

Good Hope Lutheran Church
 12030 Market Street
 North Lima, Ohio 44452
 330-549-2406
www.goodhope-elca.org



Through Christ we put God first by teaching reaching and loving all!

The R E A C H O U T

At the first of the new year, we move right into Epiphany. Epiphany is a Christian holiday primarily commemorating the Magi's visit to the baby Jesus and the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. Eastern traditions, which usually call the holiday Theophany, focus on Jesus' baptism, seen as the manifestation of Christ as both fully human and fully divine. Western traditions focus on the Magi's visit, seen as the first manifestation of Christ as the savior of Gentiles as well as Jews. Epiphany is among the church's oldest and most important feasts.

The E.L.C.A. put the Davey and Goliath animated series, the Christmas episode, on Facebook. So, I watched it. It was great! It started off with Davey not having the Christmas Spirit. He was cranky. I will not reveal what happened but Davey had an epiphany. I too have struggled to find the Christmas Spirit. But I always get out of my head and move to my spirit and have my epiphanies. I really love God, my savior. I enjoy the faith and hope I have with trust in God's love. I really only need to see how God gives to those who are going through hardship. These people who have faith when most would collapse. It is so amazing to watch. I had the pleasure to do the private funeral for the Solvesky's. Watching Hunter and his sister Harleigh do for their family during a time when they should have been knocked down. I watched their spirits soar during pain and strength and love from their parents. They had a picture of not perfection, but pure love, to watch and receive for the years that their parents lived. It was so heartwarming. It gave me a joy and desire to do better.

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I then looked at my own to do list. I have listed to go to Sam's club to get candy from the monies received from the Thrivent grant. My wife told me how crazy Sam's club is this time of year. Wendy was there the week before and we found out my card had expired. Lololollo we could stop there. I was shopping and I got the candy and went to the check out with my expired card, with two little receipt papers that were supposed to prove I was current with my membership. Of course, after all the candy was rung in and I swiped the Thrivent card. It would not work. The young lady handling my check out called someone over and explained to them what happened. I heard them talking and corrected her, saying I will pay cash for the overage. She had rung it in incorrectly. She corrected it, and it worked. Here is the kicker, I was not upset! I was having fun! The gentleman behind me was picking on my Christmas meal selection. All candy! I said I was an elf. We elves try to stick to the four main food groups: Candy, candy canes, candy corn, and syrup. We had a good laugh.

There were other things that gave my heart a lift in this the darkest of nights. Wendy came into the room smiling saying yay, longest night is over, the days are going to get longer than the nights. I just have been amazed by God and the ability of God the Spirit in those around me to remind me of Psalm 30:5. Weeping may last for the night, but Joy comes in the morning!! I travel this life with the community around me giving me Faith, Hope, and Love. I am always inspired to have a great epiphany that Christ with us is the reason for the season and Christ has been given to the gentiles and the Jews. Christ has been given for me. Christ, from his birth, to his life, to his death, all the way to the resurrection, is for us. Thanks be to God.

I prayed with Pam Nock as she goes to Cleveland Clinic to have her surgery while her husband, Jack Nock, is in rehab still struggling with the effects of his stroke. I prayed with Pam that Christ would strengthen and heal Jack and that God would go with her to Cleveland. Faith, Hope, and Love.

I want to thank all who have blessed Wendy and I with monetary gifts as well as thoughtful gifts and of course for your gifts of prayers. We pray for each of you who read this that God be with you in a way you can feel him. That Christ free you from all negative thoughts, and that the Holy Spirit allows you the opportunity to share the Good News. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The prayers the righteous are powerful and effective!

Pastor Ralph

Christmas Eve Weekend Worship

Saturday at 5pm- 4th Sunday of Advent- regular worship

Sunday at 8am and 10:30am- 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday at 7pm and 11pm- Christmas Eve candlelight service



2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The envelopes are here!

Please pick yours up in the Narthex.

If you do not want envelopes anymore, please let Wendy know.

If you want envelopes, please let Wendy know.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE JANUARY

Serving in God's house	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Lector 8:00 Lector 10:30	Greg Razo Kathy Kramer	Nancy Crouse Andy Tesyk	Greg Razo Kathy Kramer	Nancy Crouse Andy Tesyk
Communion bread	Deb Dulovich	Deb Dulovich	Deb Dulovich	Deb Dulovich
Chrema	Nancy Barret Wendy Edwards Tammy Chuey	Nancy Barret Andy Tesyk	Sandy Kuntz Tammy Chuey	Wendy Edwards Andy Tesyk

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE FEBRUARY

Serving in God's house	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Lector 8:00 Lector 10:30	Greg Razo Kathy Kramer	Nancy Crouse Andy Tesyk	Greg Razo Kathy Kramer	Nancy Crouse Andy Tesyk
Communion bread	Tammy Chuey	Tammy Chuey	Tammy Chuey	Tammy Chuey
Chrema	Nancy Barret Wendy Edwards Tammy Chuey	Nancy Barret Andy Tesyk	Sandy Kuntz Tammy Chuey	Wendy Edwards Andy Tesyk

Sundays & Seasons Worship Planner

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DATE	EVENT	COLOR	READINGS	INTRODUCTION
January 7th	Baptism of Our Lord	white	Genesis 1: 1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11	Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.
January 14th	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	green	1 Samuel 3: 1-20 Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 John 1: 43-51	All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called “the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.
January 21st	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	green	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 Psalm 62: 5-12 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 Mark 1: 14-20	As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.
January 28th	4th Sunday after Epiphany	green	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13 Mark 1: 21-28	In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

Christmas Festival at Camp Frederick

The kids had a great time making crafts and playing games. They were still talking about the live nativity when they got to the top of the hill!
Thank you for the bake sale cookies!



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Dear Good Hope Lutheran Church,

We are sincerely grateful for you and for your ministry. Your support of our shared mission strengthens our communities in our Northeastern Ohio Synod. We are blessed to journey in our faith together!

With heartfelt thanks,
Your Northeastern Ohio
Synod Staff

Our Prayer List



Joe Kreidler	Carol Jean Horst	Lindsey Hospodar	Bobbi McMurray
Patty Dickey	Floyd Welker	Stan Huddleston	Vicki Porcase
Alison Dobro	Donald Stoffer	Emerson Grace	Cheryl Lyda
Savannah Popio	Joey Biroschak	Norm Deckant	In the military:
Janet Chittock	Ernie Gayge	David O'Neil	Alyssa
Dennis Grant	David Pollo	Greg Razo	Bryce Liberty
Terry Ward	James	Samir & Kristen	Jakeb Fry
Checker Ward	Oliver Coldiron	Joe & Debbie Wrenn	Lyndsey Miller
Jamie	Erin Shoemaker	John & Pam Nock	Daniel McMurray

Our weekly intercessory prayer for the people of our congregation :



4- Ed and Jane Peachey

January 7

Theresa Nemenz
Natalie Nemenz-Keenan
John Nock
Pam Nock

January 14

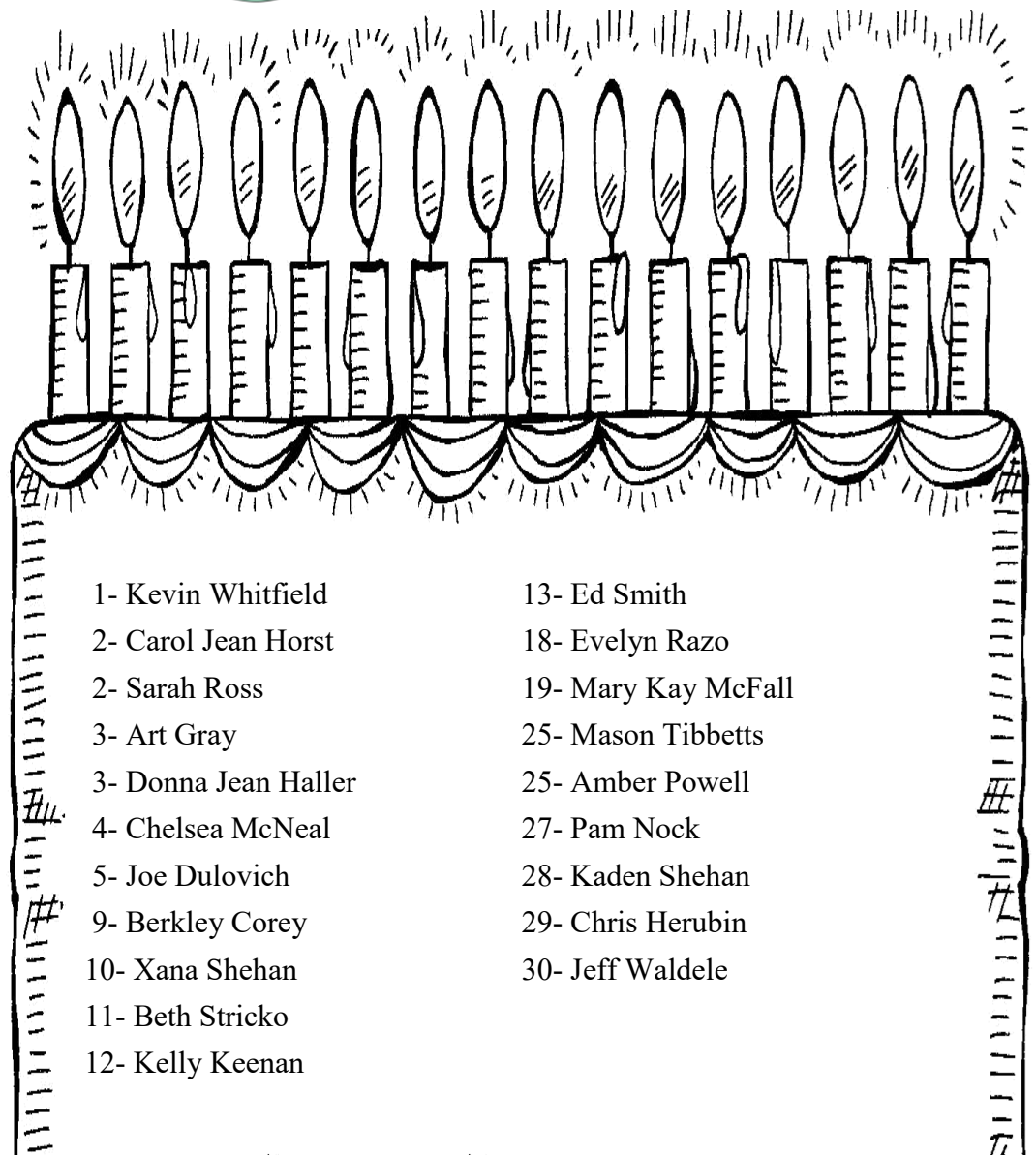
Ed Ohlin
Jean Ohlin
Kim Ohlin
Theresa Ohlin

January 21

Kim Oliver
Nancy Panneton
Grace Pavkovich
Kristen Pavkovich

January 28

Ava Peterson
Aza Peterson
Barry Pitzer
Kellen Pitzer



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes for December 19, 2023

present: Lauren, Chris, Nancy, Kevin, Mike, Kim, Carl, Jean, Mark, P. Ralph, Wendy

excused: Greg and Natalie

Pastor Ralph opened the meeting with prayer.

Kevin thanks members going off council for their service. He also welcomed the new members of council.

Ken Lude came to the meeting to answer questions about the flooring. He suggested using the same tile as under the pews around the communion table. Mark suggested putting the same thing in the choir loft and Ken gave an estimate.

Lauren motions to accept Ken's plan to put new flooring around the communion table. Nancy seconds. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report –December– 2023

Area of Focus Last Month:

- ◆ I had 25 counseling sessions and numerous significant contacts with members and others.
- ◆ Memorial 1 Eileen Mullen
- ◆ Funeral 1 Roy Weaver
- ◆ I had 21 contacts by phone for significant help.
- ◆ We had our regular number of Saturday night and Sunday morning services
- ◆ Over the past month I have presided at 14 worship services and prepared 6 sermons.
- * Nov 03 Fish Fry
- * Nov 11 Krautfest
- * Nov 13 Girl Scouts Starts to meet at Church
- * Nov 14 Training Empowering Thriving Communities Building Resilience from Adversary
- * Nov 17 Fish Fry
- * Nov 18 Memorial for Eileen Mullen
- * Nov 19 Harvest Sunday
- * Nov 22 Funeral for Roy Weaver
- * Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day
- * Nov 26 Hanging of the Greens

Secretary's Report:

Volunteered at Krautfest

Helped with hanging the greens

Changed paraments

Served at fish fry

Answered calls for 3 c's

Updated electronic sign

Organized clothing shed

Completed office duties

Prepared agenda and reports for council and took minutes at congregational meeting

Prepared bulletins and power point services

Prepared and distributed the Reachout

All bills and statements to Naomi

(council cont.)

Old Business:

- a. Pastor Ralph has suggested we take our own pictures for the directory. Lauren uses a program that will make a directory from the photos. We will also collect contact information for social media.
- b. We are still waiting for a quote to fix the sidewalks. P. Ralph will contact Jordan again. Mark is looking for a way to have the sidewalks patched for now.
- c. Greg stated that he will remove the yard sale extras from the church in January.
- d. MTR Construction will be painting in January. Pastor Ralph will ask him about also painting the sanctuary. Lauren will paint squares on the wall in the Narthex on Saturday to help council choose a paint color.
- e. Herk's flooring will be putting in the carpet and red brick marble tile under the pews starting in January.
- f. Council decides to remove the organ and will look for a place that needs it.

New Business:

- a. Council has elected their officers for 2024: Mark Nemenz was elected president. Lauren Newton was elected vice president. Wendy Edwards will continue as secretary.

Kevin led the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting.



Treasurer's Report November 1- November 30, 2023

Negative shown in parentheses	Actual	Budget	Budget remaining
Income	\$19,701.84	\$16,535.00	(\$3,166.84)
Expense	\$20,484.06	\$16,434.57	(\$4,049.49)
Net Total	(\$782.22)	\$100.43	\$882.65

Mark Your Calendar

December 24- Christmas Eve candlelight services at 7pm and 11pm

January 7- We will be taking down the greens at 11:45am

Office Notes

Pastor Ralph and I will leave for vacation the day after Christmas.

The office will be back open January 4th. Pastor Kari Lankford will be on call for emergencies.

You can reach her at 330-831-0919.

Used greeting cards are collected all year long. Please put them in the container on the table in the Narthex. These cards are donated to the Alzheimer facility so they can be used to make crafts.

Bible study will resume January 10th at 6pm. We will be discussing Lamentations.

Thank You

Thank you to all who brought in candy for Teen Challenge! Pastor Ralph and I will be visiting the men and women Christmas afternoon. They are all so grateful to you for remembering them.

I just wanted to say thank you from the bottom heart! I was scared and alone in my time of need and you were there to help me out. It's very comforting in knowing that there are still loving and caring and most of all compassionate people still in this crazy world we live in. I was just fortunate enough to find all of you in one town.

Mama Dog + I made our journey home safe + sound. This experience has re-opened my heart and faith to the Lord and that too I would like to thank +

you ser.



Wishing you lots of happiness, laughter and fun at Christmas.

Happy Holidays



Much Love,

Vanessa



Mama Dog



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Dear reader

As you have likely read in the March issue of *Living Lutheran*, the magazine will cease its print publication with the November/December 2023 issue. This does not mean, however, that we will stop telling stories of this church when the print magazine ends. Throughout the past several years, LivingLutheran.org has been the magazine's online platform, and we are excited about the ways in which we can enhance how you are able to experience the stories and lives of Lutherans throughout the ELCA as we transition to a fully online approach. You will start to see us employing these ways throughout the year, with videos, audio stories and more. This transition will also include a more robust social media presence and more opportunities for user-generated content with the potential for greater engagement from you, our most loyal readers.

The ELCA and its predecessor church bodies have been printing periodicals since 1831, when *The Lutheran Observer* began. Spreading the gospel and sharing the stories of our church have always been at the foundation of who we are as Christians and Lutherans. As many of you probably know, the cost of printing a magazine—including paper, ink and postage prices—has steadily increased, especially during the pandemic, making it difficult to financially support a print edition. Being good stewards of the generous support given to the church is of the utmost importance to our team. While we will no longer print a magazine each month, the sharing and spreading of the good news continues every day.

By focusing on creating more online content and new channels for distribution, we will have more flexibility and options for how we tell the stories of this church. Storytelling will still be at the core of this work. We understand there are a lot of questions regarding your subscription, how the ELCA will reach readers who don't rely on the internet for information and how we will assist those who use *Living Lutheran* for church resources and group discussions. We are still working out answers to those questions and will provide them as soon as possible.

We are excited about what is ahead for the ministry of *Living Lutheran* and the future possibilities of reaching even more people about the great work people are doing in God's name.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Return Services Requested

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North Lima, OH 44452

Worship Services

Saturdays—5:00 pm

Sundays—8:00 & 10:30 AM & noon

Children's Sunday School during 10:30 worship

Church Office

Office Phone: 330-549-2406

E-Mail: g.lutheran@sbcglobal.net

Web Site: www.goodhope-elca.org

Rev. Ralph W. Edwards, Pastor

E-Mail: pastor@goodhope-elca.org

Residence: 330-549-5780