

Hope Lutheran Church

April 2024

From the Pastor,

I sometimes find it challenging to find inspiration to write this column because I have to write about the upcoming month while still focused on the worship and projects of the month I am still in.

I need to write, "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!" But it is Holy Week and our tradition avoids exclaiming alleluia during the worship. My Palm Sunday sermon was sort of upbeat, but my Passion Sunday sermon did not end very upbeat. I ended with the question, "What kind of father is God to just stand by and watch His Son die such a painful death?"

The answer to that question took a whole week to answer. The answer came March 31st when the church gathers to exclaim "CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!!" Holy Week is even more of a downer than is penitent Lent. We move from Palm Sunday towards a funeral. Does anyone really enjoy a funeral? Even when people try to put the fun back into funerals by calling it a celebration of life service or ceremony, does anyone look forward to attending? Death is death. Gone is gone.

God gives the funeral a different meaning. God declares Easter morning that everyone was wrong about their vision of Jesus. He is God's Son and He had to die in order to live. Jesus had to be raised from the dead in order to conquer your sin, your death, and the power of the devil over you. Easter celebrates God claiming you as His own. Now this Easter season will you claim your place in God's Kingdom given to you through the actions of God the Father through Jesus.

If so, then exclaim, "JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!"

Pastor Jim

Fourth Graders: Sheriden Thompson and Charlotte Wellensiek completed First Communion training and received their first communion Maundy Thursday, 28th.

Church Seasons: The Church Season of Sunday of Easter began March 31st with the Resurrection of Our Lord. The color is white and Alleluias return to the Sunday liturgy. Flowers will once again grace the altar. It is a season of joy and celebration of God overcoming our sin and its consequences through the cross.

Church Festival Days: April 1st, Annunciation of our Lord (transformed from March 25th)

April 25th, Mark, Evangelist

U.S. Holidays: April 1st, April Fools' Day

April 15th, Tax Day

April 22nd, Earth Day

Jewish Festivals: April 22nd, Passover begins

Monthly Schedule: 8th Confirmation April 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th at 6:00 p.m.

75th Anniversary Comm. April 4th, 6:00 p.m. at Grace

Kids for Christ, April 10th, April 24th at 4:00 p.m. at Grace.

Grace Bible Study, April 8th, 2:00 p.m.

Hope Church Council, April 10th at 8:00 p.m.

Adult Ed., April 10th, 17th, 24th, Wednesdays at 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Grace

Hope Bible Study, April 11th, 1:30 p.m.

Pastor leads Worship at Linden View, April 24th, 2:00 p.m.

Adult Education: "Liturgy and the Natural World" led by LSTC faculty member Rev. Dr. Benjamin M. Stewart is an inspiring four-part series on nature and liturgy. See the poster on the narthex bulletin board, beginning Wednesday April 10th, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Grace Lutheran Church basement. Open to both churches. Bring your own snack.

Hope Lutheran Church Council Minutes March 13, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Helgren, Janice Beethe, Dave Lubben, Keith Moss, Mark Panko, and Sharon Carman. Dave Antholz and Trevor Pope were not present.

Pastor Helgren opened the meeting with prayer.

Council Minutes continued:

Keith Moss conducted the meeting in the absence of President, Dave Antholz.

THE MINUTES from the January 10th meeting were reviewed and approved

THE TREASURER'S REPORT: by Mark Panko for February: TOTAL INFLOWS \$4,050.35

TOTAL OUTFLOWS -\$4,022.40

NET TOTAL \$27.95

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Helgren visited with Bruce and Nancy Gerking. He led Worship at Linden View and visited with Dee Stoner. Also visited with Judy Lubben at Good Samaritan.

****Pastor is registered for "Liturgy and the Natural World." This will be held in Grace Lutheran basement and open to members of Hope and Grace. Classes will be Wednesday nights 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

****There will be a Middle School Gathering Saturday, April 13th, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. for 5th-9th grades. There is a \$40 charge and Hope council opted to pay the fee from the Luther League account for any students going from Hope.**

****Pastor will register for the Boundaries Training from the Synod which is required every three years.**

****Pastor reported Sarah Purcell talked about being at a "Blessing Service" which she enjoyed. It can be done for tractors, seeds, pets... We could do this if we desired. No action was taken on it.**

****Pastor stated he was happy with the Thursday Lenten Service. There have usually been 10-12 people in attendance.**

****Pastor had a funeral for Jean Effken March 9th at Grace and will have a service for Bruce Gerking March 30th.**

****There will be Kids for Christ March 27th.**

****Pastor will attend a Chrism Mass March 19th and will renew his vows.**

****Pastor attended World Day of Prayer March 1st at Hope.**

****Pastor received a letter from Deborah Meyer Davis, the daughter of Rev. Harold J. Meyer and wife, Eleanor. The letter reported the death of her mother, Eleanor. Rev. Meyer served as Pastor of Hope from 1956 to 1960.**

OLD BUSINESS: OPPD has been contacted about the moving of the parsonage so the moving date is getting closer.

Council minutes continued: Keith Moss spoke with Gail Stanberry about the pine trees near the property line and she agreed they were on church property. So we can move ahead with removal when ready.

****Ruth Heitbrink volunteered to bring cinnamon rolls for Easter Sunday morning from 9:00-10:00 a.m. prior to Worship.**

****Sharon Carman suggested Sarah Purcell could speak about her trip to Africa for our Mission Fest speaker. Funds could go to digging a well or some other project.**

****There will be no church service at Hope June 23rd due to the 75th anniversary at Cook we are invited to attend.**

**** The Burr Community Church service will be June 30th, we host.**

****Dave Antholz is still looking into doing something about the front doors of the church.**

NEW BUSINESS: Ruth Neeman will be playing the organ for Bruce Gerking's service March 30th.

****The small refrigerator from the basement has been given away.**

****Dave Lubben will video the Sunday Worship as Jane Antholz will be gone.**

Counting Schedule: 3/17/24-Keith, comm asst. Sharon, 3/24/24-Dave L., 3/31/24-Mark, comm. asst. Jane, 4/7/24-Dave L.

The next meeting will be April 10th 7:30 p.m.

We adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Carman.

Hope Lutheran WELCA met on Thursday, March 14, 2024 following the Lenten/Lunch Service at Grace Lutheran. Marilyn , Sharon, Alberta and Pastor were present.

The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$1,102.01..

Mission Outreach -we collected for City Mission, now collecting for Veterans.

Old Business: World Day of Prayer was March 1st with 17 attending.

New Business: One more Wednesday night Lenten service, one Lunch/Service, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, Easter Worship, March 31st 10:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast: Rolls provided by Ruth Heitbrink prior to worship 9:00-10:00 a.m. Juice and coffee provided by the Church.

Easter lilies—Marilyn will get two, publish for more.

WELCA Spring Gathering at Luther Memorial Saturday, April 6th, 9:00 a.m. It was voted to send \$50.00 to the rally offering.

The Memorial Day Luncheon will be Saturday, May 25th. Alberta will look up last year's food usage and bring results to the May meeting.

WELCA minutes continued: Our next Bible Study will be April 11th, with Pastor leading.

The Bruce Gerking funeral will be on Saturday, March 30th. Nancy will provide the cookies and some kitchen help. Alberta will be there to make coffee and help as needed.

Pastor mentioned that the Community Service will be at Hope on June 30th.

Respectfully submitted,

Alberta Block

APRIL is GO AND...TELL THE STORY!

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Hope Lutheran Church-Burr April 2024

Pastor Jim Helgren	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service *unless noted otherwise	1 April Fools' Day	2	3 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	4 6:00 p.m. 75th Anni.	5	6	
Church Council Chairman: Dave Antholz Fin. Sec. Janice Beethe Treas. Mark Panko Sec. Sharon Carman Deacons: Keith Moss David Lubben Russel Moss	7 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship, comm. asst. Janice	8 2:00 p.m. Grace Bible Study	9 7:30 p.m. Adult Education at Grace on the 10th	10 4:00 p.m. Kids for Christ 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:30 Hope Council	11 1:30 p.m. Bible Study	12	13
Worship & Music Alberta Block Sharon Carman Sherri Moss Ruth Neeman	14 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship, comm. asst., Ruth	15 Tax Day	16 7:00 p.m. Grace Church Council	17 6:00 p.m. Confirmation, 7 Z-8:30 p.m. Adult Ed. at Grace	18	19	20
Organists Alberta Block Sherri Moss Ruth Neeman	21 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship, comm.	22 Earth Day	23	24 4:00 p.m. Kids for Christ 6:00 p.m. Confirmation, 2:00 p.m. Linden View Worship, 7:30 p.m. Adult Ed. at Grace	25	26	27
WELCA President Marilyn Moss	28 10:00 a.m. Worship	29	30				
Bulletin/Newsletter Sharon Carman							

Cemetery	WELCA Meeting	Altar Guild	Visitation
Dave Antholz	Bible Study: Pastor	Kim & Sharon	Marilyn
Russel Moss	Devotions:		
Craig Straube	Hostess: All		