

Tidings of Hope

May 2022



Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration

May 2022

Workers for the Harvest Field

By Pastor Christopher Martin

(Jesus said) The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Luke 10:2)

One of the biggest challenges that face congregations of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) today is a looming shortage of Pastors. It is projected that within the next 10 years, 200-300 of our pastors who are actively serving our congregations today will be retiring, and our seminary system is currently producing 8-10 new pastors every year. In addition, we continue to see new NALC congregations being organized across the continent, and established congregations coming into the NALC from other Lutheran churches and needing to call pastors as well. As you can see, with math looking like this (and this does not even take into account pastors who die in office or leave the ministry for reasons other than retirement), we have a crisis that is already starting to affect the Church.

Today, we have 70 congregations across the NALC that are actively engaged in the process of calling a Pastor, and the average time it takes to fill those vacancies is becoming longer and longer, simply because we don't have enough pastors to go around. While there is, and will continue to be, an increase of two and three point parishes forming or staying together, that alone will not solve the problem of the looming shortage of pastors to serve our congregations in the coming years.

So, what's the answer? And how can you, God's people at Hope and Glen Flora Lutheran Churches, help?

(Pastor's column, cont.)

I draw you to the words of Jesus in Luke 10 I quoted at the beginning of this article as He prepares to send 72 of His followers ahead of Him into the towns and villages He was planning to visit. Even with 72 people commissioned to do this important work for the Kingdom, there will always be a need for more, and we are to pray that the Lord will raise up workers!

With this in mind, there are several action steps that you and I, God's people at Hope and Glen Flora, can take to help raise up workers for the Kingdom of God in our Church in the coming years.

First, I want to encourage each and every one of you to be intentional in praying that the Holy Spirit will raise up faithful Pastors to serve the North American Lutheran Church in the years to come, and pray for our congregations in the NALC who are currently in the process of calling a new Pastor.

Second, do you know of someone who has gifts that might serve the church well as a Pastor, or in diaconal (Word and Service) ministry? If you do, don't wait for that person to express an interest in serving professionally in the church. Ask them to prayerfully consider such and have them come visit with me about the possibilities. We have some opportunities in the NALC to assist with the discernment process.

Third, if you personally are thinking about if God is calling you to serve in professional ministry, come visit with me. I would be honored to accompany you on this discernment journey, even if it ends with you realizing that you're called to serve our Lord Jesus in the vocations in life you currently hold.

And finally, let's not forget something important: the work of Ministry in a congregation is not simply something you "hire" out to the Pastor. It is very much your work, too! Each one of you have been given spiritual gifts for the building up of God's kingdom. Ask yourself what can you do to help with the ministry of this church? How can you share Jesus Christ with someone in your life? What might you offer of your time and your talent to help with the things we do in Christ's name in this community, or that we could possibly start doing in the future? I've had a couple of conversations with

(Pastor's column, cont.)

some of you already who are taking on a new ministry that you never saw yourself doing, but now feel called to do. I'd love to hear more stories of this as we move forward.

I personally want to thank each and every one of you who pray for me and for my family on a regular basis. I will say I have never felt more prayer support from a congregation or parish I served as I have from you at both churches. Please continue to do that, I can't do this work without you! But I also want to challenge you to continue to be on the lookout for those who might have gifts for ministry that we could raise up for service in the Kingdom of God whether it is in ordained ministry, or simply in something we're doing in our own congregations. Thank you on behalf of the North American Lutheran Church for your prayers, and for your help in raising up the next generation of servants in the Kingdom of God.

Sunday School

The Sunday School year is almost over and we would like to take this opportunity to thank those who made Sunday School possible: Heidi Jo Sovacool (teacher), Sarah Solberg (substitute teacher), Chris Holtebeck and Lisa Borman (special music), the Youth Education Committee, and the parents who sent their children to Sunday School and who helped out in a variety of ways.

The Sunday School children started the year with memorization verses. Throughout the year they have studied Bible stories from both the Old and New Testaments. They participated in the Christmas pageant and will be providing special music at the worship service on May 1. The last day of Sunday School will be May 8.

Vacation Bible School

Plans are in the works for Vacation Bible School. VBS will be a one-day event this year on Wednesday, July 27. Please watch for more information coming soon! Volunteers are needed. If you would like to help out with VBS or have questions, please contact Jana Nyhagen (715-781-4567).



