

## Good Hope's

## Good News

July 2026



## Good Hope Lutheran Church

28680 Cherry Hill Rd.

Garden City, MI 48135

Phone: (734) 427-3660

Fax: (734) 522-5613

Email: [goodhopelutheran@](mailto:goodhopelutheran@sbcglobal.net)

[sbcglobal.net](mailto:sbcglobal.net)

Web address:

[www.goodhopeelca.org](http://www.goodhopeelca.org)



Diane Rinehart

Council President

Cell: 734-718-6227

Email:

[dianerinehart55@gmail.com](mailto:dianerinehart55@gmail.com)

### Our Mission Statement

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

## News from the Pews - July

(Council Prez. Diane Rinehart [aka Di])

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." –  
Jeremiah 29:11*

Greetings, my friends!

For those of you who were not at our June 14<sup>th</sup> service, I was happy to announce we not only have our Call Committee together, but we also have an interim Preacher! That's right. I was able to deliver two wonderful announcements in one morning!

Our Call committee members are Lou Trongo-Chairperson, Bruce Clarey, Peggy Dubay, Jackie Suoppi, Sophie Smith and me, Di, as our recording secretary. We had our first meeting on Tuesday June 17. The committee was handed a step-step instruction booklet on how we proceed in Calling a pastor. I let the committee know that Pr. Albert LeBlanc from Hope in Dearborn, who is the Dean of our cluster, will be our go-to pastor if we have any questions. We can also reach out to Pr Jen in the Synod office. As I mentioned in my article a few months ago, there are many steps in this process, so please have patience with us and keep us in your prayers. If you have any concerns or questions regarding the Call process, feel free to stop any of us and ask your questions.

Ben Fogt, LLM (Licensed Lay Minister) will begin as our interim leader on Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup>. Ben is presently in United Lutheran Seminary. Ben will work 20 hours a week with us during his interim time. He will lead us in worship, preside over communion, and is able to do funerals and baptisms. Ben has offered to reach out to our shut ins as needed, help with our education for teens and adults. Feel free to acknowledge Ben as Preacher Ben, Preacher, or Ben. Since he is still in seminary, he is not at the stage to be called Pastor. Welcome to our church family Preacher Ben!!

I have neglected over the last several months to give a shout out to our homebound ministers Lisa King and Linda Williams. These lovely ladies help me in visiting our shut ins by stopping in for a visit and bringing them communion. Letting them know they are not forgotten and that their church family is always thinking of them. A big thank you too to our WELCA group that always remembers our shut ins with gifts and cards, brought to our members in person, at Christmas and Easter. So, thank you Lisa and Linda!! If you know of anyone that would like communion brought to them or just a visit, please be sure to stop me and give me their name and contact information or feel free to call the church office and let Karen know.

Couple reminders:

- ◆ Call committee members to be installed Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ Confirmation is now done until September. Still looking at October 25<sup>th</sup> as their confirmation date.
- ◆ Call (734-427-3660) the church office if you need a pastoral call or visit. Karen will be glad to help you.

Blessings,  
di

## Financial Corner – for May 2026

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

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

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

May offering:	\$11,064
30% rental income	\$ 1,050
Monthly budget:	\$14,715
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than budget:	\$(2,601)



2026 Year to Date:

YTD Offering:	\$51,121
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 5,250
YTD Budget	\$73,575
YTD Offering higher/(lower) than Budget	\$(17,204)

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

May offering:	\$11,064
30% rental income	\$ 1,050
May expenses	\$(13,305)
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than expenses	\$(1,191)

YTD Offering	\$51,121
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 5,250
YTD Expenses	\$(74,412)
<b>YTD offering higher / (lower) than expenses</b>	<b>\$(18,041)</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.**

## Confirmation Class



Confirmation Classes have been put on hold for summer vacation.

June 14, 21, 28 and July 5 there will be no confirmation classes.  
**Confirmation Classes will resume July 12.**

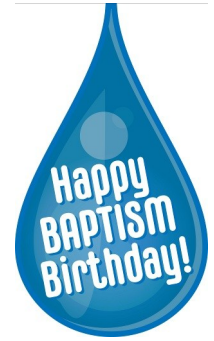
Sunday October 18th will be a practice run for the confirmation ceremony on Sunday October 25. All those students who wish to be confirmed must attend classes and attend on October 18th and 25th. Please contact Angela Cassity at [cassitydesign.repair@gmail.com](mailto:cassitydesign.repair@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.



- 7/3 Kailee Bledsoe
- 7/3 Lou Trongo
- 7/5 Julius Owens
- 7/9 Mike Bachorik
- 7/13 Fred Owens
- 7/17 JB Likeric
- 7/18 Helen Crawford
- 7/18 Aaron Sherman
- 7/31 Dylan Clarey

**JULY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS**

- 7/05 Michael Yesko
- 7/09 Honor Owens
- 7/13 Christopher Brown
- 7/13 Nicholas Brown Jr.
- 7/18 Ethan Mincovsky
- 7/20 Richard Garza
- 7/26 Hailey Pedersen
- 7/29 Greg Clarey
- 7/30 Louis Trongo



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



**Directory Changes**

**Called to their Heavenly Home**

**Eleanore Stirling  
On May 29, 2026**

***A Memorial Service is being planned  
for a later date***

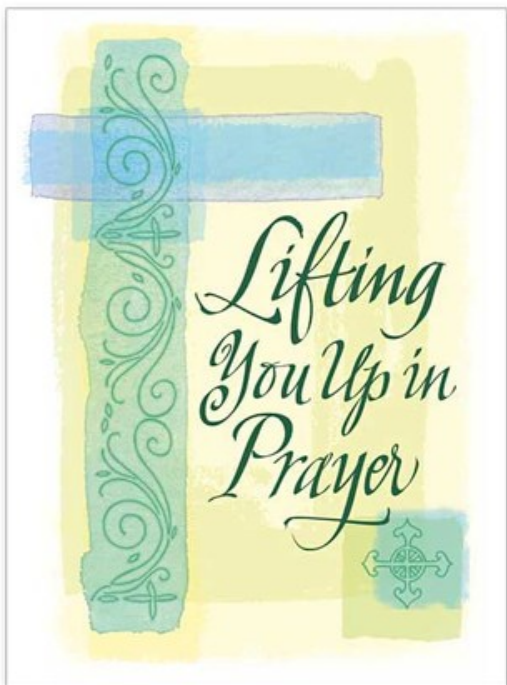


- 7/01 Douglas & Kathleen Plond 37 years
- 7/16 Mike & Carol Bachorik 60 years
- 7/20 Larry & Jackie Suoppi 12 years

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

Jerry Boggs  
Kevin Clarey  
Geri Daniels  
Gina Davison  
Lisa Donfried  
Beverly Doom  
Steve Fritz  
Groh Family  
Michael Hicks  
Donna Kanowski  
Ken Konsdorf  
Ann Mattson  
Vaughn Mattson  
Bill Monson  
Shirlee Pakkala  
Jim & Kathi Radeback  
Sandy Slomba  
Jenny Smith  
Dorothy Sweda  
Glenda Taylor  
Jessica Thomas  
Patricia Truskowski  
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**.



**Still Worth More Than You Know**



A speaker opened his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill and asking a crowd of 200 people, "Who would like this?"

Nearly every hand went up.

"I'll give it to one of you," he said. "But first..." He crumpled the bill tightly in his fist. "Who still wants it?"

Hands remained in the air.

He dropped it to the floor and ground it under his shoe. Then he picked up the wrinkled, dirty bill. "How about now?"

The hands rose again.

"My friends," he said, "you've just learned an important lesson. No matter what I did to the money, it never lost its value. It was still worth \$20." Life can feel the same way. We are dropped, crumpled and ground down by our choices and by circumstances beyond our control. At times, we may even feel worthless. But our value does not change.

In God's eyes, you are never less than priceless. Clean or dirty, wrinkled or whole, you remain precious to Him. As Isaiah 43:4 says in the NIV, "You are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you."



## Christian Symbols



**SHELL** — A scallop shell, often shown pointing downward with three drops of water falling from it, is a Christian symbol of baptism and the washing away of sin. The three drops of water represent the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

From the earliest centuries of the church, the shell was connected with baptism because it could be used to pour water over a person's head. In a time when many baptisms took place in rivers, lakes or outdoor settings, a simple shell served as a natural vessel, reminding believers that God uses humble, ordinary things to accomplish sacred purposes.

Today, the scallop shell continues to appear in baptismal fonts, church art and Christian design. It quietly proclaims the message of baptism: washed by grace, claimed by God and welcomed into the family of faith.

## Bible Quiz



About 450 years before Jesus, Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem still lay in ruins after the Babylonian invasion. The news broke his heart. After days of prayer and mourning, he stepped forward to lead the effort to rebuild the city wall. Despite opposition, the people pressed on.

A well-known verse describes their progress: "So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to \_\_\_\_\_."

Choose the correct ending:

- A. be protected
- B. work
- C. serve
- D. live

**Look for answer elsewhere**



## They Walked Everywhere

When a teenager earned his driving permit, he approached his father, a minister, to discuss using the car. His dad replied, "I'll make you a deal. Raise your grades, spend some time in your Bible and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk."

A month later, the young man came back. "Son, I'm proud of you," his father said. "Your grades are up, and you've been faithful in your Bible study. But you didn't get your hair cut."

The teenager paused. "Well, Dad, I've been thinking. Samson had long hair. Moses had long hair. Noah had long hair. Even Jesus had long hair."

His father nodded. "That's true. And they walked everywhere they went."

## Ramblings from...Deb

Can you believe it is July already!!! It seems only a few weeks ago there was snow on the ground!!! In just a few days the skies will be filled with the fireworks of the 4th of July. Actually these have already started in my neighborhood...yours too??? July starts a new chapter for Good Hope. Preacher Ben will begin his internship on the first Sunday of July...July 5th. I look forward to working with him. I know we will all give him a warm Good Hope welcome!!! Please wear your name tags until he gets to know us all. If you have lost yours, please let Karen know so you can get a new one.

I came across some things I had written down several years ago...one of them was from Pastor Joan. This month's affirmation has two parts...



### FROG

- Fully
- Rely
- On
- God



### PUSH

- Pray
- Until
- Something
- Happens

What do you think about putting them together... FROG PUSH... faithfully rely on God...pray until something happens! Or... PUSH FROG... pray until something happens... faithfully rely on God. Either way I like it.

Take Care...see you in church!!!

Debbie Kupel, Good Hope Member.

# KID'S PAGE



Transform slice-and-bake cookies into cheerful lollipop treats and share a few edible smiles.

**What you need:**

- 1 roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Baking sheet
- Wooden craft sticks
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Clear treat bags
- Ribbon



**What you do:**

1. Freeze the cookie dough for 15 to 20 minutes to firm it up, then slice into ¼-inch rounds.
2. Place cookies on a baking sheet about 2 inches apart.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 5 minutes.
4. Remove from the oven and gently press a wooden stick halfway into the bottom of each cookie.
5. Return to the oven and bake 3 to 5 more minutes, until lightly golden.
6. Let cookies cool completely.
7. Decorate with frosting to create smiling faces and add sprinkles.
8. Slip each cookie pop into a treat bag and tie with ribbon.



## JOYFUL PSALMS

Psalm 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are happy songs of praise. They all begin and end with the same sentence.

Put the words below in alphabetical order in the boxes. Then read down the second column to discover the special sentence from Psalms!



- FEAST
- KHAKI
- MOUTH
- ESSAY
- LLAMA
- ORBIT
- CARRY
- UDDER
- BRUSH
- ITEMS
- APPLE
- LEARN
- CIDER






Answer: Praise the Lord!