

Tidings of Hope

February 2021



Ash
WEDNESDAY

Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration
February 2021

What a Mess!

By Pastor Martin

When I was serving in my first call in Audubon, Iowa, I became good friends with the pastor of the town's Missouri Synod Lutheran church. One day, I stopped by his church to visit with him about something, and it just so happened, their preschool was having a chapel service for Ash Wednesday. He was trying to explain to a group of 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds about the Old Testament practice of wearing sackcloth and ashes as an outward sign of repentance. There he sat, wrapped in a potato sack, and a huge pile of ashes that he had placed on his head that was now making its way all over the carpet in the chancel of the sanctuary! "What a mess!", I thought to myself at first glance. But, as I continued to think about Ash Wednesday, and the season of Lent, that picture of my friend, sitting there in that mess of ashes, wrapped in an old potato sack, really hit home.

When we ponder our own sin, we can say the same thing: "What a mess!" Indeed, what a mess we often make of our lives, and our world because of our sinful nature that draws our focus inward toward ourselves, and when we refuse to listen to the life-giving Word of the Lord, allowing it to influence every aspect of our lives. How appropriate of a picture of that pastor sitting in ashes and sackcloth is when we consider our condition apart from our Savior, Jesus!

In the month of February, we will begin again our journey through Lent. A season in which we ponder our sin, and our need of a Savior, someone who will come in and clean the mess we've made of everything, and to use language from Psalm 51, will "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from

(Pastor's column, cont.)

me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with Your free spirit.” (Psalm 51:10-12) We remember the passion, suffering, and death of Jesus. During our midweek services this year, we will be following the words of God the Father to Peter, James, and John at Jesus’ transfiguration when the Father says: “This is my beloved Son; listen to Him” (Mark 9:7) as we will listen to the last words of Jesus from the cross. We will discover what each of those moments Jesus speaks from the cross will reveal about God’s love for us, and His plan of salvation for our lives. It is here, as we journey with Jesus through Lent, we will see and hear how God goes about His plan of cleaning our hearts, and bringing renewal into our daily lives, as we now seek to follow Jesus, and live in His ways all of our days.

As we prepare for Lent, I also want to issue a challenge to you. As we seek spiritual renewal during this penitential season of the church year, I want to invite you to think of one person in your life who you could possibly invite to join us in our Lenten journey this year of following Jesus. As you do, I want to encourage you to do two things. First, each day during Lent, pray for that person. If you know of specific needs in their life, or you see ways that God may be at work in them, lift that up in prayer. If you don’t, simply pray for God to provide for their needs, and reveal His love and forgiveness to them. Second, as you pray for that person, I also want to encourage you to extend an invitation to join you in worship here at church during Lent, whether that be for a Sunday morning, or a midweek service in Lent, so that they might have an encounter with our Savior, Jesus, and find refreshment for their souls.

I look forward to taking this annual journey through Lent with you, and pray that this year, we might find forgiveness, peace, and renewal in our Savior, Jesus Christ! I also pray that whatever it may be that is going on in your life that says to you: “What a mess”, that in the midst of it, you would be able to see Jesus at work in your life, creating something new out of the ashes you see in your life that brings glory to Him and to His kingdom! See you in Church!





ASH WEDNESDAY



Our Lenten journey will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes will be held at 6:30pm.

Mid-week Lenten worship services will begin on Wednesday, February 24 at 6:30pm.

First Communion Instruction

First Communion instruction for children 2nd grade and older will begin soon. If you wish to enroll your child, please contact the church office (715-532-7739 or hlcladysmith@gmail.com).

Sunday School

Sunday School continues to meet in a one-room schoolhouse format each Sunday at 10:30am. Sunday School is also livestreamed on Facebook for those families who are not comfortable attending in person.

Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities

Book Discussion: The book discussion group will meet on Sunday, February 21 at 10:15am in the Fireside Room. The book for February is Bright as Heaven by Susan Meissner.

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

Bible Studies: Watch the Sunday bulletin for information about Bible study opportunities.



Hope Lutheran Church Women



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

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

Mission Trip Meeting: There will be a mandatory meeting on Sunday, February 21 at 6:30pm for High School youth who wish to participate in the summer 2021 Mission Trip to Wilmington, NC. A \$50 deposit will be required at or before this meeting. We also ask that each student have a parent also attend.

Youth Breakfast: High School youth will meet for breakfast and devotions following the worship service on Sunday, February 21. Youth should meet in the multi-purpose after the service and will then head to the Ladysmith Family Restaurant. The cost of the meal is covered by the Youth Ministry Committee.

Christie Mountain Ski Night: Youth Ministry is once again sponsoring this event at Christie Mountain on Friday, February 26. Downhill skiing, tubing, and snowboarding will be available. Each individual is responsible for purchasing their own lift tickets, ski rentals, etc. Youth ministry will provide pizza and beverages. This event is open to youth of all ages. Elementary aged youth must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The group will leave from the church at 5:00pm that day. Please sign up on the Youth Ministry bulletin board. Questions can be directed to Nick Sovacool or another member of the Youth Ministry Committee.

Music Notes...

Choir: Choir rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. The choir will sing during the worship service on Sunday, February 14. There will be a rehearsal prior to the worship service that morning at 8:15am. There will be no rehearsal on February 21.

Choirchimes: The Choirchimes group rehearses each Wednesday at 5:30pm. Choirchimes will play at the worship service on Sunday, February 28. A rehearsal will be held prior to the worship service that morning at 8:15am.

It's never too late to join the Choir or Choirchimes. If you have questions or would like to participate, please contact Heidi Jo Sovacool.

Radio Broadcasts

Our Sunday morning worship services have been broadcast on WLDY 1340AM continuously since 1948. This ministry has allowed us to bring worship to our homebound members and to the community. During the pandemic it has become an even more valuable outreach tool.

Each worship service costs \$79.00 to broadcast. We are so thankful for all who contribute to the Radio Fund. If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast in memory or honor of a loved one, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. Donations of any amount can also be made to the general Radio Fund. Checks should be made payable to Hope Lutheran Church with "radio fund" written in the memo line. There are Radio Fund envelopes included with the boxed offering envelopes.



"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." ~ 1 John 4:12



FOOD PANTRY

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

Volunteers are needed on the first and third Mondays of each month (February 1 & 15) at 9:15am to help unload the Feed My People delivery and to stock shelves.

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").

Buckets for Hunger

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2020 Buckets for Hunger challenge. Donations and matching funds totaled \$12,460. These funds will be used to purchase food and supplies to provide to the families and individuals who come to the Pantry for assistance. The support from the members of our congregation, as well as individuals and groups from the community, makes the food pantry possible and is greatly appreciated.

Scrip Program

Scrip cards are sold following worship most Sundays. Scrip cards are currently available for Ladysmith Fresh Market, Kwik Trip, Holiday, Subway, DQ and McDonald's. Cards can also be ordered from a list of other retailers. 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.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING

January 19, 2021

Scholarships: Council approved scholarships for Hans Schultz and Rachel Sovacool.

Treasurer's Report: 2020 ended with donations below budget but with a positive net cash flow as expenses were significantly below budget, as well.

Stewardship & Finance: Hope did not qualify for a second round of PPP funds. We should be receiving a \$3,000 refund as the repayment order was eliminated and we had already sent our repayment. We received a sizable donation of Kimberly Clark stock.

Reclaim Hymnal: It was decided to wait on purchasing the Reclaim hymnal to allow for time to provide more information to the congregation, review contents, and hear feedback.

GFLC 125th Anniversary: Glen Flora Lutheran will celebrate their 125th anniversary on August 8 and would like to have Pastor Martin present for the festivities. Council agreed to have a lay-led service at Hope that day to allow Pastor Martin to attend the GFLC celebration.

