

TIDINGS OF HOPE JANUARY 2023



**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
LADYSMITH, WISCONSIN**

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration

January 2023

A New Year's Resolution

By Pastor Christopher Martin

It's hard to believe soon, we will be saying farewell to one calendar year, and will begin a new one. With that in mind, many of us are in the habit of making some sort of New Year's resolution, aren't we? In the days between Christmas and New Year's Day, you'll hear in various places about what people are going to resolve to do in order to bring about some positive change in their lives in the coming year. Thus it is not uncommon for people to resolve to exercise more, make changes in their diet so that they're eating healthier, find ways to reduce stress, quit smoking, or some other change that has good intentions, and promises to improve our quality of life. But what often happens to many of our new year's resolutions? Research tells us that, depending on who you listen to, the failure rate for New Year's Resolutions can be as high as 80 percent. Most of the time, by the middle of February at the latest, we give up, and lose our resolve to make the necessary, lasting changes in our lives in order to reach our goals that we set for ourselves with those New Year's resolutions.

Having said this, I want to invite you to take out your Bible and reading Luke 2:41-52; last childhood narrative of the life of Jesus that is recorded in the Gospels. Jesus is 12 years old and has gone with Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, which Luke tells us was something they would have done every year. When it was time to make the trip home to Nazareth, after the first day's journey, they discover Jesus isn't with them, or with anyone else they had traveled with. So, Mary and Joseph return to Jerusalem, and spend the next three days searching the city for Him, finally finding Jesus in the temple, listening to the teachers, asking them questions, and everyone is just astonished at what Jesus has to say. Mary asks Jesus why did He come up missing,

and Jesus responds with His first recorded spoken words in the New Testament:

“Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49)

Some translations have Jesus saying: “Did you not know that I must be about my Father’s business?” Regardless of how it is translated, Jesus is making a rather important point here. If you are looking for Jesus, the Word made Flesh, Immanuel, God with Us, you have to look for Him in the right place!

Jesus is the Word made flesh. He is Immanuel, God with us. That’s exactly what the angels declared to Mary and Joseph before Jesus was even born, right? It’s the same message we hear every year when we gather for worship at Christmas! We join the angels’ song: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.” (Luke 2:14)

As we seek out Christ, and we seek His will for our own daily lives, and our direction as a church in 2023, we have to make sure we’re looking for God’s will in the right place. If we’re too busy looking in at ourselves, at our comfort zones, our expectations, or in other places in the world, we’re going to be disappointed because that’s not where Jesus has promised to be with us. Jesus’ presence is in the Word and in the Sacraments. Our starting point is firmly rooted in Scripture. It is there we learn about the need to get rid of the sin that is in our lives that prevents us from allowing Christ to come in and transform our lives from being inclined inward to ourselves, and turned outward to be a light and witness to someone else about our faith. Every time we have an encounter with the Gospel, it will change our lives. The question is: how will it change yours?

As we enter this new year, I encourage you to take up one New Year’s resolution for yourself, and for your entire household. I want to encourage each and every one of you to do two things as it pertains to your life in Jesus Christ. The first is to make worship on Sunday mornings at Hope Lutheran Church a priority in your life. Why? Because it is here, that Jesus comes to dwell among you, and to share His Word with you. It is here that you are equipped for whatever work that God may be calling you to be about in your daily life. Second, I encourage each and every one of you to take time to

be in Scripture outside of Sunday worship. Make use of devotional books such as “Our Daily Bread” that is provided for you, or another similar devotion that is faithful to God’s Word, or follow the appointed reading schedule found in the “Devoted to Prayer” daily scripture reading resource provided by the North American Lutheran Church and is enclosed with each month’s newsletter, or on the NALC website under the “Devotions” menu. If you’d like other resources to use to help you in digging deeper into God’s Word in the coming year, please feel free to stop by and visit with me sometime!

I hope and pray that for all of us at Hope Lutheran Church that as we look to this new year, we make being “Christ-Centered” in everything that we do in this place, and in our daily lives, our New Year’s Resolution. Don’t let it become a mere slogan, but I pray that you stay immersed in the Word, continue to seek to grow in your life of following Christ each day, and that through us, our witness to Jesus here in Rusk County, Iowa, and beyond will be a blessing to others, and draw them closer to our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God richly and daily bless each one of you in this coming year!

Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities

Bible Study: The study on the book of Revelation will meet on Sunday, January 8 and 29 at 10:30am in the Fireside Room.

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

Book Discussion: The book group will meet on Sunday, January 15 at 10:30am. Please bring your reading suggestions for the upcoming year.

Mission Statement

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL & SPECIAL MEETING

The Pastor has called for a **SPECIAL MEETING** of Hope Lutheran Church to be held on **Sunday, January 22, 2023** immediately following the worship service at the church. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on adoption on two amendments to the Bylaws of Hope Lutheran Church that have been recommended for adoption by the Church Council. These amendments will do the following:

- Remove responsibility for Adult Education from the “Adult Education and Fellowship Committee” and rename this committee the “Service and Fellowship Committee”

- Combine responsibility for both Youth and Adult Education into a newly renamed “Parish Education Committee”, which will replace the current “Youth Education Committee.”

The full text of these amendments as recommended by the Church Council is printed in this newsletter. A majority vote of those present and voting are required for the amendments to be adopted. This will be the only order of business for the Special Meeting. If you have any questions about the Bylaw amendments, please contact Pastor Martin, or a member of the Church Council.

The **ANNUAL MEETING** of Hope Lutheran Church will be held on **Sunday, January 22, 2023** immediately following the worship service and the special meeting at the Church. In the event of inclement weather, these meetings will be rescheduled for the first available date. In order to have a quorum for the transaction of business at these meetings, 25 voting members are required to be present. Voting members are confirmed members of Hope Lutheran Church who have both communed at Hope Lutheran Church and have given a financial contribution of record to Hope in 2021 or 2022. We urge every eligible voting member of Hope to be present for these important meetings in the life of our congregation and we look back on our ministry in 2022, and look forward to what God is calling us to do as the body of Christ in this place in 2023.

Committees and organizations of the church are reminded to provide copies of your Annual Report to Bonnie in the church office by January 8 for them to be included in the Annual Report of the Congregation.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proposed Bylaw Changes

(Recommended for adoption by the Church Council)

Notes: Material that is to be deleted is indicated by strikethrough. Material that is to be added is indicated by italic, bold-faced type.

B12.04.01 The ~~Adult education and~~ ***Service and*** Fellowship Committee shall be responsible for planning and providing opportunities for ~~adult education~~ ***volunteer service and*** fellowship within the body of Christ. The chairperson of this committee is elected as described in C12.01 and C12.02. Other members of this committee shall be elected as described in B12.01.01.

B12.04.05 Delete the entire paragraph as it currently reads and replace with the following:

B12.04.05-The Parish Education Committee shall be responsible for planning and providing educational opportunities for people of all ages (youth and adults) to grow in their understanding of the Christian Faith, and its application to daily living, utilizing materials that are compatible with the confession of faith of this congregation and that of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The chairperson of this committee is elected as described in C12.01 and C12.02. Other members of this committee shall be elected as described in B12.01.01.

Youth Ministry

Pizza & Movie Night: Hope Lutheran Youth will be having a pizza and movie night on Sunday, January 15 at 5:00pm.

Youth Breakfast: Middle and high school youth will meet for breakfast and devotions following the worship service on Sunday, January 15. Youth should meet in the multi-purpose room and will head to the restaurant from there. The cost of the meal will be covered by Youth Ministry.

Please watch the Youth Ministry bulletin board for upcoming events.

GriefShare

GriefShare will be continuing through the month of January. This group meets each Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm in the fellowship hall.

Statements of Giving

Statements of giving for 2022 will be mailed out in January. If your mailing address has recently changed, please contact the church office (715-532-7739 or hlcladysmith@gmail.com).

Operation Christmas Child

The Rusk County area provided 739 boxes to Operation Christmas Child this year, a record number for this area. Of those, 55 were provided by Hope Lutheran Church. Thank you to everyone who packed boxes and provided money for shipping costs.

Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, January 3 and Monday, January 16 at 9:15am to help unload the Feed My People delivery and to stock food pantry shelves.

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

Thank You!

Thank you so much for the beautiful quilts and all the prayers and support for the past year. It means so much to the families who have everything! I've already started scheduling volunteer teams to rebuild homes—pray for 2023. Thank you, again, and God bless!

*Mary Bates
NALC Disaster Response*

Congregational Care

The Congregational Care & Outreach Committee is currently updating their lists of members who are homebound and want Communion to them, members who are in need of visitation, and those who would benefit from printed materials on dealing with grief. If you know of someone who would benefit from these services, please contact a member of the Congregational Care & Outreach Committee.

Livestream Sponsorship

Our Sunday morning worship services are livestreamed on Facebook each week. If you would like to sponsor a service in memory or honor of a loved one, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. The suggested donation is \$50/service. Monies raised from livestream sponsorships go towards keeping the technology needed up-to-date.

Scrip

Scrip cards are sold following worship most Sundays. 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. Scrip cards are available for several area businesses and can be special ordered from a long list of other vendors. 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 scrip or for more information.



“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” ~ Ephesians 4:31-32





2023 A New Calendar



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

January 8	Sunday School resumes
January 11	Confirmation Resumes
January 22	Annual Congregational Meeting
February 22	Ash Wednesday (Worship)
March 1	Mid-Week Lenten Worship begins
April 2	Palm Sunday (Worship)
April 6	Maundy Thursday (Worship)
April 7	Good Friday (Worship)
April 9	Easter (Worship)
April 19	Scandinavian Dinner
April 30	Last Day of Sunday School
May 28	Pentecost Sunday (Worship)
September 10	Rally Day
October 29	Reformation Day/Confirmation
November 23	Community Thanksgiving Dinner
December 2	Cookie Walk
December 3	1 st Sunday in Advent
December 24	Christmas Eve (Worship)

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

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.



Deadlines...

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 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. 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

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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



JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

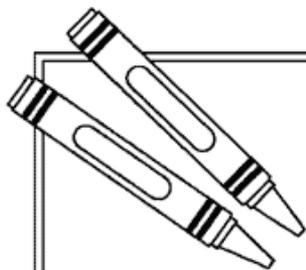
- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Vicky Abing
Derek Hraban | 18 Virginia Jacobs
Kitzie Winters |
| 2 Brandyn Polak | 19 Casey Abing
Jordan Schultz |
| 4 Ken Molstad | 21 Bob Hoehn
David Redwine
Meghan Warwick |
| 6 Caitlyn Jiskra
Kaycee Lazar | 22 Kenneth Stock |
| 8 James MacArthur
Brayten Mallo
Cassie Martin | 23 Christian Borman
Adam Morgan |
| 10 Danny Craker
Bob Langland | 24 Jerry McEathron
Bart Schultz |
| 12 Allison Lacey
Phoenix Narvaez
Meghan Shultz | 25 Tara Nelson
Kathie Stewart
Al Warwick |
| 13 Matt Bunton
Isabelle Solberg | 26 Derek Abing
Riley Abing
Shane Abing
Julie Kammerud |
| 14 Bjorn Anderson
Morris Clark II
Capri Strom | 27 Evan Moore |
| 15 Brooke Hillman
Janet Uutala | 28 John Duzy
Judith Scheurer |
| 16 Reese Barfknecht
Mark Bentley III
Lindsay Goerner
Mark Sokolowski
Kai Strom | 29 Susan MacArthur |
| | 30 Bob Boller
Leslie Harmon |
| | 31 Janet Keehn |



- 2** Bert & Heidi Zielke
- 6** Breena & Michael Effertz
- 8** Greg & Michelle Stohr
Shawn & Kelli Vetterkind
- 17** Rick & Cindy Molstad



- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Ushers | Aileen Tauchen
Irene Titera |
| | Lector | George Lawrence |
| | Communion Asst. | Rosemary Johnson |
| | Acolyte | Tanner Davis |
| 8 | Ushers | Don Soyring
Judy Soyring |
| | Lector | Jana Nyhagen |
| | Communion Asst. | Bradon Martin |
| | Acolyte | Izzy Solberg |
| 15 | Ushers | Gordie Dukerschein
Bev Dukerschein |
| | Lector | Aileen Tauchen |
| | Communion Asst. | Dukerschein |
| | Acolyte | Sophia Kammerud |
| 22 | Ushers | George Lawrence
Aileen Tauchen |
| | Lector | Linda Campbell |
| | Communion Asst. | Rosemary Johnson |
| | Acolyte | Briley Burmeister |
| 29 | Ushers | Dave Borman
Irene Titera |
| | Lector | Irene Titera |
| | Communion Asst. | Irene Titera |
| | Acolyte | Tanner Davis |

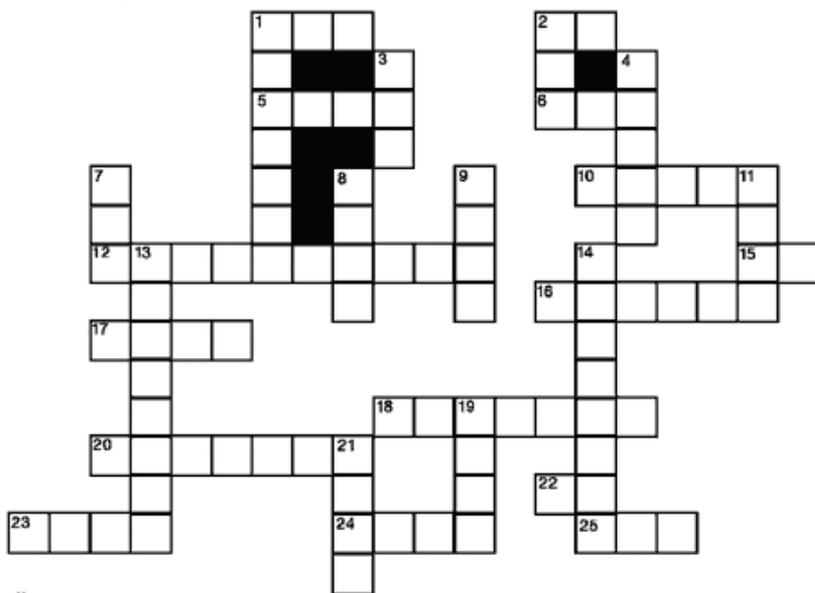


Just for KIDS

"Lord, Teach Us to Pray"

Jesus' disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray."
 Find the special prayer that Jesus taught them. Fit the words from the list into the squares on the puzzle.
 Then, transfer them to the blank lines below.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-------|----------|------------|
| be | for | come | name | Father | hallowed |
| us | not | each | sins | against | temptation |
| we | our | Give | your | Forgive | |
| And | who | into | bread | Kingdom | |
| day | also | lead | daily | everyone | |



 16 14 22 11 19 11 18 24

 23 15 21 25 6 10 4 20 15 6 9

 3 2A 5 20 13 2D 9 1D 15

 1A 17 15 7 8 12

 Luke 11:2-4