

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
301 E. Mount Morris Avenue
PO Box 57
Wautoma WI 54982

A congregation of:  Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Voice of Hope

January 2018



Pastor: Mike Thomas
Deacon: David Berndt
Admin. Assistant: Barbara Lapp
***Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 8:00AM – 4:00PM**
Friday Closed
CHURCH PHONE: (920)787-3920
WEBSITE: www.hopelutheranwautoma.com
Emails: office@hopelutheranwautoma.com

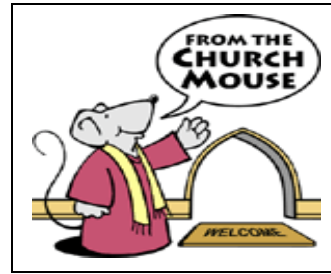
Worship Times:
Sundays- 9:00 a.m.
Holy Communion served 1st and 3rd



**For everything
there is a season.**

Ecclesiastes 3:1, NRSV

THE CHURCH MOUSE



As pastor was leaving the church on December 22nd, I noticed he still had one thing not checked off on his “to do” list before he went back to Ohio to visit with family between Christmas and New Year’s Day. So, being the sneaky little mouse that I am, I checked it off his list and figured with everything going on that he would forget he hadn’t done it. Thus, you get my brilliant insights as we begin 2018.

I thought the sound effects during the Sunday School Christmas singing of “Away In a Manger” were excellent. Cami Culver and Lily Thomsen did some mooing at the beginning of verse two, as the words, “the cattle are lowing” were being sung. I felt honored that the student who had the letter “M” chose “mouse” as his word (the one who isn’t stirring in the house in the poem by Clement Moore) instead of other possible words beginning with that letter. Sophie Klimke had the letter “O” and she mentioned that it stood for her grandma who always says, “Oh, what a nice present!” or “Oh, just what I wanted!” when she opens a gift. After church, Sophie said her Grandma Peggy actually does say those things when opening gifts. Susan McComb, Laura Dobrecevic, Christine Klieforth, and Deacon Dave did a wonderful job with the students, and if you liked the program, please tell them. Of course, when pastor mentioned in the announcements that the program was replacing the sermon there was an enthusiastic round of applause. I was giving a standing ovation at that point, but being a mouse, few noticed.

I am finding out a lot about folks in the congregation by reading the daily Advent devotional. I now know that children and cats don’t like lutefisk at the Tschurwald home, St. Nicholas Day was very important in the Grisar household (and apparently Carl snores when he sleeps), that LuVerne Norlin wanted to skip school one day to go skiing, Sandy Bartels puts a pickle on her tree (I wonder if it is a hamburger dill or sweet gherkin?), Sara Thomas has good taste and pastor doesn’t (well, OK, I already knew that), and Donna Ball makes fantastic Christmas cookies. My thanks to all who volunteered to share with the congregation a personal holiday memory.

It is kind of comical watching pastor come to the office during the week now that a new security system has been installed. He forgets, and always tries to open the right door, which is now the wrong door, as it is the one that has to be opened by a buzzer in the office. Eventually, he will figure out the left door is the one to open now. I wonder when in 2018 that will happen? When he is all bundled up in the cold weather and tries the right door, Barb looks at the monitor and doesn’t buzz the scruffy looking unknown person in. Then again, maybe she does know that it is pastor and still prefers not to buzz him in. Just in case you drop over to the church for a meeting or to visit, please give the left door a try first, then if it is locked, push the bell on the right side of the right door, and you’ll get buzzed in.

I did notice that pastor had written a note down about January is always such a promising month, as a new year unfolds. Twelve months of unwritten opportunities to share the good news of

God's love found in Christ Jesus with strangers and neighbors, of opportunities to give God thanks and praise, and of opportunities to amend our lives so they better reflect God's love and grace. It also means fifty-two Sundays of his jokes, which I think is where I have to exhibit God's love and provide forgiveness the most. I overheard him tell a joke this morning, "What do sharks order at restaurants?" "The chef salad!" Now aren't you glad I did the newsletter column this month?

May God give us grace and the courage to live out our faith in 2018.

Happy New Year!
The Church Mouse



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, November 14th, 2017



In attendance: Kim Prindle, Todd Klimke, Lynn Gohlke (Treasurer), Gerry Warsek, Sandy Bartels, Baird Stouffer, Donna Ball, Stacy Gravunder, Rodger Charette, Pastor Mike, & Trudy Mattice
Excused : Joanne Nelson & Mhari Gohlke

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P. M. by Council President Todd Klimke.
Spiritual Growth – Lead by Pastor Mike. We reflected on what we are thankful for.
Minutes - The minutes for the Tuesday, October 10 th,2017 meeting were approved as corrected.
Financial Report –
Treasures report was approved and carried.
Finance committee recommended that we pay the remaining \$2,500 to ELCA in December & to maintain the \$8,000 benchmark for 2018.

