

Herald of Hope April 2024



Hope Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Hope Lutheran's Staff

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Word, Water, & Wine: What Do We Believe?

Have you ever wondered why some church communities baptize people of all ages while others refuse to baptize infants and young children? Ever wonder what different churches believe about Holy Communion? If you have or are curious to learn more about these questions, join Pastor Matt in April for a two-session series exploring these and more concerning Baptism and Communion. In each session we will look at the biblical basis for these sacraments of the church, highlighting the differences of emphasis and practice in the church today.



April 7 @10:00am - "Baptism: Drowning Death & Salvation"

In this session we will dive into the biblical narrative in Mark, Acts, and Romans, wondering how the one Christian church ended up with diverging beliefs and practices.

April 14 @ 10:00am- "Holy Communion: Eating Jesus"

In this session we will discuss the three primary ways the Christian church understands this meal Jesus instituted on the night in which he was betrayed. We will do this by looking at the four books in the New Testament that testify to Jesus' words, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and 1 Corinthians.



March Trivia Champs

Third time is the lucky charm! That's right, a St. Patty's themed Trivia Night was held at Benson's on Thursday, March 13th. Thirty participants split into 6 teams and the competition was on. Our Board of Fellowship keeps coming up with the questions and the teams keep coming up with the answers! Winners for the evening were the team comprised of **Bonnie & Dave Smith, Martha Vetter, and Barb & John Sellevold**. They were the winners of gift cards to Ole's or Walker Home Center and also the first team to have their names on the Hope Trivia Traveling Trophy! Pizzas and beverages were provided by a Thrivent Action Team Grant and the Board of Fellowship. Watch for future trivia competition later this year and thanks to all who came for the food, fellowship and fun!

Worship with us
Sundays at 9:00 am
Coffee Fellowship before & after
Wednesdays at 6:15 pm
Simple Supper before worship

If you can't join us in person, you can view Hope's live Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m. by logging your computer, tablet or smart phone to leechlaketv.org, or tuning your antenna TV (not cable) to Channel 21.5. The service is also broadcast live on KQKK 101.9 FM radio. You can also find an archive of Hope's services on YouTube or the church website. YOU CAN SPONSOR a Sunday broadcast in memory or honor of a loved one or special occasion for \$75. Contact the church office for the date of your choice.

From Pastor Matt

Every New Morning

"²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." -Psalm 118:24

I'll admit, I am no longer a morning person. There was a time when my internal clock got me going at 4am to deliver the daily newspaper in my childhood hometown, but these days it takes "a couple cups of coffee" worth of time to get moving, at least. Maybe you know mornings like these, when trudging through the routines that prepare us for the day feel like a chore and sours the outlook for the day ahead. Another day of school. Another day at work. Another day of the same.

The snow falling on the morning I'm writing this (March 26th) had me in this place, as I settled into a comfortable spot in Walker to consider an Easter sermon. While looking over the readings for Easter Sunday, I read the familiar words written above from Psalm 118. I sat struck, feeling a little guilty, at this simple yet extraordinary gift we have from the LORD. *This day. This one.* Here and now, all something God has prepared and given to you, to me, and to the world. It might sound simple, but when we begin to recognize what is a part of this day, well, it is truly extraordinary. Martin Luther in his explanation to the first article of the Creed included food and drink, health and home, family and community, and all the sustains this body and life, as that which God "daily and richly provides" to you and me. Our faith tells us this ought to be enough to turn morning frowns upside down, to rejoice and be glad at the beginning of each day for being here.

We all know, however, that which is gift doesn't always produce the anticipated life-giving, positive outcome. In other words, we have great capacity to hurt one another, even the people we claim to love the most. Though we have enough food in the world to feed every person, people still go hungry, because of greed or other injustice. In the real world, the list of things Luther named that sustains this body and life can seem fleeting. But...

That is not all God is up to. It was early in the morning that first new day when the women headed to the tomb. (see Mark 16) When they arrived, the tomb was already empty, and they became the first witnesses to this promise of Easter – that in Christ, all things are being made new. No longer are we bound by what was or by that which has always been. If the dead don't stay dead, then where else might new life spring up for us, for our neighbors, and for our world?

In the light of the resurrection, then these promises of God take hold of us in a new and powerful way.

*- "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are **new every morning**; great is your faithfulness."*

Lamentations 3:22-23

*- "And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making **all things new**." Rev 21:5a*

Armed with these promises of God, we are invited to approach each new morning with gladness, even without the cup of coffee first. For while we will still encounter the effects of sin and brokenness amidst the life God gives us, we are no longer bound by them. Not today. Not tomorrow. Not ever again.

Pastor Matt

MINISTERIAL ACT

Sunday, March 10

Baptism of

Taytum Lynn Wolter

Sunday Lay Readers

April 7: Nancy Bruns
April 14: Ivan Paulsen
April 21: Jeanne Mehlhop
April 28: Mar Kuha

**THANK
YOU
Volunteers !**

Ushers

April 7: Marty Cook & Jennifer O'Neill
April 14: Mitch Loomis
April 21:
April 28: Tim Richardson

Communion Assistants

April 7: Nancy Bruns & Dee Oliver
April 14: Ivan & Pat Paulsen
April 21: Joe & Barb Sherman
April 28: Mar Kuha & Margie Richardson

Greeters

April 7: Maggie Mellby
April 14: Joe & Barb Sherman
April 21: Sherren Foss
April 28: **Volunteer Needed**

April Altar Guild

Martha Vetter &
Bonnie Smith

A/V VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of some more volunteers to help with running sound and projection during worship services. Stop by the sound booth during any worship service to observe and learn!

Youth of Hope

Wednesday Kids! Preschool - 5th Graders April 10th, 17th & 24th, 4:30-5:30pm

We are SO excited to kick off WEDNESDAY KIDS! Join us Wednesday afternoons from 4:30-5:30pm! Arrive early and at 4:15pm you can play gaga ball, chalk, basketball, coloring, friendship bracelets... We will then gather at 4:30pm in large group! We will see what Otto & Ada are up to in our favorite Whirl videos and do a large group activity together. We will then split by age group to dig into the Bible story a little deeper & learn about the Bible story through arts & crafts, games & activities.

Sunday School—Sunday Mornings 10-11am!

April 7th: Jesus is Risen
April 14th: The Road to Emmaus
April 21st: The Ascension
April 28th: Rejoice in the Lord Always
May 5th: End of the Year Party

Wednesday Confirmation

MENTOR NIGHT RESCHEDULED!
Mentor night has been moved to May 1st!
April 3rd: 6:45-8:00pm
April 10th: 6:45-8:00pm
April 17th: 6:45-8:00pm
April 24th: 6:45-8:00pm
May 1st: MENTOR NIGHT 6:45-8:30pm

Acolyte Schedule

April 7: Brody
April 14: Tristan
April 21: Maverick
April 28: Bauer
Confirmation students can get extra Sermon Notes by helping with worship! Acolyte, usher, read scripture, help with communion, sing/play music, Help with AV!

Luther Crest Bible Camp

Paislee, Trent, Buzzy, Jacob, Christian, Will, Barrett, Bauer, Piper, Elizabeth, Everly, Liam, Trevor, Gus, Ollie, Noah, Olivia, Sophia, Lily, Logan & Michelle are heading to Luther Crest Bible Camp July 28th-August 2nd.



WEDNESDAY KIDS
April 10th, 17th & 24th
4:30-5:30pm
P3-5th Grade

5:30-6:15pm: Family Meal
6:15-6:45pm: Family Worship

Register Here:



High School Morning Bible Study

Thank Gretchen Turney & her mad skills, we are officially having Morning Bible Study until the end of the school year! 9th-12th Grade Youth, join us Tuesday mornings at Walker Bay Coffee at 7:15am. Michelle is happy to shuttle youth to school after Bible Study!



National Youth Gathering 2024: New Orleans Team

Front Row Left-Right: Elizabeth, Lily, Tori, Gretchen, Danielle. *Middle Row:* Kayla, Anja, Jenna, Vada, Ady, Lexi, Caleb, Konnor, *Back Row:* Logan, Easton & Clay along with Alex, Garret, Michelle, Pastor Matt & Bryn are heading to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 14-21, 2024.

