

**Good Hope's
Good News
April 2026**



**Good Hope
Lutheran Church**

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Our Mission Statement

*We are the people of God
shaped by Jesus Christ
and transformed by the Holy
Spirit into a community for
others.*

Pastor's Pen

Easter A Season, Not a Sunday

Easter is not only a single glorious Sunday; it is a season—a fifty-day span from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday—meant to shape the way we live, worship, think, and pray. These weeks are the church's long breath of resurrection.

A single Sunday can awaken us. But a season of Easter days can form us in life changing ways. In the days after the empty tomb, the first followers of Jesus were not instantly changed; they lived, learned, doubted, comforted one another, and gradually grew into a community energized by the risen Christ. That same Easter rhythm is given to us. This Easter season invites repeated remembrance, regular practice, and sustained attention so that resurrection hope moves from an occasional feeling to a daily habit of hope and planning.

The risen Christ reminds us that the church is far bigger, more diverse, and more vital than we can ever hold in our own head and heart. The resurrection opens a wider faith horizon. Our resurrection experience insists that new life is possible in places I might have written off, that neighbors I do not know are part of the same family, and that suffering in one place matters to us all.

When disaster strikes across the globe—an earthquake, a flood, a refugee crisis—our instinct should not be neutral distance but communal pain. The resurrection teaches us to feel that pain and to act in hope. We are connected to one another in ways both obvious and invisible, our grief and our joy flow across borders. That connection reshapes how we pray, give, and serve.

Here are a few simple practices to carry Easter forward into our ordinary weeks:

- Remember daily: begin or end a day with a short prayer of thanksgiving for the resurrection.
- Reach outward: look for a practical way to help someone beyond your usual inner circle—small acts of generosity affirm our shared life.
- Gather often: Sunday worship, small study groups, and shared meals are ways we rehearse resurrection community together.
- Listen closely: learn stories of hope and suffering from others.

Easter gives us a hope that refuses to be restrained by our fears and limitations. The season of Easter calls us to imagine things far larger than our individual lives: a church that heals, a world that cares, a future that bears the imprint of God's merciful power. This is not wishful thinking; it is the practice of a people who have seen the promise of new life and who choose to live into it.

May this season of Easter deepen your faith, enlarge your compassion, and strengthen your resolve to be part of Christ's living, breathing body in the world.

Have a good season of Easter! Let's live this miracle together in faith. Christ is Risen!

Pastor Lew

Financial Corner – for February 2026

Worship Offering (non-designated offerings) vs. Budget:

Our monthly budget requirement is \$14,715 (Annual Budget of \$176,580 / 12 Months).

February's worship offering (non-designated offering):

February offering:	\$10,230
30% rental income	\$ 1,050
Monthly budget:	\$14,715
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than budget:	\$(3,435)



2026 Year to Date:

YTD Offering:	\$18,794
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 2,100
YTD Budget	\$29,430
YTD Offering higher/(lower) than Budget	\$(8,536)

Worship Offering (non-designated offerings) including 30% rental income vs. Expenses

February offering:	\$10,230
30% rental income	\$ 1,050
Feb. expenses	\$(13,402)
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than expenses	\$(3,172)

YTD Offering	\$18,794
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 2,100
YTD Expenses	\$(31,050)
YTD offering higher / (lower) than expenses	\$(10,156)

Please note: The above schedule represents budget items and does not include funds collected for dedicated funds (e.g., Food Pantry, Tim Hall Fund, Good Sam, Memorial Funds, or other special offerings) and does not include special and unbudgeted expenses (e.g., furnace or A/C replacement.) It includes 30% of the rental income.

Altar Guild News

Thank you to everyone that ordered Easter plants. We have a great variety that will look beautiful on Easter Sunday. Those that added extra money to their order, that money will go towards the delivery charge, thank you for that.

Once again if you want to bring in your own flowers for the altar this spring and summer, we will set up a display of the vases that we have in the glass case in the narthex (of course you may use your own). If you use ours, please return them so others may use them also.

Don't forget to sign up on the flower chart on the wall in the narthex. If you are putting them on for a special occasion, fill out the order form so Karen can put it in the bulletin, and just write on it that you are bringing your own.





