

Hope Lutheran Church

February 2025

From the Pastor,

January 12th Grace handed out star words to the congregation. I have also handed out words to those not in attendance that Sunday. This is an opportunity to have a word to help you focus on for the year. Use it in your prayer life. Put it somewhere you will see it daily. Mine is on my desk and at this moment it is covered up by my newsletter article.

The Synod monthly themes are also a tool to help us in our prayer life and in contemplating how we can live our lives in a more Christlike manner. My challenge on January 5th was for us to be more Christlike everyday this year. The affirmation of Baptism service I used January 12th was a way to remember we are baptized by affirming our Baptism and promising to live out our baptismal promises everyday so to say be Christlike daily.

Tools can help us have little epiphanies. These tools like the Bible can only be helpful if they are used. So our challenge this year is to be more Christlike by using the tools provided by God, our church and the Nebraska Synod. Enjoy growing in faith by living as a child of God. I will uncover my word when I finish this article.

Pastor Jim

Church Season: The Church Season of Time After Epiphany continues through February. It is a season of following God's light in a dark world. Finding God in ordinary things. To be curious as the Wise Men. Curiosity led them to the baby in Bethlehem.

Church Festival Days: February 2nd Presentation of Our Lord

February 18th Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546

U.S. Holidays: February 2nd Groundhog Day

February 9th Super Bowl

February 14th Valentine's Day

February 17th Presidents Day

Monthly Schedule: 8th Grade Confirmation Feb. 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th 6:00 p.m. at Grace

Kids for Christ, Feb. 12th, & 26th 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Grace

Hope Church Council, Feb. 12th at 7:30 p.m

Grandparents Faith Forward Zoom Feb. 16th at 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Mentor Faith Forward Zoom Feb. 23rd 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Linden View Worship, Pastor, Feb. 26th at 2:00 p.m.

Cultivating Love: The February theme is Cultivating Love through Epiphanies. We are in the church season of Epiphany, that time when we discover God working in our lives. It is the aha moments when the light bulb goes on above your head and you suddenly understand something or realize something. My sister at 72 has been diagnosed to be on the autism spectrum. Aha! This diagnosis explained my entire life with my sister. I now understand some of the clashes we had together as well as the daily clashes she had with mom. And the ongoing clashes she has with staff at the Assisted Living facility where she lives. These epiphanies can help us be at peace and forgive one another and live out our call to be children of God

Hope Lutheran Church Council Minutes November 13, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Helgren, Dave Antholz, Janice Beethe, Keith Moss, Mark Panko, Trevor Pope and Sharon Carman. David Lubben was absent.

THE MINUTES from the October meeting were reviewed and approved.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT: by Mark Panko for reports: TOTAL INFLOWS \$18,524.35

TOTAL OUTFLOWS -\$14,899.84

NET TOTAL \$ 3,624.51

October 31st balance was \$6,699.51. \$10,000 was transferred from Thrivent funds. The Treasurer's report was approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor visited and communed Judy Lubben and Dee Stoner.

****Pastor** felt that Mission Fest with our guest speaker, Martin Mallory from Nebraska Synod was a success.

****Hope** raised \$145.00 and \$1,100 from Grace for Crop.

****Pastor attended the Fall Leadership gathering. The theme was "Flipping the Script". Learning ways to equip the saints to share their faith.**

****Pastor will read a paragraph for Thankoffering Sunday, November 17th. There will be a special basket for donations.**

****Thanksgiving Eve Service will be Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 p.m. The offering will be donated to the Osage Food Pantry.**

****The Zoom training for Faith Forward for mentors will be Thursday, November 17th at 7:00 p.m.**

OLD BUSINESS: No news on the parsonage move. Dave and Keith will make contact with the Voelker family.

****Dave and Keith will pick a time to clean out the items in the garage.**

Council Minutes continued:

****Pastor reminded us that he plans to retire September 1st, 2026. This means we need to have conversations about what Hope plans to do then. Do we want to do the process of calling another pastor or consider closing Hope and joining Grace? Give this some thought and prayer and we will discuss this at the annual meeting in January.**

NEW BUSINESS: Family decoration day will be Sunday, December 1st following worship.

****The Sunday School Christmas program will be Sunday December 15th during worship.**

****Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship will be December 24th at 5:00 p.m. Offering will go to Lutheran Family Services.**

Counting Schedule: 11/17/24-Dave A., comm. asst. Deb, 11/24/24-Sharon, 12/1/24-Keith, comm. asst., Alberta, 12/8/24-Mark.

The next meeting will be December 11th 7:30 p.m. We excused Pastor Helgrean and then reviewed a budget increase and filled out the evaluation sheet for the pastor. We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Carman.

Hope Lutheran WELCA: Hope Bible Study and General Meeting was held at Marilyn's home on January 16, 2025. Those present were Marilyn, Sharon, Alberta and Pastor. Marilyn led the Bible Study about Ruth and Naomi.

The minutes of the last meeting were presented as well as the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$1,106.81.

Committee reports were discussed.

It was noted that the Friendship Home project was very successful and we are grateful for so much generous participation.

Christmas cards and small gifts were sent to the shut-ins for Christmas.

Marilyn reported that we have three new Altar Guild helpers Vanessa, Becky and Megan. They will serve with existing members to learn what needs to be done and where things are stored.

Marilyn prepared the Yearbooks for 2025. She asked for any corrections that need to be made.

We were reminded to remember the sick, lonely or grieving with cards and calls.

Dates to remember: Annual Meeting Sunday, January 26th; Ash Wednesday March 5th at Grace; World Day of Prayer March 7th at Osage; WELCA Spring Gathering Saturday, April 5th at St. John's Beatrice.

Offering was taken and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Alberta Block

A special thank you to my Hope Lutheran Church family for all the kind acts of caring and love you showed to our family. We are truly grateful to be a part of Hope. Sharon and family.

February is Cultivating Love Thru Epiphanies

Pastor
Jim Helgren

Hope Lutheran Church-Burr

February 2025

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship Service
*unless noted otherwise

Church Council
Chairman: Dave Antholz
Fin. Sec. Janice Beethe
Treas. Mark Panko
Sec. Sharon Carman
Decons: Keith Moss
David Lubben
Trevor Pope

Worship & Music
Alberta Block
Sharon Carman
Sherri Moss

Organists
Alberta Block
Sheri Moss
Ruth Neeman

WELCA President
Marilyn Moss

Bulletin/Newsletter
Sharon Carman

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 10:00 Holy Communion Worship Groundhog Day | 3 | 4 | 5 6:00 p.m. 8th Grade Only Confirmation | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 10:00 a.m. Worship Super Bowl | 10 2:00 p.m. Grace Bible Study | 11 | 12 4:00 p.m. Kids for Christ, 6:00 p.m. 8th Grade Only Confirmation 7:30 Council | 13 7:00 p.m. Grace ELCW | 14 Valentine's Day | 15 |
| 16 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship 6:00 Grandparent Zoom Faith Forward | 17 Presidents' Day | 18 | 19 6:00 p.m. 8th Grade Only Confirmation | 20 1:30 p.m. Bible Study | 21 | 22 |
| 23 10:00 a.m. Worship 6:00 Mentor Zoom Faith Forward | 24 | 25 | 26 4:00 p.m. Kids for Christ 6:00 p.m. 8th Grade Only Confirmation | 27 | 28 | |

Cemetery
Dave Antholz
Russel Moss
Craig Straube

WELCA Meeting
Bible Study: Alberta
Devotions:
Hostess:

Altar Guild
Marilyn & Deb

Visitation
Sharon

