

Tidings of Hope

July/August 2024



Vacation Bible School
July 22-24

Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration

July/August 2024

“Pastor, Teach Me How to Pray”

By Pastor Christopher Martin

When I graduated from high school in 1995, as my classmates and I from my home congregation in Garner, Iowa were standing in front of the altar to receive a blessing from our Pastors, each one of us were given a gift from the congregation. We were not given a quilt, a water bottle, or something like that (although I would have LOVED receiving a gift like that!) Instead, Pastors Lamb and Kieschnick gave to each one of us a little book called the “Lutheran Book of Prayer.” In explaining why we were being given this book, our pastors explained they wanted to give us a resource to use when we found ourselves in a moment where we needed to pray but had a hard time putting into words how to pray or what exactly to pray for. Almost 30 years later, I still have that book, and sometimes still even make use of it!

Perhaps you're someone who struggles with prayer. You don't know how to get started, or what exactly to pray for. While I was away last month for a Continuing Education class, one of the topics we covered was prayer, and in that, I was reminded by our instructor of Martin Luther's “A Simply Way to Pray” pattern. As we continue into the summer months, I'd like to share that with you, God's people of Hope Lutheran Church, as a resource for you to use to start as you study and pray God's Word and the Catechism (in particular, the Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed, and the Lord's Prayer).

Luther's simple method for prayer consists of four parts: **Instruction, Thanksgiving, Confession, and Prayer** (I.T.C.P.). This method serves to anchor our prayer in the Scriptures, or the truth of the Scriptures summarized in the Catechism, while at the

(Pastor's Column, cont.)

same time it allows for the Holy Spirit to prompt thoughts through the texts of Scripture and the Catechism, which may be pursued more freely by our minds at prayer. Praying in this way requires a time of solitude and intentionality.

Some find it helpful to begin by using the Lord's Prayer, and ask for God to give you a heart and mind that is ready to receive what the Holy Spirit is going to share with you through God's Word. Next, read your Scripture reading for the day (whether it's from a daily devotional, the readings on the "Devoted to Prayer" schedule that's included with this newsletter, one of the lectionary readings from the previous Sunday, or some other resource you might use to guide your Scripture reading). As you read, don't rush through this! Do it slowly. Take note of the following items:

- What words are beginning to jump out at you? What words trouble you? Encourage you? Disturb you? Comfort you?
- What is this reading teaching me?
- What do I have to be thankful for in this reading?
- What do I need to confess?

Now, pray! Use the answers to these questions to help you form your prayer. Perhaps as you answer them, you find yourself praying short prayers after each question based on insight you've been given each time.

This I.T.C.P. method of prayer is a method you can use to pray with your family at home, with a group of fellow believers in a Bible study or other setting at church or elsewhere, or simply, to guide your daily devotional and prayer life. It isn't easy to incorporate at first, but after a while, the method can become second nature and it can be a tremendous blessing for your Scripture reading and daily prayers.

As always, I stand ready to help you get started in any way that I can. Don't ever hesitate to reach out if you have questions or want help getting started. May God richly bless you with a heart that seeks after His Word, that leads you to worship every Sunday, and to dive into the Scriptures each day.



The next GriefShare grief support cycle will begin on Wednesday, September 4. 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 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 workbook 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 workbook topics, a 30-40 minute DVD presentation by experts in the field of grief, and 25-30 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. Bonnie will take down your contact information and a GriefShare leader will call you back. You can also register online at griefshare.org, just click on "Find a group" and enter the 54848 zip code.

Education & Fellowship Opportunities

Book Discussion: The book discussion group will meet on Sundays, July 21 and August 18 at 10:30am in the Fireside Room. The book for July is Cottage by the Sea by Robin Jones Gunn. Please watch the Sunday bulletins for August's book title.

Sunday Morning Study: A study on the book of Romans will meet in the Fireside Room on Sundays, July 7, 14 & 28 and August 4, 11 & 25 at 10:30am.



Hope Lutheran Church Women

Monthly Meetings: The HLCW will hold their monthly meetings on Thursdays, July 18 and August 15 at 9:30am. Hostesses for July are Lisa Borman and Jean Raymond. Hostesses for August are Jackie Buchholz and Dee Peterson. All women of Hope are welcome.

Quilting: The quilting group will meet on Tuesdays, July 30 and August 27 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).

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 on the first and third Mondays of each month (July 1 & 15 and August 5 & 19) 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.

MANNA Meal

(Meals Available for the Nutritional Needs of All)

The July MANNA Meal will be held on Thursday, July 25 with serving from 5:00-6:00pm and is sponsored by St. Francis on the Flambeau. The August MANNA Meal will be held on Thursday, August 29 and is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. MANNA Meals are free meals providing food and fellowship to those in need of either.

Path Forward Recommendations

At its May and June meetings, your Church Council considered and approved the two recommendations of the Path Forward Committee. The first of those was the development of a Vision Statement, which you will find elsewhere in this newsletter and will now be printed alongside of our Mission Statement in all of our publications moving forward. This Vision Statement will help to serve as a guide for our present and future ministry plans at Hope Lutheran Church.

The second of these recommendations was that the Council form a separate committee to develop and propose a leaner governing structure for Hope Lutheran Church that will more closely align with our congregation's current size and ministry needs. The Council made the decision to assign this task to our Executive Committee (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Pastor.)

The Executive Committee held its first meeting to work on this task on Thursday, June 20 and did some important groundwork and have a good start on this process. They will be meeting again in July. Please keep this process in your prayers!

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 the worship services live, visit <https://www.youtube.com/@hopelutheranchurchladysmit4042/streams>.

Thank You!

Thank you for the gift of a water bottle, quilt, and Bible. Being a part of this church community has been a huge blessing.

*With love,
Camryn Closs*

Youth News

Donuts & Devotions: All youth entering grades 6-12 and recent high school graduates are invited to attend the next Donuts & Devotions on Sunday, August 4 immediately following the 9:00am worship service. Friends are always welcome.

Fundraisers: Youth Ministry will be holding a root beer float fundraiser on Sunday, July 28 and a build-your-own sundae bar on Sunday, August 18 during the fellowship time. Funds raised at these events will be used to purchase supplies for NALC Disaster Response health kits, which youth will assemble in the fall.

If you have questions about Youth Ministry, please contact Julie Kammerud, Chris Kammerud, or Carla Closs.

Caring for Our Members

Caring for the spiritual and emotional needs of our members is an important part of the ministry of the church but we can't help with these needs if we don't know about them. If you or a member of your family is in need of such care (hospital visit, meeting with the pastor, visits to homebound members, etc.) please contact the church office or the pastor directly (hlcladysmith@gmail.com, pastocwmartin@gmail.com, 715-532-7739).

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 COUNCIL & COMMITTEE ACTION

Path Forward Recommendations: Council voted to adopt the Vision Statement prepared by the Path Forward Committee. The purpose of this statement is to help guide our ministry and programming moving forward. The statement reads: “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.”

Congregational Care & Outreach: The next cycle of GriefShare is scheduled to begin on September 4. Next meeting: August 6 at 3:30pm.

Parish Education: Working on VBS. Sunday morning study on the book of Romans continues. Rally Day is September 15. Next meeting: July 8 at 1:30pm.

Property: Had four people participate in the spring cleaning. Ruts in the grass were filled and a rock retention area was built on the south side to deal with downspout runoff. Next meetings: July 9 and August 13 at 6:00pm.

Service & Fellowship: Working on Fun on the Flambeau for the end of July. Next meeting: TBA.

Social Ministries: Did not meet. Next meeting: TBA.

Stewardship & Finance: Did not meet. Next meeting: TBA.

Worship & Music: Committee voted to have just one worship service on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm due to low attendance at the 9:00pm service. Working with Parish Education to plan Rally Day. Hymn-sings will be held one Sunday a month from June-September prior to the 9:00am worship service. Next meeting: July 2 at 6:00pm.

Youth Ministry: No report. Next meeting: TBA.

Next Council Meetings: July 16 and August 20 at 6:30pm.



Vacation Bible School
Monday, July 22 thru Wednesday, July 24
5:00-7:30pm

The theme for this year's Vacation Bible School is "Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God" (based on Psalm 56:3). Vacation Bible School is for children who have recently completed PK thru 5th grade.

A light supper will be served each evening. We'll have Bible lessons, music, and crafts. All children are welcome!

Registration forms can be found on the church's website (hlcladysmith.org), in the church office, or on the Parish Education bulletin board.



Deadlines...

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

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

Hope Lutheran Church
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Church Phone: 715-532-7739

E-Mail Address: hlcladysmith@gmail.com

Website: hlcladysmith.org



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| 7/7 | Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte | Charlie & Chris Holtebeck Aileen Tauchen Rosemary Johnson Blake Nyhagen |
| 7/14 | Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte | Irene Titera, Rosemary Johnson Irene Titera Irene Titera Tanner Davis |
| 7/21 | Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte | Nick Sovacool, Aileen Tauchen Nick Sovacool Dave Borman Violet Craker |
| 7/28 | Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte | Gordie & Bev Dukerschein Dukerschein Dukerschein Izzy Solberg |
| 8/4 | Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte | Charlie & Chris Holtebeck Rosemary Johnson Rosemary Johnson Nolan Kammerud |
| 8/11 | Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte | Nick Sovacool, Irene Titera Irene Titera Irene Titera Izzy Solberg |
| 8/18 | Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte | Aileen Tauchen, Rosemary Johnson Aileen Tauchen Rosemary Johnson Sophia Kammerud |
| 8/25 | Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte | Bev Dukerschein, Irene Titera Irene Titera Bev Dukerschein Izzy Solberg |