

# Herald of Hope February 2026



**Hope Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
305 10th St. S Walker, MN 56484 (PO Box 506)  
**218-547-1850** **All are Welcome!**  
[www.hopelutheranchurch-walker.com](http://www.hopelutheranchurch-walker.com)

## Hope Lutheran's Staff

Senior Pastor	Matt McWaters	<a href="mailto:hopepastor@arvig.net">hopepastor@arvig.net</a>
Pastor	Dave Smith	<a href="mailto:davidsmith@arvig.net">davidsmith@arvig.net</a>
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Bookkeeper	Kris Knowles	<a href="mailto:hopekrisk@gmail.com">hopekrisk@gmail.com</a>
Music/Worship	Jill Anderson	
Accompanists	Mike Kerrigan & Emily Turney	
Custodian	Vic Fields	

## Hope Lutheran 2016 Council

Barb Sherman, President
Maggie Mellby, Vice President
Deb Fischer, Secretary
Darcey Karst, Treasurer
Joe Sherman
Wayne Osatiuk
Kim Krueger

*Would you rather receive this newsletter via email as a pdf? Send a request to [hope-michelle@arvig.net](mailto:hope-michelle@arvig.net)*

## 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](http://leechlaketv.org), or tune your antenna TV to Channel 21.5. The service is also broadcast live on KQKK 101.9 FM radio. BROADCAST SPONSORS ARE NEEDED. 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!**

**Join the family of Hope for a light meal**

**Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.**

### February Menu

Feb 4: Chicken Noodle Soup  
Feb 11: Chicken Nuggets & Tots  
Feb 18: Sloppy Joes & Chips  
Feb 25: Pork Chop & Mashed Potatoes

**Followed by Wednesday Worship at 6:15**

## ASH WEDNESDAY

**FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

Worship w/ imposition  
of ashes

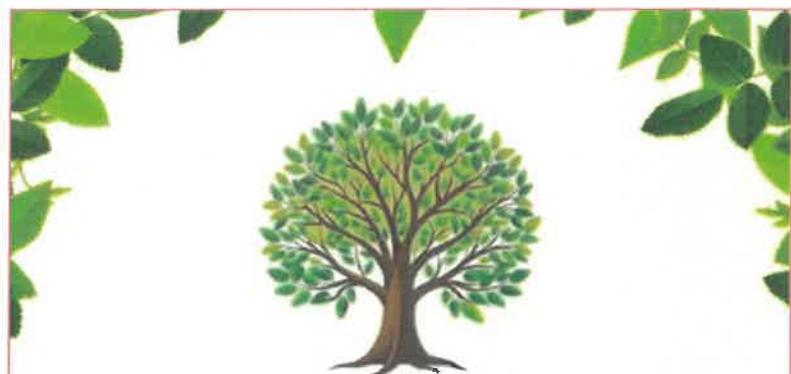
**NOON AND 6:15 P.M.**

Ash Wednesday calls us to remember the common connection we have as creatures of the earth. We bear witness on this most solemn day that we ALL will return to the ground, "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." In this remembrance we humble ourselves to God, giving thanks for the gift of life itself. Join us at either 12 noon or 6:15pm, on Wednesday, February 18th to remember God is God, and we are not.



*Wednesdays during Lent*

**February 25 & March 4, 11, 18, 25**  
**Supper at 5:30, Lenten Worship at 6:15**



## **SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY!**

**TREES And The STORY Of GOD**

**FEBRUARY 22**

The Biblical story takes place between two trees. In between those two trees, cedars, olive, fruit, palm, fig trees and more contribute to the story. Join Pastor Dave on February 22 following worship to learn about the trees of the Bible and how they help tell the story of God.



# From Pastor Matt

## The Palm Sunday Path

*"When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"*

Matthew 21:10

When Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on the back of donkey, surrounded by shouts of adulation, it signaled a sort of collision that had been playing out ever since he proclaimed, "The kingdom of heaven has come near!" In the triumphal entry into the city, the powers of the kingdom of God came face to face with powers of the world enthroned there. Jerusalem served as the political seat of power in Judea, just as the temple served as the spiritual center for the region, and this public parade would rouse the tidal wave of resistance that in only a few days would put him on the cross.

The same powers in this world push back against the kingdom we pray for in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come... on earth as it is in heaven." This tension of kingdoms clashing plays out in the world around us, just as they work themselves out inside our own selves and in our very lives.

This upcoming season of Lent we will dive deeply into the Palm Sunday Path, specifically moments in the path Jesus walked from the palm parade, until the Via Dolorosa, meaning the way or path of suffering. At moments in his teaching, in his words, and in his actions, Jesus invites all who would follow him into the cosmic collision of kingdoms and ask, "which kingdom are you serving?" This question is pertinent in the season of Lent as we assume a penitential posture, examining our lives and offering confession to a God who will always be faithful. This question is also pertinent in *this* season as we see these powers colliding in the world

around us, in our own cities and streets, leaving our neighbors in the wake of all the tumult.

Amidst it all you, me, all of us are invited to look with fresh eyes of faith at all that is going on around us – violence in the streets in our state, global institutions of power ignoring the needs of the most vulnerable around the world, and folks who are increasingly apathetic and despairing. Then we are a called to ask, how does our faith in Christ invite, compel, and sometimes drag us kicking and screaming to respond? Are we willing to be honest and confess our part? Can we muster the courage to challenge our own opinions and perspectives with the call to love our neighbor? All of our neighbors? Will the promises of God in Christ and our hope in the kingdom we pray for move us?

In preparation for the season, I invite you to spend some time dwelling in the following texts that will serve as preaching texts for our worship life both on Wednesday evenings and Sunday Mornings.



Week 1: Luke 19:28-40 "The Path Jesus Walks"

Week 2: Mark 12:1-12 "The Cost of Walking"

Week 3: Luke 23:1-4, 13-15, 22-23

"Interpreting the Path"

Week 4: John 13:1-9, 33-35 "Widening the Path"

Week 5: Luke 23:39-43 "Walking the Path Together"

### 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!

### Worship Assistants

Would you like to assist during Sunday worship as an usher, scripture reader, communion helper, or learn about running the AV system? Leave a message in the church office for more info or to be added to the next schedule.

### MINISTERIAL ACTS

Sunday, January 18

*Baptism of  
Antonia Virnig*

Thursday, January 30

*Memorial Service for  
Maria "Bunny" Sautbine"*

### February Ushers

Feb 1: Brian Hein

Feb 8: Marty Cook

Feb 15: Harlan Anderson

Feb 18 Ash Wednesday

Noon: Loomis'

6:15 pm **Volunteer Needed**

Feb 25: Wayne Osatiuk

### Sunday Readers

Feb 1: Jill Burggraf

Feb 8: Joe Sherman

Feb 15: Nancy Bruns

Feb 22: Zac Virnig

## Women of Hope

### Help us create PINLESS DIAPERS for Global Health February 5<sup>th</sup> at noon

The Women of Hope are hosting a lunch and diaper workday on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at noon. Meet in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch and all materials provided by the Women of Hope... just bring your helping hands!

Everyone welcome!

### February has important activities for the Women of Hope!

On February 1st, Angie Osatiuk has introduced us to a new fundraising activity. She has organized a **puzzle challenge** following our church service, with a brunch followed by the challenge. Teams will compete to see who can finish their puzzle first. This activity is a fundraiser for kids attending summer camp. Registration fee is \$20/adult and all students are FREE. There are still spaces available, so please come and join in this fun activity!

On February 5<sup>th</sup> following quilting, we will be responding to the synod challenge in-kind of making newborns baby kits for Global Health. Last year we hosted a day of diaper making and were successful in creating over 200 diapers. This year, we are inviting you to join Shirley and Ardyce at noon for **lunch and to prepare kits of diapers** to be taken home and sewn. There is no cost, and all materials are provided. Last year, we asked you to bring your sewing machine, but this is not necessary this year. There is something for everyone, regardless of your skill level, therefore we are hoping you will join us for lunch, fellowship and diaper making!

Meri Mengis does a great job of organizing the silent auction and Buy-it-Now tables at our summer fundraiser, and is always looking for **handmade items** to add to the tables, so we encourage you to consider what you might donate. Check with Meri if you have questions on what is appropriate.

Our thanks to Angie O for coordinating our summer event, scheduled for **July 21**. Watch for her updates coming up!

For many decades, the Women of Hope have hosted **receptions following funeral services**. Our thanks to the dedicated hands and hearts of those Hope gals who volunteer to work and provide cakes for the receptions. We encourage you to please respond when the call for help arises, and lend your hands in a final act for our siblings in Christ. If you have questions on how you can help, talk to Shirley Dowson.

## Women of Hope February Gather Study

Notes from Pastor Dave

### Now let us pray

#### Session Two: *Praying with the body of the Earth*

If you've looked at this month's study you may feel like me, "This is a tough one". If not, then more power to you. So, what shall we do? It is easy to forget that we spend much of, most of, our lives living in a world of human creation. We live in houses, not caves. We travel on paved roads and concrete sidewalks, our feet seldom touching grass or soil. Traveling in metal, climate controlled canisters, impervious to the wind, the rain, the cold; nature being merely scenery beyond our windshield. We do not wait for the sunrise to experience light. We reach for the nearest **electrical switch**. In the **midst** of this, the author is inviting us to examine our own relationships with nature. She uses prayer as a way to foster a deeper connection with God and the created order.

*Have you ever been caught up in what is often called "a natural disaster"? What did that feel like? What were your prayers in the midst of the experience?*

### Join the discussion on this month's Circle Bible Study! "Praying with the body of the Earth"

Miriam—Monday, Feb 9

Ruth—Wednesday, Feb 11

Lydia—Thursday, Feb 12

*Anyone is welcome! Pick the date that works best and join us at 9:30 a.m.*

**PRAYING AMONG THE TREES.** Are there particular trees you remember? For instance I remember a small tree in our yard that taught me I could not fly like Peter Pan no matter how often I jumped from it. *Why do you remember your tree? What was your connection to it? If you were to pray for that tree, what would you say? If you were to praise that tree, what would you say?*

**Read Psalm 1** *How does the image of a tree convey the psalmist's message?*

**PRAYING ALONG RIVERS** In the Bible "living water" refers to water that is moving, such as a river, creek, stream, etc. *Why do you think moving water is such a common image in the Bible?*

**Read Revelation 22:1-5** *What do you notice about the "river of the water of life"? Could human activity have an impact on the river's ability to be "river of life"?*

**Read Revelation 22:17** *What do you think of this image of the end time? How can our prayers and our actions join with God to ensure a world where anyone who is thirsty can take a safe drink?*

I'll close with these words from that great nature hymn:

*Joy to the Earth! The Savior reigns  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy*

**Pastor Dave**

## Youth of Hope

### 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.

February 1<sup>st</sup>: *The Beatitudes* with Trevor & Olivia

February 8<sup>th</sup>: *Worship & Justice* with Everly & Danielle

February 15<sup>th</sup>: *Glory to the Mountain* with Michelle

February 22<sup>nd</sup>: *Adam & Eve* with Anja & Sophia

March 1<sup>st</sup>: *Jesus & Nicodemus* with Lily & Logan

### Joyful Noise & Wednesday Kids

All P3-5<sup>th</sup> 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.

*No Joyful Noise or Wednesday Kids on February 4th or March 4th.*

### Holy Communion Instruction

Classes will take place on Feb 25, March 4, 11 & 25 from 7-8pm. We will celebrate and recognize those who have completed the classes at 6:15pm on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Maundy Thursday worship.



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

In memory of Phyllis' son, Rick Sistek, a gift to the *Food Box Fund* from Karen Kellogg; and gifts to the *General Fund* from Steve & Jane Ekholm, Gary & Marcie DeVries; and a gift to the *Hope Quilters* from Sharon Keister

In memory of Mark's mother, Grace Burggraf, gifts to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Judy Berg, Tim & Linda Gilsrud



## LYO Winter Retreat

March 6-8, 2026

Grades: 9-12

Camp Hiawatha @ Deer River

This year's LYO Winter Retreat highlights the power of Jesus' abiding presence in our lives, and his encouragement to turn to him in prayer and in thanksgiving.

## Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 vibes

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*  
Philippians 4:6-7

### High School Synod Winter Retreat

9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to Camp Hiawatha March 6-8 for the NEMN Synod High School Winter Retreat. Grow in faith, build relationships, laugh, play and worship with other youth from across the synod. The retreat will include large group sessions, service opportunities, camp life, small groups, worship and more! \$95/youth

### 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group

Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> from 6-8pm! Come hang out, share about your week and play some games. (No youth group in February).

### 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group

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...



**HOPE LUTHERAN IS RESPONSIBLE** for staffing the Walker Area Food Shelf on Tuesdays, March 3rd & 10th. Volunteers are needed from 10:00-12:30 and 12:30-3:00. If you will take a shift, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office, or online

[walkerareafoodshelf.com](http://walkerareafoodshelf.com).

**WALKER AREA FOOD SHELF** is collecting egg cartons. There is a bin in the narthex if you have any to donate. The Food Shelf also frequently has requests for **blankets** this time of year. If you have blankets in good, usable condition, bring them in!

### Drop off Tuesdays:

Walker Area Food Shelf located at 8243 Industrial Rd NW, Walker  
(Or anytime in the box in Hope's Fellowship Hall)

Canned Soups	Canned Tomatoes
Canned Tuna	Pasta Sauce
Canned Chicken	Peanut Butter
Cereal	Ketchup
Granola Bars	Seasonings/Spices
Apple Juice	Diapers
Canned Vegetables	Facial Tissue
Canned Fruit	Toilet Paper



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 am – Brunch & Jigsaw Puzzle Fundraiser	<b>2</b> 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 5:30 pm Board of Property	<b>3</b> 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study No Joyful Noise or 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	<b>4</b> 8:30 am HS Release Time (off site) 10:00 am Visitation 11:00 am Vicki Bauer Memorial 1:00 pm Bone Builders No Joyful Noise or 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	<b>5</b> 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA Noon: Lunch & Diaper Workday 6:00 pm Church council	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Miriam Circle 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	<b>10</b> 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:30 am Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders 10:00 am Women of Hope Board Meeting Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	<b>11</b> 8:30 am Board of Outreach 9:30 am Ruth Circle 11:00 & 12:30 Worship -May Creek 1:00 pm Bone Builders 1:00 pm 3-5th grade Release Time 3:30 pm Joyful Noise 4:15 pm Wednesday worship 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	<b>12</b> 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Lydia Circle 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 1:30 pm K-2nd grade Release Time	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	<b>16</b> OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	<b>17</b> 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	<b>18 Ash Wednesday</b> Noon: Ash Wednesday worship 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise practice 4:15 pm Wednesday Kids 4:30 pm Celebration Handbells 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Ash Wednesday worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Classes 7:00 pm Sr High Youth Group	<b>19</b> 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 1:00 pm 3-5th grade Release Time 5:00 pm Girl Scouts	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22 Bold Women</b> 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 10:10 "Trees" Bible Study	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Northwoods Quilters 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	<b>24</b> 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	<b>25</b> 8:30 am 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Release Time 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise 4:15 pm Wednesday Kids 4:30 pm Celebration Handbells 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday Lenten worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Classes 7:00 pm Holy Communion Class 7:00 pm Sr High Youth Group	<b>26</b> 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 1:30 pm K-2nd grade Release Time	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

2026

## Celebrate the bold women in your life!

God is within her, she  
will not fail.

Psalm 46:5

**Bold Women's Day—**  
February 22—celebrates all  
Lutheran women who have  
acted or are acting boldly on  
their faith in Jesus Christ.  
Some women are bold in  
their unceasing prayers.  
Other women are bold in  
their service to those in  
need. Still other women are  
bold in their advocacy or  
through their hospitality.  
Whether we live out our

bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or  
community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the  
lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about  
being a disciple of Christ.

**Are you bold?**



**HOPE**  
*is alive!*

## **HOPE'S MISSION**

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