

Tidings of Hope

September 2022



Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration

September 2022

“Renewal in Christ”

By Pastor Christopher Martin

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2, ESV)

As many of you are aware, for the last 4 years going back to my last call in Iowa, I've been honored to serve the wider church as part of the National Renewal Team in the Missions Office of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). Over the course of that time, our team has been working hard to address the needs of our existing congregations in the NALC, in particular, the need for congregational renewal in our small and rural churches, which make up the vast majority of the congregational base of the NALC. While this was an important topic before COVID, it's become an even more important topic today as our churches, Hope and Glen Flora included, continue to emerge from that difficult period of our history, and find that we're facing a lot of challenges in our ministries today.

So as we talk about “renewal”, the question we have to answer is this: what does “renewal” mean, and is it something we need in the life of our congregations, or in our individual spiritual lives today? The New Testament Greek word that is translated as “renewal” in our reading from Romans 12 I quoted at the beginning of the article comes from a root word that means: “renovation” or “a complete change of heart or mind.”

Theologically speaking, the conversation of “renewal” gets to the heart of the daily life of the Christian! And do we ever need it today!

(Pastor's column, cont.)

I don't recall a time in my life (and I know I've heard some of you reflect the same on your life experience too) where people were so angry and there was so much political and social unrest as what we have witnessed in recent years. And instead of getting any better, it's getting worse. It's no coincidence that as this is happening, fewer and fewer people are identifying themselves as Christians, and there is an ever-growing segment of our population that claims "no religious affiliation" and the church's influence in our community and society continue to decline.

If there has ever been a time in my years of ministry that we need renewal, it's today!

So, how will we bring about renewal in our own spiritual lives, and in the life of Hope and Glen Flora Lutheran Churches, and across the North American Lutheran Church? It comes by renewing our minds and our hearts! It means asking ourselves the question "why are we here?" I firmly believe that our best years in both churches are not behind us. They are ahead of us. However, that doesn't mean that they'll look the same way they did in the "golden years", whatever point of reference that might be for you. I believe that in order for us to continue to offer a dynamic, impactful ministry in the years to come, it will happen as we take to heart the words of Paul in our verse from Romans 12. Let's not get caught up in the way the world defines success through a chase after numbers. Let's instead renew our hearts and minds through the Word of God, the Scriptures, which point us to our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we center our lives, and everything we do in our families, and in our congregations, and yes, even together as a parish, around Christ and His gifts to us in Word and Sacrament, we will find renewal.

You see, as we renew ourselves in God's Word on a daily basis, as we lay our sins and failings at the foot of the Cross, and receive anew each day God's gift of forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ, we will find true renewal. We will be set free from the world's demands that can never be satisfied. We will find true peace with God, and assurance that whatever we face in this life, we face with Christ by our side. We will find the promise of everlasting life with God in paradise because of Jesus' death and resurrection to be the most important thing we seek. And thus, having been renewed by

(Pastor's column, cont.)

the Word of God, our focus will change from being inward on ourselves and what makes us comfortable, to wanting to share the hope that is within us with our world.

In the coming months, you are going to hear from me about opportunities to renew our lives in Christ through the NALC's Life-to-Life Discipleship resources. It is my hope that in both congregations, to find individuals who would like to go on this journey with me, and be equipped for the task of being disciples of Jesus Christ, who seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ, one life at a time! If you want to learn more, feel free to ask me anytime!

I pray that our program year at Hope and Glen Flora will be a blessing as we continue some of our traditional programs, begin some new areas of ministry, and most importantly, as we seek to come together around God's gifts of Word and Sacrament in our churches each week, and equip ourselves for the ministry of joining Jesus on His mission of redemption right here in Rusk County, one life at a time.



Rally Day Celebration

We will be kicking off our fall programming with our Rally Day Celebration on Sunday, September 11. Following the worship service there will be a potluck brunch and games for children of all ages. Dining areas will be set up both inside and outside. Please bring a dish to pass and outdoor chairs if you have them.

As we resume our normal schedule of activities, you are encouraged to invite your unchurched friends and neighbors to join us for worship, Sunday School and other events.

Sunday School

Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 18 from 10:15-11:00am. Sunday School is for children 3-years old through 6th grade. Please contact Heidi Jo Sovacool if you have questions.



Hope Lutheran Church Women



Monthly Meeting: The HLCW will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, September 15 at 9:30am. All women of Hope are welcome.

Quilting: The quilting group will meet in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, September 27 beginning at 9:00am. If you can stay for 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).

Confirmation

Confirmation is an educational ministry of Hope Lutheran Church, designed to help students understand and affirm the Christian faith, and participate more fully in the life and mission of the church. Instruction begins in 7th grade and concludes in the fall of the 9th grade year. Confirmation orientation will be held on Wednesday, September 7. The 7th & 8th graders will meet at 6:30pm and the 9th graders at 7:30pm. Regular Confirmation classes will begin on September 14. Please contact Pastor Martin if you have questions about the Confirmation program.

Youth Breakfast

High School Youth will meet for breakfast and devotions on Sunday, September 18 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.

Addresses Wanted

We like to keep in touch with the young adults of our congregation who are attending college/technical school. This includes sending a surprise treat or two during the school year. Please submit college addresses to the church office (hlcladysmith@gmail.com or 715-532-7739).

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.

The cost of the workbook is \$20.00 but scholarships are available. 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>.

CareNet Walk for Life

The CareNet Pregnancy Resource Center will hold their annual "Walk for Life" fundraiser on Saturday, September 17 at Memorial Park. Registration is at 8:30am with the walk beginning at 9:00am. The theme for this year's Walk is "Life Is an Adventure." If you would like to be a part of the Hope Lutheran walk team or would like to sponsor one of our walkers, please contact Rosemary Johnson or Kathy Peterson.

MUSIC NOTES

The Choirchimes of Hope will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 7 at 5:30pm. This group is for adults and youth 3rd grade and older. There are no prerequisites to play other than a love of worshipping our Lord through music. If you have questions, please contact Heidi Jo Sovacool.

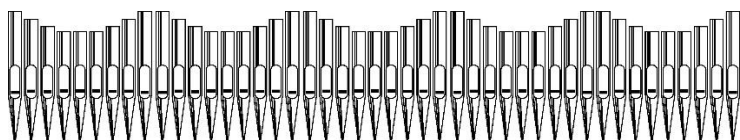
Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities

Bible Study: Pastor Martin's study on the book of Job will resume on Friday, September 16 at 1:00pm.

Men's Breakfast: Men of Hope are invited to attend the Men's Breakfast & Bible Study held each Thursday at 7:00am at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant. The group studies the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday and enjoys breakfast and a time of fellowship.

Book Discussion: The Book Discussion Group will meet on Sunday, September 18 at 10:30am to discuss The Book Woman's Daughter by Kim Michele Richardson.

Meal of the Month: The Meal of the Month for September will be held at Cedar Lodge on Wednesday, September 14 at 11:30am. If you'd like to carpool, please meet at the church parking lot.



PIPE ORGAN CONCERT

The Congregational United Church of Christ (109 E. Lake Ave, Ladysmith) is celebrating its 120th anniversary and commemorating the 20th anniversary of the tornado that hit the church with a pipe organ concert on Sunday, September 11 at 3:00pm. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

This free concert features Ms. Elaine Mann, organist at Grace Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. Ms. Mann earned a Master of Music in organ and hold the Fellowship Certificate from the American Guild of Organists. She is currently serving as the dean of the Chippewa Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Mission Statement

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

Backpack Food Program

The Hope & Friends Backpack Food Program is beginning its eighth in the Ladysmith Elementary and Middle schools, providing nutritious foods to children on the weekends when school meals are not available. We are also making our program available to high school students through Power House Youth Center. Students in the LHS special education program partner with us and do the packaging of the food. Volunteers also assist with the packaging and handle distribution of the food packs.

Children are supplied with two 2-4-ounce cereals, two entrees, a fruit, a vegetable, soup and some snacks (granola bars, crackers and even some chocolates) for weekends when school meals are not provided. Extended vacation times may also include jars of peanut butter and jelly and coupons for a half gallon of milk, a dozen eggs and a loaf of bread. There is no cost to the families or school district.

The program receives assistance and funding from a number of local churches, civic organizations, and individuals. Kwik Trip and Feed My People Food Bank have been great supporters, as well. Fundraising for the 2022-23 school year has begun. Donations can be placed in the offering box or dropped off in the church office. Checks should be made payable to the Hope & Friends Backpack Food Program.

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 Monday, September 5.

Volunteers are also needed on Tuesday, September 6 and Monday, September 19 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

(Meals Available for the Nutritional Needs of All)

The September MANNA Meal will be held at Hope Lutheran Church on Thursday, September 29 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 is sponsored by the Congregational United Church of Christ.

Operation Christmas Child

We will once again be preparing "shoeboxes" for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Now is the time to pick up and donate school supplies for children around the world who may not have anything for school. Items like pens, pencils & sharpeners, pencil pouches, crayons, blunt-tip scissors, colored pencils, glue sticks (NO liquid bottles please), spiral notebooks, other paper, and post-it notes are now on sale. (Please remember that these items need to fit into a shoebox.) Donations can be placed in the basket in the narthex. Our boxes won't be sent out until November but now is the time to get some good deals on school supplies! If you have questions or would like to pack a box yourself, please contact Don Bartig (715-532-3303 or 715-415-3265).

Scrip Program

Scrip cards are sold following worship most Sundays and in the church office during office hours. Cards can be immediately purchased for several businesses in Ladysmith. They can also be ordered from an extensive list of other retailers, including Amazon. Proceeds from the Scrip program go towards building and maintenance needs. Please stop by the table in the multi-purpose room following worship for more information.

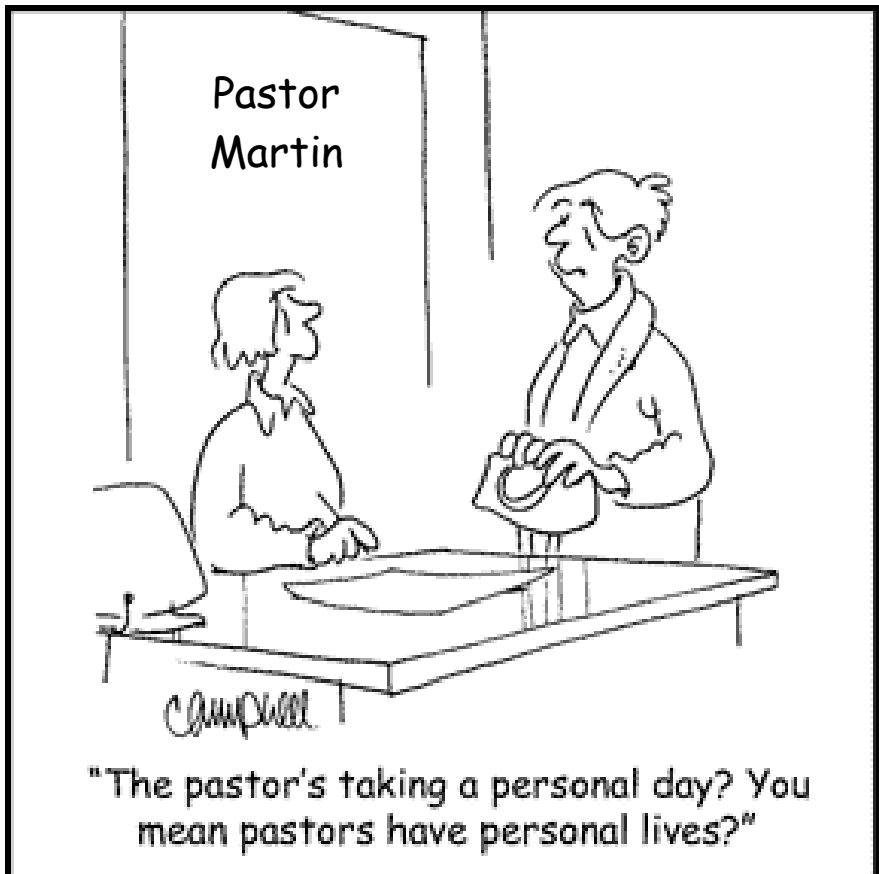
Amazon Smile

Are you a frequent Amazon shopper? Did you know you can help support Hope Lutheran Church with your purchases? All you have to do is shop through [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/Smile), select Hope Lutheran Church, Ladysmith, WI as your charity, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to the church.

Livestreaming **AVAILABLE**

Our worship service is livestreamed on the Hope Lutheran Church Facebook page each Sunday at 9:00am. After the service, the video is then posted to the Facebook page for later viewing.

If you would like to sponsor a worship service, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. There is a suggested donation of \$50/service. Funds raised from livestreaming sponsorships go towards keeping the technology needed to livestream up-to-date.



SUMMARY OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 16, 2022

Parish Agreement: After discussion, Council voted to approve the newly revised Parish Agreement with Glen Flora Lutheran Church.

Adult Education & Fellowship: Will handle the food portion of the Rally Day celebration. An Audie Lake event is being planned for September. Pastor Martin will resume the study of the book of Job in September. Next meeting: TBD.

Congregational Care & Outreach: Next meeting: September 13 at 3:00pm.

Property Committee: Windows are being finished and a painter is needed. Plexiglass covers will be purchased for the fellowship hall windows. No applicants for the maintenance position. Next meeting: September 13 at 6:00pm.

Social Ministries: Benevolence and Missions funds were designated for Walk for Life and NALC Disaster Relief. Next meeting: September 6 at 3:30pm.

Stewardship & Finance: Working on investment policy and stewardship drive. Next meeting: September 13 at 5:30pm.

Worship & Music: Continuing to get quotes on video system upgrades. Sundays & Seasons subscription was approved to aid in projection slide creation and copyright issues. Next meeting: September 6 at 6:00pm.

Youth Education: Planning for Rally Day. Christmas pageant will be December 18. Next meeting: TBD.

Youth Ministry: Youth breakfast will be September 18. Next meeting: September 12 at 4:45pm.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30pm.

January – July 2022

Offering: \$120,315.51

Budget: \$132,481.00

Average Worship Attendance: 64



Deadlines...

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the October newsletter are due no later than Tuesday, September 20. 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
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



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

4	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst.	Gordie & Bev Dukerschein Nick Sovacool Dukerschein
11	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst.	Judy Soyring, Aileen Tauchen Charlie Holtebeck Linda Campbell
18	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst.	Charlie Holtebeck, Irene Titera Irene Titera Chris Holtebeck
25	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst.	Nick Sovacool, Irene Titera Linda Campbell Irene Titera, Bradon Martin



2	Bob & Karen Langland	21	Vicki & Earl Monnier
4	Gene & Barb Oldham	22	Joel & Cassie Solsrud
5	Bob & Louise Boller	25	Nate & Tammy Peggarr
9	Brian & Veronica Curik Tiffany & Kyle Johnson	26	John & Gayleen Duzy
12	Jason & Cami Peggarr	27	Lindsay & Jeff Schmidt
13	Don & Nancy Bartig	28	Jerry & Marilyn Kulibert Anne & Peter Olson
14	Jack & Jackie Pederson	30	Nancy & Brian Burmeister
15	Brian & Laura Johnson		



September

BIRTHDAYS

- 1** Jim Doke
- 2** Michelle LaBlonde
Brody Kesan
- 3** Jim Cooley
Cash LaBrie
Alex Rausch
Sue Segebrecht
Julie Vollendorf
- 4** Josh Hills
- 5** Mark Bentley, Sr.
Hazel LaBlonde
- 6** Ryan Anderson
Nick Kirkey
Deborah Lentsch
- 7** Christopher Dauer
Brian Hon
Dan Petrus
Jackson Summerfield
- 8** Michael Bentley
Tyler Krisik
Stephanie Morgan
- 9** Barry Canfield
Bradon Martin
- 11** Ruben Allen
Timothy Brooks
Tammy Peggarr
Tom Segebrecht
- 12** Doug Moore, Jr.
- 13** George Calkins
- 14** Ellie Amick
Jill Berg
Andrea Hraban
Jarod Johnson
Christian Polak
- 15** Megan Kimber
Joe Smith
Leo Yugas
- 16** Jeanne Hess
Jay Meuli
Susan Warren
- 17** Sean Lacey
- 18** Joachim Eitenmiller
Gary Purgett
Anna Ringstad
- 19** Nick Goffin
Megan Anger
Damien Tuttle
- 20** Emma Konichek
Nicholas Wiemer
- 22** Tori Busse
Pat Morgan
- 23** Barbara Stanton
- 24** Terry Miller
- 25** Jim Stanton
- 26** Yvonne Dedrickson
- 27** Tami Moore
Ione Reder
- 28** Bob Grunseth
Jon Nelson
- 30** Delores Thorpe



Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.

- party - t = p r A y (v. 1)
- lady + i = _ _ _ _ (v. 3)
- drab + e = _ _ _ _ (v. 5)
- rod + o = _ _ _ _ (v. 7)
- bask - b = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)
- keeps - p = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)
- define - ee = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)
- shift - t = _ _ _ _ (v. 11)
- sneaky - y = _ _ _ _ (v. 11)
- sift + g = _ _ _ _ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

_____ (v. 13)