

## New Hope Lutheran



Blanchardville/Hollandale, WI

# New Hope Lutheran August Newsletter



### Praise Worship Service

**Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Blanchardville site  
9:45– 10:15am

It's the last  
opportunity this year to  
participate in these special  
services.

***Everyone is Welcome!***

### COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP



**Join Pastor Chris on  
Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>**

*"Coffee with the Pastor"* from 8:30am to 9:30 am in  
Blanchardville at "Bistro on Main".

This coffee hour, on the 1st Thursday of every  
month, is meant to be a time of informal fellowship  
— anyone who wants to stop by for coffee &  
conversation is welcome!

### There's Still Time!

Join us for **Vacation Bible School**  
Saturday August 2nd, 9am to 3pm  
at the Blanchardville Site.

There is no cost! Tell your neighbors and friends!  
Register Here:



Volunteers are also still welcome!  
Just call or email the office:  
608-523-4239 newhopeoffice@tds.com



**Something  
grrrrreat is  
coming!**

**Vacation Bible School**  
**Saturday, August 2nd**  
Stay Tuned for Details  
Volunteers Needed



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**The Pastor  
Will Be Away**

**Pastor Chris  
will be Gone**

Sunday July 27th (pm)  
through Wednesday,  
August 6th to attend  
*Church Wide Assembly*  
in

Phoenix and  
*Moses Project Classes*  
in Des Moines.

So there won't be *Office Hours* on  
Monday, August 4th, or  
*Bible Study* on Tuesday,  
August 5th.

### **Mission Central NEEDS more clean plastic bags!**

You may leave them at either church site.  
During the Summer, *Mission Central* will remain open every Monday  
from 1pm-3pm as usual.

Also, the room is always open for  
anyone who wants to drop in and work on their own.

*Thank you for all you do in service of others!*



Shannon Marion will lead worship  
on Sunday, August 3rd

# From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Chris Strohm

Dear people of God,

As I reflect on the events of the past month, even the past year, I am reminded of my childhood, of the summer that I was 12 and was about to enter the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The year was 1976, the year of our country's bicentennial. That was a great year. Everyone was gearing up for the big celebration that was to happen on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. It seemed as if all the communities spent extra on fireworks just to have a once in a lifetime display and even the schools were getting involved. The Spring concert for the Catholic school I attended was a musical depicting the revolution. We were celebrating 200 years since we declared independence from Great Britain, 200 years since the document that declared our independence was signed, because we were already at war with Great Britain and the war wouldn't end for another couple of years but we mark the creation of the United States of America with the signing of the Declaration of Independence which begins the second sentence with these words: **"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal..."**

I also remember in Social Studies that when we discussed the United States, we described ourselves as a melting pot. This was a matter of pride that we were a nation of people from all countries of the world, and we also lifted up the poem by Emma Lazarus that is on the Statue of Liberty. *"...Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"* As a nation we firmly believed that all men are created equal and to prove that we accepted everyone into our melting pot certain that it was these two things that made us strong as a nation because we were the United States of America.

Lately though it seems that instead of being a melting pot, we are separating into our different identities. Instead of focusing on what we have in common, which is a lot, we are focusing on our differences. We are separating, isolating ourselves, pushing people out instead of welcoming with open arms. There is a key ingredient that is missing. If you are a baker you know what I mean, there is always one ingredient that is added, eggs mostly, that is used to bind everything together. For people this ingredient is love, more specifically it is God's love. Jesus commands that we love our neighbors as ourselves and that we love each other just as he has loved us. Nelson Mandela, not one of my favorite people but here he is spot on, once wrote, "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." We must make sure that we are teaching love and not hate. Let us begin loving each other so that once again we can be the United States of America in name and in our relations with each other.

One way we can do this is by living the words of this prayer of St. Francis. If you know the tune sing it loud, if not that is ok but together let us pray: ***Lord, make us instruments of your peace, where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.***

God's peace be with you all,

Pastor Chris

# PASTOR'S SCHEDULE



July 10, 2025

Happy middle of July from Grand View University and The Moses Project.

We are pleased to have your pastor participate in our 2025-2026 Moses Project Cohort. The mission of The Moses Project is to give rural pastors a vision of ministry that will help them thrive in congregational leadership and in turn, enhance the vitality of the congregations they serve.

What does participation in the Moses Project look like for your pastor? The Moses Project runs for ten months, has 20 participants from across the Midwest, West, and South, and is an affordable \$250 thanks to a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. The program includes three onsite events: in August, January, and May. Your pastor will also engage in mentoring, small group connections, and monthly common readings. This professional development program provides pastors critical support, promotes innovative strategies, and engages them in ongoing learning and opportunities for renewal. Thank you for supporting your pastor as they participate in this program. We ask you continue to pray for your pastor as well as for The Moses Project. You can follow us on Facebook @GVMOSESPROJECT. You can also check out our Resource Page at <https://www.mosesproject.org/>.

We are humbled by the ways in which God is working through this program. Thank you again for your partnership with The Moses Project.

Warmest Regards,  
Dr. Trisha Wheelock  
Gerhard O. Forde Assistant Professor of Theology at Grand View University  
Director of The Moses Project



## 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly meets under the theme “For the Life of the World”

The [2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly](#) will be held July 28–Aug. 2 at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Ariz., under the theme “For the Life of the World.” Key business will include electing a new presiding bishop and secretary and considering the proposed social statement, Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All. *Living Lutheran* outlines more key business in its [preview of actions](#). Offerings at the assembly will benefit [ELCA World Hunger](#). A livestream of plenary sessions and worship will be available at [ELCA.org/cwa](https://www.elca.org/cwa). [Learn more](#)

....to all who made our **10th anniversary** a success!



The committee would like to thank Michele for all the extra work on our photo directory, the Woodford State Bank for supplying serving products, and Bistro on Main, Kundert's Main Street Market, River Bend Cafe and Hollandale Grocery for providing our meal.

-- 10th Anniversary committee: Jayne Kurschner, Judy Watrud, Marlys Hittesdorf, Dawn Doran & Pastor Chris

# Sunday Worship 8:30 in Blanchardville and 10:30 in Hollandale August 2025

## Worship Assistants

### August 3 — *Shannon Marion, Guest Leader*

**Greeters/Ushers:** (B) Jerry & Becky Kesler (H)

**Communion:** No Communion

**Readers:** (B) Kathryn Kammerude (H)

### August 10

**Greeters/Ushers:** (B) Jerry & Becky Kesler (H)

**Communion:** (B) Kathryn Kammerude (H) Flo Griffiths

**Readers:** (B) Judy Watrud (H)

### August 17

**Greeters/Ushers:** (B) Jerry & Becky Kesler (H)

**Communion:** (B) Teri Green (H) Gary & Andy Whitford Holey

**Readers:** (B) Teri Green (H)

### August 24 — *Baptism at Blanchardville*

**Greeters/Ushers:** Jerry & Becky Kesler

**Communion:** (B) Teri Green (H) Rhonda Kirch

**Readers:** (B) Carmen Danz (H)

### August 31

**Greeters/Ushers:** (B) Jerry & Becky Kesler (H)

**Communion:** (B) Tina Steiner (H)

**Readers:** (B) Tina Steiner (H)

### Musicians:

Bev Lien

Becky Johnson

Cinda Hittesdorf

Marlys Hittesdorf

### Altar Committees:

(B) Beth Kundert

(H) Jean Christen

## The School Kits are Coming! The School Kits are Coming!

It's time to gather school kit supplies for assembly in September. (Details coming soon.) Our goal this year is 200 kits. Donation buckets will be available at both church sites. If you are able to help for each kit we need:

- 4 - 70 sheet notebooks wide or college ruled. No loose leaf paper
- 1 - 30 cm ruler
- 1 - pencil sharpener
- 1 - blunt scissors
- 5 - **Unsharpened** #2 pencils with erasers
- 5 - black or blue ball point pens (no gel ink)
- 1 - box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 - 2 1/2 " eraser



## Save the Date — September 7th, 2025

We will pack school kits for Lutheran World Relief again this year. *Details to follow.* Invite a friend! All are welcome!

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

### *Baby Care Kits*

Kits are being assembled now!

There is an urgent need for

- Socks
- Receiving blankets
- Hand Towels
- Mild Bar soap

Donations can be dropped off at either church.



### *Personal Care Kits*

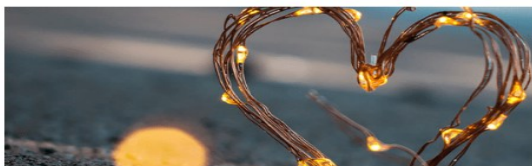
Kits are being assembled now!

We need these items:

- Regular Bar Soap
- Combs



## 2025 BIENNIAL CONVENTION & GATHERING



*We Stand With  
You In Love.*

My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.

~ Proverbs 4:20-22 (NLT)

### **2025 Biennial Convention & Gathering**

**Saturday, October 4, 2025**

**New Heights Lutheran Church @ The Grove**

314 Anne St., Mazomanie, WI



### **Relief today. Resilience tomorrow.**

Lutheran Disaster Response, a ministry of the ELCA, provides support for communities recovering from devastating floodwaters by responding to urgent needs, providing emotional and spiritual care, and supporting cleanup and long-term recovery.

**We are church together, and together we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need.**



**Scan the QR code to give today.**

Floods are one of the most common disasters in the United States. Your generosity supports survivors on the long road to recovery.





The **Pecatonica Food Pantry** is open on these dates  
in August:

**Saturday, 8/2 10-11am**

**Wednesday, 8/13 5:30-7pm**

**Saturday, 8/16 10-11am**

*At the Blanchardville Church site*

Donations can be dropped off anytime at either church site. If questions, please contact Tiffany Bethke at 608-212-9028 or Jean Christen at 608-574-1175 or email [pecatonicaareafoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:pecatonicaareafoodpantry@gmail.com)



## **Hollandale Community Homecoming**

Saturday, September 6, 2025

Theme: WELCOME HOME

### **Schedule of Events**

- Tour of School: 9:30 and 10:00 — *Reservations Required*
- Dinner at the Fire Station: 11:00am to 12:30pm— *Reservations Required*  
Menu: Ham, Meatballs and Gravy, Potatoes, Rolls, Corn, Dessert

**The Dinner is *homemade* by and a Fundraiser for New Hope Lutheran Church  
Open to the Public**

Call or email Jean Christen with questions: 608-574-1175    [jlcwac1@hotmail.com](mailto:jlcwac1@hotmail.com)

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### **Please return this section with your check**

Make check payable to: Hollandale Community Homecoming

Mail to: Hollandale Community Homecoming, PO Box 143, Hollandale, WI 53544 by **August 28th**

### **Donations Appreciated**

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Class/es of \_\_\_\_\_

Address Change \_\_\_\_\_

### **Dinner Reservations**

Ham \_\_\_\_\_ Meat Balls & Gravy \_\_\_\_\_ Combo Ham/Meatball Dinner \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$19.00 per Dinner \_\_\_\_\_

**Tour of School:** Number attending and time requested \_\_\_\_\_ at 9:30 \_\_\_\_\_ at 10:00



### Gathering Expedition

All 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders — you have the opportunity to go on a weekend of fun at Lutherdale Bible Camp October 31-November 2. We will enjoy a Quake-like experience with the leaders of the National Youth Gathering (in Minneapolis in 2027).

Come with your parents to a meeting on Wednesday August 13 at 7pm in Hollandale to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

### Confirmation

I know everyone has been waiting for the start of Confirmation.



This year we will have Confirmation on Wednesday evenings. It will be from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. There are a few other changes to the program aside from the time. We will be meeting on 3 Wednesdays a month: one of those days will be either doing a service project, or a road trip to learn about other faith traditions, event opportunities, etc.

We will be having a meeting on Wednesday Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm in Blanchardville to hear all about the new year. Reminder that Confirmation is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

### Golfers

Anyone, especially 8<sup>th</sup> grade or up who would like to golf, meet me at Yellowstone on Monday August the 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 or text me, 608-341-5032, and we can set up a tee time. Let me know if you need a ride.



**Congratulations  
to Kelsey Chrostowski and Sean Brown  
on the baptism of their daughters  
Ellie and Olivia  
on Sunday, July 20th, 2025**

*"Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

MARK 10:14





**Weekly Bible Study** with Pastor Chris every **Tuesday from 8-9 am** at the River Bend Café in Blanchardville. The Bible Study focuses on the upcoming readings for Sunday.

We'll take a look at the readings for the following Sunday and have discussion surrounding them. This is open to anyone who would like to dive a little deeper into the Bible. Bring your Bible. Bring your thoughts. Bring your questions. Readings for July are listed below.

**Sunday, August 3, 2025 — No Bible Study**

**Sunday, August 10, 2025**

(bible study Tuesday, August 5)

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm: Psalm 33:12-22

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

**Sunday, August 17, 2025**

(bible study Tuesday, August 12)

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalm: Psalm 82

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

**Sunday, August 24, 2025**

(bible study Tuesday, August, 19)

First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalm: Psalm 103:1-8

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

**Sunday, August 31, 2025**

(bible study Tuesday, August 26)

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

Psalm: Psalm 112

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14



We remember our members & friends, the sick and the homebound, those recovering or grieving, especially Bob Helmeid, Barb Nelson, Maggie Cernek (daughter of Sara & Matthew Cernek), Mary Gobrecht (mother of Kim Watrud), Doris Haldiman, Marilyn Torkelson, Steve Eastman, Ruth Vamstad, Lynette Stansfield, Sue Anderson, Rick Fredrickson, Jim Herbert (Pastor Chris's Brother in-law), Roger Strohm (Pastor Chris's Dad), Stuart Vamstad, Josalyn Riha, Katie Herbert (niece of Pastor Chris), Lisa Hartz (daughter of Elaine & Marv Engelke), Bev Lien, Dave Hermanson, Karen Beecher, Vicki Hughes, Roger Kittleson, Donna Arneson, Lyle Klosterman, Mary Carr, Doris Hermanson, Carl and Patty Schneider, Richard & Peggy Gilbertson, Carole Zweifel.

If you know someone who'd like to be added to our prayer list, please contact the office at 608-523-4239

# The Trumpeter

South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization  
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**The Trumpeter** is the quarterly newsletter for Women of the ELCA and is emailed to churches, leaders and individuals in the synod. The Trumpeter is available FREE of charge by email. Send your request to: [welcatrumpeter@gmail.com](mailto:welcatrumpeter@gmail.com). A link can also be found under the **News Section** on the New Hope Lutheran website: [newhopelutheran.info](http://newhopelutheran.info). The current copy includes information and registration for the these upcoming events:

- 2025 Biennial Convention and Gathering, Sunday, October 4, 2025, New Heights Church, Mazomanie
- 2026 Women of the ELCA Gathering "i am worthy", July 16-29, 2026, Des Moines

## BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

There was no meeting in July.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEE REPORT

There was no meeting in July.

## NEW HOPE LUTHERAN FINANCIAL REPORT June 2025

Submitted by: Becky Johnson

God's glorious abundance allows us to continue providing helpful ministries like Sunday worship, Bible Study and Mission Monday. Our recent resources for continuing these ministries include:

- June's income of \$13,602.65 and expenses of \$11,632.93 – a surplus of \$1,969.72
- YTD Income of \$98,930.62 and expenses of \$104,758.72 – a need of \$5,828.10

## NEW HOPE LUTHERAN COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

There was no meeting in July.



Thank you, God, for this day you have given me.

This is a prayer that I strive to say every day that I wake up. I wake up in a much better mood on those days than on the days that I wake up groaning with my to do list already weighing me down.

The other day I had a conversation with someone as they dropped off a donation for the food pantry and they said that they wake up every day with this prayer on their lips. I have heard them say before that they are amazed with all they have been blessed with and that the food pantry, those in need, can benefit from the blessings received from God.

This person's story has a beginning with years of struggling with addiction and a few stints in rehab. A story that many of us might be familiar with either our own story or the story of a family member or friend. Unfortunately this is not an uncommon story. It takes a turn though when this person decided to stop living for themselves and begin living for others.

It was at this turning point that they purchased a small farmette, planted a garden, bought a few chickens and some pigs. The abundance of produce that was produced was too much for one person to consume therefore the contributions to the food pantry began. This person truly believes that all they have is a gift from God and they are amazed that the more they gave away, the more blessed they felt.

Funny how that works, we get more satisfaction out of giving than we do receiving.

Everyone likes to be acknowledged and likes to receive gifts but the true blessing falls upon the giver. Every day we live is truly a gift from God how might we share this gift, this day, this blessing with those around us, especially with those in need?

God's Blessing be upon you all,  
Pastor Chris

## WHAT IS ACH GIVING?

It is a system for automatic withdrawal from your checking/savings account and deposited automatically into the church account. ACH (automated clearing house) forms are available in the church office and online. Monthly withdrawal options are available. Ask the office for more details!



# AUGUST

*birthdays & anniversaries*

Marilyn	Torkelson	August 3	Merlin "Butch" & Beth	Norton	08/13/1966
Bonnie	Keyes	August 3	Richard & Sue	Retrum	08/25/1972
Arlo	Ley	August 5	David & Kandi	Lockard	08/18/1979
Duane	Kundert	August 7	James & Jane	Parkinson	08/08/1982
Brylie	Olson	August 8	Franklin & Margie	Barnes	08/04/1984
Paul	Saether	August 13	Rodney & Jayne	Kurschner	08/17/1985
Jerry	Kesler	August 13	Steve & Stephanie	Zimmerman	08/25/1985
John	Simonson	August 17	Jerry & Rebecca	Kesler	08/27/1988
Rhonda	Kirch	August 19	John & Amy	Thronson	08/13/1994
Harvey	O'Connor	August 21	Aaron & Kate	Garthwaite	08/09/2008
Alex	Domine	August 22	Chelsea & Brad	Burkeland	08/13/2011
Ryan	Kleppe	August 23	Chris & Rhia	Strohm	08/17/2013
Andy	Bethke	August 26	Gary & Andrew	Whitford-Holey	08/23/2015
Wade	Wyse	August 26			
Audrey	Hughes	August 27			
Sawyer	Kundert	August 30			
Michael	Henderson	August 30			
Brock	Erickson	August 31			
Troy	Ruegsegger	August 31			
Ronald	Strommen	August 31			

*The birthday and anniversary list is run from a report showing active members.*

*If we've missed a birthday, or anniversary, please contact the office at [newhopeoffice@tds.net](mailto:newhopeoffice@tds.net) or 608-523-4239*



*Please submit information for the **September Visitor** to the church office by **Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**.*