

New Hope Lutheran October Newsletter



Service Times Change in October*

8:30am—Hollandale

10:30 am — Blanchardville

**for the months of October, November and December*



Join Pastor Chris Thursday, October 2nd

"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!



Sunday School Starts October 5th

Class will be from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings at the Blanchardville Site. (In February, we'll transition back to the Hollandale Site for

class.) Parents are encouraged to stay for the church service. We will again, at times, have the children join in with church at the beginning of the service. We intend to do more service activities this year, sometimes outside of the church.

Please complete the **Sunday School Registration Form** found on our website: [SS Reg Form](#). Forms are also at each church.

If you're interested in subbing for class if occasionally needed, please contact Tiffany Bethke at 608-212-9028 or bethke blessings@gmail.com.

Please spread the word to all parents and grandparents of school-age children, grades 4K to 6th. All are welcome!



**Sunday, October 12th is
Pastor Appreciation Day**

1 Timothy 5:17

"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and in teaching."

Reflection: Elders and pastors who excel in their leadership and teaching deserve double honor. This verse encourages us to acknowledge and reward their dedication and hard work.



Confirmation Classes start Wednesday, October 1st. They will be on the first 3 Wednesdays of every month from 6:30-7:30pm at the Blanchardville site.

See the specific schedule for October on the "Youth" page of this newsletter.

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

From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Chris Strohm

Happy October Everyone,

I like October, it happens to be one of my 12 favorite months. ☺ Seriously, there is something special about October. It begins with warm days and cool nights with all the trees ablaze with color. There is nothing better than going for a walk in the woods on a sunny October day especially after the first frost. The leaves crunch beneath your feet as the sunlight filters through the color of the leaves on the trees. I like it when you come upon one of those little clearings. I find a spot to sit with the sun on my face and listen to the activity of the birds and the animals all around me as the flitter from branch to branch chirping or scurrying through the leaves, squirrels chattering at you as everything prepares for the coming winter. A place to just be still and know that God is God.

October is also the harvest month. The month of first frost when gardening comes to an end and preparation for next year begins. The combines are rolling, bringing in the corn and the bean crops. Harvest festivals abound both today and in biblical times. This is where the concept of first fruits comes in. People would look at their harvest and give thanks to God for all that they have, taking the best of the harvest and bringing it before God before counting it as their own.

October is the time for us to share our bounty with God. A time to join all of creation in celebration of the splendor that God has gifted us. A time to look at the abundance of our harvest, of all that God has provided for us and a time to give thanks by bringing forth the fruit of our labors and offering it to the one who loves us.

God's Peace be with you,

Pastor Chris



Starting in October
we are starting
Fellowship Time
after the church service at
each location.

Please sign-up on the sheets
at each church if you'd like to
volunteer to organize and/or
bring treats and coffee, etc.
for a particular Sunday.



Come make a joyful noise! Join the Choir!
Rehearsals are every Wednesday,
7pm at the Blanchardville site.

Scheduling Note:

There will be **no** Confirmation Class or Choir
Rehearsal on Wednesday, October 15th because
of the
Fall Supper and Auction.

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

Worship Assistants

October 5

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Neal & Linda Klassy (H) Cindy & David Whitford

Communion: (B) Linda Klassy (H) Cindy & David Whitford

Readers: (B) Linda Dieckhoff (H) Cindy & David Whitford

October 12

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Neal & Linda Klassy (H) Flo Griffiths

Communion: (B) Linda Klassy (H) Flo Griffiths

Readers: (B) Sarah Saether (H) Jean Christen

October 19

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Neal & Linda Klassy (H) Kaye Gilbertson

Communion: (B) Linda Klassy (H) Kaye Gilbertson

Readers: (B) Dottie McGuigan (H) Kaye Gilbertson

October 26

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Neal & Linda Klassy (H) Lisa Toay

Communion: (B) Linda Klassy (H) Vicki Chrostowski

Readers: (B) Jayne Kurschner (H) Lisa Toay

Musicians:

Bev Lien

Becky Johnson

Cinda Hittesdorf

Marlys Hittesdorf

Altar Committees:

(B) Beth Kundert

(H) Jean Christen

2025 BIENNIAL CONVENTION & GATHERING



There is still time to register for the *2025 Synodical Women of the ELCA Biennial Convention & Gathering* which will be held Saturday, October 4th at New Heights Lutheran Church, Mazomanie, WI. The theme is “*We Stand With You In Love.*” Registration and payment are due by September 30. <https://scsw-elca.org/welca/2025gathering/>

Schedule:

- 7:00 a.m. – Registration for Voting Members
- 7:15 a.m. – Convention/Business Meeting
- 9:15 a.m. – Break
- 9:30 a.m. – Opening Worship including Blessing of In-Kind Offering
- 10:15 a.m. – Break
- 10:30 a.m. – Keynote
- 11:25 a.m. – Workshops
- 12:10 p.m. – Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. – Workshops
- 2:15 p.m. – Break
- 2:30 p.m. – Announcements/Closing/Installation of WELCA Board
- 3:15 p.m. – Gathering Ends

Please direct all questions and requests for information about this event to Donna Peterson at dpeter8182@gmail.com or (608) 574-5389 (Text/Call).

Fall Supper & Auction

Use **SignUp Genius** to volunteer and donate: [New Hope Lutheran: New Hope Lutheran Fall Dinner and Auction](#). (This link can also be found on our website and Facebook associated with the **Fall Supper and Auction Events**.)

Items can be dropped at the community building on day of starting at 1:00pm. We would love a photo and information of any auction items coming so we can advertise them in the New Hope Lutheran Facebook page. Contact Kara Terrill if your have questions.



HOSTED BY: **NEW HOPE LUTHERAN WOMEN**
PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

FALL SUPPER & AUCTION

PRICE: ADULTS \$10, CHILDREN 5-12 \$5
CHILDREN 4 & UNDER FREE

SHREDDED PORK, TURKEY DRESSING, HOT DOGS, CHEESY POTATOES, BEANS, SALAD, ROMMEGROT AND PIE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15th
SUPPER 4:30PM-7 AUCTION 7PM
DINE IN OR CARRYOUT COL. ZEKE GARTHWAITE, AUCTIONEER

BLANCHARDVILLE FIRE & EMS COMMUNITY BUILDING
HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE



Confirmation Class Schedule for October 2025

- October 1: Class in Blanchardville from 6:30-7:30
- October 8: Class in Blanchardville from 6:30-7:30
- October 15: Women's Fall Supper and Auction: no class, volunteers needed to help with set up and serving at the Legion Building from 3:30 – 5:30
- October 22: Confirmation learning trip: Grace Lutheran in Dodgeville from 5:00-8:30; begins with dinner, program about Food Scarcity in our area begins at 6:00
- October 29: No Class
- October 31-November 2: Gathering Expedition at Lutherdale Bible Camp.

Faith in Motion: A Gathering Expedition



Experience the magic of the Gathering at your local camp this fall!

The Faith in Motion Gathering Expedition will be at our own Lutherdale Camp in Elkhorn October 31 through November 2!

We're packing our bags for Gathering Expeditions – **regional weekend getaways where 8-12th grade youth and their adult leaders explore how God might be working in their lives.** Throughout the weekend, your group will worship, wrestle with big questions, and connect more deeply with those in your community. As you kick-off your program year, gather your group & reserve your spot!

Talk to Pastor Chris if you'd like to attend or chaperone this event.

ANNUAL LEFSE SALE

hosted by New Hope Lutheran

Place your orders by Tuesday November 4th by calling:

Jean Christen 608-574-1175
John Thronson at Hollandale Grocery 608-967-2115
Church Office @608-523-4239

**Orders need to be picked up at the
Hollandale Site of New Hope Lutheran
407 Main Street, Hollandale, WI at any of the
following times:**

Tues. Nov. 11th: 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Wed. Nov. 12th & Thurs. Nov. 13th: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fri. Nov. 14th: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 am

*(any orders not picked up by 11:00 am Friday
will be put in the freezer at church)*

**COST IS \$8
FOR
3 LARGE
ROUNDS**



10% of the proceeds of this sale will be donated outwardly either locally, state or nation wide.



