

**Good Hope's
Good News
August 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.*

A Message from Ben

Happy August, People of Good Hope!

What a way to kick off our time together! July started with a power outage so that my first Sunday to lead worship was cancelled. On July 12th, we finally had our first Sunday together. On July 14th, we remembered Eleanore Stirling, how she was there for all of us and how her spirit remains in Good Hope.

A year ago, I didn't have any idea that I'd start spending time with you in Garden City. Karen doesn't want me to write too much here, so we'll save some details for another time. I "graduated" from the synod's Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM) program in 2024 and have supply preached in several churches in our conference. I work a few days a week at Greenfield Village as a Historical Presenter specializing in Innovators and African American Histories. I'm a podcast producer and host a couple shows. And I have 2 teenage boys (18 & 16) and a labradoodle. My wife is an engineer at Ford.

I started my journey toward ordination as a pastor earlier this year. I am taking classes at United Lutheran Seminary and have been "entranced" into the synod's Candidacy process.

The synod asked me to help at Good Hope in a capacity we call a Synodically Authorized Minister. A SAM is an LLM who acts as the pastoral presence in a congregation. In that role, the Bishop has granted me the authority to preside over the Eucharist and do things pastors do. There are few things I can't do and things I should ask about before doing. Generally, you can treat me like an interim pastor except for calling me "Pastor". We're workshopping what works best if you feel the need to give me a title. "Ben" always works. If you accidentally call me something I'm not supposed to be called, it's fine.

I look forward to meeting everyone, in time. I'm very happy to be with you all. The community, the ministries, and the building are wonderful. We're going to do some great things together.

Ben Fogt (Rhymes with
Boat), SAM



Financial Corner – for June 2026

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

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

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

June offering: \$ 7,676

30% rental income \$ 1,050

Monthly budget: \$14,715

Monthly offering higher / (lower) than budget: \$(7,039)



2026 Year to Date:

YTD Offering: \$58,797

YTD 30% rental income \$ 6,300

YTD Budget \$88,290

YTD Offering higher/(lower) than Budget \$(23,193)

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

June offering: \$ 7,676

30% rental income \$ 1,050

June expenses \$(8,853)

Monthly offering higher / (lower) than expenses \$(127)

YTD Offering \$58,797

YTD 30% rental income \$ 6,300

YTD Expenses \$(83,265)

YTD offering higher / (lower) than expenses \$(18,168)

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.

In Every Season, Turn to God



Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*

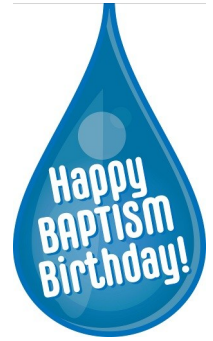


8/6 Dorothy Sweda
 8/7 Jacob Risen
 8/8 John Bies
 8/12 Lily Kirsch
 8/14 Heather Hall
 8/14 Allison Zapp
 8/14 Evelyn-Marie Zapp
 8/16 LaVelle Jenkins
 8/21 Crystal Yesko
 8/23 Jeremiah Herrington
 8/24 Nick Brown



AUGUST BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

8/1 Suanne Anderson
 8/14 Marissa Buser
 8/15 Patricia Truszkowski
 8/16 Kailee Bledsoe
 8/16 Mikaela Bledsoe
 8/16 Ashley Plond
 8/18 Carrie Armstrong
 8/27 Sarah Parker
 8/29 Debbie Alholinna



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

December Events

It may seem early, but is it ever too soon to plan a party...or two???

Silver Strings will once again serenade Good Hope with a Christmas Concert. It is planned for Friday **December 11th at 7:00pm** in the Sanctuary. Light refreshments will be served in Volkmar Hall after the concert.



The White Elephant Holiday Party is planned for Saturday, **December 5th at 5:00pm**. The party will be in Volkmar Hall



More information will follow closer to December.



8/10	Raynold & Norma Schmick	58 years
8/12	Jim & Diane Doddie	54 years
8/13	Bruce & Alise Clarey	50 years
8/18	Bob & Lisa King	42 years
8/18	James & Sherry Staples	64 years
8/20	Paul & Annette Clarey	21 years

News from the Pews—August 2026

(Council Prez. Diane Rinehart [aka Di])

“Cast all your anxiety on him because He cares for you” – 1 Peter 5:7

Greetings, my friends!

I used this Bible verse, along with a short discussion, for our devotions at our last council meeting. I shared with the group that I had some personal things going on in my life that were making me quite anxious. And to add to this, having a new leader in our church, and watching over my peeps at Good Hope, were also adding to my anxiousness (which most of you know I'm usually calm as a cucumber!). I was reminded by a very dear member that I need to trust and believe in God to help me through this. And she was right. I just needed to leave it all in God's hands and he will take care of things and me. And as always, He did!!!

Ben Fogt, our new preacher at the pulpit, in my opinion, is doing an outstanding job! He's already done a funeral, did a hospital visit, attended a few meetings, listened to some member's concerns, and posted to our Facebook page. All within his first 2 weeks with us. Thank you, Ben, for joining us and being able and willing to jump right in. We are blessed to have you.

As summer months are upon us, our attendance is a little low on Sundays. I hope those of you who are traveling are able to watch our services either on our FB page or on our website. As for your monthly contributions, those too can be made through our website or just drop your envelope in the mail. With St. Paul's leaving our building, we will not have that extra rental money coming in, so your continued tithing to Good Hope is much appreciated. Remember too, it's not just your financial contributions, but also your time and talents that can help us out. An hour a week maybe weeding, or if Karen has a big mailing to go out, she might be able to use an extra hand with that. Or there's always the properties board that can use extra help. Just ask any of the members (Aaron Sherman, Lou Trongo, Dan King, Bob King, Bruce Clarey or John Rinehart) what they may need help with. I'm sure there is a list or 2 that they can share with you. Jerome is always looking for special music during the summer. Singing solos, duets, or playing an instrument. Please consider volunteering an hour or 2 of your time maybe once a month to help out our church. It would be much appreciated.

Couple reminders:

- ▶ Bubbles Gotcha Party, August 22nd. Watch your announcement sheets for more information.
- ▶ Church yearly picnic with outdoor service, September. (date will be posted in up coming calendar)
- ▶ Confirmation Sunday, October 25th

Peace & Blessings,
di

Please Remember to keep....

*Jerry Boggs, Kevin Clarey, Geri Daniels, Lisa Donfried, Beverly Doom, Steve Fritz, Groh Family, Michael Hicks, Donna Kanowski, Ken Konsdorf, Ann Mattson, Vaughn Mattson, Bill Monson, Shirlee Pakkala, Smith Family, Dorothy Sweda, Glenda Taylor, Jessica Thomas, Bob Wagner, Gail White, Beverly Wolff, Carnetta, Roy, Jodi, Sue, Norm, Leona, Alannah, Brandon, Adam, & Good Hope....***In your prayers.**

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



Christian Symbols



SUNFLOWER — The sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.

Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God's presence, while its steady growth points to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to reflect His light in all we do.

Bible Quiz



Jesus said that his followers are the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It wouldn't do much good to hide a light under a bushel, he said. It should be put on a lamp-stand to give light in the house. Then Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see ..."

Choose the ending of Jesus' sentence:

- A. their way and not stumble.
- B. how good and faithful you are as my servants.
- C. your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- D. in their darkness.

Look for answer elsewhere

Bubble's 3rd Gotcha Day Party

You are invited to Bubble's 3rd Gotcha Day Party at Good Hope Lutheran Church in Volkmar Hall on August 22, 2026 from 5-7pm.

Bubbles is a precious American Bully rescue dog. Every year to celebrate Bubbles' adoption we throw a party to benefit an animal charity. What to expect- crafts, raffle baskets, hot dogs, popcorn, cupcakes and so much more. All humans are welcome to attend. Dogs that are vaccinated and get along well with other dogs are welcome to attend as well. If your 4 legged friend doesn't do well in groups you can absolutely bring their goodies home and come and support a great cause. You don't even need to be a pet owner to come and have a great time with us and do great things for animals. Any questions can be directed to Jenny Smith 734-334-6737.

Ramblings from...Deb

As I am slaving over a hot computer...a cloudy hot computer that is. Heat and wildfires. Is it just me or do you think there have been a lot more huge wildfires in the last few years? As I write this, it is much earlier in the month, but I am leaving for a week's vacation in Muskegon. A friend invited me to join her for a Spiritual Retreat. This is my first spiritual retreat... well, if you don't count my weekend crafting excursions—those are retreats for me too—but I'm sure it is not the same thing!! I am thinking you will hear at least a few things about it next month. it is a pleasure seeing Preacher Ben becoming an active leader here at Good Hope. A gentle reminder: please wear your name tags. I am sure it helps Ben to get to know us. Did you catch I said gentle reminder... it's a new saying for me. Our largest client at work has started using that phrase with us. It is nicer than...'yo dude did you forget'...lol!!!

I have been listening to more music these last several weeks. I want to share some of the lyrics from the new Jelly Roll song. I do love my country music and Jelly Roll has made a wonderful transition from his rapper days. His songs now are so personal. He sings about his journey to and with God quite a bit. You do have to read them to get the full effect. His latest is "Hands Up" It is the fourth verse that said the most to me.

Fourth Verse...

Our last stop's that little cross I came across some years ago
Comin' down and hidin' out back there in that ol' sinner's row
The devil on my shoulder finally found him somewhere else to go
I never did believe in ghosts 'til the holy one told me to throw my hands up
Oh Lord, I threw my hands up

Chorus...

Put your hands up
Everybody put your hands up
If you ain't perfect but you try
Put 'em way up to the sky
Touchin' heaven kinda high
Ain't that where we wanna go when we die
Whoa, whoa, whoa
Just put your hands up
Everybody put your hands up

Take care and see you in Church...putting our hands up!!!!

Debbie Kupel
GHLC Member



KID'S PAGE

Make a postcard PUZZLE

Summer is full of little moments that remind us that God is guiding each step. Like a puzzle, he brings every piece together in his time.

What you need:

- A postcard or printed picture
- Scissors
- Pencil (optional, for guiding your cuts)
- Envelope or small bag (for storing pieces)

What you do:

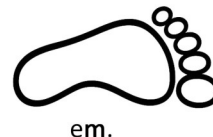
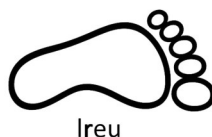
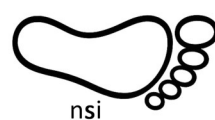
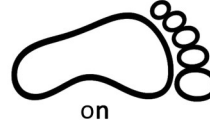
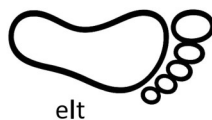
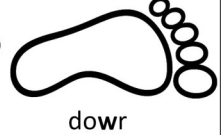
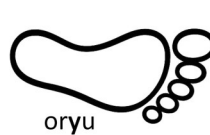
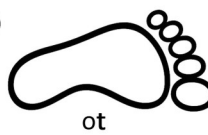
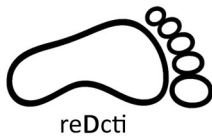
1. Flip your postcard over and lightly draw puzzle shapes or cut freely.
2. Cut the postcard into a mix of big and small pieces.
3. Mix up the pieces and try to put the picture back together.
4. Store the pieces in an envelope so you can use it again later.



Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)



Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."