

# Tidings of Hope

FEBRUARY 2023



Hope Lutheran Church  
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

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# Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration  
February 2023

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**“I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE...  
DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?”**

Pastor Christopher Martin

As I begin this article, I wish to begin by saying “Thank You” for the messages of condolence many of you have sent to me upon the recent deaths of my aunt, Pat Nelson, and a close family friend, Joan Nielsen. While I know it isn’t always easy to have the Pastor away on such short notice, my family and I deeply appreciate your understanding of our need to return to Iowa for a short time.

Because of the reason for my recent return trip home to Iowa, my mind has been on the words of Jesus from John 11:25-26: *“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”*

I can’t tell you how many times over the 15 years I’ve served as a parish pastor I’ve spoken these words or preached on them in funeral sermons in every single church I’ve served during that time. However, these words have taken on a special meaning for me recently, as, in the midst of my own grief over losing two people who were a source of support throughout my ministry, I’ve found a considerable amount of comfort in these words of our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

When Jesus first speaks these words, it’s to his close friend, Martha, who is mourning over the recent death of her brother, Lazarus. By the time Jesus arrives in Bethany, it’s been four days since Lazarus has died. The funeral service has been held. The procession from the place of the funeral to the grave has taken place. Lazarus’ lifeless body was laid in the tomb, and a stone was rolled in place to seal the tomb. It seems that death wins out.

*(Pastor's column, cont.)*

But we discover that's not the end of the story, is it? Indeed, Jesus is the resurrection and the life! He raises Lazarus from the dead in John 11. Later in the New Testament, we learn that Jesus, by His own death and resurrection, has become the first fruits of the resurrection, meaning there is more to come.

When we are called to mourn the deaths of those who we love who have died in the faith, we're posed with the same question from Jesus that He posed to Martha as she was in the midst of mourning her brother's death...do you believe this? What about you, personally? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life? Do you believe that, as you center your life in Jesus Christ, and His Word, as you place your faith and trust in Him and Him alone for life and salvation, that you will live forever with Him, even though there will come a day when your eyelids close in death? Do you believe that for our loved ones who die in faith in Jesus Christ, that death was not the end, but was merely the vehicle that God uses to bring us from the pain, suffering, and sorrow we often face in this sinful, dying world, to the eternal joy and life in paradise with Him? Do you believe this?

Many in our community, and the world, sadly, do not believe this. For them, death is something they fear. Thus, they refuse to talk about it. But, for those of us who center our lives in Christ, we don't have a reason to fear death. We know it's not the end, and it doesn't have the final say!

Soon, we will enter the season of Lent, when we often follow Jesus through His passion and death. But as we follow Him in each of these places, we remember we do so with the empty tomb in sight. We know death doesn't get the last say, Jesus does.

If you happen to be mourning the death of your loved ones who have fallen asleep in Christ Jesus, remember, while death's sting may creep up on you when you least expect, it won't last forever. There will come a time where you are reunited with your loved ones who have died in the faith and now rest with Christ! With this in mind, I encourage you to center your life, and place your hope for life in this world, and for your eternal life, solely in the mercy of Jesus. Look to Him to be the source of your life and your faith. Let

*(Pastor's column, cont.)*

go of whatever it is that's holding you back from clinging to Christ alone. And in our lives together as the body of Christ in our church, let's let go of everything we hold to that doesn't serve the proclamation of the Gospel, and instead, let's stay focused on our Savior, Jesus, and His promise of life and salvation found in His Word alone. My prayer for each and every one of you is that when Jesus asks you: "Do you believe that I am the resurrection and the life?", you would confidently say, as both Pat and Joan could answer beyond the shadow of a doubt, "Yes, Lord, I believe!"

## GriefShare

The first series of the GriefShare support group will wrap-up on Wednesday, February 8. The group has been a positive experience for both the participants and leaders. A nice feature of the program is that, even though it is a 13-week cycle, each session is self-contained so people do not have to attend in sequence and can pick up any sessions they missed in the next cycle. Each participant receives a workbook with activities that can be completed during the week. Each 90-minute session consists of 15-20 minutes of discussion of the workbook exercises, a 40-minute DVD presentation by experts in the field of grief, and 25-30 minutes to discuss the DVD topics.

The second GriefShare cycle will begin on March 2 and end on May 24. Meetings are held downstairs in the fellowship hall.

**March:** All Thursdays during Lent from 6:00-7:30pm.

**April:** All Wednesdays in April from 6:00-7:30pm, EXCEPT for April 19. We will meet on Thursday, April 20th, due to the Scandinavian Dinner.

**May:** All Wednesdays in May, prior to Memorial Day, from 6:00-7:30pm.

If you, or someone you know, would like to register for the program, please call the Hope Lutheran office at 715-532-7739. Please leave your contact information and a GriefShare leader will call you back or by visiting <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/163096> online.

As we begin our second series of meetings, please keep the facilitators and participants in your prayers as they walk together through the grief journey towards healing.



## Hope Lutheran Church Women



**Monthly Meeting:** The HLCW will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, February 16 at 9:30am. All Women of Hope are welcome to attend.

**Quilting:** The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, February 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).

**Winter Luncheon:** The Glen Flora Lutheran Church Women invite the women of Hope to a Winter Luncheon on February 8 at 12:00noon at Glen Flora Lutheran Church.

### Education & Fellowship Opportunities

**Book Discussion:** The book discussion group will meet on Sunday, February 19 at 10:20am in the Fireside Room. The book for February is Abiding Mercy by Ruth Reid.

**Sunday Morning Study:** The Sunday morning Bible study on the book of Revelation will meet on Sundays, February 5 & 26 at 10:30am in the Fireside Room.

**Meal of the Month:** The February Meal of the Month will be on Tuesday, February 14 at 11:30am at Cedar Lodge. This monthly gathering is an opportunity for members of the congregation to enjoy a meal and time of fellowship while supporting one of our local businesses.

### Devoted to Prayer

The NALC daily prayer and Bible reading calendar can be found in this newsletter or online at <https://thenalc.org/worship-resources/devoted-to-prayer-introduction/>.



## **Ash Wednesday Worship**

Ash Wednesday is February 22. A worship service with Holy Communion and imposition of ashes will be held at 6:30pm that day. We hope you can join us as we begin the journey through the season of Lent.

Mid-week Lenten worship services will be held each Wednesday in the month of March at 6:30pm. The services on March 1, 15, & 29 will be held here at Hope Lutheran. On March 8 & 22 we will meet together at Glen Flora Lutheran Church. Soup suppers will be held prior to the services.

## **Christie Mountain Ski Day**

Hope Lutheran Youth Ministry is hosting a day at Christie Mountain Ski Area on Sunday, February 12 following worship. Lunch will be provided. Elementary aged children are welcome but must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

In order to get group rates, we must have 20 people signed up. The group rate is \$30 for the lift ticket, \$20 for ski rental, \$5 for helmet rental. Snowtubing is also available from 12:00-5:00pm that day. The cost is \$25 for 2 hours of tubing (\$10 for each additional hour).

Sign-up sheets are available on the Youth Ministry bulletin board or you can contact Julie Kammerud at [juliekammerud@gmail.com](mailto:juliekammerud@gmail.com) by February 3.



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

## **By-Law Changes**

Changes to the Hope Lutheran constitution by-laws regarding committee structuring were presented at the January 22, 2023 Annual Meeting. The changes passed with a vote of 39-2.

## **Livestreaming**

Our Sunday morning worship services are livestreamed on the Hope Lutheran Church Facebook page each Sunday. If you would like to sponsor a worship service in honor or memory of a loved one, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. The suggested donation is \$50/service. Proceeds from the livestream sponsorships are used to keep the technology needed for this ministry up-to-date.

The Worship & Music Committee is working on upgrading the equipment used to livestream. Volunteers who do the videography are currently using their personal cell phones to livestream, which causes inconsistencies in the quality of the audio and video. This will be a significant technology investment. If you would like to help make this upgrade possible, monetary donations of any amount are welcome.

## **Scrip**

Scrip cards are sold following the worship service most Sundays. Scrip cards are available for several area businesses and can be ordered from a long list of other vendors. Proceeds from the scrip program are used for building and maintenance needs. Please stop by the table in the multi-purpose room to purchase scrip or for more information.

