

## Good Hope's

## Good News

September 2025



## 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

Dear Church Family:

Grace and peace to you as we welcome September and the steady return of routines. The season itself invites us into rhythm: cooler air, leaves turning, schools resuming their daily cadence. In the church we often speak of "falling back" into our Christian Education schedule — not as a retreat into sameness, but as a faithful return to practices that shape us, hold us accountable, and connect us to one another.

Change is woven into this time of year. For some families, this is the first time a child boards a yellow bus for kindergarten. For others, a young adult leaves home for college — a household that felt complete suddenly reconfigures itself. All of these transitions bring excitement and anxious energy, a need to rearrange calendars, and a desire for support. The church can be a steadying presence in those shifts.

Why are regular spiritual rhythms important? Because faith grows in the ordinary: the weekly congregation around table and pulpit, the midweek small group that asks honest questions, the children's class that teaches prayers and stories, the youth room that offers space for wrestling with doubt and hope. These practices aren't empty routines. They're the scaffolding for discipleship. They teach us how to listen for God, how to love our neighbors, and how to live with attention and generosity when the rest of life is demanding our time and focus.

That said, discipline in spiritual life is not just about rules/legalism. It's about grace that forms us. It's about showing up — even when tired — because presence matters. It's about being part of a community that notices when someone's seat is empty, that offers a meal, a ride, a listening ear. As families adjust to new school schedules, let the church be a place of practical help and spiritual anchoring.

This month, here are some ways we can live into our theme and make our congregation a place people want to attend:

- Reconnect with the calendar. Look over our Christian Education offerings for children, youth, and adults. Note start dates, times, and whether online options are available.
- Register your children and youth. It helps our teachers prepare and allows us to plan safe, welcoming classrooms.
- Volunteer. Teaching a Sunday school class, providing nursery coverage, serving coffee, or helping with hospitality are all tangible ways to make our church lovable and accessible.
- Be intentional about welcoming newcomers. A brief phone call or follow-up email to visitors, wearing your nametag, and an after-worship conversation can make a big difference.
- Join an intergenerational activity. Shared projects — a service day, a music workshop, or a potluck — help generations learn from each other and cultivate mutual care.
- Keep learning. Sign up for an adult study or book group. Lifelong formation deepens our faith and widens our perspectives.

***Continued on page 8***

## **Financial Corner – for July 2025**

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

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

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

July offering:	\$21,762
July 30% rental income	\$ 900
Monthly budget:	\$14,255
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than budget:	\$7,507

2025 Year to Date:

YTD Offering:	\$89,220
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 6,300
YTD Budget	\$99,785
YTD Offering higher/(lower) than Budget	\$(4,265)

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

July offering:	\$21,762
July 30% rental income	\$ 900
July expenses	\$(19,331)
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than expenses	\$3,331
YTD Offering	\$89,220
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 6,300
YTD Expenses	\$(107,491)
YTD offering higher / (lower) than expenses	\$(11,971)

**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.**

### **Thrivent Investments:**

GHLC-Christus Victor Mission Endowment

2025 Beginning Balance	\$ 61,436
Gains/(Losses) (YTD)	2,817
Withdrawals	<u>(1,000)</u>
Ending Balance (7/31/2025)	\$ 63,253

GHLC-Investments

2025 Beginning Balance	\$243,104
Gains/(Losses) (YTD)	15,913
Withdrawals (roof repairs)	<u>(32,000)</u>
Ending Balance (7/31/2025)	\$227,017

GHLC– Savings from rental payments \$15,426



### **Chase Bank Account (Checking/Savings):**

Is being reconciled at this time



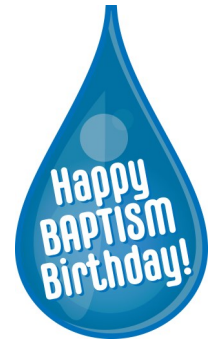
# SEPTEMBER

*birthdays*

9/3 Madelyn Donfried  
 9/12 Hailey King  
 9/12 Debra Likeric  
 9/14 Lisa Donfried  
 9/16 Christopher Brown  
 9/17 John Kenney  
 9/19 Beth Taylor  
 9/21 Larry Suoppi  
 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  
 9/15 Kristen Wiles  
 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.



# SEPTEMBER

*anniversaries*

9/13 Zack & KC Griwicki	11 yrs
9/19 Fred & Nneka Owens	21 yrs
9/20 Jeremiah & Kristen Bledsoe	19 yrs
9/22 JB & Debbie Likeric	46 yrs



## Let's get healthy in mind, body and spirit!

We are reviving our "Healthy Habits" club! The purpose of this club is to encourage and uplift each other to be the best version of ourselves. We share weekly personal goals such as - eat more vegetables, go for a daily walk, do devotions at least 3 times a week, no doom scrolling after 7:00 pm. Whatever you personally want to improve upon. It's a great way to start your week off strong and be intentional about goals as well as have accountability. This will be a casual, social, weekly gathering in the multipurpose room at 11:00 after service. Healthy snacks will be provided at the 1st meeting and we will plan what we are bringing for additional meetings as we are able. The 1st meeting will be September 21st at 11:00 in the multipurpose room. We will have a sign up sheet for those attending in the Narthex. This is open to everyone, member or not.

Any questions, please feel free to contact me.  
 734-334-6737 jennynpts@gmail.com

Hope to see you there!  
 Jenny Smith



## News from the Pews

(Council Prez. Diane Rinehart [aka Di])

Can it really be September already? Didn't we just celebrate 4<sup>th</sup> of July?! Where did our summer go??

As promised in my last letter, I will be talking about our wonderful boards that keep things moving around here. Since it's 'back to school' time, this month I'd like to talk about our board of education.

Hailey King is our new Director of Education. She has been quite busy with redecorating the Sunday school room, preparing lessons for our younger children, posting calendar of events, along with rounding up volunteers for teaching or assisting in the classroom on Sunday mornings. Along with Sunday school, Hailey is working together with Pastor Lew and her dad Bob King in putting together the confirmation class course for the year. Our teens are in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of confirmation. You will be seeing our teens a little more involved in our worship services in the coming year. They will be ushering, acolyting and perhaps reading the lessons once in a while. So next time you run into Hailey either in the classroom (or sweeping floors as she and her hubby Dan are our custodians as well), give her a high 5 and let her know how much she is appreciated for heading up our education department!

Let us not forget our "God's Goofballs", formerly known as the Youth Group. Jan Juliette is the lead in this group which is for our middle schoolers. This group meets, usually once a month, from September-May. Fun activities, visiting our homebound/shut ins, and is open to not only our students but to the community. If you know of a young teen looking for a place to come and be involved I'm sure the group has room for them. Please contact Mrs. Juliette for more information.

Last but certainly not least is our adult Bible study on Thursday mornings at 10:00am. They meet in the multi-purpose room and Pr. Lew has the pleasure of leading his 'scholars' as he likes to call them. This Bible study is open to all. This is a happy place on Thursday morning, because whenever I happen to be in church on Thursday mornings, I'm always hearing laughter, seeing a video on the monitor or even a visit from Malawi, South Africa via zoom. Of course, there is always snacks and coffee! So if you're not busy on Thursday mornings, come and join the fun...I mean join the Bible study. ☺

Just a couple reminders:

- ♦ **Our September 7<sup>th</sup> worship service will be held at Rotary park, 10:00am,** with our annual picnic immediately following
- ♦ Fall pasty making and selling starts Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. You may place your orders either by signing up in the narthex or call the church office. Spread the word!!
- ♦ Choir starts back up September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jerome is always looking for more singers. Come on out and join in the fun on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm.

Peace & Blessings, ~Di Rinehart

Psalm 118:24 "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

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

*Gilbert Barrett, Sheryl Beebe, Margaret Betko, Kevin Clarey, Geri Daniels, Lisa Donfried, Beverly Doom, Steve Fritz, Michael Hicks, Donna Kanowski, Carol Kenyon, Ken Konsdorf, Michael Landa, Vaughn Mattson, Don McAdam, Carol Napier, Shirlee Pakkala, Kathy Saatio, Eleanore Stirling, Dorothy Sweda, Gail White, Beverly Wolff, Brandon, Adam, Pauline, Owen, Heather, Alannah, Leona, Carnetta, Roy, Jodi, Sue, Norm, Jimmy, Tamra, & Good Hope.....In your prayers*



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



### + Christian Symbols +



**BURNING BUSH** — In Exodus 3, God speaks to Moses from a bush that is burning but not consumed. When Moses asks what he should say if the Egyptians questions who sent him to lead the Israelites out of slavery, God states, "I AM WHO I AM." Centuries later, when people wonder who Jesus is, his answers hint at his divinity: "I AM the light of the world; I AM the good shepherd; I AM the bread of life" and, perhaps most profoundly, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). On Pentecost, God's Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles as fire. Thus the burning bush is a powerful symbol of God's presence echoed through time.

### Bible Quiz



Timothy was a young man who became a trusted companion and co-worker of the apostle Paul. Which of the following statements is not accurate?

- A. Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures.
- B. Paul considered Timothy his spiritual son.
- C. Timothy was born in Rome and raised as a Roman citizen.
- D. Paul wrote two New Testament letters addressed to Timothy.

**Look for answer elsewhere**

### New Member Class

Are you curious about becoming a member or wondering how you might deepen your connection with our church family? We'll be offering a New Members Class after worship on **September 28 and October 5.**

Join us in the library for refreshments during the 45 minutes beginning around 11:15. Attend both sessions to learn about who we are, how we serve, and how you can help us grow—and at the end of the two gatherings you'll have the opportunity to decide whether to join as a new member or transfer your membership.

We look forward to welcoming new faces in October and to the gifts each of you brings to our life together. If you have questions, please call Pastor Lew or the church office. Come as you are—we're glad you're here.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lew



### Good Hope Quilter's Mission Update

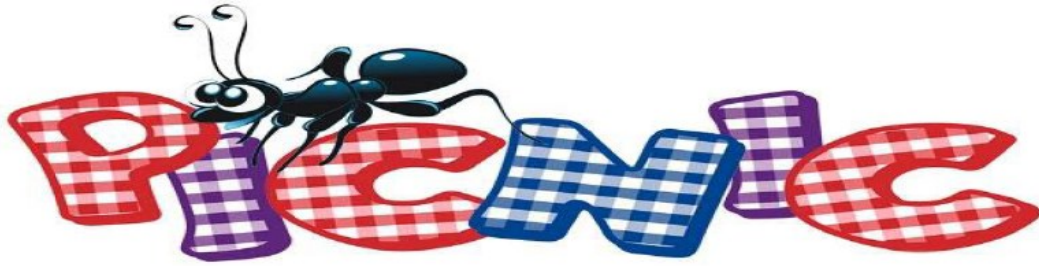
Good Hope Quilter's will start meetings for the 2025/26 session on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Church's Fellowship Hall. Meetings throughout the year will be held on the second and fourth Wednesday at 9:30am.

Please feel free to stop by and visit. You may try your hand at quilt layouts, yarn tying to complete sandwiched quilts or rolling completed quilts. Emphasis currently will be on completing quilts from the prior session and getting ready for their blessing and delivery to the Lutheran World Relief drop off in October.

GHLC quilts are distributed, along with others, to our neighbors around the world and here in the US, especially to comfort those affected by hurricanes.

Many thanks for your support.





**Good Hope Service & Church Picnic**  
**Sunday September 7th at 10am**  
Rotary Park 32465 Marquette, Garden City  
(between Merriman & Venoy)

The church will provide hot dogs, brats, burgers, buns,  
all the fixins', refreshments, and tableware  
Bring a dish to pass if you like  
There will be games for the kids....and grown-ups!

A decorative border of autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red surrounds the text.

## **Pasty Time**

**Pasties will be made the week of September 14-19**

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 \$8 per Pasty**

### Ramblings from....Deb

Just when you thought you had heard the last from me...I am back!!! I missed not letting y'all know what I was thinking about...lol. Not being on Council anymore I do not know all of the things going on throughout the church. So my ramblings will be more general and more of a personal nature. Of course I will include an affirmation or a scripture that touched me to share. I lost a dear friend and companion in July...my kitty buddy Amy passed away. She had a long good and spoiled life. She was 16 years old, with me for 15 of those years. Are cats like dogs and she was 112 in cat years??? I feel my age...70 next month. I understand that a few of us will hit the 70 mark this year. That's why Fellowship/Outreach planned a 70+ party. I have heard that Kathy Saatio is transiting to a new care facility...then there is Dorothy Sweda at 102!!!

The company I work for is transitioning as well, we may be sold in the next few months. That will be a big change for all of us. It will be a positive thing, so no sadness. All of this rambling reminds me of a phrase my previous boss used to say..."there is nothing as consistent as our inconsistencies"...yep I get that now.

Change is never easy...certainly not for me...which leads me into the affirmation I have under the clear blotter on my desk. I look at it every day.

***"Lord help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that You and I together can't handle".***

Take care...and see you in church!!!

Debbie Kupel, Church Member



### A pastor writes to his people

Long-term relationships go through cycles: ups and downs, hills and valleys, good times and bad. That's true in our spiritual life, too. For many of us, our spiritual life begins with a very powerfully personal relationship with Christ. We can feel like we are on top of a mountain and have laid claim to the most important thing in all the world. And that strong and powerful feeling can stay with us and propel us for months and even years.

But I don't think I have ever found anyone who has said that they have been able to maintain that state of spiritual ecstasy throughout the entire course of their life. Sooner or later, we find ourselves in a spiritual valley.

I talked to a woman the other day who explained her situation exactly like that. "Yes, it's true," she said, "I've been away from church for a long time. But you know, it goes deeper than that. I've not really had much of a spiritual life for a good number of years now. I don't know why. I used to be on fire for the Lord. I couldn't get enough of church. I read the Bible all of the time and prayed all the time too. I found ways to serve Christ every single day. But I guess the 'newness' of it all wore off and I just lost interest."

But then she said, "I feel something stirring in me again. Could it be the Holy Spirit? And I feel like I want to come back and start walking on my spiritual journey again." She really put into words what all of us experience if we enter into a relationship with the Lord. It doesn't stay on the mountaintop forever. There are valleys and great stretches of desert. We could very well "drop out" and even move in a different direction.

But those down cycles don't last forever and more often than not there come brand-new stirrings in the heart. What would it mean for you to "fall in love all over again" with the One whom Revelation 2:4 calls our "first love"? This is a great time to come back home to the Lord, your first love, and renew at an even deeper and more seasoned level the most important relationship any of us will ever have in life.

-Norman Neaves, "The Church of the Servant,"

### **Save the Date**

#### **Church Service At the Park & Picnic**

Sunday - 09/07/25 – 10am Service  
Picnic to follow.  
Rotary Park – Garden City

#### **Ice Cream Social-Rally Day**

Sunday - 09/14/25 – After Service  
Volkmar Hall

#### **Sunday School & Confirmation Class**

Both classes resume on Sunday 9/21/25  
Sunday School 10am  
Confirmation Class 11:15am

#### **Trunk Or Treat**

Saturday - 10/25/25 – 5pm to 7pm  
West Parking Lot

#### **Birthday Coffee Hour For 70+**

ALL ARE WELCOME  
Sunday - 10/26/25 – After Service  
Volkmar Hall

#### **Silver Strings Christmas Concert**

Thursday – 12/11/25 - 5pm to 7pm  
Sanctuary  
Refreshments in Volkmar Hall after Concert

#### **White Elephant Holiday Party**

Saturday 12/13/25 – 5pm  
Volkmar Hall

### **Tim Hall Bag Packing**

Here is a running tally of what is still needed for the next Tim Hall backpack event. The goal is 50 backpacks. The next event is September 20th. We pack bags on **September 16th**.

These items are what we consider essentials for our backpacks and how many more we need to make our goal of 50 bags. **\*Updated 8/19/25.**

Below is what we \*still need to get to 50 if there is a check we are all set. ☺

0 Backpacks ✓ (ahead by 214)  
42 Vienna sausages  
37 Trail mix  
50 Slim Jim's  
25 Men's deodorant  
25 Women's deodorant  
10 pairs socks  
31 peanut butter crackers  
36 Tuna pouches  
2 Applesauce or fruit pouches  
0 granola bars ✓ (ahead by 115)  
0 rolls of toilet paper  
38 bars of soap  
41 washcloths  
0 nutragrain bars ✓ (ahead by 24)  
124 wet wipes  
0 hand sanitizer  
19 bags of cookies  
13 toothbrushes with paste  
27 bandaids  
25 fruit snacks

**Cash donations are always welcomed.** Any questions can be directed to Jenny Smith 734-334-6737.

### ***Pastor's Pen continued from page 1***

As your pastor, I know your council leaders are determined to cultivating a congregation that is intentional, welcoming, and adaptable. We will keep our spaces safe, our programs well-organized, and our welcome warm. If your family needs accommodations, rides, or flexible scheduling, please reach out, if you can offer rides for some of our new visitors call Karen at the church office. If you have ideas for new study topics or ways to support parents and students, bring them forward to our fellowship committee. We are stronger when we build the schedule of our life together with wide shoulders and generous hands.

This fall, let us return to the rhythms that form us — not as an obligation, but as an invitation: to be known, to be nurtured, and to be sent. May this season of change find us anchored in worship, nourished in study, and enlivened in our community visits. I look forward to seeing you in class, in choir, on Sunday morning, and around the table.

See you in church! ~Pastor Lew



# KID'S PAGE



Create adorable sheep using graham crackers, marshmallows, and a little imagination!

## What you need:

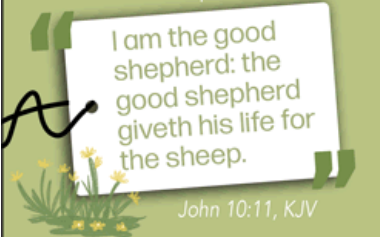
- Graham cracker squares
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Mini marshmallows
- Large marshmallows
- Candy eyes or mini chocolate chips
- Black gel icing or mini Oreo cookie

## What you do:

1. Spread white frosting or marshmallow fluff on each graham cracker square.
2. Stick mini marshmallows all over to make the sheep's wool.
3. Cut a large marshmallow in half and stick it near the top for the head.
4. Add candy eyes and a dot of black gel for the nose. Or use a mini Oreo cookie half for a more defined face.
5. Let kids decorate their sheep however they'd like!

## Lesson tie-in

Use this treat to remind kids that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

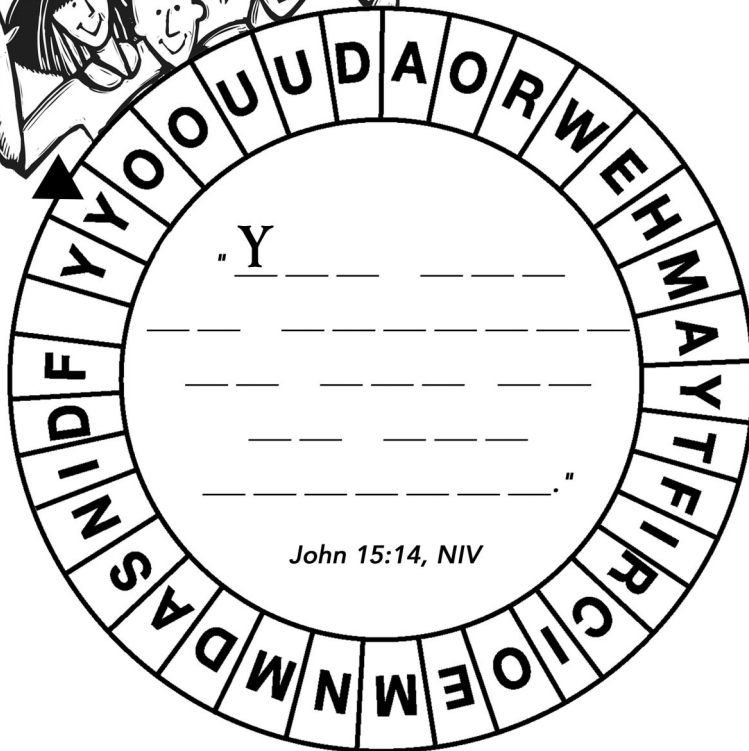


## WHO WERE JESUS' FRIENDS?

Jesus spent a lot of time with his friends. Whom did Jesus consider his friends?



Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below.



John 15:14, NIV

Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV