

Tidings of Hope

January 2020



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin**

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration

January 2020

Farewell From the Odermanns

By Pastors Bill & Diane Odermann

It's now January 2020—a new year is now before us all. This is our final newsletter article to you as a congregation. By the time you read this, we will be gone off-site for good, having left you in God's hands as you begin a new year and a new future living in anticipation of new pastoral leadership. We both wish to thank you for the opportunity of leading and serving you for these past fourteen months.

The month of December was a season of 'tying up loose ends,' packing up personal items from our church office and parsonage, and making sure some ministry initiatives are prepared to be handed over to others until a new pastor is secured. We were reminded just how many details need attention when you finish up an interim assignment! Along with all that there have been some heartfelt farewells and mutual words of appreciation expressed between us—thank you all for your words!

This was our first NALC congregation to serve after leaving the ELCA. There are some really solid people in your congregation and a very faithful core group that cares about their church and their community. You were an 'easy' congregation to preach to—you took the Word of God seriously and openly welcomed it being sown into your lives—we could literally sense that spiritually during worship.

We wish we could have had more time to offer more adult Bible study or classes in fulfilling the NALC's core value of discipleship which is one of our own strong core values. We gave you what we

(continued)

Pastor's column, cont.

had in the time we had it. We pray it bears fruit and sets the stage for your new pastor to build upon and move forward in their own unique style.

We both are grateful for the time of service you afforded us in serving your congregation these past fourteen months. The time has passed quickly and there have been lots of changes in that time that everyone needed to adjust to. There are many relationships we will miss; we are grateful for those!

With all that said, we say farewell and only wish the Lord's finest and richest blessings to rest upon you, your leadership, and your congregation, and your future as you continue expressing the Kingdom of God in its fullest measure, among yourselves and in your community!

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting and Annual Meeting of the the Congregation

A special meeting of the congregation has been called for Sunday, January 12 immediately following the 9:00am worship service (approximately 10:15am). The purpose of this meeting is to vote on whether to extend a call to Pastor Daniel Repp.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Hope Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 26 immediately following the 9:00am worship service (approximately 10:15am).

All Confirmed members are encouraged to attend both of these meetings.



Youth Breakfast: High School youth will meet for breakfast and devotions on Sunday, January 19. Youth are encouraged to attend the 9:00am worship service and then meet in the multi-purpose room following worship. They'll head out to the Ladysmith Family Restaurant from there. The cost of the meal is covered by Youth Ministry

Game Night: Middle School and High School youth are invited to the church for tacos and games on Sunday, January 19 at 5:00pm.

2020 Mission Trip: High School youth will be traveling to Wilmington, NC June 7-12 to help with storm damage repair and other mission work. Interested youth should sign up on the Youth Ministry bulletin board.

LCMC Youth Gathering: This annual event is for youth in grades 6-12 and will be held March 6-8 in Warrens, WI. Youth are asked to sign up on the Youth Ministry bulletin board.

Youth Education

Sunday School will resume on January 5. Sunday School is for children 3 years old thru 6th grade. It's never too late to start bringing your child. All children are welcome!

Wednesday School will be on break through January 15. The normal schedule will resume on January 22. Wednesday School is for children PK thru 5th grade.

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"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." ~ 1 Timothy 4:12



Hope Lutheran Church Women



Monthly Meeting: The HLCW does not meet in January.

Quilting: The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, January 28 beginning at 9:00am. There are jobs for all skill levels. If you can stay 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).

Officers: HLCW officers for 2020 were installed at the December meeting. Josi Hamilton is the vice president, Noreen Kurth is the treasurer, and Lois MacArthur is secretary. We are still in need of someone to serve as president this year.

All women of Hope are considered members of the HLCW.

Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities

Book Discussion: The book discussion group will meet on Sunday, January 19 at 10:20am in the Fireside Room. You are asked to read on your own this month and bring to the meeting suggestions for books you think the group may enjoy

Men's Breakfast: Men of Hope are invited to the Ladysmith Family Restaurant each Thursday at 7:00am for breakfast, fellowship, and a study of the lessons for the coming Sunday.

Heading South for the Winter?

We want to stay in touch! Please let the church office know your winter address and the dates you'll be gone so that you can continue to receive the church newsletter and other mailings. Addresses can be called in (715-532-7739), e-mailed (hlcladysmith@gmail.com) or dropped off in the office. If you do not wish to receive mailings during your absence, please let the church office know how long to hold your mailings.



FOOD PANTRY

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

Volunteers are needed on Mondays, January 6 & 20 to help unload the Feed My People delivery and to stock shelves. If you can help out, please be to the church by 9:15am.

Donations of non-perishable food items can be brought to the church during office hours or on Sunday mornings. Monetary donations can be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate (clearly marked "Food Pantry").

MANNA Meal **(Meals Available for the Nutritional Needs of All)**

The January MANNA Meal will be held at Hope Lutheran on Thursday, January 30 with serving from 5:00-6:00pm. This is a free meal providing both food and fellowship to those in need.

Offering Envelopes And Statements of Giving

Offering envelopes for 2020 can be picked up in the multi-purpose room. If you cannot find your envelopes or if you did not use envelopes in 2019 but would like to in 2020, please contact the church office.

Statements of Giving for 2019 will be mailed out in January. If your mailing address has recently changed, please be sure to contact the church office.

A LETTER FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee of Hope & Glen Flora Lutheran Churches has been busy moving through the call process. There have been many steps that needed to be accomplished along the way. Even though you were kept in the dark, so to speak, about what was going on, this was necessary to protect the possible candidates and their families' privacy.

The weekend of December 20-22, Pastor Daniel Repp, accompanied by his wife Miranda and daughter Evangeline, was interviewed by the call committee, had an evening and dinner with the Church Councils and Call Committee, conducted the worship services, and shared a potluck lunch with members of the congregations. The Call Committee listened to the feedback from those present and met at 4:00pm on Sunday, December 22 to review this feedback and other information. The Call Committee's recommendation is that the Church Council call a special congregational meeting to vote on extending a Letter of Call to Pastor Repp.

By council action, the date of the congregational meeting has been set for January 12, 2020 immediately following the worship service (approximately 10:15am).

Pastor Repp is married to Miranda and they have four children: Jeremiah - 14, Ruby - 11, Zechariah - 9, and Evangeline – 1-½ . He is 42 years old with 12 years of pastoral experience. The committee finds him to have a solid scriptural base and is able to effectually share it.

Please mark your calendars for January 12, 2020 and make every effort to attend this special meeting. All confirmed members are eligible to vote on this matter and are encouraged to attend. It is a huge responsibility to call a pastor to guide our congregations. It can only be done successfully with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Please be in prayer for our churches and for Pastor Repp in discerning this potential.

On behalf of the Call Committee it has been a privilege to serve the congregations. The responsibility was not taken lightly. Thank you for your prayers, support and patience.

Gerald McEathron, Call Committee Chairman

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MINUTES DECEMBER 17, 2019

Old Business: Discussed the call process. Recommended a 2% wage increase for hourly staff for 2020. Budget will be finalized at the January Council meeting.

New Business: The Odermanns requested that they be paid for two weeks of unused vacation time plus a minimum of a half month of health benefits. Council approved. Looking at options for pulpit supply. Approved a stipend of \$125/Sunday plus mileage for pulpit supply. Discussed a possible salary package for a new senior pastor.

Adult Education & Fellowship: Bible studies continue. Books have been returned to the library after carpet installation. **Next Meeting:** January 3 at 2:30pm.

Congregational Care & Outreach: Discussed starting a grief support group. First round of Rezillient Kids was a success. **Next Meeting:** January 13 at 4:15pm.

Property: Education wing roof was shoveled off. The plan for the parsonage is to completely remodel the kitchen, replace interior doors, baseboards and casings, refinish the hardwood floors, and sheetrock walls. **Next meeting:** January 14 at 5:30pm.

Social Ministries: Food pantry served 204 families in November. Community Thanksgiving Dinner served 250. **Next meeting:** January 6 at 3:30pm.

Stewardship & Finance: Reviewed stewardship drive. **Next meeting:** January 13 at 5:00pm.

Worship & Music: Committee did not have an official meeting but instead spent time decorating the sanctuary. **Next meeting:** TBA.

Youth Education: No report. **Next meeting:** January 6 at 4:30pm.

Youth Ministry: Youth sold only one Christmas tree. Continuing work on 2020 mission trip. **Next meeting:** January 8 at 5:00pm.

Next Meeting: January 21 at 7:00pm.



2020 A New Calendar



As you hang that new calendar on your wall, please remember to mark these important church dates:

January 5	Sunday School resumes
January 22	Wednesday School resumes
January 26	Annual Congregational Meeting
February 26	Ash Wednesday (Worship)
March 4	Mid-Week Lenten Worship begins
April 5	Palm Sunday (Worship)
April 9	Maundy Thursday (Worship)
April 10	Good Friday (Worship)
April 12	Easter (Worship)
April 15	Last Day of Wednesday School
April 22	Scandinavian Dinner
May 17	Graduate Recognition
May 24	Last Day of Sunday School
May 31	Pentecost Sunday (Worship)
September 13	Rally Day
October 25	Reformation Day/Confirmation
November 26	Community Thanksgiving Dinner
November 29	1 st Sunday in Advent
December 5	Cookie Walk
December 24	Christmas Eve (Worship)

Please watch upcoming newsletters, Sunday bulletins, and the church website (hlcladysmith.org) for more information on these events.

Mission Statement

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



Deadlines...

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the February newsletter are due in the church office by Tuesday, January 21.

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 address 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.

CHURCH STAFF

Church Secretary

Bonnie Billings

Maintenance

Gary Bendixen

Custodian

Rosemary Warwick

Choir Director

Heidi Jo Sovacool

Organists

Lisa Borman

Karen Tappon

Aileen Tauchen

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



- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 5 | Ushers
Lector
Acolytes
Comm. Assts . | Gordie & Bev Dukerschein
Gordie Dukerschein
Levi Nyhagen, Kai Strom
Jerry & Pat McEathron, Irene Titera |
| 12 | Ushers
Lector
Acolytes
Comm. Assts. | Dave Borman, Judy Soyring
Bev Dukerschein
Kaden Becker, Jonah vanDoorn
Gordie & Bev Dukerschein, Don Soyring |
| 19 | Ushers
Lector
Acolytes
Comm. Assts . | Sovacool family
Rachel Sovacool
Kai Strom, Levi Nyhagen
Linda Campbell, George Lawrence,
Irene Titera |
| 26 | Ushers
Lector
Acolytes
Comm. Assts. | George Lawrence, Irene Titera
Bonnie Billings

Linda Campbell, George Lawrence,
Irene Titera |

Prayer Concerns

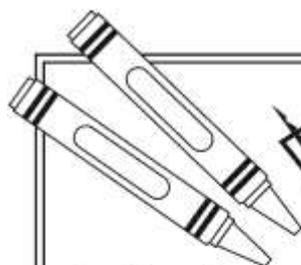
If you have asked to have someone listed in the prayer concerns in the Sunday bulletins, please contact the church office (715-532-7739 or hlcladysmith@gmail.com) with periodic updates so that we can keep the list current.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Vicky Abing
Derek Hraban | 22 Kenneth Stock |
| 2 Brandyn Polak | 23 Violet Biller
Christian Borman
Adam Morgan |
| 4 Ken Molstad | 24 Jerry McEathron
Bart Schultz |
| 6 Caitlyn Jiskra | 25 Tara Nelson
Kathie Stewart
Al Warwick |
| 8 James MacArthur
Brayten Mallo
Bruce Stewart | 26 Derek Abing
Riley Abing
Shane Abing
Julie Kammerud
Kate McMahon
Meghan McMahon |
| 10 Danny Craker
Bob Langland | 27 Vanessa Loe
Evan Moore |
| 12 Terilyn Kozak
Allison Lacey
Phoenix Narvaez
Meghan Shultz | 28 John Duzy
Judith Scheurer |
| 13 Matt Bunton
Isabelle Solberg | 29 Carole Dauer
Susan MacArthur
Larry Pedersen |
| 14 Morris Clark II
Capri Strom | 30 Bob Boller
Leslie Harmon |
| 15 Brooke Hillman
Janet Uutala | 31 Janet Keehn |
| 16 Reese Barfknecht
Mark Bentley III
Lindsay Goerner
Mark Sokolowski
Kai Strom | |
| 18 Kitzie Nelson | |
| 19 Casey Abing
Jordan Schultz | |
| 21 Bob Hoehn
David Redwine
Meghan Warwick | |

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|---|----------------------------------|
| 2 Bert & Heidi Zielke | 15 Tracie & Casey Mincoff |
| 6 Breena & Michael Effertz | 17 Rick & Cindy Molstad |
| 8 Erle & Priscilla Barber
Greg & Michelle Stohr
Shawn & Kelli Vetterkind | |



PUZZLE

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

Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV