

TIDINGS OF HOPE

DECEMBER 2020



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
LADYSMITH, WISCONSIN

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration

December 2020

Waiting

By Pastor Christopher Martin

Advent is often thought of as a “waiting” season. We’re waiting for the arrival of Christmas. We’re reminded that in our daily Christian lives, we’re waiting for the return of Jesus on the last day. Now I don’t know about many of you, but I don’t always do well with waiting for things, especially if that wait has been going on for a while.

As we approach Advent, what is it that you personally are waiting for? All of us are waiting for the threat of COVID to pass, as weeks have turned into months. There’s been some positive news regarding a vaccine that many of us are praying will be effective, safe, and available so that soon, we can start to return to a somewhat normal way of life after months of cancellations, postponements, and having to change much of our everyday lives and ministry in our churches. But I also know many of us are waiting for other things, too. Maybe there is some other health concern for yourself or someone you love that weighs heavily on you, and you’re waiting for test results, or treatment to end. Maybe you’re waiting for a big event in your life, such as graduation from high school or college next spring, or a wedding, or the birth of a child or grandchild. Maybe you’ve been waiting for a promotion at work, or for a new job after you lost one. As the wait for these and so many other things continue, it’s easy to become discouraged, and believe that when we take these concerns to God in prayer, and the answer is “wait”, we often mistake it as “no.”

If Advent teaches us anything, it’s simply the fact that so much of our Christian faith and life is about waiting. We wait in this life, for the fulfillment of the promises of everlasting life with Christ. We wait

(continued)

Pastor's column, cont.

to be delivered from our afflictions and sorrows. We wait for the promised return to Jesus at the end of time. Yet, Advent also teaches us something else important when it comes to waiting on the Lord: yes, we are often asked to wait, but we do so in hope! Hope because we already know the end of the story. Just as Advent gives way to Christmas, and the season of waiting for God's promise of a Savior came to an end one day, for us too, the things we are waiting for in life will eventually give way to fulfillment. They may not always come in the way that we expect them to, but we trust that indeed, God does fulfill His promises.

I pray that God will richly bless each of us as we enter into this first Advent and Christmas season together. While it may look very different from any we have ever experienced in the past, one thing will not change: the joy we will have when we behold the infant Jesus lying in the wood of the Christmas manger! I look forward to walking this journey through Advent and Christmas with you!

Christmas Eve Worship Thursday, December 24



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

Children's Christmas Pageant

Although it might look a little different this year, we will be having a children's Christmas pageant on December 13. Children can participate in-person or virtually. Rehearsals have already begun. If your child would like to participate or if you have questions, please contact Heidi Jo Socacool.

Virtual Choir & Special Music

Heidi Jo Sovacool is planning a virtual choir. If you would like to be a part of this project, please contact Heidi Jo. If you are interested in providing special music and would like to record a piece to be played during worship, you can also contact Heidi Jo to make arrangements.

Adult Education & Fellowship Opportunities

Bible Study: The "Family Matters" study will meet on Sundays, December 6 & 13 at 10:15am.

Book Discussion: This group will meet on Sunday, December 20 at 10:20am to discuss Shepherds Abiding by Jan Karon.

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!

Buckets for Hunger

The Hope Lutheran Food Pantry will again be participating in the Buckets for Hunger fundraising challenge. Buckets for Hunger will match your donations to the Hope Lutheran Food Pantry (minimum of 25 cents on the dollar). The program runs through December 17. Checks should be made payable to "Bucket for Hunger" with "Hope Lutheran Food Pantry" on the memo line. If you have questions about Buckets for Hunger, please contact Janet Uutala.



Hope Lutheran Church Women



Christmas Party: The HLCW will hold their annual Christmas party and installation of officers on Thursday, December 17 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: The Cookie Walk that was originally scheduled for December 5 has been CANCELLED due to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic. We hope to be back even bigger and better in 2021!

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. Thank you to everyone who packed shoeboxes or donated toward the shipping costs. Members of Hope donated 101 boxes! 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.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2021 will be available to be picked up on Sunday, December 13. If you cannot find your envelopes or if you did not use envelopes this year but wish to next year, please contact the church office.

* * * * *

*“Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



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 December 16.

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

Pastor
Church Secretary
Maintenance
Custodian
Choir Director
Organists

Rev. Christopher Martin
Bonnie Billings
Gary Bendixen
Rosemary Warwick
Heidi Jo Sovacool
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



DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

* * * * *

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 4 | Eric & Carol Hillan | 26 | Charlie & Chris Holtebeck |
| 21 | Eric & Sherry Pederson | | |



December Worship Assistants

6	Ushers Lector Acolytes Comm. Assts.	Gordie & Bev Dukerschein Rosemary Johnson Levi Nyhagen, Kai Strom Charlie Holtebeck
13	Ushers Lector Acolytes Comm. Assts.	Irene Titera, Kathy Ducommun Irene Titera Levi Nyhagen, Kai Strom Rosemary Johnson
20	Ushers Lector Acolytes Comm. Assts.	Dave Borman, Charlie Holtebeck Bev Dukerschein Danny Craker, Manny Moore Gordie Dukerschein
24 – 4pm	Ushers Lector Acolytes Comm. Assts.	Charlie Holtebeck, Judy Soyring Charlie Holtebeck Chris Holtebeck
24 – 9pm	Ushers Lector Acolytes Comm. Assts.	Dave Borman, Irene Titera Irene Titera Irene Titera
27	Ushers Lector Acolytes Comm. Assts.	Dave Borman, Irene Titera Rosemary Johnson Danny Craker, Manny Moore Linda Campbell

Mission Statement

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



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 21. Plants should be brought to the church by Wednesday, December 23.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

of plants: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____
