

## Good Hope's

## Good News

January 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.*

### The Season After Epiphany: A Time of Spiritual Focus and Preparation

As we move beyond the celebration of Epiphany Sunday, it is important to reflect on the spiritual significance of the season that follows. Epiphany, which means "manifestation" or "revelation," marks the moment when Christ was revealed to the world, symbolized by the visit of the Magi. It is a joyous reminder of Jesus' divine nature and His mission to bring light to all nations.

The Sunday following Epiphany, January 11, is known as the "Baptism of Our Lord". On this day, we remember our own baptism and reflect on how this sacred act affects our daily lives. Baptism is not just a one-time event but a continual source of grace and a call to live as followers of Christ every day.

The season after Epiphany, sometimes called Ordinary Time, invites us into a period of spiritual growth and deepening faith. Our focus should shift toward living out the light of Christ in our daily actions—allowing His teachings to guide us in our thoughts, words, and relationships.

This season prepares us for the solemn journey of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, on February 18th. Lent is a time for repentance, self-examination, and renewal. By focusing on the lessons of Epiphany—recognizing Jesus as the light of the world—we prepare our hearts and minds to embrace Lent with clarity and purpose.

During this time, let us reflect on how we can carry the light of Christ more fully into the world. Our spiritual emphasis should be on openness to God's guidance, growing in humility, and preparing ourselves to follow Christ more closely throughout the Lenten season.

May this season after Epiphany be a meaningful time of preparation that leads us into a transformative Lent, deepening our faith and drawing us nearer to God. See you in church!

Pastor Lew

### From a Thankful Heart!

There once was a church full of cheer,  
Whose kindness was truly sincere.  
For Patty and me,  
Your gift filled us with glee—  
A blessing that brightened our year.

Through Advent and Christmas, you showed,  
A love in each caring mode.  
Your generous heart,  
Played such a big part,  
In lightening life's daily load.

Your kindness so bright warmed our days,  
In countless generous ways.  
With Patty and me,  
We both clearly see—  
Your love is a beacon that stays.

Please know I'm using this gift for a fitness trainer and for a new gym membership that's closer to work with the Dearborn Racquet and Health Club.

## Financial Corner – for November 2025

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

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

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

October offering:	\$12,595
30% rental income	\$ 900
Monthly budget:	\$14,255
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than budget:	\$(760)

2025 Year to Date:

YTD Offering:	\$132.411
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 9,900
YTD Budget	\$157,805
YTD Offering higher/(lower) than Budget	\$(15,494)

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

November offering:	\$12,595
30% rental income	\$ 900
Nov. expenses	\$(15,858)
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than expenses	\$(2,363)

YTD Offering	\$132,411
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 9,900
YTD Expenses	\$(167,765)
<b>YTD offering higher / (lower) than expenses</b>	<b>\$(25,454)</b>

**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>(32,079)</u>
Ending Balance (11/30/25)	\$34,019





- 1/1 Gail White
- 1/2 Carol Bachorik
- 1/10 Ethan Mincovsky
- 1/13 Janet McDonald
- 1/18 Aiden King
- 1/25 Nicholas Brown Jr.
- 1/27 Ann Mattson
- 1/27 Don McAdam
- 1/28 Chris Anderson
- 1/30 Honor Owens



1/16 Dan & Hailey King  
10 years

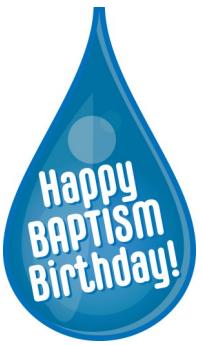
### Directory Changes

#### New Address

**Mark & Teri Bies  
4497 Wynnwood Dr.  
Howell, MI 48843**

### JANUARY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 Shirlee Pakkala
- 1/5 Alexandra Griwicki
- 1/12 Jim Kroll
- 1/15 Karen Ross
- 1/27 Bruce Clarey



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

### The meaning of Epiphany

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means “an appearance” or “a revealing.” Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus’ first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.



## News from the Pews

### January

(Council Prez. Diane Rinehart [aka Di])

*May the New Year fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter.  
And may God bless you today and every day. HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

Here we are Good Hope peeps, ready to start a whole New Year. Renewal contracts for the 2 churches sharing space in our beautiful building have been signed. A new furnace has been installed. We are excited about having several children getting ready to be confirmed this year. Looking forward to getting our Sunday school department back up and running.

So what are you excited about? What new ministries would you like to see started? Are there any small group ideas you'd like to share and maybe get started? Has hearing our beautiful choir sing on Sundays inspired you to perhaps join the choir? Maybe sitting out in the pews, listening to the lessons being read or witnessing our assisting ministers be such a big part of our services, has touched you in a way that the Holy Spirit is calling you forward to join our team.

Whatever is calling you to worship at Good Hope, I hope you are sharing that calling with friends and family. We'd love to see more people on Sundays and maybe you and your friends would like to join a board or Bible study in 2026. We are always looking for more volunteers!

Just a couple reminders:

- ♦ Coffee hour January 4<sup>th</sup> up in fellowship hall
- ♦ Council meetings are going back to normal 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of the month, starting January 13th

Peace & Blessings,

Di Rinehart

### Scripture Keys to a Joyful New Year

**H**old fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

**A**ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

**P**ray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)

**P**ray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)

**Y**ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

**N**eglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)

**E**xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)

**W**ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

**Y**ield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)

**E**xercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)

**A**im at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)

**R**edeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16)



**+ Christian Symbols +**



**SHIP** — The Christian church has long been symbolized by a ship. While the Old Testament tells of Noah's ark preserving righteous people during the flood, the New Testament recounts Jesus calming the storm that battered the disciples' fishing boat. St. Ambrose described the church as a ship with the cross as its mast, and others have compared salvation to being drawn out of the sea of death into the safety of the church (ship). Indeed, many large churches are constructed to represent a big boat, with the main worship space called the nave — Latin for ship.

**Bible Quiz**



Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new \_\_\_\_\_. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

- A. Creation
- B. Beginning
- C. Season
- D. Covenant

***Look for answer elsewhere***

**Come Celebrate**



**With us on January 4th  
Coffee Hour in the  
Fellowship Hall  
after Service**

***Please Remember to keep....***

*Kelli Bertl family, Margaret Betko, Kevin Clarey, Geri Daniels, Dennis Dubay, Lisa Donfried, Beverly Doom, Steve Fritz, Michael Hicks, Tom Hughs, Donna Kanowski, Robert Knox, Ken Konsdorf, Vaughn Mattson, Don McAdam, Dena McClellan, Shirlee Pakkala, Carson Smith family, Eleanore Stirling, Dorothy Sweda, Gail White, Bob Wilson, Beverly Wolff, Owen, Alex, Anne, Carnetta, Roy, Jodi, Sue, Norm, Randy, Alannah, Tina & Good Hope....In your prayers*

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



## Ramblings from Debbie Kupel....

Christmas is my favorite time of the year. To quote Madonna..."I am a Material Girl". Not to say I do not find Peace and Joy in the celebration of our Savior's Birth. But I am talking about the joy I get from picking out special gifts for friends and family. It may not be Frankincense & Myrrh but it is 'a happy time' for me to shop...wrap (or bag) and then watch their excitement. Of course I do like a lot of people spoiling me...and I am so blessed with family and friends that do that. Looking at the events here at the church...my season started out with the Silver Strings Concert. The joy that group brings in laughter and excitement. If you listen closely there is a little bit of 'the Reason for the Season' in their little skits and song introductions. If you were able to attend I was the one in the back trying to sing every song, forgetting all the words but bouncing around like a little kid. Then the party...The White Elephant Holiday Party. We changed the day to Saturday and moved it up to 5pm, let me know if that was a good move on my part. The attendance was lower than past years. I am open to hear from you on what you liked and what you didn't like and maybe why you didn't come. I think the pictures on Facebook said it all. We had a blast...there was good food, good company, good gifts, good prizes and good caroling...it was a GOODY night...lol.

There is the peace I get every year from the Blue Christmas service. It is a very blue time for me. I reflect on my childhood and how my parents worked so hard and sacrificed so I could have things under the tree. I am blue that I can't share the season with them one more time. I am blue, missing my husband, he made Christmas special again for me...there were decorations inside and out and a family dinner. He was never able to wait till Christmas to have me open gifts. I am blue, missing all of my other friends and family that are no longer here. The older I get the more of them are gone...way too many. The Blue Christmas service lets me acknowledge my loss and be reassured, that God has a plan for me (all of us really), it is to prosper us and not to harm us. A paraphrase from Jeremiah 29:10. I always prefer the 11:00pm Christmas Eve Service...it seems smaller, quieter and the late night is so much stiller.

Then it is the New Year's...and even at 70 I always wonder what I am going to be when I grow up. I don't ever want to lose the wonder and joy life (and faith) brings me.

Okay...moving right along...Here is an affirmation that sits on my desk it speaks to me so very often...

*I believe that tears can heal, that memories can comfort and that LOVE lives on forever.*

Take care...see YOU in church!!!!



# KID'S PAGE



Celebrate the beauty of winter with these fun snowflake-inspired treats!



## What you do:

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.

**Lesson tie-in:**  
Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike!  
(Psalm 139:14, KJV)



The Bible we use is translated into English from other languages.

"Translate" the verse below using the code.

## CODE

E=△	L=□	R=+
G=●	M=↗	S=■
A=■	H=◀	N=†
B=×	I=▲	O=✿
D=◀	K=	P=□
		TH=◆

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U      □    □    □    □    U    □    □    □    □    □    □    □

*Proverbs 3:13*

Answer: Happy is the one who finds wisdom and the one who gets understanding.