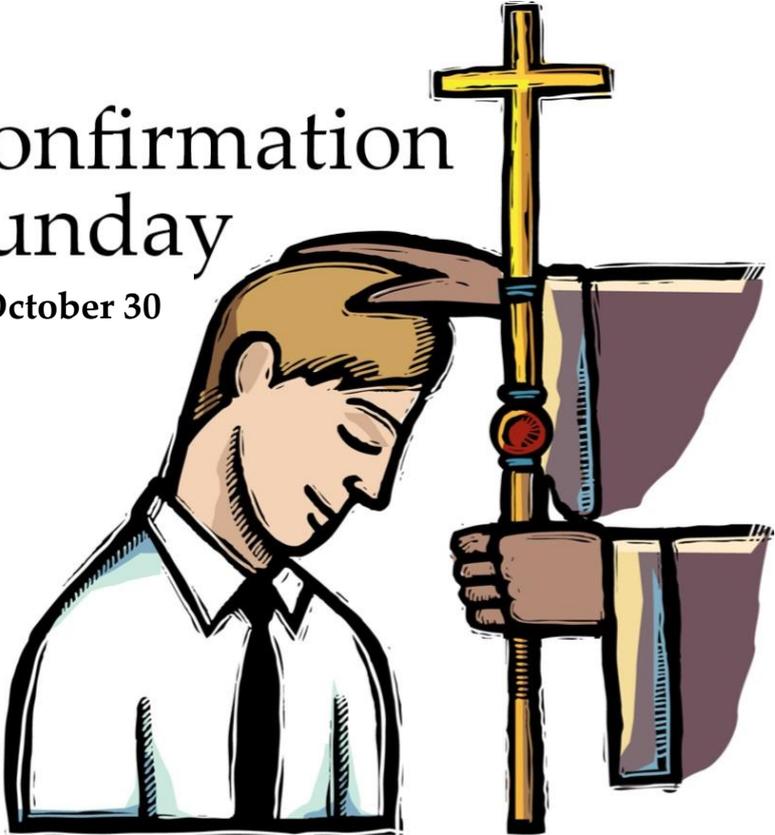


# Tidings of Hope

## October 2022

Confirmation  
Sunday

October 30



Hope Lutheran Church  
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

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# Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration

October 2022

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## A Pastoral Parable

By Pastor Christopher Martin

As we move further into fall, I want to share with you a parable of sorts. It is a parable that perhaps you might be able to relate to that helps to illustrate the point I would like to make with this month's article.

Our story takes place in a small, rural community like Rusk County. Like most places, during the week it wasn't uncommon for farmers or retired folks living in town to gather at the local coffee shop for a cup of coffee, some baked goods, and conversation about different topics.

One Monday morning, two men, named Bob and Joe, who happened to belong to the same church in the community, were talking with another friend named Dave, who hadn't gone to church anywhere for several years. The conversation that day went something like this:

Bob: Hey Joe, I didn't like the hymns we sang yesterday. None of them were my favorite. What was that Pastor thinking when he chose the hymns?

Joe: Yeah, Bob, I know. I also didn't like the song the choir sang yesterday. It wasn't what I normally expect them to sing.

Bob: And then there was that family that had the small children that just wouldn't be quiet during the sermon! I don't understand why the parents never take them out of church?

Joe: Yeah. We have sound from the sanctuary that feeds downstairs, so why won't they take their noisy, obnoxious kids out of the church? It was bad enough that a new couple sat in my pew yesterday—I was already uncomfortable having to sit closer to that guy I don't get along with—but it was almost too much!

*(Pastor's column, cont.)*

The conversation continued like this for a good half hour, with Bob and Joe continuing to share complaints and harsh criticisms about their church, the pastor, musicians, council members, and anyone else that they felt were not meeting their expectations, despite not taking the time to talk with any of them. Finally, after all of this, they turned to their friend, Dave, and invited him to come to church with them the following week, because they needed more active members, and Dave happened to have small children at home. What do you think Dave's response was to that invitation?

While he didn't say it out loud, Dave's thoughts were, "Why in the world would I want to go to church there, or anywhere for that matter, when all these guys do is complain about the church and fight with people within it? I can get that anywhere else!"

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus calls us—His disciples—to be about one thing: making disciples of all nations. The means we use are the Word and the Sacraments, which are gifts from God to us through His Son, Jesus Christ, which we receive in worship. How do we make more disciples of Jesus? By telling other people in our lives about Jesus, and inviting them to "come and see" Jesus here at Hope Flora Lutheran Church!

