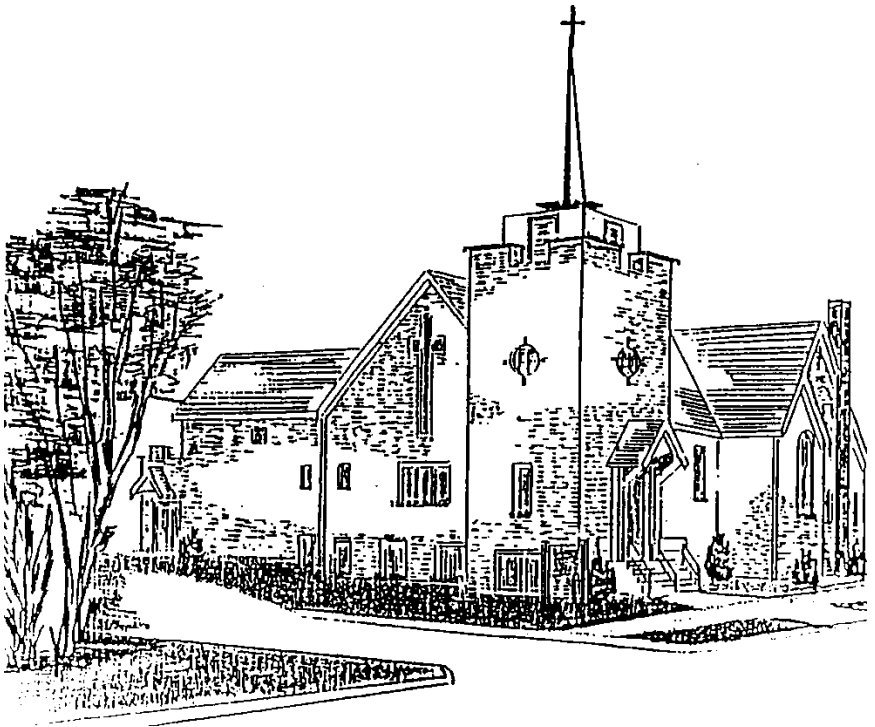


Tidings of Hope

February 2025



Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration
February 2025

Love Is...

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” ~ 1 Corinthians 13 (ESV)

This chapter of 1 Corinthians is often referred to as the “love chapter”. You’ve heard it read at weddings and seen it on greeting cards. But Paul wasn’t speaking of romantic love in this letter to the church in Corinth. He was speaking of “agape”—pure, sacrificial love that intentionally desires another’s highest good. He wrote this letter to the Corinthians at a time when love was not the focus of the church in Corinth and leaders were more focused on status and

influence than they were on love. Chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians corrects misconceptions about spiritual gifts that were had by Christians in Corinth. This chapter begins by stating how useless those spiritual gifts are if not applied from the standpoint of love.

As we move forward into 2025 and all of the challenges it will be sure to bring, let's hold this chapter close to our hearts. Let's use our spiritual gifts and approach all we do from the standpoint of agape love. Let's share this love with each other and the world. *"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."*



The next GriefShare grief support cycle will begin on Thursday, March 6. GriefShare is a network of 15,000 churches worldwide equipped to offer 13-week non-denominational, faith-based, grief support groups to help people deal with all of the complex feelings after the death of a loved one. The group will meet from 6-7:30 on Thursdays from March 6 through April 10 and then on Wednesdays from April 16 through May 28.

The lay people leading the classes have experienced grief themselves and have gone through special training. A nice feature of the program is that, even though it is a 13-week cycle, each session is self-contained so people do not have to attend in sequence. They can pick up any sessions they missed in the next cycle. Each participant receives a free guidebook with activities that can be completed during the week.

Each 90-minute session consists of a 10–15 minute check-in time to discuss the previous week and/or guidebook topics, a 30 minute DVD presentation by experts in the field of grief, and 30-40 minutes to discuss the DVD topics.

If you, or someone you know, would like to register for the program, please call the Hope Lutheran Church office at 715-532-7739. The secretary will take down your contact information so a GriefShare leader can call you back. You can also register online at griefshare.org, just click on "Find a group" and enter the 54848 zip code.



Hope Lutheran Church Women

Monthly Meeting: The February meeting of the HLCW will be held on Thursday, February 20 at 9:30am. Officers for 2025 will be installed at this meeting. Officers are: President – Kathy Peterson, Vice President – Jackie Buchholz, Secretary – Lisa Borman, Treasurer – Josi Hamilton. All women of Hope are welcome.

Quilting: The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, February 18 beginning at 9:30am. There are jobs for all skill levels. If you can stay for the whole day, please bring a sack lunch. Questions? Contact Karen Skeels (715-452-5444).

Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities

Book Group: The book group will meet on Sunday, February 16 at 10:30am in the Fireside Room to discuss The 13th Gift by Joanne Huist Smith.

Meal of the Month: The February Meal of the Month will take place on Wednesday, February 12 at 11:30am at the Eastern Chinese Restaurant. This is an opportunity for members of Hope to enjoy a meal and time of fellowship while supporting a local business.

Wednesday School

Wednesday School will resume on February 5 at 3:15pm. Wednesday School is for children Pre-K thru 6th grades. It's never too late to join. Registration forms can be found on the church website (hlcladysmith.org) under the Education tab.

*“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them,
for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”*

Matthew 19:14 (ESV)

Hope Lutheran Food Pantry

The Hope Lutheran Food Pantry serves those in need throughout Rusk County. The Pantry is open Mondays from 1:00-3:00pm and Fridays from 9:30-11:30am. The Pantry will be closed on February 17 for President's Day but WILL be open on Tuesday, February 18 from 1:00-3:00pm.

Much of the food that is distributed through the food pantry comes from the Feed My People Food Bank. Volunteers are needed on Monday, February 3 and Tuesday, February 18 at 9:15am to help unload this delivery and stock food pantry shelves.

Donations of non-perishable food items can be brought to the church during office hours or on Sunday morning. Monetary donations to help purchase food through Feed My People and other sources can be placed in the offering box, dropped off in the church office, or mailed to the church office (PO Box 184, Ladysmith). All donations should be clearly marked "Food Pantry".

MANNA Meal

(Meals Available for the Nutritional Needs of All)

The February MANNA Meal will take place on Thursday, February 27 with serving from 5:00-6:00pm. This is a free meal providing both food and fellowship to those in need of either. This month's meal will be prepared and served by members of Hope Lutheran Church.

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"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" ~ Matthew 25:35-40

Summary of Council & Committee Action

Pastor's Report: Had several visitors at the office and made multiple telephone calls, including calls with the District Dean, Mission District and NALC offices. Confirmation and Wednesday School classes will resume the first week of February. Pastor will attend the NALC WI/UM Executive Committee meeting in Wausau on February 7.

January 12 Congregational Meeting: Discussion was held about the meeting. It was suggested that it may have been beneficial for members to have gone directly to the pastor with their concerns. Discussed the negative comments some have heard in church and how that needs to stop. Agreed the congregation needs growth. Pastor Martin suggested a book entitled Joining Jesus—Show Me How by Greg Finke.

Glen Flora Agreement: In 2024 the parish agreement was that Glen Flora Lutheran pays 25% of the pastor's salary and benefits and there is a 45-day rule to settle with Glen Flora at the end of the year. Calculations of actual vs. budget showed that Glen Flora is owed \$290.75. Council voted to approve the reimbursement.

Congregational Care & Outreach: Aileen made copies of the Grief booklet and information for whoever takes over Congregational Care & Outreach duties.

Parish Education: Did not meet in January. Will be starting work on VBS. Looking at the possibility of purchasing a laptop.

Property: One estimate for church security came in at \$1,500-2,000 depending on the number of cameras. Council discussed at last month's meeting not to exceed \$2,500.

Service & Fellowship: No report given.

Social Ministries: Benevolence and Missions funds were designated for Choices Health Network (formerly CareNet), Powerhouse Youth Center, Raising Highly Capable Kids, NALC Disaster Response, Salvation Army, and Samaritan's Purse.

Stewardship & Finance: Giving down 25% in 2024.

Worship & Music: No report.

Youth Ministry: Game day in January was cancelled due to lack of interest.

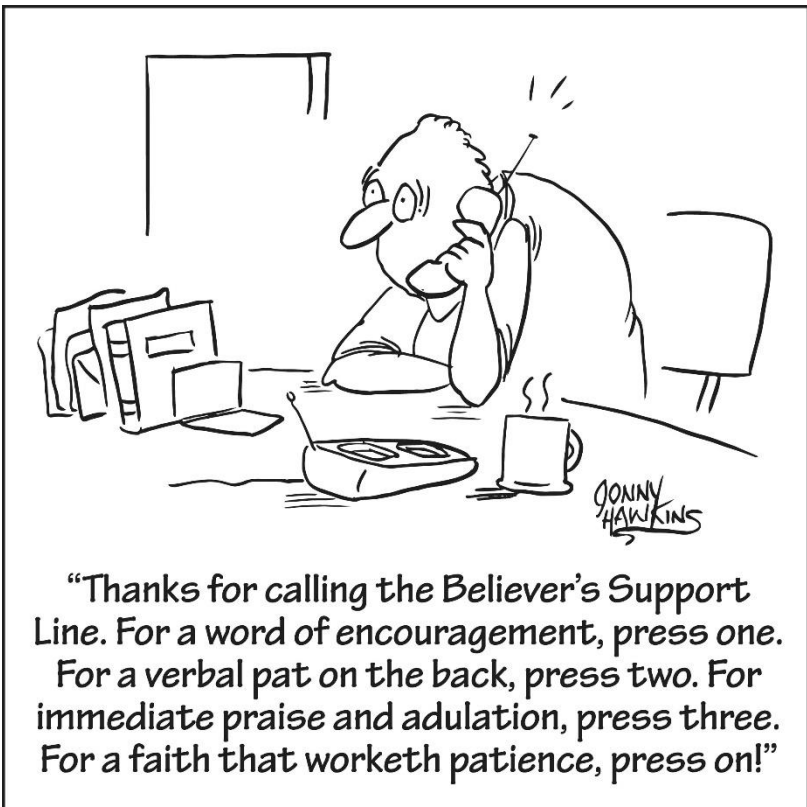
Next Church Council Meeting: February 18 at 6:30pm.

Mission Statement

Hope Lutheran Church is commissioned to make disciples, commanded to love God and others, and committed to serve.

Vision Statement

The Hope Lutheran Church family seeks to form disciples of Jesus in our daily relationships with Christ through weekly worship, daily prayer, and empowering them to develop their spiritual gifts to serve God and others.



Upcoming DEADLINES

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the March newsletter are due in the church office by February 18.

The preferred method of submission is via email (hlcladysmith@gmail.com) or electronic file. Items may also be left in the office mailbox or dropped off at the office during office hours.

Change of Address and/or Phone Number?

If you have had a change in address or phone number, please notify the church office of these changes. Also, in an effort to improve communication we are seeking email addresses for members of the congregation. If you would like to have your email address added to the list, please email the church office at hlcladysmith@gmail.com.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Christopher Martin
Church Secretary	Bonnie Billings
Custodian	Rosemary Warwick
Organists	Lisa Borman Karen Tappon Terry Wedwick

Hope Lutheran Church
320 First St. S.
P.O. Box 184
Ladysmith, WI 54848
Church Phone: 715-532-7739
E-Mail Address: hlcladysmith@gmail.com
Website: hlcladysmith.org



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|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 2 | Ushers | Dave & Laurie Lemke |
| | Lector | Bonnie Billings |
| | Comm Asst | Dave Lemke |
| | Acolyte | Blake Nyhagen |
| 9 | Ushers | Kathy Ducommun, Irene Titera |
| | Lector | Irene Titera |
| | Comm Asst | Irene Titera |
| | Acolyte | Violet Craker |
| 16 | Ushers | Kathy Peterson, Aileen Tauchen |
| | Lector | Aileen Tauchen |
| | Comm Asst | Irene Titera |
| | Acolyte | Addison Hulle |
| 23 | Ushers | Dave & Laurie Lemke |
| | Lector | Bonnie Billings |
| | Comm Asst | Dave Lemke |
| | Acolyte | Nolan Kammerud |

We will soon be working on the worship assistant schedule for March, April and May. Sign-up sheets will be emailed to members. If you have questions or would like to serve, please complete the form when it arrives or contact Lisa Borman or the church office.

Prayer Concerns

If you have asked to have someone listed in the prayer concerns in the Sunday bulletins, please contact the church office (715-532-7739 or hlcladysmith@gmail.com) with periodic updates so that we can keep the list current. If we do not receive an update, the person's name will be on the list for four weeks and then removed.



Dear Friends of NALC Disaster Response,

You are the shining light in the midst of darkness, when disasters strike. By being on the front lines with us, you are making a difference in the lives of those who have lost everything in a disaster.

NALC Disaster Response is the hands and feet of Jesus, serving people across the United States. Your faithful, timely, and generous support enables us to continue operating throughout the year. NALC Disaster Response operates 100% on your contributions and donations, all of which are tax deductible.

Monetary gifts given to NALC Disaster Response will directly aid those affected by disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, and wildfires. Throughout the year, emergency relief kits, flood buckets and gift cards are collected at “Stuff the Truck” events.

We currently have 15 warehouses where we store relief items. Our goal is to have at least 1 more so that we are no more than a days drive from every NALC congregation.

Those interested in volunteering or scheduling a youth or adult mission trip can email their contact information to Mary Bates at disasterresponse@thenalc.org. With your dedicated response, we can continue to provide the physical recovery and compassionate care needed in times of disaster.

Thank you for helping those in need during this difficult time!

Donations should be made payable to NALC Disaster Response and should be sent to:

NALC Disaster Response
2113 Harwood Rd., Suite 309
PMB 409 Bedford, Texas 76021-4703

