

THE FALL ISSUE | 2019



CROSSINGS

A PUBLICATION OF HOPE CHURCH



FULLY INVESTED

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Investing in God the Right Way

by David Lenz, Lead Pastor

There is a wrong way to fully invest in God – and a right way.

Our ongoing studies in the Gospel of John brought us to the moment where Peter declares his readiness to lay down his life for Jesus (John 13:37). It seems at first reading an admirable thing, an outstanding example of what it means to be fully invested in Jesus.

But something is amiss. We sense that in Jesus' response to Peter. "Will you?" "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times" (John 13:38).

Jesus sees in Peter what Peter cannot see in himself. Peter's motivation is grounded in what he can do for Jesus rather than in grateful response to what Jesus has done for him.



This is the fundamental message of the "footwashing gospel" of John 13:1-11. In humility, disciples must let Jesus wash them, cleanse them of their sin. If they don't, they can have no part in Jesus.

Fully investing in Jesus does not mean that we operate out of our own strength, our own sense of the heroic, our own striving.

Yet there is something attractive about Peter that we don't want to miss. His yearning to do great things for the Lord leaps off the page. Peter has his flaws, but he is a needed inspiration at a time when the church must respond with vigor to the cultural attack on/indifference to Christ and his kingdom.

While reading *The Heidelberg Catechism* in the Confessional Standards of ECO – A Covenant Order of Evangelical Christians, I came upon what I see as the right way to fully invest in God. Here is the opening question and the eloquent answer in this catechism.

What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assured me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

The key sentence, emerging from such beauty of language, is the last one as it honors the ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who enables wholehearted response to the things of God.

As the theme of "fully invested" unfolds over the coming year at Hope Church, this will be my prayer (borrowing language from William Carey (1761 – 1834), the "father of modern missions"):

O Lord our God, in the strength of the Holy Spirit at work in us, we will love you and serve you – with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, with all our mind (Luke 10:27). In the strength of the Holy Spirit at work in us, inspire us to expect great things from you as we attempt great things for you. Amen.



Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow

by Brian Knutson

*A personal witness on rebuilding God's House
in Richfield in 2020*

Many of our Property Development Task Force members have witnessed God's hand at work during the past two years. I've seen it and heard it from each of them as they have participated in developing plans, seeking new ideas, and narrowing down the many options. I've seen it in their growing enthusiasm to develop our extra land.

I would like to share some personal experiences that influence my convictions to contribute toward this project today (don't wait for a better time).

Two years ago, this congregation prayed me to recover from difficult heart surgery. I was just ending my 3-year turn on Session. I was part of a team of three to take a fresh look at prior plans for Hope's campus rebuilding. I came away with a respect for the magnitude of the project, and the high cost of deferred maintenance necessary to repair existing facilities.

TIMING IS SO IMPORTANT!

So many of you were patient during all the years of finding a way to clear Hope's property from the control of the PCUSA. I started on Session just as the Mountain Movers campaign was launching. I didn't have to go through the agony of that negotiations, but I certainly appreciated the results.

Timing is important for our family finances. It will allow us to contribute much more this year than I could for Mountain Movers. Maybe that is true for many of you, too. We won't be that wished for million dollar giver, but circumstances and timing will allow giving 3 times what we did for Mountain Movers.

I am retiring from my business partnerships in 2019. My future earnings will shrink, but sale of a share of several businesses will give me liquid resources at just the right time for my Capital Campaign pledge. A recent inheritance from my parents' estate is also now available.

Tomorrow (June 2019), I am having a second surgery to fix the same heart valve. It isn't an emergency, but the Mayo doctors have convinced me (and Debbie) that it is best to do this now for best long-term health. That timing concept again.

I'm at a crossroads in my life, my health, my finances, my future. But I feel even stronger than ever that our congregation should move ahead to raise finances and rebuild for a great future of Hope Church in Richfield. For many of us, this is the best time to make a substantial financial pledge. A legacy gift. Refresh our facilities for new generations of believers in God's perfect timing.



Brian Knutson

**This was written in June 2019.
Post-surgery note: all went well!*



Fully Invested for 30 Years

by Cindy Forsgren



Keith Koenig

LEADING
AS A MAN
OF FAITH

Thirty years ago, Hope Church had the good fortune to hire Keith Koenig as our new property manager. He moved up to the Twin Cities with his wife Julie and their children, Nate and Courtney.

Keith joined the staff at Hope Church as we were working on the Faith Lift Project to connect the school building to the church building with the Link, as well as remodeling the school to better serve Family Ministries and Youth Ministries.

He has spent the last 30 years improving and maintaining Hope Church. He has also overseen the maintenance/custodial staff, where Keith has occasionally been as much counselor/social worker as supervisor. He has worked hard to create a team culture in the facilities department.

Keith is also responsible for the camp facilities — Camp Ojibway in Siren, Wisconsin and Hope Shores Bible Camp in Eden Valley, Minnesota. The night the tornado destroyed Camp Ojibway, Keith was the first on the scene having driven the bus up to camp to rescue the campers. It was a heart-breaking sight, and Keith spent many weeks at camp assessing the damage and cleaning up what was left.

After Hope sold Camp Ojibway and purchased the new camp near Eden Valley, Keith recruited a group of volunteers to help upgrade and improve the camp, creating a wonderful place for kids and adults to meet Jesus.

Keith also helped to found and lead the Minnesota Association of Church Facility Managers, a nonprofit organization that strives to support church facility managers across the state both spiritually and practically, as well as serve on the board of AVIVO, a nonprofit that helps with education towards employment.



A few years ago, Keith was called on to take on the administrator's job at Hope as well, where he continues to grow and lead as a man of faith.



Once-in-a-Lifetime Investment

By Nora Rasmussen

When you're a part of the summer staff at Hope Shores, you're going to get opportunities and experiences that are once in a lifetime. You will flourish in your faith like you will never believe, create relationships with people you can't imagine living without, and grow in more ways than one.

However, in order to get the full rewards that come from spending a summer at camp, you need to be fully invested. This is where the challenges come into play. It can be hard to leave behind your life at

home, your friends, and missing out on events with the people you love. It's easy to let those things take your focus and motivation.

Making the choice to fully immerse yourself in the joy that comes from camp isn't only beneficial to you and your fellow staff, but most importantly the campers. When you invest your time, mind, and heart in God, the rewards are only good things. You're filled with the Holy Spirit, fruit of the Spirit, and so much more. You're able to show the love that God has shown you to the campers, and make sure they have the best week of their summer.

God wants to fill you up and if you let him, he will. You could get through the summer without allowing yourself to be fully invested, but it's not something you want to just get through; it's something you want to savor, because Hope Shores is a once-in-a-lifetime blessing.

FLOURISHING
IN FAITH



Hope Church Property Development

By Justin Bratnober

**Our Preferred Future
People of every age
at Hope Church,
the ones already here
and the ones on the way,
will go DEEPER with Jesus,
WIDER in the Kingdom,
and CLOSER in Community.**

It's safe to say the project we're about to embark on is a very, very big deal for us. How are we so sure this is the right time? That it's the right thing to do? That we're approaching it in just the right way?

Are we pursuing development to address the problem of a tired and oversized facility?

Are we pursuing development to produce a long-term revenue stream and to bless the local community with our excess property?

Are we going about it in a way that glorifies God by its form and function?

Are we going about it in a way that honors the legacy of faith, ministry, missions, and people of Hope?

Are we going about it in a way that reestablishes this place for the generations of faith, ministry, missions, and people to come?

The answer is “yes” to all these questions. However, it doesn't paint the full picture of this moment in the life of Hope Church, and the significance of the work we have before us. Today, those of us who are “already here” have the opportunity to take another bold step into the future and for “those on the way.”

