



COMMUNITY OF HOPE

MISSION:

To demonstrate the abiding word of God through faith and good works and expressing the love of Jesus Christ by providing daily necessities as well as hope for the future to those in need.

September 2024



Board Members:

Shari Olson, President
Patti Svaleson, VP
Gail Francette, Treasurer/Sec.
Marcie Antell
Pastor Joy Armstrong
Tom Ochocki

Committees:

Creative Media – Kim Ochocki
Donations – Tom Ochocki
Finance – Gail Francette
Networking – Shari Olson
Outreach – Charity Okron
Prayer – Robin Brady
Research – Julie Juntti

Questions?

Call Shari Olson
218-348-2417

New Emails:

For General Inquiries:
info@communityofhope216.org

Items for the Board:

board@communityofhope216.org

Questions on Donations:

donations@communityofhope216.org

Upcoming events or suggestions:

events@communityofhope216.org

Prayer for yourself or someone else

prayer@communityofhope216.org

A Note from the President:

As our beautiful summer moves on and fall starts to usher in, our young people are heading back to school. We reflect on the good works of God and what he is looking for us to do for him. God is always speaking to us. If we sit in silence we can hear him. We expect this booming voice as He is bigger than life itself, but He whispers which causes us to listen closer. He has much to tell us, to remind us of things already told to us but we have forgotten.

Jeremiah 33:2-3 "This is what the Lord Says --the Lord who made the earth, who formed and established it, whose name is the Lord: "Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come." Mark 4:24, "And he said, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. "Listen and be excited to hear Him speak but be prepared to do, if He asks you to do something. He will only ask to do what we can accomplish. He will provide the time, the tools and resources to accomplish what is needed.

What a great feeling when He reaches out to us and we can complete something for Him. To see Him working in and through us. On those days that we don't hear Him I see Him working through others and what excitement I feel knowing He has not left us or abandoned us. God is such a great Father. Believe and have faith. Keep an eye out for anyone who might need a little help. Take a moment to help them. Even a smile and Hello can turn someone's day into a bright day. Love all His children as He loves you. There are many who need to know they are loved.

Have a Blessed September!

God Bless
Shari Olson, President

Did You Know

How To Make This Work (excerpts from *The Paper*)

Have you ever wondered how we can make this concept of providing hope for the future for those that are homeless and in need in our local community a reality? Does it seem that the issues or difficulties are too daunting?

Camp Hope in Las Cruces, New Mexico has found a way to make it happen. Begun as an experiment in 2011, Nicole Martinez, executive director of the nonprofit Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (MVCH), asked the city for a three-month trial of a small tent camp on city land to give people living on the street a temporary place to stay. The city agreed.

Now, 13 years later, Camp Hope can house up to 50 people in tents. Many tents are in three-walled, roofed shelters that protect them from sun and wind. The camp has restrooms, showers, laundry, kitchen and a community garden. Next door at MVCH, residents have access to a food bank, medical care, case management and a menu of services to help them get back on their feet. The camp does have rules: (no violence, no weapons, must help with maintenance, for example), but it's largely governed by residents, who have helped make the rules. People can keep their pets. They can't use drugs or alcohol on site, but if they return to camp after imbibing elsewhere, they can stay as long as they don't bother others. There is no minimum or maximum stay.

Camp Hope operates on the principle of Housing First, which holds that people can't effectively respond to treatment and help until they're safely housed. Once they have the basics, residents are more open to such services as behavioral health treatment, education and training, or eventually permanent housing.



Some residents aren't ready to move quickly from tent to apartment—they need some transition time to develop trust and self-confidence. Camp Hope allows this transition time, but managers are clear that permanent housing is the ultimate goal. For more information on the Las Cruces Camp Hope, visit their website at: <http://www.mvcommunityofhope.org/>

This endeavor is truly a remarkable tribute to what can be accomplished if everyone works together. The work is not easy and achieving and sustaining this new normal requires new systems, different decisions, new ideas and a full force of a community demanding it. If you think that homelessness is not an issue, think again. In most instances, you may not "see" it. We must change the way we understand the problem. Most importantly, we must believe that homelessness is solvable. Won't you join us in finding solutions?

DINNER SCHEDULE - SEPTEMBER

- September 1 Journey Church**
Sloppy Joes, chips, salad, fruit, dessert
- September 8 Our Savior's Church**
Chicken Alfredo Bake, chips, Caesar salad, fruit, dessert
- September 15 Our Redeemer Church**
Beef & Rice, salad, fruit, dessert
- September 22 Good Hope Church**
Pulled Pork Sandwiches, pasta salad, fruit, dessert
- September 29 Veteran's Park**
BBQ Shredded Chicken Sandwich, salad, fruit, dessert

August Stats (all locations)
Number Served: 200
Number of volunteers: 43



THANKS for all you do!

Want to volunteer at one of these events?
Contact Charity @ (218) 409-2606



Donations

As the fall/winter season approaches we find we are currently well stocked with winter clothing. If your heart encourages you to donate food items, please keep in mind that most do not have basic elements such as a stove, microwave, etc.

The best way to support the needs of those we serve is by considering a financial contribution – either through our website or through our community congregations. This will allow us to purchase items not normally donated.

