

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration



Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

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November 2023

Being Thankful People of God

By Pastor Martin

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 136:1)

A few years ago, when we were serving my previous parish in northern Iowa, I was taking Bradon and Zachary to Mason City to see a hockey game when we heard a loud “bang” in the front of the car as we were entering the city limits of Mason City, about 45 minutes from home. Thinking we had hit something on the road, or had damage due to a pothole, we pulled over into a McDonald’s parking lot, to discover motor oil all over the inside of the engine bay and the right front wheel well. As it turned out, due to a manufacturing defect by Hyundai, a connecting rod had punctured through the engine block, leaving my car inoperable and needing a new engine.

I will be the first to admit, I didn’t find a lot to be thankful for at first when this all happened, and in all the hours I spent trying to get the situation resolved with Hyundai since the car was still under warranty. Yet, over time, I discovered that I actually did have much to be thankful for in the midst of it all. I was thankful that the incident occurred when we were in a populated area and had somewhere safe to pull over, be able to feed the boys, and keep them entertained while I called for assistance and waited for Lindsay to come pick us up. I was thankful I wasn’t like others who had the same year, make, and model of vehicle that I owned at the time and had their car catch fire, whereas mine had not. I’m thankful for people who have been helpful along the way, with moving my car where it needed to be, diagnosing the problem, and helping me navigate this whole process, and also for being able to have a nice rental vehicle to drive while I waited for a resolution. In many small, hidden ways, I’ve been able to see God’s steadfast love and care for me in what has been a not so fun experience.

(Pastor's column, cont.)

We all have moments like this, don't we, where we're going through something stressful, and it seems difficult to find reasons to be thankful, or to see the hand of God in the midst of it all? When we're having health issues, when someone we love is in need of more care and their health continues to deteriorate, when difficult decisions need to be made, when we lose a job, or when death strikes near, it's hard, if not impossible, sometimes to live out the words of the 136th Psalm, isn't it? It's difficult to give thanks to the Lord, and see His steadfast love for us in the midst of suffering.

Yet, when we ponder the suffering of Christ, we see that we have a God in Jesus Christ who identifies with us in moments of suffering. Jesus knows what it is to suffer as He suffered for our sins on the cross. Jesus offers to us eternal life and salvation, and also promises to be with us always in our everyday life. Jesus goes with you everywhere you go. He is with you in good moments. He is with you in moments of suffering and grief. He is with us when all seems lost, reminding us of the hope that we have of everlasting life, and that while we are in this life, He promises to provide for us.

As you look at your life this month, what can you be thankful for? How can you see God at work in your life in small, seemingly insignificant ways? I would encourage you to take a moment to give thanks to God for all of the ways He provides and cares for you in this life, and for giving you the gift of everlasting life.

I hope and pray that you have a blessed Thanksgiving later this month, and as you do, don't forget to make worship a part of the way you give thanks and praise to God for all He has done for you in this life, and for His promises of forgiveness and everlasting life in the life to come!



Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 5. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints' Sunday, November 5, is a day set aside to remember our Christian brothers and sisters who have been laid to rest. On that day we will be especially remembering those from our church family who have died since last All Saints Sunday by lighting a candle in memory of each of these saints.

Donald Anderson

February 18, 1955 – November 18, 2022

Violet Biller

January 23, 1928 – November 20, 2022

Elaine Gabrovic

February 23, 1928 – November 21, 2022

Edward Anderson

March 31, 1939 – November 22, 2022

Karen Whittaker

August 7, 1965 – December 20, 2022

Joyce Tomczak

December 24, 1934 – January 13, 2023

Carol Hon

February 18, 1949 – March 22, 2023

Robert Sanderson

October 4, 1950 – May 12, 2023

Members of the congregation will also have an opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones.



Hope Lutheran Church Women



Monthly Meeting: The HLCW will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, November 16 at 9:30am. All women of Hope are welcome!

Quilting: The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, November 28 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).

Socks & Underwear Collection: The HLCW will again be collecting underwear and socks to be distributed to area schools and shelters. Leggings and sweatpants (children's size 4-7) will also be accepted. Donations of new items can be brought to the church and placed on or under the tree in the narthex,

Cookie Walk: The Cookie Walk will take place on Saturday, December 2. It takes many hands to make this event happen. If you can help, please sign up in the narthex.

Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities

Bible Study: A study entitled "Fruit of the Spirit", led by Lindsay Martin, meets each Sunday at 10:30am. This study is for all adults and is held in the Fireside Room.

Book Discussion: The book group will meet on Sunday, November 19 at 10:30am to discuss The Fear That Chases Me by Linda J. White.

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 needed the first and third Mondays of each month at 9:15am (November 6 & 20) to help unload the Feed My People delivery and to stock shelves.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Faithful Participants in God's Mission

We are happy to report that we are at 90% of our \$6,000 goal for soffit repair and that we have met the goal for the technology upgrade. Thank you to everyone who has donated to these projects!

Through September 30, donations are below budget but expenses are also below budget. As we near the end of the fiscal year, please prayerfully consider your offering to the church.

YTD thru 9/30/23	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Donations	\$179,552	\$166,404	93%
Expenses	\$187,408	\$173,123	92%

Average Sunday worship from January thru September was 70 with a high of 169 on Easter Sunday and a low of 41 on March 12.

Youth Ministry

November Donuts & Devotions: Youth in grades 6-12 will meet for Donuts & Devotions on Sunday, November 5 following the worship service.

November Pizza Party and OCC Assembly: On Sunday, November 5 at 5:00pm youth in grades 6-12 will meet in the fellowship hall to assemble Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and enjoy some pizza! Friends are welcome!

GriefShare

GriefShare continues to meet each Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm. GriefShare is a faith-based, non-denominational grief support group that is led by trained lay leaders. If you, or someone you know, would like to register for the program, please contact the church office (715-532-7739 or hlcladysmith@gmail.com) and leave your contact information. A GriefShare leader will call you back. You can also register online at griefshare.org.

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 2023 COUNCIL & COMMITTEE ACTION

Pastor's Report: Made one hospital visit, had two separate visits with individuals in office, and several telephone contacts. Attended the Mission District Convocation in Brookfield. Delivered 54 quilts for NALC Disaster Response.

Conflict Resolution Training: Pastor led a brief training for the Church Council, pointing out that change can be difficult as we move ahead with discussion with the Path Forward Committee.

Congregational Care & Outreach: Virginia Jacobs agreed to replace Diane Doke on the committee. The Farmers Market booth raised approximately \$2,000, which will be distributed for local ministries. Next meeting: November 8 at 3:15pm.

Parish Education: There are 11 students participating in Wednesday School. The Christmas pageant will be held December 17. Next meeting: November 1 at 6:30pm.

Property Committee: Thompson's will again be plowing the parking lot. Basement wall repairs will be completed before the end of the year. Next meeting: November 14 at 6:00pm.

Service & Fellowship: A winter clothing drive is ongoing. Next meeting: TBA.

Social Ministries: Backpack Program serving 125 children each week. Hope's "Walk for Life" team raised \$6,360.00 for CareNet. Missions and local benevolence funds were designated for Operation Christmas Child and NALC Disaster Response. Next meeting: November 14 at 4:00pm.

Stewardship & Finance: There will be a stewardship update in the newsletter each month. Advised committees to start thinking about next year's budget needs. Next meeting: November 14 at 5:30pm.

Worship & Music: Committee did not meet in October. Next meeting: November 7 at 6:00pm.

Youth Ministry: No youth have expressed interest in attending the NALC National Gathering due to it being held the week of July 4. Next meeting, November 8 at 6:30pm.

Next Council Meeting: November 21 at 6:30pm.



Deadlines...

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the December newsletter are due in the church office by Thursday, November 16.

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, especially if you no longer have a landline, 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



November Worship Assistants

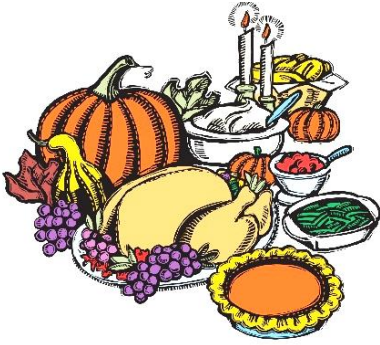
5	Ushers	Charlie Holtebeck, Nick Sovacool
	Lector	Jana Nyhagen
	Comm. Asst.	Chris Holtebeck
	Acolyte	Tanner David, Addison Hulle, Blake Nyhagen
12	Ushers	Kathy Ducommun, Charlie Holtebeck
	Lector	Charlie Holtebeck
	Comm. Asst.	Chris Holtebeck
	Acolyte	Izzy Solberg
19	Ushers	Bev Dukerschein, Kathy Peterson
	Lector	Nick Sovacool
	Comm. Asst.	Bev Dukerschein
	Acolyte	Addison Hulle
26	Ushers	Bev Dukerschein, Irene Titera
	Lector	Bev Dukerschein
	Comm. Asst.	Bradon Martin
	Acolyte	Bradon Martin

Heading South for the Winter?

We want to stay in touch! Please let the church office know your winter address and the dates you'll be gone so that you can continue to receive the church newsletter and other mailings. If you do not want to receive mailings during your absence, please also let us know that. Addresses and dates can be sent to hlcladysmith@gmail.com or you can call the church office at 715-532-7739.

Mission Statement

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



Community Thanksgiving Dinner November 23

Hope Lutheran Church will be holding the Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23 with serving from 12:00noon-1:00pm. Deliveries to homebound members of the community within five miles of the church will also be available. To reserve a meal, please contact the church office (715-532-7739) by noon on Monday, November 20.

MENU

Turkey, Dressing, Potatoes & Gravy,
Vegetables, Cranberry Sauce, Dinner Rolls,
Jell-o, Pies, and Beverages

It takes many hands to make this meal happen. Volunteers are needed to provide food and money, help with cooking and clean-up, and to deliver meals. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Questions?
Contact Josi Hamilton (715-532-6052).





NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Nicole Jackson
Barb Canfield
Emma Dieckman
Linda Reissner | 16 Mark Buchholz
Spencer Shultz |
| 2 Lauren Cumming
Kaitlyn Dahlstrom
Michael Duzy | 17 Breann Hillman
Wes Hills
Hilary Peterson |
| 3 Randy Nyhagen | 19 Cheryl Kelley
Kirk Konichek
David Weber |
| 5 Eric Pederson
Don Soyring | 22 Beckett Jacobs |
| 7 Twyla Lund
Kaiden MacArthur
Sue Molstad
Cassandra Solsrud | 23 Lynnette Jenness |
| 8 Dekker Anger
Shad Strom
Jill Nisbit | 24 Pat Cumming
Braxton Morgan |
| 9 Mitchel Segebrecht | 25 Terry Paul
Colton Solie
Robyn Wiemer |
| 10 Molly Van Daalwyk
Korie Kuchta
Gavyn Lawcewicz | 26 Karen Tappon |
| 11 Evan Hillan | 27 Gracie Nelson |
| 12 Aaron Klawiter
Nicki Kruse | 28 Jerry Kulibert |
| 15 Bobbi-Jo Rivera
Craig Warren | 29 Andrew Grunseth
Carly Molstad
Alexis Polak |
| | 30 Abigail Anderson
Terry Anderson
Melissa Roach
Scott Lee
Ashley Schultz
Leighton Vollendorf |

* * * * *

- 2** Gordie & Bev Dukerschein
- 3** Jim & Gina Cooley
- 4** Kayla & Seth Coggins
Kathi & Kyle Kesan
Brad & Meghan Schultz
- 26** Andrea & Jim Hraban