

New Hope Lutheran September Newsletter



Confirmation

There is a meeting on Wednesday Sept. 3rd at 7:00 pm at the Blanchardville to hear all about the new year.

Reminder that Confirmation is open to all 7th and 8th graders.

Classes start Wednesday, October 1st.

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP



Join Pastor Chris on Thursday, September 11^h

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

This coffee hour, usually 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!



RALLY DAY – GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH -- 10AM -- MCKELLAR PARK

You're invited! Come join us for a church service in the park to celebrate the back-to-school season and assemble School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Potluck lunch to follow.



Mission Central Resumes PM Hours

The Mission Room is open Mondays from 1-3 p.m. and again from 6-8 p.m. Mission opportunities are set up in Mission Central along with instructions on what needs to be done. People are encouraged to stop by when it works for them, to help with various missions. Feel free to come whenever and as often as you'd like to be a part of "God's Work/Our Hands". Please continue to bring in your clean plastic grocery bags which will be made into mats for the homeless.

***We'll take a break on Labor Day,
Monday, September 7th.***



Choir will resume rehearsals starting Wednesday, September 10th at 7pm at the Blanchardville site. Come join us and make a joyful noise!



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 21st, 11am at the Hollandale Site (following worship)

There will be **one worship** at 10:00am at the Hollandale site



From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Chris Strohm

Hello Everyone,

As I flip the calendar and look ahead to September I get excited. Confirmation is starting and I look forward to getting to know this group of young men and women and help them to grow and learn in their faith. I am honored to be a part of their faith journey. I look forward to God's Work, Our Hands Sunday with Rally Day being a part of the day. On a different note I look forward to hunting season where I can get out for a walk in woods and field with a gun in my hand. September always seems to be month filled with hope and dreams for the year ahead and when we arrive at the end of the school year in May we can look back and see how much we have learned and grown and how those hopes and dreams were fulfilled.

I am excited to be working with the young folks of these congregations but I am also excited to be working with those who aren't so young. There is wisdom that those of us who have aged can bring to the community. Our stories, especially our faith stories have roots that go deep and just by being who we are those stories can be told by our actions to others. As I said before I like to hunt deer more than anything else and I would like to share this excerpt from a devotional book called, "A look at life from a deer stand" by Steve Chapman. He talks about choosing a tree for his tree stand.

Steve writes, "My preferred choice is an older tree that is heavier, wider and stronger. The reason I favor trees with significant age is the likelihood that their roots run deep. Some signs that nature has seen to it that a "senior citizen" of the woods is planted well is if there's sap and the leaves are very green. If the tree is nut bearing, finding fruit among its branches or on the ground below is further evidence that it is strong and safe. There's a beautiful connection that can be made between reliable old trees and trustworthy older men and women. Older folks have qualities that allow them to handle the extra weight they're asked to bear:

Planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green. (Psalm 92:13-14)

My dear sisters and brothers as you look around church you see many "aged oaks" and from what I have seen and witnessed your roots are planted deep in the house of the Lord and through your love for your neighbor you do testify to God's righteousness. So I encourage you to share your story with the younger folks and let them see how your faith, even at its weakest moments, has shaped you and helped you throughout your life. Your story is a testament to God's faithfulness shown to us through Jesus Christ.

Blessings to you as we kick off this new year. ☺

Pastor Chris



Hollandale Community Homecoming Dinner

Saturday, September 6, 2025

**The Dinner is homemade by and hosted by the
Women of New Hope Lutheran**

Open to the Public — Reservations Required

Dinner at the Fire Station: 11:00am to 12:30pm

Menu: Ham, Meatballs and Gravy, Potatoes, Rolls, Corn, Dessert

Call or email Jean Christen to with questions: 608-574-1175 jlcwac1@hotmail.com

Sunday Worship 8:30 in Blanchardville and 10:30 in Hollandale September 2025

Worship Assistants

September 7 10:00am

GWOH/Rally Day, McKellar Park, Blanchardville

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Ron & Ellen Syse

September 14

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Ron & Ellen Syse (H) Gary & Andy Whitford Holey

Communion: (B) Ellen Syse (H) Gary & Andy Whitford

Readers: (B) Julie Saether (H) Gary & Andy Whitford Holey

**September 21 — One Service at the Hollandale Site at 10:00am;
Congregational Meeting Following**

Greeters/Ushers: (H) Kandi Lockard

Communion: (H) Rhonda Kirch

Readers: (H) Kandi Lockard

September 28

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Ron & Ellen Syse (H) Flo Griffiths

Communion: (B) Ellen Syse (H) Rhonda Kirch

Readers: (B) Jeff Saether (H) Brian Lisser

Musicians:

Bev Lien

Becky Johnson

Cinda Hittesdorf

Marlys Hittesdorf

Altar Committees:

(B) Beth Kundert

(H) Jean Christen

LOOKING AHEAD



Mark Your Calendars

Service Times Change in October

Remember that starting in
October, service times
will change for the months
of October, November and

December:

8:30am—Hollandale

10:30 am — Blanchardville



The Pastor
Will Be Away

Pastor Chris Will be Away

Sunday (PM) September 14th through Tuesday, September 16th to attend
the Fall Theological conference. So there won't be *Office Hours* on
Monday, September 15th or *Bible Study* on Tuesday, September 16th.



Thank You for Caring

To the many, many people that donated items, made diapers
and receiving blankets and assembled the baby care and
health care kits — you made a tremendous impact on the
lives of other, less fortunate people. Forty-two health care
and 56 baby care kits are packed and ready to go in September
to Lutheran World Relief. As we look forward to continuing

our Mission Work, there is a need for sleepers (9 months and larger), sweatshirts
(with zippers), sweaters, bath towels and hand towels.

Thank you for your being generous and giving.

—Beth Kundert

Want to Participate in the Homecoming Parades?

We're looking for people to lead the effort, work on floats, drive or walk in
the parade.

Hollandale Homecoming Saturday, September 6th
Pecatonica Homecoming on Saturday, September 27th



Our church has participated in the past. Please let the office know if
you're interested in helping out and having some fun representing our
church.

Everyone is Invited to attend the Opening Event on Sunday, September 14
Join Dr. Kristin Kobes Du Mez, author of *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*, for a night of conversation around “The Grace Between Us.”

SCHEDULE:

5:30pm—Welcome and Fellowship
6:15—Opening Remarks
6:30pm—Dr. Kristin Kobes Du Mez Keynote Address
8:00pm—Q&A and Fellowship

Call or Email the office so we can register you.



The Grace Between Us



South-Central Synod
of Wisconsin

2025 FALL CONFERENCE

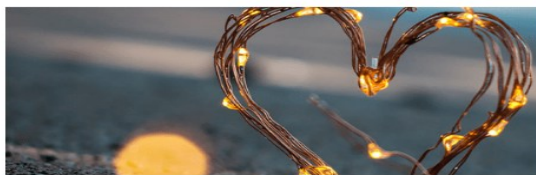


Sunday, September 14 – Tuesday, September 16
Bethel Lutheran Church – Madison

Welcome to the 2025 Fall Conference of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA. This year we gather under the theme *The Grace Between Us*. Because something holy happens in the space between certainty and doubt, between pain and healing, between people who don't always agree but are still willing to sit at the same table. That space, that tension, that hope, is grace. In a time when so much of our world feels polarized, reactive, and loud, *The Grace Between Us* is an intentional pause. It's a chance to remember that grace isn't a vague theological idea.



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



The other day I was talking with someone and just asked them the question, Why New Hope? The answer I was given was community. The community and the welcome that they received when coming to one of our events was what sold them on New Hope. Was that you, who took the time to say welcome? Were you the one to smile and say I'm glad you are here? Did you invite them to join us at New Hope, at VBS, at Rally

Day, God's Work our Hands? I bet you did if not to this person then you did to someone else.

One of the great things about New Hope is that we always have something going on. I hear this comment quite a bit. We are out in the community making a difference with our presence and people notice this. This is what makes New Hope special. One way for us to keep being a positive force in the community is through our giving.

Stewardship is about more than giving money to the church. Stewardship is about taking care of the things we are given. About showing up in our community, being a place where people can gather and have fun, about welcoming and inviting. To be able to do these things it does take money. Money is what funds all of the ministry that is done in and through New Hope. Your investment in New Hope is needed to continue to do all the ministries and events that we do.

Thanks for all you do,
Pastor Chris



Friday, July 4

Psalm 66:1-9

Sing like no one is listening

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth. (v. 1)

Various writers are reported to have said: "Dance like nobody's watching; love like you've never been hurt; sing like nobody's listening; live like it's heaven on earth."

I am saddened when I look over a congregation at worship and see some people not singing a single note. Perhaps they don't like the hymn or deem themselves horrible singers or cannot read the music or the small print. But I bet these same people love singing in the shower, pretending to be John Lennon or Taylor Swift. After all, we are created to sing!

Martin Luther studied music and wrote, "Music drives away the Devil and makes people joyful."

Some voices soar with the angels; others, not so much. However, a community that celebrates the sour notes as well as the diva's solo is blessed indeed. What delight we experience when we are part of a worshipping assembly that sings with such gusto that everyone feels compelled to proclaim, "How can I keep from singing?" (ELW 763).

**Joyous God who makes the birds and porpoises sing,
inspire us to sing exuberantly with all creation. Amen.**

Prayer concern: Music makers

Jeremiah 51:47-58; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Becky Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Becky, Pastor Chris, Chuck Meyer, Judy Watrud, Dan Hittendorf, Jay Massey, Neal Klassy, Michele Kittleson and Micah Busser online.

Pastor Chris lead us in devotions and prayer based on Psalm 23.

Dan moved to approve the secretary minutes from June 23. Jay seconded. Minutes were approved as printed.

Becky presented the treasurer's report for July. We are approximately \$7500 behind what is needed. Dan moved and Neal seconded the motion to not renew the CD for the capitol projects. Carried.

Trustee report: Monroe Heating will replace the motor in the split unit air conditioner at the parsonage. They will also put a coating on the copper pipe at the Blanchardville Site per instructions from Alliant Energy.

Micah reviewed the Board of Education report. Augsburg Fortress has a digital program for confirmation and Sunday School that Pastor would like to use.

Pastor reported on the Churchwide Assembly which he attended as a representative from the Synod in Phoenix, AZ. Bishop Curry was elected on the 5th ballot. Also elected CeeCee Miles as Secretary. He also attended a continuing education course called the Moses Project in Des Moines.

Thank you cards were received from Brianna Peterson for the scholarship and from Steve and Linda Hendrickson for the use of tables for Diana's graduation party.

There were no transfers in or out.

No corrections or additions to the calendar.

NEW BUSINESS:

A Congregational Meeting will be held on September 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the Hollandale site. Discussion will cover the Capitol Project progress and potential projects.

Technology Update: Office Manager, Michele, is having issues with bulk email submissions. She will contact Applied Electronics for help in finding a solution.

Discussed candidates for Council positions in 2026. Needed are a president, vice president, 2 deacons, 1 trustee and 1 board of education. The Nominating Committee will be Rodney Kurschner, Jayne Kurschner, Kara Terrill, and Chuck Meyer.

Homecoming Celebrations will be September 6th in Hollandale and September 27th in Blanchardville. Banners are already created. Need a vehicle to put them on. No candy will be thrown out.

OLD BUSINESS:

Judy moved to table a decision on the new Vision and Mission Statements until next month.

Chuck reported on the Capitol Projects that have been completed at the Blanchardville site. Soffits and gutters are installed; waiting on the door for the East entrance to be installed. Tuck pointing on the brick definitely needs to be done. Trying to find a contractor.

INFORMATIONAL:

- God's Work, Our Hands Sunday will be September 7 at McKellar Park in Blanchardville.
- Hollandale Homecoming Dinner is a Women's Group fundraiser.
- Choir resumes practice on September 10 at Blanchardville.
- The Pecatonica Food Pantry hours will be changing. Not published yet.
- Visitor articles for October newsletter are due by September 18.
- Weekly bulletin items are due in the office by Tuesday.

ADJOURNMENT:

Neal moved and Micah seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT August 13, 2025**Submitted by: Micah Busser**

Attendees: Pastor Chris, Teri Green, Micah Busser
Agenda items discussed:

- VBS - thank you to this year's Leaders, event volunteers, and the youth participants! It was a great day of learning to "trust in Jesus!" Next year's VBS theme is Rocky Railway. We already have the VBS programming materials and some decorations!
- Confirmation begins Oct. 1st and will take place the first three Wednesdays of each month. There's an upcoming Confirmation Information Session being held the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 3rd. Contact Pastor Chris with any questions.
- For youth events this next year, we plan to ask for family's to pay for the deposit to reserve their child a position for an event. Any remaining fees for the year will be covered. Families with two or more children would be asked to pay for no more than two children deposits.
- We currently have two interested parties in the Gathering Expedition taking place Oct. 31st - Nov. 2nd. Participants can contact Pastor Chris to enroll.
- Pastor Chris is looking into new digital Confirmation and Sunday School programming. He will present this information to the Council for review and possible approval.
- We have discussed the possibility of hiring a Youth Leader in the coming months. Should that be approved, we would be looking to fill this role in a part-time, paid role capacity.

Next Board of Ed Meeting:

We are planning to invite Tiffany Bethke to our next Board of Ed Meeting so that we can learn ways we can support the Sunday School Program now moving forward.

We hope to have an update on the Confirmation & Sunday School digital programming materials.

Start goal planning for the various youth events and discuss ways we can start educating all ages for the coming year!

BOARD OF TRUSTEE REPORT August 11, 2025**Submitted by: Jay Massey**

Board of Trustees' Meeting held at Blanchardville Luth. Ch. Aug 11th. 2025. at 5 pm.
All in Attendance were Pastor Chris Strohm, Charles Meyer, Dan Hittesdorf, Neal Klassy, and Jay Massey.

- Split Unit Air Cond. at the Parsonage has been Cleaned. The Electric Motor on the Split Unit needs to be replaced. We talked about how it would be to be on a Cleaning Program, with a Contractor to Clean all the Split Units and Condensers we have at all three Buildings.
- Tiles in the South West Corner of Blanchardville Sanctuary are peeling up. Will be contacting a Floor Contractor to come and look at the Tiles to see what is going on and how to fix them.
- Talked about Retaining Concrete Wall on the South side of Parking Lot.
- The East Side Sidewalk will be discussed more at a later time and will more likely be replaced after the East Side Ch. Door is installed.
- Discussed trees at the parsonage. Contractor will like to do all three trees at once.
- Need to put a protective coating around gas pipe at Blanchardville site.

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN FINANCIAL REPORT July 2025**Submitted by: Becky Johnson**

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

- June's income of \$19,649.06 and expenses of \$23,028.74 – a need of \$3,379.68
- YTD Income of \$118,579.68 and expenses of \$127,988.70 – a need of \$9,409.02

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!



Updated Food Pantry Hours!

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

Saturday, 9/6 9-10:30am

Wednesday, 9/10 6-7pm

Saturday, 9/20 9-10:30am

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

The Pecatonica Food Pantry is being used more heavily than ever and we're asking for volunteer help as well as food/monetary donations. We need additional volunteer workers to staff open hours. ***Our hours have recently changed slightly.*** We are open the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. and the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 6-7 pm. Please contact Jean Christian (608-574-1175) or Tiffany Bethke (608-212-9028) to learn more about how you can volunteer. At this time, the food pantry could use the following specific items. They may be dropped off at either church site.

- Pancake mix
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Potatoes
- Hamburger helper
- Instant potatoes
- spaghetti sauce
- Ramen noodles
- Small containers of Vegetable oil and holiday baking items
- Juices
- Meat - beef, pork or chicken - we have a freezer.
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap



Thank you for your help!

Coming up!
Saturday, September 6
Hollandale Homecoming



Coming up!
Saturday, September 27
Pecatonica Homecoming





Confirmation: Classes start on Wednesday, October 1st. They will be on the first 3 Wednesdays of every month from 6:30-7:30pm at the Blanchardville site. One of those days will be either doing a service project, or a road trip to learn about other faith traditions, event opportunities, etc. Parents and students are invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday Sept. 3rd at 7:00 pm in Blanchardville to hear all about the new year. *Reminder that Confirmation is open to all 7th and 8th graders.*

Gathering Expedition. We currently have two interested parties in the Gathering Expedition taking place Oct. 31st - Nov. 2nd. Participants can contact Pastor Chris to enroll. **What is Gathering Expedition?** Gathering Expedition is a series of regional weekend retreats for 8th-12th grade youth and the adults who walk alongside them. Designed with volunteer leaders in mind, these experiences create sacred space to step away from everyday life and dive into questions of faith, purpose, identity and calling. It's camp-style community meets the heart of the ELCA Youth Gathering — reimagined in a way that's local, accessible and deeply meaningful. Gathering Expedition is thoughtfully designed by the ELCA Youth Ministry and Gathering teams.

Golf Outing: Pastor Chris, Gage Terrill and Dawsyn Vogel got in 7 holes at Yellowstone before the weather turned on Monday, August 18th.



Congratulations Cael Ernst Retrum

Who has baptized Sunday, August 24th

Parents: Hans and JoLynn Retrum

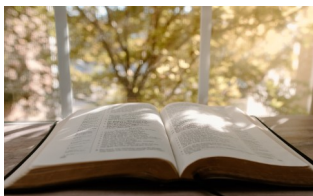
Sponsors: Tonia Jorgenson and Chaz Nichols

Blessings to Cael and his family on this special faith milestone!



"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

and we'll 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.



Sunday, September 7, 2025

(bible study Tuesday, September 2)

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Sunday, September 14, 2025

(bible study Tuesday, September 9)

First Reading: Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-10

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

Sunday, September 21, 2025 — Bible Study Canceled

(bible study Tuesday, September 16)

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Psalm: Psalm 113

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Sunday, September 28, 2025

(bible study Tuesday, September 23)

First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm: Psalm 146

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Sunday, October 5, 2025

(bible study Tuesday, September 30)

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Psalm: Psalm 37:1-9

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

We remember our members & friends, the sick and the homebound, those recovering or grieving, especially Andy Haffele, Maggie Cernek (daughter of Sara & Matthew Cernek), Mary Gobrecht (mother of Kim Watrud), Doris Haldiman, 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



Update — Weekly Emails



Tech Updates

Until the technical difficulties with Elvanto, our email distribution system, are resolved, we need to rely on Facebook, the website, newsletter, calendar and Sunday bulletins for news and information. Always feel free to call or email the office with your questions, comments or concerns.

Thank you for your patience!

True North — Vacation Bible School, Saturday, August 3rd, 2025
Finding Jesus in a Wild World

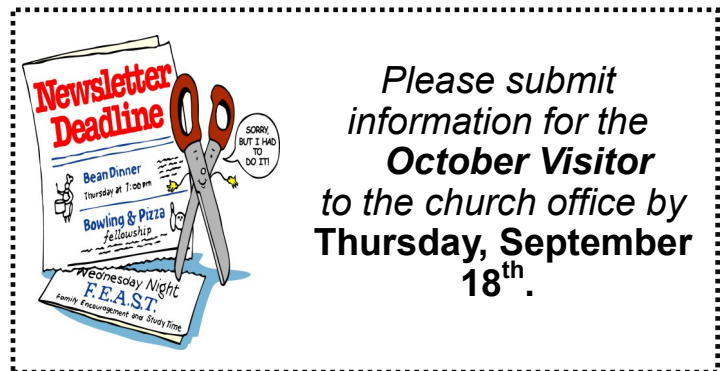


SEPTEMBER

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Micah	Busser	September 1
David	Reeson	September 1
Loretta	Gerber	September 2
Chuck	Meyer	September 3
Joanne	Eveland	September 4
Arthur	Whitford	September 4
Ronald	Kurschner	September 4
Bob	Becker	September 6
Richard	Plantikow	September 7
Skylar	Garthwaite	September 7
Diane	Kleppe	September 8
Mark	Chrostowski	September 9
John	Doran	September 9
Bo	Leonard	September 10
Sarah	Saether	September 11
Rebecca	Kesler	September 11
Tom	Kammerude	September 16
Lyle	Klosterman	September 16
Jennie	Henderson	September 17
Everleigh	Debaets	September 18
Thomas	Plantikow	September 18
Cherie	Kurschner	September 22
Hans	Retrum	September 23
Roger	Kittleson	September 23
Miranda	Griffiths	September 24
Hunter	Hanson	September 24
Riley	Kurschner	September 26
Steve	Pilling	September 27
Tom	Eveland	September 28
Harrison	O'Connor	September 28

Carl & Patricia	Schneider	09/11/1952
Kathryn & Tom	Kammerude	09/06/1969
Michael & Diane	Berg	09/20/1980
Michael & Flora	Griffiths	09/13/1986
Tiffany & Andy	Bethke	09/22/2007
Eric & Andrea	Straehl	09/10/2011



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 or 608-523-4239

