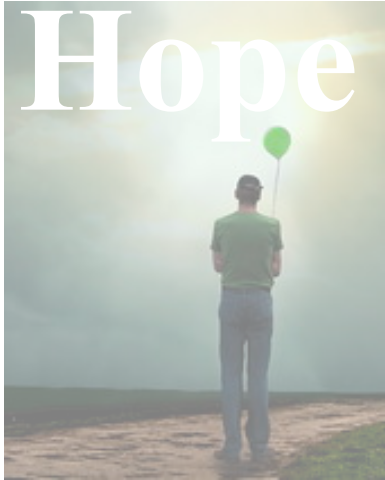




NEW HOPE TRUMPET

January 2024



What is faith?

It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. God gave his approval to people in days of old because of their faith. By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

– Hebrews 11:1-3
(New Living Translation)

I watched a Christmas movie recently; one of those that sound like something good to get you in the mood for Christmas. I always think I'm above getting emotional when watching these. Three quarters of the way in, however, I'm usually literally tossing my arms in the air in unbelief as I realize unexpected emotions are rising. My eyes roll as I consider the surprise of my reaction. The formula for every Christmas movie (except Die Hard, of course) seems to be the same. Music is the same. Characters are the same. Settings, though different, are the same in many respects. Yet, they get me nearly every time.

One of the persistent themes of Christmas movies is hope. It's often draped in confusion, doubt, anxiety, loneliness, and even despair. Nevertheless, hope is lurking in the music, settings, and characters. A line I remember from one was something like:

hope is standing in the middle of a dark place, all the while looking out to see the glimmer of light beyond it.

The longer we live, it seems we discover how remarkable life is. We are born, and air fills our lungs for the first time. Day by day we discover the mystery of life around us, especially through others. We grow, laugh and cry. We wonder about life, all the while living it as if it will go on forever. We often don't sit quietly enough, for long enough, to fully grasp the beauty of life itself. We move from one year to the next, until we reach the end of life here.

Do we grasp the dawn of each new day for what it is? Do we feel the heaviness of a new day, rather than its promise? As we pass from one year to the next, do we reflect on what has been, and what is yet to be?

As people of faith, our vision is much larger than just what we see, know, touch, and feel. Hopefully, that makes us even more genuinely grateful to the one who has given us such a gift. There are moments when we sense the depth of what God has given. It may come in the story of a movie which gives glimpses of life's depths.

Mostly it will come as we take time to reflect on the mystery that lies behind what we see, hear, touch, feel, and taste. It is easier to live in the present. It is more and more apparent in our culture that many make no time for the holy. Yet, the spiritual is what gives meaning now, and lasts beyond our final breath here.

Behind and within life is the God we come to worship, made known to us in Jesus.

-Pr. Michael Sparby



DEVOTIONS: Obey God's Rules

"The child grew and became strong. He was full of wisdom, and God's blessings were upon him." -Luke 2: 40 (TEV)

Into a new year, we remember just a while ago Baby Jesus was born. Now he's growing, changing.

Jesus may have been around 2-years old when God told Joseph in a dream to flee with his family to Egypt to escape King Herod. We don't know how long they lived there before God instructed their return to Israel. We do know Jesus grew in stature and wisdom in his early years and always obeyed his father, God.

We're all growing and learning in our Earthly years, different ages with different abilities. We need to learn and believe God takes care of us when we believe in Him. We may not hear from God in dreams as Joseph and Mary did, but we do here His voice in other ways. It may only be a whisper. If we study scripture, pray and meditate, He will hear.

There will be trials and tests this year but our Heavenly Father is always ready to guide us just as he had those many years ago with Mary and Joseph.

Dear Jesus: keep us close to you this year, guiding us every day. We believe in you. Amen. -Sue Piotrowski

Pine Creek WELCA: 9:30a, Sunday, January 7th
Hostesses: *Anna Lien & Rochelle Keilholtz*

Sand Creek WELCA Offering: Mon., January 8th
Eve Circle: 7p, Wednesday, January 3rd
Sophia Circle: 9:30a, Thursday, January 11th

JANUARY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

Bath Soap & Towels (*Used in 4 kits*)

New, wrapped 4-5oz bars any kind soap

**White Ivory for layette/baby care*

1 kits uses a hand towel

2 kits use 2 bars soap each

3 kits use a bath towel

FINANCIAL REPORT

*General Checking Balance 12/20/23 \$ 24,000.18

2023 Year-end will be in our Annual Report

NOISY OFFERINGS 2024

JANUARY Luther Park Camperships

Nov. 2023 World Hunger stewardship \$1,980.00 was sent for matching funds. Thank you!



Wednesday, January 31st
5-8:00 pm

New Hope Lutheran Church/Sand Creek
Community invited!

Free childcare to allow parents time for themselves. Food and fun activities for children. Please contact the church office (715-658-1470 or newhope@chibardun.net) to enroll children/volunteers OR sign up on the office door. Male volunteers are greatly needed!

Coordinator: Samantha Goodremote

LOOKING AHEAD

FEBRUARY

Sun. Feb. 4 reg. sch. *SC Baptism for Allison June Link*
Wed. Feb. 7 6:30p Confirmation/PC
Fri. Feb 9 6-8p Adult Game/Bingo at SC
Sun. Feb. 11 reg. sch. ***Transfiguration Sunday***
Wed. Feb. 14 ***Ash Wednesday*** 11:30a SC & 7p PC
6:30p Confirmation/PC
Sun. Feb. 18 reg. sch. Lent 1
Wed. Feb. 21 ***Lent Wednesday 2*** – SC-11:30a
6:30p Confirmation/PC
Wed. Feb. 25 reg. sch. Lent 2
Wed. Feb. 28 ***Lent Wednesday 3*** – SC-11:30a
5-8p/SC ***“Parent’s Night Out”***

MARCH

Sun. Mar. 3 reg. sch. Lent 3
Wed. Mar. 6 ***Lent Wednesday 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 Wednesday 5*** – SC-11:30a
6:30p Confirmation/PC
Sun. Mar. 17 reg. sch. Lent 5
Wed. Mar. 20 ***Lent Wednesday 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***

Hear Our Prayer

People are listed for two weeks. Thank you for keeping us updated with current needs and status changes.

Blair Lindstade, Jenie Davis, Lu Weir

Barron Care/Rehab: *Bev Miller*

Bloomer Dove: *Pat Goodremote*

Bloomer Meadowbrook: *Inez Schrader*

Colfax Health/Rehab: *Colleen Schwegman, Dorrene Knutson*

Eau Claire Dove/Orchard Hills: *Lillian Wendlandt*

Heritage Court/Eau Claire: *Jean Larson*

Military: *Capt. David E. Dahl, 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.

Thank You!

“Thank you for all the continued prayers, acts of kindness and generosity shown to our family during this very difficult time. We are so grateful for our New Hope Family.”

New Hope Lutheran Church Budget & Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 11, 2023 / Pine Creek Site
(Draft subject to approval)

BUDGET MEETING (6-6:45 p), Mark Gilberts, Becky Loftus, Joe Bilodeau, Marie Swanson, Jesse Buhr, Pr. Michael Sparby

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mark Gilberts, Joe & Linda Bilodeau, Marie Swanson, Jesse Buhr, Lou Ann Gilberts, Joyce Gilberts, Jerry Loftus, Lon Christopherson, Stephani North, Pr. Michael Sparby **Also present:** *Becky Loftus, Parish Admin.*

ABSENT: Pat Bechard, Desiree Buck, Cathy Davis, Dawn Kunkel, John Loy, Kristi Welle

CALL TO ORDER 7p by Council President, Mark Gilberts
DEVOTIONS/PRAYER Pr. Michael Sparby
SECRETARY'S REPORT Stand as printed noting 2% "*cost of living*" increase approved for Pr. Sparby and Parish Administrator, Becky Loftus.
TREASURER'S REPORT Joe Bilodeau, Treasurer
*Parsonage Fund shows improvement since initiated with Thrivent Financial 2017/18
PASTOR'S REPORT See printed with schedule.
*Thank you extended for all the help during recovery from hip surgery in October.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT

Pine Creek

*Welcome Lon/Nancy Christopherson hired as custodians mid-November. We are grateful for Diana Christopherson's service.

Sand Creek

*Gene's Heating & Cooling from Bloomer serviced annual fall/winter maintenance with boiler system.

*Outside security light bulbs on northwest corner of church replaced/reconfigured with a timer by Perfect Image from Rice Lake.

FAMILY EDUCATION: Practicing for December 17th Christmas Pageants.

STEWARDSHIP & EVANGELISM OUTREACH

*Joyce Gilberts is delighted to visit with monthly communion. Extra Christmas visits are planned in December.

*"*Parents Night Out*" Wed., Dec. 27th at our Sand Creek site from 5-8p. Commitment for a year scheduled every last monthly Wednesday. Communication is key for successful enrollment and volunteers. Male volunteers greatly needed! A Thrivent Grant was designated for supplies.

*Adult "*Game Night*" is in next year's future plans.

WORSHIP & MUSIC:

Christmas Eve Worship, Sunday, December 24th

10a at Pine Creek

5p at Sand Creek: additional communion assistants needed.

OLD BUSINESS

*2024 Council Nominations:

Family Education/PC _____, Worship & Music/SC: Samantha Goodremote 2024-26, Outreach/SC Joyce Gilberts 2024-26.

NEW BUSINESS

*M/S/C (*Linda Bilodeau/Jesse Buhr*) approve 2024 Proposed Budget for congregational vote at January 21, 24 Annual Meeting.

*Committees: submit annual reports ASAP to the church office. Final deadline is January 9, 24.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

***Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 21, 24 at our Pine Creek Site**

9a Coffee Fellowship, one 10a worship immediately followed by and concluding with annual meeting.

*January 28, 24 Baptism at SC rescheduled February 4, 24.

NEXT BRIEF MEETING: Sunday, January 21, 2024/PC immediately following annual meeting to elect officers.

ADJOURN: 7:30p M/S/C (*Jesse Buhr/Stephani North*) closing with The Lord's Prayer.

-Marie Swanson, Sec., & Becky Loftus, Assistant to Council Sec.

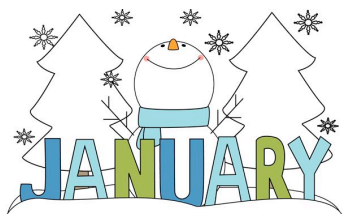
New Hope Lutheran Church

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.*

Annual Meeting Sunday, January 21st at our Pine Creek Site

Coffee Fellowship prior at 9:20a

1 worship service at 10a immediately followed by annual meeting (10:50a)

New Hope Council 2023—January 2024

President : Mark Gilberts **Vice President:** John Loy

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

Treasurer: Joe Bilodeau

Family Education

Jesse Buhr	715-781-1860	lacey.buhr@gmail.com
Desiree Buck	715-658-1287	tdbuck@chibardun.net
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

Stewardship & Evangelism Outreach

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

Cathy Davis	715-949-1817	roncate@chibardun.net
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.newhopespc.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>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> <i>NO Comforters</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	2 7p AA/SC	3 7p/SC Eve Circle	4	5	6
7 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites <i>SC Host: Sophia Circle</i> 9:30a PC WELCA 10a SC Worship	8 8:30a/SC Comforters SC WELCA offering	9 7p AA/SC	10 6:30p/PC Confirmation	11 9:30a/SC Sophia Circle	12	13
14 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites <i>SC Host: Sophia Circle</i> 10a SC Worship	15 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i> Newsletter articles due 8:30a/SC Comforters	16 7p AA/SC	17 6:30p/PC Confirmation	18	19	20
21 1 Worship/PC 9:20a coffee fellowship 10a Worship 10:50a Annual Meeting	22 8:30a/SC Comforters	23 7p AA/SC Pastor Chapel/Bloomer 10a Dove 10:40a Meadowbrook	24 6:30p/PC Confirmation	25	26	27
28 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites <i>SC Host: Eve Circle</i> 10a SC Worship	29 8:30a/SC Comforters	30 7p AA/SC	31 5-8p/SC <i>Parent's Night Out</i> 6:30p/PC Confirmation			

ALTAR GUILD

PC: Dawn Kunkel

SC: Jan/Feb: Carol Anderson & Joni Berres

LECTORS

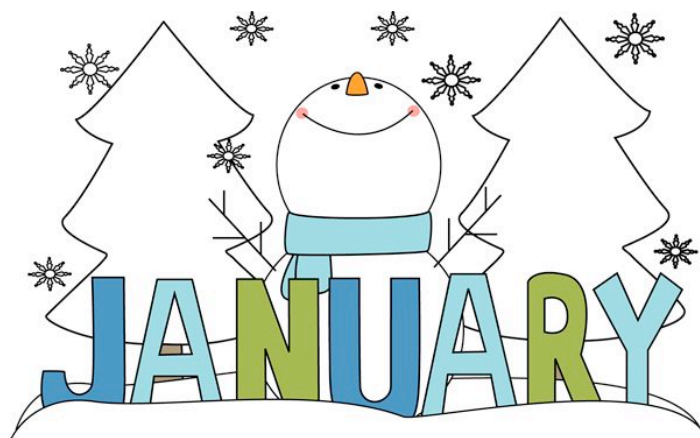
	<u>Pine Creek</u>	<u>Sand Creek</u>
7	Lisa Mickelson	Mary Ann Omtvedt
14	Mary Peterson	Carol Anderson
21	Annette Mason	No service
28	Jenna Bartels	Doris Tallman

SC COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

7	Carol Anderson
14	Lana Anderson
21	Worship & Annual Meeting/PC
28	Juel Smith

SC HOSPITALITY/OFFERING (Council)

1st Sunday	Jan. 7 Cathy Davis / Marie Swanson
2nd Sunday	Jan. 14 Lou Ann Gilberts / Mark Gilberts
3rd Sunday	Jan. 21 Stephani North / Kristi Welle 10a Worship/PC & Annual Meeting 10:50a
4th Sunday	Jan. 28 John Loy / Joyce Gilberts
5th Sunday	Jesse Buhr / Jerry Loftus



2 ❄️ 24