

Good Hope's

Good News

September 2026



Good Hope Lutheran Church

28680 Cherry Hill Rd.

Garden City, MI 48135

Phone: (734) 427-3660

Fax: (734) 522-5613

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

Web address:
www.goodhopeelca.org



Ben Fogt

Synodically Authorized Minister

Cell: 734-552-5531

Email: benfogt@gmail.com



Diane Rinehart

Council President

Cell: 734-718-6227

Email:

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.*

A Message from Ben

Do you remember
The twenty-first night of September?
Love was changin' the minds of pretenders
While chasin' the clouds away
Earth Wind & Fire

I'm sure that Allee Willis and Maurice White were just anticipating Pasty Week starting on September 21st. The newsletter has volunteering and ordering information. I've heard a lot about this annual tradition. I'm sure it's so much more than words can express.

Wrapping up August, we had success with the Tiger Pride Boutique, Craft Night painting, and Bubble's Party. We will continue getting out into the community with our worship service and a picnic at Rotary Park on September 13th. Bring your friends, your favorite salad that isn't really a salad, and chairs. Choir is starting back up and the Catechism class is rounding the bend toward Confirmation with Bishop Kreiss on November 8th.

I completed 9 days of Intensive Greek at the seminary (virtually) last month and have already started a new semester of classes. My schedule in the office is only changing a little. I'll be in on Monday and Wednesday mornings. If you need anything, contact the office. Karen can check with me and has access to my schedule.

In worship this month, we get back into some parables. In the first two weeks, Jesus is asked about resolving problems among his followers. Then Jesus tells us that the reward for working for God isn't calculated the same as we expect from a normal job. This is why so many pastors have a sermon series in August and September. I look forward to hearing what you think about these topics and everything else that we have going on as a community together.

See you in church!
Ben

CHURCH SERVICE & PICNIC

Join us Sunday, **September 13th** for our annual church service & picnic at Rotary Park (32465 Marquette between Merriman & Venoy)!

Ben will lead us in worship in the park at 10 AM, followed by lunch. Please RSVP on the form in the narthex, next to the mailboxes, and sign up to bring a dish to pass. Hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, and paperware will all be provided. Bring your lawn chairs and come ready for food, games, and fellowship!

Financial Corner – for July 2026

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

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

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

July offering: \$ 9,384

30% rental income \$ 240

Monthly budget: \$14,715

Monthly offering higher / (lower) than budget: \$(5,091)



2026 Year to Date:

YTD Offering: \$ 68,181

YTD 30% rental income \$ 6,540

YTD Budget \$103,005

YTD Offering higher/(lower) than Budget \$(28,284)

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

July offering: \$ 9,384

30% rental income \$ 240

July expenses \$(14,198)

Monthly offering higher / (lower) than expenses \$(4,573)

YTD Offering \$68,181

YTD 30% rental income \$ 6,540

YTD Expenses \$(97,462)

YTD offering higher / (lower) than expenses \$(22,741)

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.

Rest for the Soul

Studies show many Americans don't get enough sleep, and the effects can take a toll on both body and mind. Whether it's a packed schedule or restless nights, a lack of rest makes it harder to think clearly, stay focused and care for our overall well-being. Over time, that constant fatigue begins to wear us down.

Our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. When we rush from one task to the next without pausing to spend time with God, we can feel just as drained. We need consistent, quiet moments with Him to stay grounded, encouraged and strong in our faith.



Even Jesus made space for this kind of rest. Luke 5:16 tells us that He often withdrew to quiet places to pray. If He needed that time with the Father, how much more do we? When we step away from the noise and listen for God's voice, we find the renewal our souls have been longing for.



9/3 Madelyn Donfried
 9/12 Hailey King
 9/12 Debra Likeric
 9/14 Lisa Donfried
 9/16 Christopher Brown
 9/19 Beth Taylor
 9/21 Larry Suuppi
 9/22 Amanda Herrington
 9/24 Robert Wagner
 9/28 Beverly Doom
 9/28 Debbie Kupel
 9/29 Karen Boggs
 9/30 Sophie Smith

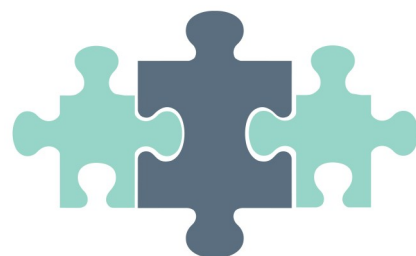


SEPTEMBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

9/6 Kameron Collop
 9/8 Brandon Plond
 9/16 Crystal Yesko
 9/21 Alise Clarey
 9/29 Madelyn Donfried
 9/29 Allison Zapp
 9/29 Evelyn-Marie Zapp



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



PRAYING
 for
 STUDENTS
 and
 TEACHERS



9/13 Zack & KC Griwicki	12 yrs
9/19 Fred & Nneka Owens	22 yrs
9/20 Jeremiah & Kristen Bledsoe	20 yrs
9/22 JB & Debbie Likeric	47 yrs

September Quilter's Update

Good Hope Quilters will begin meeting for the 2026-27 season on Wednesday, September 9th in the Church Hall 9:30 am to 12:00pm. Quilter's focus will be finishing the quilts on hand and preparing for the annual quilt blessing and shipment to the Lutheran World Relief in October.

All are welcome to join the quilters for one session or several. Good Hope Quilter's meet on the second and forth Wednesday at 9:30am.

News from the Pews—September 2026

(Council Prez. Diane Rinehart [aka Di])

'The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever.' Isaiah 40:8

Greetings, my friends!

Our church has been pretty busy over the last couple months. With many folks out of town vacationing, we continue throughout the year with numerous meetings to ensure we are doing our due diligence in worship services, maintaining our building, finding new and exciting fellowship events. And although our choir took a little break, we were blessed to have so many beautiful solos filling in. I'd like to personally thank all that continue to share their time and talents in helping our church run smoothly!

I'd like to bring to your attention, that at this time, we do not have any Sunday school classes being prepared for the coming fall. Our director of Education has taken a leave of absence, and we have no one to fill this position. If you know of any children in our congregation that are interested in going to Sunday School, please let me know and we will do our best to get a teacher for the class.

Our confirmation date has been rescheduled due to conflicting schedules. November 8, we will have the joy of confirming 5 students. Our preacher Ben, being a seminarian student, does not have the proper credentials at this time to officially confirm our students, so Bishop Don Kreiss will be presiding over the service that day.

Council has had several discussions on the Tithe.ly app and how it is not being used to the full capacity. Therefore, we will be ending this app end of August. However; we might be trying a newer, updated app called Connect. Fred Owens will be talking further about this and will set up a Sunday where he will present how the communication app will work. Hopefully getting more Good Hope folks involved in all the events happening at church. Please watch your bulletin announcement sheets for further details.

Couple reminders:

- ♦ **Church yearly picnic with outdoor service, September 13th.** Please remember worship service will start at 10:00am at Rotary Park, with the picnic immediately following. **There will be no service at the church on September 13th.**
- ♦ All Saints Day is November 1, when we remember all our brothers and sisters called home to their eternal resting place from November 2, 2025-November 1, 2026.
- ♦ Confirmation Sunday rescheduled, November 8.
- ♦ Don't forget there is an 'Ask the Council' box in the narthex to drop in any questions you may have.

Peace & Blessings,
di

Please Remember to keep....

*Kevin Clarey, Geri Daniels, Lisa Donfried, Beverly Doom, Steve Fritz, Groh Family, Michael Hicks, Donna Kanowski, Ken Konsdorf, Ann Mattson, Vaughn Mattson, Sloan McClellan, Bill Monson, Shirlee Pakkala, Stephanie Redmon, Dorothy Sweda, Glenda Taylor, Jessica Thomas, Bob Wagner, Gail White, Beverly Wolff, Roy, Jodi, Sue, Norm, Leona, Alannah, Linda, Larry, & Good Hope....***In your prayers.**

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



Christian Symbols



BREAD — One of the oldest and most familiar foods, bread carries deep meaning throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, God provided manna, or “bread from heaven,” to sustain His people in the wilderness. In the New Testament, Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35), pointing to himself as the true source of spiritual nourishment. Bread also holds a central place in the Lord’s Supper, where it represents Christ’s body, given for us. Simple and sustaining, bread has become a lasting symbol of God’s provision, Christ’s presence, and the shared fellowship of believers.

Bible Quiz



After his resurrection, Jesus asked one of his disciples the same question three times: “Do you love me?” The disciple felt hurt, wondering why Jesus kept asking. Who was this disciple?

- A. James
- B. John
- C. Philip
- D. (Simon) Peter

Look for answer elsewhere



Our ‘**Ask the Council**’ box had a question in it that we discussed at our August meeting.

Question: “*How are you all doing?*” “*Do you need anything?*”

Signed: *anonymous*

Dear anonymous,

Thank you so much for thinking of your council. It’s a blessing to know that someone is looking out for the members of the council and how hard they work in keeping things going at Good Hope.

At the present time, Council is doing ok-fine thanks! As for anything we may need, we can always use snacks at our meeting. You can drop them off in the conference room #9 anytime before 7pm on the second Tuesday of every month. Just put a note on them, “FOR THE COUNCIL”.

Thank you again for thinking about us. Next time, feel free to leave your name so we can thank you personally.

Blessings,
Good Hope Church Council

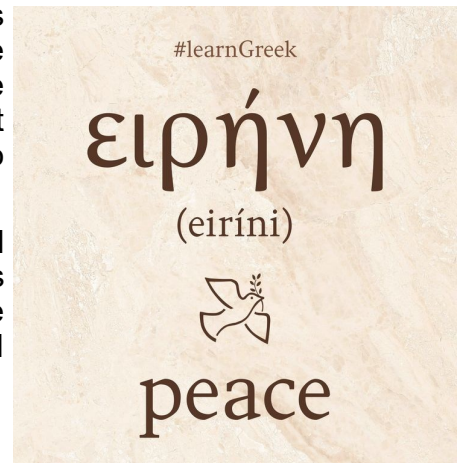
Ramblings from...Deb

Last month I went on a week long retreat at Maranatha Bible & Missionary Conference. It is located on Lake Michigan, in Muskegon. My first retreat and I didn't know what to expect, but the 5 page waiver form startled me. The skeptic in me vowed not to drink any Kool-Aid (there may some of you that won't understand the meaning behind that comment!!!). Nothing could be further from the truth. Maranatha is celebrating their 90th year. I had an amazing week and have already put a deposit down for next year. Denomination was never mentioned or assumed. The only thing that mattered was that you believed that Jesus was your savior. Along with twice daily services and bible studies, there were activities, a pool, sunsets at the beach (with Smores), rock climbing, zip lining, axe throwing and nature walks, jet skis and of course there was some fabulous food. Interestingly enough there was not a TV anywhere and the internet was spotty. I came back energized, invigorated and a new better attitude. Looking forward to next year.

My first service back at Good Hope reminded me of my previous month's Jelly Roll lyrics...'raise your hands'. The service made me reflect more on some of the lyrics...there was a new song for the congregation, the first time I heard Beth play the flute and the first time hearing Diane sing a solo. All talents...like raising hands to heaven!!!

This last week Ben commented on learning Greek...yep it's all Greek to me. I am at an age now where my English sounds Greek, I misuse words, I mispronounce words and I have strange looking writing. Talking about writing...where is cursive going??? I think today's emoji's are like hieroglyphics...yep all Greek to me!!!

Take care and see you in church!!!
Debbie Kupel - GHLC Member



Pasty Time

Pasties will be made the week of September 21-25

Volunteers will be needed.

There are sign-up sheets posted in the narthex to volunteer or place orders or call the church office

Price is \$9 per Pasty

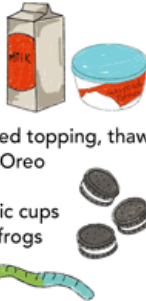
KID'S PAGE



A sweet reminder that God is always growing something new, no matter the season. As summer winds down and a new school year begins, remember He is at work in your life, helping you grow in faith, kindness and courage. With His help, you can grow in wisdom, build friendships and shine His love wherever you go.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving) box chocolate instant pudding mix
- 1 (8 oz.) tub whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) clear plastic cups
- Gummy worms or frogs (optional)



What you do:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes until thickened.
2. Gently fold in the whipped topping.
3. Add a layer of crushed cookies to the bottom of each cup.
4. Spoon pudding mixture on top, filling the cups about $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
5. Sprinkle more crushed cookies on top to look like "dirt."
6. Add gummy worms or frogs for fun.
7. Chill until ready to serve, or enjoy right away.

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? — Isaiah 43:14 (NIV)



Apple of Your Eye

"Apple of your eye" means something very special that you protect. As school starts again, remember what God says in Proverbs 7:2 (NIV): "Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye."

Can you find the word "apple" 12 times in the puzzle?
Look up, down, across, and even backward!