Staff Reports -Pastor Mike's and Dave's reports were reviewed.

Committee Reports:

Personnel:

- No report this month.

Property:

- Contract for security system has been signed and sent to the vendor
- City needs to verify that water and sewer have been shut off before the Slab can be removed.

Youth and Family: Blanket Raffle taking place at this time to cover costs such as food.

Music and Worship: See Dave's report.

New Members and Transfers :

Motion was made to approve, Don and Sandra Gold and Dick and Judie Fjellman as new members.

Motion Carried.

Additional Business:

- a. Reminders
 - i. Reminder that all service contracts and quotes need to be in writing.
 - ii. Committee meeting minutes should be shared with church council

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 followed with the Lord's Prayer and benediction.

Kim Prindle



HLCW BOARD MEETING

November 6, 2017



The meeting was called to order with devotions by President Penny Hendrickson at 1:30 on

November 6, 2017. In attendance were: Nadine Warzek, Peggy Klimke, Helen Grisar, Marlynn Anderson, Bridget and Karen Tschurwald and Julie Stouffer.

Treasurer reported that there is \$6287.01 in the checking account. The offering for the General meeting as \$106.00

Correspondence: Thank you from Agnesian Health Care, Bethany, Lamp Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, Domestic Abuse, and Prayer Shawl Group for donations.

Karen Tschurwald and Helen Grisar reported on the East Central Synod Convention and the Human Trafficking Conference. An offering check will be sent to the Synod.

New Business:

Advent Tea is on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 9:00. All women of Hope Church are invited. Sara Thomas will provide the program with the book "A cup of Christmas Tea". We discussed ways of getting more people involved in HLCW activities. Penny will get list of new church members and a personal invitation will be extended. Door prizes will be brought in by Board members as well as food. Set up is on Friday December 1, 2017 at 1:00. Sig up sheets for tables and attendance are by the office.

Work will begin in Early December for the HLCW Handbook.

Penny expressed her appreciation for the support that she has been given during her term as President and enjoyed working with all.

Program for Advent Breakfast, Sara Thomas will be reading "A Cup Of Christmas Tea", and Anne Dorwaldt will be sharing special Christmas Music. Everyone will join in on some Christmas Carol's.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Stouffer



From Rev. Elizabeth Eaton Presiding Bishop ELCA

December 6, 2017

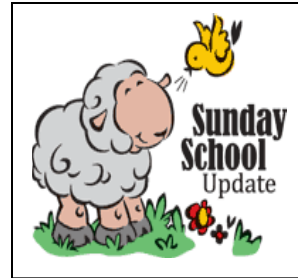
I am deeply disturbed to learn of the Trump administration's plans to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel away from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The ELCA has long held the view that a negotiated, final status agreement, including a "shared Jerusalem," must be reached without unilateral actions by any party that would prejudice the outcome of negotiations.

This unilateral action would not support the cause of peace and a two-state solution, but rather would unnecessarily create further tensions and possible violence that would make efforts to bring them back together for talks much more difficult. As my brother in Christ and colleague, Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, has often said, the security of Israelis depends on the freedom of Palestinians and the freedom of Palestinians depends on the security of Israelis. This proposed action would make both more insecure.

To proceed with this plan will only further isolate our nation from the global movement for a just peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims alike in the region and our church's policy that seeks an end to the occupation, an end to terrorism and violence, and, ultimately, the establishment of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state. Since the announcement is one of intentions, I call upon the president to rescind this plan and instead continue to focus on our nation's ability to contribute constructively toward a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Along with other interreligious partners, I continue to stand ready to discuss with the president ways to reach a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Sincerely,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME CHANGE



As we begin a new calendar year, we will be making a change in the time the Sunday School for the youth will meet. Starting on January 7th, 2018 the time Sunday School for grades 5 and below will be right after the Children's Sermon during the worship service, and end when the worship service is over, between 9:55-10:15 am.

The students will be dismissed at the end of the Children's Sermon which is circa 9:20-9:25 am, and go directly to their class. The class will meet, have their educational time and crafts, and prepare to leave when they hear the closing hymn being sung during worship. Because the time of the closing of the worship service fluctuates from anywhere between 9:55-10:15 am, the time the students will need to be picked up will not always be the same. While this may provide some confusion, parents and grandparents need not worry, as the students will not need to be picked up until AFTER the service ends.

The adult class and the Catechism class will not have any switch to their meeting time which will continue to be from after worship till 11:00 am. The time change for the younger classes is an attempt to meet a variety of situations which have arisen over the years.

We thank the Guest Volunteer Speakers who have come to the class and discussed a variety of topics with the students, provided crafts, and related how their faith has impacted what they are presenting about. We do have a few folks who signed up to be Guest Volunteer Speakers to the class from January through the end of April, but due to the switch in time, we will not need them to plan to attend the Sunday School class and make a presentation to the students.

Again, the time change does not begin till Sunday, January 7th. We welcome your feedback on the time change for the grades 5 and below Sunday School classes, and hope that this new time will work out better for most of the parents and students.





On behalf of the Waushara Industries & the Waushara County Food Pantry, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$790.00. This donation is very much appreciated. In our last fiscal year, which ended on 9/30/17, our Pantry distributed over 1.38 million pounds of food. We also served over 26,000 people in 9437 households. These numbers represent an increase of over 9% above last year.



Thank you to all who bought Poinsettias to decorate our Altar.

You helped to make our church, so beautiful for our Christmas Services!

God's blessings to all!
Merry Christmas!



Altar Flowers

The 2018 flower chart, is here! It is posted on the bulletin board, across from the Church Office.

Flowers in worship help us to recognize the beauty all around us. Sign up to provide flowers for a special Sunday to remember joyous events like a wedding anniversary, baptism, birthday, graduation, or in honor or remembrance of a special person in your life.



<i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	<i>Feb. 11</i>
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Feb. 14</i>
<i>Valentine's Day</i>	<i>Feb. 14</i>
<i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Feb. 18</i>
<i>Presidents Day</i>	<i>Feb. 19</i>
<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	<i>Feb 25</i>

Book Club

Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the church library. Come join us! New members are always welcome!

Upcoming Books

January :

Time Is A River, by Mary Alice Monroe

February, no meeting

March:

The Lynching, by Laurence Learner

April:

A Gentleman in Moscow, by Amor Towles

May:

Firefly, by Barbara Vroman



Men's Fellowship

Wednesday, January 10th

7:00 a.m. at Amalia's Place

Men of all ages are welcome!

**Come and share
in Christian fellowship.**



In Our Prayers

For Our Members:

Nancy Radloff, and the family of Elaine Jones.

Special Prayers:

Randy, Sherry Yost, Izzy Scholl, & Paul Johnson.



**The Church will be closed on the following date to allow the staff time with their families:
January 1st**



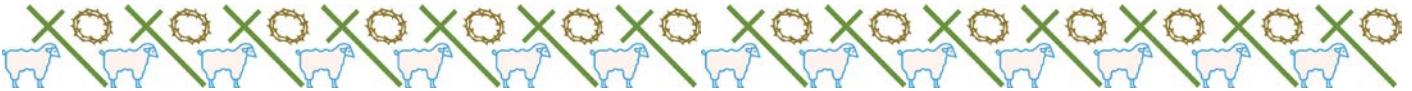


book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

**Monday Adventures in reading the Bible 11:00am – 12:00pm Hope Library
January 8, 15, 22, 29**

Come and be part of the discussion to understand your faith and how it applies to daily living. You might be surprised what you learn about yourself and God!



Women's Bible Study

**Circle of Hope January 2, 6:30 p.m.
Grace Circle January 4, 1:00 p.m.**

Theme for Session One: Washing hands with distant hearts – January, 2018

Theme for Session Two: Prepare the Way of the Lord – February, 2018

Circle of Hope is a gathering for women who are interested in fellowship and conversation around God's word. The group uses the "Gather: For Faith & Action" magazine for the Women of the ELCA (see gathermagazine.org). The groups meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the church library.

Bible Text for January: Mark 7:1-8 and the Bible Text for February: Luke 3:3-17



At the start of a new year, we remember that God continually gives us new chances. What does Jesus say to a woman caught in adultery?

- A. "Go, and from now on sin no more."
- B. "Not even in Israel have I found such great faith."
- C. "Peace be with you."
- D. "Tell no one what I have done for you."

Answer: A (See John 8:11.)



Food Collection

Hope Lutheran donated **93.68 pounds of food** to the Waushara County Food Pantry on December 5, 2017. Thank you to all those who donated! Remember, you can donate any non-perishable food items in the baskets across from the church office!



Remember Your Offerings
Please have your year end offerings in the church office by 4:00, on Thursday, Dec. 28. If you are mailing them, they need to be post marked on Saturday, Dec. 30, for it to be credited to your 2017 Giving Statement.
Thank you!



Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?
 Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.
 Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:  A  E  I  O

" _ _ M TH _ L _ GHT _ F

TH _ W _ RLD. WH _ _ V _ R

F _ LL _ WS M _ W _ LL N _ V _ R

W _ LK _ N D _ RKN _ SS."

J _ HN 8:12, NIV



Neal Olson
Trudy Mattice
Helen & Carl Grisar
Pat & Tom Rose



Mark your calendar's!!
Annual Meeting
January 28, 2018

Reports are due by
January 8th!!

We wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to Pastor Mike for his kindness while Neal was ill and the beautiful sermon at his funeral.

Thanks also to Barb who was so helpful and stayed overtime to help set up for the visitation.

Also, we want to thank the ladies who made and served such a wonderful meal. Linda and Bob Bergen and last, but not least, the congregation who prayed for and came to support us at the visitation and funeral.

We will never forget how much support we received and how much it meant to us.



Sincerely,
Neal's family
Ellen Olson
Lori Doray & family
Joni Van Rossum & family
Jill Quandt & family



Visitation Team

January Caring Visitors

Group I – LuVerne & Donna

Group II – Adaline & Karen Miller

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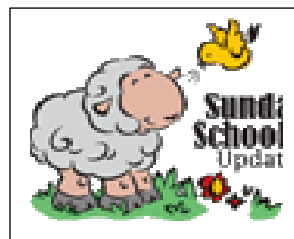
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4 – Liz Arveson
6 – Karen Roeske
7 – Connor Bielmeier
8 – Lynn Gohlke
14 – Chris Hawlish
17 – Jennifer Johnson

22- Derick Dobrecevic
Paul Hendrickson
Lora Stoltz
23 – Devin Borchardt
24 – Dierks Klieforth
25 – Bonnie Kissinger

25 – Bonnie Kissinger
Becky Volkman
28 – Susan Prochnow
29 – Cari Schmidt
Jess Johnson
30 – Susan McComb
Frank Weiland
31 – Diane Reini

Acolytes

7 – Logan Slusser
Ethan Trat
14 – Colin &
Zephen Berger
21 – Megan &
David Miller
28 – Hayley Moore

Ushers

Readers

7 -
14 -
21 -
28 -

Greeters

7- Barb & Allen Shruck,
Lynn & Dennis Gohlke
14- Audrey Dredske, Millie McComb
Mary & Roger Charette
21- Cheryl & Rick Andersen
Sandy Bartels
28- Donna & Jerry Goldsmith

Communion Assistants

Altar Guild

Carol King, Mary Charette,
Mary Luebben

Coffee Servers

7- Mary & Roger Charette
14- Helen & Carl Grisar
21- Char & Roger Stratton
28- Loretta & Ray Piehl

JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship Hour 10:00 AM No Confirmation or Sunday School 2:00 PM AA	1 12:00 PM Al-Anon	2 9:00 AM Pastor's Text Study 1:00 PM Team Leadership Meeting 6:30 PM Circle of Hope Women's Bible Study	3 3:30 PM No Confirmation Class 5:30 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir Practice	4 10:00 AM AA 1:00 PM Grace Circle 7:30 PM AA	5 2:00 PM AA	6
7 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Confirmation Class 10:00 AM Education & Fellowship Hour 2:00 PM AA	8 11:00 AM Adventures in Reading the Bible 12:00 PM Al-Anon 1:30 PM HLCW Board Mtg	9 9:00 AM Pastor's Text Study 1:00 PM Team Leadership Meeting 7:00 PM Council Meeting	10 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast & Fellowship Hour at Amalia's Place 9:00 AM Library Knitting Group 3:30 PM Confirmation Alternate Day 5:30 PM Handbells 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice	11 10:00 AM AA 7:30 PM AA	12	13
14 9:00 AM Praise Team Worship 10:00 AM Confirmation Class 10:00 AM Education & Fellowship Hour 2:00 PM AA	15 9:00 AM Library Knitting Group 11:00 AM Adventures in Reading the Bible 12:00 PM Al-Anon 1:30 PM Pieces of Hope Prayer Shawl Ministry	16 9:00 AM Pastor's Text Study 1:00 PM Book Club 1:00 PM Team Leadership Meeting	17 3:30 PM Confirmation Alternate Day 5:30 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir Practice	18 10:00 AM AA 7:30 PM AA	19	20
21 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Confirmation Class 10:00 AM Education & Fellowship Hour 11:00 AM Heartland House Worship 2:00 PM AA	22 11:00 AM Adventures in Reading the Bible 12:00 PM Al-Anon	23 9:00 AM Pastor's Text Study 1:00 PM Team Leadership Meeting	24 3:30 PM Confirmation Alternate Day 5:30 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir Practice	25 10:00 AM AA 7:30 PM AA	26	27 11:00 AM 4th Saturday Lunch
28 No Confirmation Class 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Education & Fellowship Hour 2:00 PM AA	29 11:00 AM Adventures in Reading the Bible 12:00 PM Al-Anon	30 9:00 AM Pastor's Text Study 1:00 PM Team Leadership Meeting	31 3:30 PM Confirmation Class 5:30 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Choir Practice	1 10:00 AM AA 1:00 PM Grace Circle 7:30 PM AA	2	3