

# Arms Wide Open

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## Hope's Happenings

### Sunday's in March

**March 1:** Our second Sunday of Lent. Today we will celebrate the baptism of Beau Allen Sandberg, son of Catherine and Mac Sandberg. This is Carol and Jim Mohr's grandson.

**March 8:** The third Sunday of Lent. Daylight savings time begins today, don't forget to move your clocks forward. The Bells of Hope will play for us today.

**March 15:** The fourth Sunday of Lent. We are excited to celebrate pastor Judy's Installation today. God is Good, all the time.

**March 22:** The fifth Sunday of Lent. Our Joyful Noise kids will share their special music with us today.

**March 29:** Palm Sunday! Stay after worship and join the youth for a fantastic breakfast! All proceeds go towards summer camp help for families!



Join together for a Lenten meal each Wednesday from 5:00 - 6:15. **Holden Evening prayer services will follow at 6:30pm. Our Lenten theme this year is "Mama don't let your babies grow up to be prophets!"** Thank you to all our groups who have signed up to serve a yummy meal!



**Daylight savings time begins March 8!**  
Don't forget to turn your clocks forward at midnight Saturday night!

Dear Members of Hope,



I know how St. Paul felt when he wrote, *“I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of the gospel from the very first day until now.”* This is how I feel about you. I am encouraged and grateful for the wonderful welcome we have received here! My husband, Kenny, and my daughter, Maddie, have both mentioned how nice the people have been. I knew that I would like it here, but I am relieved that they feel at home already. I want to say a million thank-yous for that! Thank-you also for the candy, flowers, helpful/hardworking staff, beautiful office, enthusiastic volunteers, and friendly greetings.

I am especially grateful to the Holy Spirit, the call committee, and the synod office. I feel like they worked together to put me right where I am supposed to be. I can tell that my family and this congregation are going to have fun working together serving the Lord. This transition has been both harder and easier than I thought it would be. You have made arriving here much easier than I anticipated. Saying goodbye to people I love, finding a house, packing, and moving are all harder than I thought they would be. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. We have found a house in Brackett. It is only 16 minutes from my office. Now we have to pack up and move.

Worship is off to a good start. Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent, a season when we reflect on the meaning of Christ’s suffering and death for our sake. We received ashes in the sign of the cross on our foreheads. That set the tone. The ashes are a reminder of our mortality, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Things are good for me this year, but there have been times that I did not need any reminders about death. I know that is true for you too. Every time I do a funeral, I am reminded that the time we have is short. We are called to make the most of the days we have—to live in ways that align with our faith. Before surgery, during a serious health crisis, or when a friend or loved one dies, we don’t need ashes to remind us that we will not walk this earth forever. What we need to remember is that those ashes are in the shape of the cross. At your baptism, you were marked with the cross of Christ forever. You share in His death, but also in His resurrection to new life.

Followers of Christ make special sacrifices to mark the 40-day season of Lent that ends in the glorious celebration of Easter. The three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Please worship and pray more by attending our Lenten services. I love Holden Evening Prayer! This year the services might be a little less serious than you are used to. God is okay with fun, even during Lent. Our theme is “Mama Don’t Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Prophets.” Join us in person or online.



*See You in Church, Pastor Judy*

March 2026



Order an Easter Lily to decorate the church for Easter Sunday.

Order forms can be found in the Gathering Area. Lilies are \$15.00 each and can be in honor or in memory of loved ones!

Latest day to have your order in is March 22nd..



## Streaming Sunday Worship

We continue to stream our Sunday worship services over Facebook or through our website for those that can't make it in-person with us. It is amazing how many people we can reach with our streaming worship services. Hope's worship is streamed live on Sunday's via our Facebook page or through our website, hopechurchec.com.



You are invited to attend "Homeland", the CVASing 2026 concert on Sunday, March 1 at 2pm and 7pm at Trinity Lutheran Church with Gary Rambo directing. Tickets are \$10 at the door or maybe available for presale from Mary Bader, Melinda Halom, Carol Mohr and Jim Newman who are singing from Hope Lutheran. All proceeds go to benefit Feed My People Food Bank.

**Help For the Homeless Drive**—The family Radio Network is once again collecting hygiene and cleaning products that are not covered by SNAP programs to distribute to The Community Table, Hope Gospel Mission, The Salvation Army, ECASD's Homeless closet, and Promise of the Chippewa Valley. Please consider donating, Bathroom tissue, cleaning supplies, dental care items, deodorant, diapers, baby care products, face and bath soap, menstrual products, hair care products, laundry detergent, paper towels, razors, and trash bags. The collection will run from February 22 through March 15. There is a collection box in the gathering area.

The Green Team is so happy about how diligently our congregation uses our battery collection Sunday on the last Sunday of each month! Here's a little reminder: only lithium batteries need to be taped for safety. There is no need to tape the ends of the standard alkali batteries. Thank you for helping us out.

## A look ahead to Holy Week:

**Palm Sunday, March 29 @ 9:00am:** We begin worship with a Palm Processional. After service we'll enjoy a great breakfast that supports our youth attending Luther Park this summer.



**Maundy Thursday, April 2 @ 6:30pm:** The origins of our Lord's supper will be remembered. This service will be streamed.

**Good Friday, April 3 @ 1:00pm:** This service will be streamed.

**Easter Sunday, April 5 @ 9:00am:** Christ is Risen! Festival worship with instrumentalists, the Singers of Hope, Bells of Hope and the unburying of the Alleluias! Congregation members can join for the singing of the hallelujah Chorus.



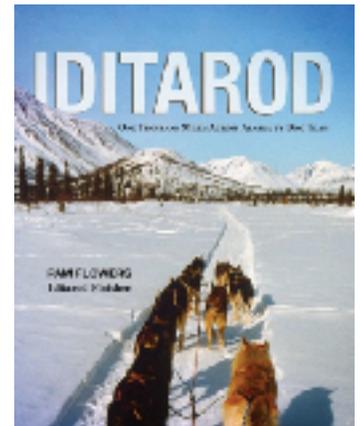
## Snow Policy

If the Eau Claire schools close due to snowy/bad weather, activities scheduled that day at Hope Lutheran will also be cancelled.

This is the policy for Hope activities and does not include Rachel's Place.

## Book Club

The Women's book club will meet on Monday, March 16th at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room.



We will be discussing "Iditarod: 1000 Miles Across Alaska by Dog Team" by Pam Flowers. The Iditarod this year of March 7, 2026.

All are welcome!

Hello Hope Family,

Welcome to March! Spring is upon us, and we continue on in the season of Lent. This month we have our normally scheduled programming, and a few special events!



In JAM this month students will be learning all about the days of Holy Week, in Confirmation we'll be learning about Paul's letter to the Galatians. Then, on March 11th we have a field trip to a special screening of "Screenagers: Growing Up In The Digital Age" at Trinity Lutheran Church. This Wednesday will look a little different, as we'll spend most of the evening over at Trinity. See Grace's weekly email for more information. At the end of the month Confirmation will return to review the happenings of Holy Week. In Youth Group this month, we'll enjoy a DQ field trip, Board Game Night, and Holy Week Escape Room!

For the whole congregation, on March 4th we're hosting a Soup & Song at 5:15pm in Olson Hall. This month we'll be doing a prayer vigil as our activity, and you are all welcome to join us. On March 15th we have St. Patricks Bake Sale hosted by the Board of Education and our youth! This Bake Sale supports our Summer programming. A sign up will be out in the gathering space for bakers to donate your special treats, and for helpers to volunteer! On March 29th, our youth and children will host the Palm Sunday Breakfast at 10:00am in Olson Hall. On the menu is egg bake, pastry, and fruit. Hope you'll join us to celebrate that special day.

Wishing you a lovely March ahead!  
In Peace,  
Grace



## Youth Schedule for March

March 1st - Worship 9:00am, Joyful Noise

March 4th - Afterschool Hours 3:00pm, Youth Group 4:30pm, Soup & Song 5:15pm,

- Confirmation 6:00pm, JAM 6:00pm, Lenten Worship 6:30pm

March 8th - Worship 9:00am, Joyful Noise, JAM 10:00am

March 11th - Afterschool Hours 3:00pm , Youth Group 4:30pm

- 4:30pm youth ride to Trinity, Meal, Screenagers Screening, Pickup 8:00pm

March 15th - Worship 9:00am, JAM 10:00am, St. Patricks Bake Sale 10:00am

March 18th - Afterschool Hours 3:00pm , Youth Group 4:30pm, Dinner 5:30pm

- Confirmation 6:00pm, JAM 6:00pm

March 22nd - Joyful Noise Rehearsal 8:40am, Worship 9:00am, JAM 10:00am

March 25th - Afterschool Hours 3:00pm, Youth Group 4:30pm, Confirmation 6:00pm, JAM 6:00pm

March 29th - Worship 9:00am, Palm Sunday Breakfast 10:00am (No JAM)



Join us after 9:00am worship this Easter Sunday for an Ester Egg Hunt! We'll meet around 10:15am at the playground on the Northside of the parking lot. Kiddos of all ages are welcome to come and find Easter eggs to celebrate the Risen Christ! Remember to bring an Easter basket from home! Plastic bags will be available for those without



### **Glimpses from the Past** ***From the Archives Committee***

Hope is blessed by a very talented musical ministry. Pictured in the photo below you'll see the Hope Trio, who enhanced Hope's worship in the 1950s and 60s. In the photo, from left to right, are Lois Stokes, Noreen Holm, and Elaine Klund.



### **More Lunch Debt Paid**

Hope sent another check to cover lunch debt at Sam Davey this week! What an amazing thing that we can do for our neighborhood kids! This money was from donations and our noise offering. Thank you for your continued generosity to the kids in our community!

### **Lasagna Dinner for Sadick and Terah**

On Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a lasagna fundraiser dinner for the boys at Truax UCC Church. This is Les' church. This big event will start at 4pm and go to 7:00. For \$15 you will get a generous slice of lasagna, ceasar salad, garlic bread stick, homemade dessert and a beverage. Carry outs will be available. There will also be some fantastic theme baskets for you to purchase raffle tickets.

## Update on the Ghana Boys – Terah and Sadick

Both boys are doing wonderful in school. Terah is attending Ideal College in Accra Ghana Africa. He is in a year and a half program to get his GED - high school diploma. Terah has just completed his first semester and his grades were fantastic. Terah got 4-A's and 3-B's. He was 4<sup>th</sup> in his class. The teacher had the remarks on his report card the "Terah is a very promising student." Terah enjoys reading and group studies. Terah loves school and realizes what opportunities will open up for him in the job market once he gets his GED in Ghana.

Sadick is also doing fantastic in school. Sadick just completed his first semester at UW Eau Claire. Sadick's major is public health and his minor business. Someday Sadick would like to be an administrator of a hospital or nursing home. Sadick grades for his first semester were

4 – A's and 2-B+. Sadick loves school and puts a lot of time and effort into his studies. In his spare time he loves to work in the vegetable garden at Les' house.

Both boys say a huge 'Madasse' which means thank you in their native Twi language, for the love and support you have given them the last two years.

### Ways to Give

Our congregation offers a variety of means by which you may make a offering. Besides bringing your offering in person or mailing it, Hope has several ways you can give electronically:

**Through our Website-** Hope's website address is [www.hopechurchec.com](http://www.hopechurchec.com). Once there, click on the "Give" tab. Then click on the icon "Fast and Easy Giving." That will take you to our Subsplash site.

**Hope Phone App** - Hope has a free phone app which will give you access to Subsplash where you can access information. From here you can click on the "Give" tab.

**Text Your Gift** - Text the message "give2hope" to the phone number 206-859-9409. Follow the steps to set up an account and you're on your way.

**Simple Giving** - You can set up an automatic pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. Forms are available in the church office and also on the church website. If you're looking on the App Store for our phone app, the icon looks like this:





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**Office Hours**

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Korena and Stephen Covill	Custodians		
Brian Petersen	Buildings and Grounds		
Todd Johnson	Church President		

**Hope Lutheran is a handicapped accessible congregation providing barrier-free and elevator access, marked parking spaces, large-print materials and accessible restrooms.**



Download the Hope Church App on the  
Apple "App Store" or Android "Google Play" platform!