The question I have for you is this: when you speak of our church when you are not here, what are you talking about? Are you telling people about the fact that the good news of Jesus is proclaimed in our midst? Are you sharing about the work our Sunday School is doing at Hope, our VBS this past summer, or that we are simply blessed to have children in our congregation almost every Sunday when many churches have none? Are we inviting our friends to join us for the adult education opportunities we offer? Are you telling them about many of the other things that are going on in our church, such as our support for different mission projects, our care for one another in a time of need, the people who give of their time to visit homebound members or people in nursing homes, often assisting me in distributing Holy Communion to these people so they can remain connected to the work of our church and our Savior, Jesus? Do we give credit to the HLCW, who do so much in our church, or our sewing group that meets monthly, who make quilts for the NALC Disaster Response ministries? Are we sharing the exciting things

*(Pastor's column, cont.)*

that are happening in the North American Lutheran Church, and our commitment to the Authority of Scripture, which is lacking in many churches in our area today? When we share these things that the Holy Spirit is doing in our midst, and focus on those, instead of the things we don't like, or the people we don't like in our church, why wouldn't we want to invite people in our lives to be a part of our family of faith and see what God is up to in our midst?

Or are we often more like Bob and Joe, and spend our time complaining that things aren't "my way" when we speak of our church when we are out and about in the community? Do we, through what we say and do in daily life, give a witness to someone else that says: "What difference does it make to be a Christian if that person claims to be a part of the body of Christ, but still continues to act as if faith in Jesus doesn't make a difference?"

Did you know that when it comes to a person's decision to join a particular church, that 86 percent do so because they were first invited by a friend or family member? Can you imagine what the Holy Spirit can do in our midst if we take the time to be more intentional about talking about what's happening in the life of our church, and invite others to be a part of what God is doing in our midst?

I want to take this opportunity to challenge each and every one of you to think about a person that you know, who either hasn't been to church here in a while, that doesn't have a church home, or isn't going to church anywhere. Pray about how you might be an instrument to connect them to Jesus Christ, and what He's doing in the life of our church. Think about who you see on a regular basis that you might be able to take time to build a relationship with, and perhaps use it as an opportunity to share Jesus with them. You have a golden opportunity to be a part of Jesus' mission here in rural Rusk County, Wisconsin! I pray that we accept this challenge, speak well of our church in our daily life, and continue to seek out Jesus' gifts of forgiveness and life in worship on Sunday morning, in daily reading of Scripture, and prayer in our own lives, and in our conversations with others.

I look forward to seeing you, and your guests, in church!



## CONFIRMATION



Daniel Craker has completed Confirmation instruction and will affirm the faith of his baptism at the worship service on Sunday, October 30. Please keep Daniel in your prayers as he prepares to take this step in his faith journey. A reception in his honor will be held following the worship service on October 30.

### Adult Education & Fellowship

**Book Discussion:** The book discussion group will meet on Sunday, October 16 at 10:30am. The book for October is Hidden Places by Bobbi L. Graffunder.

**Meal of the Month:** This month's Meal of the Month will be at the Drop Zone on Friday, October 14 at 4:30pm. Please contact Kathy Ducommun for more details.

**Men's Breakfast:** Men of Hope meet for breakfast, fellowship, and a study of the scripture for the week each Thursday at 7:00am at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant.

### Operation Christmas Child

We will once again be preparing "shoeboxes" for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. If you would like to pack a box, there are some available in the narthex. For a list of suggested items to pack, visit <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child>. There is also a basket in the narthex if you would like to donate items for boxes that will be packed by the church. If you would like to donate money to help cover shipping costs, it costs \$10/box for shipping.

Questions about Operation Christmas Child can be directed to Don Bartig (715-532-3303).



## Hope Lutheran Church Women



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

**Quilting:** The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, October 18 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).

## GriefShare

The Congregational Care & Outreach Committee is beginning a new grief support group called GriefShare. This group will meet at Hope Lutheran Church on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30pm October 5 through January 11. GriefShare is a 13-week lay-led grief support group that aims to help people deal with the complex feelings experienced after the death of a loved one. It is nondenominational and faith-based.

Each participant will receive a workbook with activities that can be completed during the week. Each 90-minute session consists of a time to discuss the workbook exercises, a video presentation by an expert in the field of grief, and a time to discuss the topics covered in the video presentations.

If you would like to register for the program, you can do so by calling the church office (715-532-7739). Please leave your name and phone number and a GriefShare leader will contact you. You may also register online at <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/154102>.

## MUSIC NOTES

The Choirchimes of Hope meets each Wednesday at 5:30pm. This group is for adults and children 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up. New members are always welcome. If you would like to participate or have questions, please contact Heidi Jo Sovacool (715-403-3566 or [heidisovacool@gmail.com](mailto:heidisovacool@gmail.com)).



**Youth Breakfast:** Middle School and High School Youth will meet for breakfast and devotions on Sunday, October 16 following the 9:00am worship service. Youth should meet in the multi-purpose room following the service and the group will head out to the restaurant from there. The cost of the meal will be covered by Youth Ministry.

**Disc Golf:** Middle School and High School Youth will be heading to Dodson's Disc Golf (east of Bruce) on Sunday, October 23. Youth should meet in the multi-purpose room immediately following the 9:00am worship service. Discs will be provided.

**Operation Christmas Child:** Middle & High School aged youth will be gathering to pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child on Sunday, November 6. Please watch Facebook and upcoming Sunday bulletins for more information.

## **Clergy Appreciation Month**

October is Clergy Appreciation Month (October 9 is Clergy Appreciation Day). We wish to thank Pastor Martin for his dedicated service to Hope Lutheran Church and to the Martin family for the sacrifices they make that allow him to serve Hope Lutheran Church as our pastor.

*"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding." ~ Jeremiah 3:15*

*"Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work." ~1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*



## **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.

Volunteers are also needed the first and third Mondays of each month (October 3 & 17) to help unload the Feed My People delivery and to stock shelves. If you can help out, please be to the church by 9:15am.

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 Meal**

This month's MANNA Meal will be served on Thursday, October 27 from 5:00-6:00pm. This is a free meal providing both food and fellowship to those in need. This month's meal is sponsored by Faith United Methodist Church.

## **Thank You!**

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the Hope Lutheran booth at the Ladysmith Farmers Market. Whether you baked, provided craft items, worked at the booth, or helped in any way, we couldn't have done it without you!



## **Meatloaf Dinner**

The HLCW will hold a Meatloaf Dinner on Tuesday, October 25. Please watch the Sunday bulletins, website, and Facebook page for more information.

## CareNet Volunteer Training

CareNet Pregnancy Resource Center is seeking volunteers who display evidence of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and who are walking in truth and integrity. A 20-hour training seminar led by Patrick Eades will be held at the Worden Avenue Exchange October 31-November 4 from 5:00-9:00pm. This training is to equip both men and women to serve as pregnancy decision coaches and parenting mentors. A \$50 donation will cover the cost of the training manual. The deadline to register is Monday, October 10. To register or for more information, please contact Michele at CareNet ([michelefromcarenet@hotmail.com](mailto:michelefromcarenet@hotmail.com) or 715-532-7600).



## Hospital Visitation

In 1999 the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), which deals with the privacy of patient information, was enacted. Because of these laws, facilities such as hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, assisted living facilities, medical clinics, hospice providers, and others who provide care in an inpatient facility or in the home are by law not permitted to contact pastors or churches with patient information such as: admittance, the patient's condition, or their treatments. When you or someone you love is hospitalized, admitted to a care facility, assisted living, hospice, or other in-home care programs, the church does not receive a call or notification from the facility regarding that admittance.

While Pastor Martin is always happy to visit when you are in need, he needs to know where you are and what is going on in order to do so. If you have a surgery or other admittance planned in advance and you'd like a visit, please contact the church office ahead of time with the information about where and when your surgery is so he can plan to visit you at the hospital or upon your return home. If your hospitalization is unexpected and you want Pastor Martin to be aware of it, be sure to have a family member call the church to let us know what is happening so that we can respond as needed or desired with a visit and/or prayer.

Please also be aware that while some of the restrictions on clergy visitation that were in place due to COVID have been eased, not every facility permits a pastor to visit as they could pre-pandemic. Visitation protocols change depending upon the level of community spread. Pastor Martin will check with the facility before heading out to make a visit to ensure that he will be allowed to see you.

If you need to contact Pastor Martin for visitation needs, please call the church office (715-532-7739). During the day Bonnie will contact Pastor Martin immediately. If it is after hours, please wait for the voicemail greeting to give you instructions on how to reach Pastor Martin in an emergency or immediate need, or to leave a private voice message for him.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in communicating your pastoral needs to us at the church!

# SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

**Structure Task Force:** Proposal for bylaw changes was presented. Council voted to accept changes. Bylaw changes will be presented to the congregation at the January 2023 annual meeting.

**Livestreaming Update:** A proposal for upgrading livestreaming equipment was presented. A special congregational meeting will be held on November 6 for the congregation to approve the purchase of this equipment.

**Adult Education & Fellowship:** No report given. Next meeting: October 9 at 10:30am.

**Congregational Care & Outreach:** GriefShare will begin October 5. **Next Meeting:** October 11 at 3:00pm.

**Property:** No report given. **Next meeting:** TBA.

**Social Ministries:** August MANNA Meal served 43. Benevolence & Missions funds were designated for Women with Courage and Lutheran Bible Translators. **Next meeting:** October 11 at 3:30pm.

**Stewardship & Finance:** Property insurance is expected to rise 18% this year. After discussion the committee recommended staying with our current insurer as we currently have no deductible. Two \$500 scholarships were paid to members attending Lutheran colleges. **Next meeting:** October 11 at 5:30pm.

**Worship & Music:** Reviewed quotes for livestreaming equipment and recommended accepting the quote from AVI. **Next meeting:** October 11 at 6:00pm.

**Youth Education:** No report given. **Next meeting:** TBA.

**Youth Ministry:** Upcoming youth events are the youth breakfast, disc golf, and packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child. A survey was sent to parents. Next meeting: October 3 at 4:35pm.

**Next Meeting:** October 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 November newsletter are due in the church office by October 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 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  
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P.O. Box 184  
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Church Phone: 715-532-7739  
E-Mail Address: hlcladysmith@gmail.com  
Website: hlcladysmith.org



## October Worship Assistants

<b>2</b>	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst.	Charlie Holtebeck, Judy Soyring Aileen Tauchen Irene Titera
<b>9</b>	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst.	Gordie & Bev Dukerschein Bonnie Billings Linda Campbell
<b>16</b>	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst.	Aileen Tauchen, Irene Titera Dukerschein Dukerschein
<b>23</b>	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst.	Gordie & Bev Dukerschein Charlie Holtebeck Chris Holtebeck
<b>31</b>	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst.	Nick & Nicholas Sovacool Bonnie Billings Bradon Martin

## 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.

### Mission Statement

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



# OCTOBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1</b> Della Goffin<br>Jeff Johnson<br>Tiffany Johnson                    | <b>15</b> Michelle Brooks<br>Owen Burmeister<br>Chris Martin<br>Donna Weber |
| <b>2</b> Diane Cumming<br>Sean Lund<br>Scott Peterson                       | <b>16</b> Lisa Borman<br>Kaylyn Wimer                                       |
| <b>3</b> Dalton Wiemer  | <b>17</b> Mark Bentley, Jr.<br>James Meyers                                 |
| <b>4</b> Aiden Hoyt<br>Bob Sanderson<br>Rachel Sovacool<br>Trent Vollendorf | <b>18</b> Alex Effertz<br>McKenzie Konichek<br>Jenna Lent                   |
| <b>5</b> Tracy Verdegan   | <b>19</b> Camryn Closs  |
| <b>6</b> Jill Buchholz  | <b>20</b> Pat Grunseth<br>Mason Mautner<br>Berndt Soviak                    |
| <b>7</b> Olivia Bitner<br>Asialena Trindal                                  | <b>21</b> Blake Nyhagen<br>Eliana Shultz                                    |
| <b>8</b> David Hraban<br>George Lawrence                                    | <b>22</b> Erin Molstad<br>Shannon Wester                                    |
| <b>9</b> Julie vanDoorn   | <b>23</b> Dan Morgan  |
| <b>10</b> Doris Marten<br>Pam Polak<br>Jade vanDoorn                        | <b>24</b> Kim Davis<br>Diane Meuli  |
| <b>11</b> Erle Barber   | <b>25</b> Alan Larson   |
| <b>13</b> Terry Carlino<br>Bishop Peterson                                  | <b>26</b> Ann Wiley   |
| <b>14</b> Gina Cooley   | <b>28</b> John Kenyon   |

\* \* \* \* \*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>3</b> Brandyn & Jessie Polak                             | <b>15</b> Mark & Jill Berg                          |
| <b>4</b> Bob & Pat Grunseth                                 | <b>16</b> Alan & Lisa Larson                        |
| <b>7</b> Christian & Kelsey Borman<br>Kelsey & Blayne Field | <b>21</b> Kyle & Erin Craker<br>Bob & Jessica Hoehn |
| <b>8</b> Jim & Kathy Stanton                                | <b>27</b> James & Barbara Stanton                   |
| <b>10</b> Carla & Mike Closs                                | <b>29</b> Chris & Lindsay Martin                    |
| <b>12</b> Todd & Jenny Dahlstrom                            | <b>31</b> Bill & Sharon Kaul                        |

# 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