

Hope Lutheran Church

January, 2021

From the Pastor,

Happy New Year! We all hope 2021 will be better than 2020. I think it probably will be considering the bar has been set pretty low by 2020. Perhaps the song "A Good Day" by Paul West says it all.... "A good day is any day you are alive." Perhaps we can change it to a good year is any year that you survived. I am alive. I miss not seeing my sons and their families at holidays. But I am alive and so are they.

I did get to be a pastor. How I did things was different. But I still went to the office and I was a pastor. There were things I could not do and yet I was still able to be a pastor. I feel guilty about what I could not do because of Covid-19 restrictions. But I still was able to be a pastor.

Pastors have discussed their concern about whether or not their congregations will understand how the year made doing their pastoral work more difficult this year. One pastor said his church council refused to give him a raise because he did not do anything this year to earn one. The truth is he did work hard this year, just in a different way that his council did not measure.

This last year has been hard on churches financially, emotionally, and spiritually. Let us try to learn from it and apply those lessons to 2021. If what we learned in 2020 can help us enter 2021 more prepared to adapt to the new norms, maybe 2021 will not just be a year that we survived, but also a year we can thrive.

Christmas reminded us that another name for God is Emmanuel, God is with us. Bring this reminder into 2021 as we celebrate Epiphany, God's light shining in the world. Sometimes God is hid in a star, manger, mother's womb. We get to play hide and seek with God. We are invited into 2021 seeking the God who hides in plain sight just like a child who covers their eyes and believes you cannot see them because they can't see you. Like a child, God is waiting to be found.....LET US SEEK GOD TOGETHER!

Happy New Year,
Pastor Jim

Church Seasons: The Christmas Season is from December 24/25 until January 5. The Season of Epiphany of Our Lord begins January 6 and ends February 17 which is Ash Wednesday. In the Sundays after Christmas we celebrate the birth of God's Son. The church needs more than one day to fully appreciate the meaning of this event. The Epiphany Season invites us to see the many ways God reveals God's self and God's love.

Church Festival Days:.....January 1 - Name of Jesus
January 6 - Epiphany of our Our Lord
January 10 - Baptism of Our Lord
January 18 - Confession of Peter
January 25 - Conversion of Paul
January 26 - Timothy, Titus and Silas, missionaries

U. S. Holidays:.....January 1 - New Year's Day
January 18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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January 17th Worship Service.....

Grace Lutheran and Hope Lutheran Churches will worship together at Grace Lutheran on Sunday, January 17th @ 10:00 a.m. The offering will be given to the member's church. Grace Lutheran will hold their annual meeting following the worship service.

Hope Lutheran Annual Meeting.....

Will be held after worship on Sunday, January 24th. All annual reports should be given to Dave Antholz by Sunday, January 10th, so the report can be assembled. Please plan to attend.....there will be no lunch after the meeting.

Thank You.....

To Pastor Jim for his care & guidance through these months, weeks & days of Coronavirus.....

To Dave & Jane for all their time spent keeping us at Hope Lutheran informed and the streaming of services and church activities.....

To Cathy for raking & filling many bags of leaves this fall and getting them delivered to the Burr dump.

WELCA News.....

Our "secret gals" Christmas exchange had a different outcome this year due to Covid-19. The ladies brought their gifts to church, placed them around the entry Christmas tree and in picking their gift up, found out who their pal was for the year. Judy and Sharon, hostesses, had a plan for new 2021 pals, so we're off to a new year!!

WELCA Officers for 2021

President.....Marilyn
Vice-Pres.....Judy
Secretary.....Alberta
Treasurer.....Cathy
Mission Ed.....Linda
Mission Community...Alberta
Mission Outreach.....Sharon

A New Year Wish

May the New Year bring us:

Enough happiness to keep us sweet;	Enough friends to give us comfort;
Enough trials to keep us strong;	Enough wealth to meet our needs;
Enough hope to keep us lively;	Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;
Enough sorrows to keep us dependent on God;	Enough faith to overcome despair;
Enough failure to keep us humble;	Enough success to keep us eager;
And enough determination to use every day and situation somehow for good.	

**Count Your Blessings!
Happy New Year!**



Pastor
Jim Helgren

8:45 Sunday School
10:00 Worship Service
*unless noted otherwise

Parish Ministry

Associate

Sharon Carman

Church Council

Chairman: Dave Antholz
Fin Sec: Dwight Eisenhauer
Treas: Mark Panko
Sec: Linda Eisenhauer
Deacons: Jr. Watermeier
Keith Moss
David Lubben

Worship & Music

Sharon Carman
Sheri Moss
Alberta Block
Judy Lubben

Organists

Alberta Block
Sheri Moss
Dianne Riensche
Ruth Neeman

WELCA President

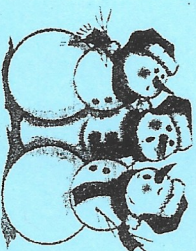
Marilyn Moss

Bulletin

Sharon Carman

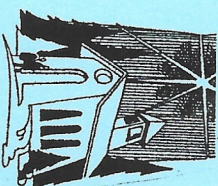
Cemetery

Bruce Riensche
Russel Moss
Dave Antholz



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Happy New Year	2
3 Holy Communion Worship	4	5	6 6-7-8 Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	7	8	9
				14 WELCA General Meeting and Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	15	16
10 Worship	11	12	13 6-7-8 Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Church Council 7:30 p.m.			
17 Joint Worship @ Grace Lutheran 10:00 a.m.	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19	20 8 th Confirmation 6:00 pm.	21	22	23
24 Worship	25	26	27 8 th Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	28	29	30
Annual Meeting 11:00 a.m.						

WELCA Meeting Altar Guild Visitation Hostess
Bible Study: Judy Lubben Linda Eisenhauer Alberta Block Marilyn Moss
Devotions: Marilyn Moss