

Volume 3 Issue IX September 2021 Edition



# New Hope Lutheran Staff

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Pastor of Record

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NH)<sup>2</sup>: New Hope Notes & Happenings

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

# Coming Together for Worship

#### We are One in the Spirit

From the Pastor

> I love to sing songs which are often referred to as 'camp songs,' and one of my favorites is "We are One in The Spirit." Few if any of these songs make their way into our hymnals, which I think is unfortunate because they are fun to sing and the words are great.

Consider the final verse of the song:

"All praise to the Father, from who all things come, And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,

And all praise to the Spirit Who makes us one"

I don't know about you, but that song makes me want to sing praises to God. Hallelujah!

Gathering to worship & praise our Lord on Sunday mornings is an important time for Christians. These days, I understand those who choose to worship online to minimize the possibility of infecting others or becoming infected themselves. Know that God is present with you. For those who don't have a health-related concern, please consider worshipping with us at our new worship space in Reynolds. There you can sing God's praises, share in the Lord's Supper, and fellowship with your sisters and brothers in the faith.

Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop Bill Gafkjen recently wrote a "Pastoral Message" addressing the challenges New Hope and other congregations are facing in this time of COVID. He encourages all of us to 'walk together with humility and grace through this wilderness," citing the words of 1 Peter 3:8:

#### Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind."

How will the church survive & thrive now and in the future? By coming together for worship, however and whenever we can, and by remembering and celebrating the unity we have because God has made us one through His Spirit. What a powerful witness this can be to others. To quote the final line of the chorus: "Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love!"

[You can read the full text of the bishop's Pastoral Message here: <u>https://iksynod.org/2021/08/05/a-pastoral-message-from-bishop-bill-gafkjen/]</u>

our Armed Forces, there is another source for which we must acknowledge we owe freedom, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Paul, in his letter to Titus, reminds us that we gained our freedom, freedom from sin, through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Though we can read Paul and see the words, taking them to heart can be difficult. Why? Because we realize that we are constantly battling between doing the "right" things and SEE PRESIDENT (Continued on page 4)

"..if it is leadership, let him govern diligently;..." Romans 12:8 From the President of Our Congregation

"He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people". Titus 2:14a, NLT

I was sitting in the living room watching the Reds play when suddenly the

heavens were filled with the roar of jet engines. An A-10 went streaking by on a training run, something that occurs quite frequently this time of year. Every time I hear them flying, I can't help but think, "Ahhh..., the sound of freedom", for they are being manned by men and women of our U.S. Air Force Reserves, honing skills that could be called upon at any time in defense of our nation, and the freedoms which we enjoy. Just as we should acknowledge that we owe our freedom to the members of



New Hope Lutheran Church



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

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# **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



Special Professional

Days for the month of

September:

4th Newspaper Carrier

HAVE A RELAXING

Day

Worship Sunday @ 9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday Available, as needed, via the Church's Cell Phone and by Appointment Friday 4-6 pm

Items for the New Hope Notes and Happenings (NH)<sup>2</sup>

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*)<sup>2</sup> will be distributed by the end of the month.

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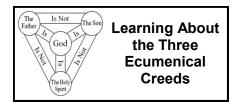


#### Part of the Picture

Not too long ago I attended a retreat for work. An hour of the day was designated for "Team Building Exercises." (Everybody groan.)

Actually, I'm one of those rare people who likes team building exercises. Such exercises lack the benefits of organic conversation, but the larger and more segmented an office becomes, the more helpful forced interaction can be. Otherwise you can go months and barely know more than the name of the person two cubicles down. (Sad, but true.)

I had my concerns about this



We continue learning more about our church's three creeds. This month we are going to review the second of the three creeds that the Christian faith has. The first 8 months of 2021 we have looked at the Apostle's Creed and have had an opportunity to learn how our church's namesake, Martin Luther, has examined the meaning of that creed, in his Small Catechism. He wrote explanations to the three articles and even delved deeper into the creed's meaning and purpose with a series of questions and answers, also found in the catechism. Those questions, located in the fourth section of the catechism, addresses the three creeds. However he also explains that the catechism itself focuses on the Apostles creed. Within the questions, Luther does

particular team building exercise when I saw hoola hoops and a rope and a small stuffed pig. But my concerns were quickly laid to rest. The rope was merely placed in a pile in the middle of the hoola hoop and we had to discuss, without reaching beyond the edge of the ring, whether pulling an end of the rope would produce a knot. I never did see what the pig was used for.

At the conclusion of some introductory exercises, we embarked on the grand finale. Each person was given a picture that was part of a larger story board. Without showing our picture to anyone, we had to identify where in the larger story we fit and line up in order. With close to 50 people in the room, this was no small task. Conversations erupted as we began grouping ourselves into related clumps and growing our line. The story began to take shape until we were all in order and did our "big reveal," turning the pictures around to see the whole story.

There are several lessons

explain what a creed is ("A creed is a statement of what we believe, teach, and confess") and even more importantly and as he does with all answers makes a specific biblical reference for why the church has creeds (Romans 10:10, It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.). And so, with Question # 89, we look at What three creeds are used by the church?

The Nicene Creed is the creed typically confessed when we celebrate Communion, the Lord's Supper.

The Nicene Creed We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from

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that can be taken from this exercise. The importance of communication, the idea that we are all part of a larger story, the understanding that we all had to work together in order to see the big picture. But perhaps one of the strongest lessons for me was one of trust. We each had to trust that others in the line were doing their part. I could not be everyplace at once. I could not be filling in some other part of the story; I had to focus on my own part.

This is a wonderful exercise for the office, and an even better one for the Church. Our lives are like those individual pictures, each part of a larger story. We will never see all the pieces in our lifetime, but our job is not to worry about all the pieces; it is to worry about our own. God has given each one of us a place in the body of Christ and a specific job to do (1 Corinthians 12).

There may be things we don't understand, but we have to remember that our perspective is only one tiny SEE JANET (Continued on page 4)

heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen



Board of Finance "But seek His kingdom" Luke 12: 31

In this world of uncertainty the one thing we can always depend is HIS love for us. We have heard many times that HE has a plan for each of us, and I believe HE has a plan for New Hope. We continue to have 20 or so in house for Sunday Services plus still offering the on-line connection. I can usually count 5-6 other members that are not present but have been in attendance on a previous Sunday. Our giving went through the summer slump, but is returning to normal-around \$1,000 per week. We are able to keep ahead of our bills and have not had to use monies from our savings account. Hopefully, I will be able to transfer from our checking account to our savings account so we can receive more interest. Thank you all for your constant support for your church. May God continue to lead and bless us on our journey.

#### In Christian Love, Jane



We continue to collect funds for our two local programs—the White County Food Pantry and the Firemen's Fund. Although we are continually collecting money for both of these groups, the collection for the Firemen's Fund will be turned over to them within the next two months, as they prepare to organize the annual "Shop with the Firemen" program held during the month of December.

Each year as we gather funds for these two groups, we are following God's commandment to "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Money can be placed in the offering plate, in a designated envelope or placed in the containers for each of the funds located at the back of the sanctuary. (Continued from page 1) PRESIDENT falling into the trap of sin. We try to make good choices and be the best version of who God created us to be, but there are times we slip up and do things of which we are not proud. And not only are we not proud, we know that God is not proud of us either. As a result, we end up beating ourselves up so much that it causes us to fall further into sin. Satan likes to use this condition to try to further drive a wedge between us and God. Being aware of our failings and the enemy's cunning, focusing on them instead of Our Lord, we don't give ourselves grace, and therefore, we miss out on seeing God's grace as well. We get stuck and become slaves to our sin.

As slaves to sin, how do we overcome our human condition and gain our freedom won by Jesus? First, we must take to heart these things found in God's Word:

- We are created in His image. "So God created mankind in his own image", Gen 1:27.
- We are forgiven. "he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.", 1Jn 1:9b
- We are chosen by Our Creator. "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world", Eph 1:4.
- We are loved unconditionally."Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a ... sacrifice to God.", Eph 5:2
- We are redeemed. "from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them." Ps 106:10

When we truly take these verses to heart, we can recognize the honesty and power of Our Father, and knowing them to be true, we gain everlasting hope and trust in Him. Possessing that hope and trust, we can freely ask for, and receive, forgiveness, letting go of the guilt of our burdens. When we hand this over to Him, a beautiful release from the power of sin over us is granted. It's in those moments we truly experience what freedom in Christ really means. We

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*(Continued from page 3) JANET* slice of the larger picture. We need to trust that God is orchestrating the big picture, even when we don't see how our piece – or someone else's – fits in.

