

Tidings of Hope

October 2021



Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration

October 2021

Freedom in Christ

By Pastor Christopher Martin

“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)

I'd like for you to imagine you are in a prison cell. You've been there for years, tried to escape, but to no avail. You know that unless something changes, you will die in that prison. Now, I'd like for you to imagine someone much stronger than you, or your captors comes along, defeats those who have held you in that prison, and is now walking down the halls of the cell block with the keys to each cell in his hand. He approaches your cell, unlocks the door, and says “Follow me to freedom. I have more than enough food for you to eat, fresh clothes to put on your back, and freedom from this prison cell you've been living in all this time. Follow me!”

What would you say if you decided to respond by saying “No thanks, I'm doing okay on my own” as you try to chip away at the cinderblock wall with a plastic spoon, trying to dig your way out of the cell when the door has been flung wide open for you? I hope that you recognize how ridiculous that happens to be! We'd all want to follow the invitation of our liberator!

As we listen to the words of Jesus in John 8, we recognize that story, spiritually speaking, relates to us quite well. Jesus Christ is our liberator from sin, death, and the devil. His perfect, sinless life, sacrificial death on the cross, and resurrection from the dead have defeated our enemies of the devil, the world, and our sinful natures. Through the Gospel, Jesus is calling for us to follow Him, to abide in His Word, the Scriptures, because it is there we come to know the truth, and the truth will set us free!

(continued)

(Pastor's column, cont.)

Part of that truth involves the role of Scripture in our everyday lives. It is one thing to come to worship on Sunday morning, go through the Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness, try to listen to the Scripture readings and the sermon, and whatever else we do for an hour or so while we're here. All too often, however, we tend to think that's all we have to do as Christians. We're free to live however it is that we want the other 6 days of the week, without any consequences to our actions. Friends, nothing can be further from the truth!

Part of life as a disciple of Jesus Christ is following Him each day. When we try to hold onto particular sins that we often try to excuse or brush off by saying "That's just who I am" or "I know it's wrong, but in my case, it's different because..." or some other excuse we come up with, we're just like that prisoner in our opening analogy, trying to dig our way to freedom in a feeble attempt when the cell door has been flung wide open. Christian freedom doesn't mean we have the right to live however we want without regard to God's expectations of us in His law.

Christian freedom means we have been set free from having to earn our way into heaven so that we may serve God and others in our everyday lives. We become lights of the Gospel so that others might see Jesus through us in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

In many ways, God's Word and the work of the Holy Spirit in that word lead us to transform ourselves. That's what the Reformation of the Church over 500 years ago was about, it brought about a transformation in the church as the focus shifted back to Christ, and His Word! And that reformation is ongoing in our own lives, too!

As you seek to be a follower of Jesus, I pray that the spirit of the Reformation, the spirit that pulls you back to Jesus, and centers your heart and mind in Him alone will bring about a reformation within you. That you will be led to confess your sin for what it is, let go of it, and return to the Lord your God. Allow Christ to change you for the better, so that you will become a light of the Gospel in our dark world that needs the love, grace, and forgiveness of Christ more than ever before.

I look forward to seeing you in worship with us this month as we feed our souls on the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ!



CONFIRMATION



Five of our youth have completed Confirmation instruction and will affirm the faith of their baptisms at the worship service on Sunday, October 31. Our 2021 confirmands are Owen Burmeister, Levi Nyhagen, Manuel Moore, Kai Strom, and Jackson Summerfield. Please keep these youth in your prayers as they prepare to take this step in their faith journey. A reception in their honor will be held following the worship service on October 31.

Sunday School

Sunday School will begin on Sunday, October 3 (please note the change in date). Sunday School is for children 3-years old through 6th grades and runs from 10:15-11:00am each week. Registration forms and copies of the Sunday School schedule can be found on the Youth Education bulletin board.

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. There is a basket in the narthex if you would like to donate items for boxes that will be packed by the church. Questions about Operation Christmas Child can be directed to Don Bartig (715-532-3303).

Music Notes

The Choirchimes of Hope meets each Wednesday at 5:30pm. This group is for adults and children 3rd 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).



Hope Lutheran Church Women



Monthly Meeting: The HLCW will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, October 21 at 9:30am. All women of Hope are welcome.

Quilting: The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, October 26 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).



Meatloaf Dinner

The HLCW will hold a fall Meatloaf Dinner on Wednesday, October 20 with serving from 4:30-6:30pm. The meal will include meatloaf, baked potato, vegetable, coleslaw, dinner roll, and dessert. The cost is \$9.00/meal. Carry-outs will be available. Reservations are appreciated and can be made by contacting the church office (715-532-7739 or hlcladysmith@gmail.com).

If you would like to help with this meal, please contact Josi Hamilton (715-532-6052). Monetary donations to help defray expenses are greatly appreciated. Checks should be made payable to HLCW. Please clearly mark donations "Fall Dinner".

Adult Education & Fellowship

Women's Bible Study: This study will meet on Friday, October 8 at 3:30pm.

Book Discussion: The book discussion group will meet on Sunday, October 17 at 10:20am. The book for October is Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear by Max Lucado.

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.



High School Youth Breakfast: High School Youth will meet for breakfast and devotions on Sunday, October 17 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.

Operation Christmas Child: Middle & High School aged youth will be gathering to pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child on Sunday, October 24. Please watch Facebook and upcoming Sunday bulletins for more information.

Youth Ministry Facebook: Check out the Hope Lutheran Youth Ministries Facebook group for updates and information on youth events.

Radio Broadcast Update

The Hope Lutheran Church Council at its September meeting made the difficult decision to discontinue our radio broadcast over WLDY 1340AM, and to focus our broadcast outreach efforts on our livestreaming ministry moving forward. Our final radio broadcast over WLDY will be Sunday, October 31, 2021. This brings to a close a partnership with WLDY that began with our first radio broadcast in 1948.

We wish to thank everyone who has supported our radio ministry over the years, in particular, those of you who have sponsored a radio broadcast. Please stay tuned for ways you can help support our livestream as we begin a new chapter of our broadcasting ministry at Hope Lutheran Church. If you have any questions about this transition, please contact Pastor Martin or a member of the Church Council.



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 4 & 18) 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 28 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.

Clergy Appreciation Month

October is Clergy Appreciation Month (October 10 is Clergy Appreciation Day). We wish to offer our thanks to 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.

"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching."

~ 1 Timothy 5:17

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves." ~ 1 Thessalonian 5:12-13

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

Radio Broadcast: Due to ongoing problems with the quality of sound on the radio broadcast the Council voted to discontinue our radio broadcasts on WLDY at the end of October.

Food Pantry: The Food Pantry Committee met on August 31 and discussed four main concerns. A subcommittee will be formed.

Maintenance Position: Property Committee recommends filling the position rather than using volunteers.

Adult Education & Fellowship: No quorum. Next meeting: October 8 at 2:00pm.

Congregational Care & Outreach: They have taken in over \$1,000 at the Farmers Market, which will be donated to some of the non-profit organizations supported by the church. **Next Meeting:** October 18 at 4:00pm.

Property: Looking into projects for 2022. **Next meeting:** October 14 at 6:00pm.

Social Ministries: Backpack program serving 82 students. Forty-two people were served at the August MANNA Meal. **Next meeting:** October 12 at 3:30pm.

Stewardship & Finance: Finalized stewardship drive and plan to send out information in October. Commitment Sunday is November 14. **Next meeting:** October 12 at 5:30pm.

Worship & Music: Committee spent a lot of time working on Back to Church Sunday. **Next meeting:** October 12 at 6:00pm.

Youth Education: Reaching out to families to see if there is an interest in Wednesday School. **Next meeting:** October 6 at 5:00pm.

Youth Ministry: Movie & popcorn on September 26. Next meeting: October 7 at 6:00pm.

Next Meeting: October 19 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 19. 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
Maintenance	
Custodian	Rosemary Warwick
Organists	Lisa Borman Karen Tappon Aileen Tauchen Terry Wedwick

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Ladysmith, WI 54848
Church Phone: 715-532-7739
E-Mail Address: hlcladysmith@gmail.com
Website: hlcladysmith.org



October Worship Assistants

3	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Jerry & Pat McEathron Linda Campbell Linda Reissner Jackson Summerfield
10	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Kathy Ducommun, Nick Sovacool Nick Sovacool Karen Langland Manny Moore
17	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Kathy Peterson, Linda Reissner Kathy Peterson Irene Titera Owen Burmeister
24	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Dave Borman, Charlie Holtebeck Nick Sovacool Chris Holtebeck Kai Strom
24	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Dave Borman, Irene Titera Irene Titera Bob Langland Briley Burmeister, Danny Craker

Projection: Don Bartig

Videography: Heidi Jo Sovacool

Mission Statement

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



OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

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|---|---|
| 3 Brandyn & Jessie Polak | 15 Mark & Jill Berg |
| 4 Bob & Pat Grunseth | 16 Alan & Lisa Larson |
| 7 Christian & Kelsey Borman
Kelsey & Blayne Field | 21 Kyle & Erin Craker
Bob & Jessica Hoehn |
| 8 Jim & Kathy Stanton | 27 James & Barbara Stanton |
| 10 Carla & Mike Closs | 28 Jim & Cora Schultz |
| 12 Todd & Jenny Dahlstrom | 31 Bill & Sharon Kaul |