

Tidings of Hope

February 2026

Walking Through Lent Together

The Lenten season is a treasured and meaningful time in the life of the Lutheran Church—sacred invitation to slow down, reflect, and draw nearer to Christ. In 2026, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and continues for 40 days (not including Sundays) until Holy Thursday, April 2. These 40 days carry deep biblical significance. They mirror the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert, fasting, praying, and facing temptation before beginning His earthly ministry. Just as Christ entered the wilderness with purpose, we, too step into this season with intention and hope.

Lent calls us to reflect, repent, and prepare for Easter. It is a time for holy introspection, honestly examining our hearts, acknowledging the ways we fall short, and returning to the One who forgives, heals, and restores. Scripture continually invites God's people to repent and be renewed, and during Lent, we take that invitation to heart. Through God's word, we remember that repentance is not about guilt for guilt's sake, but about turning back toward the God who is rich in mercy and steadfast love.

May these forty days be a time of quiet strengthening, deeper prayer, and renewed faith. And as we prepare our hearts for Easter, may we know that Christ walks every step of this season with us, guiding us toward the light of His resurrection.

From WNALC January/February 2026 by Amy Bell

Come As You Are

Join Us with Christ

On the Lenten Journey

Dates to Remember

February 1	Seventy Times Seven Study
February 2	Feed My People delivery
February 8	Seventy Times Seven Study
February 12	Lunch of the Month/Grandpa's Pizza Game Day to follow
February 14	New Member classes
February 15	New Member Installation Council Installation Book Group
February 16	Feed My People delivery
February 17	Quilters 9:30 AM Council 6:30 PM
February 18	Ash Wednesday; Service 6:30 PM
February 19	HLCW 9:30 AM
February 25	Lenten Service at Hope 6:30 PM Soup Supper at 5:00 PM

Worship Assistants/Pastors

February 1	Ushers--Laurie and Dave Lemke; Lector--Aileen Tauchen; Communion Asst—Irene Titera; Lay Leader—George Lawrence
February 8	Ushers—Jackie and Brian Buchholz; Lector—Irene Titera; Communion Asst—Vinnie Jacobs; Pastor Tom Reiff
February 15	Ushers—Chris and Charlie Holtebeck; Lector—Charlie Holtebeck; Communion Asst—Chris Holtebeck; Pastor Elden Simonson
February 18 (Ash Wednesday)	Ushers—Aileen Tauchen and Irene Titera; Lector—Aileen Tauchen; Communion Asst—Irene Titera; Pastor Glenn Sokolowski
February 22	Ushers—Pat and Jerry McEathron; Lector—Irene Titera; Communion Asst—Jerry McEathron; Pastor Paul Reiff
February 25 Lenten Service	Ushers—Aileen Tauchen and Irene Titera; Lector—Aileen Tauchen

Council Highlights, 2025

Treasurer's Report

Total income-- \$197,513.92
Total expenses YTD \$176,741.63
Cash in checking \$ 55,325.45

Worship and Music

Four pastors and several lay leaders have provided leadership for our services. Numerous volunteers have stepped up to serve in numerous ways to make our worship services meaningful.

Property

Security camera installed, office computer upgraded, new copier, and church signs repaired. Yard work, snow and ice removal, and furnaces maintained. The parsonage needed general cleanup and repair and was furnished for visiting pastors.

Parish Education

VBS was a three-evening event entitled "True North". Wednesday School was organized with Bible stories, music, snack, and crafts. The children's Christmas program was entitled "Elf Elementary."

Youth Ministry

Youth toured the Hillan farm and gathered for fellowship at the Lemke cabin. Jana Nyhagen taught 9th grade confirmation and Pastor Hailey is teaching 7th grade confirmation.

Congregational Care and Outreach

Greeting cards were sent to members, Grief Support Booklets distributed, and communion has been served when requested. The Early Risers meet for coffee, donuts, and fellowship on Sunday morning.

Call Committee

Chair, Lisa Borman, reported that the profiles and video have been approved by Pastor Shelly Schultz from the NALC national office and have been posted. We now can wait for potential pastoral interest.

Bible Study

The Bible study entitled "Seventy Times Seven" based on forgiveness led by Jack Pederson will be meeting February 1 and February 8 following the worship service. Everyone is welcome.

HLCW

The Women of Hope have organized Soup Suppers for the three Lenten Services that will be held at Hope during the Lenten season. There will be a meeting on February 19 at 9:30 AM.

NALC Disaster Relief

The quilters have donated numerous quilts to NALC Disaster Relief and work tirelessly to create more. Our congregation has been encouraged to give to the Flood Bucket campaign in order to have buckets available when they are needed.

Book Group

The Book Group will meet on February 15 at 10:30am in the Fireside Room and will discuss Walking on Water by Richard Paul Evans.

GriefShare

GriefShare is a faith-based support group program designed to help individuals navigate the pain of losing a loved one. The program will begin on March 5 at Hope Lutheran.

Come check us out at:

Hope Lutheran Church
320 Hope 1st St. S
Ladysmith, WI 54848

The *Tidings of Hope* will be emailed to Hope Lutheran Church Members. There will be copies available in the narthex and will be mailed through snail mail upon request.