Graduate Recognition Sunday



Graduate Recognition Sunday will be held on May 22. 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 “PAPA Prayer” study continues on May 1 & 8 at 10:30am in the Fireside Room.

Study of the book of Job: Pastor Martin will lead a study on the book of Job on Fridays, May 6 & 20 at 1:00pm in the fellowship hall.

Book Group: The book group will meet on May 15 at 10:30am in the Fireside Room to discuss A Searching Heart by Janette Oke.

Lunch of the Month: This month’s “Lunch of the Month” will actually be breakfast/brunch. We’ll be heading to the Holcombe Café on Thursday, May 26. If you’d like to carpool, please meet in the church parking lot at 9:40am. Please contact Kathy Ducommun for more information.

Healing Seminar: The healing seminar led by Twyla Lund will be held on May 7, 14, 21, & 28 from 9:00am-1:00pm in the fellowship hall.

Men’s Breakfast: Men of Hope meet for breakfast and devotions each Thursday at 7:00am at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant. All men of Hope are welcome.

Home Communion

Our Home Communion team delivers Holy Communion to members who are unable to attend church in person. If you are or know of a homebound member who would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the church office.



Hope Lutheran Church Women



Monthly Meeting: The HLCW will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 19 at 9:30am. All women of Hope are welcome to attend!

Quilting: The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, May 24 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).



Farmer's Market Booth

Hope Lutheran Church will again have a booth at the Saturday Farmer's Market in Ladysmith this season. Items needed for our booth are baked good (nothing that needs refrigeration), garden produce, crafts, and religious materials for kids and adults. We will also need volunteers to do setup and take down and to greet Farmer's market customers. If you can help out in any way, please contact a member of the Congregational Care & Outreach Committee (George Lawrence, Nancy Bartig, Diane Doke, Bev Dukerschein, Chris Holtebeck, Aileen Tauchen).

GriefShare

GriefShare, a faith-based, lay-led 13-week program for those who have lost a loved one through death, will be held here at Hope beginning in October. The sessions are 90 minutes with each week covering a different topic. We are currently looking for people interested in becoming facilitators. Training will be provided. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Aileen Tauchen or George Lawrence.



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 17.

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

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Ladysmith, WI 54848
Church Phone: 715-532-7739
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Website: hlcladysmith.org

A LETTER FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Dear Members of Hope Lutheran Church,

As we are now into the 2nd quarter of the year, your Church Council and I wish to thank each and every one of you for the ways you continue to support our ministry at Hope Lutheran Church through the giving of your time, talent, and treasure for the extension of Christ's kingdom in this community. We cannot do the things our church does in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus, without you.

One of the most visible blessings we have as God's people of Hope Lutheran Church is our church building. As with any house made with human hands, our building needs a little attention every now and then to keep it a beautiful, attractive place to worship in, and we wish to invite you to help us with a couple of projects that are coming up in the near future.

Later this spring, our Property Committee will be overseeing a much-needed replacement of some windows in the office/education wing, and installation of mini split air conditioning units in the three offices, and the multipurpose room. Work is currently scheduled to begin in early June on both projects, with the window replacement coming first, followed by the installation of the mini split air conditioning units.

Funding for the window replacement was already included as a part of the Property Committee's 2022 budget. While we do have adequate funding from the Wuertth Estate and undesignated funds in the Memorial Fund to cover the expenses related to the air conditioning project, your Church Council would like to give you the opportunity to give as you feel led and are able, to help offset the expenses for the air conditioning so that we might be able to utilize the funds in the Wurth Estate or undesignated Memorial funds for additional needs down the road. If you would like to give a special gift toward this project, please place it into the offering box at Sunday worship or deliver it to the church office in person or by mail, and note that your offering is for the air conditioning project.

We also ask you to mark your calendars for Saturday, May 21, as we will be having a special Church Workday to help with some deep cleaning and other projects to help spruce up the church building

(Church Council, cont.)

inside and out, as this has not been done for a few years. We will have several jobs for all ability levels. We will begin at 9 a.m. and wrap up before lunch time. If you cannot help that day but would like to help with another task at another time, please let us know! More information on this will be coming out shortly as to what we need assistance with.

Again, we wish to thank the members of Hope Lutheran Church for the many ways in which you contribute to the life and vitality of this community of faith. We look forward to continuing to allow ourselves to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of this congregation as we step out in faith, boldly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, and make disciples of Jesus who follow Him in faith and in daily living.

In Christ,
Pastor Martin and the Church Council of Hope Lutheran Church

MUSIC NOTES

The Choirchimes of Hope will be rehearsing on Wednesdays, May 4, 11 & 18 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

Members of the Choirchimes of Hope and their families will have an end of the year potluck on Wednesday, May 25 at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall.

Thank you to everyone who shared their talents by singing with the Palm Sunday and Easter choirs. Your gift of music made these services even more special.

*“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”
Colossians 3:16*



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 30. Volunteers are needed on May 2 & 116 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 26 with serving from 5:00-6:00pm. This is a free meal providing food and fellowship to those in need. This month's meal is sponsored by the Rusk County Catholic Cluster.

Scrip Program

Scrip cards are sold following worship most Sundays. Scrip cards are currently available for Ladysmith Fresh Market, Walmart, Kwik Trip, Holiday, DQ, Subway and McDonald's. 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.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING April 19, 2022

Church Membership: According to the constitutional bylaws of Hope Lutheran Church a member must have communed or given financially in the previous two years to be considered an active member. There are 465 people listed on our roster who do not meet the membership requirements as of the two-year period ending March 22, 2022. These people have been moved to an inactive list. The current active membership is 257.

Committee Structure Task Force: A task force to look at our leadership structure has been assembled. Members of this task force are Dave Borman, Brian Buchholz, Charlie Holtebeck, Rosemary Johnson, and Pastor Martin. They will be looking at more efficient ways to complete tasks and will give a broad look at priorities and responsibilities. The goal is to have recommendations in place by the next annual meeting.

Air Conditioning: A quote of \$10,550 was received from Doug's Heating for installing air conditioning in the office and the multi-purpose room. Council voted to accept this bid and proceed with installation.

Church Work Day: A work day will be held on May 21 to do spring cleaning and yard clean up at the church.

Adult Education & Fellowship: Bible studies will break for the summer and resume in the fall. Next meeting: May 6 at 11:00am.

Congregational Care & Outreach: We will have a presence at the Saturday farmer's market. Continuing to planning for the Grief Share program to start in the fall. Next meeting: May 10 at 3:00pm.

Property: The higher skilled aspects of the Maintenance position are now being contracted out. Will be looking for someone to do basic maintenance. Next meeting: May 10 at 6:00pm.

Social Ministries: April benevolence and missions funds were designated for Nature's Edge Therapy and Samaritan's Purse. Next meeting: May 10 at 3:30pm.

(continued)

(Council Meeting Summary, cont.)

Stewardship & Finance: A donation of \$1,000 was given for youth programming. Next meeting: May 10 at 5:30pm.

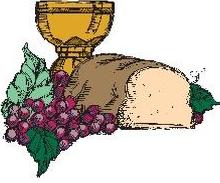
Worship & Music: Grape juice for Communion is now in purple cups. There will be a Wednesday service on the 3rd week of June, July and August. Next meeting: May 3 at 6:00pm.

Youth Education: Volunteer recognition will be May 1. VBS will be July 27. Rally Sunday has been set for September 11. Next meeting: May 1 at 10:15am.

Youth Ministry: Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped with the Lenten soup suppers and the Easter breakfast. Next meeting: May 2 at 6:00pm.

Next Council Meeting: May 17 at 6:30pm.





May Worship Assistants

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 1 | Ushers
Lector
Comm. Asst.
Projection | Dave Borman, George Lawrence
George Lawrence
Linda Reissner
Don Bartig |
| 8 | Ushers
Lector
Comm. Asst.
Projection | Gordie & Bev Dukerschein
Gordie/Bev Dukerschein
Irene Titera
Don Bartig |
| 15 | Ushers
Lector
Comm. Asst.
Projection | Judy Soyring, Irene Titera
Charlie Holtebeck
Chris Holtebeck
Dave Borman |
| 22 | Ushers
Lector
Comm. Asst.
Projection | Kathy Ducommun, Nick Sovacool
Bonnie Billings
Linda Campbell
Dave Borman |
| 29 | Ushers
Lector
Comm. Asst.
Projection | Dave Borman, Linda Reissner
Linda Campbell
Linda Campbell
Don Bartig |

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.



- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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 | Fern Molstad – 100 th |
| 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 | |

