

Tidings of Hope July/August 2023



Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration
July/August 2023

A Path Forward Focused on Discipleship

By Pastor Christopher Martin

Last month, I used this space in the newsletter to address you, God's people of Hope Lutheran Church, regarding the present and future direction of Hope Lutheran Church. In the past month, since that newsletter went out, I have noticed several of you, if you had not already done so, have taken copies of "Autopsy of a Deceased Church" and read it on your own. If you have, I wish to thank you for taking the time to read this short volume, and give prayerful consideration to what you learned there. I also wish to encourage those of you who haven't had the opportunity to read it yet to do so in the near future.

The most common reaction that I've heard with regards to the book is simply: "Yes, I see a lot of Hope Lutheran Church in this." I believe that reading this book has opened the door for us to have the freedom to have further conversation about this particular question: Now what? We've taken this first step forward in evaluating our present circumstances, and I would like to think that most of us realize this congregation has some hard work ahead of us, and most likely, change is in store. But where do we start from to bring this about?

At our June Council meeting, we decided on a path forward. To allow our Council members to continue to focus for the time being on the current business of the church, we will be appointing a Special Committee that will consist of nine (9) members of Hope Lutheran Church, along with myself as your Pastor, and Nick Sovacool as Council President, who will be given the task to discuss, and come up with proposals for, some ideas or changes that we can make to put Hope Lutheran Church on a path to a healthier and hopeful future. I have several tools that we will be

using in the early stages of this process that will help us dig into Scripture, evaluate our current congregational circumstances, and help set the stage to dream for the future, and what we can do to make Hope a healthy, vibrant ministry for our present day and for years to come.

This is where you all come into play. Nick and I are looking for volunteers from our congregation that are willing to be a part of this Committee. We are hopeful that we can have a good cross-section of members of all ages, both those who have been long time members, as well as newer members of Hope be a part of this Committee. You do not need to currently be, or have in the past, been a member of the Council, or a member of an existing Committee, to serve on this particular Committee. You simply need to be a confirmed member of Hope Lutheran Church. You will serve for however long it takes to have adequately given the time necessary for this task and will end once recommendations have been adopted by the Council. At this time, I cannot estimate how long of a time commitment this will be, as while we don't want this to drag on indefinitely, we also must be careful we don't rush this process and are thorough in our evaluation and planning for the future.

If you are interested in serving on this Committee, please contact either myself, or Nick before Friday, July 14. We will then bring the names of those interested to the Council at its July meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, July 18. In the event we have more than nine individuals who show interest in serving on this committee, we will have nine members actively serve, with others serving as alternates. Once the Committee is in place by the Council, we will convene our first meeting as soon as feasibly possible. I ask that you please keep this process saturated in prayer, and give prayerful consideration to if God is calling you to serve this congregation in this manner. We will be keeping you informed on our progress as we look forward.

On the day that I write this, it is 120 years to the day when a group of Norwegian immigrants met with Pastor J.E. Nord of Rice Lake, and formed the Scandinavian Lutheran Church of Ladysmith, which is today, Hope Lutheran Church. Much has changed in those 120 years. We've gone from worship in Norwegian to English. We've built two church buildings. Multiple pastors have served us for

varying lengths of time, each bringing their own unique spiritual gifts to the ministry of this church. Programs have started and come to a conclusion. We've witnessed countless baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals in our midst. Members have come and gone. But one thing hasn't changed. The Great Commission has never changed since our Lord Jesus first gave it to the church:

**“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:19-20)**

Whatever path we choose for this church, it must begin, continue, and end in Discipleship! Being Disciples of Jesus Christ, who go out into this community and make more Disciples of Jesus, one life at a time. I pray that as we look to the future, may we never change our focus away from the path of Discipleship.

I look forward to seeing you in worship with us!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our 2023 Vacation Bible School will be a one-day event on Wednesday, July 19 from 9:00am-3:00pm. Drop-off will begin at 8:30am. VBS is for children entering PK-5th grades. Everyone is welcome!

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



Worship Around The Campfire



We'll be worshipping around the campfire on Wednesdays, July 26 and August 23 at 6:30pm. The Worship & Music Committee will provide hot dogs, buns, chips, s'mores, and water. Attendees are asked to bring lawn chairs. Everyone is welcome!

Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities

Book Discussion: The book discussion group will meet on Sunday, July 16 at 10:30am to discuss Angels Walking by Karen Kingsbury and on Sunday, August 20 at 10:30am (book TBA).

Meal of the Month: The July Meal of the Month will take place on Thursday, July 13 at 4:00pm at the Heart of the North Brewing & Pizza. The August Meal of the Month will take place on Thursday, August 17 at 5:00pm at J&S Supper Club.

Bible Study: The study on the book of Revelation continues on Sundays, July 9 and August 6 at 10:30am in the Fireside Room.

Farmers Market

Hope Lutheran will have a presence at the Farmers Market on Saturday mornings through October 7. We are in need of volunteers to set-up and/or greet customers from 7:45am-12:30pm. We are also in need of baked goods, craft items, etc to sell at the booth. If you can help, please contact Karen Langland (715-595-4224) or Aileen (715-532-7116).

Congregational Care

Please inform the Congregational Care & Outreach Committee if you know of congregational members who are ill, hospitalized, have lost a loved one, or would like home visitation and communion.



Hope Lutheran Church Women



Potluck Salad Luncheon: The HLCW will hold their annual Potluck Salad Luncheon on Thursday, July 20 at 12:00noon. This will be a joint event with the Glen Flora Lutheran Church Women. Please bring a dish to pass. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend.

August Meeting: Thursday, August 17 at 9:30am. Hostesses are Sherry Hemm and Lois MacArthur.

Quilting: The quilting group will meet on Tuesdays, July 25 and August 22 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).

Scrip Program

Scrip cards are sold following worship most Sundays. Through the scrip program you receive the full value of the cards and a percentage of every card sold is returned to the church as a charitable contribution. Proceeds from the Scrip program go towards building and maintenance needs. Please stop by the table in the multi-purpose room following worship to purchase scrip or for more information.

MANNA Meals

Meals Available for the Nutritional Needs of All

The July MANNA Meal will be held on Thursday, July 27 and will be sponsored by the Rusk County 4-H. The August MANNA Meal will be held on Thursday, August 31 and will be sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Serving will take place from 5:00-6:00pm.

The MANNA Meal is a free meal providing both food and fellowship to those in need.

Youth Events

Root Beer Float Fundraiser: Youth Ministry will be holding a Root Beer Float fundraiser on Sunday, July 16 following the worship service. A free-will donation will be received with the money raised being used to purchase items for Flood Buckets for the NALC Disaster Response.

Donuts & Devotions: Youth grades 6-12 will meet for Donuts & Devotions in the upstairs youth room on Sunday, August 20 following the 9:00am worship service.

Flood Bucket Packing Party: Youth in grades 6-12 will be packing Flood Buckets for the NALC Disaster Response on Sunday, August 20. Youth are invited to come for Donuts & Devotions prior to the packing event. Please watch upcoming Sunday bulletins and the Youth Ministry bulletin board for more information as we get closer to the date.

Donations Needed

Youth will be purchasing and packing items for NALC Disaster Response flood buckets. If you would like to help with this project, donations can be dropped off at the church before August 13. Monetary donations will also be accepted so Youth Ministry can purchase items. The following items are needed for each bucket:

- 5 gallon bucket with lid
- 1 jug bleach
- 2 large trash bags
- 1 roll paper towels
- 1 container Comet or scouring cleanser
- 1 bottle Pine Sol or liquid cleaner
- 1 Scrub brush
- 1 pair reusable rubber gloves, size L (Platex gloves or similar)
- 1 pair leather work gloves, size L
- 1 pair cotton gloves, size L

Please contact Julie Kammerud (juliekammerud@gmail.com or 612-481-9484) with questions.

Hope & Friends Backpack Food Program

During the 2022-23 school year, 86 children received food packs for the weekend, when school breakfast and lunches were unavailable. Each pack contains cereal, two entrees, a fruit, a vegetable, a soup and some snacks.

It takes many hands to make this program possible. We are thankful for the students at Ladysmith High School who assist with packing and the volunteers who distribute food packs, order and receive supplies, and keep track of inventory and finances. Despite rising costs, donations have kept pace and we are so thankful to all who donate. Funding was received from the Endowment Fund, our Social Ministries Committee, area churches, civic organizations, and many individuals.

The Backpack Food Program is gearing up for its ninth year of serving the children of the Ladysmith Elementary and Middle Schools. As we prepare for the 2023-24 school year, please pray for the program, its volunteers, and for the children and families who experience food insecurity.

Operation Christmas Child

In the 29 years that Samaritan's Purse has been running Operation Christmas Child, 200,000,000 gift boxes have been sent to children around the world. The 200,000,000th box was presented to a young girl in Ukraine this year! Included with those gift boxes is the story of Jesus Christ—a name that many children of the world have never heard before. Samaritan's Purse provides a 12 lesson Bible study to introduce children to Jesus.

Hope Lutheran Church has supported this program for about eight years, packing and sending hundreds of boxes to many countries. We have tracked some of our boxes to Namibia, Columbia, Malawi and Chile. We invite donations of materials to be placed in the shoe boxes, things like small dolls, small cars/trucks, socks, bars of soap, toothbrushes, school supplies, etc or monetary donations to purchase items and offset shipping costs. We will be having a box in the narthex later this year to collect donations. You can also take a box or boxes to pack yourself. If you have questions, please contact Don Bartig (715-415-3265).

