

Hope Lutheran Church

February, 2021

From the Pastor,

It is 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. I feel human again. I shaved for the first time since last Tuesday. My energy level feels normal but I know that can change any minute. Fatigue has plagued Kathy & me for a week. I look forward to getting back to "normal."

We want to thank the congregations for their support, understanding and encouragement. Thank you to those who provided meals and groceries during our quarantine. We appreciated the texts and phone calls checking on us to ensure that we were still alive.

We are very fortunate to be living in Cook and being part of Grace and Hope Lutheran Churches. I came to serve two churches that were already loving and faithful servants of God. My call was to encourage you to be who you already were and join you in ministry in the congregations and communities. I hope I have been achieving this.

February 17 is Ash Wednesday. Lent is the season of self-examination. How am I following Christ to the Father? How are any parts of my life interfering with my relationship with God? What must I change? What is working and do I need to continue doing it? Is there any activities I can participate in during the forty days of Lent that would help me appreciate more the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and the Resurrection on Easter Sunday?

Lent is the opportunity to change and for change. Creating a new habit or destroying an old habit takes at least forty days. We usually give ourselves a month and wonder why we failed. The Holy Spirit had reasons for guiding us into the church season of Lent to be at least forty days. Let us take advantage of the liturgical calendar and take time to change for God.

Pastor Jim

Church Seasons: The Church Season of Epiphany continues through February 16.

The Church Season of Epiphany continues through February 18. We seek to find God's light shining in our world, no matter how dark that world may seem. The Church Season of Lent begins February 17th with Ash Wednesday. Lent is the time to reflect on our sinfulness and the need to be reconciled to God. Holy Week leads us to understand that only God's actions through Jesus can reconcile us to God. We cannot do it on our own.

Church Festival Days: February 2.....Presentation of Our Lord
February 14....Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 17....Ash Wednesday
February 18.....Martin Luther, re-newer of the church, died 1546

<u>U. S. Holidays:</u>	February 2.....Groundhog Day
	February 7.....Super Bowl Sunday
	February 14....Valentine's Day
	February 15....President's Day

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Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 17. The day begins Lent. Historically, ashes were put on the forehead in the sign of the cross to demonstrate the bearer of the cross was beginning one's penitent journey towards the cross on Good Friday. This year the service will be held at Grace Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m. The service includes Holy Communion.



Lent & Holy Week Worship Schedule

February 17....Ash Wednesday Worship.....Grace Lutheran Church.....7:00 p.m.

February 24....Midweek Lenten Worship.....Hope Lutheran Church.....7:00 p.m.

March 3.....Midweek Lenten Worship.....Grace Lutheran Church.....7:00 p.m.

March 10.....Midweek Lenten Worship.....Hope Lutheran Church.....7:00 p.m.

March 17.....Midweek Lenten Worship... Grace Lutheran Church..... 7:00 p.m.

March 24.....Midweek Lenten Worship.....Hope Lutheran Church.....7:00 p.m.

March 28.....Palm Sunday Worship.....Grace Lutheran Church.....8:30 a.m.
Worship.....Hope Lutheran Church.....10:00 a.m.

April 1.....Maundy Thursday Worship....Hope Lutheran Church.....7:00 p.m.

April 2.....Good Friday Worship.....Grace Lutheran Church.....7:00 p.m.

April 4.....Easter....Sunrise Worship.....Grace Lutheran Church.....6:30 a.m.
Worship.....Grace Lutheran Church.....8:30 a.m.
Worship.....Hope Lutheran Church....10:00 a.m.



Dear Members of Hope,

Thank you for your donation to Table Grace in my honor. It is an important ministry of the Nebraska Synod that helps us reach out to people in Omaha. Thank you for the new pen and Pastor Journal. Synod experts keep advising that a Pastor should journal for their faith growth. Now I have no excuse not to do so.

I am grateful that I am serving Hope & Grace. I began my ministry as Pastor to two churches and I am now maybe ending my full time ministry serving two churches. But look at the wonderful people I would have not gotten to know if this was not part of God's plan for me. Thank you for allowing me to be your Pastor.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor

Thank you to Hope Lutheran Church for remembering me during Pastor Appreciation month.....I feel appreciated. Pastor Jim

Hope Lutheran WELCA

Jan 21, 2021

Hope Lutheran WELCA met Thursday, Jan 21st at the church basement. There were 5 ladies present.

Marilyn led the devotions, Judy led the Bible Study titled Fear Dethroned.

The General Meeting was called to order by President, Marilyn Moss.

Alberta read the minutes of the Nov. 12, 2020 meeting.

Cathy had reported the balance on hand of \$682.99. Cathy will send a memorial to the Carol Moss family.

Linda was unable to be present but left color coded Altar Guild calendars for the Liturgical seasons, one for Sacristy and one for each Altar Guild member.

No report from Mission Community or Mission Outreach.

Marilyn expressed a thank you for all the contributions to the Friendship Home. They were very pleased and grateful for the large amount of gifts.

Due to Covid handling guidelines the food pantry is suggesting that we hold our grocery donations until the virus is under control. They are using cash donations to purchase food for recipients.

Marilyn was thanked for doing the 2021 yearbooks. She asked for corrections, but none were brought to her attention.

Ash Wed. service is scheduled for February 17th at Grace. World Day of Prayer service, which would have been at Osage has been cancelled due to Covid. No word about the Spring Gathering for March 20th at DeWitt.

Offering was received, followed by The Lords Prayer.

Marilyn served a delicious Oatmeal Cake for our lunch.

Respectfully submitted
Alberta Block, Sec.