It is very similar to the church plant the pioneers of Hope took on 65 years ago when God called them to be an evangelical presence in the new, fast-growing, first ring suburb of Richfield. They responded well to the call then, and today we enjoy the reputation of a church that's made a difference in Richfield, the metro area, and around the world.

Circumstances have since changed. The neighborhood, the culture, churches, and the world are very different now. But our calling today, our location, and scope of influence remain exactly the same. We continue to be light, strategically placed, and sent to cross over, share life, and reach this community and beyond. This moment in time, and the work we're undertaking today, is laying the tracks for tomorrow and the legacy of Hope Church for the next 65 years.

Please join us in praying that God will do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine! Questions and suggestions can be directed to: property@hope-pc.org.



Children's check-in and south side of the Sanctuary from the Fourth Avenue entrance



Fellowship area, Cafe, and Dickson Chapel from the Portland entrance



Staff Update

Worship Ministries



Chloe Johnson will assume the role of director of the Sanctuary Choir in addition to her current duties as worship ministry assistant.

Chloe comes to us with a wealth of choral and musical experience. She has a BA in Vocal Performance from St. Olaf and a M.M. in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College. She sang under Dr. Anton Armstrong at St. Olaf College, Dr. Joe Miller at Westminster Choir College, and currently sings under Philip Brunelle with VocalEssence. She has also held a number of leadership roles in various other musical groups as a section leader or conductor.

We praise God for the rich heritage of choral music at Hope Church, and we look forward to how Chloe will continue to build this God-honoring ministry. Please join us in welcoming her as the director of the Sanctuary Choir when it begins again this fall!

Youth Ministries Update

It is a season of change as BJ Skoog transitioned out of his role of director of youth ministry in July. The Hope Church leadership team and elders have been collaborating with the youth department to reflect on the current staffing structure, program opportunities, and consider possibilities for how to engage youth in the future. We live in a challenging time in culture – where it is more difficult than ever to reach the next generation.

Mia Franklin, Darby Voeks, and Cesar Castillejos are committed to the ministries of Hope Church and Young Life. We are discerning what type of role(s) we need to fill to provide additional strength and enthusiasm as we look towards the programs starting in the fall.

As this process is underway, Mia is serving as the interim youth ministries leader. She is collaborating with Pastor KC DiNardo, Darby, and Cesar to ensure programs are organized and ready to start strong in September.

We value the families and youth involved at Hope Church and Young Life. Your ideas and input matter to us. We'd be pleased to hear from you if you have questions, ideas, or concerns. Please feel free to contact us. Mia Franklin, youth ministries interim leader, mia@hope-pc.org Or KC DiNardo, Associate Pastor, kc@hope-pc.org.

Fully Invested: Over \$187,000 a Year Directly to Missions

By the Stewardship and Hope Fund Committee

Hope Church budgets and spends over \$187,000 a year on direct missions giving. For many years, we have spent a minimum of 11.3% of offerings dedicated directly to missions.

Beyond the budget, the generous people of Hope also sponsor missions through gifts on Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and special offerings and projects. These additional gifts total thousands of dollars a year. Thank you!

Hope's mission giving is global and local. Hope Church is a sending church, sponsoring many members as long-term missionaries. Globally we support ministries in the Balkans, Africa, the Middle East, India, and Southeast Asia focusing on community development, education, and reaching unreached people groups. Locally we invest in missions both through funding and through many hours of volunteer work. We sponsor outreach to refugees, to the poor and discipleship with youth.

Our mission giving is thoughtful and focused. Each year, the missions we support are evaluated to assure they are meeting their goals, to address changes, and to learn about their needs. We also look at whether the organization is in line with Hope's mission focus.