Again, thank you for all your support and prayers!

Donations Team Lead

We are in need of more volunteers to make the work easier. Please consider offering an hour or two to help those less fortunate. Visit our Volunteer page on our website or contact one of our board members.

THANK YOU'S

We always want to remember to Thank all of those that makes these events possible – from our wonderful volunteers to our community churches that offer up their space. Much Thanks!



PRAYING IN THESE DIVISIVE TIMES



The 2024 political season is in full swing and with it comes even more focus on different opinions and stands, even amongst Christians. In these divisive times even how to pray for our nation can be a subject that lends itself to differing opinions and argument.

While knowing there is no way to write an article on this subject without having some who will disagree, I offer the following biblical recommendations.

First, as we discussed last time, using Jesus' model is always right, and the beginning of the "Lord's Prayer" in Matthew 6 is a good approach:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name (may we regard your name as Holy). Your kingdom come, YOUR will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Sometimes we think we know His will, or we assume we do. We hear things or read things that people say. We all have opinions. But people are flawed and vulnerable. Setting our opinions aside is always best when it comes to talking to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

God says in Isaiah 55:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Quoting journalist Billy Hallowell: "Politics and cultural chaos can breed division, but no matter where you stand, as Christians we are called to pray for Kings (our political leaders) and those in authority.

Psalms 22:28 says "For dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations."

Daniel 2: 20 -21 says Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others."

1 Timothy 2: 1-2 says "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

Journalist Billy Hallowell offers the following as a model for praying for our leaders, adding about the above verse: "Notice that it doesn't say to pray for those in authority with whom we agree. Thus, it's important to offer prayers for all leaders and prospective leaders."

"Lord, I pray for our country and I pray for those in authority. Please guide our senators and representatives — our local, state and national leaders. Lord, I pray for leaders to have Your wisdom in all matters. I pray for our president to have discernment, to have the energy to do this difficult job and to be a person who seeks Your will, not only in his life, but in national matters. God, please heal our land from the chaos and division, and please help every leader to seek Your face. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

God calls us to be a people of prayer. No matter who the Lord places in power, let's make praying according to God's instructions/God's heart for them and our nation a regular part of our prayers.

Robin Brady,
Prayer Team Lead

COMMUNITY CHURCH EVENTS

Good Hope Community Church: 55 Armory Road Cloquet

- **Youth Group**-Grades 6-12th starting Wed Sept 11th from 7-8:30pm, at both GH Cloquet & GH Lakeside.
- **Men's Events**-Men's Meet and Greet Sept 5th from 6-9pm at Good Hope Cloquet.
- **Women's Group**- Starting Friday Sept 20th from 6-8:30pm at Good Hope Cloquet.
- **Fall Groups**- Both Growth & Connect groups are starting soon! Visit their web page
- **Royal Rangers**- grades K-12th, starting Tues Sept 24th from 7-8pm at Good Hope Lakeside.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church: 615 12th Street, Cloquet

- **September 8** – Rally Sunday - for any and all students. Registration for Sunday School, Confirmation, Middle school and Senior High youth groups.
- **September 15** – God's Work Our Hands - A day to join with other area churches and do God's work helping our neighbors
- **September 29** – Special worship service commemorating 125th anniversary.
- **Book Club** – 3rd Thursday of the month @ 7pm.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church: 4 Elizabeth Avenue, Esko

- **September 8** – Rally Sunday
- **Women Inspired** – 2nd Tuesday @ 6:30pm
- **Girlfriend's Unlimited** – Wednesdays @ 5:30pm
- **Men's Morning Bible Study** – Tuesday's @ 7am

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church: 515 Skyline Blvd, Cloquet

- **Ladies Bible Study** – Thursdays @ 7pm
- **Confirmation Classes** – Wednesdays @ 6pm
- **Quilting Group** – Thursdays @ 9:30am

Journey Christian Church: 1400 Washington Avenue, Cloquet

- **Wednesday Kids Club** – Kickoff September 11th
- **Griefshare LifeGroup** – Wednesdays from 4pm-6pm
- **Baptism Weekend** – September 14 & 15
- **Mom's Group** – Tuesday's @ 9am
- **Men's Fraternity** – Wednesday's @ 6:30pm

Queen of Peace Catholic Church: 102 4th Street, Cloquet

- **Man Up** – Starting Tuesday, September 3 @ 6am for breakfast – Food, discussion & fellowship
- **Acts: Tuesdays @ 6pm** for men and women of all ages
- **September 15** – Sacrament Parent Prep Meeting



September 15th
Lunch will be at Dunlap Park
11:30 – 3:00pm
With Food Truck – Room at the Table

Area Churches working together for the Community
Indoor and Outdoor Projects
Come Join Us!

To be the Church Together, freed by Christ, to love
and serve our neighbors

ONLINE DONATIONS

Did you know you can now make monetary donations on the Community of Hope website? Every dollar helps us further our missions and support the goals of Community of Hope. Our work is only possible through caring people like you. Visit <https://www.communityofhope216.org/donate-now/> for more information or to make a donation. And thank you so much for your continued support!