Upcoming Youth of Hope

Fundraisers for Bible Camp & NOLA

☛ Luncheon & Talent Show, Saturday April 20th *Camp & NOLA Fundraiser*

Come be served a delicious lunch while being entertained by our young talent at Hope! Hear Trevor Kuechle recite his humor piece from speech. Enjoy a solo dance performance by Danielle Malard and a duet dance performance from Everly Felton & Olivia Udem. Logan Felton will awe the crowd with his guitar. AND MORE!!!

Youth will sell tickets before and after worship on Sunday April 7th & Sunday April 14th. Or contact Martha Vetter 218-497-3327, vettermartha@yahoo.com.

☛ Camp Roll Fundraiser

Camp Fundraiser

Sunday May 5th our campers will be serving coffee, juice, cinnamon & caramel rolls following worship! Kids will be serving in the fellowship hall or find them in the Narthex and purchase a roll to go!

☛ BINGO Night in May

NOLA Fundraiser

Bingo in May! The NOLA team will be hosting a bingo night on a Sunday evening May! Keep your eyes open for details.

☛ SuperOne Celebrity Grocery Bagging

NOLA Team will be bagging groceries at Super One June 14th-16th.

Campers will be bagging groceries at Super One June 28th-30th.

Support the Youth of Hope & tip them as they offer a warm smile & bag you groceries. All tips will go towards helping them pay for New Orleans or Camp!

National Youth Gathering Pre-Trip Meetings

Sunday April 7th in Brainerd, Time TBD—

Created to Be DISRUPTIVE

Wednesday May 8th during 9th-12th Grade Release Time -*Created to Be DISCIPLES*



Photo from our March Created to Be FREE meeting

Music Notes

Spring is on the way and that means we will be seeing our snowbirds and summer visitors returning soon.

I wanted to let you know about the music opportunities that we have happening at Hope and I invite you to join us if you are interested.

Celebration Bells are looking for new members. If you can read music they are willing to teach you how to ring. It's very fun, and we want to continue to have our Celebration Bells as part of Hope's worship services. Talk to Sue Sessing if you have any interest in giving it a try.

Hope's Chancel Choir welcomes all new members. For the past year we have been rehearsing the hour before the worship service in which we will be singing. This works well, and allows us the time to rehearse anthems for the upcoming weeks as well. The time spent is on the day that you are already worshipping, no other rehearsal date is needed. We will be singing throughout the summer, and we would love to have some new faces in the group. Please consider joining our fun choir.

Finally, if you have a member of your family or visiting friends throughout the summer who would like to share musical gifts with the congregation, please contact me and we will get them scheduled. **Vocal, piano or instrumental solos or groups** would be a great addition to our worship services.

Music is an essential part of Hope's life of the congregation and we want to continue the musical traditions going forward. *-Worship & Music Director, Jill Anderson*

The plans are set for...

A Luscious Luncheon & Terrific Talent Show!

Saturday, April 20th at Noon

This is a unique fundraiser for the amazing 36 youth and 3 adults who will be spending time this summer at the ELCA National Youth Gathering and/or LutherCrest Bible Camp! These wondrous young people need your support!

Here are the details:

- ♦ **Saturday, April 20th at noon** in the Fellowship Hall
 - ♦ **The Menu:** Chicken Salad Croissant, fruit, chips, dessert prepared by Chef Scott Skalisky
 - ♦ **TICKETS:** \$25 per person. Purchase from the kids before worship on Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17 or Sundays, April 7 or 14.
 - ♦ **TABLES:** There are 16 uniquely-themed tables to choose from. Some examples are: The Rose of Russia, Fabulous Fall, Nativity Christmas, Lovely Lemon, Tukriye (Turkey), Black/White/Silver, Books Open Eyes/Minds... to name just a few of the possible choices. What fun to see the creativity of each table host. The kids will wait on you "hand and foot"!
 - ♦ These talented youth will entertain you with vocal, instrumental, drama and speech selections.
- DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL, FUN CHANCE TO HELP HOPE'S YOUTH!**

If you don't get a chance to purchase a ticket from the youth, you can also reserve your spot at a table by contacting

Martha Vetter 218-497-3327,
vettermartha@yahoo.com.

