

Herald of Hope April 2026



HOPE
is alive!



Hope Lutheran Church, ELCA

305 10th St. S Walker, MN 56484 (PO Box 506)
218-547-1850 *All are Welcome!*
www.hopelutheranchurch-walker.com

Hope Lutheran's Staff

Senior Pastor	Matt McWaters	hopepastor@arvig.net
Pastor	Dave Smith	davidsmith@arvig.net
Youth Director	Michelle Anderson	hopeyouth@arvig.net
Office Manager	Michelle Dowson	hope-michelle@arvig.net
Bookkeeper	Kris Knowles	hopekris@gmail.com
Music/Worship	Jill Anderson	
Accompanists	Mike Kerrigan & Emily Turney	
Custodian	Vic Fields	

Join the family of Hope for a light meal
Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

April Menu

- 4/1 No Supper; No Worship
- 4/8 Sloppy Joe & Chips
- 4/15 Turkey Pot Pie
- 4/22 Lasagna
- 4/29 Scalloped Potatoes & Ham

Followed by Wednesday Worship at 6:15

Worship with us Sundays at 9:00

If you can't join us in person, you can view Hope's live Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m. at leechlaketv.org, or tune your antenna TV to Channel 21.5. The service is also broadcast live on KQKK 101.9 FM radio. You can sponsor a Sunday broadcast in memory or honor of a loved one or special occasion for \$75. Sign up for the date of your choice on the bulletin board near the church office, or just call in.

Stay after worship for Coffee & Fellowship!

Lectionary Bible Study, Tuesdays at noon

Join Pastor Matt for discussion on the scripture being used in the week's upcoming worship services. No advanced prep or special materials required. Just join any Tuesday you are able!



Holy Week Worship

No Supper or Wednesday Worship April 1st
Maundy Thursday, April 2nd
Communion Worship at 6:15

Good Friday, April 3rd
Worship at 6:15

Easter Sunday, April 5th
Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.



Youth of Hope Easter Breakfast Fundraiser!

Help support the Youth of Hope
and leave the Easter morning breakfast to us.
Serving from 8:00-10:30 on Easter Sunday
Egg Bake & Cinnamon Rolls!

Renewing Hope's Promise

Kitchen Remodel Update

The kitchen remodel team wanted to let the congregation know of the upcoming kitchen upgrades and schedule. New kitchen cabinets, flooring, countertops including a new undermount sink and faucet will be installed. The entire kitchen will be repainted. We are also replacing the main refrigerator and adding new kitchen racks for improved sanitary practices.

The kitchen will not be available for use during the month of May, with all equipment and items beginning to be removed around May 1st. Actual demolition will start no later than May 11th. We hope to have the kitchen returned to service by May 27th.

The Fellowship Hall will generally be available during the remodel, however there may be times during the construction period where it is temporarily closed off to support the installation process. We will work with our office staff to communicate any of these issues as soon as possible to let impacted groups know of any closure.

Your gifts to the *Renewing Hope's Promise* fund make this much-needed kitchen upgrade possible! Thank you for your continued support.

From Pastor Matt

An Invitation to Walk the Path with Jesus

Dear Siblings in Christ (that means you),

I invite you, your family, and anyone else you can think of to join us for worship in these early days of April, especially during Holy Week. Why especially Holy Week? Good question! First a little bit about Holy Week.

Holy Week actually began a few days ago, on Palm & Passion Sunday. On this day celebrated each year, the church commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, while those gathered on the path leading from the Mount of Olives to the city, waved leafy branches and laid them on the road. (see Mark 11:1-11) His journey into Jerusalem, accompanied by shouts of "Hosanna!" and "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord," would be short lived, however, as only 5 days later Jesus would be greeted by this collective cry of the crowds, "crucify him!" Palm & Passion Sunday prepares us to enter more deeply into the last days of Jesus, and specifically into his institution of Holy Communion at the last supper (see Matthew 26:26-29) and his betrayal, arrest, trial, crucifixion, and burial. (see John 18:1-19:42)

Holy week continues each day of the week between Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter, but over the years Holy Thursday and Good Friday have borne more significance. Holy Thursday, also known as **Maundy Thursday**, is a day when the church commemorates the washing of the disciples' feet (see John 13:1-20), the new commandment Jesus gives to "Love each other as I have loved you" (see John 13:34, the word Maundy is traced back to the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning command), and the Last Supper when Jesus instituted the meal we call Holy Communion.

Good Friday recounts the final moments of Jesus death. It is a dark day filled with a range of emotions for worshippers around the world. It is a day when we recall our own sin that permeates this world. The same sin manifested in the violence of false accusations and the empire's judgment that drove nails through the wrists and feet of our Lord. We offer our gratitude for one who would lay down his own life for that sin even as it kills him. We sit to contemplate our confusion as to why God chose this way toward salvation, our frustration with a world broken by competing forces of good and evil, and our sadness as we hear the stone rolled over, sealing the tomb. Good Friday is good in that the blood of Christ shed on the cross was

the atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 2:2), yet it is bad in that Jesus was whipped, crucified, and died, while people who loved him grieved the loss of one so loved.

Easter is our big day. It is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope we have in God's promised resurrection for us and all creation. (see Romans 6:3-5) Our imaginations run wild at the thought of the empty tomb, trusting that our God is not dead, but is the one, true living God who defeats the death-grip that, well... death had on us. This promise of resurrection and eternal life, we believe, is not one that becomes ours sometime in the future but is one that we possess even now. This promised gift compels us to respond to God's amazing love by loving and caring for our neighbor.



So, why do we especially invite you, your family, friends, and neighbors to join us throughout Holy Week? We do so because in these few days we experience the fullness of God's redemptive work in and through Jesus Christ our Lord. We experience the devotion Jesus had among his disciples, as he washes their feet, taking the posture of a slave. We experience the darkness and grief of Good Friday, along with the pain, suffering, agony, and death of Jesus. We strongly encourage our youth to attend these services because our journey through the valley of the shadow of death demonstrates all the more the power of God and God's promise of life on Easter morning.

We encourage you to join us throughout this week, because there cannot be resurrection from the dead, without death *first*. Jesus cannot be raised to new life without *first* bearing the cross. There cannot be an empty tomb, without a body *first* being laid to rest. Join us as the power of God's kingdom breaks the power of death once and for all. Join us in responding with shouts of Alleluia! Alleluia! He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

MINISTERIAL ACTS

Saturday, March 14
Funeral Service for
Brenda Erickson

Tuesday, March 31
Funeral Service for
Amy Haas

Women of Hope

We're springing into April!

April is the month that the Women of Hope join other women from the Living Waters Conference of our synod for **Spring Gathering**. This year, St. Andrew's Lutheran in Grand Rapids is hosting this event on April 11th. Consider attending this fun and informative gathering. Carpooling available! Sign up on the Women of Hope bulletin board near the restrooms.

Our **summer fundraiser** (formerly Christmas in July) is in the planning stages—there will be some changes from last year, so stay tuned! Coordinator Angie Osatiuk is heading up this event. A planning meeting is scheduled for April 16th at 11:00.

In February several women gathered at Hope to make **diaper kits**, many of which were taken home to be sewn. Anyone who still has some at home, please return them to the church by early May so we can prepare them to be shared at the Women's Summer Gathering in Grand Rapids. If you have questions or concerns, contact Ardyce. Thank you to all who are working on them!

Bars for upcoming funerals

Get the ovens warmed up and donate a pan of bars for upcoming memorial services:

☞ **April 18th**—LaVerne Kennedy
(reception at the Legion)

☞ **May 9th**—Tanis Beadle
(reception at Tianna)

Please put bars on something disposable, as no guarantee on retrieving pans from off-site locations. Bars can be left at the church or brought to the reception location. Please leave a message in the church office (hope-michelle@arvig.net) if you plan to donate bars.

We continue to seek **co-chairs for the Women of Hope**. It is not a difficult task, with just one monthly meeting a month to hear from the circles and the various committees. There are great supportive women involved who make the Women of Hope an easy-to-run organization of the church! Anyone is capable of being a co-chair. Please consider this opportunity to serve and work with some pretty amazing women. The Board usually meets on the first Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Meetings are open to all, so feel free to join us.

THESE TWO beautiful quilts donated by Gloria Reed and the Hope Quilters will be taken to



the NE MN Synod Assembly this month along with Hope's delegates Phil Johnston & Carol Marriott. They will be part of a fundraising auction, both online and in-person. Watch for details on how you can make a bid!

Women of Hope April Gather Study

Notes from Pastor Dave

God's Name, God's Promise

Session Two

God the protector: Gate and shepherd

This is the second of our three part series. Today the author begins to unpack the meaning of God's name, "I AM". She uses two well known images of God in Christ: shepherd and gate.

The first reading from Ezekiel reminds us that Israel's kings and political officials were accountable to God for their stewardship of God's people. Kingship and political power were meant to enhance life for all of God's people and not just the ruling elite. When they misused their power, the whole nation suffers. *What do you think of that? What do think of the line, "I will feed them with justice."? Is that scary or comforting?* The author suggests reading Psalm 23 and comparing this portrait of God as shepherd with the shepherds that Ezekiel condemns.

Jesus transitions from being the gate to the sheepfold to being the shepherd who watches over the going out and coming in of the sheep. *How do those two images work together to describe God's care for God's flock?*

Question 9 is something most of us have thought about at one time or another. *Does this study and its images shed offer any insight in considering this persistent question?* (By the way, if come up with a satisfying answer please share it with your pastors). The author, in the leader's guide, references a hymn in the newest ELCA hymnal by the great hymnwriter Isaac Watts. This is a hymn with which I was unfamiliar until this study. The title of the hymn is *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need* and the hymn itself is adapted from Psalm 23. You can find the hymn online. Here is the last verse:

*Your sure provisions gracious God
attend me all my days;
oh, may your house be my abode,
and all my work be praise.
Here would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come;
no more a stranger, nor a guest,
but like a child at home.*

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 2006

Pastor Dave

News of Hope

Notes from Jill

As spring, Holy Week and Easter approach I am reminded that soon we will see the return of many snowbirds and hopefully, a larger presence in our Sunday worship services. This would be a great time to consider being a part of one of our music groups or one of the organizations that supports our worship services. We always need ushers, alter guild members, readers, liturgists, coffee makers, greeters, bulletin folders, technology assistants and communion servers. Surely you could find something in that list that would match your skills.

Celebration Bells is always looking for new ringers. Skills needed are basic understanding of note reading and more importantly, the ability to count and read rhythms. The current group is willing to work with new members to help them develop the skills needed to play with the group. If you've played another instrument in the past, this might be your opportunity to perform again with a group.

Finally, as the director of the Chancel Choir I am asking that people consider singing in the choir. People compliment us on our "wonderful choir" and I agree with them. However, if we do not continue to add new members we will not be able to perform the type of music that we have done in the past. We need voices. You don't need to be a soloist, but if you've sung in the past and want to have a fun time with others doing music, please consider giving choir a try. We usually sing twice a month and we rehearse on the Sundays that we sing. We rehearse at 8:00 and then sing during 9:00 worship. We rehearse music ahead of time, so if you miss a Sunday, you can still sing the next time we get together. We have enjoyed adding new members this year and I really hope we can continue to see the choir grow in the near future.

Jill Anderson, Worship & Music Coordinator



Vitalant Blood Drive at Hope

On March 24th, the Vitalant blood drive took place at Hope. The event saw strong participation from the community, with 47 individuals signing up to donate blood.

Although not every volunteer was able to donate, the drive was still highly successful. A total of 45 units of blood were collected during the event, reflecting the community's generous spirit and commitment to helping others.

Donating blood is a straightforward and painless process. To ensure donors felt comfortable, treats were provided both before and after the donation, helping

everyone stay hydrated and nourished throughout the event.

Thanks to the many volunteers from Hope who assisted with setting up and taking down for the event, managing the registration table, and handing out treats to donors, ensuring a smooth and welcoming experience for all participants.

A big thanks to Lynn Moen (and trusty helper Don) for coordinating our drive.

If you would like to try making a life saving donation of blood, there will be another blood drive at Hope on May 28.



Hope Lutheran Church gives thanks for recent gifts received...

In memory of **Tanis Beadle**, gifts to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Tim & Margie Richardson, Gene & Linda Smith

In memory of **Mary Fisher**, a gift to the *General Fund* from Jim Bottrell; a gift to the *Endowment Fund* from Roger & Kay Strandlie

In memory of **Dale Jones**, gifts to the *General Fund* from Jerry Wolfe, Jim Bottrell; gifts to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Judy Berg, Gene & Linda Smith; a gift to the *Endowment Fund* from Jim & Kathryn Lohr; a gift to the *Food Box Fund* from Ann Harris

In memory of **Brenda Erickson**, a gift to the *General Fund* from Steve & Jane Ekholm

A big thanks to everyone who represented Hope Lutheran staffing the Walker Area Food Shelf during March... Pat Roush, Bruce & Ardyce Pederson, Martha Vetter, Karen Kellogg, Randy Matsen, Lynn Hoppes, Bob & Nancy Horn, Don & Deb Bernin, Paul & Beth Hamilton (as well as anyone else who pitched in!) Hope will again be staffing the Food Shelf during July.

WANTED: Guys & Gals for a Horseshoe League in Laporte Mondays at 6:15 p.m.

All levels of expertise welcome ... we'll teach ya!

Call Don Bernin 651-253-8296

Youth of Hope



Easter Breakfast Fundraiser

Come enjoy egg bake, cinnamon and caramel rolls, coffee & juice from 8am-10:30am in the fellowship hall on Easter morning! Youth will also be selling rolls to go in the Narthex.

Sunday School

Sunday mornings kids will be invited out of worship to watch a video & read the Bible story during the sermon. Kids will return to worship after class.

April 5th: *Jesus is Risen*

April 12th: *Thomas Answers Jesus* with Anja & Vada

April 19th: *Road to Emmaus* with Logan & Trevor

April 26th: fun with Tori & Lily

Joyful Noise & Wednesday Kids

All P3-5th graders join us on Wednesday's for Joyful Noise or Wednesday Kids, OR BOTH! Joyful Noise is from 3:30-4:30pm followed by Wednesday Kids 4:30-5:30pm. Our last day for the 2025-2026 year will be May 27th.

No Joyful Noise or Wednesday Kids on April 1st or May 6th

Holy Communion Instruction

We celebrate Deacon Deck, Richard Ehlenfeldt, Aria Forsman, Adalyn Flesch, Logan Freeman, Hadley Gilbert, Cora Hart, Hallie Jackson, Liam McCollough, Jacob McWaters, William Rogosheske, Barrett Rusch, Jace Siebenaler and Everleigh Young for completing Holy Communion Classes with Margie Richardson on April 2nd at the Maundy Thursday worship at 6:15pm.

SAVE THE DATES!

Preschool VBS

June 15th-17th, 9am-11:30am for those entering preschool through those entering kindergarten.

Elementary VBS

July 6th-9th for kids who have completed Kindergarten though 5th grade

Support the youth who are attending the Fargo-Moorhead Service Trip, San Diego Mission Trip & Bible Camp!

Fargo Moorhead Service Trip, June 7-10: Ava Brovold, MJ Diekman, Easton Eckart, Anneleise Krueckeberg, Trenton Kuechle, Buzzy McWaters, Olivia Udem, Dawson Weaver, Calen Zubke and Cooper Zubke.

San Diego Mission Trip, July 13-20:

Konnor Ball, Elizabeth Cairns, Lily Cairns, Caleb Dubbe, Logan Felton, Josie Holly, Layla Krueckeberg, Lola Krueckeberg, Trevor Kuechle, Payton Lange, Noah McWaters, Tori Pederson, Anja Turney, Garret Turney, Jenna Udean, Sophia Udem, Vada Yeats, Michelle Anderson, Josh Cairns and Madelyn Tews.

Luther Crest Bible Camp Week of July

26: Brooklin Anderson, Michelle Anderson, Maddy Beard, Samantha Beard, Willa Snyder, Suzanna Girtz, Asher Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Layla Forseman, Amari Krueckeberg, Riley Gilbert, Barret Rusch, Hadley Gilbert, Lucy Kuechle, Grace Zumwalt, Trenton Kuechle, Buzzy McWaters, Christian Ringle, Levi Zumwalt, Ava Brovold, Paislee Erickson. Everly Felton, Olivia Udem, Elizabeth Cairns, Lily Cairns, Sophia Udem, Logan Felton, Trevor Kuechle and Noah McWaters

Brat & Hotdog Fundraisers:

Hotdogs & brats for sale outside of the Meat Boutique on May 23rd and June 13th !

10th-12th Grade Youth

EVERY WEDNESDAY! Start in the youth room after worship around 7pm for a youth-led devotion. Michelle Anderson will join after confirmation to catch up and play games until 8:30pm...9pm... 10pm-ish...

April Acolytes

Apr 2—6:15 *Volunteer Needed*
Apr 3—6:15 *Volunteer Needed*
Apr 5—9:00 *Volunteer Needed*
10:30 *Volunteer Needed*

Apr 12—Ava B
Apr 19—Adelweiss B
Apr 26—Trevor L

April Ushers

April 2: Strosahls
April 3: Shermans
Apr 5—9:00 *Volunteers Needed*
10:30 *Volunteers Needed*

Apr 12: Brian Hein
Apr 19: Wayne Osatiuk
Apr 26: Karsts

Readers

April 2: Marty Cook
April 3: Alice Groth
Apr 5—9:00 Judy Berg
10:30 Phil Johnston
Apr 12: Jeanne Mehlhop
Apr 19: Bonnie Smith
Apr 26: Margie Richardson

Opportunities to Serve

Name _____

Phone or email _____

I usually attend worship:

(please circle time)

Sunday a.m. Wednesday p.m.

Please check those items for which you are willing to serve, and leave this form in the church office or offering plate. Please contact the church office for more information about any of these opportunities to serve.

____ Usher
____ Serve Communion
____ A/V tech assistant
____ Reader in Worship
____ Serve on Altar Guild

Leave this form in the office or offering plate!

Stay Connected – *For Your Safety!*

Hope Fellowship invites YOU to join the Connected Program!

What is Stay Connected?

A simple, caring way to support those living alone with daily check-ins for safety and peace of mind.

How It Works:

- A Connector sends you a quick text or call on your cell phone at a set time each day.
- Reply with an emoji or short message—conversation is optional!
- No response, we'll follow with a second text, then call you and still no answer call your emergency contact person.
- Still no answer? Local authorities will be contacted for a wellness check.

Why It Matters:

- Extra layer of safety for those living alone.
- Reassurance that someone cares.
- Optional conversation if both parties want to.

Get Involved:

- Join the program for daily check-ins.
- Volunteer as a Connector and make a difference in someone's life

Contact Joe Sherman at joebarb@arvig.net or call 218-251-3163 to sign up or learn more!
Together, let's share Christ's love through simple acts of safe being, care and connection.

Connected Program Interest Form

Hope Fellowship Committee – Stay Connected!

Name: _____ Email _____

Cell Phone: _____ Landline _____


Physical Address, (Fire Number) _____

Emergency contact. Name _____ Number _____

1. Do you live alone and want daily check-ins? Yes, I'd like to join the program No, not currently
2. Would you like to volunteer as a Connector? Yes, I'd like to help No, not currently


Preferred Contact Method: Text Message Landline Phone Call

Additional Comments: _____

 Contact Joe Sherman at joebarb@arvig.net or call 218-251-3163 for questions or more info

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Easter Sunday 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	6 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	7 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:30 am Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	1 10:00 am Women of Hope Board Mtg 1:00 pm Bone Builders No Joyful Noise or Wednesday Kids 4:30 pm Celebration Handbells No Supper or Wednesday worship No Confirmation classes Sr High Lock In	2 M. Thursday 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 6:15 pm Communion Worship	3 Good Friday 6:15 pm Worship	4
12 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	13 9:30 am Miriam Circle 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	14 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	15 8:30 am Board of Outreach 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise 4:15 Wednesday Kids 4:30 pm Celebration Handbells 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Classes 7:00 pm Sr High Youth Group	16 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:00 Christ. in July mtg 11:30 Women's AA	17	18 10:00 am visitation 11:00 Memorial service for LaVerne Kennedy
19 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	20 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	21 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	22 11:30 am May Creek Volunteer lunch 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise/ 4:15 Wed Kids 4:30 pm Celebration Handbells 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 pm Final Confirmation Classes 7:00 pm Sr High Youth Group	23 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 5:00 pm Girl Scouts	24	25
26 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	27 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	28 7:15 am HS Bible Study 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	29 8:30 am High School Release Time 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise/ 4:15 Wed Kids 4:30 pm Celebration Handbells 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 7:00 pm Sr High Youth Group	30 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA		



HOPE
is alive!

HOPE'S MISSION
*Hope invites all to connect with
God and each other through*
... Worship
...Community
...Service

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

218 547-1850

Walker MN 56484

PO Box 506

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