

HOPE HERALD



March 2026-June 2026

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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PASTOR'S CORNER:



The immigrants to the United States who in 1847 founded what would be The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod bore deep concerns for the education of their children. In fact, its original constitution mandated congregations to form schools. Our synodical founders foresaw the superlative influence for Christian discipleship from the integration of our children's education with the bible in a setting which powerfully affirmed the love of Jesus to them. They were right! Statistical research demonstrates that compared to Lutherans who did not, those who attended Lutheran school, among many positive outcomes, articulate the way of salvation in

Christ by grace alone through faith alone with greater clarity, they engage in a fuller devotional life, know the Bible better, report more personal experiences with their Lord, are swayed less by their peers, reflect attitudes toward others that are more forgiving, and avoid overly simplistic views of issues.

Did you attend a Lutheran school? Not everyone gets that opportunity, but for those that do, the advantageous benefits abound. In 1857, the teachers' college for the Synod was housed in Addison, IL which was



where I grew up and attended

Lutheran school. Of course I do not go back to 1857, but history was all around me and I did not realize it until later in life. I reflect with deep appreciation for my years in Lutheran School and continue to ascertain ways which that experience shaped the man I am today. I had good teachers in public school too; but looking back, what I remember most about my Lutheran School teachers is the sincerity of true faith which they modeled for me. How many Lutheran schools have you ever seen connected to ELCA churches? There are a very small number, but they are a drop in the bucket compared to the LCMS because the ELCA predecessor bodies did not emphasize schools the way it was done in the LCMS. In the LCMS today, there are over 1,600 early childhood centers and preschools, 800 elementary schools, and 130 Lutheran high schools operate in the United States. Together, they make up the second-largest parochial school system in the entire United States, second only to Catholic schools. This staggering fact should knock our socks off, given the relatively small size of our church (1.7 million members in a

country of 344 million). Many LCMS congregations are also exploring creative techniques to address our commitments to education such as micro-schools, hybrid models, and homeschool partnerships.

The challenges to our education efforts are immense. First, as you might quickly guess, the cost of education has skyrocketed. Second, we face an immense challenge from the shortage of commissioned teachers. Teachers who are “Ministers of Religion – Commissioned” are on the roster of the LCMS and are considered “called” to their positions rather than contracted.

Their training means that they share a common commitment with the Synod to the same biblical and confessional beliefs and to lives which reflect them. We could easily use another 500 this year.

We should pray for the education effort of our Synod; and to put feet to our prayers, let us apply ourselves toward our two greatest problems.

To address the shortage of commissioned teachers, be on the lookout for young people who possess the aptitude to teach and encourage them to consider entering the honored profession of teacher someday. At least one of our Concordia Colleges is already TUITION-FREE for those studying to teach and I expect that to expand to the others. Existing teachers need to know that there are colloquy programs which would equip them to become Lutheran School teachers. We should cover all expenses to colloquize for those teachers who feel God is moving them to become a Lutheran teacher.

To address the high costs of education, an amazing door of opportunity will open soon. The Big Beautiful Bill passed this last Summer has a provision which will begin in 2027. Federal taxpayers can get a tax credit for donations of up to \$1700 to organizations which give scholarships to elementary and secondary school students (read “Our Lutheran Schools”). It is

not refundable, so the taxpayer gets no money back but it offsets tax liability. (Individual states will have to opt into this system, but why wouldn't they? There are other details that must be finalized. <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R48724>)

Do you realize what this means? Each and every one of us who pays federal taxes will have the power to direct up to \$1700 of those tax dollars to the schools of our choice! Huge amounts of money can go to our Lutheran schools without costing any one of us a single additional cent! So, stand by as 2027 approaches to learn more about this, and let us give thanks to God that despite our rebellious and anti-religious cultural mindset in this crooked age, His grace has made this blessing available to our church.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Please join us as we remember
Christ's Triumphant Entry,
New Covenant,
Passion and death,
Entombment,
And Resurrection



Palm Sunday *Saturday, March 28th at 9:30am and
Sunday, March 29th at 9:00am*

Maundy Thursday *Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00pm*

Good Friday *Friday, April 3rd at 7:00pm*

Holy Saturday *Saturday, April 4th at 9:30am*

Easter Sunrise *Sunday, April 5th at 7:00am*

Easter Celebration *Sunday, April 5th at 9:30a*



WOMEN OF HOPE

Women of Hope are the heart Of Lutheran Women Missionary League (LWML), as “we are Sisters in Christ, whose service to others shares His mercy and our mite donations are given to those in need.” (www.lwml.org) website LWML

We are the HEART of the LWML because we are HIS:

Held by His Word;

Inspired to share His Gospel; and

Surrounded by His grace.

MONTHLY MITES will be collected usually the first or second weekend of the month. We thank you for your mites, you can put them into the large Mite box there. March 7th/8th; April 11th /12th; and May 2nd/3rd. Extra Mite boxes are available for you to take home to use to collect your loose change. These monthly mites go towards the mission of reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ, both locally and nationally.

Participating in the Trees on Parade in December truly was a wonderful event of sharing Jesus through our banner on the tree “Bringing Christ to the Nations & to the Church”. Wonderful conversations were shared with those that stopped by regarding their faith walk, showing support for them, yes even praying with them. Theme “Christmas Around the World.” Thank you to Trina helping us with our theme; Sunday school children helped

to make ornaments for the tree. Many thanks for all your support, bakers, sellers, those who came to pack up the cookies, breads etc. set-up, take down. Everything went smoothly and we appreciate YOU! Safe Families for Children were the recipients of \$985.44, what we made from the bake sale. Safe Families has programs in Racine and Kenosha but will be expanding west of the I. Brochures are available to take on the table in the narthex. They sent us a thank you card saying they are excited to move west of the I and start a new program out here.

Advent by Candlelight was a beautiful, spiritual gathering attended by 20 women in December. Tabra Gomski led this event, "Let There Be Light". Other women read Scripture readings and Advent themed encouragement, interspersed with beautiful songs and Christmas carols. The ladies all enjoyed a lovely supper, prepared by their host at their table. A fun time of fellowship together!

Helping at Hope!

Looking ahead to the **COMMUNITY EGG HUNT** is looking for help. There are many areas to help with hiding the eggs, helping outside as needed with the children, inside activities, Resurrection Egg stations, need to explain the meaning of what's inside the egg, probably about 8 people (1-2 at each station) and more... Please contact Tabra Gomski 847-481-9379 for more details where you can help, thank you, we really appreciate your help.

WOH next quarterly meeting is Tuesday, May 5 at 4:30 pm. Enter lower level of the church. We will love having you come, always open to new ideas and suggestions.

WOH will host their annual “Salads luncheon” at Hope, church lower level, on Saturday, May 16 at 10:45 am. More information as time gets closer. **All** Women of Hope are welcomed, you can bring your daughters, and friends! We look forward to having you join us!

Any questions regarding Women of Hope, please contact Beth Schneider 262-351- 6578.

OUTREACH
Making Christ Known to Others

ATTENTION ALL KIDS!



Hope Lutheran will be hosting an Easter Egg hunt event for the Twin Lakes and surrounding area on Saturday, March 28 from 11am-1pm. The event will include an egg hunt, prizes, games, a craft, and **FREE LUNCH!** There will be a "Journey to Easter" walk down our hallway, telling the account of Easter in the Bible as we go. Last but not least, we will have **LIVE BUNNIES** with an opportunity to hold them and take pictures. Mark your calendars and invite your friends! This is an amazing opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with our community.

VOLUNTEERS AND CANDY NEEDED FOR OUR EGG HUNT.

We are collecting candy to fill our eggs for the egg hunt. Please bring any donations and place in the box in the Narthex of the church. You can direct any questions to MaryBeth Fragassi. We also need several volunteers to help make our event a success. Please contact Tabra Gomski or Dawn Oswald if you would like to help in any way. THANK YOU!

FAIL FASTER (AKA Outreach)

Engineers job is to make things better. (I'll leave the debate about that for another Hope Herald). They try for things and reach for things that have never been done before. Engineers, especially new engineers, sometimes don't try new things or reach as far as they can for fear of failure.

The direction I always gave to the engineers that worked for me: I want the time between your failures to decrease and I want the number of your failures to increase. Fail faster. Why? I wanted them to stretch, push, reach beyond where they would be comfortable, and I wanted for them to do it faster. Yes, there were failures. Each failure resulted in learning. In the end I would get more and better results.

My direction to you is the same for spiritual conversations. Fail faster. Have more spiritual conversations and decrease the time between them. Yes, you will fail at some of them. Not always comfortable to have a spiritual conversation. For me always a

reach and a stretch. I fail a lot but if I didn't say anything there would be no conversations, no spreading the word of Christ. Pastor is planning on holding a Bible study on Beginning a Spiritual Conversation. Plan on attending to gain skills and give you tools to fail faster.

There will be a Spiritual Conversation Workshop, March 15 after Voters Assembly Meeting. Light lunch will be provided.

In a separate article Tabra wrote about the Easter Egg hunt we will be having on March 28. A great community outreach and a great place to try out your spiritual conversation skills. Many volunteers will be needed to make this a success. Please see Tabra to volunteer.

In the November Hope Herald I wrote about how Outreach would be joining Women of Hope at Trees On Parade.

Spectacular results. There were about 75 spiritual conversations and the Gospel message was shared in at least 30 of them.

Prayed with 2 or 3 of the people. Handed out pamphlets to adults and children as well as snowflake ornament kits for the kids.

Hoping these planted some seeds. I am sure there were some conversation failures but without trying it would not have been such an outstanding outreach. Thank you for everyone who made this a success.



CHOIR NOTES



We are over halfway through our choir year, so not sure where 2026 is going! God continues to bless our church with a wonderful group of people who enjoy singing and fellowship and our talented accompanist, George.

In addition to our regular schedule, we will sing on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and BOTH Easter Sunday services. We will also be doing some new selections, with additional harmony.

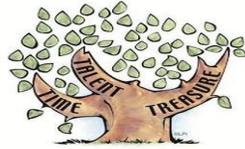
Practice during Holy Week will be at 6:30pm on the days of the services, and at 6:30am (sorry, I know it's early!) on Easter. There will be **no rehearsal** the Sunday after Easter, as we all deserve a break - and the Alleluia Brass will be here to enhance our service!

If you are new to Hope, or a frequent visitor, and like to sing, please consider joining us. You do not need to be a member of Hope to participate in the choir. Parents, your kids are also welcome! So, if you are interested, please let me know. If you have a favorite hymn or song you would like us to do, please let me know that too.

God's blessings to all for the Lenten and Easter seasons! Have a blessed and happy Spring!

Gail Feick
Director

STEWARDSHIP NEWS



MARCH/APRIL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Thank you for your continued financial support to our Lord through your gifts to our congregation. God continues to bless our ministries through your faithful use of a portion of the finances He has provided to you.

Thank you to our members that provide time and talent for the benefit of our congregation to the Glory of God. If you would like to be of assistance in any area, please see me.

It's time to think about Brat Frys! The dates for this year are: Saturday, May 16, June 20 and August 15. I would encourage you to speak with me or Chairman Mike Zarletti to assist in any or all of these dates. We welcome you to join us. The location is in Berkot's parking lot.

God's Blessings,

George Kelm
Stewardship Chair

We received a call from Lidijal Virsilas, her husband passed away recently and she has items of her husbands she would like to sell or donate. Some of them include cloths, tools, furniture, TV, Fishing supplies, radios and other items. Everything is in working order. She is disabled and cannot get rid of herself. If you are interested you can reach her at 224-622-5835. Her address is 7839 288th Ave, Salem, WI 53168.