Women of Hope

What a great way to welcome spring with our sisters from the **Living Waters Conference**. We will travel to Bethel Lutheran, Warba, on **April 20th** for our Conference Spring Gathering. There is a poster on the Women's bulletin board giving information on this event and also a sign-up sheet for those wishing to attend so that we can pool rides. A buy-it-now/silent auction market will be set up. If you have items for this market, please bring them with or let Ardyce Pederson or Shirley Dowson know and we can get your items to the gathering. This is always a great day of worship, information from our Conference and Synodical women, some business and terrific fellowship. Check with Ardyce or Shirley if you have any questions.

Another event coming up is our annual **Northeastern Women's Synodical Convention/ Gathering, June 10th & 11th**, at Zion Lutheran, Grand Rapids. Early registration is due by May 17th. We will need to send a delegate representing our church. Let Ardyce or Shirley know if you are interested or for further information.

Our quilters are looking for backs for quilts. If you have king, queen or full-size sheets, flat or fitted, that are in excellent condition, please consider donating them to our quilters. **Hope quilters always welcome more helping hands on Thursday mornings.** If you can cut, tie or sew, we have a job for you! Check with Ardyce if you have any questions.

REACHING OUT:

- ♦ We received several receiving blankets which we will be donating to the pregnancy center in Walker and to "Family Spirit" in Cass Lake, a program supporting young families in need.
- ♦ We gave \$1200.00 to our local Food Shelf in March, a budgeted annual donation from the Women of Hope.
- ♦ Jeannine Bruesewitz, president of the N.E. Women's Synodical Organization, was our speaker on Bold Women's Sunday in February. She is donating her gratuity to "Katie's Fund", one of the programs supported by our women's Synodical Organization.
- ♦ Throughout the year the Women of Hope support numerous groups and ministries within our church, community, nation and world. Check the women's bulletin board (in the hall just beyond the bathrooms). We have posted some of the children's and youth programs that we support during the year.
- ♦ It won't be long and our beautiful garden will need attending. Pam Johnson is our contact person for this project. Please let Pam, Ardyce or Shirley know if you would be able to help out in the garden this summer. You don't have to have a "green thumb"! Pam will show you what needs to be done.

April Women of Hope Gather Bible Study

Notes from Pastor Dave

Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith Food

This is the final installment of the study *Scripture and Nature*. As I write this article we are nearing the end of Minnesota Food Share month, so the question of how and what we eat is especially relevant. Along with the questions of *how* and *what* the questions of *who* and *when* are equally important. Food production is one of the foremost places where our changing climate and weather patterns are felt on a very personal level.

Read Luke 14:7-14 Jesus reminds us that food is not just for the sustenance of the body. Who we eat with and how we eat are important parts of the right use of food. Question 1 invites us to think more deeply about what makes a meal memorable. One of my most memorable meals was Spam fried with brown sugar. What made the meal memorable was not the food but the grace and kindness with which the meal was offered to me, a complete stranger.

Join the discussion on this month's Circle Bible Study!

Miriam—Monday, April 8 at 9:30

Ruth—Wednesday, April 10 at 9:30

Lydia—Thursday, April 11 at 9:30 a.m.

*Anyone is welcome! Pick the date
that works best and join us.*

Read Exodus 16:1-31 This passage explains what our prayer, "give us this day our daily bread" means for ourselves and those with whom we share the productive capacity of creation. We are blessed to live in a country with an abundant food supply and many of us grew up with admonition to "clean our plates". *Is it "hoarding" to have excess food stored in this country simply because we refuse to pay the transportation costs to move the food to a country without food or financial resources? If you were one of the Hebrews how would it feel to get your "daily bread" daily, and only daily?*

Read Genesis 1:27-31 *Have you ever eaten a totally plant based meal? What was it like? Would you do it again?*

Read Genesis 9:1-11 and answer question 5.

