

# Tidings of Hope

FEBRUARY 2021

## pastor's letter

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

**We live in Hope.** The Hope given to us by Christ as we welcome 2021. May God walk with you in all you are called to do in this new time.

**Life springs forth** as we look forward to new opportunities for renewing life and ministry through faithfulness to the Gospel. Out of love for our neighbor we seek adaptation to new things around us. We sense a new appreciation and a cautious sense of freedom as restrictions are lifted and we start meeting again. We exercise care and caution as we have seen the adversity that has been experienced firsthand.

We have gathered together in **ways we never imagined** could work. We have been fed with God's Word and the fellowship of our faith community in new and yet fulfilling ways. In longing for lost times, we have discovered how much we love, need and care about each other. A lesson learned is to cherish family and friendships that will last our whole lives.

**Ministry has continued locally** at the Food Shelf, the Ignite Youth Center, the Ministerial Association, fundraisers, and for individuals, all in need of love, prayer and support. Ministry has continued **abroad** in fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 29:19-20) to make disciples of all Nations (even our own nation?) baptizing them in the name of the Triune God, as we support struggling missions in Slovenia, Estonia, China and the Philippines.

Possibly what has been most amazing is the new-found effectiveness of bringing ministry and the Good News of Jesus to people both locally and nation-wide through the advent of technology. From Ephesians 6:12 we know that we certainly have been striving against principalities of the seen and unseen world. Yet our church has been blessed with visionary and faithful leaders that have led us through this time of trial and continue to faithfully lead us.

Now we look forward to what the Lord has in store for us in a new year and beyond. We know He is in all that we have experienced, and we are hopeful about the new paths and doors that will open for us and the future of our children.

Some of our children are so young they will not remember, but our youth who are old enough to remember, and who learned from what they observed, will be wiser and stronger in their future decisions and leadership. They **will lead us from a wiser perspective and a much different experience**; God Himself has taught them. In the pandemic, our youth faced what no one had faced for many generations, a threat to their spiritual and academic education, even life itself. Theirs is a wisdom that was hard hard-won, and it is ongoing in them. It is our job to nurture and guide as they put their thoughts to work. In John 17:9 Jesus says, "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world, but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours." Let us likewise support each other faithfully in

prayer.

Let us look for **new ways to encourage and support** each other. Let us enrich each life, save each person's dignity, and support one another in service and outreach. I am thankful to serve in a community such as ours and a congregation of such strong and ongoing Hope. That's why we are called "Hope Lutheran"!!

In His Service,

Pastor Jane

### **FEBRUARY/MARCH SCHEDULE**

(Listen to Sunday morning announcements for details and/or changes.)

- ♥ Worship Services every Sunday at 9:30am
- ♥ Sunday, Feb. 14: Worship with Holy Communion
- ♥ Wednesday, Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion
- ♥ Lenten Worship Services held each Wednesday, Feb. 24-March 24
- ♥ Wednesday, March 10, 6pm: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Mtg.
- ♥ Sunday, March 14:
  - ♥ 9:30am: Worship Service with Holy Communion
  - ♥ 11:00am: Rite of Confirmation with Holy Communion (family members only)
- ♥ Wednesday, March 17: 5th Grade 1st Communion Class
- ♥ Wednesday, March 24: 5th Grade 1st Communion Class

### **HOLY WEEK**

- ♥ March 28: Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
- ♥ April 1: Maundy Thursday Worship/Rite of First Communion with Holy Communion
- ♥ April 2: Good Friday Worship
- ♥ April 4: Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

## FEbruary SERVANTS

**ALTAR GUILD:** Keri Mireault

**USHERS:** Kurt Albright / Tim Carlin / Steven Fjerstad / Wayne Larson / John Radtke / Dennis Sistad

**HEAD USHERS / ACOlyTES:**

<b>February 7</b>	Tom Kleinwachter	Abigail Snyder / Tia Wickham / Madison Bailie
<b>February 14</b>	Terry Halvorson	Ben Steinbrenner / Kyra Quam / Allison Carlin
<b>February 21</b>	Rod Olson	Wyatt Teiken / Lukas Sannes / Miley Hove
<b>February 28</b>	Darin Larson	Dawson Bailie / Chase Pierce / Ethan Larson



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

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

## Youth News



### BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

♥ Nikolai Jalowiec ♥ Vanessa Johnson ♥ Brynlea Mahlen

The teens were planning a mission trip. It sounded so cool! Going to Mexico for a whole week in the middle of the cold winter where they lived. Sure, they weren't going for rest and relaxation, but it still would be a lot of fun. Then teen leaders were asking for suggestions about how to raise funds for the trip. Someone thought a car wash would be a good idea. Another person excitedly added, "Hey, there's a garage sale at church next Saturday! We could do it then and catch lots of people." Everybody agreed that was the perfect idea.

"Who can make it that morning?" asked one of the leaders.

"I can't. I've got lots of stuff to do that I don't get time to do during the week. I'm just too busy.

Under his breath, another teen mumbled, "That's my only morning to sleep in. I'm not going to get up and go out on a cold morning and wash cars and get wet and even colder. Count me out."

"Well, I can try...if I remember. When we had the bake sale, I forgot to bring anything. I don't think I can remember to set my alarm. I'm used to staying in bed on Saturday morning. It sounds like a lot of trouble anyway for just a few dollars. Doesn't seem worth it to me."

The teen leaders and even some of the teens were pretty disappointed with these responses, so they decided to stay after the meeting to pray about it. After all, everyone who wanted to go should be involved in the effort involved. They prayed and, trusting God to provide what was needed, went ahead and made the plans for the car wash.

During the week, the "busy" teen was able to accomplish all the things he'd planned for the weekend and found he had time to help for a few hours. It seems his "conscience" got hold of the "lazy" teen who decided he could sacrifice his sleep for one Saturday. The "forgetful" teen announced that she had made herself some large reminders which she placed in her bedroom and bathroom. The car wash had almost 100% participation and brought in a large portion of the money needed for the trip. And everybody had a lot of fun.



"Give yourselves  
fully to the work  
of the Lord."  
~ 1 Corinthians 15:58

## Have a Heart

**February: the month devoted to love.** Stores are filled with heart-shaped boxes of candy and heart-shaped cards and vases of flowers with heart-shaped gift tags. All this is available for the consumer so that he can find the appropriate expression of his devotion to his loved one. If that expression of love has been preceded by a year of thoughtful and loving words and deeds, it is welcomed and cherished by the recipient. If not, it is just an empty ritual, done out of duty rather than true devotion.

Our relationship to the Lord is similar. He, too, desires our sincere devotion, not empty lip service.

*"And the Lord said: '...this people draw near with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, while their hearts are far from Me'"*(Isaiah 29:13).

Stewardship is serving, helping, giving, but love is the basis for stewardship. Without love, our good deeds are empty and without merit. The first act of true stewardship is to *"love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might"*(Deuteronomy 6:5). Jesus called this the most important commandment (Mark 12:29). With that love for the Lord in us, we are enabled to be good stewards. Then we can do acts of good stewardship, acts of true devotion. We are enabled to...

- ♥ *"Give to Him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to Him"*  
(Deuteronomy 15:10).
- ♥ *"Do [His] statutes and rules with all your heart and with all your soul"* (Deuteronomy 26:16).
- ♥ *"Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality"*(Romans 12:13).
- ♥ *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men"*(Colossians 3:23).

God, through Ezekiel, promised, *"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and to be careful to obey My rules"*(Ezekiel 36:26-27). This promise He has fulfilled in His Son, Jesus, Who has followed His Father's decrees and kept His laws for us. As we strive to live fruitful lives of stewardship, at the same time we rest in Christ Who has been the perfect steward for us.

## HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH 2021 COUNCIL DIRECTORY

Pastor	Jane Ekholm	435-6765	H: 435-1484	C: 218-820-2017
Administrative Assistant	Sylvia Munter	435-6765	H: 435-1761	
Custodian	Steven Sovick	435-6765	H: 435-1754	
Organist	Mary Hanson	218-280-1559		
Audio/Visual Technician	Ryan Hanlon			
Contract Mowing	MT Snow Removal & Lawn Care	218-779-3574		
Choir Director	Charity Salmonson	218-938-4528		
Sunday School Supt.	Emily Quam	435-1732		
Friday School Supt.				

### OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

President: Evan Fonder 435-1038

Vice Pres.: Travis Quam 435-1732

Secretary: Tina Averill 435-6264

### CHURCH BOARDS

#### **DEACONS:**

Wayne Olson 435-6627

Dean Vikan 435-6954

Tracy Ware 218-668-2013

#### **FAMILY/YOUTH/EDUCATION:**

Darin Larson 435-1244

Michelle Olson 435-6627

Emily Quam 435-1732

Crystal Munter 435-1085

Jake & Brittnei Radtke 218-230-4666

Lisa Sekely 435-1859

#### **MUSIC & WORSHIP:**

Bonnie Albright 435-6688

Kim Kleinwachter 218-637-2048

Cynthia Larson 435-1244

#### **TRUSTEES:**

Dan Carlin 435-6360

Nathan Pederson 435-2365

Tim Manecke 435-1601

Sarah Manecke 970-471-0915

Matt Wickham 218-686-6688

### COMMITTEES

#### **ALTAR GUILD**

Willow Christen Jenifer Dahl Gina Gensburger

Alisa Halvorson Anita Lucken Michelle Manecke

Wanda Marshall Keri Mireault Jolene Schmitz

Margot Simonson

#### **BENEVOLENCE**

Kathy Carlson Carrie Danielson Amy Riveland

#### **CEMETERY BOARD**

John Carlin Tim Carlin Dan Carlson Fritz Frethem

Sexton: Melissa Christen

#### **ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

Kathy Carlson Judy Dunrud Ken Hove

Karen Schultz Dean Vikan

#### **HEAD USHERS**

Sid Fjerstad Terry Halvorson Tom Kleinwachter

Darin Larson Rod Olson

#### **LIBRARY**

Julie Malmanger Hazel Trogstad

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Kathy Carlson Joan Dufault Pr. Jane Ekholm

Gloria Osmonson Tracy Ware

#### **WOMEN OF HOPE**

Janice Haugen Geri Hove Gloria Osmonson

Ilene Sistad Eileen Solsten Mary Steinbrenner

Mary Tronerud Treasurer: Kathy Carlson

# February Bible Readings

## KEY CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

1 Acts 28	8 Romans 6	15 Romans 15	22 1 Corinthians 7
2 Romans 1	9 Romans 7	16 1 Corinthians 1	23 1 Corinthians 8
3 Romans 2	10 Romans 8	17 Lenten Worship	24 Lenten Worship
4 Romans 3	11 Romans 12	18 1 Corinthians 2	25 1 Corinthians 9
5 Romans 4	12 Romans 13	19 1 Corinthians 3	26 1 Corinthians 13
6 Romans 5	13 Romans 14	20 1 Corinthians 6	27 1 Corinthians 15
7 Sunday Worship	14 Sunday Worship	21 Sunday Worship	28 Sunday Worship