Thank You!

Thank you to all the loving hands that made my quilt--it is beautiful! Thank you also, for the Bible and cards given to me as I head to college in the fall. They will all remind me of growing up at Hope and the support of the congregation.

Madeline Bunton

Thank you so very much for all your well-wishes and for the gift of the beautiful quilt. I absolutely love it and I will be taking it to college! Also, thank you for such a wonderful service in honor of us graduates. We really appreciate it!

Elle Nisbit

Thank you for the Easter card and encouragement. Your support through high school and college has blessed me in so many ways. Thank you for everything you do for me and the community.

Sincerely, Hans Schultz

Thank you so much for acknowledging our special milestone during the worship service. The gifts you gave were an added bonus and I love my quilt, water bottle, and Bible. These items will be a reminder of this special day and will help me continue God's path

Payton Wold

On behalf of all of us at Nature's Edge Therapy Center, I can't thank you enough for generously donating to Nature's Edge. Your support is so very appreciated.

Sincerely, Becky Payne, SLP

Thank you very much for your donation to the 2020 Vision Initiative. We are delighted to be in this ministry together with you, and know God is doing amazing things in the NALC! Bless you for your faithful witness to Christ!

Yours, Pastor Amy Little (NALC General Secretary)

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"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

SUMMARY OF JUNE 2023 COUNCIL & COMMITTEE ACTION

Path Forward: Council discussed the path forward after the Council and members of the congregation read Autopsy of a Deceased Church. The consensus was to form a subcommittee with 11 members, including Pastor Martin and the Council President. Applicants for the subcommittee will be reviewed and voted on at the July Council meeting.

Congregational Care & Outreach: GriefShare will resume in the fall. Volunteers and donations are needed for the Farmers Market booth. Next meeting: July 12 at 3:00pm.

Parish Education: VBS is July 19. Next meeting: TBA.

Property: Soffit project has been main focus. Volunteers needed to paint handrails. Next meeting: July 11 at 6:00pm.

Service & Fellowship: Discussed Autopsy of a Deceased Church and how we can better serve. Next meeting: July 5 at 1:00pm.

Social Ministries: Missions and Benevolence funds were designated for WI Special Olympics and EMT training. Next meeting: July 11 at 4:00pm.

Stewardship & Finance: Donation of \$1,000 have been given for the soffit project. Total is expected to be \$6,000. Next meeting: July 11 at 5:30pm.

Worship & Music: Campfire worship services will be held during the summer months on the fourth Wednesday at 6:30pm. Next meeting: July 11 at 6:00pm.

Youth Ministry: Root beer float fundraiser to purchase supplies for Disaster Relief flood buckets planned for July. Assembling of flood buckets planned for August. Next meeting: July 10 at 5:45pm.

Next Council Meetings: Tuesdays, July 18 and August 15 at 6:30pm.



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 no later than Tuesday, August 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 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
Choir Director	Heidi Jo Sovacool
Organists	Lisa Borman Karen Tappon

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

Food Pantry

The Hope Lutheran Food Pantry serves those in need in Rusk County. It is open on Mondays from 1:00-3:00pm and Fridays from 9:30-11:30am. Volunteers are needed on Mondays, July 3 and 17, August 7 & 21 at 9:15am to help unload the Feed My People delivery and to stock food pantry shelves.

Prayer Concerns

If you have asked to have someone listed in the prayer concerns in the Sunday bulletins, please contact the church office (715-532-7739 or hlcladysmith@gmail.com) with periodic updates so that we can keep the list current. If we do not receive an update, the person will be removed from the list after one month.

GriefShare

The next cycle of GriefShare sessions will begin on Wednesday, September 13 from 6:00-7:30pm. GriefShare is a faith-based, non-denominational grief support group. If you, or someone you know, would like to register for the program, please call the Hope Lutheran office and leave your contact information and a GriefShare facilitator will get back to you. You can also register online at griefshare.org.



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| 2 Michelle & Ben Jiskra | 19 Wendell & Janet Uutala |
| 7 Sue & Bill vanDoorn | 21 Shad & Elizabeth Para |
| 10 Hilary & Manley Peterson | 23 Zach & Heather Shineflew |
| Rick & Kris Snyder | 25 Gerard & Ellen Schueller |
| 17 Linda & Sherrill Wester | 26 Mike & Amie Rausch |
| 18 Barb & Corky vanDoorn | 27 Dave & Laurie Lemke |

Worship Assistants

July 2	Ushers: Rosemary Johnson, Aileen Tauchen Lector: Linda Campbell Comm: Linda Campbell
July 11	Ushers: Charlie Holtebeck, Nick Sovacool Lector: Irene Titera Comm: Chris Holtebeck
July 16	Ushers: Don & Judy Soyring Lector: Bonnie Billings Comm: Linda Campbell
July 23	Ushers: Nick Sovacool, Irene Titera Lector: Jana Nyhagen Comm: Irene Titera
July 30	Ushers: Rosemary Johnson, Aileen Tauchen Lector: Aileen Tauchen Comm: Linda Campbell
August 6	Ushers: Charlie Holtebeck, Aileen Tauchen Lector: Charlie Holtebeck Comm: Chris Holtebeck
August 13	Ushers: Don & Judy Soyring Lector: Aileen Tauchen Comm: Irene Titera
August 20	Ushers: Gordie & Bev Dukerschein Lector: Jana Nyhagen Comm: Bradon Martin
August 27	Ushers: Nick Sovacool, Irene Titera Lector: Dukerschein Comm: Dukerschein

Mission Statement

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



Birthdays

- 1** Sherry Hemm
Zach Mulholland
Kathy Stanton
- 2** Violet Craker
- 3** Margie Ringer
Sarah Solberg
- 4** Jody Schott
- 5** Michael Peggarr
- 6** Nancy Bartig
Mark Hanson
Rick Molstad
- 7** Katie Hraban
Aiden Mataczynski
- 8** Craig Becker
Chris Kammerud
Anne Olson
John Rymarkiewicz
- 9** Cindy Goerner
Shirley Hraban
Chase Polak
Emersyn Roach
Lance Rothenbach
- 10** Diane Anderson
Bernie Aspenes
Melody Barber
- 12** Norma Brooks
Josh Cleveland
Dan Isham
Amie Rausch
- 13** Lori Larsen
Zoe Trindal
- 14** Dan Canfield
Charlie Holtebeck
Betty Hraban
Shelley Nelson
- 15** Joel Clark
- 17** Keira Segebrecht
- 18** Jeff Jensen
- 19** Don Bartig
- 20** Chris Cleveland
- 21** Kory Strom
- 22** Nancy Burmeister
Becky Kileteny
Missy Golat Kienast
Robin Jensen
Jeff Meuli
Bob Tomaszewski
- 23** Jim Segebrecht, Jr
Geoffry Snyder
- 24** Kurt Gorsegner
- 27** Brule Dedrickson
Logan Rothenbach
Kris Snyder
- 29** Tanner Davis
- 30** Neil Olson
- 31** Deidre Bitner
Erika Murray
Ingrid Pederson
Craig Redwine
Courtney Thorpe
Jenn Titera



AUGUST

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Sonja Hammad | 19 Carrie Becker |
| 2 Stefanie Lindberg | Michael Polak |
| 3 Bennett Konichek | 20 Michelle Ladehoff |
| Kurt Wiemer | 21 Emily Cumming |
| 6 Lyndee Salo | Alyssa Mikkelson |
| 7 Dan Solberg | 22 Jay Schultz |
| 9 Marcia Calkins | 23 Shannon Isham |
| Heidi Jo Sovacool | Elle Nisbit |
| 10 Jerrold Elling | Kaylee Young |
| 11 Ashley Barnett | 24 Erin Konichek |
| Chuck Hyde | Sarah Wurzer |
| Emily Popp | Travis Sokolowski |
| 12 Phyllis Berg | Kelsey Field |
| Dennis Segebrecht | 25 Derick Vollendorf |
| Brittany Sokolowski | 26 Tristen Busse |
| Bill vanDoorn | 27 Kathy Ducommun |
| 13 Erin Albus | Eric Hillan |
| Samaria Stallworth | Cora Schultz |
| Ben Wiles | 28 Gary Mincoff |
| 14 Scott Wester | Levi Nyhagen |
| 15 Makenzie Lehman | Ross Peterson |
| 17 Andrew Mautner | 29 Brandyn Mincoff |
| 18 Josi Hamilton | 31 Ethan Gunderson |
| Jessica Mautner | Ellie Titera |
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| 3 Dale & Twyla Lund | 12 Chris & Julie Kammerud |
| Jody & Todd Schott | Julie & Rick Vollendorf |
| 4 Gary & Shelley Nelson | 13 Brian & Jackie Buchholz |
| 5 Berndt & Tonia Soviak | 17 Dan & Heather Isham |
| Don & Judy Soyring | 23 Dan & Barb Canfield |
| 8 Jerrold & Betsey Elling | 24 Matt & Leah Bunton |
| 9 Tom & Pam Lee | 27 Kurt & Lori Gorsegner |
| 10 Doug & Megan Dieckman | Jim & Sue Segebrecht |
| 11 Harry & Sandra Brooks | 29 Julie & Eric vanDoorn |
| | 31 Ron & Lone Reder |