



# New Hope Lutheran *Visitor*

## May 2026

Chris Strohm, Pastor

(608) 523-4239 [newhopeoffice@tds.net](mailto:newhopeoffice@tds.net)

**New Hope Lutheran Church**



**CHICKEN  
BBQ**

(1/2 Chicken, Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, Bun & Dessert)

**Cost: \$16**

**Sunday, May 3**

Time: 11:30 - 1 (or until gone)  
Location: Hollandale Village Hall  
Dine In or Carry Out!

**COFFEE  
& FELLOWSHIP**



### Join Pastor Chris Thursday, May 14

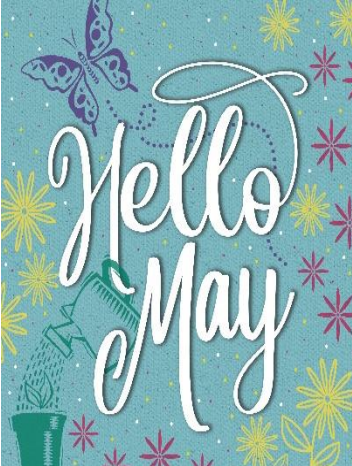
"Coffee with the Pastor" from 8:30am to 9:30 am in Blanchardville at "Bistro on Main". This coffee hour, usually on the 1st Thursday of every month, is meant to be a time of informal fellowship — anyone who wants to stop by for coffee & conversation is welcome .




**The Pastor  
Will Be Away**

Monday, May 4 –  
Saturday, May 9

*Hello  
May*




Mark Your Calendars!!  
**Spring cleaning  
and spruce up day!**

Hollandale  
May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00am

### **Graduate Recognition Sunday**

Sunday, May 17th at both services

**Tatum Kurschner, Kenadi Kundert, Will Doescher,  
and Kyeton Kolb**

At church you'll see some Dr. Seuss books in the narthex which will be gifted to our graduates. Please take a moment to sign them and perhaps write a little note!





Hello Everyone,

We have come to that time of the year when milestones have been reached, journeys near their end as new paths open before us and hopes and dreams that have been realized are transformed into new visions. As we approach the end of a school year we celebrate with those who are graduating from high school and moving on towards new horizons and those who have finished the school year and are looking for a time of rest before another begins in the fall. May is a time of celebration and recognition.

Congratulations, Tatum, Kennadi, Will, and Keyton as you have already or will graduate high school and embark on new challenges. Remember that as you journey forth towards new challenges and look ahead towards new horizons that you do not go alone. The prayers and blessings of the people of New Hope go with you. More importantly as you journey forth, God will be walking by your side.

Congratulations to you parents, your children would not have reached this point without your love and support. They have reached these milestones because of your selfless sacrifice every day of their lives. You have supported them in their endeavors, kept them safe, taught them how to take care of themselves, and raised them so that they are now ready to take on the world.

Congratulations also to our confirmands: Gage, Abram, Sawyer, Baylee, and Britney and also to Dawsyn who was baptized this past month. You have made it through two years of me as your teacher. Confirmation is not the end of your faith journey nor is it the end of learning about your faith and your God, it is only the beginning. I will be here to help you on your way whenever you have questions but more importantly God will be with you guiding you on your path.

As I said earlier, May is also a time of recognition. A time where we recognize our mothers and say thank you for your love and endless support but also to say I'm sorry for all the grief and worry I caused you especially in my teen years. At the end of the month, we remember all those who have gone before us especially those who have served in the armed forces. Those brave men and women who have worked hard to keep us safe from harm so that we are free to pursue our hope and dreams. Thank you both veterans and active-duty personnel, your sacrifice does not go unnoticed.

God's peace be with you all,

Pastor Chris

## **Worship Assistants**

**Sunday Worship 8:30 in Hollandale and  
10:30 in Blanchardville  
May 2026**

### **May 3**

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Ron & Ellen Syse (H)  
Communion: (B) Ellen Syse (H) Kaye Gilbertson  
Readers: (B) Ellen Syse (H)

### **May 10 — Mother's Day**

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Ron & Ellen Syse (H)  
Communion: (B) Ellen Syse (H) David & Cindy Whitford  
Readers: (B) Chuck Meyer (H)

### **May 17 — Grad Recognition**

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Ron & Ellen Syse (H)  
Communion: (B) Ellen Syse (H) Bryan Lisser  
Readers: (B) Tina Steiner (H)

### **May 24**

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Ron & Ellen Syse (H)  
Communion: (B) Ellen Syse (H) Flo Griffiths  
Readers: (B) Judy Watrud (H)

### **May 31**

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Ron & Ellen Syse (H)  
Communion: (B) Ellen Syse (H) Vicki Chrostowski  
Readers: (B) Anna Hughes (H)

**Musicians:** Becky Johnson, Cinda Hittesdorf, Marlys Hittesdorf, Carmen Danz, Andy Whitford-Holey

**Altar Committees:** (B) Becky Kesler (H) Jean Christen

## **Mission Mondays New Hours!**

The Mission Room will now be open Mondays from **9-11 am** 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.

