

Tidings of Hope

May 2023



Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration

May 2023

Hope in Dry Bones

By Pastor Christopher Martin

“The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you

(Pastor's column, cont.)

into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.” (Ezekiel 37:1-14, ESV)

A few years ago, I was “on call” for First Lutheran Church in nearby Manchester, Iowa while their pastor was on vacation, and it just so happened a member of First Lutheran died, and I ended up officiating at his funeral. During the service, one of the children of the deceased in his remarks on behalf of the family mentioned this particular text from the Old Testament, and how it was reminding him of something important on the day we had gathered to bury his father: that even when it looks like death has taken everything from us, we still live with hope because of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead!

Since we are still in the Easter season, isn't it very appropriate to have this visual from the prophet Ezekiel in front of us, as a reminder of our daily life? What is it in your life that has you feeling like you are in that valley of dry bones? For some of us, we're mourning the death of a loved one, trying to get through each day without someone who was such an important part of our life. For others, sin has broken a relationship that was once so important to your life, and perhaps, the damage that has been done has made the breach irreparable. Still others of us suffer in some other way physically, emotionally, and spiritually, either because of sin that we have committed, or the sin of someone else. Perhaps you look at the current circumstances of our community, our world, or our church, and you wonder if there is any hope for the future. And there's just the reality that we live in a sinful, dying world and the aches and pains we experience serve as a constant reminder of the presence and curse of sin in our life and our world.

In the midst of these “dry bones” moments of life, where do we turn? If we look to the world around us, that often wants to deny the presence of sin altogether, or at the very least redefine it, we're not going to find hope. If anything, all the world has to offer is exactly that: eventually, you'll be a part of that valley of dry bones, without

(Pastor's column, cont.)

hope and life. However, when we repent of our sin and turn to Jesus Christ, we find something completely different. While our problems in this life do not always magically go away, we are able to endure those “dry bones” moments of life with hope, just as that family was able to find hope in the face of the death of their father in a church in the small town of Manchester, Iowa. Because Jesus Christ rose from the dead, we learn in Scripture that He is the “first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:20) That means there is more to come. Through our faith in Jesus Christ and Him alone for our salvation, living as disciples of Jesus, we know that there is coming a day when we will be taken out of this valley of dry bones, and brought to a place where new life is brought from death!

Thus for you, as a disciple of Jesus, this means that your outlook on your life changes. Yes, you will still face those “dry bones” moments of life. You will still have to deal with sin and its effects in your daily life. But, sin doesn't have the last word. Jesus Christ does! Thus, we seek to abide in His Word, follow His commandments for our life, and find our hope and source of life in His gift of forgiveness and the promise of a resurrection!

I hope and pray that as you continue through the Easter season, that you make your life in Jesus Christ a priority. Seek Him out in His Word where He may be found on a daily basis. Make Sunday worship around the means of Word and Sacrament a weekly priority. And as you find your hope and source of life in Christ, and allow His Word to transform you into a person who seeks to share the love and hope of the resurrected Christ with others in your life, I hope you find people who you can invite to come see the risen Christ with you here at Hope or Glen Flora Lutheran Church!

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 28 is Pentecost Sunday, the day we celebrate and commemorate the sending of the Holy Spirit to the early church. We invite you to join us for worship and wear red on Pentecost Sunday, as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and enter into “ordinary time” in the church year.



Graduate Recognition Sunday



Graduate Recognition Sunday will be held on May 21. On this day we will be recognizing the graduating high school seniors from our church family. A reception in their honor will be held in the fellowship hall following the worship service. If you have a graduating senior and did not receive a letter in the mail, please contact the church office.

Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities

Sunday Bible Study: The study on the book of Revelation will meet on May 7 at 10:30am in the Fireside Room.

Book Group: The book group will meet on May 21 at 10:30am in the Fireside Room to discuss The Time It Never Rained by Elmer Kelton.

Meal of the Month: This month's "Meal of the Month" will be held on Wednesday, May 10 at 9:00am at Jae-Dee's in Glen Flora. This is an opportunity for members of Hope to enjoy a meal and time of fellowship while supporting a local business.

Choirchimes

The Choirchimes of Hope will be rehearsing on Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17 & 24 and will play at the worship service on Sunday, May 22. This will be the last performance of the season. If you would like to play or have questions about this group, please contact Heidi Jo Sovacool.

Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone in our congregation for the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, and help during my recent health issues. I could feel the love and prayers surrounding & protecting me. God bless you all!

Love, Linda Reissner



Hope Lutheran Church Women



Monthly Meeting: The HLCW will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 18 at 9:30am. All women of Hope are welcome to attend!

Quilting: The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, May 23 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).

Farmers' Market Booth

Hope Lutheran will again have a presence at the Ladysmith Farmers' Market on Saturdays from June 10 to October 7. We are looking for volunteers to set-up and/or greet customers on Saturday mornings from 7:45am-12:30pm. We are also in need of people to provide crafts, garden produce, or baked goods to sell at the booth. Per regulations, food items should not include pumpkin, squash, cream pies, cheesecake, freezer jams, or anything that would need to be kept refrigerated. We can sell garden produce, crafts, jewelry, plants, etc., that are grown or made by members of Hope families. All proceeds will be used to fund Hope's GriefShare participant workbooks, as well as equal donations to other area non-profit organizations.

A sign-up sheet for booth volunteers and bakers can be found on the Congregational Care & Outreach bulletin board. If you have questions, please contact Karen Langland (715-595-4224) or Aileen Tauchen (715-532-7116). If bakers would like the committee to make ingredient labels for their products, they should text their recipe to 715-492-1409.

Mission Statement

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



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 Memorial Day, May 29.

Volunteers are needed on May 1 & 15 beginning at 9:00am to help unload the Feed My People delivery and to stock food pantry shelves. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Josi Hamilton (715-532-6052).

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 Meals

The MANNA Meals will be held at Hope Lutheran Church on Thursday, May 25 with serving from 5:00-6:00pm. This is a free meal providing food and fellowship to those in need. Everyone is welcome. This month's meal is sponsored by the Rusk County Catholic Cluster.

**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**



The Rusk County National Day of Prayer observance will be held on Thursday, May 4 at Memorial Park. The event will begin at the flagpole and then will move to the Veteran's Pavilion. Attendees are asked to bring their own lawn chairs if they wish to sit during the program. The theme for this year's National Day of Prayer is "Pray Fervently in Righteousness".

Youth Events

Donuts & Devotions: Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to the upstairs youth room on Sunday, May 7 at 10:15am for Donuts & Devotions. Friends are welcome!

Super-Duper Baking Event: Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to a super-duper baking event on Friday, May 19 at 4:00pm (or as soon as you can) to make delicious treats for our graduating seniors! No baking experience is needed and the church will provide all the ingredients and recipes. Youth are asked to sign-up in the narthex so that we know how many to prepare for.

Mini Mission Trip: A one-day mission trip for youth in grades 6-12 is tentatively planned for Saturday, June 24. If you're interested or have questions, please contact Julie Kammerud.

Spring Fling

The Parish Education Committee invites children PK thru 5th grades to a "Spring Fling" on Wednesday, May 3 from 3:00-5:00pm. Children can ride Bus 55 from LES to the church. There will be food, music, games, and more! Friends are welcome. Parents should pick up their children at 5:00pm. If you have questions about the "Spring Fling", please contact Laurie Lemke (715-403-3108) or a member of the Parish Education Committee.

Scrip Program

Scrip cards are sold following worship most Sundays. Scrip cards are currently available for a number of local businesses, as well as Amazon. Scrip cards can also be ordered from a list of other businesses (special orders must be paid for in advance). 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 cards or for more information.

Special Projects Update

At the Annual Meeting of Hope Lutheran Church in late January, you as a congregation included in our budget for 2023 two major projects that will require some significant financial investments on the part of our church: an upgrade to our livestreaming equipment, and repairs to the exterior soffit and fascia of the church building.

Since COVID forced us to close the doors of our church for public worship for a few months three years ago, our livestream on Facebook Live has become one of the most important outreach tools of our congregation. Our video broadcasts reach not only our homebound and nursing home residents, but is viewed regularly by former members of Hope who have moved away, members of our congregation who are out of town or ill and unable to attend in person on a given Sunday, and friends of our congregation who join us regularly for our services either live or on demand during the week. Since the beginning of our livestreaming, we have been utilizing volunteers from the congregation who sit in the balcony, utilizing their own smart phones, a tripod, and a connection to the existing sound system to broadcast, meaning the video and audio quality of our livestream broadcast can vary week to week depending on the phone being used. By upgrading to a more permanent system involving stationary cameras, this will allow us to provide a much more consistent, high-quality video for this important outreach ministry.

This upgrade will cost approximately \$16,000. It was decided as part of our budget for 2023 to fund this project by utilizing \$5,000 from the Undesignated Memorial Fund, \$5,000 from the Lemke Music Fund, and the remaining \$6,000 from funds specifically donated for this project, and funds on hand from Livestream sponsorships. I am happy to report we are almost at our fundraising goal and will soon be able to begin work on this project. I wish to thank you for your generous support of this project. Additional funds raised will be used for future livestreaming equipment upgrades and needs.

Our Property Committee has proposed some much-needed exterior soffit and fascia repair to the main church building. This will cost approximately \$12,000. It was proposed that \$6,000 of this expense be taken from the Wuerth Building Fund, with the

(Special Projects Update, cont.)

remaining \$6,000 coming again from donations specifically given for this project. I would encourage our members and friends to give prayerful consideration to an extra gift to assist us in having the necessary work done this year. If you have questions about this project, contact Property Committee Chair Brian Johnson.

Again, I wish to personally thank each and every one of you for your generous gifts of your time, your talent, and your treasure that you bring to support the mission and ministry of Hope Lutheran Church. We would not be able to continue our ministries in this community without your support.

Pastor Martin

A graphic illustration for a spring cleaning event. It features a central broom with a dustpan attached to its handle. To the left of the broom is a paintbrush with a circular palette. To the right is a sponge. Below these items, the words "SPRING Cleaning" are written in a bold, stylized font. "SPRING" is in large, block letters, and "Cleaning" is in a smaller, cursive-style font below it.

WHAT: Spring cleaning of the church building and grounds.

WHEN: Saturday, May 20 from 9:00am-12:00noon.

Lunch will be served. If you have them available, please bring cleaning rags and buckets. Many hands will make light work!

Free Admission Bible Movies at the Miner

The Miner Theatre will again be hosting a summer Bible movies series. The first movie will be the Sight & Sound Theaters' movie, "Joseph", on Wednesday, May 10. Other movies will be "Samson" on June 14, "Queen Esther" on July 12, and "Jesus" on August 9.

There is no charge for admission but a free-will offering will be received. Concessions will be available for sale. Doors will open at 5:00pm with the movies beginning at 6:00pm.

SUMMARY OF APRIL 18, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

Audit & Endowment Committees: As per our constitution, the Church Council is responsible for appointing member of the Audit and Endowment Committees. For the Audit Committee, Jim Doke is currently serving in a 3-year term and the Council appointed Brian Johnson to serve a 3-year term and Burt Zielke to serve a 2-year term. As for the Endowment Committee, Jackie Buchholz and Gordie Dukerschein are currently serving in 3-year terms. Dave Borman and Charlie Holtebeck have been appointed to serve a second 3-year term. Cindy Albus was appointed to serve a 3-year term.

Congregational Care & Outreach: No report given. Next meeting: May 10 at 3:00pm.

Parish Education: Working on “Spring Fling” events for elementary aged children. Next meeting: TBA.

Property: Spring cleaning of the church set for May 20. Waiting on boiler estimates. The gas company will be taking care of the sinkhole in the church parking lot. Next meeting: May 9 at 6:00pm.

Service & Fellowship: Set dates for upcoming “Meal of the Month” events. Continue to work on the possibility of a float for the Northland Mardi Gras parade. Easter cards and Subway gift cards were sent to college students. Next meeting: TBA.

Social Ministries: No meeting held due to lack of quorum. Next meeting: TBA.

Stewardship & Finance: Working on a plan for property improvement needs and budgeting. Next meeting: May 9 at 5:30pm.

Worship & Music: Summer mid-week worship dates have been scheduled. Children will be singing on Mother’s Day. The outdoor Nativity scene is in need of replacement. Next meeting: May 2 at 6:00pm.

Youth Ministry: Working on Graduate Recognition Sunday. A one-day summer mission trip is tentatively planned for June 24. Working on other events for later in the summer. Next meeting: May 8 at 5:45pm.



Deadlines...

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the June newsletter are due in the church office by May 16.

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.

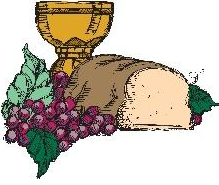
Change of Address and/or Phone Number?

If you have had a change in address or phone number, please notify the church office of these changes, especially if you no longer use a landline phone. 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.

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



May Worship Assistants

7	Ushers	Charlie Holtebeck, Nick Sovacool
	Lector	Linda Campbell
	Comm. Asst.	Chris Holtebeck
	Acolyte	Sophia Kammerud
14	Ushers	Aileen Tauchen, Irene Titera
	Lector	Jana Nyhagen
	Comm. Asst.	Rosemary Johnson
	Acolyte	Tanner Davis
21	Ushers	Don & Judy Soyring
	Lector	Charlie Holtebeck
	Comm. Asst.	Bradon Martin
	Acolyte	Izzy Solberg
28	Ushers	Nick & Nicholas Sovacool
	Lector	Bonnie Billings
	Comm. Asst.	Irene Titera
	Acolyte	Briley Burmeister

Worship Assistant Scheduling

The Worship & Music Committee will be scheduling worship assistants for the summer months. If you would like to volunteer to serve as an usher, lector, communion assistant, projection operator, or videographer, please contact the church office with your area of interest and dates of availability. A schedule will be sent out by the end of the May.

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.

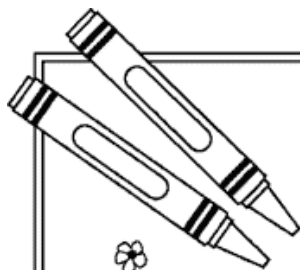


MAY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Suzanne Staudacher | 21 Judy Frey |
| 2 Noreen Kurth | Alex Krisik |
| 4 Brad Shultz | Jacob Swanson |
| 5 Sawyer Roach | Lauren Glinsky |
| 6 Cindy Molstad | 22 Gretchen Pedersen |
| Barb Root | Rick Snyder |
| 8 Luann Robertson | 23 Kari Mulholland |
| 9 Dave Borman | Tori Petrus |
| 10 Whitney Anderson | 24 Kjell Olson |
| 11 Taylor Nelson | Kyrsten Olson |
| Judy Soyring | 25 Sharon Baarlie |
| 12 Chris Holtebeck | Richard vanDoorn |
| Rosemary Johnson | 26 Carol Hillan |
| Lelan Warren | 28 Heidi Dedrickson |
| 13 Roy Anderson | Bev Dukerschein |
| Sophia Duzy | Erin Kavanagh |
| 15 Cindy Pohlman | 29 Chandler Krisik |
| Nolan Kammerud | Bill Loser |
| 16 Kaden Becker | |
| Kaylee MacArthur | Kris Tauchen |
| Charissa Morgan | 30 Allie Clark |
| Michael Rausch | Dawn Hills |
| 17 Harry Brooks | Stephanie Samardzich |
| Heather Isham | Oryn Soviak |
| Jefferson Swanson | 31 Wendy Kroening |
| 19 Betsey Elling | |
| Julie Kenyon | |
| Alyiah Kruse | |
| Chase Wiemer | |

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- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Luann & Danny Robertson | 19 Ken & Sue Molstad |
| 3 Pat & Charissa Morgan | Doug & Tami Moore |
| 10 Deborah & Greg Lentsch | 23 Wayne & Karen Tappan |
| 14 Mark & Melissa Bentley | 26 Terry & Sally Anderson |
| 16 Cindy & Kevin Albus | 27 Jessica & Derrick Sands |
| 17 Margaret & Al Jennerman | |



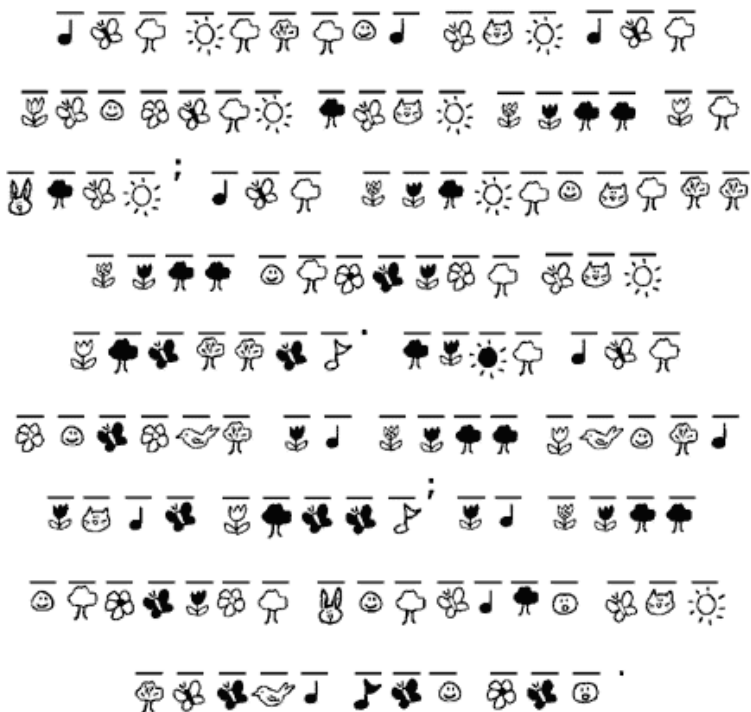
Just for KIDS

Isaiah 35:1-2

One sign of spring and rebirth is the appearance of flowers and plants in our yards, woods, fields and gardens.

Use the code to find this verse in Isaiah that reminds us of spring and rebirth.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
V	W	X	Y	Z		



The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.