

Tidings of Hope

April 2021



Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration

April 2021

Ashes to Easter-Death to Life

By Pastor Martin

As some of you know, my childhood was spent in a town called Perry, Iowa, located about 25 miles northwest of Des Moines. We lived in a house on the north edge of town from the time I was 7 until October of 1991, when a week before my 15th birthday, our family moved to northern Iowa. Our next-door neighbors bought the house from my parents, and for many years they used the home as a place to house missionaries who were in the United States on furlough. As you can imagine, I have a lot of memories tied into that house and indeed, it always held a special place in my heart. I loved the rare occasion of driving by it if we happened to be passing through Perry over the years, to rekindle in my mind the memories I had of my childhood there.

Today, I'm no longer able to do that, and not because I now live in Wisconsin. This past summer on Fathers' Day, the house that was my childhood home burned to the ground. Local news outlets reported that by the time the Perry Volunteer Fire Department arrived, the house was already engulfed in flames and their focus changed from trying to save the house to trying to prevent the fire from spreading to the garage where the current residents had vehicles and other things stored. I saw pictures reporters had taken, showing the house completely engulfed in flames, and finally, the next morning of what was left of my former home: a burned-out foundation, a crooked brick chimney, and lots of ashes and charred timbers. What was once the center of my life had been reduced to ashes. Even though it has been 30 years since I called that house home, it was still hard to see someplace that had once been so important to me reduced to ashes and rubble.

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(Pastor's column, cont.)

Ashes have a certain finality to them, don't they? They are all that's left of the destruction that a fire can cause. When we began our annual journey with Jesus through Lent, we started with ashes. But, that's not where Jesus leaves us, is it? Soon, we will gather in our churches at Hope and Glen Flora to celebrate Easter! The good news that God takes us from the death and destruction that ashes represent, to a rising up to new life.

When the women arrive at the tomb that first Easter, they were of the belief that death had won out, and all that was left for them to do was to prepare Jesus' body for a proper Jewish burial. But when they arrive at the tomb, there is no body to prepare for burial. The angel reminds them of the good news that this empty tomb declared:

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.’ And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.” (Luke 24:5b-9)

Just as Jesus had told His disciples, He had risen from the dead on the third day. Life had risen from the ashes of death!

As we get ready to celebrate Easter, there are a lot of ashes in our lives, aren't there? We mourn over what once was that is no longer. As we reflect on the COVID-19 Pandemic's one year mark, and all of the changes and struggles it has brought into our lives and into the life of our churches, we wonder what the future holds as we await the day we can return to something resembling “normal.” When sin destroys a relationship in our lives that was once so important to us, we cry and lament over the brokenness that has brought into our life. We all have things going on in our lives that remind us of the brokenness and uncertainty that life in a sinful, fallen world brings. Which is why it is good for us to remember that, as Easter people, we have something else to look toward. We remember that just as God raised Jesus from the dead to give us new life, we can look forward to something better. We remember

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that Jesus is in the business of restoring us from sin and death, to everlasting life. Thus we know that whatever struggles we endure in this life cannot afflict us forever. Jesus has defeated them at the cross. As we focus on Him, the Holy Spirit brings about a change within us. The Spirit gives us hope in the moments of struggle because we don't go through it alone, Jesus goes with us through it all. And that hope is something we are then called to share with others in our lives, as we become the hands, the feet, and the voice God uses to bring His hope of Easter to someone else who needs His love, His grace, and the hope that Easter brings into our world today.

While my childhood home may be reduced to ashes, I will never forget the role that home played in my childhood, and the fact that God has prepared for me an eternal home that no fire can destroy. My place in His kingdom is always secure in Christ. I hope and pray that you, too, in those moments where it seems as if your life is in ashes and rubble, that you remember that God is in the business of bringing new life from ashes and pain. I look forward to seeing you in church with us this Easter, and every Sunday, as we are equipped to share the good news of the resurrection and life we have in Jesus Christ with our world, one life at a time.



Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Worship with Holy Communion at 6:30pm

Good Friday, April 2

Worship at 6:30pm

Easter Sunday, April 4

Worship with Holy Communion

7:00am and 10:00am

Easter Breakfast

Hope Lutheran Youth Ministries will be hosting the Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 4 with serving from 8:00-9:30am. The menu will include scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, muffins, hash browns, and fresh fruit. A free will offering will be collected with the proceeds going towards this summer's the youth mission trip.

Got Yard Work?

Youth who will be attending the summer 2021 mission trip are looking for opportunities to do some yard cleanup this spring. Free will offerings for this service will go towards the mission trip. Please contact Nick Sovacool (715-415-2679) to arrange yard cleanup services this spring.



Hope Lutheran Church Women



Monthly Meeting: The HLCW does NOT meet in April. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20 at 9:30am.

Quilting: The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, April 27 beginning at 9:00am. There are jobs for all skill levels. If you can stay the whole day, please bring a sack lunch. Quilt squares are also available to be sewn at home. Questions? Contact Karen Skeels (715-452-5444).

Luther Park Bible Camp

Luther Park Bible Camp will have a spring work day on Saturday, April 24 from 8:30am-4:30pm. If you'd like to help prepare Luther Park for the upcoming season, please sign up on the Luther Park website (lutherpark.org/spring-work-day).

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Luther Park Bible Camp at 715-859-2215.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has sent cards, letters, and prayers to me while I am in lockdown. All have been meaningful and helpful.

Marge Spangberg

Thank you for the card and gift card for Valentine's Day. It was a nice surprise.

Love, Carter Closs

Confirmation

Confirmation classes will resume on Wednesday, April 7 at 6:30pm. If you have are unsure of how many sermon notes your child has submitted, please contact Pastor Martin.

Youth Education

Sunday School will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 4. Class will resume on April 11.

The last Wednesday School Backpack pick-up will be on Wednesday, April 7.



5 Jeff & Diane Meuli
8 Craig & Carrie Becker
11 Becky & Douglas Kiletény
19 Shad & Kory Strom
21 Dan & Danita Everett

22 Pat & Diane Cumming
27 Brad & Bonnie Billings
Leonard & Jeanne Hess
Michelle & Dustin LaBlonde



The Hope Lutheran Church
Scandinavian Dinner

will take place on
Wednesday, April 21
from
4:30-7:00pm

Cost: \$10.00/person

The menu will include baked ham, meatballs & gravy, mashed potatoes, baked beans, glazed carrots, salads, homemade rolls, lefse, rice pudding, and Scandinavian baked goods.

Dine-in and carry-outs will both be available. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling or emailing the church office (hlcladysmith@gmail.com or 715-532-7739).

Summary of March 16, 2021 Council Meeting

Council Action: Approved paying for a new phone system/internet upgrade from the budget and Wuerth estate funds. Approved Youth Ministry holding the Easter Breakfast. Voted to designate half the sanctuary as “masks optional” for Sunday services beginning March 21. Authorized Stewardship & Finance Committee to seek better investment options for money currently at Vanguard.

Adult Education & Fellowship: Report on file. Next meeting: April 8 at 2:00pm.

Congregational Care & Outreach: Radio station agreed to give us credit for the Sunday when they did not have phone service. Next meeting: April 13 at 4:00pm.

Property: Committee passed a motion to proceed with phone system and internet upgrades for a total cost of \$5,845. Next meeting: April 13 at 6:00pm.

Social Ministries: Committee will discuss opening for MANNA Meals and will present to Council in April. Next meeting: April 6 at 3:30pm.

Stewardship & Finance: EDL refund was received from the SBA. Kimberly Clark stock donation was sold for approximately \$14,100. Next meeting: April 13 at 5:30pm.

Worship & Music: After Easter some adult education will be offered about Lutheran liturgies and the differences between hymnals. Next meeting: April 6 at 6:00pm

Youth Education: Report on file. Next meeting: April 7 at 4:30pm.

Youth Ministries: No report given. Next meeting: TBA.

Next Council Meeting: April 20 at 6:30pm.

Mission Statement

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

Resurrection Biscuits

It is a tradition at Hope Lutheran for the children to make Resurrection Biscuits during Sunday School and Wednesday School prior to Easter. We encourage families to continue this tradition at home as an easy and tasty lesson.

Ingredients

- 1 pkg Pillsbury Grands buttermilk biscuits
- 8 large marshmallows
- 1/4 c melted butter
- 6 Tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Directions

1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Spray a cookie sheet lightly with cooking spray.
2. On waxed paper, press the rolls into flat circles. As your child is pounding the dough, remind them how Jesus was beaten by the soldiers who had arrested Him.
3. Place a marshmallow in the center of each roll. The marshmallow represents Jesus, pure and white.
4. Pinch the dough around the marshmallow, telling your child that the you are sealing Jesus (marshmallow) in your "tomb" (biscuit) just like the soldiers sealed Jesus' body in His tomb after He died.
5. Roll the marshmallow-filled rolls into round balls.
6. Brush each ball with butter. This wetness is like the tears of sorrow that Jesus' friends cried when He was gone.
7. Mix the cinnamon and sugar together in a small bowl. This represents the dirt and the rocks at the tomb. Sprinkle each ball with the mixture of cinnamon and sugar.
8. Let the rolls rise on your cookie sheet for 30-45 minutes. This waiting time is like Holy Saturday, when we are waiting in anticipation. Then bake them at 350 degrees for 15 minutes, until they are golden brown.
9. Let them cool; serve warm (if served the next day you can microwave a few seconds). Just like the tomb on Easter Sunday, these rolls are empty! Jesus (the marshmallow) is gone.

The Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood He gave
Green is for the grass He made
Yellow is for the sun so bright
Orange is for the edge of night
Blue is for the sin we made
White is for the grace He gave
Purple is for the hour of sorrow
Pink is for a new tomorrow

A bag full of jelly beans colorful and sweet
is a prayer, is a promise, is a special treat.

Happy Easter!



For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish
but have eternal life.

John 3:16



Deadlines...

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the May newsletter are due in the church office by April 20.

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 send it to the church office.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Christopher Martin

Church Secretary

Bonnie Billings

Maintenance

Gary Bendixen

Custodian

Rosemary Warwick

Choir Director

Heidi Jo Sovacool

Organists

Lisa Borman

Karen Tappan

Aileen Tauchen

Terry Wedwick

Hope Lutheran Church

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Church Phone: 715-532-7739

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Website: hlcladysmith.org



April Worship Assistants

1 - Maundy Thurs.	Ushers Lector Acolytes Comm. Assts.	Don & Judy Soyring Rosemary Johnson Danny Craker George Lawrence
1 - Good Fri.	Ushers Lector Acolytes	Rachel Sovacool, Kathy Ducommun Bev Dukerschein Danny Craker
4 - 7am	Ushers Lector Acolytes Comm. Assts.	Nick & Rachel Sovacool Bev Dukerschein Manny Moore Gordie Dukerschein
4 - 10am	Ushers Lector Acolytes Comm. Assts.	Don & Judy Soyring Irene Titera Owen Burmeister Linda Campbell
11	Ushers Lector Acolytes Comm. Assts.	Kathy Peterson, Rosemary Johnson Irene Titera Levi Nyhagen Chris Holtebeck
18	Ushers Lector Acolytes Comm. Assts.	Rosemary Johnson, Judy Soyring Aileen Tauchen Kai Strom Chris Holtebeck
25	Ushers Lector Acolytes Comm. Assts.	Nick & Rachel Sovacool Lisa Borman Levi Nyhagen Rosemary Johnson

Projection: Don Bartig (Nicholas Sovacool – April 4 at 7am)
Videographer: Heidi Jo Sovacool

April Birthdays

- 1** Don Collins
Jim Segebrecht
- 2** Evan Effertz
Brad Hon
Brian Johnson
Jennifer Snyder
- 3** Amanda Hills
Josh Lee
- 4** Diane Doke
Jake Peggarr
- 5** Greg Anderson
Lindsay Martin
- 6** Mady Clark
Manuel Moore
Kyle Towberman
- 7** Madeline Bunton
Shelby Moore
Lance Mulholland
Jessica Sands
- 8** Adyara Hanaman
- 9** Doreen Larson
Spencer Mautner
Doug Titera
- 10** Tobey Krisik
Pam Lee
- 11** Mark Berg
Leah Bunton
Cindy Krings
Michelle Stohr
- 12** Cindy Albus
Joe Lawrence
Heather Shineflew
- 13** Megan vanDoorn
- 14** Michael Beckett
- 15** Lindsay Schmidt
Carter Pohlman
- 16** Dan Everett
Dale Lund
- 17** Jackie Buchholz
Nick Sovacool
Payton Wold
- 18** Alli Clark
Eme Clark
Kylie Schultz
- 19** Ellen Schueller
Alyssa Read
- 20** Peggy McMahon
Stacey Petrus
Shelly Richardson
- 21** Caitlin McGinnis
Elizabeth Narvaez
Sarah Foss
- 22** Olivia Bunton
Vicki Monnier
Jason Peggarr
- 23** Matthew Hanaman
Patrick Morgan
Linda Wester
- 24** Breena Effertz
Michael Elling
Aileen Tauchen
- 25** Margaret Jennerman
Bev Loser
- 26** Katie Anderson
Pat McEathron
Stacy Richardson
- 27** Sarah Billings
Liz Robertson
- 28** Laurie Lemke
Taylor Molstad
Kip Samardzich
Rose Warwick
- 29** Briley Burmeister
Dixsia Dedrickson
Jesse Polak
- 30** Megan Dieckman