



Mount Hope Lutheran Church & Preschool, 5323 Southfield Rd. (Service Drive), Allen Park, MO  
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*As Told to Jessica Hanewinckel*

**Humility, humus, is being close to the earth.** It is being clear about ourselves so that we see when we're trying to control or manage or be in charge. It is learning to let go and have open hands. It is a freedom from the need to always get our own way or control a conversation. It is the freedom to say, *I don't know, but I'm willing to learn.* To me, that's one of its great values, because humility makes us teachable. And that's why it's really the most foundational of all the virtues and the most essential for spiritual formation and transformation. If we're not teachable, we don't move into character formation.

**It was St. Augustine who emphasized humility as a key Christian virtue.** That is because the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus redefined humility. But something is going on culturally, because it's been probably a century that we have not thought of humility even in a religious context. Narcissism, greed and egocentric stuff seem to be everywhere. I can find people and situations where folks have common courtesy and care for one another, but they feel like tiny specks of light on an ocean of darkness.

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**Why is humility such a disappearing virtue?** People might give lip service to it, but in our culture we have tended to have very different views of what makes a person important or helpful. Jesus would probably have a tough time getting a job in a lot of religious settings today.

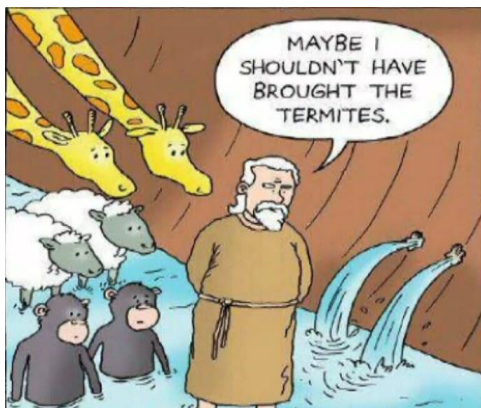
**In our contemporary context, we often think of leadership as domination and control.** But in terms of humility, leadership is serving and valuing those we work with. It's giving them a platform and bringing them to areas where they are gifted and accenting that. If they succeed, you're glad. If the church down the street succeeds, you're glad. You know the old story says, *Well, we didn't do very good this year, but praise God, the Baptist church down the street didn't either.* That's not leadership.

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**We learn to be humble by valuing others.** And when I learn to serve another person, it levels me into a relationship that is more human, and therefore more humble. It's really pretty simple. Read the Gospels to see how Jesus led, because he did lead, and he did have authority and confidence. But he didn't have to put down everybody else in order to be great. And I think it helps to just see someone who is a real leader. If we watch those things, we will learn about humility. It doesn't mean we'll *be* humble. But you know, knowledge of it and seeing others model it helps.

**This is especially true for leaders.** Be brave enough to seek humility. Be strong enough to seek humility. Be courageous enough to seek humility, and we will grow. It increases our sense of community, and none of us can do this on our own.

*Richard J. Foster is the founder of Renovaré, a Christian nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals and churches engage in intentional Christian spiritual formation. He is the author of Learning Humility: A Year of Searching for a Vanishing Virtue (IVP).*



### Things to think about:

A pastor giving a children's sermon talking about his vestments he ask: "why do you think I Wear this collar?"

One child spoke up, without hesitation, it kills fleas and tick up to 30 days."

"I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born."- Ronald Reagan

#### **"An Atheist**

is one who believes he has absolute knowledge that there is no one who has absolute knowledge."

- Frederick Copelson

#### **A witnessing tip**

We want to impress upon ourselves the three characters that God uses to make the Good News of Calvary come alive in an unbeliever:

1. **A person who is spiritually lost.**
2. **A Savior with the power to forgive and heal.**
3. **A friend who brings the two together.**



**Prayers** are requested for the work of **Tim and Beth Heiney Family**. Please check out their letter which describes their present ministry amongst the DMM MOVEMENTS.



**BINGO!** is the game!  
Join us for Fun, Fellowship,  
Snacks & Prizes

Wednesday's from 6pm to 8pm

April 12<sup>th</sup>

April 26<sup>th</sup>

May 10<sup>th</sup>

May 24<sup>th</sup>

June 7<sup>th</sup>

June 21<sup>st</sup>

Schedule is subjected to change

Donations of simple prizes are  
welcome.

Questions: Call Sally Trout  
734-837-7729



## **Mt. Hope Preschool News**

Thank you for all the prayers and support.