February Committee Meeting Dates:

Adult Education & Fellowship: February 5 at 2:00pm

Congregational Care & Outreach: February 9 at 4:15pm

Property: February 9 at 6:00pm

Social Ministries: February 9 at 3:30pm

Stewardship & Finance: February 11 at 5:30pm

Youth Education: February 3 at 4:30pm

Youth Ministry: February 8 at 4:30pm

Worship & Music: February 2 at 6:00pm

Next Council Meeting: February 16 at 7:00pm.



Deadlines...

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the March newsletter are due in the church office by February 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 your mailing address, email 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	Christopher Martin
Church Secretary	Bonnie Billings
Maintenance	Gary Bendixen
Custodian	Rosemary Warwick
Choir Director	Heidi Jo Sovacool
Organists	Lisa Borman
	Karen Tappon
	Aileen Tauchen
	Terry Wedwick

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Church Phone: 715-532-7739
E-Mail Address: hlcladysmith@gmail.com
Website: hlcladysmith.org

FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Emerson McGinnis
Lauren Nisbit | 20 Kristopher Dean
Sam Stewart
Chris Thompson
Cole Vollendorf |
| 2 Doug Dieckman
Kinsley Niznik | 22 Laura Johnson
Tracie Mincoff |
| 3 Michelle Jiskra | 23 Elaine Gabrovic |
| 4 Pam DeWolf
Sarah Helgeson
Marcus Isham
Alyssa Mataczynski
Olivia Titera | 25 Ron Reder
Nicholas Sovacool II
Jennifer Verdegan |
| 5 Maggie Jo Solberg | 26 Heidi Zielke |
| 7 Melissa Lacey
Bruce Nelson
Karen Phillips | 27 Kimberly vanDoorn |
| 8 Matt Barnett
Shelby Goerner | 28 Doris Michaelson |
| 9 Nicole Swanson |  |
| 10 Brad Billings
Madison Nelson
Lisa Stock | |
| 11 Darek Dieckman | 1 Chad & Jill Nisbit |
| 13 Addison Kimber
Angelina Turner | 4 Craig & Carol Redwine |
| 16 Kathleen Holt
Sophia Kammerud
Ron Lee Moore
Kim Rogers
Zach Shineflew
Tony Swanson | 5 Dan & Julie Krisik |
| 17 Tarra Moore | 25 Erle & Melody Barber |
| 18 Donald Anderson
Carol Hon
Einar Pederson | |





- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| 7 | Ushers
Lector
Acolytes
Comm. Assts. | Kathy Ducommun, Irene Titera
Irene Titera
Danny Craker
Linda Campbell |
| 14 | Ushers
Lector
Acolytes
Comm. Assts. | Sovacool family
Nick Sovacool
Owen Burmeister, Jackson Summerfield
Bev Dukerschein |
| 17 Ash
Weds | Ushers
Lector
Acolytes
Comm. Assts . | Levi Nyhagen, Kai Strom |
| 21 | Ushers
Lector
Acolytes
Comm. Assts. | Kathy Ducommun, Irene Titera
Rachel Sovacool
Danny Craker, Kai Strom
Bev Dukerschein |
| 24 | Ushers | |
| 28 | Ushers
Lector
Acolytes
Comm. Assts. | Gordie & Bev Dukerschein
Linda Campbell
Owen Burmeister
Linda Campbell |

Mission Statement

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

PUZZLE

A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q U O U O C O E E E
 J E O O E E' U N O J Q U O U
 O C O N L U O E J E O O
 N L U O' O C O O N U E N O U
 J E O O E U G O
 N U E N O U U N O
 O C O O E C O
 G O E C O .
 RUTH 1:16, NIV



W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
G	R	L	Y	I
	N	S	P	M

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV

Puzzle!

Search in all directions to find these words from the first seven chapters of Proverbs.

WORD LIST: covenant, delight, discipline, evil, father, fool, forsake, fountain, fruit, heart, honest, humble, insight, listen, Lord, love, neighbor, path, pleasant, poverty, protect, rebuke, sleep, son, teaching, tongue, walk, wisdom, youth

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