



(NH)²: New Hope Notes & Happenings

Volume 3 Issue IV
April 2021 Edition

We try to include all member submissions received. Please forgive any omissions made. They are accidental, please be assured.

Sharing God's Gift with
All, Proclaiming New
Hope in Jesus

**New Hope
Lutheran Staff**

**Reverend
Pastor Scott Vana**
(219)-207-0366
scottv1162@gmail.com
Pastor of Record

Dean DeVoe
(574) 583-6356
purdue dean@comcast.net
Music Director/Pianist

Jenelle Foddrill
(574)-870-3104
sparky_III_one@hotmail.com
Secretary



Christian Minimalism

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34)

What is a Christian minimalist?

Now that it is officially spring, I'm reminded of the practice/tradition of spring cleaning. You know what I mean – the annual extended cleaning that many of us give to our home this time of year.

I recently read an article titled "Spring Cleaning" in the April 2021 issue of Gather magazine (one of the publications of our ELCA). The article uses spring cleaning as a metaphor for minimalism, defined as evaluating how we spend our time and money with the goal of focusing on what is most important. For us as Christians, this boils down to what supports and encourages our relationship with God.

To be perfectly honest, I'm not a naturally tidy or organized person. If you saw my office/work space, you would know this instantly. But there is something within me that leads me to desire order & simplicity, and not only in my physical surroundings. I'd like my "inner" life to be less cluttered, too.

Jesus taught about how our ma-

terial possessions can influence our relationship with God (think the rich young man of Matthew 19:16-26). He also cautioned us to keep our priorities straight and avoid busy, but empty lives (think Martha and Mary of Luke 10:38-42). In our fast-paced, consumer-driven society today, we would do well to consider these teachings.

I encourage you to read the Gather article (gathermagazine.org). You may also enjoy a blog authored by ELCA pastor Becca Ehrlich (christianminimalism.com). May God bless you as you seek to serve and follow Jesus.

Pastor Vana



J
A
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T
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Observations
from
Janet Beagle

The Beginning of the Easter Story

Jesus the Christ was born on Christmas Day, but that is not the beginning of the story.

The coming of Jesus was foretold throughout the Old Testament. The prophets announced throughout Israel's history that a Messiah would come. But even that is not the beginning of the story.

We could argue that the Easter Story begins with us. After all, *our* sins are the reason Jesus came. We are the ones being connected back to God through Jesus' death and resurrection. We are the reason for the Easter Story. But I don't think that is the beginning of the story either.

The need for a savior is first manifested in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve go against God's only command. "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die... Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the gar-

SEE JANET (Continued on page 4)



"..if it is leadership, let him govern diligently;..."
Romans 12:8

From the President of Our Congregation

A Time for Everything

March Moments

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens..."

Ecclesiastes 3: 1



Board of Finance

"But seek His kingdom"
Luke 12: 31

[Jesus said] "all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she has put in everything she had, all she had to live on." Mark 12:44(NSRV)

Jesus, observing the poor widow drop her two coins into the Temple treasury, made sure to stop and use the moment to teach the disciples, wanting them to understand that she acted from her heart. The poor widow placed her giving to the treasury above taking care of her own needs, and in that effort, she honored God greatly with her action. What seemed a meager gesture to the disciples was a tremendous gift to Our Lord.

Such giving is an act born out of fulfilling the Great Commandment, loving others as we love ourselves. In

Information about special days that occur during this month will be found throughout the newsletter and can be identified with the balloon borders,

"2018 - 2019 Daily Holidays by Month. Wacky, Bizarre Days, Holiday Insights." 2017 - 2018 Daily Holidays by Month. Wacky, Bizarre Days, Holiday Insights, holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/index.htm.

direct contrast to today's secular world and what it thinks, we as Christians are asked to live for others first.

SEE PRESIDENT (Continued on page 4)

I hope when you read this that Spring is in full bloom and we are all enjoying the new season. I have always thought that spring was a time to start again--start over. I suppose that this idea came from my living on a farm with the start of a new crop, baby animals being born, and the signs of new life all around me. I feel this is what is happening to us at New Hope. It has been exciting to have in-person services again. It is great to see many of you on Sunday morning. I hope that we continue to see more of our members as we all feel more comfortable and safe to meet together. Thank you for your continued giving even though we have faced this virus challenge. God is good all the time, all the time God is good. God Bless.

New Hope Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's Work. Our hands.

