 of every 4 contributing member households to participate in some way to this campaign. What a blessing and we thank God for this. After celebrating the second anniversary of the campaign with an event in May of this year, commitments and in-kind gifts will be totaled and compared with the final construction costs currently being worked on by the building committee to determine the additional amount needed to be raised. Once the additional amount is known, a plan, which could include a second campaign, will be brought before the congregation for consideration. May the Lord continue to bless our congregation as we seek to do His will to know Christ and to make Him known!

Update from Keith Anderson, Church President

Plans for our new building are coming along. Soon, Station 19 Architects will finish construction documents and Langer Construction will receive bids. Getting to this point, there have been many meetings between Station 19, Langer, BLH called and lay workers, building committee members, numerous BLH member volunteers, the City of Shakopee and the Watershed District. Thank you to all who have given of their time and knowledge to advance this project.

After construction documents and bids are complete, we will gather the congregation together to share final building plans and cost figures. When the congregation meets, likely a few weeks after Easter, we will vote on when to begin construction of our dedicated sanctuary, youth/multi-use and conference room space. Very importantly, we will also discuss and vote on our funding strategy. During the January 5, 2017 meeting, when the congregation voted to proceed with the design document phase, it was noted that our Build More, Do More, Serve More capital campaign commitments were \$1,200,000 short of the estimated construction cost. If our BMDMSM commitments are now between \$1.0 and \$1.2 million short of what is needed, we should plan to seek at least \$1.5 million just to ensure that we are adequately funded for completing of this building project. The recommendation that will be brought to the congregation will most likely seek additional funds, in the neighborhood of \$2.0M, which will allow us to correct for our current and past years' operating deficits and, if the Lord sees fit, to pay down a portion of our long-term debt – something we have wanted to do for many years.

Please keep this building project as well as the ongoing ministries of BLH at the top of your minds and in your prayers. If you have questions, please contact Kevin Laleman, Building Committee Chair at klaleman@gmail.com or 952-956-2155.

OWLS – Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors, 50+ Our upcoming schedule is as follows:

- **Tuesday, April 4, 9:30 a.m.** – Regular monthly meeting at BLC. Our speaker will be Fred Bork, who will give a presentation on Noah's Ark.
- **Wednesday, April 19, 9:00 a.m.** – OWLS Spring Rally at Martin Luther College in New Ulm. Please look over the information on OWLS bulletin board at BLC.

Prayer and Care Ministry

Whatever your need might be, our prayer ministry stands ready to pray. Contact Diane Walters (blhpray@yahoo.com) or write your request and place it in the box at the Bloomington church. Please let us know how God answers our prayers so we can thank Him.

FOR OUR YOUTH



Jr. High EMPOWER (Grades 6-8)

Join us each Sunday for Bible study during Education Hour at both of our church sites, Bloomington Lutheran Church (9:15 a.m.) and Living Hope Lutheran Church (9:00 a.m.).

LOOKING AHEAD:



April 5 – Serve Lenten Meal at Living Hope

The dinner is at 5:45– 6:15, but come early to help serve or stay to clean up afterwards. You can sign up to bring food when the event gets closer.

8th Grade Confirmation Capstone Retreat

April 21-22 at Living Hope

Friday, 5:30-9:00 p.m. and

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

The confirmands will spend a weekend getting ready for the transition to adult membership in the church, and the transition to high school. The cost is \$25.



This is required for Confirmation.

Sr. High Vertical Encounters (Grades 9-12)



On Sunday nights, we look forward to gathering together with other Christian teens. It is a great time to connect through snacks and games, and to discuss issues that are looming large in our lives. We do our best to blend in solid Biblical study with real-life applications on the topics in front of us each week. We meet from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Living Hope. **We meet again on April 2 and 9.**

AMAZING RACE



FAMILY EDITION

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH ★ 3:00 PM ★ LIVING HOPE

Participants will be formed into teams (families will stay together), and will complete a series of challenges in a race to the prize (Easter Egg Hunt). This event will have a healthy blend of cooperation and competition.

Join us for this exciting event!



After the race, we will facilitate family discussions about using our God-given talents.

We will wrap up with dinner at 5:00 PM.

VBS is June 19-22 ★ Registration begins soon!

Basic Sign Language Class



PLEASE

Anyone who is interested in learning basic sign language is welcome at any time.

**Saturday, April 1
9:00 a.m.**

Bloomington Lutheran Church

Classes are offered on the first Saturday of each month.



THANK YOU

Each class is unique and does not build on the class before, which means that even though you have not been to a class yet, you can still come and learn without feeling behind.

Everyone is welcome at

Joyful Hands Crafters

**Saturday, April 1
10:00 a.m.**

Bloomington Lutheran Church



Crafters do crocheting, knitting, hoop knitting, card stamping, beading, jewelry making, quilting, sewing, machine embroidery, and more!

All ages of crafters are welcome at any time and different types of crafts are encouraged. Your creations may be donated for various purposes.



This group meets on the first Saturday of each month.

Community Kids Club

Saturday, April 8
9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.



Celebration

Bring a friend!

Parents and
volunteers
welcome!

Join us for:

- † Games
- † Crafts
- † Fellowship
- † More

Volunteer at

Feed My Starving Children

Thursday, April 6
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Assemble dehydrated meals
that will be sent to hungry
children all over the world.