## **MANNA Meal**

(Meals Available for the Nutritional Needs of All)

This month's MANNA Meal will be held on Thursday, February 23 with serving from 5:00-6:00pm. This is a free meal providing food and fellowship to those in need of either. This month's meal is sponsored by the First Church of Christ.

## **2023 Church Council & Committees**

New Church Council and committee members were elected at the January 22, 2023 Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The 2023 Church Council and Committees were installed during the worship service on January 29, 2023.

### **Executive Committee**

President: Nick Sovacool

Vice President: Terry Wedwick

Treasurer: Brad Billings

Secretary: Lori Gorsegner

### **Congregational Care & Outreach Committee**

Chair: Aileen Tauchen

Diane Doke, Bev Dukerschein, Chris Holtebeck,

George Lawrence

### **Parish Education**

Chair: Jana Nyhagen

Erin Craker, Laura Johnson, Judy Soyring

### **Property Committee**

Chair: Brian Johnson

Kyle Craker, Gordie Dukerschein, Bob Langland

### **Service & Fellowship**

Chair: Heidi Zielke

Sherry Hemm, Jim Spielman

### **Stewardship & Finance**

Chair: Brian Buchholz

Dave Borman, Eric Hillan, Bruce Nelson

### **Worship & Music**

Chair: Lisa Borman

Linda Campbell, Gretchen Pedersen, Linda Reissner,

Heidi Jo Sovacool

### **Youth Ministry**

Chair: Julie Kammerud

Carla Closs

### **Nominating**

Sherry Hemm, Charlie Holtebeck, Kathy Peterson,

Cora Schultz





## **Deadlines...**

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the March newsletter are due in the church office by Wednesday, February 15.

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 your mailing address, email 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	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  
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Church Phone: 715-532-7739

E-Mail Address: hlcladysmith@gmail.com

Website: hlcladysmith.org



## February Worship Assistants

5	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Dave Borman, George Lawrence Bonnie Billings Linda Campbell Izzy Solberg
12	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Aileen Tauchen, Irene Titera Jana Nyhagen George Lawrence Sophia Kammerud
19	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Gordie & Bev Dukerschein Dukerschein Dukerschein Briley Burmeister
22	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Aileen Tauchen George Lawrence Linda Campbell Izzy Solberg
26	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Dave Borman, Irene Titera Aileen Tauchen Irene Titera Izzy Solberg

## 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.

### Mission Statement

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



# FEBRUARY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1</b> Emerson McGinnis<br>Lauren Nisbit  | <b>20</b> Kristopher Dean<br>Sam Stewart<br>Chris Thompson<br>Cole Vollendorf     |
| <b>2</b> Doug Dieckman<br>Kinsley Niznik  | <b>22</b> Laura Johnson   |
| <b>3</b> Michelle Jiskra  | <b>24</b> Jim Spielman  |
| <b>4</b> Pam DeWolf<br>Sarah Helgeson<br>Marcus Isham<br>Alyssa Mataczynski<br>Olivia Titera                | <b>25</b> Ron Reder<br>Nicholas Sovacool II<br>Jennifer Verdegan                  |
| <b>5</b> Maggie Jo Solberg  | <b>26</b> Heidi Zielke  |
| <b>7</b> Melissa Lacey<br>Bruce Nelson<br>Karen Phillips  | <b>27</b> Kimberly vanDoorn   |
| <b>8</b> Matt Barnett<br>Shelby Goerner   |   |
| <b>9</b> Nicole Swanson   |  |
| <b>10</b> Brad Billings<br>Madison Nelson   |   |
| <b>11</b> Darek Dieckman  | <b>1</b> Chad & Jill Nisbit   |
| <b>13</b> Addison Kimber<br>Angelina Turner   | <b>4</b> Craig & Carol Redwine  |
| <b>16</b> Kathleen Holt<br>Sophia Kammerud<br>Ron Lee Moore<br>Kim Rogers<br>Zach Shineflew<br>Tony Swanson | <b>5</b> Dan & Julie Krisik   |
| <b>17</b> Tarra Moore   | <b>25</b> Erle & Melody Barber  |
| <b>18</b> Donald Anderson<br>Carol Hon<br>Einar Pederson  |   |

