

New Hope Lutheran



Blanchardville/Hollandale, WI

New Hope Lutheran December Newsletter



Secret Santa Workshop December 13th Pecatonica Elementary School

On Saturday, December 13th New Hope will again be participating in the *Secret Santa Workshop* at the Pecatonica Elementary School.

We are looking for volunteers to help make the event successful. Sign-up here:

<https://evite.me/hmpXWE8j9x>

Contact Micah Busser with questions at (608) 636-9102.



Congregational Meeting

December 14th

following the 10:00am service at the Blanchardville site.
Agenda: Budget Approval and Election of Officers.
Potluck lunch to follow

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP



Join Pastor Chris Thursday, December 4th

"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!



Free Piano Christmas Concert

Becky Johnson, Musician
Sunday, December 7th
1:30 PM

Blanchardville Site
Refreshments Following

CHRISTMAS

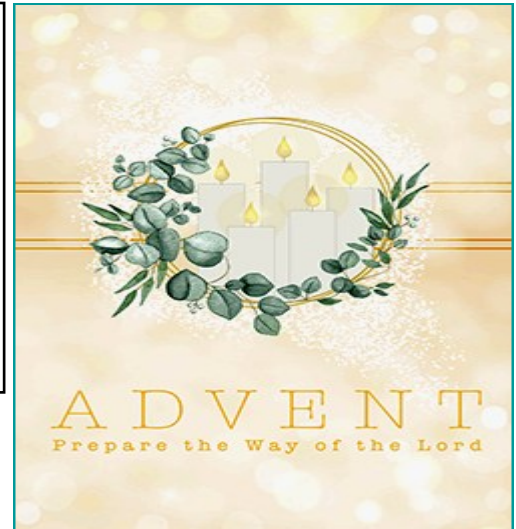


PROGRAM

*Sunday School Christmas Program**
Saturday, December 20, 5 pm
at the Blanchardville Site

Potluck Meal to Follow
Dessert compliments of the Board of Education

**After this date, Sunday School will be on a break until February*



BAKE SALE

AT

WOODFORD STATE BANK

BLANCHARDVILLE BRANCH



**Saturday
December
13th
9:00 a.m. until
gone**



From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Chris Strohm

Advent is a time of waiting, a time filled with hope and the expectation of joy. During these four weeks we become more aware of God's actions: past, present, and future. We encounter our very present God, present by his presence. We are assured that in our Christmas waiting, Christ will come again to shine brightly among us. It is in this time of waiting and hoping that our anxiety begins to build, little by little, not knowing what will happen, what will take place but filled with the expectation that the wait and the slow buildup of pressure is worth it.

My fondest memory of deer hunting is not about the year I shot the biggest buck or the year I filled four tags, it's the year where in the middle of a winter rain/ice storm during a Packer game that a buck wandered into the yard by the cabin and I snuck out the basement door and shot it. But even though that was memorable by itself, the memory I am talking about happened three days prior to that storm. It was the year my daughter Patience went hunting with me. We arrived at the cabin early afternoon on Thursday and decided to take a walk in the woods and check for deer sign so we could pick a good spot to set up our blind. It was one of those warm November days like we had this year with the sun shining and a

gentle breeze. As we were walking along one of the old logging roads we heard the crunch, crunch, crunch, of a deer walking. Immediately I turned to Patience and said, "stand real still and don't make any noises." We stood there quietly as the crunch, crunch, crunch came nearer. We waited expectantly, hardly breathing until suddenly a doe appeared on the ridge right in front of us about ten feet away. As it came over the ridge it saw us standing there, and she stopped not quite knowing what we were but pretty sure we didn't belong there. She snorted at us and stomped her feet trying to get us to move or catch our scent so she would know if we were safe or not but we just stood quietly, waiting for her to continue her journey so we could continue ours. Soon she gave up and went on her way but I told Patience to just wait a little bit so we wouldn't spook her and maybe she would return the next day when we were hunting. Just as I was about to say let's go we heard another crunch, crunch, crunch. Again, we waited expectantly, I was watching the same spot but Patience was watching that doe. I remember standing there with the sunlight being filtered through the bare branches of the trees the slight breeze moving the branches so it looked as if the sunlight was dappled as it moved among the

brown and yellow leaves that covered the ground. In this beautiful setting we waited, scarcely breathing, one watching for the next deer to show itself the other watching the doe who had passed us up but was still curious as to who we were so she circled around and was coming toward us. Just as she got close enough that Patience could have reached out her hand and touch her a big buck appeared on the ridge. Patience spoke, I turned my head, the buck took off, and so did the doe. That night the storm came in with it's freezing rain and see didn't see another deer until that buck wandered into the yard during the Packer game. But for those few moments in the sunlit woods with my daughter by my side standing quietly, waiting expectantly, hoping to see a big buck, and as the seconds passed the anxiety building not sure what was going to come over the ridge...these are the moments, the memories that give us great joy.

We are in the middle of that time, the time of waiting, the time of expectation as the build up towards Christmas comes. May the memories that are created in this time of expectant waiting be filled with hope and great joy.

God's peace be with you,
Pastor Chris

Candlelight Services Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

8:00 pm at the Hollandale site

10:00 pm at the Blanchardville site

Poinsettias may be picked up after these services.



Sunday Worship 8:30 in Hollandale & 10:30 in Blanchardville

December 2025

Sunday Worship Assistants

December 7

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Chuck & Ben Meyer, Dave Gerber (H) Cindy & Dave Whitford

Communion: (B) Nancy Meyer (H) Cindy & Dave Whitford

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

Acolytes: (B) (H) Evan Olson

Musicians:

Bev Lien,
Becky Johnson,
Cinda Hittesdorf,
Marlys Hittesdorf

December 14 — One Service 10am at the Blanchardville site 11am Congregational Meeting

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Chuck & Ben Meyer, Dave Gerber

Communion: (B) Nancy Meyer

Readers: (B) Michele Kittleson

Acolytes: (B) (H)

Altar Committees:

(B) Becky Kesler
(H) Jean Christen

December 21

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Chuck & Ben Meyer, Dave Gerber (H) Kandi Lockard

Communion: (B) Nancy Meyer (H) Bryan Lisser

Readers: (B) Carmen Danz (H) Kandi Lockard

Acolytes: (B) Brittney Erickson (H) Evan Olson

December 24 — Christmas Eve

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Chuck & Ben Meyer, Dave Gerber (H) Cindy & Dave Whitford

Communion: (B) Nancy Meyer (H) Cindy & Dave Whitford

Readers: (B) Kathryn Kammerude (H) Cindy & Dave Whitford

Acolytes: (B) Baylee Hendrickson-Raymond (H)

December 28

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Chuck & Ben Meyer, Dave Gerber (H) Bryan Lisser

Communion: (B) Nancy Meyer (H) Kaye Gilbertson

Readers: (B) Teri Green (H) Bryan Lisser

Acolytes: (B) (H)



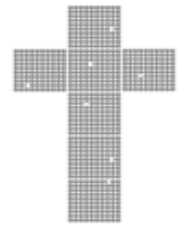
Confirmation Class Schedule for December 2025



- We are meeting for class time on December 3rd and the 10th in Blanchardville at 6:30 pm.
- December 17th we are taking a trip to the Jewish Synagogue in Madison, Temple Beth El, and learn about their faith tradition. We will leave from Blanchardville at 5:30. This is the last class of the month.
- We will reconvene in January on the 14th.

BECAUSE OF GOD'S GREAT MERCY

a stewardship program for our congregation



Because of God's great mercy we have been given the greatest gift of all, the gift of life. I want to thank you for all that you do in your role as stewards of New Hope. It is through your generosity that we are able to continue to love our neighbors in all kinds of ways.

Thank you for engaging in our stewardship program and for prayerfully considering your gift to New Hope. Thank you for filling out your commitment cards and returning them. If you haven't done this you can still send them or drop them off at the church office.

Thank you for being you, a beloved child of God. I really am blessed to be your Pastor.

Pastor Chris



Thank you!!
Thank you, for all the kind gifts and cards that I received for Pastor's Appreciation. You are the real gift. It is a pleasure being your pastor and seeing the love you have for each other and for your neighbors. Thank you for being you.
Pastor Chris



New Hope Lutheran
Welcomes You to Worship with Us Every Sunday*

8:30 am at our Hollandale site
10:30 am at our Blanchardville site (also livestreamed on Facebook)

*October, November, December

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN LEFSE PRE ORDER



COST: \$8 FOR 3 ROUNDS

ORDER DEADLINE: DEC 9TH

***Bake Sale at the
Bank on Sat.
Dec. 14th!***

**Made with
REAL Potatoes!**

HOW TO ORDER:

CONTACT THE OFFICE AT 608-523-4239
OR NEWHOPEOFFICE@TDS.NET

CONTACT ELLEN SYSE @ 608-558-2244
OR EMAIL RESYSE@TDS.NET

PICK-UP WILL BE:

Fri. Dec 13th 3-5 pm @New Hope Lutheran
Hollandale Site, 407 Main St.

Sat. Dec. 14th between 9 a.m.—11:00 a.m
@Woodford State Bank, Blanchardville.

**10% OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BE DESIGNATED
TO THE FOOD PANTRY**



The Pecatonica Food Pantry is open these dates in December:

Saturday, 12/6 9-10:30am
Wednesday, 12/10 6-7pm
Saturday, 12/20 9-10:30am

At the Blanchardville Church site

Christmas

ON MAIN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
BLANCHARD HALL

KIDS CRAFT 5:00-5:30

SPONSORED BY BLANCHARDVILLE WOMEN'S CLUB

CHRISTMAS MOVIE & MEAL 5:30-7:00

SPONSORED BY WOODFORD STATE BANK

FIRE TRUCK RIDES 5:30-7:00

SPONSORED BY BLANCHARDVILLE FIRE & EMS

SANTA CLAUS! 5:30-7:00

GET YOUR PICTURE WITH SANTA AND A GIFT FROM HIS ELF!

CHRISTMAS ON MAIN IS SPONSORED BY BCPI

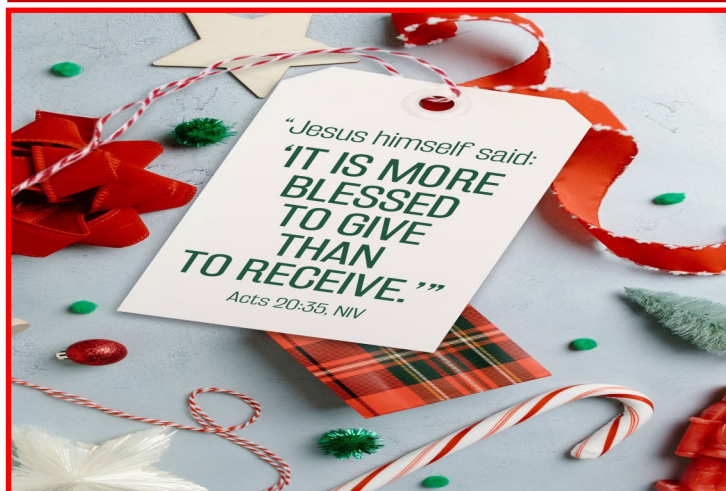


15TH ANNUAL CENTURIANS BOWLING FOR FOOD 8 PIN TAP TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
At Dodger Bowl Lanes (318 King St • Dodgeville, WI)

\$80 PER 5 PERSON TEAM
SHIFTS START AT 11AM AND 2PM
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL PANTRY'S
BRING FOOD ITEM FOR CHANCE TO WIN RAFFLE PRIZE

CALL OR VISIT DODGER BOWL
TO SIGN UP 608-935-2595



Thank you to everyone who helped me produce the 3 bulk mailings over the past few weeks: Becky Johnson, Dawn Doran, Bev Lien, Ellen Syse, Beth Kundert, Sandy Schober and Judy Watrud. I appreciate your time and generosity — you helped make this big project a little easier.

Michele



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, December 7, 2025 — 2nd Sunday in Advent

(bible study Tuesday, December 2)

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday, December 14, 2025 — 3rd Sunday in Advent

(bible study Tuesday, December 9)

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 21, 2025 — 4th Sunday in Advent

(bible study Tuesday, December 16)

Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

Sunday, December 28, 2025

(bible study Tuesday, December 23)

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm: Psalm 46

Second Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

ADVENT READINGS

The Advent theme will be
Messages from the Angels



Keep in your Prayers: We remember our members & friends, the sick and the homebound, those recovering or grieving, especially Gordy Larson, Dave Beecher, Jan Slater, Joe Jameson (friend of Bev Lien), 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, 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.

Attendees: Pastor Chris, Teri Green, & Micah Busser

Agenda

- Making reservations for Quake this week. We currently have 2 adult leaders and 7 kids planning to attend.
- So far Confirmation is going very well.
- Secret Santa event is looking for volunteers to work the day of the event. December's Board of Education Meeting will be held in Blanchardville so we can sort through, price, and pack items for the event.
- Sunday School Christmas Program followed by fellowship downstairs and a light meal (i.e. sandwiches, chips, and dessert charcuterie) provided by the Board of Education.
- Board of Education is looking for two new members.

FINANCIAL REPORT October 2025

Submitted by: Becky Johnson

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

- October's income of \$15,002.25 and expenses of \$23,156.61 – a need of \$8,154.56
- YTD Income of \$160,732.46 and expenses of \$76,195.36 – a need of \$15,462.90

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



Mission Mondays

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.

- Becky Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. (Hollandale site)
- Present were Dan Hittesdorf, Judy Watrud, Teri Green, Neal Klassy, Jay Massey, Marcie Domini, Michele Kittleson, Becky Johnson and Pastor Chris Strohm.
- Pastor Chris lead us in prayer.

Secretary's Report:

- Dan moved to approve the September Council Minutes. Marcie seconded and the motion carried.
- Dan moved to approve the October Council Minutes. Judy seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- Becky presented the Treasurer's Report. Portico has been paid through October. Mission Support is behind 3 months and Johnson Accounting hasn't been paid for 4 months. Also Choir Director is behind 2 months.
- The lefse makers requested money from the Finhert/Whitford Memorial be used to purchase additional griddles, probes, a ricer, and kettles. Becky reminded us that we had designated \$300 to be used for lefse making supplies.
- Dan moved and Marcie seconded that the lefse griddles, probes, ricer and 2 kettles be purchased using the designated money and purchased through the church office. Motion carried.
- Dan moved that \$6K of Pastor's 2026 base salary be designated as furnishing allowance per the IRS guidelines. Jay seconded and the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- Jay said that outside lights at Hollandale Site will need to be replaced as 1 has broken. Also the last driving rain from the west caused water to come into the furnace room.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Chris will be on vacation the weekend of November 22/23 enjoying the "silence" of the North Woods and a Packer game.
- Shannon Marion will be pulpit supply.
- He has Synod meetings on Wednesday and Thursday of next week.
- Confirmation Class will be visiting Temple Beth El in Madison on December 17.
- The Sunday School Program will be Saturday evening, December 20.
- The four Sundays of Advent will feature messages from Angels.

There was no correspondence, transfers or visitors.

The calendar was passed around for December. There will not be a Council Meeting in December. January's meeting will be the third Monday.

New Business:

- Judy moved to designate 10% of the lefse sales for November to The Lutheran subscriptions and 10% of December sales to the Pecatonica Area Food Pantry. Marcie seconded and the motion carried.
- The Council reviewed the proposed budget for 2026. Dan moved and Neal seconded to present the Budget to the Congregation. Motion carried.
- The Nominating Committee asked if there could be Co-Presidents instead of President and Vice President. Dan moved and Teri seconded that Co-Presidents would be allowed for this term. Motion carried.
- Agenda for the December Congregational Meeting at the Hollandale Site at 11:00 a.m. on December 14 will be election of Council Members, 2026 Budget Approval and Delegates to the Synod Assembly.
- Teri moved and Judy seconded that the Annual Meeting will be February 1 at the Blanchardville Site following 10 o'clock worship.

Old Business:

- Nominating Committee: Meeting at the same time as the Council tonight.
- Review Changes to Mission and Vision Statement: No action.
- Capital Projects Review: They are still waiting on the bar for the East Door. Everything else that was to be done this year is complete.

Dan moved and Neal seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:05 p.m.



Donna	Arneson	December 1
Piper	Garthwaite	December 1
Norah	Bethke	December 1
Micah	Watrud	December 3
Dawn	Doran	December 4
Morrion	Berg	December 8
Rodney	Kurschner	December 8
Macy	Emberson	December 9
Julie	Saether	December 14
Inga	Terrill	December 14
Makenna	Gilbertson	December 15
Kelsey	Griffiths	December 16
Shari	Whitford	December 16
Coy	Ruegsegger	December 20
Ayvah	Hume	December 21
Noah	Olson	December 21
William	Wyse	December 22
Robert	Kapke	December 23
Darren	Kittleson	December 23
Shirley	Eidsmoe	December 25
Mary	Kolb	December 26
Bryson	Burkeland	December 28
Kail	Lockard	December 29
Michele	Kittleson	December 30

Amanda & Mark Anderson	12/25/2020
Micah & Randall Busser	12/12/2018
Jean & Wayne Christen	12/29/1962
Kathy Kolden-Doyle & John Doyle	12/27/1997
Ginny & Earl McNeill	12/26/1981
Jennifer & Brady O'Connor	12/13/2014

*Please submit information to be included in the January Visitor to the church office by **Thursday, December 18th.***



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.

