

# Tidings of Hope

September 2024



Hope Lutheran Church  
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

---

---

# Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration  
September 2024

---

---

## Everyday Missionaries

By Pastor Christopher Martin

*The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathaniel said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathaniel coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathaniel said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathaniel answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."-John 1:43-50*

As some of you know, from 2018-2023, I was honored to serve as a member, and for a while, as co-chair of one of the Mission Teams of the North American Lutheran Church: the Renewal Team. Our work on the team was focused on developing and promoting practical recourses for ministry, renewal, and mission to the congregations of the NALC, its pastors, and other workers. In my first year serving on the team, we read and discussed the book "Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to Be An Everyday Missionary" by Pastor Greg Finke. (Some of you may recall I had our Council at Hope read and discuss this book during my first year I was here.) If you haven't read it, the entire premise of this book was, from a Biblical perspective, how we as Christians are, in many ways, "missionaries" in our own communities through the relationships that we develop in the workplace, our neighborhoods, on the farm,

*(Pastor's Column, cont.)*

in our schools, and wherever else it might be that God places you in your daily life. Pastor Finke does an outstanding job in this book of simplifying this entire model of sharing the love of Jesus, and how it happens simply by being aware of what is going on in our own little corner of the world, and using the opportunities we have in daily life to share the love of Christ in the context of the relationships we build each day.

In the Bible reading I shared with you from John 1, we see this very thing happen. Jesus goes to Galilee where he encounters Philip. There, Jesus issues a call to discipleship to Philip, simply by saying: "Follow me." Philip spends some time with Jesus, has his life transformed by the Word Jesus shares, and when he returns and sees Nathaniel, what does he say to Nathaniel? Does he act as if nothing special happened during his encounter with Jesus? No. He tells Nathaniel "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (v.45) Philip couldn't wait to share the good news about Jesus with Nathaniel.

Nathaniel didn't give the most encouraging response right away did he? Yet, Philip was undeterred. He didn't spend time arguing with Nathaniel until he was blue in the face, or tell him he was crazy. He doesn't change the message about Jesus. And he also doesn't give up. He simply issues an invitation "Come and see" (v.46). Come and see Jesus for yourself, Nathaniel. Spend some time in His presence. And with that simple invitation, Nathaniel hears the Word of the Lord for himself, and becomes a disciple of Jesus.

I mention this because the truth is, we as God's people at Hope Lutheran Church have a wonderful gift to share with the world in which we live, starting right here in Rusk County! We have been richly blessed with the gifts of forgiveness of our sins and everlasting life in paradise through the person and work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are a people who have hope in the midst of all the darkness and bad news that we encounter in the world today. As we focus our ministry together around the four core values of the NALC: Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally-Grounded, and Congregationally-Focused, we are called to be salt and light to

*(Pastor's Column, cont.)*

the world around us, starting right here, right now! In a day and age where so many churches are wandering further and further away from Christ and His Word, we have made the commitment as part of the NALC to remain steadfast in Christ and His Word that gives us hope, life, and salvation.

But, we have not been called to keep this good news to ourselves. We are called to share it with others in our daily lives. That is where you come into the picture! I know I've shared this with you before, but it is worth repeating: there have been a number of studies over the years of people who join a new church, asking them, how were they brought into the life of the church they ended up joining? Two percent said it was a result of an advertisement in the newspaper or somewhere else. Six percent said they received a personal invitation from the Pastor. Another six percent said they came for the first time as a result of a specific evangelism emphasis or program that the congregation was involved with. **The remaining 86% said they started attending that particular church on a regular basis because someone they knew, whether it was a friend, relative, co-worker, or neighbor, personally invited them to come to church with them, extending the same invitation Philip extended to Nathaniel.**

As we get ready to gear up for our fall programming year, I have a challenge for each and every member of Hope Lutheran Church. I would like you to think about the people in your daily life for whom you might be Philip to and invite them to church here at Hope Lutheran Church and experience what Jesus is up to in our life as the Church today. Can you think of someone in your own life who perhaps you have not seen in worship at Hope in a long time? Do you have a friend or neighbor who recently moved to the area and needs the light of Christ in their life? There are people in your life who need Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, the Light no darkness can overcome. Can you begin to dream of what good things might happen if every single member of Hope Lutheran Church took this kind of initiative by simply inviting one person in their life to come and see Jesus for yourself? Perhaps God is calling you to be an everyday missionary with the people in your life!



## **Rally Day Celebration**

We'll be kicking off our fall programming with a Rally Day celebration on Sunday, September 15. A hymn-sing will be held prior to the 9:00am worship service (beginning at approximately 8:45am). Following the worship service, we will gather on the church lawn for refreshments, games, crafts and a time of fellowship.

The theme for this year's Rally Day is "Looking for Jesus". You are encouraged to keep your eyes open, as you never know where you may find Jesus! Everyone is welcome!

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, September 22. Classes are for children 3 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and are held each week from 10:15-11:00am in the education wing. If you have a child in this age range and did not receive a letter in the mail, please contact the church office. Registration forms can be found on the church website or in the church office.

## **Wednesday School**

Wednesday School will begin on Wednesday, September 18. Please watch for more details to come.

## **Thank You!**

The Parish Education Committee thanks everyone who helped in any way with this summer's Vacation Bible School. It takes many hands to make this event happen and we couldn't have done it without you! Please see the Parish Education bulletin board for photos of all the fun and learning.

# Confirmation

Confirmation is an educational ministry of Hope Lutheran Church, designed to help students understand and affirm the Christian faith, and participate more fully in the life and mission of the church, along with their families.

Confirmation orientation for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be held on Wednesday, September 4 at 6:30pm. Regular classes will be held each Wednesday at 6:30pm beginning September 11.

All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who have completed Confirmation instruction and wish to affirm the faith of their baptism on Confirmation Sunday (October 27) will have a mandatory orientation session on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:30pm. Parents are asked to attend with their child. Classes for 9<sup>th</sup> graders will meet each Wednesday at 7:30pm through the month of October.

If you have questions about the Confirmation program, please contact Pastor Martin or the church office.

## Do You Ever Wonder Why?

Do you ever wonder why we observe certain liturgical practices or why certain symbols are used in our church practices? We continue to look at the “why” in an effort to enhance our knowledge and understanding of church practices. This month’s topic is Pentecost.

Why do we use green to decorate the church during the season of Pentecost? The general theme of worship in this season is that of growth and flourishing. This season of the liturgical year focuses on growing in discipleship, deepening our relationship with God, and faithful obedience in following Jesus Christ.

This long season of green paraments is often referred to as "Ordinary Time"—“ordinary” coming from the designation of Sundays by ordinal numbers (ie 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost).

Scripture readings during the season of Pentecost focus on Christ’s teachings, rather than commemorating his major life events.



## Hope Lutheran Church Women

**Monthly Meeting:** The HLCW will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, September 19 at 9:30am. Hostesses are Lois MacArthur and Noreen Kurth. All women of Hope are welcome!

**Quilting:** The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, September 24 beginning at 9:00am. There are jobs for all skill levels. If you can stay for the whole day, please bring a sack lunch. Quilt squares are also available to be sewn at home. Questions? Contact Karen Skeels (715-452-5444).

### Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities

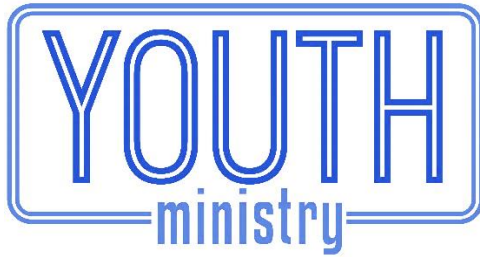
**Book Discussion:** The book discussion group will meet on Sunday, September 15 at 10:30am in the Fireside Room. The book for September is The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah.

**Sunday Morning Study:** The study on the book of Romans will continue in the Fireside Room on Sundays, September 1, 8, 22, 29 at 10:30am.

**Meal of the Month:** The next Meal of the Month will take place on Thursday, September 12 a 11:30am at Cedar Lodge. This is an opportunity for members of Hope to enjoy a meal and fellowship while supporting a local business. Everyone is welcome.

### Choirchimes of Hope

Are you interested in playing in the handchime choir? Can you participate for one-month, multiple months, or the whole season? The choice of how often you play is up to you! You are welcome to join in the making of music for one month or many. Adults and youth in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older are invited to join. The only requirement to join is a desire to participate in a group making music and worshipping Jesus our Lord. Rehearsals will start rehearsals in mid-September. Please call or text Heidi Jo Sovacool for more details (715-403-3566).



Youth Ministry programs are for youth in grades 6-12. Friends are always welcome to attend.

**Rally Day:** Rally Day, which kicks off the church's fall programming, is Sunday, September 15. Youth will be helping with set-up on Saturday, September 14 at 10:00am.

**Health Care Kits:** Youth will be assembling health care kits for the NALC Disaster Response on Sunday, September 29 following the 9:00am worship service.

**Operation Christmas Child:** We will again be assembling boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. We will shop for items for the boxes on Sunday, October 20 following the 9:00am worship service. We will pack the boxes on Sunday, November 3 following the worship service. Lunch will be provided.

**Donuts & Devotions:** Youth are invited for donuts & devotions on Sundays, September 3, October 13, and November 17 at 10:15am in the upstairs youth room.

For more information about Youth Ministry here at Hope Lutheran Church, please contact a member of the Youth Ministry Committee (Julie Kammerud, Chris Kammerud, Carla Closs) or see the Youth Ministry bulletin board.

## **College Addresses Wanted**

We like to keep in touch with the young adults of our congregation who are attending college or technical school. This includes sending special treats a couple of times during the school year. Please submit school addresses to the church office (hlcladysmith@gmail.com) as soon as possible.



# **Daily Bread**

## **Matthew 15:29-39**

By Pastor Christopher Martin

In the Lord's Prayer, as we pray the petition "Give us this day our daily bread" we are reminded that these words are a promise from God that He will provide for all of our needs, both for this life, and in the life to come.

In the reading from Matthew 15, we watch as Jesus goes about answering this petition in a variety of different ways. He provides healing to those in the crowd who cannot heal themselves. He then provides for their basic need of food with simple means: bread and fish. When Jesus provided for the needs of those in our reading who cannot provide for themselves, He doesn't just give them enough to get by; He gives them an abundance, evidenced by the seven basketfuls of leftovers!

Today, our Savior, Jesus Christ, continues to provide for our needs. He provides us with the means we need to support this body and life. More importantly, He provides for our greatest need, which is to have our sins forgiven, and have the gift of a place in His Father's kingdom forever through simple means: His Word, bread and wine, which we receive every time we gather around God's gifts to us and our Savior's presence in Word and Sacrament. In what ways has Jesus provided for your daily needs today? How can you, out of thanksgiving for what He has richly blessed you with, use your abundance to share His love, and His forgiveness, with someone else in your life?

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, thank you for the many ways that You abundantly provide for all of my needs. Give me an opportunity to be Your hands and feet, and use what You have first given me in service to others, so that they may see Your love and providence through what I say, and what I do. Amen.

## **Prayer Concerns**

If you have asked to have someone listed in the prayer concerns in the Sunday bulletins, please contact the church office (715-532-7739 or [hlcladysmith@gmail.com](mailto:hlcladysmith@gmail.com)) with periodic updates so that we can keep the list current.

## **Food Pantry**

The Hope Lutheran Food Pantry serves those in need throughout Rusk County. The Pantry is open Mondays 1:00-3:00pm, and Fridays 9:30-11:30am.

Volunteers are needed Tuesday, September 3 and Monday, September 16 at 9:15am to help unload the Feed My People delivery and to stock shelves. If you have questions, please contact Josi Hamilton (715-532-6052).

Donations of non-perishable food items can be brought to the church on Sunday mornings, during pantry hours, or dropped off in the office during office hours. Monetary donations should be made payable to the Hope Lutheran Food Pantry. These can be placed in the offering box or sent to the church office.

## **MANNA Meal**

(Meals Available for the Nutritional Needs of All)

The September MANNA Meal will be held on Thursday, September 26 with serving from 5:00-6:00pm. This is a free meal providing food and fellowship to those in need of either. This month's meal is sponsored by the United Church of Christ.

## **Walk for Life**

Choices Health Network (formerly CareNet Pregnancy Resource Center) will hold their annual Walk for Life on Saturday, September 21 at Memorial Park at the Veteran's Pavilion. Registration on the day of the event begins at 8:30am with the walk starting at 9:00am.

Hope Lutheran Church will again be having a walk team. If you would like to be a part of the team or sponsor a walker, please contact Kathy Peterson or Rosemary Johnson. Pledge forms can be picked up in the narthex.

For more information about Choices Health Network and the Walk for Life, visit their website at [LadysmithCareNet.com](http://LadysmithCareNet.com) or call 715-532-7600.

# SUMMARY OF COUNCIL & COMMITTEE ACTION

**Pastor's Report:** Has been meeting with the Executive Committee to work on changes to the constitution and bylaws, as directed by the Path Forward Committee and Council. Gave a brief report on the NALC Online Convocation and the WI-UP Mission District Executive Council meeting. Confirmation orientation will be held on September 4 with classes beginning on September 11. Will lead the chapel service at Ladysmith Care & Rehab on September 4 and give the invocation at the CareNet Walk for Life on September 21.

**Path Forward Recommendations Follow-Up:** The banner with the new vision statement is up in the multipurpose room. The banner with a QR code that links to the church website has arrived and will be posted on the north exterior wall after Rally Day. There are pamphlets on the basics of Christianity with stickers of the new QR code that will be placed in the sanctuary.

**Flood Buckets:** Rosemary Johnson is spearheading a drive to assemble flood buckets for NALC Disaster Response. As of the date of the Council meeting enough funds had been received to purchase supplies for 62 buckets.

**Wedding Fee Schedule:** Fees have not been updated since 2014. Council voted to make changes to the fee schedule (available in the church office). Council will also be asking for a damage deposit, which will be returned to the couple after the wedding if there is no damage to church property.

**Committee Vacancy:** Heidi Jo Sovacool submitted her letter of resignation from the Worship & Music Committee and chairmanship. Council accepted her resignation and will discuss filling the remaining months of her term at the next meeting.

**Congregational Care & Outreach:** Aileen Tauchen, Jim Spielman, and Vinnie Jacobs represented Hope Lutheran at the ICAA Back to School event. GriefShare begins September 4. Next meeting: October 2 at 4:30pm.

**Parish Education:** Laura gave a brief report on VBS. There were 17 children in attendance. Expenses totaled \$418.01. A Thrivent grant was received and some of the food was donated. Wednesday

*(Council & Committee Action, cont).*

School has requested a small refrigerator and to replace CD players. Next meeting: September 4 at 4:00pm..

**Property:** Did not meet in August. Next meeting: September 10 at 6:00pm.

**Service & Fellowship:** Did not meet in August. Committee organized the Fun on the Flambeau event and a booth at the Mardi Gras craft fair. Next meeting: TBA.

**Social Ministries:** Did not meet in August. Next meeting: September 10 at 4:00pm.

**Stewardship & Finance:** Did not meet in August. Next meeting: September 10 at 5:30pm.

**Worship & Music:** The table in the narthex has been removed and replaced with a small podium. Next meeting: September 3 at 6:00pm.

**Youth Ministry:** Will be helping with Rally Day set-up, packing Health Care Kits for NALC Disaster Response, and preparing boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Next meeting: September 3 at 4:30pm.

**Next Council Meeting:** September 17 at 6:30pm.

**Mission Statement**

*Hope Lutheran Church is commissioned to make disciples, commanded to love God and others, and committed to serve.*

**Vision Statement**

*The Hope Lutheran Church family seeks to form disciples of Jesus in our daily relationships with Christ through weekly worship, daily prayer, and empowering them to develop their spiritual gifts to serve God and others.*



<b>1</b>	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Nick Sovacool, Aileen Tauchen Nick Sovacool Dave Borman Blake Nyhagen
<b>8</b>	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Charlie & Chris Holtebeck Charlie Holtebeck Irene Titera Izzy Solberg
<b>15</b>	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Kathy Peterson, Aileen Tauchen Nick Sovacool Nick Sovacool Sophia Kammerud
<b>22</b>	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Jerry & Pat McEathron Aileen Tauchen Rosemary Johnson Nolan Kammerud
<b>29</b>	Ushers Lector Comm. Asst. Acolyte	Gordie & Bev Dukerschein Dukerschein Dukerschein Addison Hulle

## **Worship Service Livestream**

Worship services are livestreamed on YouTube each Sunday at 9:00am. You can access this livestream at YouTube.com. The service is posted to the church's Facebook page following the service. You do not need to subscribe to the church's YouTube channel to watch but if you do, you will receive notifications when a new video is posted. To watch the worship services live, visit <https://www.youtube.com/@hopelutheranchurchladysmit4042/streams>.



## **Deadlines...**

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the October newsletter are due in the church office by Tuesday, September 17.

The preferred method of submission is via email (hlcladysmith@gmail.com) or electronic file. Items may also be left in the office mailbox or dropped off at the office during office hours.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS and/or PHONE NUMBER?**

If you have had a change in your mailing address, email or phone number, please notify the church office of these changes. Also, in an effort to improve communication we are seeking email addresses for members of the congregation. If you would like to have your email address added to the list, please send it to the church office at hlcladysmith@gmail.com.

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor	Christopher Martin
Church Secretary	Bonnie Billings
Custodian	Rosemary Warwick
Organists	Lisa Borman Karen Tappon Terry Wedwick

Hope Lutheran Church  
320 First St. S.  
P.O. Box 184  
Ladysmith, WI 54848

Church Phone: 715-532-7739

E-Mail Address: hlcladysmith@gmail.com

Website: hlcladysmith.org



# Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

*Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.*

- party - t = p r A y (v. 1)
- lady + i = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 3)
- drab + e = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 5)
- rod + o = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 7)
- bask - b = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)
- keeps - p = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)
- define - ee = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 9)
- shift - t = \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 11)
- sneaky - y = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 11)
- sift + g = \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (v. 13)