Here are a few reminders:

April 7 - No School

May 29 – No School

June 1 – Last Day of School

Look for Flyers in the Narthex for 2023-2024  
Registration.



## Rainbow of Mount Hope

### April/May/June Birthdays

#### April

22- Jacqueline Willim  
26- April Stover

#### May

06 - Bill Switter  
08 - Janet Witte  
09 - Linda Hurst  
15 - Laurie Pignanelli  
19 - Avery Wilson  
25 - Jennifer Wilson  
26 - Eric Cairns  
26 - Frances Ladach

#### June

02 - Karen Bumgarner  
02 - Maxine Wilson  
13 - Sherm Trout  
20 - Eric Brown  
28 - Kathleen Schellman  
30 - Maria Zowie



To check out the website for Video's,  
Bulletins, and all our news.

[www.mthopelutheranchurch.com](http://www.mthopelutheranchurch.com)

### Official Acts

**Albert Glueck**

General Fund

Jim & Karen Bumgarner

**Shirley Ripke**

General Fund

Ernest & Dawn Halfacer

Jim & Karen Bumgarner

Donna McCall

### April/May/June Anniversaries

#### April

20 - Karen & Jim Bumgarner

#### May

20 - France & Ronald Ladach

#### June

02 - Sis & Dave Hamilton  
14 - Sandy & Glenn Cairns  
20 - Kathleen & Bob Schellman  
23 - Mary & Louis Bigliardi  
28 - Carolyn & Melvin Kimbrough

### Quilting Group

By: Bev Kero & Ruth Pollatz

Sewing and quilting continues.

Each week we have 9-12 ladies turn out!

There is always a job to do as we circle the table and have food, Christian fellowship, devotions, and of course the 5 to 7 quilts we put together each time we meet.

We try to meet every Thursday. (Some are missed due to weather or appointments.)

Please Come!

Everyone is welcome to join us.

10am till 2pm on Thursday.

Here are the dates:

April 8, 20, & 27

May 4, 11, 18, & 25

June 8, 15, & 29

Watch bulletin for further dates.

We welcome some from other churches also.

Come have fun & serve others.



Dan Reiland

*February 15, 2023*

## **What Attracts People to Your Church?**

The people who attend your church are incredibly busy, but they make time for the things they care about. They show up to the things they think are important and value the most.

When the long-anticipated movie comes out, their favorite band comes in concert, or it's their kid's birthday, people just don't miss.

One thing that's true every Sunday is that the people who didn't come to church that day are somewhere! They decided that something else was more important. Many good reasons are normal and natural such as family vacation, sickness, a destination wedding, and many others. That's part of life.

The point here is more about the "every-week" Sunday options, other than church, that present a greater benefit or value than attending church.

The days are gone when pastors can merely say, "You should attend church." Or quote Hebrews 10:24-25 and expect people to come back next week.

The people who attend your church need to experience the benefit of attending your church. I don't mean that in a purely consumer frame of reference, although that's not a bad place to start. It's a good thing if people attend your church because they "get something out of it."

This also means that many of the people who attend your church see the value in participating in the vision by serving in any number of ministry opportunities.

Above all, don't be upset with your people who don't attend often. If you view people who don't regularly attend as spiritually immature and uncommitted, that's how they will respond. And over time, they will sense how you feel about them.

In contrast, if you see them as the flock you love and care about, you will continue to do your best to inspire, encourage and deliver the best ministry you can so they *want* to come back.

On the other side of that same coin, don't be discouraged by lack of attendance. I know that's hard on church leaders, and can happen to any of us. We do our best, pray hard and get ready to serve well, and so many don't show up. The best thing to do is focus on the people who did show up to church, rather than being discouraged about those who didn't come.

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## Rainbow of Mount Hope

Now, what else can you do?  
How can you help people see the genuine value in attending?

### **5 ways to help people see the value in coming to church:**

#### **1) Lead church like you value church.**

Would you attend your own church if you didn't have to?

That's not a new question, but it's still relevant. Just like some of your people can get in a rut, leaders can too. In fact, it's surprisingly easy to become professionally competent and simultaneously complacent. You get good at what you do, but it's possible to lose your passion.

Lead church like you can't wait to get there yourself! If you can't wait to leave, that's not a good sign, and your congregation may be picking up on it.

If I catch myself sliding into autopilot, I remind myself to think like a church planter! All heart, all in, fired up and every person matters! Sometimes you might be tired. Leadership can be exhausting. It's better to take some time off to come back refreshed and ready to go, rather than to lead half-hearted.

#### **2) Want more for your people than from your people.**

Like a good business owner wants their company to grow, good church leaders want their church to grow. That means reaching more people with the gospel message, and corresponding life change.

Under pressure to keep the machine going, however, the mission can become compromised. Whenever the machine rises above the mission, any organization can unknowingly be tempted to want more from the people than for them. The most common pressure is financial, but certainly not limited to that.

One key question to help stay on track is: What do the people need for spiritual health and growth? Not, what does the organization need? That question is over-simplified because the organization has to function or you can't meet the people's needs, but it illustrates the question of priority. Which one is paramount over the other? Machine or mission? The mission must always be the driving force.

The passion and commitment that keeps the mission (people) first allows the leaders to communicate value without selling. No hype is needed. When the mission is the priority, the leader is free to communicate from a heart of genuine care.

#### **3) Make sure your hospitality and "customer service" is top notch.**

Those who attend your church aren't "customers," we can agree on that. But my purpose is to use a common term that allows us to know what we mean in the realm of hospitality quickly.

First impressions do matter. It's not "unspiritual" to make sure your church property looks good, and your greeters are genuinely attentive and caring, any more than it is unspiritual to make sure your home looks great for guests. It's common sense hospitality to communicate that you care.

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The principle behind this is powerful. People perceive value when they are valued. That means people perceive that attending your church is a valuable thing to do because when they attend, they feel more valuable as a person.

#### 4) Select a ministry focus to major in.

If you are wired like most church leaders and me, you want every ministry to be leading edge and world class.

But that's not always realistic. Let me quickly say, that's not an excuse for *any* ministry to be sub-standard, sloppy or ineffective. The basics should always be solid! But most often the best churches are known for a particular "stand out" strength in ministry.

It's a little like in college – it's difficult to major in everything. You still study hard for all your classes, but you have a concentration in a select field of study.

For some it might be children's ministry, for others, it's the preaching, for still others it might be their emphasis on global missions. Where does your church shine most brightly? Is that by default or by design?

You may dream about and have a goal that all your ministries are stand out and world-class. I certainly wouldn't rain on your dreams. But I would say, start with one at a time.



#### 5) Make it all about life change!

The best way to help people see the value in attending your church is to encourage and inspire them toward life change through Christ.

When marriages are restored, addictions are broken, prayers are answered, and people find a new purpose, the value in attending your church becomes obvious. When sins are forgiven, and that load is lifted, the benefit is clear to see.

When everything you do is centered around and focused on life transformation based on God's love, grace, and power, the value of your ministry becomes self-evident, it is in changed lives.

*This article originally appeared on [DanReiland.com](http://DanReiland.com) and is reposted here by permission*

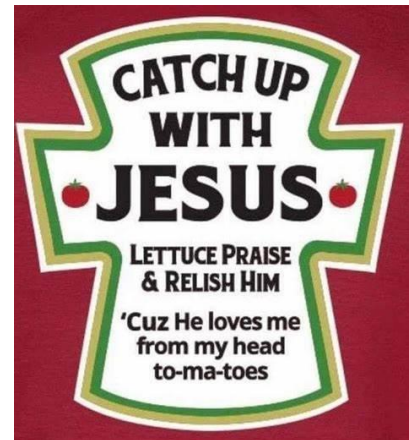


# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Please take a walk to see the new Youth room on the lower level.

The Circuit Youth met there on March 19<sup>th</sup> followed by a Basketball game. There was Bible Trivia and 20 young people from 3 area LCMS churches plus their advisors. All had a great time

They meet monthly and much Christian fellowship, is shared.



because you're young,  
you're torn between a world of hate  
and a world of dreams.  
so much to lose, so much to gain  
so much to fight for,  
so much to change.  
where-the-heart-is.tumblr.com





## Rainbow of Mount Hope

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### Service Times

*Sunday 9:30 am*

*Bible Study -*

*Right after Service*

## Reminders

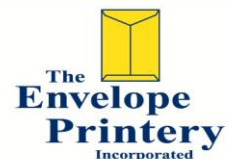
**Quilting:** See Page 3 for dates

**Council Meeting:** The second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm

**Elder's Meeting:** The second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm

*Newsletter Deadline for Jull/Aug/Sept is June 27<sup>th</sup> at noon*

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