There are plenty of times things just plain don't make sense from our perspective. That's okay. Remember, it didn't make sense to the disciples that Jesus was crucified. That didn't fit into their picture of Israel's Messiah at all. And yet Jesus' death and subsequent resurrection have made it possible for all of us to be brought back into fellowship with God. God knew what He was doing, even if his disciples didn't.

All around us there are pieces of the larger picture that do not make sense to us, but we have God's promise that He is still in control. Someday Jesus will return, and when we are joined with Him in heaven, there will be a "Big Reveal" unlike anything we can imagine now. We will suddenly see how God used our tiny little sliver as part of the larger picture.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God (Romans 8:18-19). www.mustardpatch.org



Beagle, Janet. "Various Writings."TheMustard Patch, mustardpatch. wordpress.com/about/.

step out of our darkness and into God's radiant light. By shedding our guilt from our human condition, we stop being slaves to sin and instead become enslaved in the glory of God, becoming what we were created to be. We were bought for a price – Jesus' crucifixion on the cross. We must honor that sacrifice and step into God's light, becoming forever free, serving Him with thanks and praise, all while sharing God's gifts with all, proclaiming new hope in Jesus.

In His service, Jim Culross

# September 202 ٥Ľ

Page 5 Oktoberfest begins in National Tailgating 911 Remembrance National Comic Germany Book Day Tailgate Sat Day 11 18 25 Native American Day Constitution Day Skyscraper Day Swap Ideas Day Fri 01 17 24 Dogs in Politics Day Teddy Bear Day Mayflower Day J Dav. WWII Thu 23 30 20 9 National Mud Pack Day National Ampersand Day National Cherry Popover Day Autumn Equinox Make a Hat Day **Confucius Day** Wed 22 29 × 15 National Good Neighbor Day National Cream-Filled Donut Day Neither Rain nor **M)**-Chinese Moon Snow Day Festival Tue I428 21 ~ ---010-National Pepperoni **Positive Thinking** Crush a Can Day ABOR DAY Pizza Day Mon abor Da 13 20 27 6 6 Grandparents' Day National Dance Day Grandparent's Day Something Day Be Late for Sun 19 26 Ś Johnny Appleseed Day 0

# Volume 3 Issue IX

# **Dean & Jean DeVoe**

are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversay and Dean's Retirement with an OPEN HOUSE Sunday, Septermber 5, 2021 from 1 - 4 pm at Reynolds Elementary School & Community Center 401 West 2nd Street, Reynolds, IN

#### hosted by their children

Your Friendship and presence are our presents...no gifts please! If you do wish to honor them, donations may be made in lieu of gifts to the Dean and Jane DeVoe Legacy Scholarship Fund. Send to: Purdue Club of Elkhart County Foundation fbo Dean & Jane DeVoe Scholarship PO Box 382 Goshen, IN 46527-0382

#### Christ in Our Home

A devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily. 1 Corinthians 7:35

Sunday, May 9 John 15:9-17 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved

#### you." (v.12)

Jesus does not ask us how we feel about this or that person. We are to "do" love. I am not sure it is possible to change our feelings at will. It *is* possible to change our actions. Perhaps our feelings will even follow, but if they don't, we still will have honored Jesus' command.

"This is my commandment,

that you love one another," says Jesus. He doesn't ask how we feel about it.

God, help me to be kind to all I meet on this journey called life. In Jesus' name. Amen

(2021, May/9/Summer), Sixth Sunday of Easter, Christ in Our Home, 68 (2), 42.

We want to return the Servant Roster appearing in the Newsletter. BUT we need your help! The positions listed below will help the Sunday service run smoothly each week. Please consider volunteering for any of the roles for any Sunday. As you can see, there are many opportunities still available for September and those needs will occur each month. As Pastor Givan always said, "Little effort with maximum reward!" The opportunities all would call for a few minutes of time during the 9:00 service. Contact Dean DeVoe for further information.

# Sunday Worship Servants for September

	-	-	-	
Role/Date	9-5-21	9-12-21	9-19-21	9-26-21
Presider	Pastor Dale Buettner	Pastor Tom McShannock	Pastor Jim Lichtenberger	Pastor Scott Vana
Assisting Minister	Scott Lutz	Jim Culross		
Reader		Scott Lutz		
Usher	Reinert Spille Jim O'Neal	Reinert Spille Jim O'Neal	Reinert Spille Jim O'Neal	Reinert Spille Jim O'Neal
Greeter	Jim O'Neal	Jim O'Neal	Jim O'Neal	Jim O'Neal
Musician	Dean DeVoe	Dean DeVoe	Dean DeVoe	Dean DeVoe



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Kathleen Lutz, the missionary we support in Kenya and Scott's sister, will be visiting our congregation on September 12. Scott visited Kathleen three years ago, on a mission trip and wrote this poem upon his return. He has shared it with us to be added to this month's newsletter. It is a wonderful tribute to Kathleen, Kenya, Africa, God's creation, and the wonder of God, and the perfect piece to give as a gift to all of us, as we move into the season of autumn.

> Kenya, Can ya A land of many wonders A land of many blunders

My friends and companions from St. Mark's,

They tolerated me and my quirky remarks,

Together we shared the Word and God's love,

Did they feel that true peace comes from Heaven above?

The world of people, what a disparity, The poor, the destitute, my blessings of prosperity. It touched my heart to see how they live, We have so much and so much to give, To gift the families in need, what a joy. Food, bedding, bibles, rent, a toy, The poverty, the trash, the muck, the mire. The faith and the music that I so much admired, Terrible roads, daring drivers, traveling for miles, Visiting school children with mostly smiles and smiles.

Heart to Heart, what a wonderful crew, Raised in the slums, they're dedicated, compassionate, they've paid their dues.

My sister Kathleen, what a brave and caring soul, May God continue to bless you and keep you whole. I can't help but feel that you are where you need to be, Teaching among friends and colleagues, what a comfort for me to see It was an honor to be known as Kathleen's brother. To see the smiles and laughter as they shared that with one another. What an incredible trip we had, Amazing, awful, uplifting, sad, Inspirational, depressing, wonderful, bad, What a beautiful experience, the emotions. eqad! Then to end it with the safari into the expanse so great, How humbling and awe inspiring to enjoy what God did create. We traveled aplenty to a far land to roam. But thank you God, there is no place like home.

Peace, Scott

Kathleen will be making a presentation for all of us, during our fellowship time following worship, in our office/conference room about her work in, and the people, life and ministry in Kenya. Please bring food/goodie items to share during the fellowship time, if you can, and let Jane or Dean know if you can provide items for all to enjoy.



Recently, our church president, Jim Culross, made a comment in his weekly "Top Three List" that certainly bears repeating. "We are rapidly approaching the end of summer. Some of you have not been to church in quite a while and are missed. Before we enter into the busy fall season filled with your family and commitments for ball games and school activities, why not spend some time with your church family? We are stronger in our faith when we physically gather as one in Jesus. As the author of Hebrews 10:25 encourages, "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

The past year and a half has been challenging for all of us. It has been so great to return to weekly services and meeting with fellow believers. If you have been hesitant to return to in-person worship, know that you are missed each Sunday morning. Immunizations are showing evidence of great success in controlling COVID. We hope you will join us back at church soon!

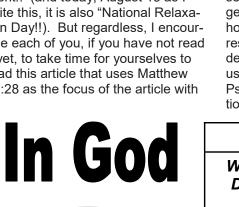
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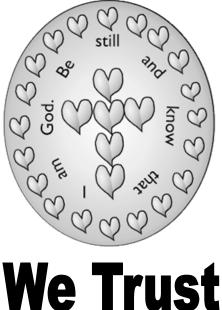
"O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." **Psalm 95:1** New Hope Musical Programming



Musical Program Planning from Dean DeVoe

I have read recently the August edition of "The Living Lutheran" magazine, and specifically, the article that is titled 'The Spiritual Discipline of Rest'. I don't know if this caught my attention because of some of the recent sermons we have enjoyed by some of our pastors because of some similar thoughts from many of them regarding the importance of resting, taking time, having a call to rest, etc., or perhaps I am writing this article about three weeks before my retirement!. (and today, August 15 as I write this, it is also "National Relaxation Day!!). But regardless, I encourage each of you, if you have not read it yet, to take time for yourselves to read this article that uses Matthew 11:28 as the focus of the article with





"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest". There is a call to rest, reminding us that we can easily get seduced and sucked into constant activity, and a lot of it is good, worthy, important activity, but it obliterates space for rest. The author suggests that she thinks the capacity to hear the Holy Spirit and flourish as a person are built partly by having rest. She goes on to suggest that one of the things the Holy Spirit does is to guide us toward well-being.

The article also talks about how "the earth itself teaches us to rest. Trees go into rest in the wintertime and come back much more alive and vital and pulsating with life in the spring after they've rested. And in Genesis, God rests on the seventh day and blesses it as holy. As people created in God's image, we too, need rest." And finally, there is a section about "Luther on rest", and suggests that we have to take time to learn how to make rest a part of our lives and resist ways that rest is either imposed or denied. We have to be disciplined to use it well. The writer concludes with Psalm 46:10 for comfort and contemplation: "Be still, and know that I am God". I

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am going to do my best to listen to God and learn how to rest better and open my heart to listen to what the Holy Spirit is calling in me right now. And I encourage each of you to do that as well. Deano



Our thanks to Marquita Culross and Elainna Bowman for creating the bulletin template so that it is now available in large print format. If you want a large print version, please contact the office ((574)297-8759) by the Thursday before the Sunday service. A large print hymnal is also available.

Seen on a church announcement board: "Just love people; I will sort it out later." God

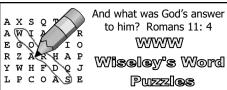
Bill Maegldin.

#### Praying for Those Who Need Courage... Facing Life's Long-Term Working with Dealing with Challenges: Daily Trials: Chronic Illness or are JoAnn Miller, Greater Monticello Homebound: Dave Woodhams. Community, Sue Wilburn, Vern and Kathy Jim O'Neal, Claude Culross, Barnett, Vicki Leanard, Dorothy Keever, Barb Fawley, Judy Booze Larry Foddrill, Family and Friends of William H. Baxter. Andy Heaton, Brynell Marburger, Shelly Wiseley, Colten. Anita Closson,

As They Serve Our Country and Community: Ty Barnes, Cameron Burgess, Thomas Hiddle, Area First Responders

#### As Partners in God's Mission:

New Hope Lutheran Church, Bishop Bill Gafkjen (GUFF-ee-ehn), The Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Pastor Scott Vana, Jeff Truscott (missionary in Singapore), Kathleen Lutz (missionary in Nairobi), Monticello First Presbyterian Church



Mathew

Simon

Citation:

"Wordsheets. Get the Software Safely and Easily." *Software Informer*, word-sheets.software.informer.com/.

# The Twelve Apostles During Christ's Mortal Life (see Luke 6:4-16)

8																	
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Judas Iscariot

Thomas

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e various books in both th e have shared a portion o	erence list of the authors of e Old and New Testament. f the chart for both testament, will be able to see the entire	John	John
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1 & 2 Chronicles Ezra	Ezra	Philemon	
Nehemiah	Nehemiah	Hebrews	Unknown
Esther Job	Unknown	James	James (brother of Jesus)

nternet 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 <a href="http://www.newhopelutheranelca.com/">http://www.newhopelutheranelca.com/</a>

"But, 'Let the on <sup>e</sup> Who boasts boas <sup>t</sup> in the Lord."" <sup>2</sup> Corinthiane 10:17		Septer	ember 2021	2021	The Liturgical Year	Time After Pentecost
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Birthdays listed in Blue Anniversaries listed in Green birthdays and anniversaries are the dates that the church office ailable. We apologize if the list is not complete. Please inform us additions and/or corrections that need to be made. Thank you.	Birthdays listed in Blue Anniversaries listed in Green anniversaries are the dates that th ologize if the list is not complete. F r corrections that need to be made	Birthdays listed in Blue Anniversaries listed in Green 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.	1	7	ω	4
5 Kathy Barnett 9:00 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour 1-4pm DeVoe Reception	6 Pabor Day	~	8	0	10	7
<ul> <li>12 Chris Dold</li> <li>Kathleen Lutz Visit</li> <li>9:00 Worship Service</li> <li>10:30 Coffee Hour w</li> <li>K. Lutz Presentation</li> </ul>	13	14	15 Nina Kent	16	17	18 Newsletter Items Due Tomorrow
19 9:00 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour	20	21	22	23 Marquita Culross	24 Allyson Culross Ashley Culross	25
26 9:00 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour	27	28	29	30		



#### NEW HOPE Lutheran Church

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED** 

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

