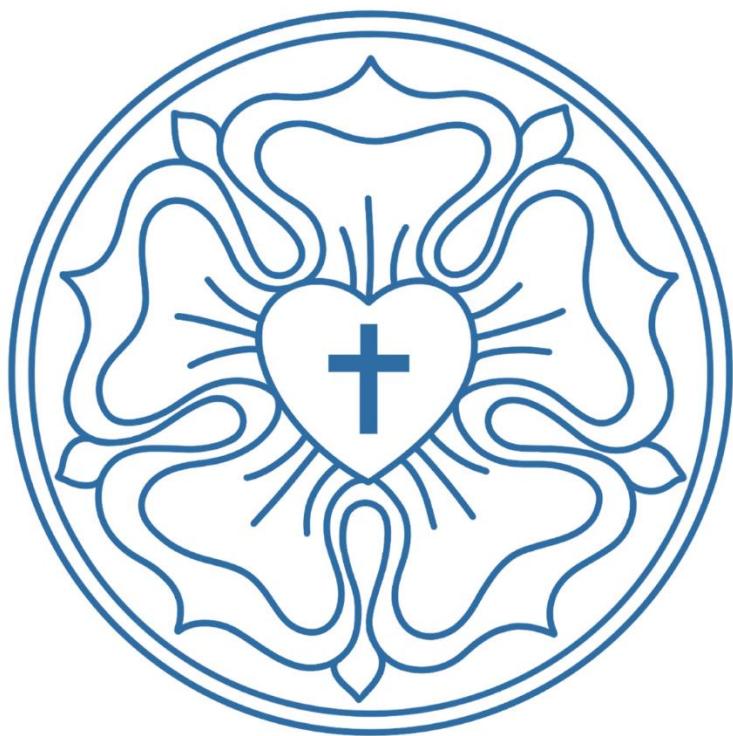


Tidings of Hope

October 2024



Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration
October 2024

Bearing Fruit for the Kingdom

Pastor Christopher Martin

Some of you may have noticed over the last few weeks, our Epistle readings in the lectionary have been a semi-continuous reading of the Epistle of James. Some Christians are not certain what to do with this particular letter, because it's much different than many of Paul's letters, in which we are constantly reminded we are saved by God's grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. In particular, a couple of weeks ago, we read these words in James 2 that almost sound as if they run contrary to the rest of the Biblical truth that we are saved by grace through faith and not by our works:

"So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." (James 2:17-18)

The best description of James that I've ever come across is from a commentary I consulted recently in which the letter is described as the "Proverbs of the New Testament." James originally wrote these words around the year 50 A.D. to what we call the "Diaspora", to Christians who live in the lands outside of Jerusalem. Many of these believers in Christ find themselves living in areas in which they were very much the minority, often among Jews and Pagans who wanted them to renounce their faith. Thus, James in this letter, is giving the Christians practical help in how to live out and witness to their faith in Jesus Christ in their day to day lives.

In demonstrating the connection between the faith the Christian confesses on Sunday, and the actions of the Christian the rest of the week, James is reminding the 1st century Church, and you and

(Pastor's Column, cont.)

I here at Hope Lutheran Church today, of this truth: a living faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is not something we pull off the shelf for one hour a week, and then live as the rest of the sinful, fallen world does during the week. A true, living faith produces fruit. Just as an apple tree produces fruit because it's an apple tree and that's what apple trees do, the Christian does good works because, that's the fruit Christians produce.

What is that fruit you might ask? Let's look to Paul's letter to the Galatian Christians for examples:

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.” (Galatians 5:16-24)

Did you see the connection? A faith that walks in the Holy Spirit, naturally produces fruit. Good fruit. Fruit that makes it evident for those in our world to see there's something different about us that separates Christians from the rest of the world. And it's found in the fruit that we produce in daily life.

As we look to the future of not just Hope Lutheran Church, but to our lives in Christ day to day, what better way can we seek to make disciples of all nations, starting right here in Rusk County, than by each and every one of us begin our day by asking this question: what fruit of the Spirit can I show today that will lead someone to hear about Jesus, and His love, grace, forgiveness, and life? How

(Pastor's Column, cont.)

can I live my day-to-day life in a way that isn't centered in what I want, but rather, is centered in what God wants me to do to serve Him, to show others the difference faith in Jesus Christ makes for this life, and for eternity? That fruit is going to vary from person to person. But can you imagine the powerful impact we can have from this small church on this community, if we each commit ourselves to living our daily lives in Christ, and to boasting in Him, instead of ourselves?

As we go through the month of October, and we watch the leaves change color, the temperatures get cooler, and the daylight hours become shorter, let's not spend our time focusing on things that change, and lament what is beyond our control. Let's instead focus on what should never change in the life of our church and in our own lives of faith in Jesus Christ: the gift of forgiveness, life, and salvation we have through Jesus, and let's always stand ready to share God's forgiveness with others, and bear fruit that shows the world whose we are: that we belong to Christ!



Confirmation Sunday



Three youth have completed Confirmation instruction and will affirm the faith of their Baptisms on Reformation Sunday, October 27. Confirmands are Tanner Davis, Sophia Kammerud, and Izzy Solberg. A reception in their honor will be held in the fellowship hall following the worship service that day. Please keep these youth in your prayers as they prepare to take this important step in their faith journey.

Choirchimes of Hope

Choirchimes of Hope will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, October 2 at 5:30pm. This group is for adults and youth 3rd grade and older. Please call or text Heidi Jo Sovacool if you have questions or for more details (715-403-3566).



Duty & Delight

A Journey of Faith in Living and Giving

In conjunction with our fall stewardship drive, Pastor Martin will be leading a Bible study entitled “Duty & Delight: A Journey of Faith in Living and Giving”. This study will be held on Fridays, October 4, 11, 25 and November 1 at 1:00pm in the fellowship hall. No preregistration is required. Everyone is welcome.

Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities

Book Discussion: The book discussion group will meet on Sunday, October 20 at 10:30am in the Fireside Room. The book for October is The Record Keeper by Charles Martin.

Sunday Morning Study: The study on the book of Romans will continue in the Fireside Room on Sundays, October 6, 13, & 27 at 10:30am.

Meal of the Month: The next Meal of the Month will take place on Thursday, October 10 at 9:00am at The Farmhouse Restaurant in Weyerhaeuser. This is an opportunity for members of Hope to enjoy a meal and fellowship while supporting a local business. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to carpool, please see Kathy Ducommun.

Children’s Education

Sunday School: Sunday School is for children 3 years old through 6th grade and are held each week from 10:15-11:00am in the education wing.

Wednesday School: Wednesday School is for children PK-6th grade and meets each week from 3:15-4:45pm. Children can take Bus 9 from LES to the church. Parents will need to send a note to school giving their child permission to ride the bus.

It’s never too late to join in! Registration forms for Sunday School and Wednesday School can be found on the Parish Education bulletin board, on the church website or in the church office.



Hope Lutheran Church Women

Monthly Meeting: The HLCW will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, October 17 at 9:30am. Hostesses are Cindy Albus and Jackie Buchholz. All women of Hope are welcome!

Quilting: The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, October 29 beginning at 9:00am. There are jobs for all skill levels. If you can stay for 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).

FALL DINNER

The Hope Lutheran Church Women
will hold a fall dinner on
Wednesday, October 16
with serving from 5:00-6:30pm
Adults & Carry-Outs- \$13
Children (10 yrs old & younger) - \$6
Preschool and younger eat free

MENU

Meatloaf, Baked Potatoes,
Vegetable, Rolls, and Dessert





Youth Ministry programs are for youth in grades 6-12. Friends are always welcome to attend.

Operation Christmas Child: We will again be assembling boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. We will shop for items for the boxes on Sunday, October 20 following the 9:00am worship service. We will pack the boxes on Sunday, November 3 following the worship service. Lunch will be provided.

Donuts & Devotions: Youth are invited for donuts & devotions on Sundays, October 13 and November 17 at 10:15am in the upstairs youth room.

For more information about Youth Ministry here at Hope Lutheran Church, please contact a member of the Youth Ministry Committee (Julie Kammerud, Chris Kammerud, Carla Closs) or see the Youth Ministry bulletin board.

Food Pantry

The Hope Lutheran Food Pantry serves those in need throughout Rusk County. The Pantry is open Mondays 1:00-3:00pm and Fridays 9:30-11:30am. Volunteers are needed Mondays, October 7 & 21 at 9:15am to help unload the Feed My People delivery and to stock shelves. If you have questions, please contact Josi Hamilton (715-532-6052).

Donations of non-perishable food items can be brought to the church on Sunday mornings, during pantry hours, or dropped off in the office during office hours. Monetary donations should be made payable to the Hope Lutheran Food Pantry. These can be placed in the offering box or sent to the church office.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated money and supplies to make flood buckets for the NALC Disaster Response. We assembled 71 buckets that will be delivered in October.

Clergy Appreciation Month

October is Clergy Appreciation Month (October 13 is Clergy Appreciation Day). We wish to thank Pastor Martin for his dedicated service to Hope Lutheran Church. We also thank Lindsay, Bradon, Zachary, and Cassie for the sacrifices they make that allow him to serve Hope Lutheran Church as our pastor.

MANNA Meal

(Meals Available for the Nutritional Needs of All)

The October MANNA Meal will be held on Thursday, October 31 with serving from 5:00-6:00pm. This is a free meal providing food and fellowship to those in need of either. This month's meal is sponsored by Faith United Methodist Church.

Giving Summary

Thank you to everyone who gives so generously in support of the ministry and mission of Hope Lutheran Church. The following is a summary of giving through August 31, 2024.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Env. Offering	105,666.00	138,972.00	76.03
Expense	158,317.71	182,878.00	86.00

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.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTION

Due to the postponed September Council meeting, minutes were not available when this newsletter went to press. The following is a summary of action taken by committees at their September meetings.

Congregational Care & Outreach: Did not meet in September. Next meeting: October 2 at 4:30pm.

Parish Education: No minutes submitted.

Property: Looking at repairing church signs. Discussed church security. Repair and painting of the nave is complete. Need to find someone to clear snow for the 2024-25 winter season. Next meeting: October 8 at 6:00pm.

Service & Fellowship: No minutes submitted.

Social Ministries: The August MANNA Meal served 67. Local benevolence and Missions funds were designated for Walk for Life, Women with Courage Foundation, Water Mission International, and Wisconsin Special Olympics. Next meeting: October 8 at 4:00pm.

Stewardship & Finance: From January thru August, giving and attendance were both down when compared to 2023. "Duty & Delight" stewardship plan will be implemented this fall. Next meeting: October 8 at 5:30pm.

Worship & Music: Home Communion training was held September 12. A second banner stand was purchased. Will have a pulpit exchange in October. Pastor Hailey Halmstad will be here and Pastor Martin will be at Bethel/Bethany. Next meeting: October 8 at 6:00pm.

Youth Ministry: Three youth will be confirmed in October. Cake has been ordered. Youth raised \$953 to purchase items for NALC Disaster Response health kits. Youth will be shopping for Operation Christmas Child on October 20 Next meeting: TBD.

Next Council Meeting: October 22 at 6:30pm.



6	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Charlie & Chris Holtebeck Charlie Holtebeck Rosemary Johnson Tanner Davis
13	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Gordie & Bev Dukerschein Irene Titera Dukerschein Violet Craker
20	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Kathy Peterson, Nick Sovacool Nick Sovacool Nick Sovacool Sawyer Solber
27	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Rosemary Johnson, Nick Sovacool Rosemary Johnson Rosemary Johnson Blake Nyhagen, Nolan Kammerud Addison Hulle

Worship Service Livestream

Worship services are livestreamed on YouTube each Sunday at 9:00am. You can access this livestream at YouTube.com. The service is posted to the church's Facebook page following the service. You do not need to subscribe to the church's YouTube channel to watch but if you do, you will receive notifications when a new video is posted. To watch a worship service live, visit <https://www.youtube.com/@hopelutheranchurchladysmit4042/streams>.



Deadlines...

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the November newsletter are due in the church office by Tuesday, October 15.

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 your mailing address, email 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 at hlcladysmith@gmail.com.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	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