

## Tidings *from* HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2021

### Pastors Letter *from* Pr. Jane

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**Thank you** for your love and support of Hope Lutheran Church and the community in which we reside.

Each of you are a special part of the body of Christ which is His church on earth, and you have a special place here.

When we are in times of trial and tribulation, we cannot help but ask “**why** is this happening”.

We know there must be a reason!

The Bible tells us in **Ezekiel 6:12**:

*“He that is far off **shall** die of the pestilence; and he that is near shall fall by the sword; and he that remains and is besieged **shall** die by the famine: thus will I accomplish my fury upon them.”*

Ezekiel sounds pretty harsh. He makes God sound punishing, not loving and forgiving. So we must remember the context in which the prophecy was given, in order to find meaning for us today. Most prophecies were written and kept as holy scripture because they held depths of **meaning relevant to a different generation**. This is how the Holy Spirit gives us the “living” word. The relevance transcends history, generations, and culture with a message that speaks to us even in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. When this occurs, the work of the Holy Spirit in scripture constantly amazes and affirms faith!

This **transcendence of scripture** over time can even be seen within the brevity of human life.

For example, a Bible verse takes on new meaning depending on what challenges and struggles exist in the current “**context**.” From a personal standpoint Romans 8:28,

*“All things work together for the good for those who love Christ and are called according to His purpose,”*

has ‘grown’ with me over the years, and has been one of my favorites.

The first part of Romans 8:28 has sustained me with the promise it holds, the second part doesn’t let me off “the hook”.

It has a caveat. In other words, if I am following the call to **His purpose**, I can be confident that no matter how bad things seem, He is at work in all things, and it is for Good.

This is true for all who are called by His Name (Christians).

Other good verses are Psalm 91:1-4, which are loaded with **promises** of protection:

*“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*

*I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”*

*For He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.*

*He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you will find refuge;*

*His faithfulness is a shield and buckler.*

and v. 5- 6:

*“You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.”*

Do you hear the promise?

Our God is a Mighty Fortress of strength and might. He did not stay in business this long without honoring His promises. So

claim His promises, honor His Name, and **dwel in His shadow**.

And the peace that passes all understanding will keep your heart and minds safely in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged.

We are in His Shadow,

Pastor Jane



*Please keep the following people in your prayers:*

Drew Wahlstrom	Paisley Straub	Malia Halvorson	Ilene Sistasd	Paul Nelson
Lois Storey	Karen Bolme	Hilma Stadstad	Denise Monson	Trina Rodgers
Angie Olson	Mike Knutson	Elizabeth Barrineau	Tubby Solsten	Christina Anderson
Kate Moore	Christine Johnson	Al & Carol Heide	Christopher Vezner	Dean & Joe Lindberg
Tom Sedler	Bob Norland	Richard Miller	Hazel Trogstad	Jody Nelson
Marian Jenkins	Pr. Arlen Hermodson	Janet Olson	Michael Killian	Bill Kuzmaul
Oskie & Mary Hanson	Cathy Albright	Gwen Johnson	Michelle Johnson	Donald Gwynn
Craig Larsen	Patty Niko	Herald Watnemo	Greg Gubrud	Brad & Mary Sistasd
Berniece Carlin	Vivian Coan	Single Parents	Families in Transition	
Missionaries:	Jennifer Albright – Slovenia	Schroeders – Philippines	Simon Haamer – Estonia	
	Nellermoes – China Service Ventures			

## DECEMBER MEMORIALS

† Gifts were given to the Audio/Visual Fund in memory of Brent Bakken, Thorvald & Edith Bakken, Gary Carlin, Keith Caskey, Donna Gregoire, Jean Jacobson, Karen Langseth, Sharon Munter, Walter (Wally) Olson, Larry Scott, and Dennis Winkleman.

† Gifts were given to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Lois Anderson, Jean Jacobson, Bob Olson, and Clifford Svedahl.

† Gifts were given to Hope Friday School, Sunday School, & Youth in memory of Louise Bakken.

## JANUARY SERVANTS

**ALTAR GUILD:** Michelle Manecke

**COMMUNION SERVERS: January 10:** Nathan Pederson / Dean Vikan / Darin Larson / Carey Sannes

**USHERS:** John Carlin / Mike Kroening / Bryan Mesich / John Nord / Darren Paulson / Gene Sistad

### HEAD USHERS / ACOLYTES:

<b>January 3</b>	Tom Kleinwachter	Elizabeth Barrineau / Breanna Larson
<b>January 10</b>	Terry Halvorson	Will Christen / Vanessa Johnson
<b>January 17</b>	Rod Olson	Justin Gubrud / Piper Larson
<b>January 24</b>	Darin Larson	Alex Johnson / Brynlea Mahlen
<b>January 31</b>	Sid Fjerstad	Jaekub Larson / Karly Peterson

## Youth News

### January Youth Birthdays

- \* Conner Klicker
- \* Hannah Kroening
- \* Aaron Norland
- \* Cullen Norland
- \* Tucker Quam
- \* Lauren Sekely



**Do you have a best friend?** This person is one to whom you tell your secrets, one you can count on to be loyal to you, one who loves you even when you do stupid things, and one who will tell you when you're out of line. This is a reciprocal relationship: you practice loyalty to your friends, also; you keep their confidences; you forgive them when they mess up, but you help to keep them accountable to behaving as a Christians should. This is a very special relationship, as you well know.

God wants to have that same kind of relationship with you. He is loyal; He will never desert you. He knows your heart, all the good and bad in it, but will never reveal it to anyone else and loves you in spite of your sin. He, too, forgives you when you mess up, but His forgiveness imparts salvation through the blood Jesus shed on the cross.

All this He does because He loves you! He wants to have fellowship with you. He longs to have you talk to Him as often as you communicate with your best friend. He wants you to share your secrets with Him as readily as you do with your earthly friends. He's given us His word and The Word, His Son, so that we can have fellowship with Him. "

*... this we proclaim concerning the Word of life...*

*We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us.*

*And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:1, 3).*

**Think about it:**

1. Read Romans 8:15-17. What can you call God and what does God call you?
2. Read 1 John 3:1. What is an evidence of God's love for you?

**Let's pray:** Dear heavenly Father, thank You for giving me Your Son to be the mediator between us and to take away the sin that was a barrier between us. Give me the desire to participate in Your Word and Sacrament and to come to You in prayer as Your beloved child. Through Jesus I pray. Amen.

***A Note from Bonnie Albright -***

The residents of our local assisted living facilities have been in lockdown and isolated from friends and family for months. Mental health concerns has taken its toll on everyone.

I am presently holding a Fundraiser Drive to purchase devotionals for the residents.

I have spoken to the directors and they are so excited to be the recipients of this drive.

Presently we are have a Thrivent Action Team project in place to kickstart this project. The devotionals are \$11 each. We hope that these devotionals will give them hope and encouragement at such a time is this!

We also recognize that the assisted living facilities are not the only ones isolated, so if you know of someone that you'd like to see blessed with a devotional, please include a name and address.

Please consider assisting with this project!

Checks can be made out to me - Bonnie Albright - and can be delivered to me or to the Hope Church office where an envelope will be available. **Deadline is February 5.**

***Poinsettias were given by:***

- \* Kurt & Bonnie Albright in honor of Herbert & Frances Preszler.
- \* Kurt & Bonnie Albright in memory of Ken & Ardis Albright and Mark Albright.
- \* Dave & Nancy Andree in honor of their children and grandchildren.
- \* Shannon Arthur in memory of grandmother Selma Maher, father Darrell, aunt and Godmother Patsy, uncle Bob, and aunt Sally.
- \* Deb Blanchard, Catie, Jeff, Ryan, and Mariah in memory of Keith & Kiki Caskey.
- \* Berniece Carlin in memory of Gary Carlin.
- \* Berniece Carlin in memory of Hilding & Alice Carlin and Carl & Margaret Brekke.
- \* Bob Evje and family in memory of Bonnie Evje.

- \* Geraldine Hove and family in memory of Ralph Hove.
- \* Tom & Kim Kleinwachter in memory of Adam Kleinwachter.
- \* The Larsen family in memory of Duane & Doris Larsen and Denny Larsen.
- \* Shaun, Jordan, and Piper Larson in memory of Grandpa Tactor Kenny Jirik.
- \* Shaun, Jordan, and Piper Larson in memory of Grandpa Dave (Roundy).
- \* Paul & Sheryl Magelssen in memory of Lydia Wahlstrom.
- \* Albert & Darlene Maruska and family in memory of Earl & Vi Olson and Carl, and Ray & Elsie Maruska.
- \* Greg & Keri Mireault
- \* Jan Olson in honor of the people who have taken part of church services since Covid-19.
- \* Jan Olson in memory of her family.
- \* Wayne & Michelle Olson in memory of Kathy Olson.
- \* Wayne & Michelle Olson in memory of Terry Aronson.
- \* Norma Quam in honor of Travis & Emily Quam, grandkids, extended family, and friends.
- \* Norma Quam and Travis & family in memory of Arthur Quam, Philip & Lou Strande, Edwin & Alice Quam, Marlyss Borud, Einar & Helene Rindahl, Ingvald & Thora Roland, and Albert & Anna Strande.
- \* Joel & Jackie Rendahl in memory of LeRoy & Bea Mienert and Orlie & Caroline Rendahl.
- \* Margot Simonson in memory of Melvin & Polly Simonson.
- \* Margot Simonson in memory of Dennis Simonson.
- \* Mike & Michelle Solsten in memory of Milton & Armored Arneson.
- \* Mike & Michelle Solsten in honor of Orland & Eileen Solstern.
- \* Orland & Eileen Solsten in memory of their parents, Otto & Ruby Solsten and Alfred & Philomay Troska.
- \* Earl & Mary Steinbrenner in honor of Ben and Heidi Steinbrenner.
- \* Earl & Mary Steinbrenner in honor of Tony and Allison Carlin.
- \* Julie Theis in memory of friend Marilyn Malmanger.

