



Volume 5 Issue XII
December 2023 Edition

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

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

*From the President of Our
Congregation*

"For unto you is born this day in the
city of David a Saviour, which is Christ
the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto
you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in
swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."
Luke 2: 11-12 (KJV)

Have you ever watched a nature show featuring an octopus? They are shy creatures and are one of God's more spectacular creations. Highly intelligent, the various species of octopuses differ in size, ranging from one inch long up to 15 feet in length. An invertebrate, their lack of a skeleton allows an octopus to squeeze into and

(NH)²: New Hope Notes & Happenings

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

EDITOR'S NOTE:

New Hope is embarking on a new and exciting journey as 2023 closes and we prepare to begin 2024. As a congregation, we have come to the decision to call a minister to lead our church family as we continue to follow God's word.

Pastor Candice Hinkle walked with us as a Seminarian for several months in the past year as she concluded her studies in ministry and now has accepted our call to continue that walk as our minister. As you read this special edition of our newsletter, let us celebrate the birth of our Savior and the beginning of this new chapter!

"Comfort, o comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken'." Isaiah 40:1-5

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Advent is here! During Advent we celebrate the Coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, both as the Babe of Bethlehem and in the Time to Come. Advent is this time of preparation and expectation. It is a gift of time where often we throw so many things into this month of preparing that we may lose sight of the joy that comes when we finally reach the true Christmas Season beginning on Christmas and lasting until the Epiphany.

The words of Isaiah 40 remind

SEE PASTOR (Continued on page 8)

through small cracks and crevices to hide from or avoid predators. Lastly, as a defense mechanism, an octopus can alter its color and skin texture to match the background, blending in.

Blending in serves the octopus well in its attempts to stay out of sight of others. We as believers, however, are not charged with blending in. Indeed, it is the opposite of what we are taught to do. We are asked to be living examples of God's love. We are asked to be messengers of Jesus. We are asked to spread the Good News to our neighbors. It is not something that Our Savior says we are to discuss behind closed doors or to leave to others, but instead, he directs all of his followers to let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good works and give glory to God in Heaven.

We are in the season of Ad-

vent. Traditionally, we as Lutherans use this as a time of reflection. As we draw near to the celebration on that most holy night when Jesus was born, we also ponder the time when he will return in glory and triumph. Just as John was sent to prepare the way for Jesus' first coming, we are here to prepare the world for his second.

With the birth of Jesus, hope entered into the world. We know that hope. We live in that hope. We find joy in that hope. As the great Christmas hymn *Joy to the World* says, "Let every heart prepare him room", and when we do, "Heaven and nature sing." To prepare the world for Jesus coming again, we need to let the hope lying in that manger so long ago flow in and through us. We need

SEE PRESIDENT (Continued on page 5)

*A Time for Everything***December Details**

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." holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/index.htm.

Learning about faiths:**7th Chanukah (or Hanukah) begins**

—The Jewish Festival of Lights celebrating the Jewish victory over Greek religious persecution in 167 BC. Upon return to the temple, the Macabees lit the Menorah with oil that would last one day; however the oil lasted eight days. This celebration is a happy, joyous festival that lasts eight days, remembering the temple's Menorah.

Monthly Celebrations for December:

- National Fruitcake Month
- Safe Toys and Gifts Month
- Write a Friend Month

The Season of Advent

Beginning on December 3, Advent is the beginning of the church liturgical calendar. It is the season when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. One common symbol of the season is the Advent Wreath. The wreath has 4 candles, each candle representing a week in Advent. This is a season of preparation and expectation for the coming of Christ.



Monon Food Bank/
Monticello Fire
Dept.

Love Your
Neighbor as
Yourself

Matthew 22: 38

Traditionally, New Hope has collected special donations throughout the year for two local charities. In July of 2023, the decision was made to support these two local groups, the **North White Food Pantry** (also known as the **Monon Food Bank**) and the **Mobile Integrated Healthcare** (also known as the **Community Paramedicine Program**). Each of these groups meet serious needs in White County, food insecurity and healthcare uncertainty.

Although we do not make specific collections for these two groups, at Sunday morning services any longer, we want to encourage our members to continue to remember these two organizations and perhaps create a personal donation schedule to insure our church's continue support of these needed groups.



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)240-8850

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Bob Hickman

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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

Vacant at Present

Worship

Lisa Baxter

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

Points of Music

I distinctly remember the first time I heard a bell choir. I was at a church in southern Illinois when half a dozen ringers stepped to the second floor railing and raised their bells. I watched, dumbfounded, as first one and then another flick of the wrist sent forth a stream of intricate notes. Until that moment, I had never considered bells to be a musical instrument. Bells to me were a cacophony of random sounds strung to a winter sleigh. But here were these tiny domes pealing out a melody. I've been a bells' fan ever since.

I recently attended the Purdue Musical Organization's fall concert. The singers were good, but the highlight for me was the bells. I sat in the darkened auditorium and smiled in anticipation as two rows of ringers walked onto the stage. I was not disappointed. In perfect order the arms came up and out and the notes began to peal. From one end and then the other, singly, in pairs, and then together – notes chimed a ribbon of music. How was this possible? How was it possible for so many disconnected metal pieces to chime in such unity? It seemed like magic. Even thinking about it now, several days later, it seems like magic.

I understand that any band needs to work together. There has to be teamwork. And practice. But the coordination of a bell choir seems to take teamwork to a whole different level. A bell choir isn't just blending instruments. They *are* the instrument. It's like sitting a dozen people at a piano, giving them each a single key to play, and watching them belt out

Beethoven. Each note is clearly and separately rung; there's no hiding a mistake. I imagine it only starts working when the ringers don't merely read the music; they become it.

It would be easy to let Paul chime in here with 1 Corinthians 12:12. Bell choirs seem like a custom made analogy for the importance of individual effort and team coordination, right up there with Paul's analogy of the Church being a body made up of many members. Everyone has a different part. (A choir of bells all with the same pitch wouldn't be very interesting). And everyone has to act at the right time. (Can you imagine the sound if everyone rang their bells whenever they wanted?) But the true joy of a bell choir is not the mechanical precision. It's the transformation from inanimate metal into something mysteriously alive. You can talk about rhythm and tempo, pitch and melody, sharps and flats and notes. But you will never be able to capture what actually happens when dozens

SEE JANET (Continued on page 4)



For the past five years we have explored Luther's Small Catechism. This month we will bring our study of the book to a close with another supplemental piece that explores the Church Year. We hope that you have enjoyed learning more about this book that Luther created to help families better understand parts of our faith that we practice weekly in our church services.

Important Facts about the Church Year. (Abridged)

The Church Year is divided into two parts, the festival and the non-festival. The festival part embraces three festive cycles: 1. Christmas, the festival of the Father, who sent His only-begotten Son into the world. 2. Easter, the festival of the Son, who redeemed us by His death and resurrection. 3. Pentecost, the festival of the Holy Spirit, who would sanctify us. This is followed by the festival of the Holy Trinity.

The Christmas cycle. Christmas is preceded by the season of Advent. Advent means coming. At this time the Christian Church prepares for the festival of the coming of Jesus in the flesh. There are four Sundays in Advent. Then comes the Christmas-festival, which is observed on December 25 and 26, being immediately preceded by Christmas Eve on December 24.

On January 6, the festival of the Epiphany, or the manifestation of Christ, is observed. On this day we are reminded of how the glory of Jesus was made manifest to the Gentiles, the wise men from the East. The festival of the Epiphany is followed by the Epiphany season, which embraces from two to six Sundays. The num-

ber of Sundays varies according to the early or late date of Easter. During the whole Epiphany season the Christian Church commemorates the glory of the Lord, which is made manifest to the whole world, reveals itself in His words and miracles and casts its brightness upon the congregation. For this reason all the gospel lessons of the season treat of the manifestation of the glory of Christ.

The Easter Cycle. The Sundays called, Septuagesims, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima (Esto Mihi) form the transition to the Easter cycle. Their Latin names 124 denote the seventieth, the sixtieth and the fiftieth day (though not exactly computed) before Easter. The Wednesday after Quinquagesima Sunday is Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten or Passion Season of forty days. This is a quiet and serious time, in which we commemorate the great suffering which are Lord underwent for our sake. In special services we meditate upon the passion

SEE SMALL CATECHISM (Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) JANET

of bells are carried into the spotlight. When the notes are struck, something beautiful comes into being that was not there just moments before.

We are entering into the season of bells. Jingle bells, caroler's bells, church bells. Bells rung over red Salvation Army buckets and bells jingling on shopkeeper's doors. Many of these bells are reminiscent of daily life – rushed and discordant. Even as we prepare for Christmas, most days feel more like clanging gongs than melodious music. We need a Great Conductor to step in and teach us when to chime, when to remain silent, and how to rest in God's love.

We could try to study Christmas in the same way that we could try to study a bell choir. We could consider science, history, philosophy... but none of these can ever really capture what happens when Jesus walks into the spotlight. Something even more beautiful than the most amazing bell choir was born into the world a little over 2000 years ago. Out of God's love for us, Jesus Christ came to heal the discordant pieces of our lives and to envelope us in His song. When we pause to listen, we will find that His Spirit is still chiming quietly within us.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal (1 Corinthians 13:1).



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

(Continued from page 3) SMALL CATECHISM history and the congregation sings:

"A Lamb bears all the guilt away."

The six Sundays in Lent bear these Latin names: Invocavit, Reminiscere, Oculi, Laetare, Judica, Palmarum. Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. Maundy Thursday, commemorating Christ's institution of the Lord's Supper, and Good Friday, on which Christ died for us on the cross, are prominent days of this week.

After the quiet Lenten season follows Easter, the joyous festival of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It always falls upon the first Sunday after the spring full moon.

Following Easter comes a forty days' time of gladness, embracing the Sundays, Quasimodogeniti, Misericordias Domini, Jubilate, Cantate, Rogate. The festival of the Ascension of Christ, on the fortieth day after Easter, closes this time of gladness as well as the whole Easter Cycle.

The Pentecost Cycle embraces the preparatory time of ten days, including Exaudi Sunday, and the festival of Pentecost itself. In this time believers prepare and wait for the coming of the Spirit. Pentecost is the festival of the Holy Spirit, and He would again enter into the hearts of all. It is always celebrated on the fiftieth day after Easter.

A week later the festival of the Holy Trinity follows. On this day the congregation contemplates the three wonderful works; namely, the coming of the Son, sent by the Father, the redemption through the Son and the sanctification through the Holy Spirit, and praises God for having revealed Himself to us as the Divine Being in three Persons.

After Trinity Sunday the non-festival part of the Church Year begins. The Sundays are counted as Sundays after Trinity. There are from twenty-four to twenty-seven Sundays after Trinity. The number varies according to the time of Easter. During this time the Harvest-festival and Reformation-day are also observed. The latter is celebrated on the Sunday following October 31 and reminds us of the work of God done by His servant, Dr. Martin Luther, when he renewed the Church and cleansed it from false doctrine. We also celebrate the Mission-festival during this time. We then contemplate the wonderful work God is doing even to this day for the extension of His kingdom, and are urged to co-operate heartily.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The church now typically refers to the non-festival portion of the church year as the time after Pentecost and not the

Sundays after Trinity, as referred in the last paragraph of this article.)

EXPLANATION OF Dr. Martin

Luther's Small Catechism TOGETHER WITH THREE SUPPLEMENTS

Prepared by Dr. J. M. Reu
Professor of Theology at Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa
TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN

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16—20 thousand
1917

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Klamath Falls, OR 97603
© 2016



Christmas Break for area schools are listed below. Hope your holidays are special!

School	Break Dates
Ivy Tech	Dec. 18-Jan. 2
Purdue University	Dec. 18-Jan. 8
Frontier	Dec. 22-Jan. 5
North White	Dec. 21-Jan. 3
Pioneer	Dec. 18-Jan. 3
Tri-County	Dec. 21-Jan. 4
Twin Lakes	Dec. 25-Jan. 7



“...expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”
Ephesians 2:7

Acts of Kindness: How to Spread Joy

We are going to continue looking at ways to share joy and kindness. Last year we had a kindness act suggestion each month. This year we are drawing from an article from Emma Beddington, entitled, “**52 acts of kindness: how to spread joy in every week of 2023**,” from the on-line paper, *The Guardian*.

As we end 2023, we hope that you have had an opportunity to try some of these suggestions. Kindness is such an important part of this chaotic world and so desperately every day. Whether you use these ideas or just create “kindness moments” in your own world, it certainly reflects the love God shows us each and every day of our lives.

Litter pick



There is nothing stopping you from heading out with a trash bag and gloves.

Support your local library



Libraries are a lifeline all year. Ask what you can do at your library.

Look after delivery drivers



Ask delivery people if they would like a drink, and tip food riders if you can.

Most of these things are easy to give a shot. They can bring joy to you and to others. Kindness makes us all better.

“52 Acts of Kindness: How to Spread Joy in Every Week of 2023.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 3 Jan. 2023, https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/jan/03/52-acts-of-kindness-how-to-spread-joy-in-every-week-of-2023?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=e+In+fact%2C+mail&utm_placement=newsletter

“Do one act of kindness each day of the year and change 365 lives.”

(Continued from page 1) **PRESIDENT**
to be beacons of hope. We need to rejoice in God’s gift of His Son and let that joy shine through our words and interactions and demonstrate to the fallen world that Our Father loves us all. When Jesus is allowed into our hearts, we do not need to nor should we blend in. Instead, we become a light to others so that they too can have the hope found in the Christmas Child. Why? It’s what we are told to do. More importantly, if we don’t, who will?

In this Advent season and the times beyond, when we are gathered together as a church family in faith, we take time to exclaim our desire to spread hope that is found in a babe lying in a manger and shine a light upon it, doing so with joy, with peace in our hearts, and with gratitude for God’s grace. We do so by challenging ourselves every week, by pledging not to blend in, doing so by declaring our intent to be one of sharing God’s gifts with all, proclaiming new hope in Jesus.

Christmas joy and blessings,
Jim Culross

Church Billboard Sayings:

“It is more important to be Christ-like than Christian.”

God created therapists; it is OK to see one



Board of Finance

“But seek His kingdom”
Luke 12: 31

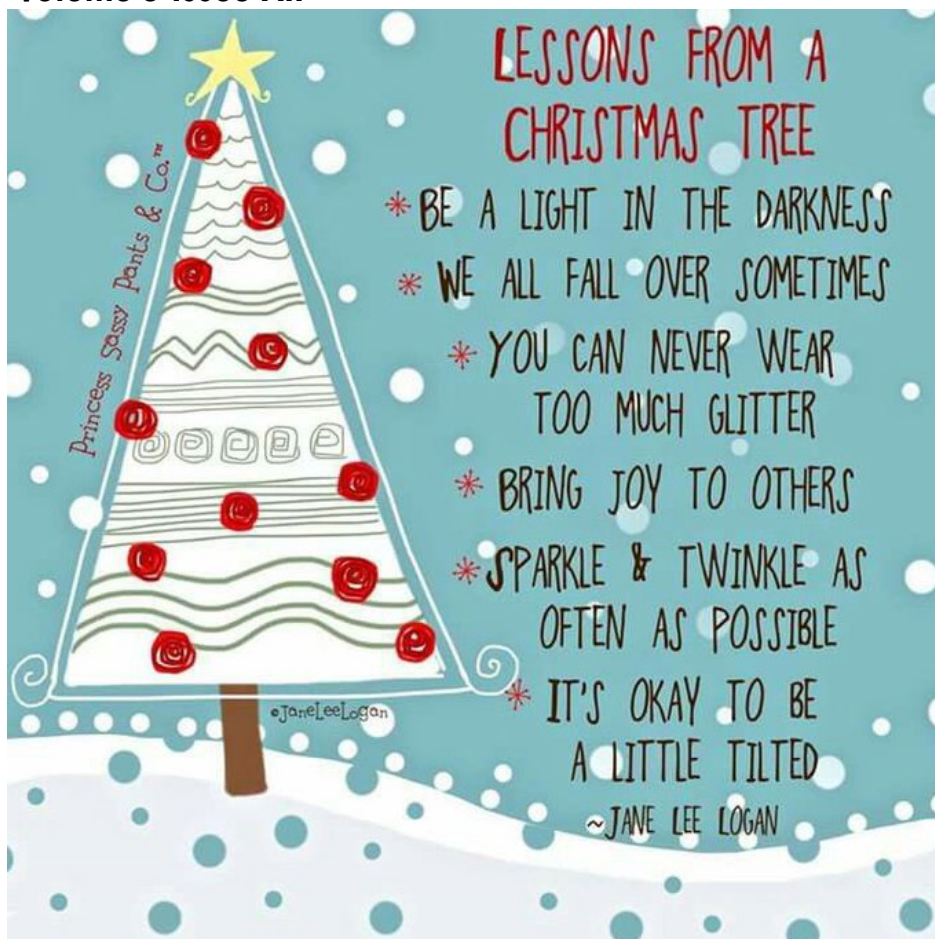
October 2023 Monthly Finances

	Income	Expenses
Dollars	\$2,518	\$3,440
4000		
3400		
3000		
2400		
2000		
1400		
1000		

Some Pastor Smiles

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home. But no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote ‘Revelation 3:20’ on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed at the next worship service, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, ‘Genesis 3:10’ Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins “Behold, I stand at the door and knock.” Genesis 3:10 reads, “I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked.”



Celebrating Advent



"at the coming of our
Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Thessalonians 5:23

With the lighting of one candle, Advent begins.

We've been here before—with one candle.

A candle to offer a prayer.

A candle to remember death.

A candle to mark the passing of another year.

A candle to point the way through the darkness.

Each week we will light another candle.

Four candles call us to sit and wait.

Four candles remind us of Christ's light.

Christ's light taking us back to the beginning.

Taking us to the Word.

Taking us to God.

Taking us to our beginning and end.

The alpha and omega.

We light a candle and we wait.

Ripple, Create the. "Lessons from a #Christmas Tree! #positivity #sparkle Pic.Twitter.Com/Dmnei6vtr9." *Twitter*, Twitter, 25 Dec. 2020, twitter.com/createtheripple/status/1342357502592229376?s=12.

Strybis, Erin. "With the Lighting of One Candle, It Begins." *Living Lutheran*, 30 Nov. 2017, www.livinglutheran.org/2017/11/with-the-lighting-of-one-candle-it-begins/.

FIVE GIFTS OF DISCIPLESHIP ... during Advent and Christmas

Gifts! Gifts! Gifts! Gift-giving and gift-receiving dominant today's Advent and Christmas seasons. Millions of dollars are spent in advertising to convince us to purchase the perfect gift to ensure perfect holidays and happiness.

The church has an opportunity (and challenge) to shift attention to the real gift of Christmas—Emmanuel, God with us.

Emmanuel—God's Gift to Us

God came and dwelt among us in Jesus. He is the gift which surpasses the beautifully wrapped gifts placed under the Christmas tree. He is the gift of God born as an infant in a



In Celebration of Advent

manger. But Jesus is also the one who grew to be an adult, who healed, taught, performed miracles, and ultimately sacrificed his life on a cross, only to live again. God's gift made known in Christ is truly the "reason for the season."

The GIFT of Community—to live among God's faithful people.

Reach out to church members who are lonely and grieving.

The GIFT of God's Word—hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper.

Hear about Emmanuel through song, drama, film, preaching, and acts of generosity.

The GIFT of Good News—proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.

Go out into the community to share the good news of God. Be intentional.

The GIFT of Service—serve all people, following the example of Jesus.
Reach out and respond to those in need in your local community.

The GIFT of Justice and Peace—strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Be open to your voice becoming an advocate for justice and peace.

"Five Gifts of Discipleship." *ELCA.Org*, www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/5-Gifts?_ga=2.136964531.2003319735.1699582475-511244684.1697311741. Accessed 19 Nov. 2023.

the Wonders of His Love

AN ADVENT BIBLE READING PLAN:

Christ is coming

Day 1 Isaiah 9:2-7
 Day 2 Isaiah 11:1-5
 Day 3 Isaiah 7:10-14
 Day 4 Micah 5:1-5
 Day 5 2 Samuel 7:12-16

Christ is here

Day 6 Luke 1:26-33
 Day 7 Luke 1:34-38
 Day 8 Luke 1:46-55
 Day 9 Matthew 1:18-25
 Day 10 Luke 2:1-7
 Day 11 Luke 2:8-12
 Day 12 Luke 2:13-20
 Day 13 Matt. 1:1-17

Christ will give

Day 14 Romans 6:20-23
 Day 15 Galatians 4:1-7
 Day 16 1 Timothy 1:15-17
 Day 17 Titus 3:3-7
 Day 18 Philippians 2:6-8

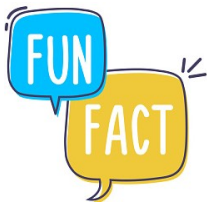
Christ will return

Day 19 John 14:1-6
 Day 20 Daniel 7:13-14
 Day 21 Revelation 1:4-7
 Day 22 Revel. 3:20-22
 Day 23 Revel. 22:12-13
 Day 24 Revelation 22:16-17
 Day 25 Revelation 22:20



Advent wreaths and Advent calendars are very much a part of December. Both activities allow us to focus on the coming of Christmas Day. Above is one form of an Advent calendar, but instead of opening little doors, a Bible verse for each day of December is listed. The focus of this counting down to Christmas allows us to focus on the most important part of the season—Christ's birth. Perhaps your family has an Advent wreath and if so, these Bible passages are a great addition to your Advent devotions. As you light the Advent candles, spend some time reading these verses, perhaps singing a Christmas carol and saying a prayer. A perfect companion for your Advent journey.

Munoz, Dani. "The Wonders of His Love: A Christmas Bible Reading Plan - Free Indeed." *Free Indeed - Helping Women Discover Lasting Freedom and Truth in Jesus.*, 10 Sept. 2023, www.livingfreeindeed.com/2018/11/15/wonders-his-love-christmas-bible-reading-plan/.



How much do you know about the Ordination and Installation process that we will be experiencing during this month. The Service has been set for 4:00, on December 17. Here's some information about these activities.

Ordination

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has two "rosters" of ordained ministers: Word & Sacrament (Pastors) and Word and Service (Deacons). Candidates for the former normally complete the M.Div. degree and serve a full-year internship in a congregation (either after the second year of study or following graduation). With few exceptions, their first call after seminary will be as a parish minister. Those who will serve as Deacons typically complete a Masters' Degree either in theology or a field relevant for their area of service (chaplaincy, community organizing, social service etc.), with additional requirements for studies in Bible, Lutheran history, and theology. Ordination requires a "call" from a congregation or to serve in another form of non-parochial ministry. (<https://utsnyc.edu/academics/career-paths/ordination-process/>)

Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

Because all of its baptized members share in Christ's ministry of love and service, the church equips and supports them for their ministries in the world. Within this context of ministry, the church calls some of its baptized members for specific ministries.

Within the people of God and for the sake of the gospel ministry entrusted to all believers, God has instituted the office of the ministry of word and sacrament. In the service of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, the church entrusts this office to those who have accepted the church's call and sends them into this ministry.

Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament is properly set within the service of Holy Communion, following the sermon and the

hymn of the day. The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may precede the ordination rite.

The bishop of the synod in which candidate/s have accepted calls normally presides at the ordination of the candidate/s.

(https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Ordination_Ministers_Word_Sacrament-pdf.pdf)

Installation of a Pastor

Installation of a Pastor is appropriately set within the service of Holy Communion, following the sermon and hymn of the day. The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may precede the installation rite.

This order is appropriate for installing a pastor who has been previously ordained. The bishop, or a minister of word and sacrament designated by the bishop, normally presides at the installation of a pastor.

(https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Installation_Pastor-pdf.pdf?_ga=2.245457604.1387159027.1699933860-511244684.1697311741)

(Continued from page 1) PASTOR

us that God longs to comfort God's children and remind us that God is always with us. God makes a way where no human can. Advent reminds us to make straight a Royal Highway, which God does when every valley is lifted up and every mountain laid low.

You as New Hope Lutheran Church have walked a long journey and now you will be experiencing a beautiful Advent full of anticipation with the coming of Jesus Christ and with the excitement of preparing for your new pastor, Candice Hinkle. During this Advent, you will be preparing to welcome her as your new called pastor as well as preparing for her ordination in Word and Sacrament ministry and her installation as your pastor.

With the advent of your new ministry with your new pastor, it is time for me to thank you for this time journeying together. Thank you for the gifts that you are individually and as a congregation. Please know you and Pastor Candice will continue to be uplifted in prayer as you grow together in ministry and in your service

**The Ordination
and Installation of
Candice Hinkle
December 16, 2023
4:00 PM
@ New Hope
Lutheran Church**

**INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION**



As the winter season approaches we want to remind everyone that services at New Hope will be held in compliance with White County's Emergency Management Agency. The levels of concern are

Yellow: Advisory. The lowest level of local travel advisory. Individuals should use caution or avoid those areas.

Orange: Watch. During a "watch" local travel advisory, only essential travel, such as to and from work or in emergency situations, is recommended

Red: Warning. During a "warning" local travel advisory, individuals are directed to:

- (A) refrain from all travel;
- (B) comply with necessary emergency measures;
- (C) cooperate with public officials and disaster services forces in executing emergency operations plans; and
- (D) obey and comply with the lawful directions of properly identified officers.

to Christ Jesus.

May the love of God that shines in the Light of the Christ Child surround you! May the peace of God that comes from the Holy Spirit guide you! And may the Joy of Advent and Christmas change our hearts to see Christ in everyone we meet!

Your sister in Christ,
The Rev. Dr. Gretchen M. Freese



Changes Coming to New Hope Lutheran Church in 2024

The end of 2023 is bringing many new and exciting changes, possibilities, and directions to our church. As you read this page of the newsletter we want to consider this past year and things that will be happening in 2024.

There has been a great deal of effort put forth this year to make these new changes happen and we want to recognize the people who have worked diligently to make this a reality. We want to thank people, introduce people, and look ahead to 2024.








This was the theme of the 2018 Synodical Assembly and it seems very appropriate to revisit this

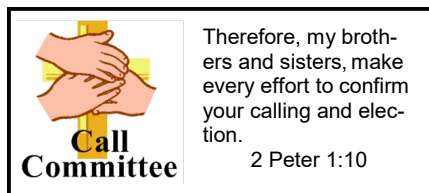
theme, at this time, in New Hope's journey. Our Church Council has talked with us, as a congregation about the importance of the commitment we are making now. They have talked with us about commitments of both time and financial support to make our dream of continuing as an active family of faith. Throughout this fall. The Council has shared the five commitments listed on this page that we need to trust our family to follow through with, on this new journey. They have taken each commitment and given a detailed explanation of their meaning, through the **Top Three Things** email message we have all received. As you review these statements, it is important to ask yourself, how you can fulfill a role at New Hope that will build our dream.

"Sharing God's gifts with all, proclaiming New Hope in Jesus"



We've made our decision!! We've committed to our new path! And with the guidance of God, the support of our members, and the leadership of our new pastor, the Reverend Candice Hinkle we will hope to forge a new path for New Hope. Over the last couple of months, we have been reminded of the five commitments that we need to make and, as we end 2023, we again remember those five statements. Five commitments to our new pastor.

-  Lay Leaders will coordinate with the pastor to operate the mission and outreach of the church
-  Membership will actively pray for the pastor in support of their professional career and their life outside of the church
-  Membership will support the pastor's efforts to develop their craft and increase their knowledge in areas that enable them to enrich our church life
-  Membership will be part of outreach and service opportunities that the pastor and lay leadership bring before them
-  Membership will continue to practice the disciplines of delving into the word daily, praying each day, actively seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and recognizing and acknowledging God's hand in their daily walk



Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election.

2 Peter 1:10

We take this opportunity to thank the three members who accepted the request to lead, direct, and recommend a candidate to our congregation for the Call process. Thank you to **Scott Lutz, Lucy Norris, and Cathy Raderstorf** for their efforts to look at information, consider New Hope, and listen to God's guidance.

Thank You

"always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 5:20

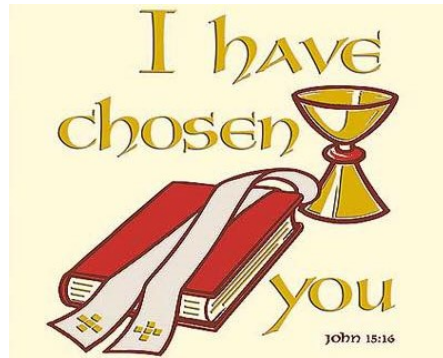
For New Hope to continue to follow God's Word, we have had "Pastors of Record," over the past several years. Beginning with Pastor Doug Givan continuing with Pastor Scott Vana, and finally, Pastor Gretchen Freese, we have been able to have leadership in our ministry, both through the pulpit and with assistance in direction of the logistics of running of church. We thank all of these people for their commitment to New Hope.

We want to especially thank our current Pastor of Record, Pastor Gretchen Freese. She has actively engaged with the Call Committee and our Church Council to navigate the waters of the Call process. With her able assistance, she has given ideas and guidance to the entire congregation regarding the commitment we are about to undertake. Of course we are sure that we will maintain a connection with Pastor as our family of faith continues our walk, but we want to say thank you to her for helping us make the decisions we have needed to make.

Our Church Council has worked tirelessly over the past several years to keep us together and follow God's direction. Without this faithful group, New Hope would not be prepared to take this next major step. They have guided us through the relocation of our place of worship, changes in the ways we celebrate our service, working through the Call process, and now preparing for the Ordination and Installation of our new Minister. We can never express our gratitude enough to these people who have listened to our voices and followed God's guidance—THANK YOU

Jim Culross, President
Bob Hickman, Vice President
Scott Lutz, Treasurer
Lisa Baxter, Worship Chair
(we also want to add our thanks to Glen Haskell as past Chair of Properties)

Pastor Candice Hinkle



Sunday Worship Servants for December

Role/Date	12-3	12-10	12-17	12-24	12-31
Presider	Gretchen Freese	Tom McShannock	Jim Culross (tentative)	Candice Hinkle	Candice Hinkle



In God



We Trust

Praying for Those Who Need Courage...

Working with Daily Trials:

Greater Monticello Community,
Vern and Kathy Barnett,
Barb Fawley

Facing Life's Long-Term Challenges:

Vicki Leonard,
Reinert Spille,
Laura Culross

Dealing with Chronic Illness or are Homebound:

Claude Culross,
Shelly Wiseley,
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 and the Indiana/Kentucky Synod, Pastor Gretchen Freese, Jeff Truscott, missionary in Singapore, Kathleen Lutz, missionary in Nairobi, Kenya, Reverend Candice Hinkle, Monticello First Presbyterian Church

New Hope Call Committee:

Scott Lutz, Lucy Norris, Cathy Raderstorf

A X S Q T
A W I A R
E G O 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:

Kauffman, Angie. "Advent Word Search for Kids - Free Printables with Two Versions."
Real Life at Home, 6 Mar. 2021, www.reallifeathome.com/advent-word-search/.

Advent Word Search

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

Words to Find

Words can be
found left to right
and up and down.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus



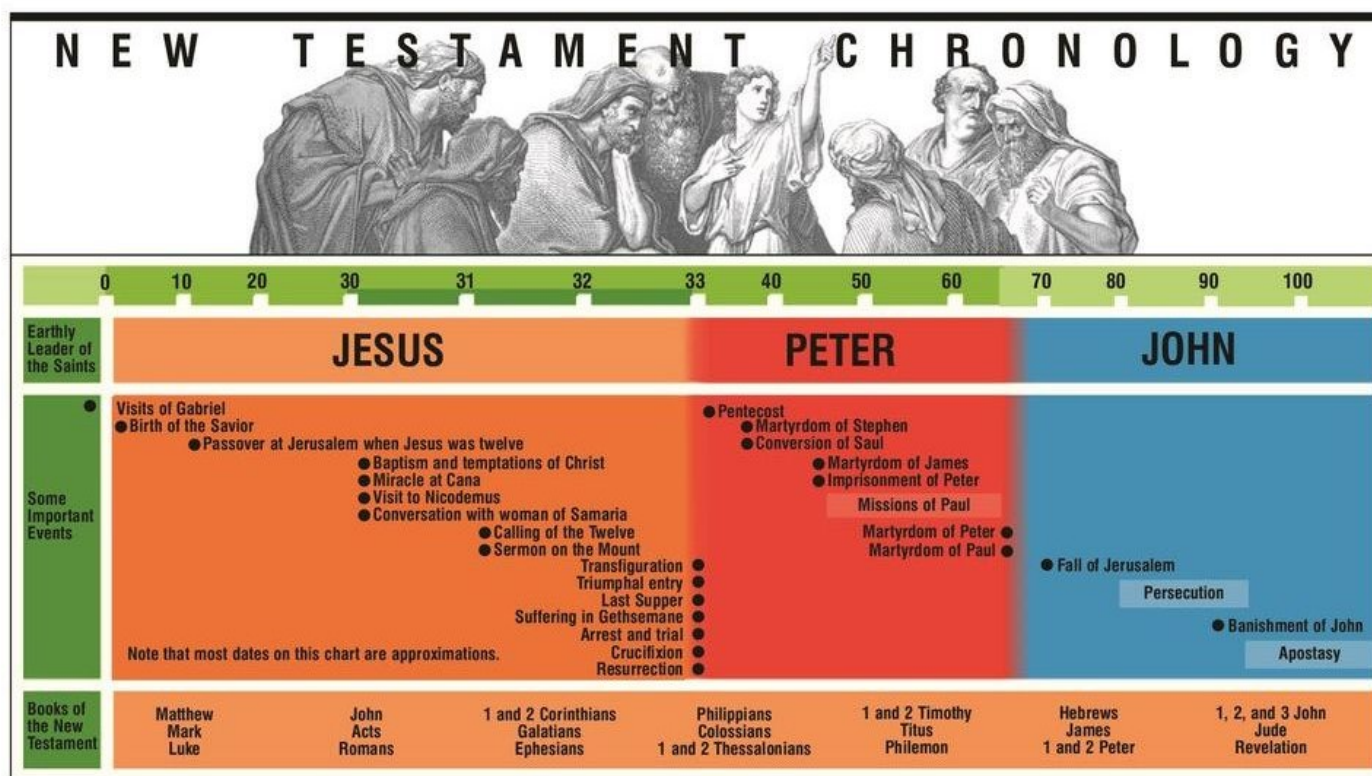
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/si/seminary?lang=eng>

On the Web

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

Seminary, www.churchofjesuschrist.org/si/seminary?lang=eng. Accessed 19 Nov. 2023.

As we bring the year of 2023 to a close, and begin a new church year with the celebration of the birth of Christ, we thought looking over the basic timeline of the New Testament might be interesting. Although this website is offered by the Church of the Latter Day Saints and really doesn't offer much more information, we thought this graphic was a nice overview of the start of the Christian Church.



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/>

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,” Luke 2:14

December 2023

The Liturgical Year	Advent
	Christmas Season

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>						
3 9:00 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour 	4	5	6 St. Nicholas Day 	7 Pearl Harbor Day 	1	2 <i>Kyle Ashton</i>
10 Human Rights Day 9:00 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour 	11 (Birthday is the 10th) <i>Michel Culross</i> <i>James Culross Jr</i> <i>Elainna Bowman</i>	12	13 Rhett Bowman	14	15 Bill of Rights Day <i>Glen Haskell</i> 	16 Ordination/Installation of Candice Hinkle @ New Hope 4:00 PM 
17 9:00 Worship Service 10:30 Coffee Hour 	18 Newsletter Items Due	19 Kayla Bennington	20	21 Winter Solstice 	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 Christmas Eve Service 	25 Christmas Day 	26 Boxing Day Kwanzaa 	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve <i>Bryan Bowman</i> 9:00 Worship Service						

Please join us at New Hope for our Christmas Service Schedule!

**NEW HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

401 W 2nd Street
Reynolds, IN 47980

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

Phone: 574-297-8759
Email: newhopelutheranelca@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas Service:
December 24
7:00 PM
New Years Eve:
December 31
9:00 AM

Advent Services:
December 3
December 10
December 17
December 24
9AM



REJOICE
Christ is Born

