



**May 17th**  
*Sidney Mikl-Young*  
*Mya Sevals*

**GRADUATION RECOGNITION**

**May 24th**

*Luke Anderson*

*Open House: Sat., May 16th: 3-6p/Sand Creek Arts Center*

*Katie Audorff*

*Gavin Hanson*

*Samantha Lien*

*Sophia Martinson*

*Mason Mikl-Tio*

*Sarah Moen*

*Noah Nelson*

*Kyra North*

*Aspen Peterson*



**DEVOTIONS: Your Story Matters**

**“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”**  
 - Jeremiah 29: 11 (RSV)

*A plaque with these words—Your Story Matters—was given to me many years ago. It was intended to encourage me to write my life story. I've done that in bits and pieces over the years.*

*The Lord wants to write our stories through the lives we live. He wants to make all our wrong turns right and correct all our mistakes. He instructs us with all the rules in the Ten Commandments and other scriptures. Our daily lives begin anew every day. When we get off the path He's chose for us, the hand will forgive and lead us back to the right way. Repent, believe and turn back.*

*God's choices are always for the best. The way may seem a little scary and rough at times, but with God's help, we'll come through. He has plans for us and work for us to do for His kingdom.*

*Dear Lord, help us to always choose right. Help us to follow your lead. Amen.*

- Sue Piotrowski

**New Hope Men's + Women's Group  
 Pancake Breakfast**  
 silent auction, bake, craft, thrift sales  
**Saturday, May 2nd**  
**8am - 11a**  
**Sand Creek Town Hall**



## Pine Creek Site W/ELCA

**Meeting:** 9:30a, Sunday, May 3rd  
Hosts: Linda Bilodeau & Sue Christopherson

## Sand Creek Site W/ELCA

**Offering:** Monday, May 11th

### Circles

**Eve:** 6p/SC Wednesday, May 6th—Hostess: Susan Paulson  
*\*Bring items for nursing homes*

**Sophia:** 9:30a/SC Thursday, May 21st

## MAY STEWARDSHIP: Baby Care Kits

*Warm welcome for babies everywhere*

(Sizes 9-18 months)

- 2 lightweight cotton t-shirts
- 2 long/short-sleeve gowns/sleepers; NO feet
- 2 receiving blankets (*med. weight cotton/flannel or crochet/knit with lightweight yarn up to 52" sq.*)
- 4 cloth diapers (*flat-fold*) 2 diaper pins 2 pair socks
- 1 dark color hand towel
- 2 bath-size bars (4-5oz) Ivory soap in original wrap
- 1 jacket, sweater/sweatshirt with hood or include baby cap
- \$1.30 Shipping

## Ladies Brunch

**9a, Wed., May 13th at Colfax Lutheran**

**Speaker: Tammy Wood-Garr "Foster Closet"**

*Bridge between community & foster/kinship children providing free needs. Totally operated by donations/volunteers. Accepted are new/gently used children's clothing, hygiene items, school supplies, Christmas gifts, etc. Contact New Hope Church office to RSVP or sign up on office door by **Thurs., April 30th.***

## LOOKING AHEAD

### JUNE

- Sun. June 7** reg. sch/**Speaker: Mark Gilberts**
- Mon. June 8** 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
- Sun. June 14** reg. sch/**Guest: Bishop Martin Holum**
- Mon. June 15** 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
- Sun. June 21** reg. sch/**Guest: Rev. David Natzke**
- Mon. June 22** 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
- Sun. June 28** reg. sch/**Speaker: Natalie Ellefson**
- Mon. June 29** 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting

### JULY

- Sun. July 5** reg. sch
- Mon. July 6** 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
- Sun. July 12** reg. sch
- Mon. July 13** 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
- Sun. July 19** **1 service 10a Memorial Park SC**
- Mon. July 20** 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
- Sun. July 26** reg. sch
- Mon. July 27** 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting

### AUGUST

- Sun. Aug. 2** reg. sch/**Guest Carolyn Schneider, Guyana Missionary: pick-up in Eau Claire Aug. 1st, & overnight host**
- Mon. Aug. 3** 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting

## FINANCIAL REPORT: March 2026

*Detailed reports are available in the office upon request*

<b>General Checking Balance 3/31/26</b>	<b>\$ 17,081.83</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Unrestricted Offering	\$ 20,748.74
Restricted Benevolence, Mission, Other	\$ 2,418.06
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 23,166.80</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 15,035.67</b>

## Year-to-Date 2026

Unrestricted Offering	\$ 56,244.11
Restricted Benevolence, Mission, Other	\$ 8,381.05
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 64,625.16</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 51,293.32</b>

## 2026 Noisy Offerings/Mission

<b>JAN</b>	Missionary Support	<b>\$ 385.36</b>
<b>FEB</b>	Malawi	<b>480.42</b>
<b>MAR</b>	Luther Park Camperships	<b>558.90</b>
<b>APR</b>	Project Comfort (Ship Quilts/Kits)	<b>670.34</b>
	<i>Sand Creek: \$527.58 Pine Creek: \$142.76</i>	
<b>MAY</b>	Lutheran Disaster Response	50.00
<b>JUNE</b>	Kafika House (Plaster House/Tanzania)	50.00

## *Thank you for your financial support!*

Offerings are received at our

- \*Pine Creek site offering plate (8:30a worship)
- \*Sand Creek site offering boxes (10a worship)
- \*Website: [www.newhopespc.org](http://www.newhopespc.org)
- \*Post mail: Po Bx 85, Sand Creek, WI 54765

**Thank you** for the camp scholarship to apply to our registration fees at New Auburn Arrowhead Bible Camp. We, (Samone, Olivier, Devin) are excited to attend, share the week with their friends and counselors and continue learning about God."  
-The Lee's

## **Luther Park Seeking Counselors**

**2 Males & 3 - 4 Females Summer Staff**

visit [lutherpark.org/summer-staff](http://lutherpark.org/summer-staff) or contact Eric Klein, Exec. Dir. 715-859-2215 X 13 or Program Director, [abby@lutherpark.org](mailto:abby@lutherpark.org)  
*Live in cabins with campers, lead activities, games, Bible Study & more.*

## **HEAR OUR PRAYER**

*(People listed for 2 weeks. Contact the office with updates.)*  
Madison Bowe, Arlys Hoveland, Wayne Christopherson  
**Barron Care/Rehab:** Bev Miller, Richard Misselt  
**Monroe Manor/Barron:** Gary Hanson, Astrid & Boydean Sannes  
**Military:** Capt. David E. Dahl, Jacob Messinger, Jarita Roux  
**State Dept./Ethiopia:** Amy Smith

## Community Care

*For pastoral visit/call, or to join our Visitation Team, contact church office, Joyce Gilberts, Visitation Team leader, or Pr. Michael.*

April 2026

Dear Friends + Partners in Ministry,

**“Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!”** And we rise in him from whatever dark places hold us. That is God’s promise. Holy Saturday, I heard two students of the Lutheran Lay Academy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) preach this promise during a memorial service for the life of the late Rev. Leroy Nicholson. Since my primary responsibility here in Guyana is to strengthen the ELCG’s Lay Academy in order to prepare more people for leadership in the congregations, their fine, faithful leadership made me thank God that the work bears fruit!

I celebrated Easter with two congregations of the ELCG: St. Luke, in the small town of Philippi; and St. James, in the equally small town of Whim. Both congregations are part of St. Michael parish, where the parish council is led by Marika Grimmond, former Lutheran Lay Academy student, and now a nurse. She’s pictured greeting St. Luke congregation following Easter worship.

Since there are presently not enough leaders to minister to all the congregations in all 13 of the church’s parishes, I’ve recently been responsible for preaching and administering the Lord’s Supper in four parishes, rotating between them 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays/monthly. I’m in St. Michael parish the 1st Sunday, traveling to St. Barnabas, St. Luke, and St. James congregations, one after the other. I’m in St. Matthew and Ascension parishes the 3rd Sunday, where I start at Holy Communion congregation (St. Matthew parish) and then alternate between King of Glory and Ascension congregations (Ascension parish). On a 5th Sunday, I’m at St. John parish, which contains three congregations of St. Peter, St. Bartholomew, and St. John. (see map of all the Guyana Lutheran congregations in 1969. Highlighted are the ones I visit as supply preacher.)

I’m introducing a few congregations I visit as supply preacher. Last time I was at Holy Communion Church was Lent. Holy Communion is in the village of Victoria, a suburb of the capital city, Georgetown. The village was established just after the emancipation of the enslaved Africans in 1838, when a community of formerly enslaved people pooled their hard-won resources and bought the land in order to start their own small businesses. It must’ve taken enormous courage and industry.

Every other month on the 3rd Sunday, I rush out of Holy Communion after worship to make it (always late!) to King of Glory, 50 minutes away. I’m thankful for a new highway to avoid driving through Georgetown to get to the new high-span bridge over the Demerara River that takes me to West Coast Demerara, to King of Glory. There are times when no adults attend service, but three committed teens always clean the church and set up worship, just in case. If there are no adults, we have Sunday School. Pictured are Emily, Ashton, and Ethan, on the day we studied Jesus teaching his disciples to serve one another instead of competing with one another for glory. I told them cleaning the church, as they do, is a good example of such service.

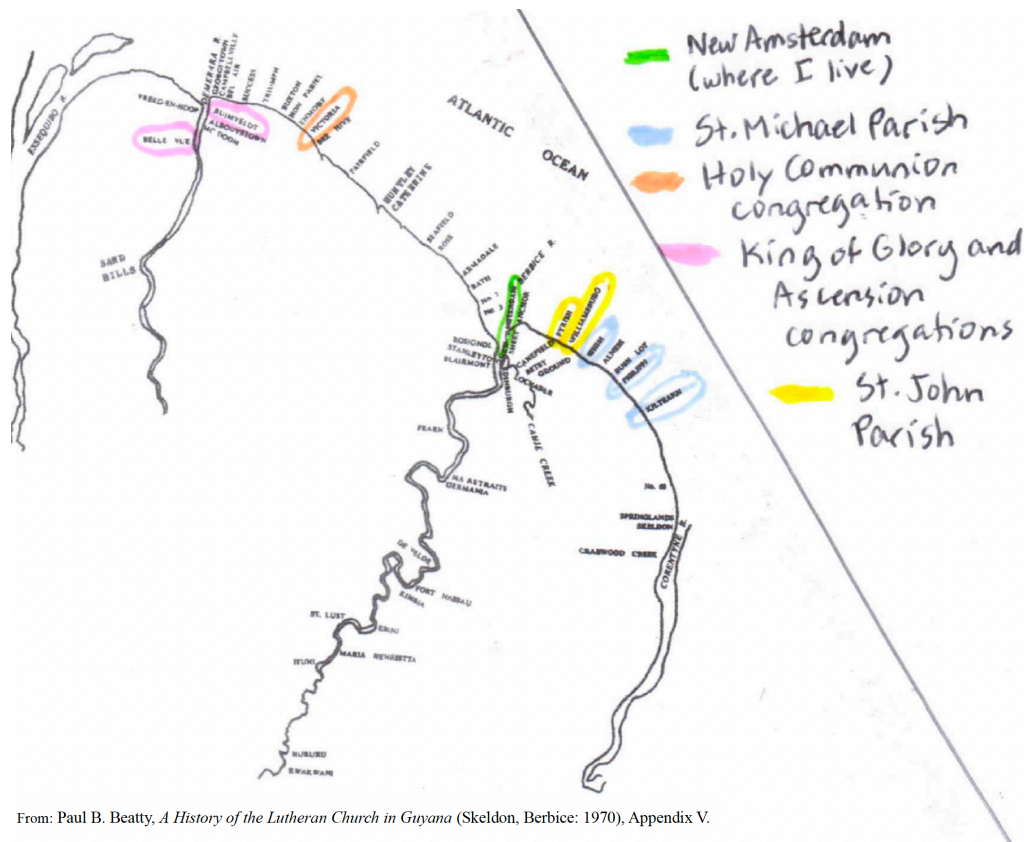
I hope this gives a glimpse into the life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, your brothers and sisters in the risen Christ. With much gratitude for your companionship,



Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider  
Lutheran Identity Professor / Pastoral Ministry Advisor  
ELCA in partnership with ELCG  
Email: [carolyn.schneider@elca.org](mailto:carolyn.schneider@elca.org)

Emily, Ashton, Ethan

Marika Gimmond at St. Luke



From: Paul B. Beatty, *A History of the Lutheran Church in Guyana* (Skeldon, Berbice: 1970), Appendix V.