April BIRTHDAYS

- 4/4 Jim Doddie
- 4/6 Douglas Plond
- 4/12 Terri Bies
- 4/17 Jacob King
- 4/19 Parker Risen
- 4/24 Tapanga Clarey
- 4/27 Austin Risen
- 4/29 Sarah Parker
- 4/29 Arwynn King

APRIL BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/01 Diane Rinehart
- 4/07 Savannah Risen
- 4/10 Geri Daniels
- 4/10 Lois Pike
- 4/14 Chris Anderson
- 4/15 LaVelle Jenkins
- 4/18 Paul Clarey
- 4/18 Peggy Dubay
- 4/18 Parker Risen
- 4/19 Carol Bachorik
- 4/22 River King
- 4/22 Matthew Scott
- 4/25 Larry Suoppi



If you know the date of your Baptism and would like to be included in the Baptismal birthdays, please let the office know.



April ANNIVERSARIES

4/20 Debra & Matt Alholinna
35 years

Dates & Times for Holy Week Services

- March 29 - Palm Sunday Worship 10:00 am
- April 2 – Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm
- April 3 – Good Friday Worship 7:00 pm
- April 5 – Easter Worship 10:00 am



News from the Pews - April

(Council Prez. Diane Rinehart [aka Di])

Romans 10:9 "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Happy Easter, my sisters and brothers in Christ. It is Easter season, its springtime, John and I are heading out to sunny California April 8thlife is good!

I would like to give a big shoutout to our Board of Fellowship/Outreach. They have done an amazing job in planning so many wonderful events for our church. These events are not only for our church members, but they are also open to our community. So, please continue to support our fellowship events and come and meet the neighbors!

We had our annual congregation meeting on March 15th. It is so important that we work together for the good of Good Hope and your attendance at our meeting was much appreciated. On the ballot this year was the 2026 budget of \$176,580, roughly a \$5000 increase from 2025. Also on the ballot was the nomination of three new council members, Rita Harmon, Creed Jones, and Beth Taylor. Both the budget and all our nominees were voted in unanimously. A big thank you to Russ Juliette, our treasurer, for preparing the budget for presentation and thank you to our council for helping put the budget together. It is not an easy task putting a budget together, but our faithful stewards did an awesome job! Thank you.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns and you would like to bring them to the council's attention, there is the "ask the council" box in the narthex where you can leave a note and we will discuss at our next meeting. Please, do not be afraid to talk to us. We would rather hear your concerns firsthand than through "the grape vine." If it goes through 2 or 3 people before we get the question, it may not be what you really asked. I strongly encourage you to come directly to your council.

Just a couple of reminders:

- ◆ April 11th: spring social with a salad bar
- ◆ April 17th: spaghetti dinner hosted by WELCA,,don't forget to buy raffle tickets for the lovely baskets.
- ◆ Bible study with Lou Trong on Friday nights at 7pm. Presently studying the book of Acts.

Rejoicing in the Risen Lord!

Blessings,

Di

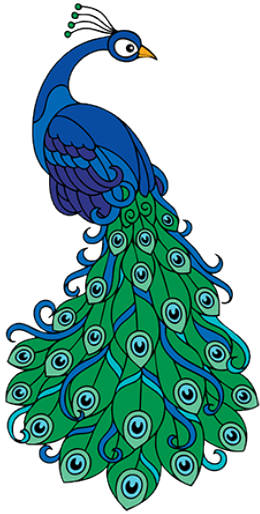
Easter around the world

Easter traditions are important, but they vary widely. While Americans dye hardboiled eggs, Kenyans carve soapstone eggs and present them as gifts in banana-fiber boxes. In Bermuda, locals fly homemade kites on Good Friday — a tradition that began when a teacher illustrated Christ's ascension to heaven using a cross-shaped kite.

Ethiopian Christians observe a 56-day fast from meat and all animal products. On Easter, they dress in white to worship in churches decorated with handmade fabric. Then they feast with non-Christians on roast chicken, goat and rice.

In France, church bells are silent between Holy Thursday and Easter to observe Jesus' Passion. According to legend, the bells grow wings and fly to Rome to be blessed, returning on Easter with chocolate and presents. In one town's main square, chefs make a giant omelet with 4,500 eggs to feed 1,000 people!

