

Tidings of Hope

April 2020



Hope Lutheran Church
Ladysmith, Wisconsin

Tidings of Hope

Information & Inspiration

April 2020

The SPIRIT of Cooperation

By Charlie Holtebeck, Council President

These are unusual times. Covid-19 and government response to it has changed how we worship, how we shop for essential items, and how we interact with others. Our pastoral vacancy has changed the role of committee members and council members. We have a larger role in establishing the direction of our church. We don't have the luxury of a spiritual leader providing direction for our spiritual lives. As church members we have a larger role in feeding our own spiritual needs.

How will we respond to these unusual times? The SPIRIT will lead us, but we have to be open to it. Listen for the SPIRIT with regular Bible readings. Listen for the SPIRIT in our interactions with others whether through prayer for those in need, in the words we choose, and in the actions we take in our daily lives. Let the SPIRIT guide us in all that we do.

How has the SPIRIT led us? Government guidelines required that we suspend our church services. But a small group of us, led by the SPIRIT, found a way to continue our radio broadcast so our membership could worship together through the radio. That concept will now also provide Lenten services. This week, (March 29) we will add a dimension to the Sunday service so that our members can experience communion at home using their own bread and wine (or juice) consecrated by our service leader with the blessings of our NALC church leadership. Please see more information from Jeff Hogden about how you can commune at home later in this newsletter.

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(Spirit, cont.)

In last month's Newsletter, we were reminded that "We Are The Church". We have many talents. None of us have the same talents that another person has. Some are musical. Some are analytical. Some are mechanical. Now, in these unusual times, we are called to use our talents, whatever they may be, to do God's work. Let the SPIRIT work in you, in cooperation with all of our members, to make Hope Lutheran Church stronger.

As stated in Romans 8: 28, 31: And we know that all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose. What then shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

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The church office continues to be open during regular hours, 8:00am to 3:00pm. However, Covid-19 requires that we communicate with the church office differently. We are all asked to remain at home to minimize the risk of exposure to the virus. Because of her duties, Bonnie is in the office during regular office hours. To minimize her risk of exposure to the virus, it is important that each of us avoid stopping in the office to talk to her. For necessary communications, please use your telephone or email rather than face-to-face communication. If you must drop something off at the office, leave it in the hall mailbox outside her office. While this may seem impersonal, these are unusual times. Bonnie's health is important to all of us!

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All worship services, meals, and other in-person gatherings have been suspended until such a time that governmental orders and recommendations regarding public gatherings have changed. We encourage groups that need to conduct business during this time to do so via email, phone, or other electronic means.

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Please watch the church's website (hlcladysmith.org) and Facebook page (facebook.com/HopeLCNALCLadysmith/) for information, changes, and updates.

The Spirit that Binds us Together

By Jeff Hogden, Lay Minister

April this year comes with the greatest festival of the Church. Easter will soon be upon us where we celebrate our Risen Lord! With this pinnacle act of God comes our ability to see our risen Lord every day we live; every day we live in the hereafter. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! The gift of forgiven sins through God's mighty act of Love crucified comes to fruition in our risen Lord. Grace abounds!

Before the April 12 Easter celebration we remain in the Lenten season where we ponder who we are as followers of Christ. Do we think of ourselves clothed in the righteousness of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21)? Do we pray for one another? Do we think of ourselves as a "living sacrifice" that brings both service and praise to God (Philippians 2: 14-18)? Do we know our link to God is direct through Jesus Christ our Savior? Do we know we belong to God's priesthood with Jesus as our cornerstone (Ephesians 2:19-21)?

As followers of Christ we are his body in this world. God's Spirit uses each of us to proclaim the Good News this world so desperately needs. And each of us need to know we are an important part of Christ's body.

In recent weeks our country and most every country in our world has been plagued by a contagious illness that has forced us into isolation. The effects if this disease is reaching into every fabric of our society including our ability to unite and worship as a congregation. But the body of Christ continues in each of us. We have been born again through our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. Jesus has taught us to share in his holy meal of communion. Like baptism, the Lord's Supper reminds us of who we are in his one true body.

For an unknown duration we cannot congregate and share the Eucharist within the church building due to COVID-19 and the hazards of passing this illness to others. State law requires no more than 10 people in any one place and to keep social distancing of at least 6 feet. Nevertheless, we continue to be part of the body of Christ where ever we may be. And we as a congregation can still share communion amongst ourselves while in isolation! "For where

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(Jeff Hogden, continued)

two or three are gathered in my name there am I in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20).”

Some of you may already know this but if you do not, please take note. Hope Lutheran Church continues to broadcast its church service over the local radio station WLDY 1340 AM. The service continues to be on Sunday morning at 9:00am. A group of approximately eight people at the church make for the whole church service to run from beginning to end. And communion is part of the service.

If you are listening to the church service from home you are not alone even if the virus keeps us from coming together. You are a part of Christ's body as you always have been. And we can share in the celebration of communion together via WLDY's radio waves. Come Sunday morning at 9:00am, go ahead and have a small piece of bread and a small amount of wine (grape juice) ready to go. As we consecrate the bread and wine and serve it to each other at church, you can partake in communion with the bread and wine you have at home knowing that through the Holy Spirit and WLDY we have shared the Lord's Supper together. Believe me each of us at church are thinking of you in your homes. We praise God we can share His Supper with you in Spirit.

This is different for all of us to share communion in this manner. Keep in mind, even when we had communion in church coming from our pews, we were sharing communion with all believers in the world via the Holy Spirit. It's the same but different due to our present circumstances. If you have questions, please call or email the church office. I will answer any questions as well. God's blessing to you.

Virtual Sunday School

During the shut down, Heidi Jo Sovacool will be leading a Sunday School class for elementary age children via Facebook Live on the church's Facebook page. We hope the children of the congregation can join us online Sundays at 10:15am.

Worship Services



Although we can't gather in person,
we continue to worship together
via our radio broadcast on WLDY 1340AM.

Copies of the order of worship
can be found on the church website at:
www.hlcladysmith.org

You can also listen online at:
<http://wldywjbl.co/listen-live/>

Wednesday, April 1
6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer

Palm Sunday, April 5
9:00am Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 9
6:30pm Worship

Good Friday, April 10
6:30pm Worship

Easter Sunday, April 12
9:00am Worship

Thank you to all who sponsor radio broadcasts
and make donations to the Radio Fund.

Hope Lutheran Church Women

The HLCW and quilting group will not meet until guidelines regarding public gatherings change. The Scandinavian Dinner has also been canceled. We hope to reschedule it to the fall. Please watch for updates.

A Helping Hand

If you are in need of assistance with minor home repairs or maintenance during these difficult times, please contact George Lawrence (715-403-1526) or the church office and we will try to find you assistance.

Holy Families!

Although our youth education programs are suspended, we encourage families to continue to nurture the faith of their children. The NALC in conjunction with Sola Publishing has a website called "Holy Families!" that is dedicated to helping families do just that. Please visit the website (<https://www.holyfamilytime.com/>) for daily devotions, prayers, videos, activities, coloring pages, parent resources, and much more.

Scholarships

Did you know that Hope Lutheran Church has a scholarship fund for members of Hope Lutheran who attend a Lutheran college? The scholarship amounts vary depending on the earnings of the fund. The maximum award for the scholarship is \$500 per semester. If you plan to attend a Lutheran college in the fall, please contact the church office for an application.

Mission Statement

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



Food Pantry



The Food Pantry has remained open during the COVID-19 crisis but procedures have changed as government recommendations and orders have changed. We are currently doing “drive-thru” food pantry to limit contact and protect the health of both clients and our volunteers. We are so thankful for our dedicated crew of volunteers and to all who support the pantry with donations.



Hope Lutheran is responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels the weeks of April 13-17 and 20-24. Two volunteers are needed each day. Volunteers meet at the Senior Center at 9:45 am. Each route takes less than an hour. If you can help out on any of these days, please contact Cora Schultz (715-415-0275).



APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 5 | Jeff & Diane Meuli | 22 | Pat & Diane Cumming |
| 8 | Craig & Carrie Becker | 27 | Brad & Bonnie Billings |
| 11 | Becky & Douglas Kiletény | | Leonard & Jeanne Hess |
| 19 | Shad & Kory Strom | | Michelle & Dustin LaBlonde |
| 21 | Dan & Danita Everett | | |

April Birthdays

- 1** Don Collins
Jim Segebrecht
- 2** Evan Effertz
Brad Hon
Brian Johnson
Jennifer Snyder
- 3** Amanda Hills
Josh Lee
- 4** Diane Doke
Jake Peggarr
- 5** Greg Anderson
- 6** Mady Clark
Easton DeWitt
Manuel Moore
Kyle Towberman
- 7** Madeline Bunton
Shelby Moore
Lance Mulholland
Jessica Sands
- 8** Adyara Hanaman
- 9** Doreen Larson
Spencer Mautner
Doug Titera
- 10** Tobey Krisik
Pam Lee
- 11** Mark Berg
Leah Bunton
Cindy Krings
Michelle Stohr
- 12** Cindy Albus
Joe Lawrence
Heather Shineflew
- 13** Megan vanDoorn
- 14** Michael Beckett
- 15** Lindsay Schmidt
Dariean Kozak
Carter Pohlman
- 16** Dan Everett
Dale Lund
- 17** Jackie Buchholz
Nick Sovacool
Payton Wold
- 18** Alli Clark
Eme Clark
Kylie Schultz
- 19** Ellen Schueller
Alyssa Read
- 20** Peggy McMahon
Stacey Petrus
Shelly Richardson
- 21** Caitlin McGinnis
Elizabeth Narvaez
Sarah Foss
- 22** Olivia Bunton
Vicki Monnier
Jason Peggarr
- 23** Matthew Hanaman
Patrick Morgan
Linda Wester
- 24** Breena Effertz
Michael Elling
Aileen Tauchen
- 25** Margaret Jennerman
Bev Loser
- 26** Katie Anderson
Pat McEathron
Stacy Richardson
- 27** Sarah Billings
Liz Robertson
- 28** Laurie Lemke
Taylor Molstad
Kip Samardzich
Rose Warwick
- 29** Briley Burmeister
Dixsia Dedrickson
Jesse Polak
- 30** Megan Dieckman



Deadlines...

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office no later than noon on Wednesday. Items for the May newsletter are due in the church office by April 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

Pulpit Supply/Lay Minister

Jeff Hogden

Church Secretary

Bonnie Billings

Maintenance

Gary Bendixen

Custodian

Rosemary Warwick

Choir Director

Heidi Jo Sovacool

Organists

Lisa Borman

Karen Tappan

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

The Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood He gave
Green is for the grass He made
Yellow is for the sun so bright
Orange is for the edge of night
Blue is for the sin we made
White is for the grace He gave
Purple is for the hour of sorrow
Pink is for a new tomorrow

A bag full of jelly beans colorful and sweet
is a prayer, is a promise, is a special treat.

Happy Easter!



For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish
but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Resurrection Biscuits

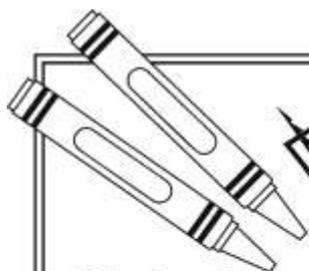
It is a tradition at Hope Lutheran for the children to make Resurrection Biscuits during Sunday School and Wednesday School prior to Easter. We encourage families to continue this tradition at home as an easy and tasty lesson.

Ingredients

- 1 pkg Pillsbury Grands buttermilk biscuits
- 8 large marshmallows
- 1/4 c melted butter
- 6 Tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Directions

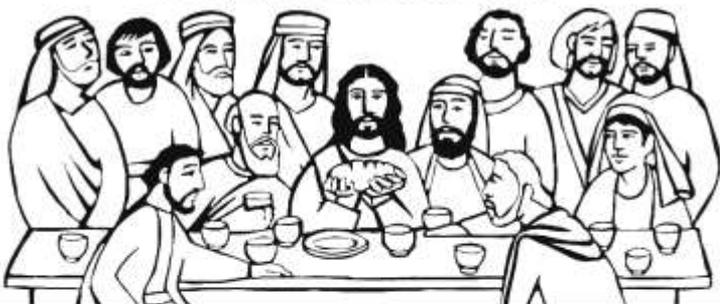
1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Spray a cookie sheet lightly with cooking spray.
2. On waxed paper, press the rolls into flat circles. As your child is pounding the dough, remind them how Jesus was beaten by the soldiers who had arrested Him.
3. Place a marshmallow in the center of each roll. The marshmallow represents Jesus, pure and white.
4. Pinch the dough around the marshmallow, telling your child that the you are sealing Jesus (marshmallow) in your "tomb" (biscuit) just like the soldiers sealed Jesus' body in His tomb after He died.
5. Roll the marshmallow-filled rolls into round balls.
6. Brush each ball with butter. This wetness is like the tears of sorrow that Jesus' friends cried when He was gone.
7. Mix the cinnamon and sugar together in a small bowl. This represents the dirt and the rocks at the tomb. Sprinkle each ball with the mixture of cinnamon and sugar.
8. Let the rolls rise on your cookie sheet for 30-45 minutes. This waiting time is like Holy Saturday, when we are waiting in anticipation. Then bake them at 350 degrees for 15 minutes, until they are golden brown.
9. Let them cool; serve warm (if served the next day you can microwave a few seconds). Just like the tomb on Easter Sunday, these rolls are empty! Jesus (the marshmallow) is gone.



PUZZLE

Picturing the Lord's Supper

Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples
as a symbol of the new covenant.



Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.



And he took _____, gave _____ and _____ it, and gave



it to them, saying, "This is my _____ given for you; do this in



_____ of me." In the same way, after the supper he



took the cup, saying, "This _____ is the new _____ in my



blood, which is _____ out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV