

Good Hope's

Good News

November 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

Hello, People of Good Hope!

It's November. There's a chill in the air. The Property Committee has turned on the boiler. The Altar Guild is ready for rapid vestment changes in the sanctuary. Council is preparing reports and planning for next year.

With this change of seasons, we're supposed to take time to reflect on everything we're thankful for. the timing seems off a bit, doesn't it? And with this November beginning with one of the most contentious elections in our lifetimes (Vote if you haven't.), very little in our lives is pointing toward being thankful for anything. But keep in mind that at the beginning of December, our Jewish friends will remember and be thankful for a time 2165 years ago when one day's portion of lamp oil lasted 8 days while the Maccabees defended the temple in Jerusalem. God is with us. God's bounty surrounds us even when we can't feel it.

In this time of change and some chaos, we have a lot to be thankful for at Good Hope. I am appreciative of our elder members who have richly graced us with traditions we continue. I appreciate the work being put in to keep our building and property a safe and pleasant space for us and the groups we host. I appreciate the warm welcome you've extended to me since I started in July.

The coming months fill up fast and seem to pass even quicker. Let's take some time together and apart to slow ourselves down. Let's take a step back so we can see God's work with and around us as we move ever forward.

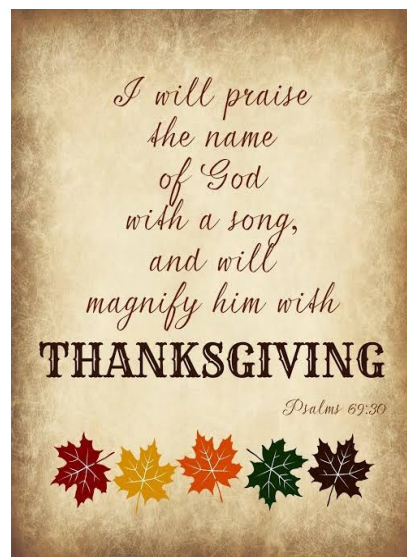
I will sing praises to God's name.
I will magnify him as I give him thanks.
That will please the Lord more than an ox
or a bull
with horns and hooves.
The oppressed look on—let them rejoice.
You who seek God, may you be encouraged.

For the Lord listens to the needy;
he does not despise his captive people.
Let the heavens and the earth praise him,
along with the seas and everything that
swims in them.

(Psalm 69:30-34, New English
Translation)

May God, full of grace, hold you close.
May Jesus, ever giving, be your guide.
May the Holy Spirit, mystery of mysteries,
fill you with joy and thanksgiving in the days ahead.
Amen

Ben Fogt, SAM



Financial Corner – for September 2026

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

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

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

September offering: \$19,032

30% rental income \$ 240

Monthly budget: \$14,715

Monthly offering higher / (lower) than budget: \$4,557



2026 Year to Date:

YTD Offering: \$ 97,529

YTD 30% rental income \$ 7,020

YTD Budget \$132,435

YTD Offering higher/(lower) than Budget \$(27,886)

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

September offering: \$ 19,032

30% rental income \$ 240

September expenses \$(11,735)

Monthly offering higher / (lower) than expenses \$7,537

YTD Offering \$ 97,529

YTD 30% rental income \$ 7,020

YTD Expenses \$(120,641)

YTD offering higher / (lower) than expenses \$(16,092)

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 of our confirmands will take place on **Sunday, November 8th** during the worship service. Bishop Don Kreiss will be leading us in worship that day. Fellowship will be

providing a cake reception to honor the confirmands after worship in Volkmar Hall. All are invited.

Being confirmed are: Connor Deike, Annabell King, Lillian Smith, and Michael Yesko. Please keep these young folks in your prayers as they take the next step in their faith journey.



The Worship Board has met and after discussion on the voting slips that were turned in, it has been decided that there will be **ONE** Christmas Eve Service at **7:00 pm.**

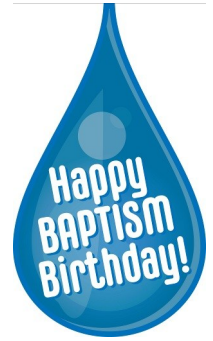
Also, the Blue Christmas Worship Service will take place on Monday, December 21, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Thank you for taking the time to give your input.



11/1 Eric Anderson
 11/1 Brooke Gilland
 11/2 Rachel Alholinna
 11/2 Rita Harmon
 11/3 Lorinda Scott
 11/6 James Kroll
 11/7 Kinslee Gilland
 11/14 Karen Ross
 11/15 Izabelle Gilland
 11/16 Geri Daniels
 11/18 Joei Scarantino
 11/28 Connor Deike

NOVEMBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

11/01 Reagan Gilland
 11/01 Valinda Vincent
 11/09 Debbie Likeric
 11/09 JB Likeric
 11/11 Dylan Clarey
 11/11 Heather Hall
 11/24 Angela Cross
 11/29 Lilly Smith
 11/29 Sophie Smith



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



11/20 John & Terri Bies 45 years
 11/30 Jim & Charlotte Kroll 13 years

A meaningful month

Consumerism can prevent us from noticing needs, writes Walter Brueggemann (*The Prophetic Imagination*). A culture steeped in materialism and greed can “block out the cries of the denied ones ... so that no one discerns misery alive in the heart of God.”

In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christ the King Sunday and the start of Advent. What does it mean that Christ is our King? How can we truly give God thanks and prepare for Jesus’ coming? It’s a good time to ponder what hurts God’s heart — and how we can help.

If someone is lonely, perhaps we can invite them to Thanksgiving dinner. If we sense inequality saddening God, we might advocate for fair policies. If God is in pain because some of his children have too little, we can share our resources. In so doing, we welcome Christ the King among us, and give him meaningful thanks.

Directory Changes

Called to her Heavenly Home

Dorothy P. Sweda

On October 21, 2026

A Memorial Service will take place at a later date



News from the Pews—November 2026

(Council Prez. Diane Rinehart [aka Di])

*"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!"
1 Chronicles 16:34*

Greetings, my friends!

With thanksgiving right around the corner, Good Hope has several things to be thankful and blessed for! November 1st, we will celebrate and remember the lives of our loved ones that have been called home to their eternal resting place. November 8th is our confirmation Sunday, where four of our young adults reaffirm their baptism, and we have another baptism coming up in November. Along with our Bible study groups continuing, choir singing praises to our Lord and all the volunteers that keep our beautiful church going. So yep, we are blessed to have such awesome members!

Couple things to put on your calendar: December 21st is our Blue Christmas worship service at 7:00pm. This service provides a safe space for people who feel grief, sadness, loneliness, or stress during the holidays. As this season often is painted as typically "merry and bright," which can isolate people who are hurting. The service tells you it is ok not to feel joyful. It is to honor loss and grief. It invites folks mourning the death of a loved one, a failed relationship, a lost job, a health diagnosis, or an estrangement to bring their sorrow before God. This service is open to all, not simply Good Hope members. So please share this with friends and family.

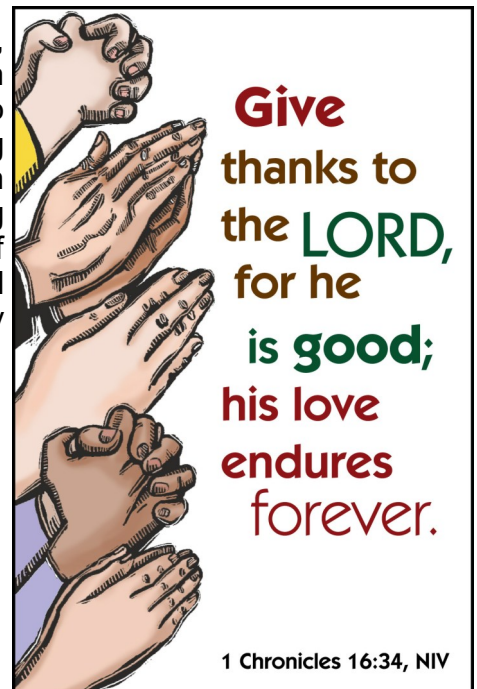
The second service I would like to bring to your attention is our Christmas Eve service. We have only one service this year on December 24th, at 7:00pm. Over the last several years, attendance has been down quite a bit at both the 7:00 and 11:00 service. There is quite a bit of work in preparing Christmas Eve services and with attendance down, we do not have the helping hands that are needed for two services. So, we put out a survey asking members if we switched to one service, what time they would prefer. 7:00 was the winning time. This is a trial year. Board of Worship will discuss how this goes in their January meeting and decide if we will stay at one service or possibly go back to two. They truly appreciate your feedback on the surveys and please be sure to let them know after the one service, how you think it went.

Your council will be hard at work for the next couple of months, putting together a 2027 budget. I ask you please keep them all in your prayers. It is not easy trying to stay within a budget but also planning ministries and worship services for our church. Along with looking for ways to reach out to the community to bring in new members. Along with this, our Call committee is preparing our church profile to submit to the Synod office, which all part of the process of Calling a new pastor. Please keep the Call committee also in your prayers as this can be an exceedingly long and stressful process.

Couple reminders:

- ◆ Confirmation Sunday, November 8.
- ◆ White Elephant party, December 5, 5:00pm
- ◆ Silver Strings concert (dulcimers), December 11, 7:00pm

Peace & Blessings,
di



Christian Symbols



DOOR — A door symbolizes our invitation to engage in prayer and a personal relationship with Jesus: “Knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7, NIV). A door can also represent Jesus’ loving invitation to open our hearts to him: “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock” (Revelation 3:20, NIV). When we welcome him in, we receive the joy of fellowship and life with Christ.

Bible Quiz



What did St. Paul teach about how people can recognize the existence of God?

- A. They would have no understanding of God unless someone told them.
- B. They could see evidence of God by observing creation.
- C. God cannot be known in any way except through Jesus.

Look for answer elsewhere

Please Remember to keep....

Marianne Byrnes, Kevin Clarey, Geri Daniels, Lisa Donfried, Beverly Doom, Steve Fritz, Jeff Givens, Michael Hicks, Donna Kanowski, Ken Konsdorf, Ann Mattson, Vaughn Mattson, Bill Monson, Shirlee Pakkala, Lois Pike, Glenda Taylor, Jessica Thomas, Jan Unzicker, Bob Wagner, Gail White, Beverly Wolff, Roy, Jodi, Sue, Oliver, Leona, Alannah, Ron, Tommy, Brandon, Adam, Jack, Linda, Anne, Matt, Hailey, Gracie, Jayden, Lorrie, June, Cathy, Tom & Good Hope....In your prayers.

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



Christmas Poinsettias

Once again we are taking orders for poinsettias to beautify the chancel area for Christmas.

Orders will be taken from November 8-November 22

Cost is \$8.00 per plant and they come in red, pink, and white

They may be picked up on Christmas Eve after the service

Please fill out an order form enclosed with the worship bulletin or contact Peggy Dubay at 734-326-6119

Last day to order is November 22nd

Tim Hall News

The weather is starting to get colder and we are now starting to collect warm gloves for men and women again. We will also be collecting hand and foot warmers as well. We have added rain ponchos to the Amazon wishlist. Things like chapstick and warm socks are going to be very needed.

The next backpack filling date is Friday, November 20th at 5:30pm.

Bag distribution will be on Saturday, November 21st at 1pm.

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

Here is an updated list of items we need for our backpacks of blessings.

Backpacks, Vienna sausages, Trail mix, Slim Jim's, deodorant, Pairs of warm socks, pb crackers, Tuna pouches, Applesauce or fruit pouches, chewy granola bars, rolls of toilet paper, bars of soap, washcloths, nutra grain bars, wet wipes, hand sanitizer, bags of cookies, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bandaids, Body wipes, fruit snacks, candy not chocolate please, men's and women's gloves, ponchos, hand and foot warmers, chapstick

The Journey of the Church Year

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29, in 2026. In many Christian traditions, Advent also marks the beginning of the church year. Rather than starting with a new calendar, the church begins by preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Advent leads to Christmas, followed by Epiphany, traditionally observed on January 6, 2027, to remember the revelation of Christ to the nations and the visit of the wise men. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10, and guides believers toward Holy Week and Easter Sunday, March 28.

Forty days after Easter, Christians observe Ascension Day on May 6, remembering how Jesus "was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9, ESV). Pentecost follows on May 16, 50 days after Easter. On that day, the Holy Spirit empowered Christ's followers and united them for the church's mission.

The season after Pentecost continues until Advent arrives once more, inviting the church to begin the sacred journey again.

Decorate the Church



Deck the Halls...and more!

Decorating the church for the Christmas Season will be on Friday, November 27th at **1:00pm**. A lot of hands make light work and snacks will be provided



An Invitation from WELCA

WELCA is sponsoring a free catered luncheon in Volkmar Hall on November 22nd following the worship service for the congregation as a thank you for all the support over the years. Everyone is invited. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex on November 1, 8, and 15. We ask that if you plan to attend please sign up as we will be ordering according to the list.

The Nicene Creed: Why “the Longer One”

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ! On Reformation Sunday, you may have noticed that we recited the Nicene Creed in place of the Apostles' Creed that we use for ordinary worship Sundays (non-festivals or holidays). I recently learned more about the Nicene Creed in my history class at seminary and thought I'd share some background about it for the curious.

The roots of the Apostles' Creed go back further than those of the Nicene Creed. You might be wondering why another one was written at all. The short answer: heresy. I realize that doesn't answer much, so let's keep going... all the way back to the 4th century in the Roman (Byzantine) Empire. Prior to this time, early Christians faced persecution and many became martyrs for their steadfast faith. This changed under the rule of Emperor Constantine I who played a pivotal role in the rise of Christianity as a tolerated religion following his own conversion. In fact, it became favored in the capital city of Constantinople with many new churches being built to accommodate the mass conversions.

While the newfound safety to practice Christian beliefs without fear of persecution was beneficial, the political support was not always helpful. A variety of theological controversies arose in response to the perceived tolerance from the authorities. One belief system that gained momentum was the teachings of Arianism. Arius, a presbyter (elder) of the church argued with his bishop, Alexander of Alexandria about the divine nature of Jesus Christ. Bishop Alexander maintained the belief that the Son (Christ) shares the same divine nature/substance as God the Father. Arius argued that Christ was a creation of God, neither fully human nor fully divine, who acted as a type of messenger for God. Both leaders argued their theological sides and gained followers. When Emperor Constantine heard of this, he first wrote a letter to each of them in an attempt to end the dispute. When that did not occur, he then called the First Council of Nicaea in 325 CE.

There were 318 members in attendance at the council, with the primary focus to end the controversy and create doctrine to define the nature of Christ. While the exact order of the deliberations remains unknown to this day, Arian beliefs were condemned as heresy, and the first version of what became known as the Nicene Creed was drafted, signed, and adopted by the majority of the bishops in attendance. The specific wording of “true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father” is included to refute the Arian claim that Christ was somehow lower than or created less than God. “For us and for our salvation” is another important clause in the creed as it establishes the importance of Christ's true divine nature for our salvation.

The Nicene Creed has undergone a few revisions and updates to the language, first at the Second Ecumenical Council in Constantinople in 381CE when the section defining our beliefs about the Holy Spirit were added. Our modern ELCA translation uses more inclusive language such as “became truly human” rather than “became man”.

The next time you read or recite the Nicene Creed, think about the words that we all profess together and why. It makes the “fight to get it right” even more meaningful.

God's peace be with you all.
Your sister in Christ,
Jan Juliette



KID'S PAGE

Bread Painting

When you eat this fun snack,
be thankful for Jesus,
who is our Bread of Life.

What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean, food-safe brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter, optional



What you do:

1. Set out one small cup for each color you want to use.
2. Pour 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk into each cup.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to each cup and stir until the color is bright.
4. Using a clean, food-safe brush, gently paint a picture or design on the bread. Be careful not to soak the bread.
5. When you're finished painting, toast the bread. Add a little butter, if desired, and enjoy!



Reminder:

Ask an adult for help
when using a toaster
or toaster oven.

"I am the
bread of life."
John 6:35, NIV



Counting Our Blessings

Thanksgiving is a great opportunity to "count our blessings." God blesses each of us daily in so many ways. Solve the following math problems. Then write the words on the numbered lines below to complete Ephesians 1:3, NIV.

$14 - 7 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Father}$

$10 + 9 = \underline{\quad} \text{ heavenly}$

$10 + 5 = \underline{\quad} \text{ blessed}$

$2 - 1 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Praise}$

$7 + 7 = \underline{\quad} \text{ has}$

$11 + 11 = \underline{\quad} \text{ every}$

$12 + 12 = \underline{\quad} \text{ blessing}$

$10 + 10 = \underline{\quad} \text{ realms}$

$13 + 13 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Christ}$

$8 + 8 = \underline{\quad} \text{ us}$

$8 + 9 = \underline{\quad} \text{ in}$

$5 + 5 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Lord}$

$10 + 11 = \underline{\quad} \text{ with}$

$10 + 15 = \underline{\quad} \text{ in}$

$6 - 3 = \underline{\quad} \text{ to}$

$12 - 6 = \underline{\quad} \text{ and}$

$6 + 6 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Christ}$

$18 - 9 = \underline{\quad} \text{ our}$

$22 - 11 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Jesus}$

$1 + 1 = \underline{\quad} \text{ be}$

$7 + 6 = \underline{\quad} \text{ who}$

$2 + 2 = \underline{\quad} \text{ the}$

$10 - 5 = \underline{\quad} \text{ God}$

$4 + 4 = \underline{\quad} \text{ of}$

$9 + 9 = \underline{\quad} \text{ the}$

$10 + 13 = \underline{\quad} \text{ spiritual}$

"
 1 2 3 4 5 6
 7 8 9 10 11 12
 13 14 15 16 17 18
 19 20 21 22
 23 24 25 26
 ."

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."