Read Leviticus 19:9-10; Matthew 12:1-2 Question 6 in an interesting one to consider if you have time.

Read Isaiah 55:1-2 This passage brings us round to the twin right uses of food; nourishment and delight. The delight can be in what we are eating; texture, taste, smell, who we share the table with, memories, etc.

The questions in the section "Bless This Food" can round out the conversation about food and its place in our lives and in the life of the human community. *In what way(s) could each meal become a "Communion Meal" drawing us closer to God and all of God's creation, humankind and "other-kind" alike?*

Pastor Dave

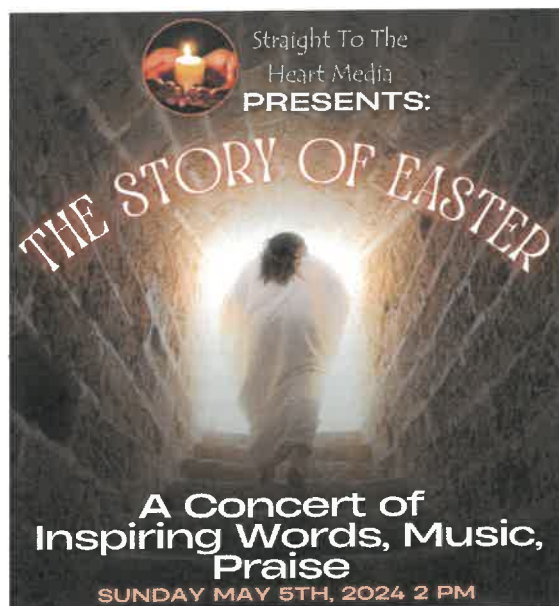
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 1 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 5:30 20's and 30's Group	2 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:00 ARCC work crew 9:30 Bone Builders	3 10:00 am Women of Hope Board 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise Practice 4:45 Celebration Handbell practice 5:15 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday Worship 6:45 Confirmation Classes	4 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	5	6	
7 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 <i>Word, Water, Wine:</i> <i>Baptism Study</i> 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 6:00 pm Middle School Youth	8 9:30 am Miriam Circle 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 5:30 Board of Property	9 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders	10 9:30 am Ruth Circle 1:00 pm Bone Builders No Joyful Noise Practice 4:30 pm Wednesday Kids 4:45 Celebration Handbell practice 5:15 pm Simple Supper 6:15 Wednesday Worship 6:45 Confirmation Classes	11 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Lydia Circle 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 5:00 Girl Scouts	12	13
14 9:00 am Communion Worship 10:00 Sunday School, 10:00 <i>Word, Water, Wine:</i> <i>Holy Communion Study</i> 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	15 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	16 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders	17 11:00 Worship at May Creek Cottages 12:30 Worship at May Creek Lodge 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise Practice 4:30 pm Wednesday Kids 4:45 Celebration Handbell practice 5:15 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday Worship 6:45 Confirmation Classes	18 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	19 (set up for luncheon)	20 Noon: Luncheon Fundraiser Show
21 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Sunday School, 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	22 9:00 am NW Quilters 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	23 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders	24 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Final Joyful Noise Practice 4:30 pm Wednesday Kids 4:45 Celebration Handbell practice 5:15 Simple Supper 6:15 Wednesday Worship 6:45 Confirmation Classes	25 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	26	27
28 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Sunday School, 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	29 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	30 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders				

The Story of Easter Concert - Sunday May 5th at 2:00pm

Save the date!

The Board of Fellowship, in partnership with Straight to the Heart Media Ministry, is excited to invite you and your friends to a concert, "*The Story of Easter*" on May 5th at 2:00 pm in Hope Lutheran's sanctuary. Kris O'Brien and her Concert Team are bringing an inspiring and heart-moving Easter experience through music,

praise, and story-telling. A free-will offering will be received to support Straight to the Heart, a non-profit that creates moving and inspirational multimedia content available at no cost to churches, families, and individuals through their YouTube channel.



HOPE'S MISSION

*Hope invites all to connect with
God and each other through*

*... Worship
...Community
...Service*

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
#4
Walker, MN

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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