Christian Symbols



PEACOCK — The beautiful peacock is likely one of the lesser-known Christian symbols. Based on an ancient myth that its flesh doesn't decay after death, early Christians appropriated the bird as a symbol of immortality. The molting of its tail feathers each year to be replaced with supposedly more beautiful ones led to use of the peacock as a sign of resurrection and glorification.

Additionally, the eye-like pattern in the peacock's tail feathers made it a symbol of conscience and of God, who sees all. However, the peacock also represents arrogance as it struts to show off its plumage. During the Baroque period, the peacock was often part of artwork at the 10th Station of the Cross, depicting Jesus stripped of his clothing—atonement, according to some teachings, specifically for our sin of vanity.

Early Christians believed peacocks shriek when they catch sight of their feet, which they consider ugly. Christians took this as a reminder that we, too, should lament our spiritual imperfections that detract from the beauty of life lived in Christ.



Easter Blessings

Bible Quiz



According to Matthew's account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?

- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days.
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days.

Look for answer elsewhere

Please Remember to keep....

*Pam Brady, Kevin Clarey, Geri Daniels, Dennis Dubay, Lisa Donfried, Beverly Doom, Steve Fritz, Michael Hicks, Donna Kanowski, Ken Konsdorf, Vaughn Mattson, Bill Monson, Shirlee Pakkala, Alec Parkins, Eleanore Stirling, Dorothy Sweda, Glenda Taylor, Jessica Thomas, Bob Wagner, Gail White, Beverly Wolff, Alex, Anne, Carnetta, Roy, Jodi, Sue, Norm, Randy, Christian & Good Hope....***In your prayers**

If you are in need of prayers call the church office at **734-427-3660**.



Ramblings from....Deb

Is it just me, or did March zoom by in a second or two? Wowser!!! The weather has been such a roller coaster of highs and lows, I am amazed we are not all sick with colds. I had a bout with one last weekend, it kept me in the house the whole weekend. This is my third month retired and I had so many plans: cleaning out the garage, closets, dressers, and my craft room...well. I have not been as productive as I wanted or expected. On the plus side I did clean out my closet and dresser. 5 bags of clothes, shoes and purses. I have made a few changes to my craft room...meaning I just bought more organizing items I haven't used (or even put together). About my crafting. I have signed up for several craft events. I like to call them Adult Play Dates...lol. I went to the Ceramic Studio in Howell. I worked with actual wet clay and made a bunny. It will be fired and then I get to paint it. It was fun, but for those that don't know me. I really don't like getting my hands dirty. Been that way since I was little. I would go out to help my Dad work on a car and he would have a milk crate, a bumper cover and gloves ready for me!!! I got to be a pretty good gopher. I could look at his tools and pick out the spark plug socket without having to look at all of them...lol. Being retired is making me nostalgic.

This month, I want to share with you the affirmation that is on my bathroom mirror and also under the blotter on my desk at work.

"Lord help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that You and I together can't handle."

Yep...I need to see that every day. Maybe you too???

Take care and see YOU in church!!!
Debbie Kupel, GHLC Member

Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle

Friday, April 17, 2026 from 5 to 7 pm

\$12 for Adults

\$5 for kids 4-11

Kids under 3 eat free



Tickets are on sale in the narthex after worship or can be bought at the door



Salad Bar

Spring Social



Bring your favorite salad toppings to add to our DIY salad bar and mingle while you enjoy a super yummy salad!

APRIL 11TH 12:30



Sign up in the narthex with what you are going to bring!

We will supply romaine and iceberg lettuce, homemade buttermilk ranch, and other dressings



KID'S PAGE



The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

What you need:

- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe



What you do:

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5-6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:




"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"


























FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

		
1. Jesus 2. weary 3. endured 4. opposition 5. cross 6. endured 7. scorning 8. shame	1. Jesus 2. lose 3. pioneer 4. sinners 5. perfecter 6. him 7. faith 8. hand	1. eyes 2. us 3. joy 4. heart 5. right 6. grow 7. God 8. throne

"... fixing our  1 on  1, the  3 and  5 of  7. For the  3 set before  6 he  3 the  5,  7 its  8, and sat down at the  5  8 of the  8 of  7. Consider  6 who  6 such  4 from  4, so that you will not  6  2 and  2  4."

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

Answer: "... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV