

## Good Hope's

## Good News

March 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

As we experience the season of Lent, we enter a quiet, honest time the Church has set apart for repentance, prayer, and renewal. Lent invites us to examine the way we live in relationship with those closest to us. It is a season to ask: Do my daily words and actions reflect Christ's love? Do I show patience, forgiveness, and generosity to those who depend on me?

Lent is not a checklist for earning God's favor. As Lutherans we hold fast to the truth that we are justified by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9). Yet grace does not leave us unchanged. The discipline of Lent helps us to see where we need the Spirit's reshaping and to live out the faith we profess.

Some people practice fasting or "give up" things like chocolate or social media. These practices can be helpful when they point us away from distraction and toward dependence on God. The point is that the small sacrifice trains us to turn outward in love — to live differently, to be generous, to serve.

Jesus' example of outrageous generosity in Holy Week itself is full of startling, countercultural generosity. Consider the costly anointing at Bethany (Mark 14:3–9), Mary pouring out precious perfume in a worshipful act of devotion. Consider Jesus at the Last Supper: he gives his body and blood to be our nourishment and then humbles himself to serve and wash his disciples' feet (John 13). The early Church followed with remarkable sharing: believers sold possessions and gave to those in need (Acts 2:44–45; 4:32–35). Even in uncertain times, the call was to extraordinary compassion and mutual care.

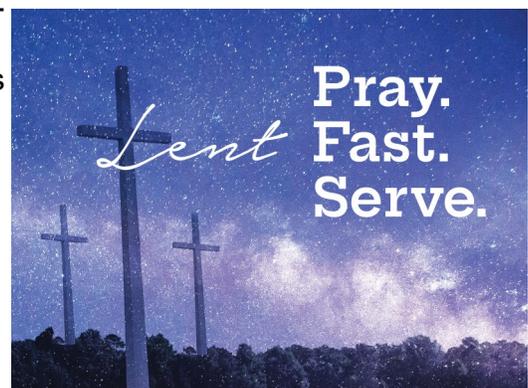
This is the kind of generosity Lent should shape in us — not simply the giving of money or tokens, but a disposition to give of ourselves to those who cannot repay us. Jesus teaches generosity toward the poor, the outsider, the disabled, those with special needs — in short, toward our vulnerable neighbors.

A final word - Lent calls us not merely to give things up but to become people who give ourselves away in love. The world will know we follow Christ not by our austerities but by our changed lives — lives that mirror the outrageous, self giving love of Jesus. May this Lent draw us closer to God and to one another, and may it lead us into practical, humble acts of mercy that last well beyond Holy Week.

Let us pray for grace to live this way together.

See you in church!

Pastor Lew



## Financial Corner – for January 2026

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

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

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

January offering:	\$ 8,564
30% rental income	\$ 1,050
Monthly budget:	\$14,715
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than budget:	\$(5,101)

2026 Year to Date:

YTD Offering:	\$ 8,564
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 1,050
YTD Budget	\$14,715
YTD Offering higher/(lower) than Budget	\$(5,101)

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

January offering:	\$ 8,564
30% rental income	\$ 1,050
Jan. expenses	\$(17,648)
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than expenses	\$(8,034)

YTD Offering	\$ 8,564
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 1,050
YTD Expenses	\$(17,648)
YTD offering higher / (lower) than expenses	\$(8,034)

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):

2026 Beginning Balance	\$56,347
Deposits / (Withdrawals)	<u>(5,343)</u>
Ending Balance (1/31/26 )	\$51,004





- 3/2 Paul Clarey
- 3/2 Eleanore Stirling
- 3/2 Jackie Suoppi
- 3/5 Heather Kirsch
- 3/8 Shirley Guffey
- 3/9 Richard Garza
- 3/18 Patricia Truskowski
- 3/20 Peggy Dubay
- 3/21 Brooke Donfried
- 3/22 Aubrey Harding
- 3/22 Glenda Taylor
- 3/23 Raynold Schmick
- 3/25 Creed Jones
- 3/27 Angela Cross
- 3/29 Leola Wing
- 3/30 Marcus Owens
- 3/31 Kathleen Plond
- 3/31 Matthew Scott

### MARCH BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

- 3/1 Ann Mattson
- 3/3 Lisa Donfried
- 3/9 Tom Dubay
- 3/9 Alexandria Harding
- 3/10 Kenneth Konsdorf
- 3/10 Joei Scarantino
- 3/23 Aiden King
- 3/28 Shirley Guffey
- 3/30 Jackie Suoppi



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

## Congregational Annual Meeting

### March 15th

### Following the 10am worship service



- 3/13 Jason & Jenny Smith 27 years
- 3/26 Eric & Suanne Anderson 38 years

### Dates & Times for Holy Week Services

- March 28 - Holy Week Celebration 3:00 pm
- 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 - March

(Council Prez. Diane Rinehart [aka Di])

*“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in power.” Romans 12:12*

Greetings my fellow Good Hope peeps!

I have exciting news..... Council voted in Angela Cassity to the council on February 10 to become our new Board of Education Director. Angela will start recruiting folks to help teach our Sunday school aged children, oversee all Christian education classes, and fill in to teach on some Sundays. So, if you are interested in teaching Sunday school, please introduce yourself to Angela after service when you see her. Welcome to council Angela!!