Location of Congregations and Preaching Points of the Lutheran Church in Guyana 1969.

# New Hope Lutheran Church

E9085 County Road V

PO BX 85

Sand Creek, WI 54765

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*If you'd like to receive the "Trumpet" via email, please contact church office*

## ORDER PENTECOST GERANIUMS

**\$6 Each**

*In Memory or In Honor Of...*

After Pentecost Sunday, May 24th they'll be planted outside church.

**Orders due by Sunday, May 17th.**



### New Hope Council 2026

**President:** Linda Bilodeau

**Vice President:** Joyce Gilberts

**Secretary:** Bonnie Halberg

**Treasurer:** Mark Gilberts

#### Family Education

Jesse Buhr	715-781-1860	lacey.buhr@gmail.com
Samantha Goodremote	715-765-2209	sgoodremote@gmail.com
Kristi Welle	715-658-2303	kristi_welle@yahoo.com
Ben Neilsen	715-704-1135	benneilsen9@gmail.com

#### Property/Management

Mark Gilberts	847-650-9364	mark.gilberts4@gmail.com
Jerry Loftus	715-456-2163	lofty1@chibardun.net
Lon Christopherson	715-319-1224	londo@chibardun.net
Vern Ellefson	715-418-1408	vernon.ellefson.ve@gmail.com

#### Outreach

Pat Bechard	715-658-1014	paanbe@yahoo.com
Bonnie Halberg	715-237-2429	halbergs@citizens-tel.net
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
Becky Schnacky	612-812-6233	beckyschnacky658@gmail.com
Mary Peterson	715-308-9593	grammype718@yahoo.com



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

**Pastor Michael D Sparby** 715-764-9779

[nhpastor@chibardun.net](mailto:nhpastor@chibardun.net)

Office Hours 9am-1pm 715-658-1470

[newhope@chibardun.net](mailto: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](http://www.newhopescpc.org)

Like us on Facebook!

#### **WORSHIP**

**8:30 am/Pine Creek** 9:20a Coffee Fellowship + Sunday school

**10 am/Sand Creek** 9:20a Coffee Fellowship

*Sunday school during worship (Sept.—May)*

**Telephone Ministry** 1-534-444-4300

**FREE Live stream** <http://newhope.listentochurch.com>

**YouTube Link to View Streamed Services**

*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
<i>Pr. Sparby out of office April 27th—May 3rd</i>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8a/SC Town Hall Men's Group Pancake Breakfast & Sale
<b>3</b> <i>Speaker: Joyce Gilberts</i> 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites SC: Sophia Circle 10a SC Worship 3p/SC Piano Lessons	<b>4</b> 8:30a/SC Comforters	<b>5</b> 7p/SC AA	<b>6</b> 6p/SC Eve Circle <i>*Bring nursing home items</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 2:30p/SC School CPR (Reserved)	<b>9</b> 4p/SC Piano Recital
<b>10</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> Last day Sunday school 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites SC: Sophia Circle 10a SC Worship	<b>11</b> 8:30a/SC Comforters W/ELCA offering	<b>12</b> 7p/SC AA	<b>13</b> 6:30p/SC Confirm <i>*2nd Yr Rehearse/Pic</i>  9a/Colfax Lutheran Ladies Brunch	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Newsletter articles due	<b>16</b> 3-6p/SC Arts: Luke Anderson Graduation Open House
<b>17</b> <i>Confirmation/SC</i> 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites SC: Men's Group 10a SC Worship Sunday school picnic/SC	<b>18</b> 8:30a/SC Comforters	<b>19</b> 7p/SC AA	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30a/SC Sophia Circle	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <i>Pentecost</i> <i>Graduate Recognition</i> 8:30a PC Worship <i>Memorial Day Observed</i> 9:20a Fellowship-both sites SC: Eve Circle 10a SC Worship	<b>25</b> <i>Memorial Day</i> 9a Our Saviors Red Cedar Bridge 9:30a Zion <b>Church Closed</b>	<b>26</b> 8:30a/SC Comforters  7p/SC AA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<i>Pr. Sparby out of office May 24th—June 28th</i>					<b>2026</b>	
<b>31</b> <i>Rev. Nathan Aaseng</i> 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites SC: Robyn Lee "Beds 4 Kids" 10a SC Worship						

Date	Lectors	SC Communion	SC Hospitality (Council)	Altar Guild
<b>3</b>	PC Linda Bilodeau SC James Buhr	Sharon Nelson	<i>1st Sun.:</i> Lou Ann Gilberts / Becky Schnacky	PC: Lily Kunkel
<b>10</b>	PC Natalie Ellefson SC Mary Ann Omtvedt	Mary Ann Omtvedt	<i>2nd Sun.:</i> Mark Gilberts Ben Neilsen/Samantha Goodremote	SC (May/June) Bonnie Peterson
<b>17</b>	PC Kathy Christopherson SC Carol Anderson	Carol Anderson	<i>3rd Sun.:</i> Kristi Welle / Roger Paulson	Sharon Nelson
<b>24</b>	PC Annette Mason SC Lana Anderson	Lana Anderson	<i>4th Sun.:</i> Joyce Gilberts / Bonnie Halberg	
<b>31</b>	PC Pat Bechard SC Jodie Madison	Angela Madison	<i>5th Sun.:</i> Jesse Buhr / Jerry Loftus	



# New Hope Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

*(Draft subject to approval)*

**Monday, March 23, 2026 / Sand Creek Site**

**6:30p Committees 7p Full Council**

**PRESENT:** Pr. Michael Sparby, Mark Gilberts, Jerry Loftus, Lon Christopherson, Vern Ellefson, Lou Ann Gilberts, Roger Paulson, Mary Peterson, Becky Schnacky, Pat Bechard, Linda Bilodeau, Joyce Gilberts, Bonnie Halberg, Jesse Buhr, Samantha Goodremote, Ben Neilsen, Kristi Welle

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:58p by Council President, Linda Bilodeau

**OPENING PRAYER:** Pr. Michael Sparby

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** M/S/C (*Roger Paulson/Lon Christopherson*) approve December 15, 2025 minutes as printed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

\*Parish balance March 2026 = \$28,600 — March 2025 = \$29,000. Pastor's transition from 3/4 to 1/2 time will generate savings for future use.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Printed copy disbursed.

\*Pastor sent 6 letters to retired clergy for pulpit supply; most replied they no longer serve in this capacity.

\*Joe Bilodeau will contact "Higher Vision" to visit again.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **PROPERTY/MANAGEMENT**

"FirePro" scheduled Tuesday, March 24th for extinguisher inspections at both sites.

**Pine Creek Site:** Nothing to report.

**Sand Creek Site:** Shed door needs repair.

### **WORSHIP/MUSIC**

\*Easter Flowers; Roger Paulson & Mark Gilberts will get from Costco or ?

\*Our Missionary Carolyn Schneider will visit/speak August 2nd. Pr. Sparby will pick her up Sat., Aug. 1st in Eau Claire. Looking for someone to host her overnight; can be determined at a later date.

### **OUTREACH *Ongoing Acts of Kindness***

\*Wednesday, March 25th, "Game Day" following Lenten service/lunch.

\*People doing home visits should notify the office, Pr. Sparby or Joyce Gilberts. Joyce serves communion for shut-ins and visits nursing homes in Barron, Eau Claire, Colfax, and Menomonie.

### **FAMILY ED**

\*Stephani North would like someone to take over Sand Creek Site Sunday school. More assistance is needed for combined class of younger and older children together.

\*Summer VBS plans to be determined.

\*"Parents' Night Out" may be considered again; more volunteers needed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

\*Discussed benefits proposal for our parish administrator. M/S/C (*Mark Gilberts/Ben Neilsen*) to approve benefits for Becky Loftus, who's dedicated 26 years of service to New Hope Lutheran Church.

\*New Church Directory: Task force is Roger Paulson (*Chair*), Bonnie Halberg, Joyce Gilberts, Mark Gilberts, and Ben Neilsen, who will meet and plan to be ready by fall for preparation.

\*Memorial Fund Update: keep it flexible and save funds from Pastor's transition time for future staffing. M/S/C (*Roger Paulson/Jesse Buhr*) to transfer \$8,000 from parish checking to memorials savings staff fund.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** **Monday, May 18, 2026 / Pine Creek Site**

**ADJOURN:** 8p, closing with the Lord's Prayer

-Bonnie Halberg, Council Secretary