If you would like more information about the missions we support, please contact Hope's director of missions, Peggy Turnbull at 612/866-4050, ext. 3132 or peggy@hope-pc.org, or pick up Local and Global Outreach brochures at the information counter in the Link.

Thank you for your investment in Hope Church and the missions we support!

Invest in



+

Invite 1 person!

2019 – 2020

Invest in 3 + Invite One Person!

What does it mean to invest? It could be defined as a commitment in order to gain a return or to make use of for future benefits. That works for us as believers because our commitment to Jesus matters. We want our investment to produce good return for the sake of the Kingdom. Investing in God's Kingdom brings God-sized results that grow beyond our expectations.

At Hope we are focused on being Fully Invested in Jesus, in Richfield, and in Community. We are hoping everyone will commit to fully investing in 3 ways this year and consider one person to focus on inviting.

This will help us develop spiritual muscles that help us become more fully invested in our faith. We've created a brochure that details many opportunities to make an investment of your time, talents, and resources.

Can you pick 3 over the course of the year and faithfully complete your investment? What might you try new? What might you give yourself more fully to? Who might you invite to join you? Will you invite them to invest with you? Who will you invite to Hope Church?

We invite you to pray over the next few weeks. How is God leading you to be Fully Invested at Hope Church this year? How will it produce a good return? You will be invited to commit to your investment during worship in September.



The Scoop

ADULTS

Equipping Hour

Sunday
10:00 am

Grow in community through relevant teaching and engaging discussions. All ages, all life stages are welcome to join at any time.

- Heroes of the Faith, in South Social Events, with Oasis Learning Community
- Soul Training in Sacred Space, in the Gym, with Gloria Wiese
- Friendship Class, in room 134, adults with special needs. Contact Lisa Nygaard: jerisany@gmail.com



More Soul Training & Coaching

Wednesday
6:30 pm

Train your soul to listen to God's Spirit through reflective reading, group discussions, and teaching and increase your awareness of his presence in all areas of life. Our focus: Sacred Space, a study in 1 Corinthians and its OT background. In the Chapel with Gloria Wiese.

Entry Points



Everything has a beginning. Every journey starts somewhere. Whether it's one small step or a giant leap of faith, we're with you along the way.

- Alpha—explore life's big questions about faith and God; begins September 16 at 6:00 pm
- This is Hope—discover what it's like to be part of our fellowship
- Covenant Partnership—commit to Hope's community of faith; begins October 6 at 10:00 am



Chloe Johnson's True Talk

True Talks – Accidental Awareness

Talks that Matter to You

Friday, September 20
6:30 - 8:00 pm
The Grind Café in Bloomington

Hope's version of TED Talks is a dynamic forum to explore ideas, engage in cross-generational wisdom, and take action. Three speakers. Three ideas. Three lively conversations.





Adults (continued)

Devotional Life

- Design A Personalized Discipleship Path—check out our online, step-by-step resource at disciple-notebook.com and form a coaching triad

- 30-Day Prayer Challenge—fully invest in prayer by personalizing the prayers of the apostle Paul (free booklet in the Link)



- Book Club—delightful discussions of inspirational books at Local Roots Café in Richfield

- A New Heaven and A New Earth*, by J. Richard Middleton, Tuesdays at 4:30 pm, begins on September 17

- Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*, by Eugene Peterson, Wednesdays at 10:00 am, begins September 18

- Women's Bible Studies

- 2nd Monday of every month, 1:00 pm, Atrium

- "Listening to God and Others in a Distracted World," Thursday, 9:15 - 11:30 am, Chapel, September 12 - December 5. Contact Susie Prin at 952/393-7162 to sign up or request childcare.

Community

- Caring Card Ministry—create new cards out of old to encourage our community. Contact Kris McWilliams: kmcwill51@gmail.com

- Women's Sunday Lunch Group

- September 8 at Applebee's, 9601 Lyndale Avenue South, Bloomington

- October 6 at Macy's Lakeshore Grill, 100 Southdale Center, Edina

- November 3 at Red Lobster, 1951 American Boulevard West, Bloomington



Higher Call

- Pairs + Spares

A fellowship group for seniors which gathers at Hope every second Friday of the month from September through May (except for January). A scrumptious meal is catered followed by an engaging program.

Music by Higher Call will kick off this year on the evening of September 13. Contact Susan Lindvall lindvall.susanderson@gmail.com



 YOUTH



For questions, contact Mia Franklin:
mia@hope-pc.org

**Middle School Small Groups
 (Grades 6-8)**

**Begins September 18
 6:30 – 7:45 pm**

Focusing on issues relatable to middle school students.

**High School Small Groups
 (Grades 9-12)**

**Begins September 18
 6:30 – 7:45 pm**

Leadership Opportunities

11th graders are invited to provide leadership for KWAM on Wednesdays (6:00 pm). 12th graders are invited to provide leadership for Breakfast Club on Sundays.

**Breakfast Club
 (Grades 6-12)**

**Begins September 8
 10:00 – 10:50 am**

Breakfast, games, worship, a message, and discussion time.

High School Young Life Club

**Begins September 16
 6:30 – 8:15 pm**

A fun night with friends and leaders including lots of games, music, laughter, and a Gospel message. Contact Darby Voeks: darby@hope-pc.org.

Middle School Young Life Club

**Begins September 19
 6:30 – 8:00 pm**

A high-energy night with friends and leaders including games, music, lots of laughter, and a message of hope. Contact Cesar Castillejos: cesar@hope-pc.org.



CHILDREN

For details, contact Heidi Connors:
heidi@hope-pc.org

**Sunday FUNday
Team Training Night
Wednesday, September 4
6:30 pm, lower level
of Pastor's Wing (enter door #1)**

All Sunday morning volunteers will gather to get equipped for the year and unite in prayer for the families at Hope Church!

**Sunday FUNday begins
September 8
10:00 am, lower level
of Pastor's Wing (enter door #1)**

Bring your families for this sacred time each Sunday, where all children (Infants - 5th grade) are invited to be ALL IN with Jesus!

**Parent Connection Class
Sundays, beginning September 8
10:00 am, Atrium
(enter door #1)**

Parents in all stages are invited to gather for coffee and conversation while kids are at Sunday FUNday or Breakfast Club. Each week will focus on different topics or testimonies that help encourage families to be fully invested in Jesus and one another.

**Sunday Kids Church
Begins September 8
11:00 am, lower level
of Pastor's Wing**

Kids (K-5th grade) join their families in worship and are dismissed to Kids Church during the service.

**KWAM Team Training Night
Wednesday, September 11
6:30 - 7:45 pm
(enter door #3)**

All KWAM leaders will gather to get equipped for the year and unite in prayer for the children God will bring to KWAM each week.

**KWAM
Begins Wednesday, September 18
6:30 - 7:45 pm
(enter door #3)**

K - 5th grade Kids Will Always Matter at KWAM and love the worship, games, Bible stories, and snacks we share each week. Come learn what it means to be ALL IN with Jesus!

**Moms Playgroup
Mondays, 9:00 am - Noon
H130 (enter door #1)**

Moms and grandmas who have babies and toddlers at home gather together for playtime and fellowship with other moms. Please contact Kim: 763/439-4703 or Britta: 612/437-8509 for more information.

**Women's Bible Study
on Psalm 23
Thursdays, beginning
September 12
9:15 - 11:45 am
Family Ministry area
(enter door #1)**

Join us for a 7-week small group that will go through a video Bible study on Psalm 23 by Jennifer Rothschild. Childcare provided. For more information, contact Sharon Porter: 612/749-8400.





OUTREACH

Ways to Serve

Contact Peggy@hope-pc.org or 612/866-4050 ext. 3132 for information about these and other outreach opportunities.

Welcome refugees

Join our team to offer friendship and support to refugee families in our community. Share meals and activities, tutor English, provide homework help for children, teach practical skills for living in the U.S.

Community Emergency Service food shelf

1900 - 11th Ave. S., Minneapolis
Saturdays - September 14,
October 12, November 9
8:30 am - Noon

Pack and deliver groceries to neighbors in the Phillips neighborhood who qualify for free food but are unable to get to the food shelf because of physical or mental limitations.

Dinner with Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hall

Thursdays - August 22,
September 26, October 24
 Food prep and set-up from 3:00 - 4:30 pm or serving the meal and cleaning up from 4:30 - 6:15 pm.

Parent Share Children

Thursdays, 5:45 - 8:15 pm
H130 (enter at door #1)
 Help with children's activities while parents/grandparents are in the support group.

USA Homestays - Host an international student

Welcome a student to live in an extra room in your home for 3

months or more (stipend provided.) Do periodic activities with students as a friendship family. Invite students to your Thanksgiving meal. Contact Ben at benr@usahomestays.org or 612/770-0031.

Vine + Branches

Offers affordable clothing and household items for a small price.

Store hours:

Wednesday	6:30 - 8:00 pm
Thursday	1:00 - 4:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 - 1:00 pm

Tuesdays: sort, hang, and steam clothing, price donations, stock and clean the store. Store clerks needed on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

Contact Heidi at 612/866-1359 or heidi.johnson@hope-pc.org.

Homework Help

Thursdays, 3:00 - 5:00 pm
H017 and H018

Help elementary and middle school kids with homework. Contact Tamara at tamarawhear@gmail.com or 612/388-8514.



Classes

American Culture Class

Tuesdays, starting September 17
9:30 am - Noon, Chapel

Women from many countries and cultures build friendships through cooking, crafts, and other activities together. Child-care is provided for a small fee. Contact Lois at 952/435-3796 or loisaswanson@gmail.com.

Parent Share

Thursdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
H132 (enter at door #1)

A safe place where parents (and grandparents) can support one another in parenting and other issues that affect families. Children's activities provided. Contact Tamara at tamara.whear@gmail.com or 612/388-8514.

BABIES

Lincoln Stephen was born May 17 to Bryan and Melissa Sauke. Tom and Jan Holt are his grandparents.

Malachi Anton was born May 20 to Michael and Rachel Schuler. Linda Heaner is his grandmother.

David Gregory Steible was born June 17. Doug and Kirstie Dye are his grandparents.

WITH SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS TO THE:

- Jan Barthel in the loss of her mother
- Marasigan family in the loss of Angelo's brother
- Oliva family in the loss of Wally
- Kennedy and Schmit families in the loss of Dick
- Bee family in the loss of Michael's brother
- Cornelius family in the loss of Jane
- Landers family in the loss of Gladys

NEXT DEADLINE

Noon Wednesday, November 6
 (Covering December - February)
 Please send items to Leslee Day:
 leslee@hope-pc.org.

Caleb Ward was born June 3 to Ryan and Melissa Hedwall. His grandparents are Gary and Linda Haugen. His great-grandmother is Carolyn Ring.



Abigail Sage was born June 22, and she was adopted by Kyle and Mary Ruegg. Steve and Robin Ruegg are her grandparents.



Daughter Camila was born July 12 to Olvin and Sousada Grande.



Benjamin Metin was born July 24 to Will and Irem Ritchie. Dan and Judie Ritchie are his grandparents.



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a large bunch of vibrant autumn leaves. The leaves are in various stages of color change, ranging from bright red and orange to deep purple and green. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and a white, textured scarf. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting with trees and foliage.

Join us for Fall!

Fall worship begins September 8

Cinnamon rolls and an Investment Fair

Snap a picture at the Selfie Station

8:45 am | Traditional Worship

10:00 am | Equipping Hour

11:00 am | Contemporary Worship