We are still looking for a couple more folks to join the council. Our annual meeting is March 15<sup>th</sup> and if anyone is still interested, please be sure to see me so I can get your names on the ballot to vote for new council members. Thank you!!

At the time of printing the March newsletter, we will have already had our Ash Wednesday service and our first Lenten service. Which means Easter is right around the corner. Our board of worship is working hard at preparing all the services leading up to Easter Sunday. Between the Lenten services, 'normal' Sundays, Holy Week and Easter, there are fourteen services to prepare. That is a lot of hymns to select and liturgy to select! Our altar guild will also be quite busy setting up, cleaning up and resetting for all these services. And let us not forget Pastor and all the worship assistants (assisting ministers, readers, servers, and ushers) that will be working overtime. I ask that you keep all these busy people in your prayers over the next few weeks as we all prepare for the resurrection of our Lord.

Just a couple of reminders:

- ◆ Annual meeting, March 15<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship
- ◆ Lent Wednesday services, starting with soup at 6pm and service 7pm
- ◆ Holy Week services: Pam Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> 10:00am, Maundy Thursday service April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm, Good Friday service April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm and Easter Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00am

May our hearts be renewed as we walk toward Easter.

Peace & Blessings, Di



## Ramblings from....Deb

Hello all. I have just spent the last week on vacation in Florida. Just as I got here their cold spell broke. It has been in the 70s and 80s; one day it hit 89!!! They are heading into a cold week as I leave on Monday. Of course their lows are in the 50s and 60s!!! I am visiting my dear friend Debbie and her husband Don. Deb and I have been friends since middle school (55years). It seems like a lifetime and for many people it may have been. None of us know how long we will live in our earthly bodies. I believe only one entity knows that...God. When I get philosophical like this...I am always reminded of Jeremiah 29:11...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." Something to think about...as I get ready to board a plane...600 miles an hour at 35,000 feet. Yeppers...prosper, no harm, hope and a future. I am so there!!!

Take care and see you in church!!!  
Debbie Kupel



♦ Christian Symbols +



**ROOSTER** — The rooster reminds us of Peter's threefold denial of Jesus on the night of his trial (Matthew 26:34, NIV). Because of this, it often symbolizes human weakness and faithlessness—especially when faith is tested. Yet, the rooster also calls to mind watchfulness. Its early-morning crowing echoes Jesus' words about being alert for his return: "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn" (Mark 13:35, NIV).

**Bible Quiz**



In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?

- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A salt solution
- D. Olive oil

**Look for answer elsewhere**



**Pi(e) Day Trivia Night**

Fellowship is hosting a Trivia Night on March 14, 2026 beginning at 5pm in Volkmar Hall. Cost is \$10 per person and pizza and beverages will be provided. Please bring your favorite pie or snack to share. Please sign up on the sheet located in the narthex hallway. Last day to sign up will be **March 8<sup>th</sup>**.

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

*Alan Bennett, Margaret Betko, Kevin Clarey, Geri Daniels, Dennis Dubay, Lisa Donfried, Beverly Doom, Steve Fritz, Don Harvey, Michael Hicks, Donna Kanowski, Ken Konsdorf, Vaughn Mattson, Bill Monson, Shirlee Pakkala, Eleanore Stirling, Dorothy Sweda, Glenda Taylor, Jessica Thomas, Gail White, Beverly Wolff, Alex, Anne, Carnetta, Roy, Jodi, Sue, Norm, Randy, Alannah, Delilah & Good Hope....In your prayers*

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





# Holy Week Celebration

**March 28<sup>th</sup> 3-7 pm**

**Dinner and Dessert will be served**

**Ages 5+**

**Parents are welcome to  
stay!**



# KID'S PAGE



These cheerful "palm trees" make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

### What you need:

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)



### What you do:

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

### Scripture Tie-In:

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"  
—Matthew 21:9 (NIV)



## MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

It's time to tune up your Bible brain!

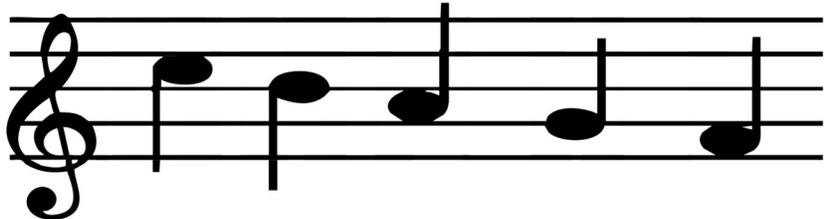
Decode the notes to discover a verse that sings with joy.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

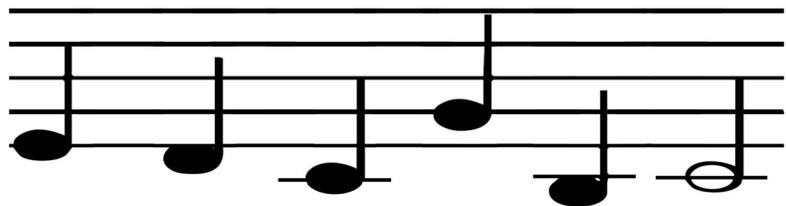
CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship



\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ ;



\_\_\_\_\_ .



Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.