

# Hope Lutheran Church

## April 2021

From the Pastor,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

The resurrection of Christ gives us hope that death is not the end of life but the beginning of eternal life with God. It is a promise that cannot be proved. Books have been written presenting proof of life after death. Members in the past have even suggested or tried to get me to read some of those books. I have declined to read some of those books. I have declined. I don't need proof that there is life after death. The resurrection of Christ is my proof that there is life after death. Paul said, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1). My faith allows me to trust in God's promise without seeing proof. Others may find it helpful to their faith to read these books. Just please don't look at me funny because I would rather use my spare time differently.

Peter said, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3). The old self needs proof. The old self still clings to our new nature in Christ. Baptism brings into a new birth a born again into a living hope. This is kept alive by the faith given to us through the Holy Spirit. As long as I believe and trust that Christ has been raised from the dead, I have a living hope in eternal life and life after death and need no further proof. Paul says, "And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Romans 5:5) and again he says, "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." (Romans 8:24-25). Sometimes we may become impatient and need reassurance for our hope in Christ. But the only proof really presented to us by God is the empty tomb. Faith and hope claim it is empty because God raised Jesus from the dead.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Pastor Jim

\*\*\*\*\*

Church Seasons: April 4<sup>th</sup> begins the Easter Season. The Church celebrates God saving His creation through the life, death, and resurrection. Hope is given to the world through the empty tomb.

**Church Festival Days:** April 1.....Maundy Thursday  
April 2.....Good Friday  
April 3.....Holy Saturday  
April 4.....The Resurrection of Our Lord  
April 25.....Mark, Evangelist

**U. S. Holidays:** April 4.....Easter  
April 15.....Tax Day  
April 21.....Administrative Professionals' Day  
April 22.....Earth Day

**Holy Week Schedule:** April 1.....Maundy Thursday 7:00 @ Hope with Holy Communion  
April 2.....Good Friday @ Grace 7:00 p.m.  
April 4.....Resurrection of Our Lord 7:00 a.m. @ Grace & 8:30 a.m.  
April 4.....Resurrection of Our Lord 10:00 a.m. Hope

\*\*\*\*\*

The Grace Lutheran Church Council and the Hope Lutheran Church Council request that the congregations be patient with the churches plans for expanding worship and fellowship. The councils do not want to move too hasty. The end of strict restrictions seems to be in sight. There will still be restrictions in 2021. But there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The councils do not want to move to fast and become a hot spot. They ask that we please be patient.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Hope Lutheran WELCA**

**March 11, 2021**

Hope Lutheran WELCA met Thursday, March 11, 2021. There were five ladies and Pastor Helgren present.

Judy led devotions. Sharon led the Bible Study.

Marilyn called the General Meeting to order. Alberta read the minutes of the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The minutes were approved. Thank you notes were read from the Carol Moss family and from the Friendship Home for Christmas gifts delivered there.

Hope Lutheran Church

March 10th, 2021

Members Present: Pastor Jim, Dave Antholz, Mark Panko, Russel Moss, Janice Beethe and Linda Eisenhauer.

Members Absent: David Lubben and Keith Moss.

The meeting was opened, with Pastor Helgren giving a prayer.

The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Mark, reporting a Balance-on-Hand on 2/28/2021 was \$1561.53.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jim mentioned the Maundy Thursday Service would be at Hope @ 7:00p.m. The offering will go to Oaks Indian Mission again this year. The services at Hope will continue to be streamed on Facebook.

Old Business: The Installation of Church Council officers will be on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Nothing has been done about the front door yet. Council has decided we can hum along with the hymns, but not to sing them. Pastor leaves for Wisconsin April 26<sup>th</sup> to help with the process of moving his sister to Nebraska.

NEW BUSINESS: We will have Easter Service as usual...no changes as to social distancing. Council decided that we will light the candles on Communion Sundays.

Worship Attendance:	2021 February	
February 2021	15	Offering: \$1637.41
February 2020	41	Expenses: - 4071.98
<hr/>		
	Net Total	- 2434.57

The next meeting will be April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 8:00 p.m.

We adjourn with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Linda Eisenhauer, Secretary



Treasurer Cathy reported a balance on hand of \$669.99.

No new reports from Mission Education, Community or Outreach.

It was noted that Cathy had purchased some greeting cards which can be used to keep in touch with members who are shut in or who we haven't seen for a while. Linda mentioned sending crosses (crocheted, paper or palm branch) along with the newsletter.

Hope Lutheran WELCA continued

Marilyn will purchase Easter lilies and Pastor is taking care of getting palm branches for the Palm Sunday/Easter celebrations.

The Spring gathering is now planned for Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> 3:00-7:00 p.m. at Trinity, Dewitt. Marilyn will have registration forms and in-kind offering suggestions as we get closer to that date.

At this time, it is presumed that the Bingo Party at Good Samaritan will not happen due to Covid.

Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> is at Hope. Linda, Sharon and Marilyn will assist Pastor to strip the altar.

The offering was received.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Alberta Block, Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

Grace is when God gives us good things that we don't deserve.

Mercy is when he spares us from bad things we deserve.

Blessings are when He is generous with both.

Truly, we can never run out of reasons to thank Him.

God is Good All the Time.—Tim Allen



# Hope Lutheran Church

## April 2021

### 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: Janice Beethe

Treas: Mark Panko

Sec: Linda Eisenhauer

Decons: Keith Moss

David Lubben

Russel Moss

### Worship & Music

Alberta Block

Sharon Carman

Judy Lubben

Sherri Moss

### Organists

Alberta Block

Sheri Moss

Dianne Rienshe

Ruth Neeman

### WELCA President

Marilyn Moss

### Bulletin/Newsletter

Sharon Carman

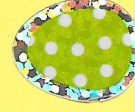
### Cemetery

Bruce Riensche

Russel Moss

Dave Antholz

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maunday Thursday Worship 7:00 p.m. at Hope	2 Good Friday Worship 7:00 p.m. at Grace	3
4 Easter Holy Communion Worship 10:00 a.m.	5	6	7 8th Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Church Council 8:00 p.m.	8 WELCA Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	9	10
11 Worship 10:00 a.m.	12 Ramadan (begins at sundown)	13	14 8th Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	15 Tax Day	16	17
18 Holy Communion Worship 10:00 a.m.	19	20	21 8th Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Administrative Professionals Day	22 Earth Day	23	24
25 Worship with Rite of Confirmation 10:00 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30	



### WELCA Meeting

Bible Stud

Devotions

Hostess: Sharon Carman

### Altar Guild

Marilyn Moss

### Visitation

Marilyn Moss