

# TIDINGS OF HOPE

Our purpose is to glorify God by worshipping, witnessing, teaching, loving  
and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ.

## May Schedule:

**Worship** Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM.

**Communion** May 9, second Sunday of the month.

**Honor Hope's Graduating Seniors with Quilts** on May 16 at 9:30 worship.

**Baccalaureate Service** for all denominations May 23 at 6:30 PM at Hope Lutheran for graduates & immediate family. Others may attend online with livestreaming, You-tube or FaceBook.

**Quilting** group meets Mondays.

**Bible study**, Tuesdays at 1:30 PM

**Discussion group** after church on Sundays @ 10:30 AM.

**Confirmation** - 7th & 8th grade Fridays at 9:00 AM

**Confirmation** - 9th grade on Fridays at 10:00 AM.

## Pastor's Letter

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Lent is over, Christ's battle was won! We spent 40 days meditating on Christ's Seven Last Words, and thinking about what they mean for us today. On Palm Sunday we could not parade with palm fronds in jubilation due to distancing and CDC guidelines, nevertheless, we each laid a palm frond at the foot of the cross in recognition that Jesus entered Jerusalem knowing full well that a miserable death awaited Him.

As He prepared His disciples for what was about to happen, by washing their feet and instituting the first communion, our church followed His example by preparing our first communion students.

This Easter we celebrated His victory by actually singing with the new computer program "Hymnals Plus" accompaniment and a "real live" Song Master to lead us and to ensure that our listeners could understand the words preached in each of our hymns. Lutheran hymns are famous for the message they preach, so hearing each word is important.

Now as we celebrate Six weeks of the Easter Season, we hear of what happened in that first century church when Jesus spent about 40 days (Acts 1:3, *"To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."*) appearing to about 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:1-11) after His resurrection. Can you imagine seeing someone you know had died?

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Led by the Spirit, we are amazed at how Peter and the disciples proceeded to carry out the **Great Commission** (Matthew 28: 19-20) *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* Today we too, carry the Good News through our missions and our love for each other.

Today we benefit from the **missional efforts** of these first-century Christians’ evangelizing as they brought the Good News to us Gentiles. Now, we find our own communities once again in need of mission work.

For many of us, this means providing financial support of missions far away, as we are able; and simply dwelling with those nearer to us, as it is found in the Greek word “meno” meaning “**abide**” sprinkled throughout the Gospel of John & his epistles and supporting our local congregations, as God leads us.

We often find St. Paul’s advice on **how to “abide** in love in his statement “*laugh with those who laugh & mourn with those who mourn*” (Romans 12:15.) In other words, if we do not rejoice with people, they will not allow us to mourn with them. Nor will people allow us to rejoice with them if we have not mourned with them, or because we have not **cultivated empathy** with them.

**Empathy** is the ability to “walk a mile in someone’s shoes and understand” their perspective, the reasons they feel as they do, and if possible, gain understanding as to **the “why” behind** actions and feelings. Cultivating this type of compassion is part of “loving our neighbor as ourselves.” It is empathy, something we all need.

**Supporting each other** in prayer is the gift given to us all, but especially those who have time on their hands. I asked my elderly aunt Martha what she did all day. She replied that she spent her time “praying for the family.” With our family, that was a full-time job!

As **our young people** prepare for the life-changing decisions that are ahead of them, let us hold them steadfastly in our prayers. Not only for our seniors, but our confirmands, those preparing for marriage, baptism, families in transition and all the temptations that would hurt them.

**Prayer is our secret weapon.** God promises, in James 5:16 “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” What a promise! We are righteous when we confess our sins and are forgiven, which why we intercede with the prayers of the church right after confession, when we are righteous. Use prayer wisely, often and well.

**Answered prayer** proves the Battle is won. Take heart, the enemy is defeated. Jesus says in John 16:33 *In this world you will have trouble [persecution; suffering], but be brave [take courage/heart]! I have defeated [victory over; conquered; overcome] the world.”*

Grace and Peace to you,

Pastor Jane

## A note from Jennifer Albright, Missionary Intern in Slovenia:

"Before moving to Slovenia I heard phrases such as "the church is dying there," "it's post-Christian nation" and that "the spiritual atmosphere is very dark." To some degree I have found these words to be true. I see the hopelessness in the high suicide and alcoholism rate, depression, and broken families. Amidst the darkness, I have also found tremendous hope in how God is working here in Slovenia. I see the light of Christ through the church, believers and ministries here. I now see such an importance in connecting missions in the local church. This is a network and partnership that will long outlast any missionary's stay. As interns we are able to be a small part of what God is doing in Slovenia, but God's bigger picture work here is through his body, the church."



Jennifer is the daughter of Bonnie & Kurt Albright of our church. She attended the American Lutheran Bible College in Plymouth, sang in the choir, recordings of which we have used in our services, and is now on an 18-month internship in missions which has been sponsored in part by the Marilyn Malmanger Missions Fund. We are very proud of all our students, and Jennifer's accomplishments are certainly deserving of our continued prayers.

## Baptisms



Karsyn Raine Dufault, infant daughter of Jon and Sheyanne Dufault (and baby sister of Emery Dufault), was baptized on March 6, 2021 at a private ceremony with close family present. Sponsors were Corey and Katie Lymburner, and Ryan and Carly Enger

Ida Kay Sather (named for 2 grandmothers) was baptized April 21, 2021 at a private ceremony with friends and family present. Parents are Katlyn Baumann and Zach Sather. Sponsors are Cody Baumann and Taylor Klinke.

*Please keep all of these children and their families in your hearts and prayers.*





**Please keep the following people in your prayers:**

Drew Wahlstrom  
Ilene Sistad  
Lois Storey  
Karen Bolme  
Hilma Stadstad  
Elizabeth Barrineau  
Tubby Solsten  
Christina Anderson  
Kate Moore  
Christine Johnson  
Al & Carol Heide  
Christopher Vezner  
Dean & Joe Lindberg  
Tom Sedler

Richard Miller  
Hazel Trogstad  
Marian Jenkins  
Janet Olson  
Michael Killian  
Bill Kuzmaul  
Oskie & Mary Hanson  
Cathy Albright  
Gwen Johnson  
Michelle Johnson  
Donald Gwynn  
Craig Larsen  
Greg Garbed  
Brad & Mary Sistad  
Charlie Rose

DeEtta Heid  
Carol Marchand  
David Andree  
Herbert Prezler  
H. Jeanne Rains  
The Bob Norland Family

**Missionaries:**

Jennifer Albright in Slovenia  
The Schroeder's in Philippines  
Simon Haamer in Estonia  
The Nellermoe's and others in  
the China Service Ventures

*Consider electronic giving...*

Electronic giving offers convenience for individuals and provides much needed donation consistency for our congregation. As you contemplate future contributions, if you would like more information about electronic giving, contact the church office at 218-435-6765, or email [hopezion268@gmail.com](mailto:hopezion268@gmail.com)





## Confirmation Students & Parents

Ninth, eighth & seventh grade confirmands have been meeting on a regular basis in observance of CDC guidelines. Ninth graders will be receiving their take-home, open book, open notes, Final Exam. When that is completed, they will turn it in by June 1 and schedule an interview with parents and Pastor Jane. Please check to see if you have completed your 20 sermon notes. Tenth grade students will meet in the Fall in preparation for confirmation which is tentatively scheduled for either Reformation Sunday, October 31, or November 7, 2021, All Saints Sunday. Please contact Pastor Jane with any questions, or concerns, or suggestions. Thank you for your prayerful support of these students and their families.

## April Memorials

\*Gifts were given to the Brandsvold Cemetery Fund in memory of Robert Fjerstad, Mavis Fjerstad LaVoi, and Joyce Kringle.

\*Gifts were given to the Audio/Visual Fund in memory of Edna Neibauer, Alan Heide, and Joyce Kringle.

## May Servants

**Altar Guild: Alissa Halverson/ Keri Mireault**

<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Daniel Carlin</b>	<b>Ron Kennedy</b>	<b>Tim Manecke</b>
	<b>Jeremy Mienert</b>	<b>Sean Peterson</b>	

**Head Ushers/Acolytes:**

<b>May 2</b>	<b>Rod Olson</b>	<b>Tia Wickham/Dawson Bailie/Madison Bailie</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>Darin Larson</b>	<b>Alexis Bailie/Will Christen/Allison Carlin</b>
<b>May 16</b>	<b>Sid Fjerstad</b>	<b>Vanessa Johnson/Alex Johnson/Miley Hove</b>
<b>May 23</b>	<b>Tom Kleinwachter</b>	<b>Breanna Larson/Ben Steinbrenner/ Ethan Larson</b>
<b>May 30</b>	<b>Terry Halvorson</b>	<b>Piper Larson/Dawson Bailie/Lexi Mahlen</b>



**4-14-21 Hope Lutheran Church – Executive Council Meeting Minutes – Recorded by Travis Quad**

Present: Evan Fonder, Tim Manecke, Michelle Olson, Wayne Olson, Tracy Ware, Travis Quam, and Pastor Jane Ekholm.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Evan Fonder – President at 7:30 PM.
2. **Devotions**–*Passion for Prayer* led by Evan
3. **Approval of Agenda** - Motion to approve as presented by Tracy W, second by Tim M,. Approved Unanimously.
4. **Approval of Secretary's Report** – Motion by Tim second by Michelle O. Approved Unanimously.
5. **Benevolence Report** – (See report from pastor Jane)
6. **Pastor's Report** – Reviewed prepared report from Pastor Jane – Busy month with confirmation of 12 tenth grade students, counseling, and visitation ministry. Recommended appointing Mark & Jolene Schmitz as delegates from Hope for the LCMC. Motion to Appoint Mark & Jolene by Tracy, Second by Tim. Motion Approved Unanimously.
7. **President's Report:** Evan spoke briefly on the status of the open Administrative Assistant position and asked everyone to keep the position in mind and potential applicants.
8. **Brief Committee Reports** –
  - 8.1 Deacons – Will be tabling review of inactive member list for a later date, discussed bylaws that are in need of updating and will prepare written proposal for annual meeting.
  - 8.2 Family/Youth Education – Coordinating cakes for graduates, Preparing for VBS at the end of July.
  - 8.3 Music & Worship – Pastor Jane commented that Hymnals Plus software is working well.
  - 8.4 Trustees – Reviewed financial report – March Offering was basically even from March of Last year. Year-To-Date Giving is down slightly vs Last Year-To-Date. Total Expenses are also down slightly YTD vs. Last YTD. Will be planning another Fundraiser Auction for September. Will be taking a look at Sump Pump and Shingles for the parsonage. Motion to approve, pending audit by Wayne O, Second by Tim M. Approved unanimously.
  - 8.5 Women of Hope Report – Will continue to sponsor part of the fee for bible camp students like done in past years, Will resume serving light lunch at Funerals if requested – Tim Carlin has been notified. Will be presenting quilts to the graduates.
- 9.0 **Old Business** – none
10. **New Business** –
  - 10.1 Next FULL Council Meeting is Wednesday, May 12th, 2021 @ 7:30 PM. Devotions and Lunch by the Trustees
  - 10.2 Other – Discussed resuming Coffee / Fellowship after church. No formal action needed but the idea had unanimous support considering vaccine and numbers currently attending.
- 11.0 Closed with the Lord's Prayer and meeting Adjourned

TO: 2021 Seniors and Family members

FROM: Pastor Jane Ekholm , Hope Lutheran Church (218-435-6765)

RE: Sunday May 13,2021 at 9:30 AM honoring Hope's Seniors with a quilt; & May 23 at 6:30 Baccalaureate Services at 6:30 PM for graduates of all denominations and immediate family.

As a 2021 graduate, and member of Hope Lutheran you are cordially invited to be honored and recognized at our regular church service on May 13.

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the service with your graduation robe. Prior to the event, please send Pastor Jane your post-graduate plans to be read as your name is announced. You may email the information to <Jekholm001@lutherse.edu> or drop it off at the church by Friday, May 11.

"Tentative plans" are to have cake and coffee follow this service of celebration. If you are unable to attend, please make this known to us as well. Please call the church office at 218-435-6765 and leave a voicemail message. Thank you for your consideration in our planning by giving us this information at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments and wishing you well in all that lies ahead. May God protect you and keep you in His care.

The rotation of churches for Baccalaureate Services this year is at Hope Lutheran. We encourage you to invite your friends from all denominations to participate with you in this service of thanksgiving for all God has done to preserve us through this pandemic and all the associated difficulties.

This service will be held one week later on May 23 at 6:30 PM. Graduates and their immediate family are cordially invited to attend. "Tentative plans" are to have cake and coffee following this service of celebration, as well.

We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of all and wishing all the 2021 graduates well in all that lies ahead. May God protect you and keep you in His care.

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## Graduation

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Please keep our graduating seniors, who will receive quilts at church on May 13th, in your prayers. The twelve Hope seniors are: Jaime Carlin, Brayden Halland, Macie Hanson, Faith Larson, Jordan Larson, Kora Norland, Emma Olson, Faith Quam, Marian Riveland, & Sydney Walk.



Youth Celebrating Birthdays in May:

Brandon Larson, Zoey Christen, Abby Snyder, Justin Gubrud and Jakob Rudie.