

# TIDINGS OF HOPE

## DECEMBER 2019



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LADYSMITH, WISCONSIN

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# Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration

December 2019

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## **A Letter from the Odermanns**

At our November council meeting, we submitted our letter of resignation as interim co-pastors of Hope and Glen Flora Lutheran Churches. Our final Sunday will be December 29, 2019. We felt like this was an appropriate time to leave as your call committee is in the midst of interviewing candidates. As in the Old Testament, when the Israelites were moving through the wilderness, when it was time for them to move, the cloud would lift and they would begin moving. For us working in interim ministry, the Lord spoke to us about when it is time to move on. We both sense that time being at the end of December. It is also Pastor Bill's intention to retire from intentional interim ministry after our term here is complete.

Serving both congregations has been a privilege for us. We have met and enjoyed such a wonderful group of people. Since this is our first interim parish since leaving the ELCA and becoming rostered in the NALC, we have felt blessed to have experienced a strong core of people that are hungry for the Word of God and eager to begin a new season and future under the leadership of a new pastor. Being in the NALC has literally and spiritually felt like 'home' for both of us. We struggled with making a denominational move but you struggled with losing first one, then the second of two beloved pastors. As a congregation, you worked through your grief and made the adjustment to move on. We both enjoyed watching new life spring up within and around you as you let go of the past to move into your new future.

(continued)

*Pastor's column, cont.*

As we prepare ourselves for a new season and purpose for our own lives, we take many pleasant memories and experiences of you along with us. We have enjoyed living in the north woods for a season and getting to know all of you. You are a blessing to your community and it has been a privilege for us to walk you through this season of change. For us, we were able to do an interim assignment together as a couple for the very first time. This has been very good for us since we each have served in interim churches apart from one another for years.

Our final Sunday (December 29) will include a formal 'Litany of Farewell' and sharing our hearts of appreciation towards both congregations. We will say more in the days ahead as our term draws to a close.

With Fond Affection and Appreciation in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor Bill and Pastor Diane Odermann



## **Christmas Tree Sale**

Youth will be selling Christmas Trees from the Dukerschein tree farm following the worship service on Sunday, December 8. There will be 20 trees available and they will be sold on a first come, first served basis. A free-will donation will be accepted for the tree with the proceeds going towards the 2020 mission trip to Wilmington, NC.



## Christmas Eve Worship Tuesday, December 24

4:00pm & 9:00pm  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Worship with Holy Communion

### **Community Christmas Dinner**

St. John's Lutheran Church will be hosting a FREE Community Christmas Dinner for families in need and for those who will not be able to celebrate with family and friends. This event will be held on Christmas Day, December 25 from 11:00am-1:30pm at St. John's Lutheran Church (515 College Ave W).

RSVPs are requested but not required. To RSVP, please call 715-532-5780.

This meal will take the place of the MANNA Meal that is normally held at Hope in December.

### **"THANK YOU" Breakfast**

A big "thank God for you" for the whole congregation will be held on Sunday, December 8 in the fellowship hall following the worship service. The Stewardship & Finance Committee along with the Church Council will be preparing breakfast to say thank you for the many ways members support the ministries of Hope Lutheran. Everyone is welcome!

#### Mission Statement

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



## Hope Lutheran Church Women



**Christmas Party:** The HLCW will hold their annual Christmas party and installation of 2020 officers on Thursday, December 19 at 9:30am. Please bring a treat to share with the group. All women of Hope are welcome!

**Quilting:** The quilting group will NOT meet in December but quilt squares are available to be sewn at home. Questions? Contact Karen Skeels (715-452-5444).



## Cookie Walk - December 7

The HLCW will be holding their annual Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 7 from 10:00-11:30am. In addition to dozens of varieties of Christmas cookies sold by the pound, Scandinavian pastries, lefse, julekaga and Norwegian meatballs will also be for sale.

Please help us continue this tradition by donating five dozen or more of your favorite Christmas cookies. Cookies should be brought to the church by 1:00pm on Friday, December 6. If you'd like to help but are unable to bake, monetary donations to help offset expenses are also appreciated.

We'll also be baking cookies to sell at the Cookie Walk. This baking day will take place on Thursday, December 5 beginning at 8:00am in the church kitchen. Everyone is welcome to help.





# NO Vacancy

## Children's Christmas Pageant

The children of Hope will present their Christmas pageant "No Vacancy" on Sunday, December 15 during the 9:00am worship service. A reception in the fellowship hall will follow with Christmas treats for all ages!

## Children's Bowling and Caroling

Children of Hope will be going bowling and caroling on Wednesday, December 18. Please watch the Sunday bulletins and information coming home with your child for more information. Questions? Please contact Nancy Burmeister.

## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child! The boxes are now on their way to the distribution center in Chicago. Because of your generosity we were able to send 136 boxes. Special thanks to the youth who attended our packing party and filled 42 of those boxes. You are encouraged to watch special sales throughout the year so that we can pack even more shoeboxes in 2020!

When you pack a box for Operation Christmas Child, you're not just sending a box full of gifts. You are being a missionary of Christ throughout the world. To learn more about Operation Christmas Child, visit the Samaritan's Purse website at [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org).



**High School Youth Breakfast:** High School Youth will meet for breakfast and devotions on Sunday, December 15 at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant. Youth are encouraged to attend worship and then meet in the multi-purpose room following the service. The cost of the meal is covered by Youth Ministry.

**2020 Mission Trip:** High School Youth will be going on a mission trip to Wilmington, NC June 7-12, 2020 to help with storm damage repair and other mission work. Youth who are interested in participating in the mission trip should sign up on the youth ministry bulletin board.

**LCMC Youth Event:** The annual LCMC Youth Event will be held March 6-8, 2020. Youth who are interested in attending should sign up on the youth ministry bulletin board.

## **Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities**

**Women's Bible Study:** This study of Beatitudes will meet on Friday, December 6 at 3:30pm at the church. Please contact Rosemary Johnson or Linda Campbell if you would like more information.

**Book Discussion:** This group will meet on Sunday, December 15 at 10:20am to discuss The Christmas Candle by Max Lucado. If you would like to learn more about this group or to see a list of books that have been read and discussed, please visit the group's website at <https://hopebookgroup.weebly.com>.

**Men's Breakfast & Bible Study:** Men of Hope meet each Thursday at 7:00am the Ladysmith Family Restaurant for breakfast, fellowship and a study of the week's lectionary readings. All men of Hope are welcome!

## Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed to work at the food pantry on pantry days (Monday, Wednesday & Friday). If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Josi Hamilton (715-532-6052). Volunteers are also needed on December 2 & 16 to help unload the Feed My People delivery and to stock shelves. If you can help out, please be to the church on those days 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").

## Meals on Wheels

Hope Lutheran is responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels the December 2-6. Two volunteers are needed each day. Volunteers report to the Senior Center at 10:45am and each route takes approximately one hour. If you can help on any of these days, please contact Cora Schultz (715-415-0275).

### **GIVING UPDATE - JANUARY THRU OCTOBER 2019**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	204,107	209,271
Expense	<u>215,527</u> (11,421)	<u>228,395</u> (19,124)

### **Treasurer's Books to Close December 30**

The treasurer's books for 2019 will close at 12:00noon on Monday, December 30. Offering received after that time will be posted to 2020 giving.

### **2020 Offering Envelopes**

Offering envelopes for 2019 will be available for pick-up beginning on Sunday, December 15. If you did not use envelopes in 2018 but would like to in 2019, please notify the church office (715-532-7739 or hlcladysmith@gmail.com) by December 12.

# SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2019

**Old Business:** Call committee has held two telephone interviews. Requested permission from the Council to invite one candidate for an on-sight interview and visit. Received an update on the stewardship drive. Pledges indicate a 6% increase for 2020.

**Adult Education & Fellowship:** No report **Next Meeting:** December 6 at 5:00pm.

**Congregational Care & Outreach:** Discussed having a greeter at the north (parking lot) entrance. **Next Meeting:** December 9 at 4:15pm.

**Property:** Carpeting and new doors are in. Looking into room dividers for Sunday School room. Parsonage renovations will start with the kitchen. **Next meeting:** December 10 at 5:30pm.

**Social Ministries:** Discussed food pantry and the amount of space it uses. Discussion tabled until a later date. Local benevolences sent to Ladysmith Care Community and Lighthouse. **Next meeting:** December 9 at 3:30pm.

**Stewardship & Finance:** Discussion held on parsonage renovations and financing options. **Next meeting:** December 5 at 5:30pm.

**Worship & Music:** The room above the sacristy was cleaned and organized. There were 136 boxes packed for Operation Christmas Child. **Next meeting:** December 9 at 5:15pm.

**Youth Education:** Currently working on the Christmas pageant, which will be held December 16. **Next meeting:** December 2 at 4:30pm.

**Youth Ministry:** High School mission trip planned for June 7-12 to Wilmington, NC. Youth will be selling Christmas trees December 8. **Next meeting:** December 4 at 7:30pm

**Next Meeting:** December 17 at 7:00pm.



## **Deadlines...**

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the January newsletter are due in the church office by Friday, December 13.

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 email the church office at hlcladysmith@gmail.com.

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Interim Pastors

Rev. Bill Odermann

Rev. Diane Odermann

Church Secretary

Bonnie Billings

Maintenance

Gary Bendixen

Custodian

Rosemary Warwick

Choir Director

Heidi Jo Sovacool

Organists

Lisa Borman

Karen Tappon

Aileen Tauchen

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



# December Worship Assistants

- |                 |  |  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| <b>1</b>        | Ushers<br>Lector<br>Acolytes<br>Comm. Assts. | Gordie & Bev Dukerschein<br>Bev Dukerschein<br>Levi Nyhagen, Kai Strom<br>Jerry & Pat McEathron                            |
| <b>8</b>        | Ushers<br>Lector<br>Acolytes<br>Comm. Assts. | Dave Borman, Aileen Tauchen<br>Heidi Jo Sovacool<br>Kaden Becker, Jackson Summerfield<br>Bev Dukerschein, Vicki Monnier    |
| <b>15</b>       | Ushers<br>Lector<br>Acolytes<br>Comm. Assts. | Sovacool family<br>Rachel Sovacool<br>Owen Burmeister, Manny Moore<br>George Lawrence, Irene Titera                        |
| <b>22</b>       | Ushers<br>Lector<br>Acolytes<br>Comm. Assts. | Dave Borman, George Lawrence<br>Gordie Dukerschein<br>Jonah vanDoorn<br>Gordie & Bev Dukerschein                           |
| <b>24 – 4pm</b> | Ushers<br>Lector<br>Acolytes<br>Comm. Assts. | Gordie & Bev Dukerschein, Judy Soyring<br>Rachel Sovacool<br>Owen Burmeister, Jordan Shineflew<br>Gordie & Bev Dukerschein |
| <b>24 – 9pm</b> | Ushers<br>Lector<br>Acolytes                 | Dave Borman, Irene Titera<br>Irene Titera<br>Camryn Closs, Breann Hillman  |
| <b>29</b>       | Ushers<br>Lector<br>Acolytes<br>Comm. Assts. | Jerry & Pat McEathron<br>George Lawrence<br>Charlie Holtebeck, Linda Reissner  |



## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1</b> Dawson Barber<br>Bill Kaul<br>Olyver Soviak       | <b>17</b> Amanda James<br>Taylor Sokolowski<br>Tyler Warwick           |
| <b>2</b> Jackie Culver                                     | <b>18</b> Dan Krisik<br>Doug Moore, Sr.<br>Adrianna Hanaman            |
| <b>3</b> Nicole Weber                                      | <b>19</b> Robbie LaBlonde  |
| <b>4</b> Danita Everett<br>Karen Skeels<br>Terry Wedwick   | <b>20</b> Alison Klawiter<br>Doug Thompson                             |
| <b>5</b> Dylan Harka<br>Jake Nelson                        | <b>21</b> Jana Nyhagen   |
| <b>6</b> Kaleb Segebrecht<br>JJ Titera                     | <b>22</b> Chad Kaul  |
| <b>7</b> Joey Kesan<br>Melody Larson                       | <b>23</b> Mary Barker  |
| <b>8</b> David Cooley<br>Lori Gorsegner<br>Jack Pederson   | <b>24</b> Kelsey Lemke-Howard<br>Jason Murray<br>Joyce Tomczak         |
| <b>9</b> Cadence Calkins                                   | <b>26</b> Sharon Kaul<br>Yvonne Curik<br>Bill Rands<br>Dylan Stoneberg |
| <b>10</b> Braeden McMahon<br>Gary Nelson<br>Kathy Peterson | <b>27</b> Hazel Peterson   |
| <b>11</b> Mary Kauphusman<br>Ned Lindberg<br>Emma vanDoorn | <b>29</b> Max Bentley<br>Jeffrey DeWolf<br>Riley Vetterkind            |
| <b>12</b> Sally Anderson                                   | <b>30</b> Brian Curik<br>Jennifer Kienast<br>Christie McGinn           |
| <b>13</b> Priscilla Barber<br>Erik Nelson<br>Robin Tuma    | <b>31</b> Lisa Barfknecht<br>Brian Buchholz<br>Sawyer Solberg          |
| <b>14</b> Kylee Becker                                     |  |
| <b>15</b> Louise Boller<br>Brandon Dean                    |  |

\* \* \* \* \*

- 4** Eric & Carol Hillan  
**21** Eric & Sherry Pederson

- 26** Charlie & Chris Holtebeck



# Poinsettias

We will once again be using poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas. If you would like to donate a plant, please complete the form and return it to the church office no later than Monday, December 16. Plants should be brought to the church by Monday, December 23.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_