### **Updates from Diane Larson about Mission Work:**

*Going forward, the food pantry only wants the 12-count egg carton size (nothing larger). We do still want prescription pill bottles with the childproof caps (but not the "big" ones that are about 4" high).*

### **Update from Helping Hands Scholarship Recipient**

**Brianna Peterson**, one of the recipients of last year's New Hope Helping Hands Scholarship, recently provided this update on her education. *I am really enjoying school at UW-Whitewater, and my major is Communication Sciences & Disorders (Speech Therapy). I am currently part of several clubs . . . including the National Students of Speech-Language Hearing Association, Best Buddies, and the Honors Student Association . . . This year, I have been working on an undergraduate research project that focuses on image generating AI and how it can be used to support speech therapists when they are creating clinical materials . . . I have presented my research project at UW-Whitewater's Fall Research Conference, the Wisconsin Speech-Language Hearing Association (WSHA) Annual Convention, and at Research in the Rotunda at the state capitol in Madison . . . In April, I will be traveling to Virginia to present my research at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research...and then I will be presenting at UW-Whitewater's Spring Research Conference. I have maintained a 3.99 GPA and am an honors student. **I am very grateful for the support of the Helping Hands Scholarship as it has allowed me to prioritize and focus on my academic endeavors.***





**The Pecatonica Food Pantry is open these dates in May:**

Saturday, 5/2 9-10:30am

Wednesday, 5/13 6-7pm

Saturday, 5/16 9-10:30am



We remember our members & friends, the sick and the homebound, those recovering or grieving, especially Lois Gifford, Steve Zimmerman, Oliver Ekman (neighbor of the Meyers), Jan & Tiger Slater, Alex Emberson, Ruth Vamstad, Lynette Stansfield, Sue Anderson, Rick Fredrickson, Roger Strohm (Pastor Chris's Dad), Lisa Hartz (daughter of Elaine & Marv Engelke), Bev Lien, Dave Hermanson, Roger Kittleson, Donna Arneson, Lyle Klosterman, Mary Carr, Doris Hermanson, Carl and Patty Schneider, Richard & Peggy Gilbertson, Carole Zweifel.



***Congratulations to our Confirmands and one newly Baptized!***

Sunday, April 19, 2026

(L-R): Brittney Erickson, Baylee Hendrickson-Raymond, Dawsyn Vogel, Pastor Chris, Gage Terrill, Sawyer Kundert, Abram Hughes



**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

Sunday, May 10, 2026 – **Canceled**  
(bible study Tuesday, May 5)

Sunday, May 17, 2026  
(bible study Tuesday, May 12)

First Reading: Acts 1:6-14

Psalm: 68:1-10, 32-35

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Gospel: John 17:1-11

Sunday, May 24, 2026 – Pentecost  
(bible study Tuesday, May 19)

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Psalm: 104:24-34, 35b

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

Sunday, May 31, 2026 – The Holy Trinity  
(bible study Tuesday, March 26)

First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Psalm: 8

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, June 7, 2026

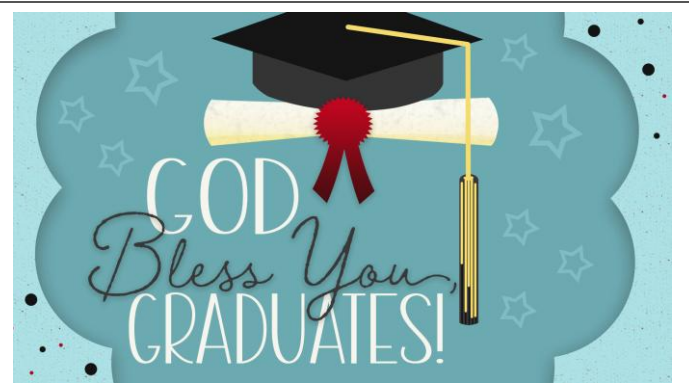
(bible study Tuesday, June 2)

First Reading: Hosea 5:15—6:6

Psalm: 50:7-15

Second Reading: 4:13-25

Gospel: 9:9-13, 18-26



### **Graduates**

A blessing for our high school graduates:

**Tatum**

**Kennadi**

**Will**

**Kyeton**

Also, for those who are graduating from higher education of any kind.

