

Hope Lutheran Church

March 2026

From the Pastor,

How is your Lenten journey going so far? Mine is going as planned so far since I am writing this the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

My plan is to try to use Lent to lose ten pounds and get to and retain 179 pounds. The plan is to eat less sweets and not replace the six beers in my refrigerator once they are gone until after Easter. I plan to add at least one devotional to my religious time each day. I hope to be more intentional about adding what Christians refer to as contemplation somewhere to my weekly schedule. Since contemplation is just being in the presence of God and not saying or thinking anything, one can probably see the challenge for me.

What are your plans for Lent? Some people fast for Lent. That may mean giving up a particular food or skipping lunch or another meal. I read a few years ago that biblically it could simply mean a vegan diet and not meaning not eating anything. Eating meat and drinking milk was considered luxuries one ate in celebration or times of plenty.

A friend of mine heard God tell him in his prayer time that if he wanted God to bring the religious Revival to his town as he was praying for then he needed to fast for forty days. My friend sought my advice on the matter. It was after I left Wilber that I discovered that God probably was not asking this overweight man to starve himself to death but only eat a vegan diet for forty days. Last time I saw him seventeen years ago he still had not started his fast.

Lent is a time for us to focus on being closer to God. We even added a Wednesday/Thursday worship service to help with the attempt. I wish you God's peace as you/we walk in our Lenten journey.

Pastor Jim

Festival Days: March 19th, Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

March 25th, The Annunciation of Our Lord

March 29th, Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

March 30th, Monday in Holy Week

March 31st, Tuesday in Holy Week

U.S. Holidays: March 8th, Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 17th, St. Patrick's Day

March 20th, Spring Begins

March 29th, Vietnam War Veterans Day

Monthly Schedule: March 4th & 18th, 7th Grade Hope Students Confirmation at Hope 6:00 p.m

March 11th & 25th, 7th & 8th Grace Students Confirmation 6:00 p.m.

March 4th, 18th, Lenten Worship at Hope 7:00 p.m.

March 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th, Lenten Lunch at Grace 11:45 a.m.

March 6th, World Day of Prayer 2:00

March 9th, Grace and Hope Bible Study at Grace 2:00 p.m.

March 11th, & 25th Lenten Service at Grace 7:00 p.m.

March 15th, Hope Council 11:00 a.m. Workbook Committee

March 17th, Grace Church Council 7:00 p.m.

Training Session: There will be a training session Sunday, March 22nd at 4:00 p.m. held at Grace for Grace and Hope members interested in helping to lead worship in the future through reading scripture, leading worship and /or presenting sermons or messages. We will begin with an introduction and practice session and go from there. It will be led by Pastor Jim.

There will be an introduction session concerning member visitation by Grace and Hope members March 23rd at 2:00-3:00 p.m. at Grace, led by Pastor Jim. We will discuss the various types of visits and which types each person is comfortable with doing.

Mission Statement: The Workbook Committee was asked the question if Hope Lutheran Church had a mission statement. No one was sure if Hope did until one member remembered we had worked on one at least over sixteen years ago, pre Pastor Helgren. It has been found and a copy handed out at worship February 15th.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

With thankful hearts, we, Hope Lutheran Congregation, exist because God has given us promise and Hope through Christ's death and resurrection. Our mission is to:

- Help and care for others with love and concern;**
 - Outreach with witness and service to our community and the world;**
 - Preach and teach the Word of God with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving;**
 - Equip ourselves for these ministries.**
- We dedicate our activities in the name of Jesus and to his glory.**

Hope Lutheran Church Council Minutes February 11, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Helgren, Dave Antholz, Janice Beethe, Keith Moss, Megan Pope, Trevor Pope, Mark Rumery, and Sharon Carman.

Pastor Helgren opened the meeting with prayer.

THE MINUTES from the January meeting were reviewed and approved.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT: by Mark Panko for January reports:

TOTAL INFLOWS	\$5,234.22
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	-\$6,876.94
NET TOTAL	- \$1,642.72

Balance January 31st was \$5,593. The treasurer's report was approved. Megan Pope will need a copy of the annual report stating she is the new treasurer to give to the bank. I will also give her a copy of the February minutes.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor visited and communed Judy Lubben, he was not able to see Carol Speth. Pastor visited Nancy Gerking at South Lake.

****Pastor was part of a Zoom Meeting about retirement.** Things are on track for that. Nebraska Synod representative, Amy Woods, would like to be present if the councils have more meetings about a possible three way parish to share a pastor.

****Pastor paid an OPPD bill for a family indeed from the Grace discretionary fund.**

****Pastor is looking for Lenten material to use.**

****Our phones were updated by Kinetic and we will now have free internet service.** A router has been placed in the office.

****Ash Wednesday is February 18th at Hope 7:00 p.m. Pastor will again have a candle/prayer table available.**

****Pastor will lead worship at Orchard Park February 19th.**

****Pastor will lead worship at Linden View February 25th.**

****Pastor may be late for worship February 22nd as he has a double baptism at Grace.**

****March 5th the confirmation students of Hope will meet at Hope as they work on their faith statements. April 26th will be the Rite of Confirmation for Mackenzie Sell and Anusha Thomas.**

OLD BUSINESS: A thank you was given to the outgoing council members, treasurers Mark and Kim Panko, and deacon, Dave Lubben. Sharon Carman, secretary, volunteered for another term.

Ash Wednesday will be February 18th at Hope. (No Lenten lunch after Ash Wednesday).

****Lenten lunch worship will be Thursdays at 11:45 a.m. at Grace.**

****The Lenten worship will be "Conversation with Jesus." They will also help prepare us to be lay leaders in the future. We will have coffee and cookies fellowship after the services.**

NEW BUSINESS: We welcomed the new council members Keith Moss, Deacon, and Megan Pope, Treasurer.

****The fire extinguishers have been checked by the Fire Marshall office.**

****Cathy Steinkuhler asked about some old music on the balcony. It is dirty and musty and probably needs to be thrown out. We will check into this.**

****There has been another report of a bat in the church. We have found a possible entry hole and will close it up with steel wool.**

Counting Schedule: 2/15/26 Keith, Comm. ser., Sharon, 2/22/26 Mark, 3/1/26 Dave, Comm. Ser. Jane, 3/8/26 Sharon, 3/15/26 Trevor.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, March 15th following worship. We will also have a Workbook Committee.

We excused Pastor Helgren and then worked on the Workbook Committee and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Carman.

Hope Lutheran WELCA met on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at Mariyln's home. Those present were Marilyn, Sharon, Alberta and Pastor Jim. Marilyn led the Bible Study.

The Secretary's report was read and the Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$623.81 was presented and approved. Marilyn expressed thank you to all who generously donated to the Friendship Home and Food Pantry. A special thank you to Megan and Trevor Pope for delivering the Friendship Home items. Also thanks to members who remember to send cards or visit shut-ins.

Upcoming events and dates: The month of February we will collect underwear, socks, gloves, and hats for the People's City Mission.

March 4th, Lenten Service at Grace, cookies after.

March 6th, World Day of Prayer at Grace.

March 14th, Spring Gathering at Falls City.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully, Alberta Block

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. Corrie Ten Boom

Hope Lutheran Church-Burr

March 2026

Pastor

Jim Helgren

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship Service

*unless noted otherwise

Church Council

Chairman: Dave Antholz

Fin. Sec. Janice Beethe

Treas. Megan Pope

Sec. Sharon Carman

Deacons: Keith Moss

Trevor Pope

Mark Rumery

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 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship	2	3	4 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 Lent @ Hope	5 11:45 Lenten Lunch at Grace	6 2:00 p.m. World Day of Prayer	7
8 10:00 a.m. Worship Daylight Savings Time begins	9 2:00 Hope & Grace Bible Study	10	11 4:00 p.m. Kids for Christ 7:00 Lent @ Grace	12 11:45 Lenten Lunch at Grace	13	14
15 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship 11:00 a.m. Workbook Committee	16	17 7:00 p.m. Grace Council St. Patrick's Day	18 6:00 Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service Hope	19 11:45 Lenten Lunch at Grace	20 Spring begins	21
22 10:00 a.m. Worship	23	24	25 4:00 Kids for Christ, 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service at Grace	26 11:45 . Lenten Lunch at Grace	27	28
29 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship	30	31				

Cemetery

Dave Antholz

WELCA Meeting

Bible Study: 2nd Monday @ Grace

Altar Guild

Janice & Becky

Visitation

Nancy