

Tidings of Hope

May 2021



Pentecost

SUNDAY

MAY 23

*Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin*

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration

May 2021

Commissioned to Make Disciples

By Pastor Christopher Martin

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

These words have served as the Mission Statement of Hope Lutheran Church for nearly two decades. But when was the last time you asked yourself what does this mean for you as a member of Hope Lutheran Church, or for us as a congregation in our life and ministry together? With that in mind, I will be using this space in our newsletter over the next three months to revisit Hope Lutheran Church’s Mission Statement, as it gives us a wonderful opportunity to help guide us in our mission and ministry as we continue to emerge from the pandemic and into our future of mission and ministry in this community.

This month, we will begin with the first phrase: that Hope Lutheran Church is “Commissioned to Make Disciples.” This takes us back to what I have said for many years is the church’s Mission Statement that was given to us from Jesus himself prior to His ascension into heaven in the words we have come to call the “Great Commission”:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 28:18-20)

Go. Make disciples. That’s what Jesus has called the church to be about. The importance of this primary mission of the church is reflected in the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). Bishop Dan Selbo, in his first component of the 2020 Vision for the NALC

that he rolled out last year and was endorsed by the 2020 NALC Convocation, is that the NALC will become a church body that is committed to developing disciple making congregations and cultures. This component of the 2020 Vision then continues to describe what kind of disciples we will be making when it says: "Discipleship includes (is) following Jesus and helping others to follow Jesus." (For more information on this component of the NALC's 2020 Vision, visit <https://thenalc.org/vision/1-disciple-making-cultures/>)

That sounds easy in theory. But not always in practice. What does discipleship mean? What does following Jesus mean in everyday life? Perhaps the easiest way to remember what discipleship looks like in the everyday life of the Christian was summarized by the acronym "PoWeRSuRGe" which originated from the book "Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church" written by Lutheran Pastor Michael Foss. The acronym from Pastor Foss' book helped readers remember the six marks of Discipleship Pastor Foss identified:

- 1) Pray Daily
- 2) Worship Weekly
- 3) Reading the Bible Daily
- 4) Serve at or Beyond our Congregation
- 5) Relationships that encourage spiritual growth in others
- 6) Giving of time, talents, or resources

As you look at those marks of discipleship, one thing you will notice is this: being a follower of Jesus isn't something that we do on our own apart from anyone else. Being and making disciples who follow Jesus cannot be done in isolation apart from anyone else. As a friend of mine once put it: "Faith is made whole in community." While some of these marks of discipleship are things we do on our own in everyday life, most of them involve community as well, such as coming together for worship weekly, serving in our congregation as God has given us ability and gifts to do so, and to build relationships with other people in our lives that encourage spiritual growth.

That mark of discipleship, building relationships with others that encourage spiritual growth, has two components. First, we build relationships with one another within the life of our church that encourage one another in our lives in Jesus Christ. When you're

here, you're investing in the life of your brothers and sisters in Christ, helping one another and supporting one another in your life of following Jesus each and every day. Hope Lutheran Church is a place where we are called to build each other up, to pray for and with one another, worship with one another, study God's Word together, and to be equipped for our lives of service in the name of Jesus Christ in our world. That happens when we're together in this place on a weekly basis, and sometimes during the week with Bible Study, fellowship, and other activities that happen here that are centered in Jesus Christ. This is one of the main reasons why this last year with the pandemic has been so hard on so many of us when we couldn't physically be together in the midst of all of the change and upheaval the pandemic brought into our daily lives. We deeply missed the support, fellowship, and prayer from simply being with our brothers and sisters in Christ in this congregation. While we have been thankful for the gifts of modern technology that allow us to worship remotely when this would not have been possible in years gone by, I believe most of us recognize that doing so is not the same as physically being together in the same place at the same time, and we miss that fellowship and support from our brothers and sisters in Christ when we're not physically here. Let's not take that for granted ever again!

Our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ are important, but we're also called to build relationships with others in our lives who don't know Jesus, or who are struggling in their faith in Him. As we intentionally invest our time in others, coming alongside of them and genuinely caring for them, we're able to see how Jesus is at work in their lives and how we might be able to help them see that for themselves, and begin to follow Jesus as well. Our Council is talking more about this and what this might look like individually, and as a congregation here at Hope Lutheran Church as we study the book "Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary" by Pastor Greg Finke over the coming months, and I invite all of you to consider what this might look like in your life as well and to pray that the Holy Spirit would guide you in asking who you might come alongside of to help lead them to the good news of the Gospel in Jesus Christ.

In many ways, all three components of Hope Lutheran Church's Mission Statement come together in this first component: Commissioned to Make Disciples." For when we have this as our main focus in our life and our congregational culture, the other two

components: “Committed to love God and others, and Committed to serve” fall into place as a part of how we go about making disciples. Followers of Jesus Christ who look for opportunities in life to know Jesus, and to make Him known in our community and the world, starting with the people who are in our lives right here, and right now. As we look ahead, I would challenge each and every member of Hope Lutheran Church to review those marks of discipleship, and embrace them in your everyday life of following Jesus. Remember how your faith in Jesus Christ is made whole in community with your brothers and sisters in Christ in this congregation. And as we continue to go about our life together as the body of Christ at Hope Lutheran Church, may we embrace and live out our commission from Jesus Christ to make disciples who follow Him, starting right here, in our own community. I look forward to seeing you in church!



Graduate Recognition Sunday



Graduate Recognition Sunday will be held on May 16. 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. Graduates include Kylee Becker, Olivia Bunton, Carter Closs, Kaitlyn Schott, Rachel Sovacool, Capri Strom, Derick Vollendorf, and Dalton Weimer.

Adult Education Opportunities

Book Discussion: The book group will meet on Sunday, May 16 to discuss [The Lost Quilter](#) by Jennifer Chiaverini. Copies of this book are available at the Rusk County Library.

Women’s Bible Study: The study on the Minor Prophets will continue on May 7 at 3:30pm and May 21 at 3:00pm.

Men’s Breakfast: Men of Hope are invited to the Ladysmith Family Restaurant each Thursday morning at 7:00am for breakfast, fellowship and a study of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday.



Hope Lutheran Church Women



Monthly Meeting: The HLCW will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 20 at 9:30am. All women of Hope are welcome to attend!

Quilting: The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, May 25 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).

Vacation Bible School

Plans are in the works for Vacation Bible School. VBS will be a one-day event this year on Wednesday, July 14 from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Volunteers are needed. Please watch for more information coming soon! If you would like to help out with VBS, please contact Nancy Burmeister (715-403-0962).

Sunday School Celebration

Sunday School will wrap up for the year on Sunday, May 16 with a celebration! Sunday School children will be singing during the worship service that day. Thank you to Heidi Jo Sovacool for all of her hard work in making Sunday School possible this past year!

Thank You!

Members of Hope Lutheran Church:

Thank you for the outpouring of love on my birthday with the card shower. I am so blessed to be part of such a beautiful church family.

Lindsay Martin



Brunet Island State Park Outing: Middle and High School youth will be heading to Brunet Island State Park on Sunday, May 16 following the 9:00am worship service. We will be sticking with land-based activities with plenty of biking and hiking available. Donuts, hotdogs, and beverages will be provided. Please sign up for this event on the Youth Ministry bulletin board no later than May 9. Parents are welcome but adult drivers will need a State Park sticker for their vehicle.

Luther Park Bible Camp: The deadline to sign up for camperships to Luther Park this summer is June 1.

Glen Flora Lutheran Spring Dinner

Glen Flora Lutheran Church will hold their Spring Dinner on Wednesday, May 5 with serving from 3:30-6:00pm at the Glen Flora Pavilion. This will be a take-out only event. The menu will include chicken, parsley potatoes, vegetables, pickles, homemade rolls, and dessert. The cost is \$10.00 per meal. Orders can be placed at the Pavilion but to assist in avoiding a long line, it is requested that you place your order by 12:00noon on May 5 by calling 715-322-5533 and leaving your name, number of dinners, and what time you'll pick them up. Ten percent of the proceeds from this meal will be donated to the Flambeau School backpack food program.

Happy Mother's Day!

We wish a happy Mother's Day to all those who mother, whether their own children or others'.

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband, also, and he praises her: 'Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.' Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."

~ Proverbs 31:25-30 (NIV)



The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.

The 2021 National Day of Prayer theme prays: “Lord pour out Your LOVE, LIFE, AND LIBERTY.” The theme verse is 2 Corinthians 3:17: “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

Help cover Rusk County with prayer for His grace. Let’s shine the light of Christ into every dark corner. Join the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 6 in one of three ways:

1. Join the prayer service in person at Hope Lutheran Church at 12:15pm or watch on the Hope Lutheran Church Facebook page.
2. Join a county wide prayer walk beginning at 1:30pm at the Ladysmith Farmer’s Market (near the courthouse). There will be suggested routes for short or long walks and for driving.
3. Create your own prayer walk with your family, friends or church family.

Of course, we can each pray for our community at any time but imagine the powerful prayer lifted up as we join as one voice to plead for our land and our community.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Judy Cooper (715-532-5793).

SUMMARY OF APRIL 20, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

Adult Education & Fellowship: The next Sunday morning Bible study will be on prayer. The women's study on the Minor Prophets is ending but a new study is being planned. A summer picnic is being planned for June 27. Next meeting: May 7 at 2:00pm.

Congregational Care & Outreach: Committee feels the Farmer's Market would be a good outreach for summer. They continue to send out cards for grief support. They talked about radio broadcast, talking with new owner, and the quality of the broadcast. Next meeting: May 4 at 4:00pm.

Property: Property is working on a number of projects. The plan is to complete the choir chimes room in early June. Church office was revamped and new carpet installed. Phone system will be installed soon. Next meeting: May 4 at 6:00pm.

Social Ministries: Mission funds were designated for Congo International Mission (\$315). A suggestion was made to have a Hope Lutheran stand at the Farmer's Market with produce provided by members. This would be a good opportunity for mission work and to fundraise. Congregational Care has also discussed this as a great way to complete mission work. Pastor stated he would be willing to assist at the Farmer's Market stand. The Farmer's Market has approved a spot for Hope. Next meeting May 11 at 3:30pm.

Stewardship & Finance: Paperwork is completed to transfer all Vanguard funds (\$159,352), Lemke funds (\$18,342) and reserve funds of \$25,000 to the account created by a previous motion. Next meeting: May 11 at 5:30pm.

Worship & Music: Committee decided to have one Wednesday service each month in the summer. Parts of the ReClaim hymnal are being incorporated into worship services. Next meeting: May 4 at 6:00pm.

Youth Education: VBS to be held on Wednesday, July 14 from 9:00am – 3:00pm. They will be looking for volunteers. Next meeting: May 5 at 4:30pm.

Youth Ministries: Corned beef dinner, pie auction, and Easter breakfast were successful. Working on yard clean ups to raise additional funds. At this point it is limited to members due to the large response. Next meeting: May 4 at 6:00pm.

Next Council Meeting: May 18 at 6:30pm.



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 18.

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.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Christopher Martin

Church Secretary

Bonnie Billings

Maintenance

Gary Bendixen

Custodian

Rosemary Warwick

Choir Director

Heidi Jo Sovacool

Organists

Lisa Borman

Karen Tappan

Aileen Tauchen

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

| | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 2 | Ushers Lector Acolyte Comm. Asst. | Gordie & Bev Dukerschein Charlie Holtebeck Jackson Summerfield Chris Holtebeck |
| 9 | Ushers Lector Acolyte Comm. Asst. | Irene Titera, Linda Reissner Linda Campbell Owen Burmeister Kathy Peterson |
| 16 | Ushers Lector Acolyte Comm. Asst. | Judy Soyring, Nick Sovacool Rachel Sovacool Manny Moore Irene Titera |
| 23 | Ushers Lector Acolyte Comm. Asst. | Dave Borman, Kathy Ducommun Irene Titera Jackson Summerfield Charlie Holtebeck |
| 30 | Ushers Lector Acolyte Comm. Asst. | Kathy Ducommun, Linda Reissner Linda Campbell Kai Strom Linda Campbell |

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 Erle Barber | 22 Gretchen Pedersen |
| Cindy Molstad | Rick Snyder |
| Barb Root | 23 Kari Mulholland |
| 8 Luann Robertson | Tori Petrus |
| 9 Dave Borman | 24 Kjell Olson |
| 10 Whitney Anderson | Kyrsten Olson |
| 11 Taylor Nelson | 25 Sharon Baarlle |
| Judy Soyring | Richard vanDoorn |
| 12 Chris Holtebeck | 26 Carol Hillan |
| Rosemary Johnson | 28 Heidi Dedrickson |
| Lelan Warren | Bev Dukerschein |
| 13 Roy Anderson | Erin Kavanagh |
| Sophia Duzy | 29 Chandler Krisik |
| 15 Cindy Pohlman | Bill Loser |
| Nolan Kammerud | Bob McMahon |
| 16 Kaden Becker | Fern Molstad |
| 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 | Tim McMahon |
| Julie Kenyon | |
| Alyiah Kruse | |
| Chase Wiemer | |

-
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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 | |



A lasting promise

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.

Directions: Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

“But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8, NIV