**Meet at the
FMSC facility**

18732 Lake Dr E, Chanhassen

Sign-up at fmsc.org:

- Click on the "Volunteer Info" tab
- Click on "Volunteer Registration"
- Click on "Join a Group"
- Enter the **Join Code #1054157**

Devotional Series for

LENT

Wednesday Worship & Meals

Bloomington Lutheran Church
12:00 p.m. Worship – Followed by Luncheon
5:45 p.m. Meal Served
6:30 p.m. Worship

Living Hope Lutheran Church
5:45 p.m. Meal Served
6:30 p.m. Worship



Our Ash Wednesday services start off the series by focusing on what ultimately saddens our Heavenly Father, but also how we wait for Jesus' return, where he will end weeping once and for all. Join us for our Lent sermon series, "Tears," as we also dig into what made Malachi, Peter, and Mary cry, but also that those tears are wiped away by a loving God.

Dates and Themes

- ~~March 4~~ – Ash Wednesday – *The World Makes God Weep* (Genesis 6:11-22 & Joel 2:12-13)
- ~~March 8~~ – *Crocodile Tears* (Malachi 2:10-16)
- March 15 – *In the Wake of Weeping* (John 11:17-35 & Revelation 21:1-4)
- March 22 – *Tears on My Pillow* (Psalm 42:1-5 & Hebrews 2:14-18)
- March 29 – *The Day a Disciple Cried* (Mark 14:66-72 & Ephesians 2:12-13)
- April 5 – *What Makes God Weep* (Luke 13:31-35 & 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11)

Enjoy Easter Breakfast at Church!

**BLC
begins
at 8 AM**

Served by Family Ministry!

Everyone is welcome to help with prepping, cooking, and serving this meal!

As in previous years, the meal will be rounded out by donations of breakfast pastries. If you would like to donate (homemade is welcome), please sign up on the sheet posted on the kiosk in the BLC church entry. If possible, drop off your donation on Saturday, April 15 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.



Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 15 beginning at 9:30 a.m. to prep eggs, meat, fixings, and help set tables And, volunteers are needed before, during, and after the 8:00 a.m. meal on Easter Sunday. Just show up and help or email joel.hansen@myblh.org to let him know how and when you would like to help.

It's a potluck!



Bring family, friends, and a dish or two to share.

We have invited the neighbors and are counting on you to help the visitors feel welcome.

Worship Schedule for Holy Week and Easter

#	Bloomington Lutheran	Living Hope Lutheran
April 13 Maundy Thursday	Noon and 6:30 p.m. Worship with Communion <i>Theme for the Message: "I Come, O Savior, To Your Table" ~ Mark 14:12-26</i>	6:30 p.m. Worship with Communion
April 14 Good Friday 	Noon and 6:00 p.m. – Worship <i>Theme for the Message: "Christ Crucified, I Come" ~ Isaiah 52:13-53:12</i> <hr/> Tenebrae Service, 7:30 p.m. <i>Service of Darkness</i>	6:00 p.m. – Worship
Easter  <i>Theme for the Easter Message on Saturday and Sunday (Except Sunrise): "Tears of Joy" John 20:11-18</i>	Saturday, April 15 6:00 p.m. – Worship # Sunday, April 16 7:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service <i>The Sunrise Service is different from the other services.</i> 8:00 a.m. – Easter Breakfast 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. – Easter Services# # Monday, April 17 No Worship	Saturday, April 15 No Worship # Sunday, April 16 8:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service 9:00 a.m. – Potluck Easter Breakfast 10:00 a.m. – Easter Service

Order Easter Plants

Please order from the list below and your plant(s) will be used to decorate the altar area on Easter. You may take the plants home after the Easter services.

Options for this year:

- White Easter Lily – \$7.50
- Pink Asiatic Lily – \$6
- Purple Tulips – \$9
- Pink Azalea – \$16
- Blue Hydrangea \$19.50

Last
weekend
to order!

The deadline for ordering is March 27.



Sign-up sheets and payment envelopes are on the info table at Living Hope, and on the Flower Chart bulletin board in the north hallway at BLC.



A Letter from Our Stewardship Committee

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess. -Martin Luther

Dear Members of Bloomington Living Hope Lutheran Church,

There are times when we all face a difficult choice. "I can do what is best for me, or I can face inconvenience for what is right." It might be taking credit to get a promotion vs. showcasing your colleagues' contributions. Or perhaps you've let a car merge ahead of you when you know it means missing that stoplight. Maybe you called your relative facing hard times when that time may have been used to address your bloated inbox.

For many of us, maintaining and advancing our church home might feel the same way. But it couldn't be further from the truth. When we self-fund the ministry God gave us to manage, we are doing what's right and doing what's "best for me." As Jesus said in Matthew chapter 6, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be." Giving may be among the most heartfelt, rewarding things we ever experience.

These past two years, I've been overwhelmed by the generosity of the Bloomington Living Hope family. God led us to new opportunities to expand our ministry, help a far-off mission, step-up for special needs at the school, and continue to fund our core ministry work. I know it's been a stretch for many of you. It's been a stretch for me and my family. But, it's a stretch I will be so proud to tell my grandkids about one day. God gave us something special to do in the southwest metro, and we did it!

I want to thank you all for stepping up to heed this call. It is such an honor for me to be partners with you at this defining moment for our church family. I will look back at this time with joy that can only be given by the Spirit in serving His purpose.

Our work is certainly never done. God has an opportunity for all of you to rise. We've heard from you that the most rewarding giving is to specific opportunities to make a difference. Over the next several months, we will be presenting specific support opportunities for you or your smaller groups within BLH. We will try and highlight the vital impact your gifts to our core, ongoing church and school ministry are making in this community and beyond. Our hope is you will be touched and inspired.

This is the time for boldness. We've got this. Let's dare to place it in God's hands.

To God be the glory,
Joshua Birkholz
Elder of Stewardship