As I write this we had just finished God's Work, Our Hands Sunday where we engaged in generosity by not only putting together the school kits but also by sharing a meal with other. When I look at the boxes of quilts, baby kits, school kits, etc. that we gather and assemble each year I give thanks to God for your generosity in loving your neighbor.

Other ways I observe the generosity of New Hope is through the amount of food that I see come in every week and go out through the Food Pantry. Clearly this is an essential mission that we help provide to our community. It is also one of the ways in which the churches of our communities come together to do the work of God.

We engage in generosity in many ways and one of the most important ways is through our offerings. It is through our offerings that we can be assured this place will always be a beacon of God's Light to Blanchardville and Hollandale and to the world. Do you know how your offering is used? For every dollar we receive in the offering plate 94 cents remains with New Hope, 3 cents goes to the Synod for their mission support, 3 cents goes to the greater church of the ELCA where it used to help support LWR, LDR, and other ministries of the church. Only 6 cents goes elsewhere but that 6 cents does great work in the world. God takes what we give and multiplies it to the benefit of those who are in need. The other 94 cents helps to pay our bills but also to the local ministries which we support. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

Thanks be to God for you,
Pastor Chris



THANK YOU!

To everyone who helped in any way with the school kits. From donating supplies, to delivering boxes, to filling the kits, to donating money, to carrying boxes and supplies — we couldn't have done without any of you. We exceeded our goal and **completed 225 kits**. They have been taken to the loading site and are well on their way to helping kids succeed at school nationally and internationally. New Hope's generosity is amazing!



THANK YOU!



Beth Kundert, Dave and Loretta Gerber, and Butch and Judy Watrud delivered **LWR Kits** to Monroe on Monday, September 8th. Kits delivered were:

School Kits	224
Quilts	102
Personal Care	52
Baby Care	60
Fabric	42

Thank you to everyone who contributed so these kits could be assembled and sent to those in need and a special thank you to Beth, Dave, Loretta, Butch and Judy for their willingness to deliver our kits to Monroe for pickup!

Major Events Celebrated at New Hope Lutheran in September

Wedding of Alyssa Gathje & Dylan McGowan, Saturday, September 13th at the Blanchardville site (left)

Wedding of Travis & Tonia Carr on Saturday, September 20th at the Hollandale Village Hall. (Sorry, no picture.)

Baptism of Breckem Willard, son of Griffin and Cassandra Eidsmoe Willard, Sunday, September 21 at the Blanchardville site. (right)



Congratulations to all the families!



Attendees: Pastor Chris, Micah Busser
Guest Attendee: Tiffany Bethke

Agenda items discussed:

- Sunday School Programming was discussed. Tiffany Bethke will take the lead on Sunday School Programming this year and we are looking for volunteers to help throughout the year to sit in or fill in throughout the year as necessary. Sunday, October 5th is the planned kickoff date for Sunday School and will take place similarly to last year, starting at 10:15am during the late service of church at the site the late service is held. Tentatively planning a Sunday School Christmas Program for Saturday, December 20th in Blanchardville starting at 4pm. With a complimentary meal from the Board of Education to follow.
- Goal Planning was tabled until next meeting

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, Sunday School , and Bible Study. Our recent resources for continuing these ministries include:

- August 's income of \$12,974.37 and expenses of \$11,577.02 – a surplus of \$1,397.35
- YTD Income of \$131,561.56 and expenses of \$139,565.72 – a need of \$8,004.14

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL MEETING September 21, 2025**Submitted by: Michele Kittleson**

- The semi-annual congregational meeting was called to order by Chuck Meyer at 11:00 a.m. following worship at our Hollandale Site.
- Becky Johnson gave an update of our financial position as of August 31. She explained that due to the “summer slump” in worship attendance and giving, we are running behind about \$8200.00. As of the middle of September, she has been unable to send payments to Portico which covers Pastor Chris' health insurance, retirement, etc.
- Chuck reported on the progress of the Capital Projects. The east entrance door at the Blanchardville site is almost completed. Because the repairs and carpeting in the Fellowship Hall were considerably less than projected, the projects that have been completed (soffits, fascia, rain gutters, door) are less than \$100,000 of the \$150K that was approved at the previous Congregational Meeting.
- While working on the soffits and fascia, it was discovered that the bricks on the building are in dire need of tuck pointing. The resurfacing of the parking lot also hasn't been completed. Roger Kittleson moved to delay the tuck pointing and parking lot resurfacing until late spring or early summer of 2026. Duane Kundert seconded and the motion carried.
- Beth Kundert moved and JoAnne Eveland seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

2025 Council Members:

President:	Vacant Position		
Vice President:	Marcie Domine	608-220-4272	marcie.domine@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Michele Kittleson	608-574-5247	kittleson2@tds.net
Treasurer:	Becky Johnson	608-523-1507	rbljcpa@gmail.com

Trustees:

Dan Hittesdorf	608-558-7338	premiermarlys@yahoo.com
Jay Massey	608-967-2189	ghrbsjm@gmail.com
Neal Klassy	608-558-7171	nsklassy@gmail.com

Deacons:

Judy Watrud	608-523-4795	rewjaw@tds.net
Lisa Toay	608-574-1489	ltoay6@gmail.com
Vacant position		

Board of Education:

Amanda Anderson	608-235-0886	ahughesfamily@yahoo.com
Teri Green	608-214-8904	green5@tds.net
Micah Busser	608-636-9102	richtermi2812@gmail.com

Council meets once monthly, the 4th Monday of each month at 7 p.m. alternating between both sites. If you have an item you'd like added to the agenda, please talk with any Council member.

Becky Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Hollandale site. Present were Pastor Chris, Becky, Jay Massey, Neal Klassy, Dan Hittesdorf, Marcie Domine, Judy Watrud and Michele Kittleson.

Pastor Chris led us in prayer. He displayed the cover of the *Living Lutheran* magazine which has a picture of the new ELCA Bishop, Yehiel Curry. He also sent around a card for Bishop Curry that we all signed.

Dan moved and Jay seconded to approve the secretary minutes as printed. Carried.

Becky contacted a representative from the Mission Investment Fund regarding the loan for the capital improvements. She asked if the loan could be extended or if we could close for what has been completed and apply for a separate loan for 2026 projects. The MIF rep is checking into our options.

Jay distributed the minutes from the trustee committee meeting.

Pastor reported that he has had a very busy September with two weddings, and several funerals and a baptism. He attended the Synod's Fall Theological meeting. The keynote speaker was the author of "Jesus and John Wayne" a book on Christian Nationalism.

Sunday School will be starting October 5 and Confirmation October 1.

There was no correspondence.

Steve Van Hout and Jerilyn George have transferred their membership from York Memorial to New Hope.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Pastor's Health Insurance was discussed. Becky explained the three plans that are available through Portico. Neal moved that we choose the Select 2000 which has a co-pay of \$2000. The cost will be \$1300 per month. Marcie seconded and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Reviewed members of the Nominating Committee. Council positions to be filled are President, Vice President, 1 Trustee, 1 Deacon, and 2 Board of Education.
- Judy moved and Marcie seconded to approve the following Mission Statement:
Our mission is to: Accept All Strengthen Faith Serve Others
The motion carried.
- Dan moved to table action on the Vision Statement. Jay seconded. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL:

- Confirmation classes start on Wednesday, October 1.
- Sunday School starts at Blanchardville site on October 5.
- Fall Supper and Bazaar is scheduled for Wednesday October 15. No confirmation but students will be expected to help at Supper.
- Visitor articles due by October 16
- Weekly bulletin items need to be in the office by Tuesday.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Weekly Bible Study on Tuesday from 8-9 a.m. at the River Bend Cafe.
- Next Council Meeting will be October 27 at Blanchardville.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Dan moved and Neal seconded. Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Mark
Your
Calendars!

**Secret Santa
Is
Back!**



SECRET SANTA
 Donations Welcome

Tools - Flashlights - Makeup - Perfume - Candles - Coffee Mugs - Crafts

Bakeware - Chocolates - Lotions - Grilling Utensils - Bakeware - Jewelry

It's that time of the year where we begin collecting donations for the Annual Holiday Bazaar held at the Pecatonica Elementary School.

The following new or gently used items would be appreciated:

- Small, Medium, and Large Gift Bags
- Adult Men and Women's Gifts
- Middle School & Younger Child Gifts

Contact Micah Busser with questions

Use this link/list on Amazon if you wish to start virtual shopping. *Bonus:* Purchases will get shipped directly to the Blanchardville site: [NHL Secret Santa](#)



The **Pecatonica Food Pantry** is open these dates in October:
Saturday, 10/4 9-10:30am
Wednesday, 10/8 6-7pm
Saturday, 10/18 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

Sunday, September 7th was **Rally Day** at McKellar Park. Pictured here are Fred Barnes and Lakyn Busser enjoying the Children's Sermon with Pastor Chris.



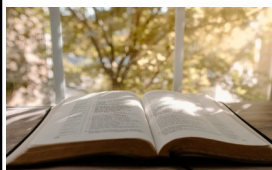
The **Pecatonica Food Pantry** is being used more heavily than ever and we're asking for volunteer help as well as food/monetary donations. We need additional volunteer workers to staff open hours.

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



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. 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.

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

Sunday, October 12, 2025

(bible study Tuesday, October 7)
First Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm: Psalm 111
Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15
Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, October 19, 2025

(bible study Tuesday, October 14)
First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm: Psalm 121
Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, October 26, 2025

(bible study Tuesday, October 21)
First Reading: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
Psalm: Psalm 84:1-7
Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Sunday, November 2, 2025

(bible study Tuesday, October 28)
First Reading: Isaiah 1:10-18
Psalm: Psalm 32:1-7
Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

thank you

Thank you to everyone who worked on or donated to the **Hollandale Homecoming meal**. It was a huge success.

-Jean Christen, Chairwoman



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



Hi!
*Looking for some help with
yardwork this fall?*

Please contact
Marlys Hittesdorf
premiermarlys@yahoo.com
(608) 558-8227

She has a friend who is willing to help at no charge . . .

She just likes to do yardwork. :-)

OCTOBER

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Vicki Keegan	Chrostowski	October 1	Dennis & Betty	Severson	10/29/1960
Sandy Daniel	Norton	October 1	Neal & Linda	Klassy	10/26/1974
Mary Melaney	Jeglum	October 3	Daniel & Marlys	Hittesdorf	10/28/1978
Kashtyn Gary	Hittesdorf	October 3	Larry & Teri	Green	10/19/1996
Kathy Jane	Baal	October 3	Ross & Erica	Kundert	10/22/2005
Kimberly Carson	Kurschner	October 5	Jeffrey & Melaney	Kurschner	10/21/2006
Andrea Kelly	Powell	October 6	Brandon & Kayla	Barnes	10/06/2012
Gary William	Whitford-Holey	October 8			
Colton Dennis	Petro	October 8			
Fred Jr. Teegan	Parkinson	October 10			
Jay Jay	Watrud	October 10			
Jeffrey Kandi	Kurschner	October 11			
Richard Richard	Kelly	October 11			
Cindy Cindy	Eidsmoe	October 12			
Jessica Jessica	Straehl	October 13			
	Love	October 15			
	Powell	October 15			
	Kolb	October 15			
	Phillips	October 15			
	Massey	October 16			
	Love	October 16			
	Lockard	October 17			
	Retrum	October 20			
	Kundert	October 22			
	Whitford	October 24			
	Kurschner	October 28			

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



*Please submit information for the **November Visitor** to the church office by **Thursday, October 16th**.*