Notice is hereby given that the  
**Annual Meeting of Hope Lutheran Church**  
 will be held on **Sunday, January 17, 2021**  
 in the Sanctuary, following the 9:30am worship service.  
**This meeting is called by action of the Church Council.**  
 Evan Fonder, President

## **12/9/20 - Hope Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes - Recorded by Sarah Manecke**

**Present:** Evan Fonder, Sarah Manecke, Wayne Olson, Dean Vikan, Tim Manecke, Pastor Jane Ekholm, Dan Carlin, Nathan Pederson, Sylvia Munter, Nancy Andree, Kim Kleinwachter, Michelle Olson, Greg Mireault and Gloria Osmonson

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Evan Fonder – President

**Devotions:** Board of Trustees – Sylvia read about “Joy & Happiness” – Life is in the hands of someone greater than oneself.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve by Nancy, second by Tim, Approved Unanimously

**Approval of Secretary’s Report:** Motion to approve by Tim, second by Dan, Approved Unanimously

**Benevolence Report:** Pastor Jane reports that benevolence was able to spend \$1,166 in November. LCMC - \$233; World Mission - \$400; Augustana District - \$58; National Mission - \$300; Local Outreach (Emergency Fund) - \$175. There was \$200 in emergency fund expenditures in November.

**Pastor’s Report:** See written report

**President’s Report:** Evan expressed his thanks to Travis for filling in last meeting when he had to be with his dad. He appreciates all the prayers & words of encouragement. He would again like to thank everyone for their flexibility. Evan addressed the issues with the Wifi and stated they are working with Garden Valley to resolve the issue with our internet/television broadcasts.

### **Brief Committee Reports**

**Deacons:** Wayne reports communion servers are set for Sunday; confirmation has been moved to the Spring; discussed only having one (1) service on Christmas Eve at 5pm and using the basement for seating, if necessary; discussed the possibility of having a backup for Ryan H. in the future.

**Family/Youth/Education:** Michelle O. reports they will have treat bags & possibly hot chocolate/cider available after the December 20<sup>th</sup> worship service to let the congregation

know we are thinking of them during these challenging times. Michelle Levin has been very helpful working with Pastor Jane to re-schedule confirmation and plan activities for the youth.

**Music & Worship:** Nancy reports that Bonnie has been getting readers & working on special music. Nancy also discussed only doing one (1) Christmas Eve worship service at 5pm.

**Trustees:** Tim reports that the 2021 proposed budget is complete and the board updated Sylvia’s job description to reflect her new administrative assistant position which will be 24 hours/week. Randy Landsverk will now be doing the financials for the church. Travis will start replacing windows very soon. All designated funds have been paid back and the SBA loan was 100% forgiven.

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report pending audit by Nancy, second by Greg, Approved Unanimously

**Women of Hope:** They sent gifts to 39 individuals over 90 or who are in nursing homes/assisted living.

### **Old Business:**

**Nominating Committee** – complete

**Other** - none

### **New Business:**

**10.1 Approval of 2021 Proposed Budget** – per discussion, there were no significant changes. Motion to approve by Dan, second by Gloria, Approved Unanimously

**10.2 Annual Meeting Date** – set for January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in the Sanctuary

**10.3 Safe Deposit Box** – holds important paperwork for the church – Sylvia expressed the need to have another person able to access the safe deposit box

**10.4 Next Meeting** – Executive Council meeting Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7:30pm; Devotions and Lunch by the Board of Deacons.**10.5 Other**

**Closed** with the Lord’s Prayer, Meeting Adjourned.

## January Bible Readings

### KEY CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

- 1 John 10
- 2 John 13
- 3 Sunday Worship
- 4 John 14
- 5 John 15
- 6 John 16
- 7 John 17
- 8 John 20
- 9 John 21
- 10 Sunday Worship
- 11 Acts 1
- 12 Acts 2
- 13 Acts 7
- 14 Acts 8
- 15 Acts 9
- 16 Acts 10
- 17 Sunday Worship
- 18 Acts 13
- 19 Acts 15
- 20 Acts 16
- 21 Acts 17
- 22 Acts 18
- 23 Acts 21
- 24 Sunday Worship
- 25 Acts 22
- 26 Acts 23
- 27 Acts 24
- 28 Acts 25
- 29 Acts 26
- 30 Acts 27
- 31 Sunday Worship

## H.E.L.P. is Here!

Our

**H**health

**E**quipment

**L**ending

**P**roject room has a selection of home health equipment.

If you are in need of a loan of this kind of equipment, please call the church office.

The intent is that this ministry would be the hands and feet of Jesus to anyone in need of this kind of assistance.

Donations of all types of home health equipment are welcome.



### **The 2021 Offering Envelopes are here!**

If you are unable to find your envelopes, please ask an usher for help or contact the church office. Additional boxes of envelopes are available in the office for non-members who wish to use them.

### **Another option is to enjoy the convenience of electronic giving.**

Electronic giving offers convenience for individuals and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving.

If you would like to sign up for electronic giving, or want more information, please call the church office at 218-435-6765, or email [hopezion268@gmail.com](mailto:hopezion268@gmail.com)