



NEW HOPE TRUMPET

February 2024

Lent 2024: *The Tree of Life*

Ash Wednesday Worship: 11:30a at our Sand Creek Site & 7p at our Pine Creek Site. Subsequent Wednesday the Lenten service will be streamed Wednesdays at 11:30a at our Sand Creek Site. You'll be able to view it at anytime at: **New Hope on the Creeks** - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgsG8Jl-RdcnKSnFI48DyQ>

Many world religions use the image of the tree of life when depicting their central beliefs and values. **For Christians, that tree of life is the cross.** Our Lenten theme this year focuses on the biblical use of the tree of life. Each week a biblical passage and a hymn cast some light on the cross of Christ as our tree of life. Psalm 1 will be a part of worship each week.

Ash Wednesday, Week 1 - February 14: The story in Genesis 2-3 imagines that the first humans were immortal, and only after they sinned were they decided fruit from the tree of life. In Lent **we acknowledge our own mortality, and admit we've repeatedly cut ourselves off from the life God gives.** Psalm 1 and Genesis 2:8-9, 15-18; 3:22-24 - **The tree of life in Eden is given, and then denied.**

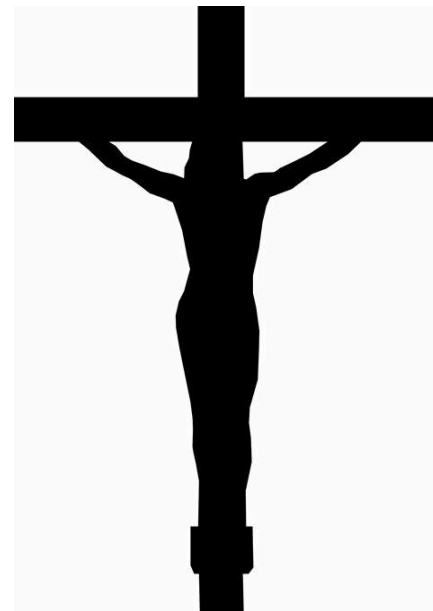
Wednesday, Week 2 - February 21: In the art and poetry of the ancient Near East, powerful nations and their monarchs were likened to the tree of life. Using this imagery, the prophet promises that God will "bring low the high tree" and "make high the low tree" (Ezekiel 17:24). In Lent **we look to the cross as the "low tree" that will give life to all the world.** Psalm 1 and Ezekiel 17:22-24 - **God will transform the low tree into the tree of life.**

Wednesday, Week 3 - February 28: In some poetry of the ancient Near East, wisdom was likened to a great woman in the skies who guided people toward righteous living. For the Hebrew people, this Wise Woman was the Torah. In Lent **we can see Christ as this Wisdom, a tree of life for us.** Psalm 1 and Proverbs 3:13-18 - **We hold fast to wisdom, as if it were the very tree of life.**

Wednesday, Week 4 - March 6: Mark's gospel turns upside down the ancient image of the tree of life: the mustard bush is no great tree, but rather an annual plant. In Lent **we gather around the cross, which is like a mere mustard bush. Yet we see it as our tree of life, taking nest in its branches and being nourished by baptismal waters.** Psalm 1 and Mark 4:30-32 - **The mustard bush is a tree of life only in a hidden way.**

Wednesday, Week 5 - March 13: In writing to the believers in Galatia, Paul contrasted the life of the flesh—that is, each person focused only on the self—with the fruit of the Spirit. This fruit of the Spirit sustains us for lives of service to others. In Lent **we who are baptized gather around the cross as our tree of life, where we receive these Spirit centered fruits.** Psalm 1 and Galatians 5:16-26 - **Love, joy, peace, patience . . . are fruits of the tree of life.**

Wednesday, Week 6 - March 20: In Revelation, the visionary describes the life of those saved by the cross as if finally at the end of all things they enjoy the fruits and the leaves of the tree of life. **We gather around the empty cross, which in the resurrection of Christ becomes the tree of life, and by the Spirit we ourselves become living trees, feeding the hungry and healing the nations.** Psalm 1 and Revelation 21:22—22:5 - **The one tree of life grows mysteriously on both sides of the river.**



Weekly Wednesday services throughout Lent are streamed. If unable to attend in person, please set aside 30 minutes with your family each week to keep the Lenten discipline. Join us for worship as we journey with Jesus to his cross.

DEVOTIONS: Love Unwrapped

"See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great, that we are called God's children—and so in fact we are."
-1 John 3-1a (Good News Bible)

Valentine's Day has been special to me since days in Grade School, making and giving creative cards. When the cards were taken out of the big decorated box and handed out to each child, we nearly held our breath that we should receive at least one card, maybe several. I can't remember ever not getting one.

It brings a new thought when Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day. While we wait for Valentine's Day greetings, we are reminded Jesus' love is with us every day, forever and ever.

As we start the journey through Lent, studying and preparing our lives and hearts to receive anew forgiveness and mercy of Our Lord, may we rejoice in His love. Share it with those we meet.

Jesus resides in my heart and I pray it reflects in my life. Not for just a one day reminder, but forever. Love you Jesus! Love you my readers!

Note:

This month (February) marks 28 years Sue has blessed us with her inspirational devotions. Your readers love you!



Pine Creek WELCA: 9:30a, Sunday, Feb. 4th

Hostess: Mary Peterson

Sand Creek WELCA Offering: Mon., Feb. 12th

Eve Circle: 6p, Wednesday, February 7th

Kitchen cleaning & Potluck

Sophia Circle: 9:30a, Thursday, February 8th

FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

AIDS & Hospice Kits: *Clean comforting hope*

Global Health Missions

1 regular size 48-52" bath towel

1 washcloth

1 new, unscented bath-size bar soap

1 toothbrush

1 "pick" comb

1 nail clipper with file

6 band-aids

1 jar (4oz or larger) Vaseline

1 pair (medium-size) heavy duty household gloves

Career Development Center (CDC)

Chippewa Falls Center provides services for individuals experiencing homelessness or crisis. Hygiene Drive February 11th—March 3rd.

* Quilts/Blankets

* Hygiene Products

(Bath tissue, paper towel, cleaning supplies, trash bags, laundry detergent, deodorant, face & bath soap, hair care, razors, feminine products, diapers & baby care.

* Coats/Boots/Mittens/Gloves (NO SCARVES)

(New or slightly used)

"Project Comfort"/Will You Help?

Canisters are available in the SC narthex. *You can participate in our quilt project by contributing toward shipping costs.*

FREE Thrivent T-Shirts

Many sizes available at our Sand Creek site fellowship hall

**New Hope Comforters
in need of fabric & sheets**



Will you help?

Wednesdays during Lent, beginning *Ash Wednesday*, Feb. 14th, a simple soup & bread luncheon will be served at noon, following 11:30a worship service. Will you provide a soup, bread, or dessert one Wednesday? Sign up on the office door. Thank you!

Another Opportunity to Serve **Sand Creek site communion assistants**

If interested, please contact the office.

Mayo Clinic Health System **Free StrongBodies Strength-Training Class** **12p—1p Tuesdays & Thursdays—March 28th** **Sand Creek Arts Center** (Old School)

E93311 County Rd I, Sand Creek

*Registration not required

Increase strength, muscle mass, bone density with progressive resistance training, balance and flexibility exercises.

LUTHER PARK ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, February 3rd: 10am

(Coffee & Refreshments served at 9:30am)

Congregation is entitled to 3 delegates (clergy or lay members) each representing 1 vote. More congregational members welcome to attend; learn about the past year and future updates. This year will be amending Constitution & By-Laws.

2023 CONFIRMATION PROJECT **HOMELESS YOUTH CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS** **THANK YOU!**

"Thank you so much for your support! Your generous donation supported 44 families (168 individuals). You've made a huge impact in lives and brightened Christmas.

Parents and children had tears and smiles. All were so excited to open gifts and shop with gift cards. There was so much happiness, kindness, relief and gratefulness. Together we are rebuilding lives and trust in humankind."

-Karla Spies

Admin. Support Manager

Operation Christmas Coordinator

Lutheran Social Services/Eau Claire, WI

LOOKING AHEAD

MARCH

Sun. Mar. 3 reg. sch. Lent 3
Wed. Mar. 6 **Lent 4** – SC-11:30a
6:30p Confirmation/PC
Sun. Mar. 10 reg. sch. Lent 4
Tues. Mar. 12 Pastor Chapel in Bloomer
10a Dove & 10:40a Meadowbrook
Wed. Mar. 13 **Lent 5** – SC-11:30a
6:30p Confirmation/PC
Sun. Mar. 17 reg. sch. Lent 5
Wed. Mar. 20 **Lent 6** – SC-11:30a
6:30p Confirmation/PC
Sun. Mar. 24 reg. sch. **Palm Sunday**
Men's Group Pancake Breakfast SC
Wed. Mar. 27 5-8p/SC *Parent's Night Out*
Fri. Mar. 29 7p Worship **Good Friday**
Sun. Mar. 31 reg. sch. **Easter Sunday**

APRIL

Sun. April 7 reg. sch.
Mon. April 8 Church Council 7p PC
Wed. April 10 Confirmation SC 6:30p
Sun. April 14 reg. sch.
Wed. April 17 Confirmation SC 6:30p
Sun. April 21 reg. sch.
Wed. April 24 5-8p/SC *Parent's Night Out*
Sun. April 28 reg. sch.
Tues. April 30 Pastor Chapel/Bloomer
10a Dove & 10:40a Meadowbrook

Hear Our Prayer

People are listed for two weeks. Please update the church office with current needs and status changes.

Gary Hanson, Astrid Sannes, Jenie Davis

Janice Horn, Lynette Emanuel, Lu Weir

Barron Care/Rehab: Bev Miller

Bloomer Dove: Pat Goodremote

Colfax Health/Rehab: Inez Schrader, Colleen Schwegman,
Dorrene Knutson

Eau Claire Dove/Orchard Hills: Lillian Wendlandt

Eau Claire Heritage Court: Jean Larson

Eau Claire Sacred Heart Rehab: Marye Hanson

Military: Capt. David E. Dahl, Sgt. Garrett Dillon

Community Care

For pastoral visit/call, contact church office, Pr. Michael Sparby or Joyce Gilberts. To be on our visiting team, contact Pastor.

New Hope Lutheran Church

E9085 County Road V

PO BX 85

Sand Creek, WI 54765

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*A welcoming community of faith inspired
by God's grace to love, grow & serve.*



Wednesday, February 28th: 5-8pm New Hope Lutheran Church at our Sand Creek Site *Community invited!*

Free childcare allows parents time out. Food & fun activities for children. PLEASE contact the church office to enroll children/volunteers OR sign up on the office door. Male volunteers needed!

-Coordinator: Samantha Goodremote

New Hope Council 2024

President : Mark Gilberts **Vice President:** Linda Bilodeau

Secretary: Marie Swanson (*Becky Loftus, assist.*)

Treasurer: Joe Bilodeau

Family Education

Jesse Buhr	715-781-1860	lacey.buhr@gmail.com
Samantha Goodremote	715-765-2209	sammig1503@msn.com
Kristi Welle	715-658-2303	kristi_welle@yahoo.com
Stephani North	715-271-6275	stephaniomtvedt@yahoo.com

Property & Management

Mark Gilberts	847-650-9364	mark.gilberts4@gmail.com
Jerry Loftus	715-456-2163	lofty1@chibardun.net
Joe Bilodeau	715-458-2479	jbilodeau78@hotmail.com
Lon Christopherson	715-949-1131	londo@chibardun.net

Outreach + Stewardship + Evangelism

Pat Bechard	715-658-1014	paanbe@yahoo.com
John Loy	715-658-1000	johnloy89g@gmail.com
Joyce Gilberts	715-933-4747	jlg@citizens-tel.net
Linda Bilodeau	715-458-2479	lbilodeau992@gmail.com

Worship & Music

Roger Paulson	651-343-8877	roger.a.paulson@gmail.com
Lou Ann Gilberts	715-658-1317	louanngilberts@hotmail.com
Marie Swanson	715-658-1208	mertmarie69@yahoo.com
Dawn Kunkel	715-949-0065	kunkels-7@hotmail.com

Pastor Michael D Sparby 715-764-9779 nhpastor@chibardun.net
Office Hours 9am-1pm 715-658-1470 newhope@chibardun.net
Pine Creek Church 715-949-1750 E6698 Cty Rd V, Ridgeland
Sand Creek Church E9085 Cty Rd V, Sand Creek
Website: www.newhopescpc.org Like us on Facebook!

WORSHIP

8:30 am/Pine Creek 9:20a Coffee Fellowship + Sunday school
10 am/Sand Creek 9:20 am Coffee Fellowship
Sunday school during worship

Telephone Ministry 1-534-444-4300 (Eau Claire #)
FREE Live stream <http://newhope.listentochurch.com>

YouTube Link to View Streamed Worship ***New Hope on the Creeks***

New Hope Lutheran Church of Sand Creek & Pine Creek
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgsG8Jl-RdcnKSnFI48DyO>

FINANCIAL REPORT

*General Checking Balance 1/23/24 \$ 7,919.17

See printed annual report for details

NOISY OFFERINGS 2024

JANUARY	Luther Park Camperships	<i>Amount pending</i>
FEBRUARY	Chippewa Falls Veteran's Home	

New Hope Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes (2023 Review Draft) Sunday, January 21, 2024/Pine Creek Site

CALL TO ORDER: 10:45a by Council President, Mark Gilberts

ANNUAL REPORT REVIEWED M/S/C (*Jim Irwin/John Loy*)

TREASURER'S REPORT REVIEWED M/S/C (*Juel Smith/Herb Tallman*) to approve as presented by Treasurer, Joe Bilodeau.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Proposed Budget: M/S/C adopt as presented (*Carol Anderson/Mary Ann Omtvedt*)

2024 Church Council: M/S/C (*John Loy, Kathie Irwin*) accept following nominations:

Family Education: Samantha Goodremote (*1st term 2024-26*)

Outreach + Stewardship + Evangelism:

Joyce Gilberts (*1st term 2024-26; eligible to serve 2 consecutive terms*)

Pat Bechard (*2nd term 2024-26*)

Property + Management:

Mark Gilberts (*2nd term 2024-26*)

Worship + Music

Lou Ann Gilberts (*2nd term 2024-26*)

2024 DELEGATES

LUTHER PARK: Saturday, February 3, 2024 9:30a Coffee/Refreshments 10a Annual Meeting
Amending Constitution & By-Laws. Meeting also live streamed through Facebook.

1. Pr. Michael Sparby 2. _____ 3. _____ *No response/determine later*

SYNOD ASSEMBLY: Friday, June 7th & Saturday, June 8th at UW-Eau Claire Davies Center

1. Pr. Michael Sparby 2. Mark Gilberts 3. Joyce Gilberts

Thank You to ALL Council Members for your service!

ADJOURN: 11:17am M/S/C (*Joyce Gilberts/Alan Peterson*)

Closing prayer led by Mark Gilberts followed with The Lord's Prayer

-Council Secretary, Marie Swanson

Council Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Following annual meeting to elect officers

CALL TO ORDER: 11:20 am by Council President, Mark Gilberts entertaining a motion to approve 2024 slate of officers.

M/S/C (*John Loy/Joyce Gilberts*) approving as follows:

President Mark Gilberts

Vice President Linda Bilodeau

Secretary Marie Swanson/*Becky Loftus (parish sec.)*

Treasurer Joe Bilodeau

Worship + Music: After the annual meeting, Lou Ann Gilberts nominated Roger Paulson as he works directly with our AV System. Roger accepted the nomination and will be added to our 2024 Council (*1st term 2024-26; eligible to serve 2 consecutive terms*).

ADJOURN: 11:28 am M/S/C (*Linda Bilodeau/Lou Ann Gilberts*)

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, February 12th/Sand Creek site

-Council Secretary, Marie Swanson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>2024</i>				1	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i> 	3 9:30a <i>Luther Park Annual Mtg</i>
4 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites <i>SC Host: Sophia Circle</i> 9:30a PC WELCA 10a SC Worship	5 8:30a/SC Comforters	6 7p AA/SC	7 6:30p/PC Confirmation 6p/SC Eve Circle <i>Kitchen cleaning/pot luck</i>	8 9:30a/SC Sophia Circle	9 6-8p/SC Adult Bingo Game Night	10
11 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites <i>SC Host: Sophia Circle</i> 10a SC Worship	12 8:30a/SC Comforters SC WELCA offering 7p Church Council-SC	13 7p AA/SC	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> Ash Wednesday <i>11:30a/SC/Noon Soup/Bread</i> <i>7p/PC</i> 6:30p/PC Confirmation	15 Newsletter articles due	16	17
18 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites <i>SC Host: Men's Group</i> 10a SC Worship	19 8:30a/SC Comforters	20	21 <i>Lent 11:30a/SC</i> <i>Noon Soup/Bread</i> 6:30p/PC Confirmation	22	23	24
25 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites <i>SC Host: Eve Circle</i> 10a SC Worship	26 8:30a/SC Comforters	27 7p AA/SC	28 <i>Lent 11:30a/SC</i> <i>Noon Soup/Bread</i> 5-8p/SC Parent's Night Out	29		

ALTAR GUILD

PC: Susan Christopherson
SC: **Jan/Feb:** Carol Anderson & Joni Berres

LECTORS

	<u>Pine Creek</u>	<u>Sand Creek</u>
4	Lon Christopherson	Jodie Madison
11	Lilly Kunkel	Cathy Davis
14	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
18	Pat Bechard	Mark Gilberts
21	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	
25	Susan Christopherson	Lana Anderson
28	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	

SC COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

4	Jim Irwin
11	Mary Ann Omtvedt
18	Anita Jensen
25	Marie Swanson

SC HOSPITALITY/OFFERING (Council)

1st Sunday	Feb. 4 _____ / Marie Swanson
2nd Sunday	Feb. 11 Lou Ann Gilberts / Mark Gilberts
3rd Sunday	Feb. 18 Stephani North / Kristi Welle
4th Sunday	Feb. 25 John Loy / Joyce Gilberts
5th Sunday	Jesse Buhr / Jerry Loftus

