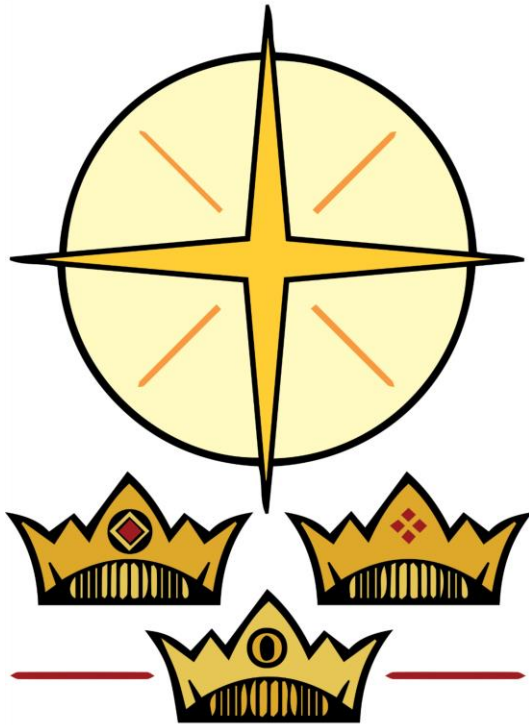


TIDINGS OF HOPE

JANUARY 2025



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
LADYSMITH, WISCONSIN

Tidings of Hope

January 2025

Being in God's Word

Pastor Christopher Martin

January 1st is a date that marks the end of one calendar year and the beginning of a new one. This time of the year is often marked by looking back on the things that have happened in the year that's coming to an end, and looking ahead at what's in store for the new year.

I invite you to open your Bible and read Luke 2:41-52. This contains the last childhood narrative of Jesus in the Bible. It is the account of Mary and Joseph losing Jesus and needing three days to find him. When they do, they find him in the temple, talking with the teachers and asking them questions. When Mary wants to know why Jesus "came up missing", Jesus' response was, "Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" (Some translations have it read being about his "Father's business".)

I bring this up now because as you make plans for 2025, there is one task that is more important than any other. Whatever this new year will bring, as God's people of Hope Lutheran Church, our first priority is to be in God's Word, and allow it to govern everything else that we set out to do in our lives. I invite you to do this by making weekly worship a priority for you and your family. I also encourage you to take time to read and ponder Scripture daily. One resource we provide each month is the daily reading calendar provided by the North American Lutheran Church. If you need help getting started, come visit with me sometime.

As we draw 2024 to a close, and look ahead to 2025, let's make a commitment to letting go of everything that distracts us from our God-given mission of being disciples of Jesus, who make disciples of Jesus, one life at a time.

Have a blessed new year.



Hope Lutheran Church Women

January Meeting: The January meeting of the HLCW will be held on Thursday, January 16 at 9:30am. All women of Hope are welcome.

Quilting: The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, January 21 beginning at 9:30am. There are jobs for all skill levels. If you can stay for the whole day, please bring a sack lunch. Questions? Contact Karen Skeels (715-452-5444).

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry events are for students in grades 6-12 (unless otherwise noted). Friends are always welcome to attend.

Games Day: Youth are invited to come play games on Sunday, January 12 following the 9:00am worship service. Lunch will be served.

Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities

Book Group: The book group will meet on Sunday, January 19 at 10:30am in the Fireside Room. Participants are asked to bring their reading suggestions for the coming year.

Meal of the Month: The January Meal of the Month will take place on Friday, January 17 at 11:30am at Casa Mexicana. This is an opportunity for members of Hope to enjoy a meal and time of fellowship while supporting a local business.

Youth Education

Sunday School is held each Sunday from 10:15-11:00am. Sunday School will resume on January 5.

Wednesday School will NOT meet in January. Wednesday School will resume on February 5 at 3:15pm.

Hope Lutheran Food Pantry

The Hope Lutheran Food Pantry serves those in need throughout Rusk County. The Pantry is open Mondays from 1:00-3:00pm and Fridays from 9:30-11:30am.

Much of the food that is distributed through the food pantry comes from the Feed My People Food Bank. Volunteers are needed on Monday, January 6 and Tuesday, January 21 at 9:15am to help unload this delivery and stock food pantry shelves.

Donations of non-perishable food items can be brought to the church during office hours or on Sunday morning. Monetary donations to help purchase food through Feed My People and other sources can be placed in the offering box, dropped off in the church office, or mailed to the church office (PO Box 184, Ladysmith). All donations should be clearly marked "Food Pantry".

Thank you to everyone who supported the pantry throughout 2024. Whether you donated food, money or time, your support helped many families and individuals in our area experiencing food insecurity.

MANNA Meal

(Meals Available for the Nutritional Needs of All)

The January MANNA Meal will take place on Thursday, January 30 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 will be prepared and served by the MANNA Meal Committee.

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's name will be on the list for four weeks and then removed.

Summary of Council & Committee Action

Pastor's Report: One hospital visit, two in-office visits, officiated a funeral, handled a number of phone calls. Confirmation class will resume January 8 after a two-week break for the holidays. Shared a letter he received from Bishop Selbo thanking the congregations for their contributions to the NALC. Provided an update on mission district.

December 8 Congregational Meeting Results: Question 1 was the only one of the seven that did not pass. The bylaw changes went into effect immediately after the vote. Elimination of the committees is a bylaw change. Changes to the constitution need to be ratified by a 2/3 vote at the annual meeting.

December 12 Special Meeting: Pastor Reiff and Pastor Martin will both be present. Rules will be the same as those at the December 8 meeting.

Budget: Council approved the 2025 budget to be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Audit Committee Vacancy: There are two vacancies on the Audit Committee as Brian Buchholz and Brian Johnson are currently serving on the Council.

Congregational Care & Outreach: GriefShare went well. A donation of \$100 was received for the purchase of books for future use. Some leftover items from the farmer's market booth were sold at the Cookie Walk with proceeds going towards GriefShare. Next meeting: January 8 at 4:15pm.

Parish Education: Laura Johnson is teaching Sunday School but there are very few participants. Christmas program was December 15. Wednesday School went caroling and out for pizza on December 18. Next meeting: February 5 at 4:45pm.

Property: Property is getting bids for a security system. New signs are up. Looking at updating the four signs on the outskirts of the city. A new pump and motor are on order for the boiler system. A keypad lock will be installed on the door of the empty office in the education wing. Next meeting: TBA.

Service & Fellowship: No report given. Next meeting: TBA.

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

Stewardship & Finance: Giving is declining. Checking account balance is \$10,000 less than this time last year. The scrip program will be discontinued once the current inventory is sold. Next meeting: January 14 at 5:30pm.

Worship & Music: The sound system seems to be working well. We will not be looking at an upgrade to the system at this time. Next meeting: TBA.

Youth Ministry: Did not meet in December and no activities. Collected 30 pillows and a \$10 donation for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Next meeting: TBA.

Next Church Council Meeting: January 21 at 6:30pm.

Heading South for the Winter?

We want to stay in touch! Please let the church office know your winter address and the dates you'll be gone so that you can continue to receive the church newsletter and other mailings. If you do not want to receive mailings while you are away, please let us know. Addresses can be called in (715-532-7739), e-mailed (hlcladysmith@gmail.com) or dropped off in the office.

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.



Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the February newsletter are due in the church office by January 21.

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 email 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



5	Ushers	Rosemary Johnson, Aileen Tauchen
	Lector	Jana Nyhagen
	Comm Asst	Rosemary Johnson
	Acolyte	Blake Nyhagen
12	Ushers	Rosemary Johnson, Irene Titera
	Lector	Irene Titera
	Comm Asst	Irene Titera
	Acolyte	Nolan Kammerud
19	Ushers	Kathy Peterson, Aileen Tauchen
	Lector	Bonnie Billings
	Comm Asst	Rosemary Johnson
	Acolyte	Violet Craker
26	Ushers	Aileen Tauchen, Irene Titera
	Lector	Aileen Tauchen
	Comm Asst	Irene Titera
	Acolyte	Addison Hulle

2024 Statements of Giving and 2025 Offering Envelopes

Statements of giving for 2024 will be sent out in the month of January. If your address has changed, please notify the church office so this document can be sent to the correct address.

Offering envelopes for 2025 can be picked up in the multi-purpose room. If you did not use offering envelopes in 2024 but would like to in 2025, please contact the church office.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The annual meeting of the congregation of Hope Lutheran Church will be on Sunday, January 26 at 10:15am. Voting members are those who have been confirmed and have communed and made a donation of record in the current or preceding year.



2025 **A New Calendar**



As you hang that new calendar on your wall, please remember to mark these important church dates:

January 26	Annual Congregational Meeting
March 5	Ash Wednesday (Worship)
March 12	Mid-Week Lenten Worship begins
April 13	Palm Sunday (Worship)
April 17	Maundy Thursday (Worship)
April 19	Good Friday (Worship)
April 20	Easter (Worship)
April 30	Scandinavian Dinner
April 30	Last Day of Wednesday School
May 4	Last Day of Sunday School
June 8	Pentecost Sunday (Worship)
September 14	Rally Day
October 26	Reformation Day/Confirmation
November 27	Community Thanksgiving Dinner
November 30	1 st Sunday in Advent
December 6	Cookie Walk
December 24	Christmas Eve (Worship)

Watch upcoming newsletters, Sunday bulletins, and the church website (hlcladysmith.org) for more information on these events.

Puzzle!

Complete this Bible passage by adding the missing vowels.

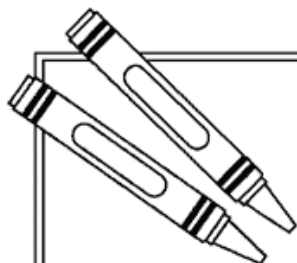


F_r by gr_c_ y_ _ h_v_
b_ _n s_v_d thr_ _gh
f_ _th, _nd th_s _s n_t
y_ _r _wn d_ _ng; _t _s
th_ g_ft _f G_d — n_t th_
r_s_lt _f w_rks, s_ th_t
n_ _n_ m_y b_ _st.

_ph_s_ _ns 2:8-9, NRSV



Answer: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9, NRSV



Just for KIDS

"Who Am I?"

It's a new year and you may be thinking about time, birthdays and how old you'll be this year. Below are some people from the Bible and the ages they reached.

First, fill in the name of each person. If you need help, look up the verses in the Bible. Next, find the age of each person by matching the number under the blanks to the sum of the digits in the ages listed. For example, if the number under the line is 11, it could be 290 ($2+9+0=11$) or 47 ($4+7=11$).

Names:	Abraham	Joseph	Adam	Moses	Isaac	Noah	Jesus	Sarah
Ages:	33	110	120	127	175	180	930	950

1. I was God's first man. I lived to be _____ years old.
Who am I? _____ (*Genesis 5:5*) (12)
2. I built an ark when God flooded the earth. I lived to be _____ years old.
Who am I? _____ (*Genesis 9:29*) (14)
3. God said that my offspring would be as many as the stars in the heavens.
I lived to be _____ years old. Who am I? _____ (*Genesis 25:7*)
(13)
4. I was close to 90-years-old when God said that I would have a son. I lived to be _____ years old. Who am I? _____ (*Genesis 23:1*)
(10)
5. My parents were Abraham and Sarah. I lived to be _____ years old.
Who am I? _____ (*Genesis 35:28*) (9)
6. My brothers left me in a pit in the wilderness. I lived to be _____ years old. Who am I? _____ (*Genesis 50:26*) (2)
7. When I was 3-months-old, I was placed in a basket in the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. I lived to be _____ years old. Who am I? _____ (*Deuteronomy 34:7*) (3)
8. I began my life in a barn with animals. I lived to be _____ years old.
Who am I? _____ (*Luke 2:7*). (6)

Answers: 1. 930, Adam; 2. 950, Noah; 3. 175, Abraham; 4. 127, Sarah; 5. 180, Isaac; 6. 110, Joseph; 7. 120, Moses; 8. 33, Jesus