

# HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

477 5th Street

P.O. Box 8

Burr, NE 68324

Pastor Jim Helgren

Church: 402.848.2391

Home: 402.864.2113

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## *Return to Worship May 17, Alleluia!*

### **From the Pastor:**

April Showers bring May Flowers. But what does April social distancing bring? Hopefully a reduced curve in Covid-19.

In March we knew what we would not be doing in April. May is still unknown.

Rolling Hills Cluster zoomed their cluster meeting. If you aren't sure what I am talking about, you must be my age. Many old timers are learning new tricks. I did get into the meeting but had no sound or video presence. Caleb E. advised me what to do next meeting.

The Nebraska Synod Assembly has been canceled. Summer Camp is still wait and see. The Senior Breakfast is on hold. Who knows about Memorial Day celebrations.

And what about worship? Until May 17, we are on Facebook and YouTube. I am prerecording Wednesday Devotions. I intend to stream live at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings unless I am assisting St. Paul Lutheran Church radio worship at 10:00 a.m.

Streaming live at least can give a sense of both Hope and Grace members worshiping together at the same time. Both churches are contemplating streaming their worship services even when we begin worshiping in person again. Even our worship is moving into the 21st century.

Kids for Christ is meeting every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. live on Facebook. Parents and grandparents are appreciating the show. Eleta puts a lot of effort into the planning of the program. Thank you to Eleta for her hard work and love she has for children.

Oh, I almost forgot something. Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! Christ Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! The Easter message is a soft message this year. But it is our proclamation. It is true this year and last year and next year. I miss you. I miss hugging the children. I miss communion. I am grateful to Paul and Jane and Erin for forming a "we can still do worship" committee and pulling me further into the 21st century. We can still do worship. I can still study and write sermons. I still can do what I was called to do and so can our church as we still live our lives proclaiming that Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Rise Indeed! Alleluia!

### **Stay in Contact**

Facebook:

[fb.me/HopeGraceELCA](http://fb.me/HopeGraceELCA)

Hope & Grace Web Page:

[HopeGraceELCA.org](http://HopeGraceELCA.org)

YouTube:

[bit.ly/hopegrace](http://bit.ly/hopegrace)

### **Congratulations Hunter Rumery Class of 2020**

We would like congratulate and wish Hunter Rumery the best as he graduates from Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca High School. Hunter will be attending Wayne State College in the fall pursuing pre-med. His goal is to become an orthopedic surgeon and to come back to Southeast Nebraska and continue to give back not only through volunteer activities but in his professional as well.

We ask God to continue to guide him and bless him as he begins a new journey in his life. We are so proud to have him as a member of Hope Lutheran Church.

You can send personal wishes and congratulations to:

Hunter Rumery  
3576 Q Rd  
Cook NE 68329

### **Church Seasons:**

The Church is presently in the Church Season of Easter. We will spend four more Sundays celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord. The season of Sunday after Pentecost begins May 31 with Pentecost.

### **Festival Days:**

May 1	St. Philip and St. James, Apostles
May 14	Matthias, Apostle
May 21	The Ascension of Our Lord
May 31	The Day of Pentecost Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

### **U.S. Holidays:**

May 1	May Day
May 16	Armed Forces Day
May 25	Memorial Day

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*(Subject to change based on evolving circumstances)*

### Guidelines for Attending Church

That is a weird title. Do any of our members not know how to attend church? And yet we will have to do things much differently than we did during our last worship on March 15. I will list the changes in no particular order.

1. If you do not feel comfortable being around people or coming to church please stay home. We are planning to share the worship on Facebook also.
2. At church, stay 6 feet apart from non-family members. Please fill the church from front to back. At the end of the service we will dismiss from back to front in order to prevent people from passing by people sitting on the end of the pews.
  - a. Space yourself in the pews so as not to sit next to, behind or in front of anyone closer than 6 feet. Family members may sit together. Two pews of separation should do the trick. We will have pews taped off as guidelines.
  - b. When entering the church, pick up your own bulletin and communion card. There will be a plate to place your communion card in when you leave the church.
  - c. There will be a plate available for offerings on the table with the bulletins.
  - d. Do not linger in the church to visit. The weather should be nice enough to visit while keeping social distance on the lawn following worship.
3. No touching. Wave or nod your head as you say good morning or when you pass the peace.
4. Communion will be done with wafer and juice communion sets. You will pick up a set up and a baggie when you pick up your bulletin. After communion you should place your used items in the baggie, then at the

end of the service, dispose of it in trash cans at the back of the church on your way out. This will hopefully keep grape juice droplets from staining the pew cushions. Little boxes of raisins will be available for the children. Congregation members will not come forward to receive communion. Pastor will direct the congregation when to open their communion set, and we will receive communion together. There will be

a learning curve to discover the best way to do this for each congregation. These communion sets are on back order and will not be shipped before May 15.

5. Pastor will probably not greet you as you leave but will be outside to visit and will follow social distancing guidelines.
6. Yes, you may wear a mask. You may not be able to sit in "your" pew. This will feel uncomfortable. Pastor and Church Council don't like it either, but we must worship safely so we can live to serve God.

## WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH!



### May Calendar



**May 10th:** **Mother's Day**

**May 17th:** **10:00 a.m. Worship at Church resumes**  
                   \*NO Acolyte or Communion Server needed  
                   \*Usher: Trevor Pope  
                   No Sunday School  
                   Worship also live via Facebook

**May 24th:** **10:00 a.m. Worship at Church**  
                   \*Usher: Janice Beethe  
                   No Sunday School  
                   Worship also live via Facebook

**May 31th:** **10:00 a.m. Worship at Church**  
                   \*Usher: Janice Beethe  
                   No Sunday School  
                   Worship also live via Facebook

**Canceled:** **Annual Cemetery Dinner on Saturday of Memorial weekend**

**Canceled:** **Memorial Day Events at Hope Lutheran Cemetery**

**Canceled:** **Synod Assembly**