

Good Hope's

Good News

February 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.*

Lent: a season for learning, repentance, and preparing for Holy Week

Lent is the forty-day season of prayer, fasting, repentance, and almsgiving observed by many Christian churches as a time of preparation for Easter. Its shape is rooted in Scripture and early Christian practice. The forty days recall Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1–11; Luke 4:1–13) and echo Israel's forty years in the wilderness; by the fourth and fifth centuries the church had begun to formalize the season as a time for catechesis and purification—especially for those preparing for baptism at Easter. Over centuries the practice settled into a Western pattern that begins on Ash Wednesday and sets aside the Sundays of the season (traditionally not counted among the forty days), leading up to Holy Week and Easter.

What Lent means today? -- At its core, Lent is a disciplined season intended to deepen our discipleship. It invites us to:

- ♦ turn back to God through repentance and confession;
- ♦ enter more intentionally into prayer and Scripture;
- ♦ practice self-denial (fasting or simpler living) and generosity toward others;
- ♦ prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection with renewed clarity.

Learning during Lent: study the Bible around Jesus' suffering. One of the most fruitful Lenten practices is focused Bible study on the Passion narratives. Rather than treating the events of Holy Week as distant history, Lent gives us time to dwell in the Gospels—reading carefully, praying over the scenes, and letting the details shape our faith.

Suggested emphases for study during Lent:

- ♦ Read the Passion accounts slowly (Matthew 26–28; Mark 14–16; Luke 22–24; John 18–21). Compare each Gospel's perspective and note both shared and unique details.
- ♦ Reflect on Jesus' inner life: his agony in Gethsemane, his steadfast obedience to the Father's will, his words of forgiveness from the cross, and the spiritual desolation expressed in "My God, my God..." (Matt. 27:46; Ps. 22).
- ♦ Explore the theological meaning of suffering: how the cross reveals God's solidarity with human pain and God's redemptive love that brings life from apparent defeat.
- ♦ Pray with the text: use the Psalms, the Lord's Prayer, and short meditations on scenes like the Last Supper, the arrest, the trial, and the crucifixion.

What was it like for Jesus and his disciples during the first Holy Week? For Jesus it was a movement toward surrender—teaching and healing gave way to prayerful facing of suffering. He experienced physical exhaustion, emotional anguish, and the weight of bearing sin and rejection, yet he remained obedient to the Father's redemptive purpose. For the disciples, Holy Week was disorienting: they moved from triumphal entry and hope to fear, confusion, betrayal, denial, and flight. They did not understand fully until the Resurrection revealed the full meaning of Jesus' path. Their brokenness—and later restoration—gives us a pastoral model: doubt and failure do not put us beyond God's reach.

Join our Lenten learning, this Lent we invite you to deepen your knowledge and devotion. I will be teaching a five-week course, "What Makes Holy Week So Holy?," beginning Monday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. in room 9. We will walk through the Gospel narratives and reflect on their spiritual and pastoral significance. We are also blessed that Lou Trongo will begin a weekly Bible study on Friday, February 20 in the evening (start time to be decided by attendees—likely 6:30 or 7:00 p.m.). You will have two options for study and fellowship, attend as many as you would like.

Let this season be a time to open the Scriptures, enter Jesus' suffering with prayerful hearts, and allow the Holy Week story to renew your faith. Lent is not only about giving things up; it is about making space—through study, prayer, and community—for Christ to fill our hearts and lead us more deeply into the life he offers.

See you in church! Pastor Lew

Financial Corner – for December 2025

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

Our monthly budget requirement is \$14,255 (Annual Budget of \$171,060 / 12 Months).

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

December offering:	\$32,815
30% rental income	\$ 900
Monthly budget:	\$14,255
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than budget: \$19,460	

2025 Year to Date:

YTD Offering:	\$165,226
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 10,800
YTD Budget	\$171,060
YTD Offering higher/(lower) than Budget \$4,966	

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

December offering:	\$32,815
30% rental income	\$ 900
Dec. expenses	\$(13,344)
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than expenses \$20,371	

YTD Offering	\$165,226
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 10,800
YTD Expenses	\$(181,109)
YTD offering higher / (lower) than expenses \$(5,083)	

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.

Chase Bank Account (Checking/Savings):

2025 Beginning Balance	\$66,098
Deposits / (Withdrawals)	<u>(9,751)</u>
Ending Balance (12/31/25)	\$56,347





2/2 Brandon Plond
 2/8 Todd Bartel
 2/8 Tom Dubay
 2/11 Hayden Yesko
 2/13 Sharon Parkila
 2/13 Savanah Risen
 2/16 Kenneth Konsdorf
 2/18 Sherry Staples
 2/23 Melanie Bartel
 2/25 Marianne Lyons
 2/27 Lilly Smith
 2/28 Nancy Rocker

FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Karen Boggs
 2/4 Peggy Branka
 2/4 Kimberly Flood
 2/5 Aaron Alholinna
 2/5 Bradley Alholinna
 2/17 Tricia Fielhauer
 2/21 Fred Owens



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

WELCA News

There will be a meeting on February 11th at noon in upstairs hall, everyone is welcome

WELCA will host a Spaghetti Dinner on April 17th 5-7pm in Volkmar Hall

If you would like to donate a basket for the raffle at the spaghetti dinner, please let Lisa King know by March 15th and turn them in to her or the office by April 3rd.

We are not making pasties in the spring but we still have a few left if anyone wants them see Lisa, Beth or Peggy after Sunday service.



2/16 Rev. Lew & Patty Carlson
 25 years

Altar Guild News

We will be taking orders for Easter plants in February as Easter is early this year, and the orders will be due around March 5th. I have contacted the greenhouse but have not gotten the information back yet. Look for the order forms in your upcoming bulletins. The altar guild appreciates everyone's participation to beautify the sanctuary for the Easter service.

News from the Pews - February
(Council Prez. Diane Rinehart [aka Di])

Acts 20:28: Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God,^[a] which he purchased with his own blood.

We need your help. Good Hope Council is looking for additional members. According to our constitution, we are eligible to have up to 12 members. We are currently at 6. At the end of May, 2026, we may be down to 4 as two of our members' terms are up. Our present members are all pretty much doing double duty. Not only are they faithful to attend our council meetings 2nd Tuesday of every month, but they also lead several of our boards. Unfortunately, at the present time, we have no one leading our education department, due to being short on Council members.

We are looking for at least 3-4 more people. I am asking that you prayerfully consider joining the Council. Even if you are not interested in leading one of our boards, we need 'members at large'. As a member at large, you would still have full voting rights.

I want to personally thank you all for giving this some thought. If anyone has any questions on how the Council runs, or what other responsibilities you may have becoming a council member, feel free to stop me after church service or send me an email: dianerinehart55@gmail.com. I'll be happy to answer all your questions.

Just a couple reminders:

- ♦ Healthy Habits meets every Sunday at 11:15 in our multi-purpose room.
- ♦ Choir practices every Wednesday at 7:00pm
- ♦ Bible study every Thursday morning at 10:00am
- ♦ Don't forget to buy you sweetheart some chocolate and/or flowers on February 14th! ♥
- ♦ **Annual meeting, March 15th, immediately following worship service.**

Peace & Blessings, Di

Congregational Annual Meeting

March 15th

Following the 10am worship service

All Boards & Committees should have their annual reports in to the church office by February 22nd

REPORTS REQUIRED:

Pastor, Lay President, Council Secretary, Treasurer, Education, Fellowship/Outreach, Parish Admin., Property, Worship, Music, Altar Guild, Friendly Servers, Quilters, Tim Hall, Ushers, WELCA, Youth Group, Healthy Habits

+ Christian Symbols +



CORNERSTONE — The cornerstone is a symbol for Christ. It has Old Testament roots in Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 28:16). In the New Testament, Christ is called the cornerstone in Ephesians 2:20. The IHC and XP on the stone's sides are abbreviations for "Jesus" and "Christ" in Greek.

Bible Quiz



The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial love** that God shows to humanity?

- A. Eros
- B. Phileo
- C. Agape
- D. Storge

Look for answer elsewhere

Please Remember to keep....

Kelli Bertl , Margaret Betko, Kevin Clarey, Geri Daniels, Dennis Dubay, Lisa Donfried, Beverly Doom, Steve Fritz, Don Harvey, Michael Hicks, Donna Kanowski, Ken Konsdorf, Vaughn Mattson, Shirlee Pakkala, Eleanore Stirling, Dorothy Sweda, Glenda Taylor, Jan Unzicker, Gail White, Beverly Wolff, Alex, Anne, Carnetta, Roy, Jodi, Sue, Norm, Randy, Alannah, Tina, Dee, Carla & Good HopeIn your prayers

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



'Ask The Council'



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At our January council meeting, we had 2 questions from our 'Ask the Council' box. One was not signed, therefore; we are answering thru the newsletter in hopes that this person sees our answer. The other was signed, THANK YOU!, so I was able to reach out to that person and answered them directly. However, I'm including that question and answer as well in case others have wondered about the same thing.



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First Question: "Why can't we have the poinsettia plants out the Sunday before Christmas? For what the members pay for them and as beautiful as they are, plus all the hard work altar guild does with setting them up, they should be enjoyed more than just Christmas Eve. And if people don't like to drive at night for the Christmas Eve service, they can enjoy them on Sunday morning. Thank you"

As this is really a board of worship/altar guild question, I went to the head of these two boards. Here is their answer:

"This was brought up at a worship meeting and Pr Lew said they could be put up after the service and before the Blue Christmas service and I said that it takes too long to set that up and we need more help than just the team that is on that month. A lot of it has to do when the plants are delivered. Next Christmas, if we put them out the Sunday before, they will be out for about 5 days. They might not be delivered until after the Sunday and if out, may not look as good by Christmas Eve. I'm not aware of any hard and fast rule about when they go up. If the timing is right with delivery, I don't see why they can't be up beforehand."

Bottom line to whoever asked the question, the teams will put the flowers out the Sunday before Christmas Eve service. Providing they are delivered on time.

Thank you for your question.

Second Question: "Can the butt bucket at the front doors of the church (on Cherry Hill side) be removed? Walking into church, having to pass someone smoking right at the door, is nasty. Plus, it could be a health concern that can be very triggering for respiratory conditions. Additionally, it just doesn't look nice." Thank you, Jan Juliette.

Council Answer: First, thank you for signing your question. I was able to answer you directly and in a timely manner.

Answer: Yes, the buckets will be removed. The buckets that are at the back door and court yard door will remain. The groups that use our hall on a regular basis do use these doors, in the evening, and appreciate us providing the buckets.

Thank you for your question.

As always, council appreciates the questions. The box is located in the Narthex on the table in front of the glass at the back of the sanctuary. We do ask that you please sign your questions so we can answer you directly and in a more timely manner than the following month's newsletter. However, don't shy away from asking if you choose not to sign. We welcome all questions, comments, concerns. Thank you for trusting in your council to address your concerns.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGE

Over the last several years, our attendance for Christmas Eve worship services has dropped significantly. There are several reasons this could be occurring: bad weather on Christmas Eve, members transferring out, folks don't like to drive in the dark (especially for our 11:00pm service) and family gatherings on the Christmas Eve.

Along with our attendance on this evening declining, our Altar Guild teams and Worship assistants have declined. Putting more work on the faithful few that prepare our beautiful Sanctuary for service. The Altar Guild not only cleans and preps the Sanctuary for the first service, but they are also busy between the 2 services recleaning and resetting up for the next service. Then they stay after the late service to clean up once again and don't leave church until well after midnight. There is a lot of work behind the scenes that a lot of members don't realize how much time and effort goes into preparing for 2 back-back services. It's also getting a little hard finding folks to read, serve and assist for 2 services on Christmas Eve.

With all this being said, your Board of Worship has decided to have one (1) Christmas Eve service. We handed out a survey asking members to choose what time service (they are listed on the survey) would be the best for their families. The surveys were handed out on January 11th and January 18th. There are still surveys in the usher's room for those that may have missed receiving a survey. Please ask an usher when you come in on Sunday mornings. We will be collecting these surveys until February 15TH. This would still be a candlelight service no matter what time is chosen from the surveys.

Thank you all for your understanding in making this difficult decision to change our Christmas Eve worship schedule to one (1) service.

Grace and Peace,

Your Board of Worship Team

Tim Hall Backpacks

These items are what we consider essentials for our backpacks. Our goal is to fill at least 50 backpacks.

Backpacks, Vienna sausages , Trail mix , Slim Jim's mini, Men's & Women's deodorant, pairs thick athletic socks, peanut butter crackers, Tuna pouches, applesauce or fruit pouches, granola bars, rolls of toilet paper, bars of soap, hand & foot warmers, washcloths, nutra-grain bars, individual Kleenex, wet wipes, hand sanitizer, bags of cookies, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bandaids, fruit snacks, pairs of gloves Chapstick, Feminine hygiene products, Shampoo, body wash, Conditioner, Lotion, Ponchos, Sunscreen, 5 McDonald's gift cards Portals of prayer, Daily bread

The next backpack filling date is February 12th at 5:30pm. Bag distribution will be on February 14th.

See the Fellowship Bulletin board to see the packing & distribution dates through June 2026.

Ash Wednesday, February 18th



Ash Wednesday

All are welcome to receive ashes at Good Hope Lutheran Church during the hours of 11am-1pm on Ash Wednesday. If you are coming during your lunch hour and don't have time to stop and eat, we will be offering lite snacks for you to grab after the imposition of ashes.

We will also be having our evening service, with the imposition of ashes, at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

Ramblings from....Deb



As I write this for February...I am looking out over more snow that I wanted to see!!! Is it amazing that so many of us don't remember from year to year how bad the snow had been before. I am certain though...it wasn't this bad last year...lol. I retired at the end of the year, or sorta...still working 2 days a week. It's only the 3rd week and I have not kept to that schedule. I worked one full week and then 4 days the next 2 weeks. I think I am on track to only work 3 days this week. I am just not ready to give it up, I am frightened that I will isolate myself in my house with my cats. I am hopeful that it is only a short phase. I have made travel plans for this month to visit friends in Florida. A friend and I are going to spend a week in Asheville SC to see the Biltmore and a few other things. Another friend has invited me to attend a spiritual retreat in July. When I write that all out it seems I will not be sitting at home for long!!! Sometimes it is good to say your blessing out loud.

I am blessed to have so many friends that want to spend time with me. I am blessed that I have a family that loves me and takes care of me. I am blessed for my Good Hope family as well. I am blessed to have a strong faith. I am blessed to know a God that looks out for me. I took a bad fall a week or so ago, slipped on the ice on my side porch. I didn't have my phone and my neighbors weren't home and couldn't hear me. I could not get my footing to get up. And then, there was a guy walking down the street whose attention I was able to get...he actually heard me calling out, even with his earbuds on. He walked up to help me, and said I know this house. I helped your neighbor shovel your drive last year. He was the boyfriend of my neighbor's niece. He normally doesn't walk that far down the street...I believe that it was God that sent him down a path to help me. Eventually it was better to call the fire department to have them come out and get me on my feet. It took almost 30 minutes to get me back up off the cold ice. I guess that some of you might have heard me say..."if I ever fall it would take 2 cranes and 14 boys to get me up"...well it only took 2 firefighters to do it...and let me say that not only were they strong they weren't hard on the eyes either!!! God is always right there when we need him...it might not always be what we think we need or want, but it will be the right thing for us...Father knows best!!

This is the affirmation that spoke to me last month...**I am guided by faith in times of uncertainty.** Take care and see you in church!!!

Debbie Kupel

Good Hope Quilter's Update

GHLC Quilters are pleased to announce our contribution of 25 quilts to the Lutheran World Relief during the October 2025 intake. Our quilts were blessed and delivered to the local drop off for shipment to the warehouse and combined with 315,818 quilts being sent to 15 countries. Including the United States storm victims.

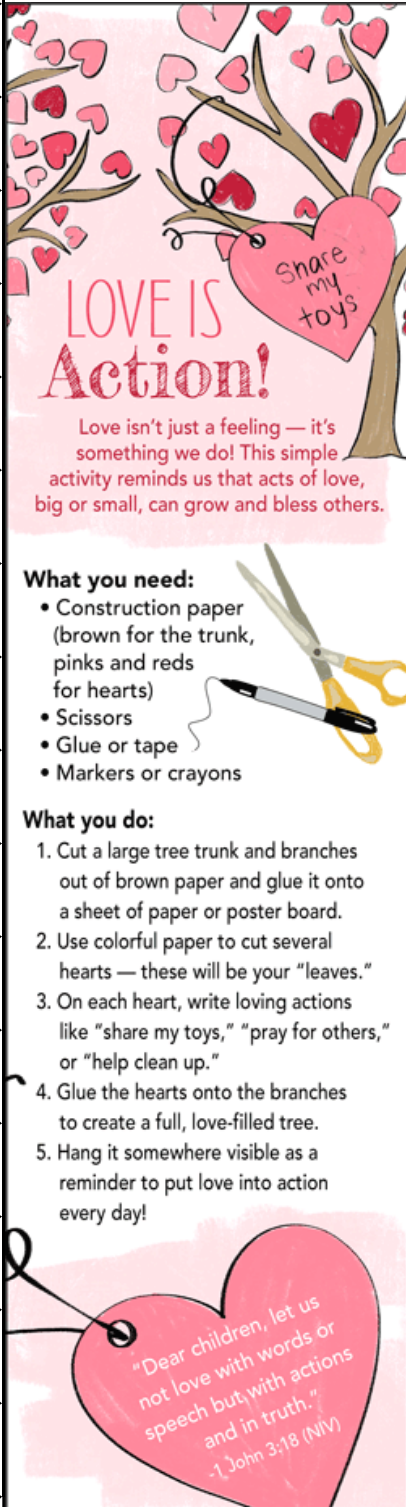
Also, approximately 5 Homeless Mats were made and distributed.

Meetings are being held on the second and fourth Wednesday from 9:30am to noon. All are welcome to stop by and participate in the mission.

Many thanks for your support.



KID'S PAGE



Love isn't just a feeling — it's something we do! This simple activity reminds us that acts of love, big or small, can grow and bless others.

What you need:

- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons

What you do:

1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!



LOVE CODE BREAKER

Change some of the letters below to reveal this verse!

Change:

C's to L Z's to H P's to R
J's to A Q's to T X's to E
K's to O

(The other letters stay the same.)

" L
C K V X Q Z X C K P D Y K U P
G K D W I Q Z J C C Y K U P
Z X J P Q J N D W I Q Z J C C
Y K U P S K U C J N D W I Q Z
J C C Y K U P M T N D J N D
W I Q Z J C C Y K U P
S Q P X N G Q Z "

Mark 12:30

Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."