

# Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration



Hope Lutheran Church  
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

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September 2023

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## When Should I Call for the Pastor to Visit?

By Pastor Martin

For lifelong church members, this might seem to be an odd question to ask. However, in part due to changing attitudes regarding our Christian faith in our culture, and also in part due to patterns that have emerged over the last three years, in part, due to COVID protocols, now is a good time to discuss the topic of our Visitation Ministry at Hope Lutheran Church and specifically, to address the question: When should you call the Pastor and when might a trained lay visitor be of assistance?

For many years, our dual parish of Hope and Glen Flora was blessed to have the services of a 2/3-time pastor whose primary area of ministry in our parish was devoted to pastoral visitation, which freed our Senior Pastor to focus on other ministry needs of our parish. During our extended vacancy from 2018-2020, we discovered that some of our visitation ministry can be conducted very effectively by trained lay members of our congregation, and this continues to be a fruitful ministry of our Congregational Care & Outreach Committee, in particular, as we no longer have a Visitation Pastor on staff and it appears unlikely our parish will be in a position to have another Visitation Pastor to assist me with this area of ministry for the foreseeable future.

While our lay visitation team does an outstanding job and conducts an important ministry on behalf of Hope Lutheran Church, there are still several moments in the life of the Christian where it is beneficial and perhaps even preferable, to have the Pastor visit. **However, I cannot visit if I'm not informed of your needs. Remember, pastors are here for you! Please don't ever worry that your pastor is too busy or that you are bothering him. You, God's people of Hope and Glen Flora, are the reason I am here.**

What follows is a list of moments when it is appropriate to call and set up a visit with the Pastor and what to expect in each situation:

**I'm New Here:** If you are new to Hope, and are interested in getting more information, or just want to talk about what we believe as a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), or the ministries of the NALC, feel free to email me (pastorcwmartin@gmail.com) or call the Church Office (715-532-7739) and we will be happy to set up a time to talk!

**I Have a Question About Faith or Life:** Your pastor LOVES talking about matters of the Christian faith and life! That's what we pastors know best! I can come to you at your home, talk with you on the phone, or you are always welcome in my office. Feel free to email me (pastorcwmartin@gmail.com) or call the Church Office (715-532-7739) and I will be happy to set up a time to talk with you.

**I Am Discerning a Call to Vocational Ministry:** The Holy Spirit is sometimes at work in our lives to call us to give prayerful consideration to devoting ourselves to vocational ministry, either in ordained ministry as a pastor, or in Diaconal Ministry of Word and Service. If you've had thoughts about vocational ministry in the North American Lutheran Church, or if someone has spoken to you about that possibility, I would love to have a conversation with you, and to help you and pray with you as you navigate this discernment process, wherever it might lead. To set up a time to visit and begin your discernment process, email me (pastorcwmartin@gmail.com) or call the Church Office (715-532-7739).

**I (Or a Loved One) Am In the Hospital:** One of the most rewarding parts of a pastor's ministry is bringing God's Word of comfort to people in moments of need. If you or someone you love is in the hospital (it doesn't matter where or how far away), please call the Church Office (715-532-7739) or if it is an emergency, after office hours, or on weekends, call or text my cell (715-415-7637) and I will visit with you or your loved one. A typical hospital call will involve conversation about how you are doing and conclude with Scripture reading and prayer. Holy Communion can also be a part of your visit. In the event your hospitalization or that of your loved one is an extended distance from Ladysmith (most often to places such as: Eau Claire, Marshfield, Rochester, the Twin Cities, Madison, or other places), my first priority in these circumstances is to make

every reasonable effort to come and visit you or your loved one myself at least once during your or your loved one's hospitalization. If it is not possible for me to make the trip to visit you myself, I will contact the nearest NALC or LCMC Pastor to where you are hospitalized and make arrangements for you to receive a visit from them, or I will contact the Pastoral Care Department where you are hospitalized and request a chaplain visit in my stead.

**I Will Be Having Surgery or Some Other Medical Procedure:** If you wish to have the pastor made aware of an upcoming medical procedure, and would like for me to visit, please send me an email (pastorcwmartin@gmail.com) or call the Church Office (715-532-7739) and let me know when your procedure is, where it will be, and how long you think you will be in the hospital or a rehab center (and which rehab center you will be going to). I will mark these dates on my calendar so that I may be in prayer for you the day of your procedure, and schedule time to visit you if you will be staying in the hospital.

***\*A Reminder about Hospitalizations or Long-Term Care:*** *Due to HIPPA laws, hospitals, assisted living, long term care facilities, rehab centers, and other such medical facilities are not permitted to disclose patient information. This means that I DO NOT get calls or text messages from these places informing me or the church office of your admission, if you are discharged, or where you are discharged to. The only way we at the church are made aware of admissions and discharges is by the patient, or family members, contacting us to inform us of your comings and goings. If you desire a visit during these times, please be certain to contact me! I cannot visit you if I don't know where you are or what's going on!*

**I Am No Longer Able to Get Out and About Anymore:** One of the most difficult moments of a church member's life is when you are not able to physically come to church because of limited mobility or other medical issues and are either at home, or in a local care facility. Sometimes this is temporary, other times it becomes permanent. While many of these visits in particular are made by members of our trained lay visitation team, our Pastor is also available to visit with people in this situation as well. Should you find yourself in a time where you are not able to get out and about and are physically unable to attend worship at Hope, please call the Church Office at (715-532-7739) or send me an email

(pastorcwmartin@gmail.com) and we will add you to our list of homebound members who will receive regular visits either from the pastor or a member of our lay visitation team. If your preference is for the pastor to be the one to visit you, please indicate this when you contact the church. Please also note if you should become a resident at Ladysmith Care & Rehab, either temporarily or permanently, I conduct Wednesday afternoon chapel services with Holy Communion there 4-6 times each year, and when I am able, I stay afterward for conversation with members of our congregation.

**Someone I Love Has Died:** The death of a loved one can be one of the most difficult experiences we ever go through in our lives. Your pastor is available to bring God's comfort, peace, and hope to you in the midst of this difficult time in your life. Death does not come at a convenient time, so I am always ready at any time to help you. During the day, call the Church Office at (715-532-7739) or in the evenings or weekends, call or text me at (715-415-7637) and I can come to be with you.

If your loved one was a member of Hope Lutheran Church, and the funeral will be at the church, or you will be expecting me to officiate the service at another location such as the funeral home or simply a graveside committal service at the cemetery, please contact me as soon as possible to help with preparations for the funeral service. I work closely with the staff at Nash-Jackan Funeral Home and am usually present at your family's meeting with the funeral director to help prepare the service, or if I am not able to attend that meeting, I will make arrangements to meet with you shortly afterward to do so.

**When My Office Door is Open:** As many of you know, for my entire ministry in every call I have served, I have employed an "Open Door Policy" when I am in the office to indicate when I am available for unannounced visitors. If you come to the church and my office door is open, please feel free to come in and visit with me at any time! If I am in the middle of a conversation or appointment with someone else or am not available for drop in visitors for another reason, my office door will be closed. In these instances when my office door is closed, if you need something, either leave a message with Bonnie or if she is not in, leave a note in my mailbox and I will get back to you when I am able.

I hope that this short guide is helpful for our members and others. Please know that I always stand ready to assist you in your life of discipleship every step of the way and look forward to knowing how I can do so for you personally. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your pastor!



## **Rally Day Celebration**

We will be kicking off our fall programming with our Rally Day Celebration on Sunday, September 10. Following the worship service there will be a potluck brunch and games for children of all ages. Dining areas will be set up both inside and outside. Please bring a dish to pass and outdoor chairs if you have them.

As we resume our normal schedule of activities, you are encouraged to invite your unchurched friends and neighbors to join us for worship, Sunday School and other events.

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 17 from 10:15-11:00am. Sunday School is for children 3-years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. A registration form can be found on the church's website ([hlcladysmith.org](http://hlcladysmith.org)). Please contact Heidi Jo Sovacool if you have questions.

## **Wednesday School**

Wednesday School will begin on Wednesday, September 20 and will run from 3:30-4:45pm. This is for students in PK-6<sup>th</sup> grades. Elementary students can ride Bus 9 from LES to the church but will need a bus pass signed by a parent or guardian. Please contact Laurie Lemke if your 6<sup>th</sup> grader will need transportation. Please watch for registration forms and more information coming soon.



## Hope Lutheran Church Women



**Monthly Meeting:** The HLCW will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, September 21 at 9:30am. All women of Hope are welcome.

**Quilting:** The quilting group will meet in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, September 26 beginning at 9:00am. 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).

### Confirmation

Confirmation is an educational ministry of Hope Lutheran Church, designed to help students understand and affirm the Christian faith, and participate more fully in the life and mission of the church. Instruction begins in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and concludes in the fall of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. Confirmation orientation will be held on Wednesday, September 6. The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders will meet at 6:30pm and the 9<sup>th</sup> graders at 7:30pm.

Regular Confirmation classes will begin on September 13. Please contact Pastor Martin if you have questions about the Confirmation program.

### Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities

**Bible Study:** The Book of Revelations Bible Study will meet on Sunday, September 3 at 10:30am. The Armor of God Bible Study will be on Fridays, September 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 2pm.

**Book Discussion:** The Book Discussion Group will meet on Sunday, September 17 at 10:30am to discuss All That I Dread by Linda J. White.

**Meal of the Month:** The Meal of the Month for September will be held at Memorial Park on Tuesday, September 12 at Noon. Bring your own favorite take-out or sack lunch.

## **GriefShare**

The third series of Hope Lutheran's GriefShare support group will begin on September 13, 2023, in the dining hall. The group has been a positive experience for both the participants and leaders. 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 online or during the next cycle.

Each participant receives a workbook containing weekly activities. The 90-minute session consists of a 15-20 minute discussion of the workbook exercises, a 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 office at 715-532-7739 and leave your contact information. A GriefShare leader will call back. You can also register online at [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org), just click on "Find a group" and enter the 54848 zip code.

As we begin our third series of meetings, please keep the facilitators and participants in your prayers as they walk together through the grief journey towards healing.

## **CareNet Walk for Life**

The CareNet Pregnancy Resource Center will hold their annual "Walk for Life" fundraiser on Saturday, September 16 at Memorial Park. Registration is at 8:30am with the walk beginning at 9:00am. The theme for this year's Walk is "Life Is an Adventure." If you would like to be a part of the Hope Lutheran walk team or would like to sponsor one of our walkers, please contact Rosemary Johnson or Kathy Peterson.

## **Sunday Fellowship**

Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments for our Sunday morning fellowship time, as well as for serving and clean-up. If you can help, there is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the kitchen. Please contact Heidi Zielke if you have questions.



# MUSIC NOTES

The Choirchimes of Hope will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 13 at 5:30pm. This group is for adults and youth 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older. There are no prerequisites to play other than a love of worshipping our Lord through music. If you have questions, please contact Heidi Jo Sovacool.

## **Operation Christmas Child**

We will once again be preparing “shoeboxes” for Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child. Now is a good time to pick up and donate school supplies to include in the boxes. (Please remember all items need to fit into a shoebox.) Our boxes won’t be sent out until November but the collection of items is ongoing. Donations can be placed in the basket in the narthex.

## **Soffit Repair Project**

Repairs to the soffit on the church are scheduled to begin in September. The estimate for this project is \$12,000. At the annual meeting, the congregation voted to use \$6,000 from the Wuerth Fund towards this project with the remaining balance coming from specified contributions. To date we have received approximately \$3,500 of that funding. The Stewardship & Finance Committee asks that your prayerfully consider a donation towards these much-needed repairs to the church building. Donations can be placed in the offering box or sent to the church office (clearly marked “soffit project”).

## ***Thank You!***

*Hope Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you so much for the quilt, Bible, and water bottle. The quilt will keep me warm at UW-Madison this fall. I will be studying communication science and disorders to become a speech pathologist! When college gets hard I will be thankful for the Bible to rely on my faith.*

*Love, Sydney Schott*

## **Backpack Food Program**

The Hope & Friends Backpack Food Program is beginning its ninth in the Ladysmith Elementary and Middle schools, providing nutritious foods to children on the weekends when school meals are not available. We are also making the program available to high school students through Power House Youth Center.

The program receives assistance and funding from a number of local churches, civic organizations, businesses, and individuals. Fundraising for the 2023-24 school year has begun. Donations can be placed in the offering box or dropped off in the church office. Checks should be made payable to the Hope & Friends Backpack Food Program.

## **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. The Pantry will be closed on Monday, September 4.

Volunteers are also needed on Tuesday, September 5 and Monday, September 18 to help unload the Feed My People delivery and to stock shelves. If you can help out, please be to the church by 9:15am.

Donations of non-perishable food items can be brought to the church during office hours or on Sunday mornings. Monetary donations can be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate (clearly marked "Food Pantry").

## **MANNA Meal**

(Meals Available for the Nutritional Needs of All)

The September MANNA Meal will be held at Hope Lutheran Church on Thursday, September 28 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 is sponsored by the Congregational United Church of Christ.

# Youth Ministry

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Youth Ministry Flood Bucket project! Thanks to your generosity, youth were able to assemble 54 flood buckets that will be taken to the regional NALC Disaster Response warehouse.

Youth are asked to mark their calendars for these upcoming events:

**September Donuts & Devotions and Disc Golf:** Youth will meet for Donuts & Devotions following the worship service on Sunday, September 17 and then we will head over to Dodson Disc Golf Course to play a round of Disc Golf.

**October Donuts & Devotions and OCC Shop-a-Thon:** On Sunday, October 15 youth will meet for Donuts & Devotions following the worship service and then it's time for an Operation Christmas Child Shop-a-Thon at Wal-Mart and Dollar General in Ladysmith to purchase items for the OCC shoeboxes.

**November Donuts & Devotions:** Youth will meet for Donuts & Devotions on Sunday, November 5 following the worship service

**November Pizza Party and OCC Assembly:** On Sunday, November 5 at 5:00pm youth will meet in the fellowship hall to assemble Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and enjoy some pizza!

**December Donuts & Devotions:** Youth will meet for Donuts & Devotions following the worship service on Sunday, December 3.

Please check the bulletin board for updates and sign-ups, and as always, friends are welcome at any of these events!

## Addresses Wanted

We like to keep in touch with the young adults of our congregation who are attending college/technical school. This includes sending a surprise treat or two during the school year. Please submit college addresses to the church office (hlcladysmith@gmail.com or 715-532-7739).

## SUMMARY OF CHURCH COMMITTEE ACTION AUGUST 2023

**Congregational Care & Outreach:** The Farmers Market booth has raised over \$1,200 so far. A Thrivent grant was received to cover the cost of baking supplies. Poster and pamphlets for GriefShare have been distributed in the community. Next meeting: September 13 at 3:00pm.

**Parish Education:** There were 18 children in attendance at VBS. Rally Day is September 10. Wednesday School will begin in the fall. Next meeting: TBA.

**Property:** Soffit repair will begin in September. Donations are needed to cover the expense. Looking at lifespan of the boiler and solutions to water leaks in the education wing. Next meeting: September 12 at 6:00pm.

**Service & Fellowship:** Looking into the feasibility of a Free Medical Clinic for Ladysmith. Eight volunteers handed out 800 bottles of water and 300 freeze pops at the Mardi Gras parade. Next meeting: TBA.

**Social Ministries:** Benevolence and Missions funds were designated for Youth Ministry Flood Bucket project and NALC Disaster Relief (\$308.54 each). Next meeting: September 12 at 4:00pm.

**Stewardship & Finance:** Committee will work with the Property Committee to develop a plan to raise funds for a new boiler system, if needed. Next meeting: September 12 at 5:30pm.

**Worship & Music:** Committee is working with Parish Education Committee on Rally Day celebration. No news regarding video system upgrades. Next meeting: September 12 at 6:00pm.

**Youth Ministry:** Flood bucket project has received good support. Upcoming events include disc golf in September, shopping for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) in October, filling OCC boxes in November, and a pizza party in December. Next meeting: September 13 at 4:00pm.

**Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30pm.



## **Deadlines...**

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the October newsletter are due no later than Tuesday, September 19. 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 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



# SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

3	Ushers	Dave Borman
	Lector	Jana Nyhagen
	Comm. Asst.	Bradon Martin
10	Ushers	Kathy Ducommun, Irene Titera
	Lector	Irene Titera
	Comm. Asst.	Bradon Martin
17	Ushers	Aileen Tauchen, Kathy Peterson
	Lector	Ailleen Tauchen
	Comm. Asst.	Irene Titera
24	Ushers	Jerry & Pat McEathron
	Lector	Bonnie Billings
	Comm. Asst.	Chris Holtebeck



2	Bob & Karen Langland	21	Vicki & Earl Monnier
4	Gene & Barb Oldham	22	Joel & Cassie Solsrud
5	Bob & Louise Boller	25	Nate & Tammy Peggar
9	Brian & Veronica Curik	26	John & Gayleen Duzy
	Tiffany & Kyle Johnson	27	Lindsay & Jeff Schmidt
12	Jason & Cami Peggar	28	Jerry & Marilyn Kulibert
13	Don & Nancy Bartig	30	Nancy & Brian Burmeister
14	Jack & Jackie Pederson		
15	Brian & Laura Johnson		



# September

## BIRTHDAYS

- |           |                     |           |                     |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | Jim Doke            | <b>15</b> | Megan Kimber        |
| <b>2</b>  | Michelle LaBlonde   |           | Joe Smith           |
|           | Brody Kesan         |           | Leo Yugas           |
| <b>3</b>  | Jim Cooley          | <b>16</b> | Jeanne Hess         |
|           | Cash LaBrie         |           | Jay Meuli           |
|           | Alex Rausch         |           | Susan Warren        |
|           | Sue Segebrecht      | <b>17</b> | Sean Lacey          |
|           | Julie Vollendorf    | <b>18</b> | Joachim Eitenmiller |
| <b>4</b>  | Josh Hills          |           | Gary Purgett        |
| <b>5</b>  | Mark Bentley, Sr.   |           | Anna Ringstad       |
|           | Hazel LaBlonde      | <b>19</b> | Nick Goffin         |
| <b>6</b>  | Ryan Anderson       |           | Megan Anger         |
|           | Nick Kirkey         |           | Damien Tuttle       |
|           | Deborah Lentsch     | <b>20</b> | Emma Konichek       |
| <b>7</b>  | Christopher Dauer   |           | Nicholas Wiemer     |
|           | Brian Hon           | <b>22</b> | Tori Busse          |
|           | Dan Petrus          |           | Pat Morgan          |
|           | Jackson Summerfield | <b>23</b> | Barbara Stanton     |
| <b>8</b>  | Michael Bentley     | <b>24</b> | Terry Miller        |
|           | Tyler Krisik        | <b>25</b> | Jim Stanton         |
|           | Stephanie Morgan    | <b>26</b> | Yvonne Dedrickson   |
| <b>9</b>  | Barry Canfield      | <b>27</b> | Tami Moore          |
|           | Bradon Martin       |           | Ione Reder          |
| <b>11</b> | Ruben Allen         | <b>28</b> | Bob Grunseth        |
|           | Timothy Brooks      |           | Jon Nelson          |
|           | Tammy Peggarr       | <b>30</b> | Delores Thorpe      |
|           | Tom Segebrecht      |           |                     |
| <b>12</b> | Doug Moore, Jr.     |           |                     |
| <b>13</b> | George Calkins      |           |                     |
| <b>14</b> | Ellie Amick         |           |                     |
|           | Jill Berg           |           |                     |
|           | Andrea Hraban       |           |                     |
|           | Jarod Johnson       |           |                     |
|           | Christian Polak     |           |                     |