(574)297-8759

P.O. Box 869
Monticello, Indiana 47960

newhopelutheranelca@gmail.com

Church Officers

President

Jim Culross

jgculross@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Hickman

r-hickman@comcast.net

Secretary

Dean DeVoe

purduedean@comcast.net

Treasurer

Jane DeVoe

jane-devoe@comcast.net

The Ministries of New Hope Lutheran Church

"So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.'" ACTS 6: 2-4

Support of our pastoral staff is given, in part, by the following church ministries.

External Ministries

Vacant at Present

Internal Ministries

Vacant at Present

Properties

Glen Haskell

Worship

Vacant at Present

Worship
Sunday @ 9:00 AM
Open Forum 10:30 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday:

2:30-6:30

Tuesday:

4:00-6:30

Wednesday:

CLOSED

Thursday:

CLOSED

Friday:

4:00-7:00

Items for the
New Hope Notes and Happenings
(NH)²

need to be submitted to Ted or Gretchen Leuenberger by the **third Sunday of the month prior** to the month you wish it to appear. You may submit your information through the mail, 4900 North Boxman Place, Monticello, IN 47960; e-mail, gal4900@gmail.com; by phone, (574)297-5455; or by dropping off the article in the church office. (NH)² will be distributed by the end of the month.

LESSONS

In January we began a series looking at **Life Lessons**. We know that the way we treat others matter—and that God wants us to treat everyone with the love and respect He shows each and every one of us daily. Unfortunately, our country is struggling with this idea right now. This series which will last until May, will share some stories about things we need to remember as we live the life God wants for us.

Fourth Important Lesson. - The obstacle in Our Path.

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along

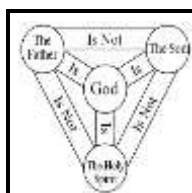
carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The peasant learned what many of us never understand!
Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

God, thank you for showing us that the ultimate sacrifice is to live for our neighbor rather than for ourselves.

Amen

(Christ in Our Home, March 9, 2021)



Learning About the Three Ecumenical Creeds

We continue our study of the Creeds, by looking at Martin Luther's explanation of the second article within the Apostle's Creed.

The Second Article

REDEMPTION

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, The Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Luther, Martin. *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*. Concordia Publishing House 1986.

When were the Three Creeds Written?

Monthly Celebrations for April:

Keep America Beautiful Month
Lawn and Garden Month
National Kite Month

Special Professional Days for the month of April:

- National Welding Month
- 4th** School Librarian Day
- 4th** Hug a Newsman Day
- 12th** National Library Workers Day
- 14th** International Be Kind to Lawyers Day
- 16th** National Librarian Day
- 18th** Newspaper Columnists Day
- 21st** Administrative Professionals Day

Learning of other faiths:

12th Ramadan—A month long celebration in the Muslim faith spent in fasting, worship, and renewal of family ties. It ends with the sighting of the moon, on the last day.

Ni C ene R E s' E D S Athana S ian

Apostles' Creed is thought to have been adopted by the church sometime during the beginning of the 2nd century.

Athanasian Creed is believed to have originated in Gaul (modern day France) in the 6th or 7th century.

Nicene Creed was first adopted at the 1st Council of Nicaea, in 325.

(Continued from page 1) JANET
den?" (Genesis 2:16-17,3:1). We know from the passages that follow and from the intent of this serpent that this is no ordinary serpent. This is not one of God's good creations. This is the Great Deceiver and the Great Tempter, masquerading as a lowly serpent. No one but Satan would prod God's good creation to question God's authority, wisdom, guidance, and love.

Eve and then Adam made humankind's biggest mistake – they listened to Satan's whispering and went against God's command. Indeed, as Satan had suggested, Adam and Eve's eyes were opened to good and evil, but at a terrible cost. Sin was unleashed into the world, and they were powerless to escape it. They hid. They covered themselves with leaves. But the release of sin was not something they could erase. It would be passed down, generation to generation. Every generation would be just as powerless as the last to staunch the rush of sin.

Except that God made a promise – even then. Although Satan would wield sin, it would not overcome us. Somewhere down through the generations, an offspring would crush Satan's head. "You shall bruise His heel," God told Satan. "But He will bruise your head (Genesis 3:15b). For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive (1 Corinthians 15:22).

So we see that God's promise came first in the Garden of Eden. But even that is not the beginning of the story.

It is John who tells us where the Easter Story truly begins. *In the beginning*, John wrote, *was the Word. And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God... the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* (John 1:1-2,14).

Jesus was in the beginning with God! Jesus was God! God is the beginning of the Easter Story. Consider for a moment what that means.

We can feel our need for the Easter Story in our own failures. We can hear the promise of the Easter

Story in the Garden of Eden and in the prophets' proclamations. We can witness the Easter Story in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. But we can trace the beginning of the Easter Story to only one place. The beginning of the Easter Story is God. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him might not perish, but have eternal life* (John 3:16).

The Easter Story does not begin with us reaching out to God, or even with God becoming one of us. It begins with God himself. *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God* (Ephesians 2:8).

Thanks be to God. For He is the beginning of the Easter Story.

"In the beginning, God..." (Genesis 1:1)

www.mustardpatch.org



Beagle, Janet. "Various Writings." *The Mustard Patch*, mustardpatch.wordpress.com/about/.

(Continued from page 2) PRESIDENT

Though the poor widow gave from her small treasure, something that reminds us we are asked to do in supporting the ministry efforts of our church family, this also reminds us that we are to give of our time and talent in addition to the gift of treasure.

We have many wonderful examples of these amongst us in our church family, both now and in the past. I think back to the leadership of Harold Erdmann, who mentored me years ago, was instrumental in the design and construction of our former building, a prominent member of the Council, and cornerstone of New Hope for years. I think of Dean DeVoe, who blesses us with his musical talent each week, serves us in the pulpit, arranges our supply pastors, and is on our Council serving as our Secretary. These seem to be rich and generous gifts to share, and they are, but God is

not as interested in the size of what we give as much as He is interested in the state of our hearts when we give in His name.

Knowing this, we should not shy away from sharing our time, our talents, and our treasure, no matter what they are, because when we feel that prodding from the Holy Spirit to share those things and then react to it, our work will honor God and fulfill His purpose. All these, which come from our heart, bring joy to Our Creator and furthers His Kingdom here on this Earth, for in His eyes, when it comes from our hearts, there are no such thing as inadequate gifts.

As we approach the return to "normal", we will need generous giving from each and every one of us. We have servant roles open and available to make our worship flow smoothly and be meaningful to all who attend, needing assisting ministers, readers, and ushers. We have causes we continue to support, the White County Food Pantry and the Fireman's Fund. We will resume outreach efforts to benefit our neighbors. We will have the opportunity to interact with our First Presbyterian friends. These require us to engage our hearts, give our best regardless of the size of the time we give, the talent we share, or the treasure we provide, thus bringing glory to our God as we tend to our mission as New Hopers, sharing God's gifts with all, proclaiming new hope in Jesus.




























In His service, Jim Culross



As Jim commented in his letter, NH continues to raise funds for the White County Food Pantry and the Monticello Fireman's Fund. You may give your donations at church (be sure to designate the money for these two programs) or you may send the donations to the church office.

Something to Celebrate Everyday

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 	5 <i>National Dandelion Day</i> 	6 <i>Plan Your Epitaph</i> 	7 <i>National Walking Day</i> 	1 <i>April Fool's Day</i> 	2 <i>Children's Book Day</i> 	3 <i>Find a Rainbow Day</i> 
11 <i>National Teach Children to Save Day</i> 	12 <i>Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day</i> 	13 <i>Scrabble Day</i> 	14 <i>International Moment of Laughter Day</i> 	15 <i>Income Taxes Due</i> Extension has been made this year— Now Due 5-17 	16 <i>National Stress Awareness Day</i> 	17 <i>Husband Appreciation Day</i> 
18 <i>Pet Owners Independence Day</i> 	19 <i>Patriot's Day</i> 	20 <i>Volunteer Recognition Day</i> 	21 <i>Kindergarten Day</i> 	22 <i>Earth Day (U.S.)</i> 	23 <i>Take a Chance Day</i> 	24 <i>Pig in a Blanket Day</i> 
25 <i>World Penguin Day</i> 	26 <i>Richter Scale Day</i> 	27 <i>Morse Code Day</i> 	28 <i>International Astronomy Day</i> 	29 <i>National Zipper Day</i> 	30 <i>Arbor Day</i> 	

"O come, let us sing unto the
LORD: let us make a joyful
noise to the rock of our
salvation."

Psalm 95:1
New Hope Musical
Programming



Musical Program Planning from
Dean DeVoe

Last month, I wrote about the Lenten Book that I am reading and studying - 'Book of Faith – Lenten Journey - Beyond Question'. I am very glad that I am doing this, and I hope you have been able to do something special in your faith life that has helped you focus on Christ - our Living Lord. It has been for me a journey that explores many of the questions Jesus used to deepen discipleship. This journey has encouraged me to think, pray and reflect on how these questions might lead and guide me into new paths of discovery. The book even said it hopes that I will "ponder why I believe what I believe and that I will be both challenged and strengthened throughout the journey." I mention this in this month's newsletter, because I plan to continue some type of study and I encourage each of

you as well, to find some study guide or book or resource material to continue some type of study on a day-by-day basis.

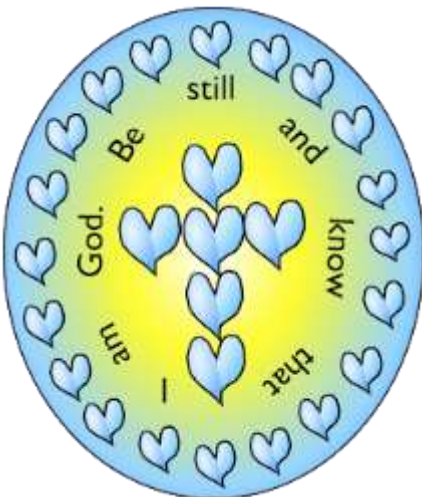
In our worship services, we will be moving from the Lenten season to the Easter season and Easter Liturgical messages. I am looking forward to our celebrating with lots of Alleluias. I am reminded that at one of our previous churches where Jane and I worshiped, as a visual lesson for our young children, we actually took them outside to the yard at our church, carrying a wooden cutout of the word "ALLELUIA" and we actually buried it in the yard. Our pastor was trying to teach the young people what changes we would make in our service during Lent. And then on Easter Sunday, he would have the "ALLELUIA" show up in that day's Children's Sermon, having dug it up. At New Hope, our music that we will be singing in the Easter season will have a very strong resurrection message as well and we will be bringing back "ALLELUIA" into our music.

I pray that the Lenten Season has been a deeply spiritual growth time for each of you, and that you will be able to grow more fully into accepting and

understanding the Love of Christ and sharing that Love with friends and family members, and also to others that you don't know. May others see and experience the message of Christ's love through what you are able to demonstrate through your life.

He is
Risen
Alleluia!

In God



We Trust

Praying for Those Who Need Courage...

Working with Daily Trials:

Greater Monticello
Community,
Judy Booze,
Joyce McKinney,
Shirley Ziemer

Facing Life's Long- Term Challenges:

JoAnn Miller,
George Cleefman,
Dave Woodhams,
Sue Wilburn,
Lisa Baxter,
Jim O'Neal,
Vicki Leanard

Dealing with Chron- ic Illness or are Homebound:

Claude Culross,
Dorothy Kever,
Larry Foddrill,
Andy Heaton,
Carolyn O'Neal,
Shelly Wiseley,
Anita Closson,
Bill Maegldin

As They Serve Our Country:

Ty Barnes, Cameron Burgess, Thomas Hiddle

As Partners in God's Mission:

New Hope Lutheran, Bishop Bill Gafkjen and the Indiana/Kentucky Synod, Jeff Truscott, Pastor Scott Vana, missionary in Singapore, Kathleen Lutz, missionary in Nairobi, Kenya, Monticello First Presbyterian Church

A X S Q T
A W I A R
E G O L I O
R Z A R H A P
Y W H F D Q J
L P C O A S E

And what was God's answer
to him? Romans 11: 4

WWW
Wiseley's Word
Puzzles

Citation:

Google Search, Google, www.google.co.nz/search?q=communion%2Bfor%2Bkids%2Bcoloring%2Bpages%2FACTIVITIES%2BPINTER-EST&sa=N&espv=2&biw=1920&bih=979&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&ei=RDAWVM7fNYiXuATGtICIBw&ved=0CCAQsAQ4FA#imgrc=7nZSk_Pdk

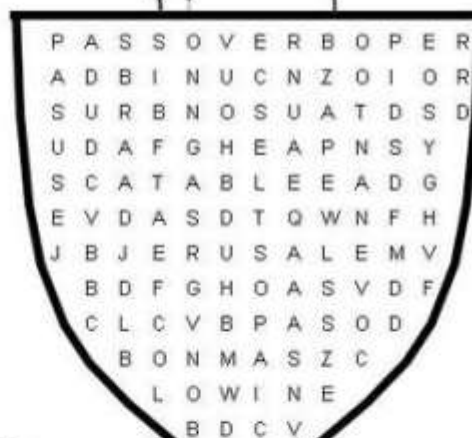


The Last Supper



Word Bank

Passover
Table
Apostles
Cup
Wine
Bread
Body
Covenant
Blood
Jesus
Jerusalem





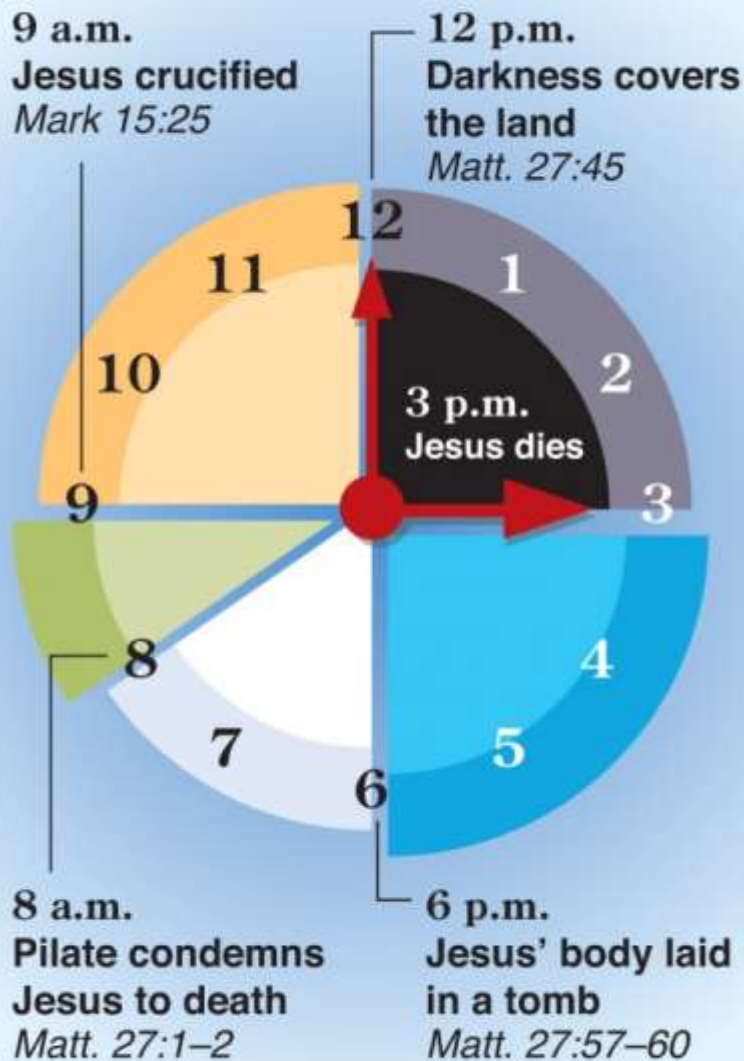
On the Web

"I will proclaim the name of the LORD." Deuteronomy 32:3

Young, Sarah. "It Is Finished!" *FaithGateway*, 3 Apr. 2015, www.faithgateway.com/it-is-finished/
 #.YDv8SmhKjIU.

This year the first week of April is Holy Week and it seemed to be a good time to look at the timeline of Good Friday. We know that we celebrate Maundy Thursday as the time Christ gives us the sacrament of communion, when He celebrates the Last Supper with His disciples in the Upper Room. Later the evening He and the disciples go to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He is confronted by the Pharisee guards and thus begins the events of Good Friday. This website has a devotional about that eventful day and this pictorial timeline, with Biblical references.

Good Friday



Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

Internet Advisory: Whenever using the internet, it is wise to insure that your source is reliable, accurate, and a credible source. Intelligent and resourceful people investigate facts gained from the internet to assure their validity.




Check out the church's website <http://www.newhopelutheranelca.com/>

**"He has risen!
He is not here."**

Mark 16:6

April 2021

The Liturgical Year	Maundy Thursday
	Good Friday
	Season of Easter

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Birthdays listed in Blue Anniversaries listed in Green</p> <p>The birthdays and anniversaries are the dates that the church office has available. We apologize if the list is not complete. Please inform us of additions and/or corrections that need to be made. . Thank you.</p>				<p>1 Maundy Thursday</p> 	<p>2 Good Friday</p> 	3
<p>4 9:00 Worship Service</p> 	<p>5 <i>Dean DeVoe</i> <i>Jenelle Foddrill</i></p>	6	<p>7 <i>Hannah Dold</i></p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 <i>Sandy Wagner</i> <i>Zoe Downey</i></p> <p>9:00 Worship Service</p>	12	<p>13 <i>Cameron Bennington</i></p>	14	15	16	17
<p>18 <i>Scott Lutz</i></p> <p>9:00 Worship Service</p>	19	20	<p>21 <i>Tom & Mary Wade</i></p>	22 <i>Lucy Norris</i>	<p>23 <i>Keith & Heidi Kirchner</i></p>	<p>24 <i>Ray Ziemer</i></p>
	25	26	27	28 <i>Dave Neireiter</i>	29	30
<p>9:00 Worship Service</p>						

Newsletter
Items Due
Tomorrow



NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 869

Monticello, Indiana 47960

**Sharing God's gifts with all, Proclaiming new
hope in Jesus!**

Phone: 574-297-8759

Email: newhopelutheranelca@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED