

Good morning,



Thank you for all the wonderful birthday greetings for me on my 70th birthday yesterday. It is probably not surprising to you that I've been thinking about aging. My daughter sent me a note about a conversation she had with my grandson on my birthday, *"I just told him you've been 7 ten times and it blew his mind!"* That made me laugh out loud. Aging is such a matter of perspective.

We are all getting older, and the demographics of our congregation show that seniors comprise the majority. We know about the challenges. It can be harder to think clearly; there are mobility challenges; illness is a frequent visitor; it is important to be careful about everything; whatever we do is slower; falling can have devastating results; others always seem to be in a hurry; laughing and fun is less frequent; loneliness is a shadow that often comes by.

Getting older is better with someone than being alone. It is difficult when a spouse or family member is already gone. Whether we knew it or not, having a community has always been important regardless of age. We needed friends when we were little, as we matured, in our prime, and now later in life as we age as well.

A community like *Hope Lutheran Church* is a place where there is friendship available. The core message is that God has joined us in friendship by means of Christ. This means to me that as aging continues to claim us, we are not all alone and there is always someone who cares. I am so glad that the congregation will remain our church even after I retire.

Isaiah 46:4 carries a promise: ***"...even when you turn gray I will carry you. I have made and I will bear; I will carry and I will save."*** Thank you gracious God that we can look in the mirror and know that you care and that you provide others who care for us too.

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The Call Committee is inviting the congregation to provide input on 'The Leader We Seek', at the second of our hybrid workshops on January 18, 2025, from 10 am to noon.

Information & the Zoom invitation were emailed by John Musgreave on Wednesday, January 8th. Questions? Please contact John @ john.musgreave@gmail.com or call 250-585-1085.

Please join us!

The Call Committee

Coming up at Hope:

Jan 15 @ 1:00 pm *Mission and Witness Committee*

Jan 16 @ 9:30 am *Worship & Music Committee*

Jan 16 @ 10:00 am *Hymn Sing* on Zoom

Jan 17 @ 8:30 am *Men's Breakfast* meeting

Jan 17 @ 9:00 am- noon *Hope Quilters* in the sanctuary

Jan 17 @ 10:30 am *Council Executive* meeting

Jan 18 @ 10:00 am - noon. ***The Leader We Seek*** meeting

Jan 18 @ 1:30 pm *Memorial Service* for **Iris Johnsen** at Hope

Jan 19 @ 10:00 am *Sunday Worship Service*

Jan 19 @ 1:30 pm *Worship Service at Eden Gardens*

Jan 21 @ 1:30 pm *Tuesday afternoon Bible Study* on Zoom

The *Sunday service* and *Invitation to Zoom* will appear in your dial on Saturday morning.

The Lord is with us.

Pastor Terry