



(NH)²: New Hope **Notes & Happenings**

Volume 4 Issue V
May 2022 Edition

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



Coming Together for Worship

*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

Elainna Bowman
(574) 270-8513
elculross@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"
– 2 Corinthians 5:17

I love this time of year. After months of winter, when it's cold and the world looks brown and grey, it is a joy to witness the signs of spring; new plants shooting up from the ground, the return of robins & other 'seasonal' birds, and the warmer temperatures.

But if you've lived in Indiana for any length of time you know that spring can be fickle. One day it's warm and sunny, and the next day it's cool and cloudy. Maybe it even snows – like it did last night. But we have faith that it's just a matter of time before warmer temperatures become the norm, and things really start to grow. The death and decay of fall and winter are transformed into the new life that we see all around us in spring and summer.



As Christians, it is not unusual to get discouraged when the headlines are filled with bad news, and when we (or family/friends) are facing challenges (health, job, relationship, etc.). This also applies when our faith is tested, or when we are going through a 'dry season' in terms of our relationship with Jesus. We can wonder if the rough times are going to last forever.

Scripture reminds us that Jesus Christ is all about bringing new life into the world. By Jesus' death and resurrection God destroyed the power of death. And Jesus can bring new life into any and every part of creation – both in terms of big things (our world) and small things (our congregation and our individual lives). And so we pray for patience & faith that God will continue to bring new life through Jesus - to us.



In Christ,
Pastor Scott Vana



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

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your

good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5: 14-16 (NSRV)

Have you ever observed someone else do something, then mimic their behavior, habit, or what they said? I had that realization recently. It was a chilly morning, and I was clearing the overnight frost off the windows of my car in preparation to leave. As I finished and stepped back to check my work, I had a flashback to my youth and had to

chuckle at myself. Being a person who is OCD, not a single spot of frost was left on any of the surfaces of my car windows. But there is another more prevalent reason I scraped every inch of frost related to my flashback. It is an action that as a young boy I observed my father do over and over down through the years. Whether he was going to church, going to the grocery store, heading to work, or just heading down the street, the windows got

SEE PRESIDENT (Continued on page 4)

A Time for Everything
May Memories
 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens..."
 Ecclesiastes 3: 1

"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



Monthly Celebrations for May:

Asian American Month
 Foster Care Month
 National Bike Month
 National Blood Pressure Month
 Older Americans Month
 Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Special Professional Days for the month of May:

5th Cartoonist Day
 6th Daycare Provider Day
 National Nurses Day
 7th National Babysitters Day
 11th National Receptionist Day
 School Nurses Day
 21st National Waiters and Waitresses Day



New Hope Lutheran Church



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

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

(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

Treasurer

Scott Lutz

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

Lisa Baxter

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)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.



JANET

otices

Observations
from
Janet Beagle

Today's Forecast: Stormy with a Chance of Patience

Here in New England we have a saying: If you don't like the weather, wait a minute. It will change.

When I moved to the Midwest, I learned they have the same saying. And it's true. I've seen the temperature flip from near 80 to below freezing in a matter of hours. I've witnessed rain, snow, and sunshine all in a single day. Change can happen quickly.

I've also learned something else. Unlike the weather, matters of relationship, self-improvement, and personal challenges do not change so

rapidly. These matters take perseverance. And patience.

Patience is a fruit of the Spirit. Like physical fruit, spiritual fruit does not suddenly manifest. It needs to be grown under the right conditions. Unfortunately, the right conditions for growing patience may feel more like a hurricane than a soft summer rain.

A man once asked his pastor to pray for him to develop patience. Dutifully the pastor launched into an earnest prayer. "Lord, give this young man conflict and hardship at every turn. Litter his path with frustrating delays, unexpected obstacles, and personalities very different than his own."

Indeed, patience is not something we typically receive fully formed. It is a character trait developed slowly. Ironically, we learn patience while learning patience. It is only when we are in situations that require patience that we learn how to develop it.

Reading about patience, studying God's Word, and even receiving God's Spirit is not the same

thing as exhibiting patience. The Bible warns we need to be careful to not hear God's Word and think that is the culmination. If we believe that, we deceive ourselves (see James 1:22). God's Word is not the end, but the beginning. It is the seed which through trials, tribulations, and our own perseverance develops into the full fruit of patience.

James (5:7) gives an example when he urges us, "See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains."

Unlike the fast-changing weather I am used to, James was using an illustration from a part of the world that could undergo weeks, even months, with little to no rain. They did not have forecasters to give a 10-day weather outlook or an hour-by-hour prediction. Much more like the unpredictable changes we face in other areas of our life, these farmers had to prepare their fields and learn patience as they faced each day not knowing

SEE JANET (Continued on page 4)



This month brings the fourth detailed explanation of the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Within this section, Luther will explain what baptism by water means to us as Christians.

4. What Baptism Indicates

Fourth

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore buried with

Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" [Rom. 6:4].

255. What is the Old Adam?

The Old Adam is the corrupt and evil nature that we inherit because of Adam's fall into sin.

867 Eph. 4:22 Put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts (NKJV).

256. How is this Old Adam to be drowned in us?

The Old Adam is to be drowned by daily contrition (sorrow for sins) and repentance (faith), by which we resist and overcome evil desires.

868 Luke 9:23 If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

869 Gal. 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

257. What is the new man?

The new man is the new spiritual life and nature, created in us by the washing of

rebirth.

870 2 Cor. 5:17 If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

258. How is this new man to emerge and arise?

The new man emerges and arises as we daily live and grow before God in true faith and good works.

871 Eph. 4:24 Put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness (NKJV).

259. How does Baptism indicate the daily drowning of the Old Adam and the emergence of the new man?

By Baptism we have been made to share in Christ's death and resurrection. As He has buried our sin, so we too can and must daily overcome and bury it. And as He is risen from the dead and lives, so we too can and must daily live a new life in Him.

872 Rom. 6:3-4 Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried

SEE THE SACRAMENTS (Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 1) **PRESIDENT**

scraped completely clear. Little did my dad know I was watching him and being impressed upon by his habit, one that I now carry on as my habit. It makes me wonder if my kids do the same thing after observing me.

What do you do in your everyday life that may be observed by others? What behavior or habit of yours would your neighbors emulate once they observed you? Not ever knowing who is watching, what would others see?

As Christians, it is our utmost hope that others when they observe us, they see Jesus. We know, however, that it is our human condition that causes us to often fail to achieve that hope. What we may not know is that we are always being observed, and in many instances, we unknowingly could be showing others Jesus. Even more important, it may be the only Jesus they see. Understanding this, we should strive to be like Our Savior, and if we succeed, then people will see him in us. However, often-times people may see our religion, but they do not see Jesus. They may see our Sunday best, see us lifting our hands, hear us speaking hallelujahs, and view our attempts at piety but they may not feel our love for one another. We often get so wrapped up in judging souls that we forget to love them first. Even worse, we sometimes try to browbeat them with our righteousness instead of overwhelming them with our love.

Remember the "What Would Jesus Do" phenomenon of a few years back? It is still important today. When Our Lord was here in his three-year ministry, all he ever did was love. Jesus loved the poor, he loved the sick, he loved the convicted, and he even loved those who killed him. Understanding that is how others will see Jesus in us. What is it we should understand? We must love others for who they are, not what they are. Their color, their creed, their orientation, their denomination, in fact anything that secular society uses to define what makes us different from

each other are all meaningless when we look through the lens of love. Why? Because there is only one thing every human who has ever walked this Earth has in common, and there is only one thing who each one of us are – we are all a Child of God. When we only view one another as fellow children of the Almighty, we can love without condition, just as Jesus did. In doing so, those we are around will see that which we all should strive for, us being a picture of Jesus. Here at New Hope, we have a description of how we try to be that picture. It is an intent we state each week and therefore something that we are pledging to work on always. And that intent is found in one simple statement so familiar to all New Hoppers -sharing God's gifts with all, proclaiming new hope in Jesus.

In His service, Jim Culross

(Continued from page 3) **JANET**

what was in store. The more their patience was challenged, the more patience they developed.

We, too, can produce a valuable crop of patience. We can plant the seeds God gives us and carefully tend them through every trial and tribulation. When life gets stormy, we can remember that the most bountiful growth happens in some of the most challenging times.

The forecast may be stormy, but hang in there my friends. There is a chance for a crop of patience.



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

(Continued from page 3) **THE SACRAMENTS**
with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

260. With which words do we regularly remember our Baptism?

The words "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" come from the baptismal command (Matt. 28:19) and are known as the Trinitarian Invocation. By repeating these words, in church or by ourselves, we recall, claim, and confess before heaven, earth, and hell all that God the Holy Trinity has given us in our Baptism.

873 **Rom. 8:38-39** I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Bible narrative: The three persons of the blessed Trinity revealed themselves at the Baptism of our Lord (Luke 3:21-22).

Note: The Trinitarian Invocation may be accompanied by the sign of the cross, made at our Baptism upon our foreheads and hearts to mark us as "redeemed by Christ the crucified."

A Short Form for Holy Baptism in Cases of Emergency

In urgent cases, in the absence of a pastor, any Christian may administer Holy Baptism. Take water, call the person by name, and apply the water, saying: "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

If there is time, Baptism may be preceded by the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

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

OFFICE NOTE:

Office hours will be changing for the months of May and June. Our Administrative Assistant, Elaine Bowman, is having a new little one in the near future. She will still be available by phone if anyone needs to have access to the church and she will send emails out when she will be at the office. Congratulations to the Bowman Family and our thanks to everyone for their flexibility regarding office access.



We continue to share meditations to help us consider how to share God's love and glory with others. As the month of May begins, take some time to read this month's devotion about stewardship and God's gifts to us.

Devotion 5

A Stewardship Devotion... Being Aware of God's Willingness to Give

Luke 11:1-10

Have you ever been awakened in the middle of the night? Perhaps it was a telephone call, a knock on the door or the siren of an ambulance going by. As you know, it is a jarring experience. The first few seconds are a time of disorientation as you try to figure out what is going on. You may become concerned about someone's safety. You may experience a moment of fear as your reach for the telephone or go to the door.

This is the situation Jesus describes in this parable from Luke. What would you have done if you got to the door in the middle of the night and a neighbor was asking for food? Perhaps we'd be upset. However, Jesus is using this situation to illustrate our relationship with God. If a person would respond to the knock on the door because of the persistence of a neighbor, will not God, who does not slumber, answer our prayers? God is a like gracious and loving parent or friend, always there to listen and respond. Ask, and it will be given to you.

Jesus also uses this parable to describe God's willingness to provide. In the minds of many people, there is an unwritten rule of economics that "scarcity" will always be present. This "scarcity thinking" can often set the tone for many conversations and decisions. However, the Gospel radically subverts this as-

sumption. There may be a lack of resources in some circumstances, but there are also many assets. God does provide. Often there is more than enough available if we look for what God has provided. This provision is not a reward, but it is available so God's work can be done. What are the gifts or assets that God has given your congregation?

Within this parable there is also a message of God's willingness to share. Why?

Because through baptism we have been accepted into the Body of Christ. We are both servants and stewards. In Philippians (2:7) Paul describes how Christ "emptied himself, taking the form of a servant," and was obedient even to death. We have the privilege of sharing in the Body of Christ. Ours is a voluntary decision. God does not force us.

Lastly, God is ready to respond to our requests. Ask, and it will be given to you.

God has given us gifts and assets far beyond our understanding. Why is it then that we squander so much of our time and what God has given us? Because often we are only looking for what we want in life, not for what God is ready to provide. We look for the material and God offers the spiritual. We look for ourselves and God invites us to live for others. God is ready to give us what we ask for. Are willing servants ready to accept the responsibilities that accompany what God provides?

Unlike the visitor at the door, God does not pound a way into our life. God waits for us to respond. How is God knocking on your door today? Are you willing to receive and share what God is offering to you? Your willingness to receive can open the door to the next stage in your faith journey.

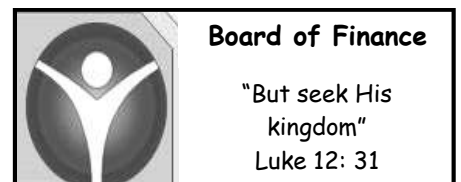
Let us pray: Provider God, we are often reluctant to respond to you invitation. We are caught up in our sleep, our daily activities and our relationship with things. May your Spirit startle us, as in the middle of the night, to see your presence and

your gifts. May we have an open heart to receive, and in so doing accept our responsibility to respond. May your Spirit guide us to share the resources you provide to do your will in our life, our congregation, our community and beyond. Amen.



We all know that this world needs to share kindness to all. To remind us of how simple that can be, each month this year, we are sharing a simple way to show kindness, throughout the month. Each suggestion will be something easy to do throughout the entire month—give it a try!

May's Random Kindness:
Write a happy note or draw a picture for someone.





In God



We Trust

Praying for Those Who Need Courage...

Working with Daily Trials:

Greater Monticello Community,
Vern and Kathy Barnett,
Barb Fawley,
Family and Friends of Max Hunter

Facing Life's Long-Term Challenges:

Vicki Leonard

Dealing with Chronic Illness or are Homebound:

Claude Culross,
Dorothy Keever,
Shelly Wiseley,
Anita Closson,
Bill Maegldin

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, 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

Sunday Worship Servants for May

Role/Date	5-1	5-8	5-15	5-22	5-29
Presider	Scott Vana	Tom McShannock	Linda Dolby	Nancy Nyland	10:30 Joint Worship w/ NH & FPC
Assisting Minister	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	
Reader	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	
Usher	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	
Greeter	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	
Musician	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	Could you help us?	

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:

"Power of His Love Word Search." *Sermons4Kids*, https://sermons4kids.com/power_of_his_love_wordsearch.htm.

The Power of His Love

"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." John 12:32 (NIV)

Based on John 12:28-33 (NIV)



R D I E H L T I F E D F M H Q
E N Q T D F I M P W X D Q E D
I J R V L S M S O O M N U M N
M A U E P F E R C G H E A R D
E O S D R A C X K U R X X M Z
W Y X G G W E C L E A P K Z E
M O I J K E T H D D R A W C V
F X R R J T M N S H O W V W H
A W E L B F U E V M V A X C T
T Z W B D H P O N R A O W F B
H U V O T P E R R T W N I O J
E D P E H P W A I V I N G C G
R I W A O I M T V N V K V E E
C A G L O R I F Y E C M V L L
W F G B L I F T E D N E Y Q F

WORLD	DIE	TIME	HEARD	CROWD
ANGEL	HEAVEN	MYSELF	LIFTED	MEN
VOICE	FATHER	GLORIFY	PRINCE	SHOW
JUDGEMENT	DRAW	EARTH	THUNDER	NAME

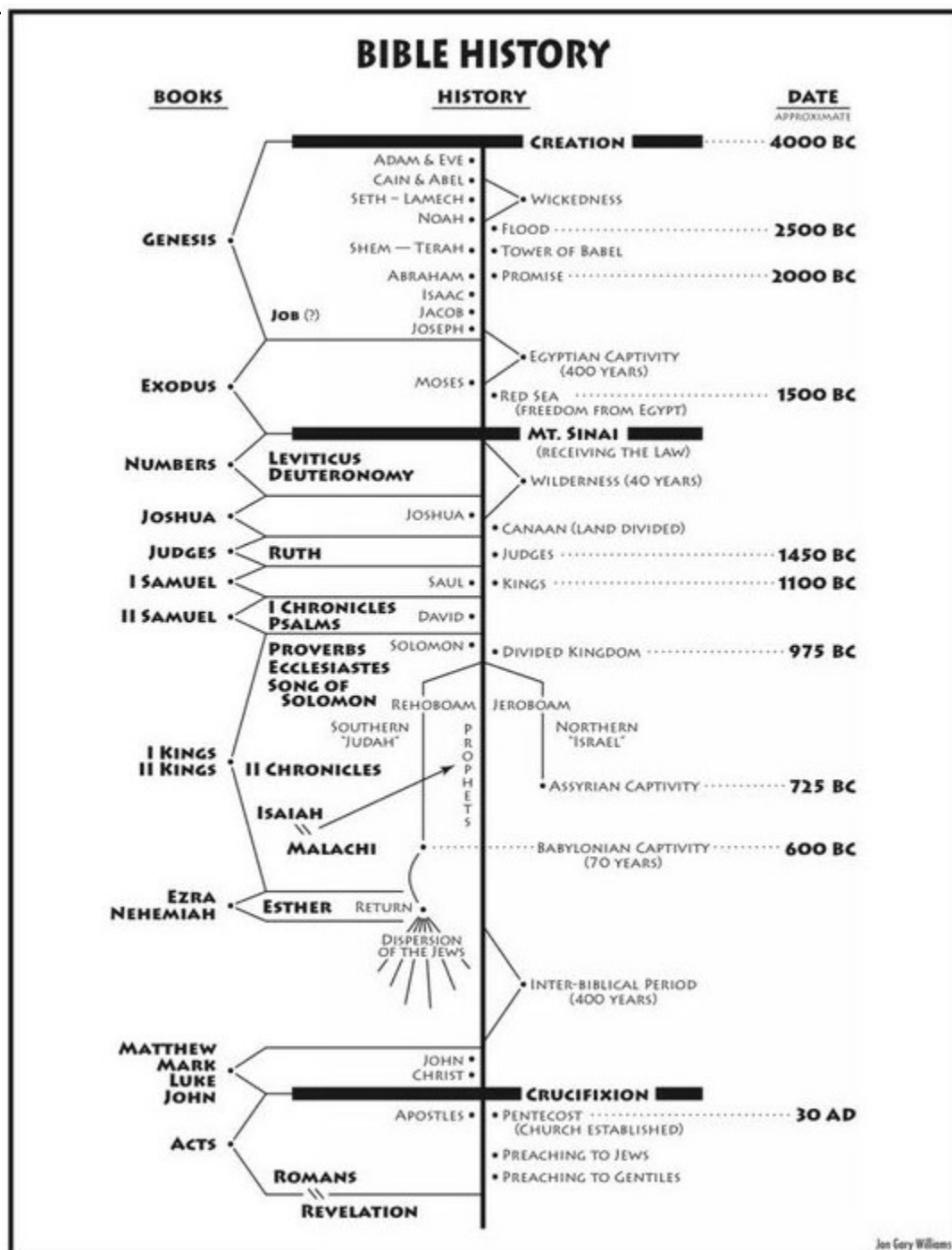
<https://www.>

On the Web

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

"Bible History, Bible Study Scripture, Bible Timeline." *Pinterest*, 7 Oct. 2021, <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/342625484161656912/>.

It is fascinating when we can match the events in the Bible to a timeline of in the history of the world. This website offers a visual look at that history.



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 lifted up his hands
and blessed them."**

Luke 24:50

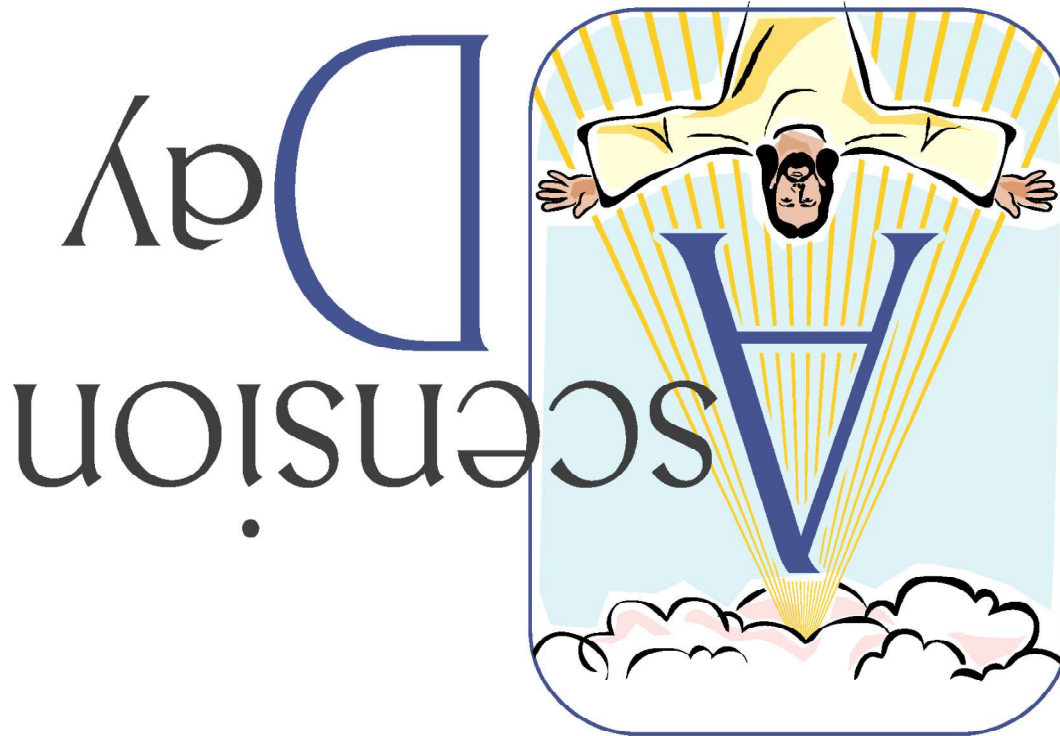
May 2022

**The
Liturgical
Year**

The
Season
Of
Easter

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 May Day 9:00 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour 	2	3	4 <i>Jim Culross</i>	5 Cinco de Mayo <i>Melissa Downey</i> <i>Scott & Caye Lutz</i> 	6 	7 <i>Barbara Fawley</i>
8 Mother's Day V-E Day 9:00 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour 	9	10	11	12	13 Friday the 13th	14 Newsletter Items Due Tomorrow
15 9:00 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Amanda Kirchner</i>	21 Armed Forces Day 
22 9:00 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour	23	24	25	26 Ascension Day 	27	28
29 9:00 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour	30 Memorial Day 	31	<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.</p>			

May 26



**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