

Tidings of Hope

MARCH 2021

pastor's letter

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to 40 days of repentance that we call Lent. Lent comes from the word "lengthen," for the lengthening of days. The number 40 is the Biblical number for preparation, testing and punishment. And so it is appropriate that we begin Lent with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday as a sign of turning back to God.

For example, God washed the earth clean of sin in **40** days and **40** nights, saving only Noah and his family. Jonah preached to Nineveh that in **40** days the city would be destroyed if they did not turn from their wicked ways. The Hebrew children wandered **40** years in the wilderness. Jesus spent **40** days in the wilderness after His baptism being tested by Satan. A generation is considered to be about **40** years.

As we consider the trust given us of passing on the Gospel as Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:19, "*Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And 'don't forget', I am with you to the close of the age.*" As we consider this command, we also delight in the promise that He is with us, even through pestilence and political unrest. It is up to us to pass this assurance on to the next generation. Please say an extra prayer for our students and their families.

March 14, at 11:00, is confirmation Sunday and we have 12 confirmands. Please keep these students and their families in your prayers. They are: Anthony Carlin, Alex Hagen, McKayla Hove, Brandon Larson, Brecken Levin, Aaron Norland, Cullen Norland, Kyla Pederson, Tucker Quam, Lauren Sekely, Tommy Simonson, and Zach Theis.

Since March 14 is also communion Sunday, we will have two services. I am hoping only confirmand's family will attend the later service, and the rest of us will be at the **9:30 service**, in order to safely observe the recommended guidelines to prevent the spread of disease.

The Tenth graders will **meet on Wednesday, March 10, at 7:30PM, after Lenten Services** for their last lesson in the fellowship hall (*please bring your Bibles and read the book of Jude, only 1 chapter in preparation.*) Students will get their robes and stoles set aside. Parents' help would be appreciated. Please call Pastor Jane (218-820-2017) to 'volunteer'. Please wear masks, and observe 6-foot distancing.

The **First Communion students** have been studying the 23rd Psalm and the Words of Institution from Part Five of Luther's Small Catechism. They will have a foot washing ceremony on March 16 and will bake unleavened bread to serve communion to their families on Maundy Thursday.

For any who are interested in deepening their faith, here are some opportunities:

- † **Men's Discussion Group** will reconvene after church on Sundays at 10:30 starting on Feb. 21 in the Fireside room.
- † **Bible Study group** on Tuesdays at 1:30 at the church.
- † **"The Dead Sea Scrolls, Words that Changed the World"** from the Science Museum of Minnesota will be shown one hour before the worship service (5:30) in the Fellowship Hall (*one family per table please.*) Please sign up by calling the church office (435-6765) so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

Holy Week will be observed with services on April 1 and 2, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, respectively at 6:30PM. No delicious Lenten soup and sandwiches will be served this year by our youth and their parents. We pray it will happen next year.

Please continue to pray for our nation, our state, our community and our church. There is great power in your prayers.

James 5:16: *The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.* We are the righteous...when we are forgiven.

I thank you for **your prayerful support**, as your pastor, and I ask you to prayerfully support our church office manager as she retires with her husband. Please pray that we find God's own choice to fill these shoes. Let us give thanks for 19 years of faithfulness. This is a job that not only requires technical skill, but people skills, as well as a faithful heart for the mission of the church, and we thank God for Sylvia and what she has done for many of our children, teaching 6th grade Friday School, helping at Ignite, and many other loving tasks that usually go unnoticed, or without thanks.

In **Matthew 6:4-6**, Jesus explains that when we do things for Him that are unnoticed, He will reward us openly in heaven. I am sure we will see this in many who serve our church, on Council, teaching, in committees and on staff. Let us never forget that as the song from the first Sunday in Lent goes, "Jesus Sees" us, even if no one else does.

May God keep you safely in His arms.

Love & prayers,

Pastor Jane

Hope Lutheran Church Schedule

*Masking and 6-foot distancing observed at all services for your health and safety.

- † **Regular Worship:** Every Sunday at 9:30am
- † **Lenten Worship Schedule:** Two Lenten Services each Wednesday at 11am & 6:30pm, Feb. 17 to Mar 24
- † **Confirmation Service:** March 14 at 11am
- † **Palm Sunday:** March 28 at 9:30am
- † **Holy Week:** Maundy Thursday, April 1, & Good Friday, April 2, at 6:30pm
- † **Easter Sunday:** April 4 at 9:30am

Services are accessible on FB and YouTube along with our website: www.hopelutheranfosston.com, as well as Garden Valley TV, Fosston Cable TV, and Fosston Radio 96.7

MARCH SERVANTS

ALTAR GUILD: Jen Dahl / Keri Mireault

USHERS: Ellsworth Danielson / Evan Fonder / Michael Gensburger / Brian Larson / Mark Malmanger / Jake Radtke / Lee Rudie

HEAD USHERS / ACOLYTES:

March 7 Sid Fjerstad Elizabeth Barrineau / Vanessa Johnson / Koltyn Larson

March 14 Tom Kleinwachter Will Christen / Breanna Larson / Lexi Mahlen

March 21 Terry Halvorson Justin Gubrud / Alex Johnson / Micah Malmanger

March 28 Rod Olson Piper Larson / Brynlea Mahlen / Aiden Pederson



Please keep the following people in your prayers...

Drew Wahlstrom	Kate Moore	Pr. Arlen Hermodson	Greg Gubrud	Jennifer Albright -
Paisley Straub	Christine Johnson	Janet Olson	Brad & Mary Sistasd	Slovenia
Ilene Sistasd	Al & Carol Heide	Bill Kuzmaul	Lori Schraeder	Schroeders -
Paul Nelson	Christopher Vezner	Oskie & Mary Hanson	Joe Vita	Philippines
Lois Storey	Dean & Joe Lindberg	Cathy Albright	Carol Smeby	Simon Haamer -
Karen Bolme	Tom Sedler	Gwen Johnson	Jewel Strande	Estonia
Hilma Stadstad	Bob Norland	Michelle Johnson	David Jallen Family	Nellermoes -
Elizabeth Barrineau	Richard Miller	Donald Gwynn	Jody Nelson Family	China Service
Tubby Solsten	Hazel Trogstad	Craig Larsen	Covid Recoveries	Ventures
Christina Anderson	Marian Jenkins	Herald Watnemo	Missionaries:	

Youth News

Happy March Birthday!

- ♣ Tony Carlin
- ♣ Brayden Halland
- ♣ David Larson
- ♣ Ethan Larson
- ♣ Josh Manecke
- ♣ Zach Theis
- ♣ Tia Wickham

FREE ADMISSION at FOSSTON THEATER



for Grades 7-12

6pm-9pm

(Bring money for Concessions)

February 24: UNBROKEN

March 31: RUN the RACE

April 28: WOODLAWN

A Note from Carol Wold...

A big THANK YOU to all my Hope Church Family for the cards, phone calls and emails I received for my birthday.

I was overwhelmed!

Being 95 is a real blessing and I am grateful.

With Love and Peace, Carol Wold



Set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday, March 13, when you go to bed!

FEBRUARY

MEMORIALS

† A gift was given to the Audio/Visual Fund in memory of Sharon Munter.

† A gift was given to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Darlene Shetler.

Count your Blessings in the Midst of a Virus Pandemic

For many of us the Coronavirus national emergency is perhaps the biggest life-changing event that as a country we will face. Fortunately, our generation has missed the great depression and world wars which caused even greater lifestyle changes than what we are facing today. As we all know, this virus pandemic has caused the closing of schools and colleges, the cancellations of sporting events, and the job loss for many people. Many churches are no longer holding services, concerts cancelled, restaurants closed, vacations postponed, etc. The coronavirus has caused significant declines in the world's financial markets, decreasing the value of people's investments and retirement funds.

It is easy for people to become bitter and frightened in these circumstances and many will blame God. God's Word tells us of a better way. ***"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"*** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17). These verses give us actions that will enable us to overcome the worst circumstances. We aren't told just to "feel better" but to ***"rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks..."***

There's a lot to give thanks for, too, when we're going through difficult times. God is with us, and He is control. What a joy we have knowing that we have God's presence and protection. We have God's strong and abiding presence through His Word and Sacrament. Each and every day, we have the opportunity to turn to God in His Word to be uplifted and refreshed even when the world around us seems to be closing down. Through the faith that God gives us, we know it is God's will that we rejoice in Him and seek His peace in the midst of this virus pandemic.

In the midst of this crisis, the church still continues its vital mission and ministry. Jesus tells us ***"I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"*** (Matthew 16:18). God promises us that nothing will overcome the Church because it rests on Jesus. The church is here to minister to the bitter, frightened, and doubtful. We encourage your prayers and ask you to continue your generous giving. The fear of catching the virus will keep many away from church, but we do ask that you continue your faithful giving as you are able. May God help us all during these challenging times be the light that He wants us to be.

CHRIST'S LOVE SHOWN
ON THE CROSS ENABLES
AND ENCOURAGES
US TO DO GOOD WORKS.



"For Christ's love compels us,
because we are convinced
that one died for all,
and therefore all died.
And He died for all,
that those who live should no
longer live for themselves,
But for Him Who
died for them,
and was raised again."

2-10-21 Hope Lutheran Church – Full Council Meeting Minutes – Recorded by Tina Averill

Present: Evan Fonder, Tina Averill, Pastor Jane Ekholm, Dan Carlin, Tim Manecke, Nathan Peterson, Sylvia Munter, Michelle Olson, Wayne Olson, Bonnie Albright, Kim Kleinwachter, Matt Wickham, Travis Quam, Dean Vikan, Cynthia Larson via zoom.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Evan Fonder – President at 7:30 PM. Evan also distributed Church Council Officers Duties & Responsibilities.

Devotions: Executive Board – President Even Fonder spoke on new beginnings and led in Lord’s Prayer.

Approval of Agenda - Motion by Travis, second by Tim, Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Secretary’s Report – Motion by Dan second by Tim. Approved Unanimously.

Review of 2020 Goals and 2021 Goal Settings – Removed from agenda.

Benevolence Report – Pastor Jane reported on the annual missions of 10% for home and abroad totaled \$18,000.

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Jane stated exciting time for new beginning. Church has done well. Lent starting February 17 – 40 days. Two services with one at 11:00 AM and one at 6:30 PM on Wednesday nights, and ashes imposed on Ash Wednesday. Pre-marriage council starting. Confirmation for 7th, 8th, & 9th graders starting. First Communion for 5th graders getting a crash course.

President’s Report: Evan reported on successful annual meeting with a quorum present. Need to review financials once audit is complete. Council will approve.

Brief Committee Meetings –

9.1 Deacons – Met with communion servers set for next year. Looking at active/active list of members – reviewing bylaws. Hopefully recommendations by next meeting. Checking into retreat for new council members.

9.2 Family/Youth Education – Going to no soup and sandwich for Lent due to Covid-19. Have a very good Vacation Bible School in the works.

9.3 Music & Worship – Struggles going forward – will be advertising as short on people with Jean Stout retiring. Looking to purchase an accompanist. Also looking into a program called Hymnals Plus.

9.4 Trustees – Tim responded to Music & Worship regarding equipment for Hymnals Plus – money in the designated budget for purchase if decided to go that direction. Financials for the month look good. Up from last year. Jim Offerdahl ordered and installed a wireless system free for the church. Cost of system \$1250. Sylvia Munter retiring at the end of April – need to look for replacement. Chuck Lucken doing audit for church financials. Should have taken care of by next meeting. Three years to go on the Endowment Fund.

9.5 Women of Hope Report – No Report.

10. Old Business – None.

11. New Business –

11.1 Next Executive Council Meeting is Wednesday March 10, 2021 @ 7:30 PM. Devotions and Lunch by the Family/Youth/Education Board.

11.2 Other – Evan spoke on Deacon’s Report on Retreat stating there will be a way somehow to have retreat for new council members.

12.0 Closing Prayer followed by adjournment.

**Ambassadors
FOR CHRIST**

LET US USE ALL THE RESOURCES AT OUR DISPOSAL THAT MORE PEOPLE MIGHT SAY TO OUR SAVIOR...

“Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom” (Luke 23:42).

March Bible Readings

KEY CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

1	2 Corinthians 1	9	Galatians 5	17	Lenten Worship	25	Philippians 4
2	2 Corinthians 4	10	Lenten Worship	18	Ephesians 5	26	Colossians 1
3	Lenten Worship	11	Galatians 6	19	Ephesians 6	27	Colossians 2
4	2 Corinthians 5	12	Ephesians 1	20	Philippians 1	28	Sunday Worship
5	2 Corinthians 8	13	Ephesians 2	21	Sunday Worship	29	Colossians 3
6	2 Corinthians 9	14	Sunday Worship	22	Philippians 2	30	Colossians 4
7	Sunday Worship	15	Ephesians 3	23	Philippians 3	31	1 Thessalonians 1
8	2 Corinthians 12	16	Ephesians 4	24	Lenten Worship		



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
**FINANCIAL
SUPPORT**

Consider 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