*May you be blessed with laughter, that you may never take yourself too seriously.*

*May you be blessed with curiosity, that you may always desire to seek out the mystery of faith.*

*May you be blessed with gratitude, that you may see all of life as a gift.*

*May you be blessed with remembrance of one another and your time together here,*

*For there is forever a thread woven through your spirit connecting you with us.*

*May you be blessed in knowing that you are loved, and that we who love you are full of joy as we celebrate your life in our midst and your dreams to come.*

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

*Pastor Chris*



**Happy Birthday Pastor Chris!**

Saturday, May 2nd

Thank you for all you do. We hope you celebrate in your favorite way.

**Pastor Chris and Gary and Andy Whitford-Holey**

will represent New Hope Lutheran at the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Synod Assembly, Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16.

Join Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, synod staff, and leaders from across the synod for a meaningful two-day gathering of celebration, fellowship, and important synod business.

This year's assembly will be centered around the theme: Forward, with a centering scripture Joshua 1:9. In addition to worship, workshops, and fellowship, the 2026 Assembly will include the election of the Synod Bishop.



***Save the Date!***

**Vacation Bible School (VBS):  
Saturday, August 1**

**Theme: Rocky Railway**

*We're looking for volunteers to help lead, teach, decorate.*

**Stay tuned for more details.**

**TRUSTEES REPORT 4/13/26**

**Submitted by:** Jay Massey

Board of Trustees' Meeting for NHL Ch. was held on April 13th. 2026; 4:00 pm. at the Hollandale, Luth. Ch.

All in attendance were Dan Hittesdorf, Neal Klassey, and Jay Massey.

**Minutes of Discussion.**

Neal Klaasey made a motion to accept a Key Board and Speaker Amp. from Bev Lien for the New Hope Luth Ch. and Dan Hittesdorf seconded that motion, Motion was accepted and carried. Thank you Bev for the donation.

We talked about Tuck Pointing for the Bl. Ch. Staffels have not set a date to proceed forward. We will see if Chuck might know, if we are on their summer schedule.

Neal will inspect the Bl. Ch. Roof Line for any loss of Top Cap Shingles and also any other roof damage, from the last 60 mph. Wind Storm.

Jay Massey will look into summer Lawn Mowing at the Hollandale Ch. site.

We discussed Tree removal at the Parsonage. Two Trees to be removed, the Northwest and the Southeast tree, along with the South East Tree in the Yard can be Topped off. To do the Tree removal, we will look into finances for it and contact a neighborhood Tree Service removal.

We discussed the upcoming Clean Up Days at the two Churches, and the jobs to be done. Blanchardville Ch. Cleaning day on April 25th at 9:00 am and the Hollandale L. Ch. on May 23rd. At 9:00 am. Some of the Clean up Jobs to do are, Clean Pews, Wash Windows and Glass Wall, Vacuum AC Units, Vacuum Floors, Clean Kitchen.

7:30 pm @ Blanchardville site

Present: Pastor Chris & Julie

Pastor Chris had the bank papers for Julie to sign as new treasurer of Youth Checking account. Pastor will have Becky sign. Becky will take papers to the bank.

Confirmation is 4/19. Robes and corsages are ready. Board of Ed will provide donuts, juice and coffee before church service.

Last day of Sunday School is 4/26. This is also Sunday school teacher recognition; Julie will get a card and gift for Tiffany thanking her for teaching.

Registration for ELCA National Youth Gathering starts in mid-October

Set a tentative date of Sat. Aug. 1 for VBS

Next meeting May 12 at 7:00

God's glorious abundance allows us to continue providing helpful ministries like Sunday worship, Choir, Confirmation and Praying for those in our local and greater communities. Our recent resources for continuing these ministries include:

February's income of \$18,524.90 and expenses of \$16,795.51– a surplus of \$1,729.39

YTD Income of \$49,369.37 and expenses of \$49,971.13 – a need of \$601.76

### **Keeping Our Ears to the Ground . . .**

The following are ways to stay informed of news from our synod, ECLA church-wide, and partners in our common mission. You can sign up to receive updates and information on areas you are particularly interested in, or just go directly to the source. You can also search for these organizations in Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms.

South Central Synod of Wisconsin (SCSW): <https://scsw-elca.org/engage/>

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: <https://www.elca.org/news>

Wisconsin Council of Churches: <https://www.wichurches.org/>

Lutheran World Relief: <https://lwr.org/>

Lutheran Disaster Response: <https://www.elca.org/giving/lutheran-disaster-response>

Lutheran Global Refuge: <https://www.globalrefuge.org/>

Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin: <https://www.lsswis.org/>

- Gary Whitford Holey (via zoom) called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Pastor Chris Strohm, Becky Johnson, Robin Gilbertson, Jeff Saether, Julie Saether, Dan Hittesdorf and Jay Massey. Absent Kayla Barnes and Lisa Toay.
- Devotions were led by Pastor Chris on the beauty of God's creation.
- Minutes of the March 17 council meeting were corrected: Confirmand listed as Evan Olson should be Sawyer Kundert. Pastor moved to approve the corrected minutes. Julie seconded and the motion carried.
- Becky presented the treasurer's report as of March 31, 2026.
- Jeff moved that we go with a moderate risk tolerance on the money that is going into the brokerage account with Thrivent. Dan seconded the motion and it carried.
- Board Reports were presented.
  - Trustees: The trustees approved accepting the keyboard from Bev Lien and will coordinate with Michele to get it. Neal inspected the Blanchardville site roof after recent storms and there are several missing ridge cap shingles. Jay said Tyler McKeon had been hired to mow the Hollandale site lawn. There were 6 members who cleaned the Blanchardville site on April 25. Reminder that Hollandale cleaning day is May 23.
  - Board of Ed: Need to recruit a member to replace Teri Green. Looking for someone to chair VBS which is tentatively set for August 1.
- Pastor's Report:
  - Pastor asked if the BCPI would be okay with moving the time for the ecumenical service on Father's Day back to 10:00 a.m. Jeff will check on this. Pastor will be out of town attending 2 days of classes in Des Moines for the Moses Project course and then is going to visit his daughter to celebrate grandchildren's birthdays.
- Correspondence:
  - A thank you email was received from Brianna Peterson for the New Hope Helping Hands scholarship. She has applied for this year also.
- There were no transfers or new member approvals.
- No visitors were present.
- New Business:
  - May Council Meeting: Jeff moved and Dan seconded that the May Council meeting be on Tuesday, May 26 due to Memorial Day falling on the regular meeting day.
  - Establishment of Worship Committee: Pastor would like to form a committee with deacons and at least one musician for a worship committee. He will meet with the deacons to make a decision on this committee.
  - Father's Day Worship Service: The deacons will contact musicians to lead the service. Pastor will contact the Perry pastor and priest from the Catholic churches.
  - AP Exam Host: The Blanchardville site will be used for the Pecatonica High School AP exams on 5/4, 5/5, 5/7, 5/11, 5/12 Need a volunteer for the 3 days next week - Monday and Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoon. Gary volunteered to be at the Site to troubleshoot any issues.
  - Synod Assembly will be held at the Woodman Center in Janesville on May 15 and 16. Pastor and Gary and Andy Whitford-Holey will be attending. This is the year to vote on Synod bishop and several other offices.
  - Council Vacancies: We are in need of a board of ed member and a vice president.
- There was no Old Business.
- Dates to remember:
  - Pastor's birthday is May 2, Chicken Barbecue is May 3, Newsletter deadline is May 14, Graduation Sunday is May 17, Next Meeting is May 26 at Blanchardville, Gary will be at the farm beginning April 30.
- Dan moved to adjourn. Jeff seconded and we adjourned by praying the Lord's Prayer.



## Faith and Money **Gratitude Fuels Us**

As I write this we have just finished the tax season, which this article is not about. I'm thinking instead about the late rabbi Harold Kushner who would write "Thank You" in the memo line of every check he ever issued, including his checks to the IRS. He didn't do this to impress anyone or, in the case of the government, to get favorable treatment. He just wanted to keep reminding himself that gratitude is among the finest feelings in life, and being able to afford life's essentials gave rise to gratitude in him. Gratitude is how I strive to do my ministry with you here at New Hope. I may forget to write the thank you notes but know that I am grateful for all that you do and all that you give to your faith and the ministry that happens because of you. Gratitude isn't about abundance; it's a way of looking at the world.

For the last 11 years New Hope has aspired to look at the world and our communities as a treasure in the hand of a gracious God. We exist as a ministry to inform, challenge, enlighten, and give thanks to God for every difference we can make in the life of the world. None of our efforts are possible without your support, however. So, if New Hope matters to you, please give something of yourself today. We rely on your generosity to continue to be a source of light and hope for our communities. Regardless of the method behind your giving, I hope you feel my gratitude. That's how I look at the world and how I wish to view your role in our ministry: with deep gratitude.

Thank you very much.  
Pastor Chris

The following students have been granted scholarships for 2026 from the  
**New Hope Lutheran Helping Hands Scholarship Fund:**

*Kyssah Gann   Abigail Rindy   Briana Peterson   Diana Hendrickson*

**Congratulations to Everyone!**



Thank you to everyone who helped make our **Maundy Thursday Dinner Church** a success. I especially thank Audrey Hughes and the Confirmation students for participating as disciples. Thanks to Ellen, Chuck, and Lauren helping with the meal and preparation. Thanks for those who stayed and helped with clean up. It takes many hands for this to come together. Hear my gratitude for all that you do.

Thank you Tiffany!! You did an amazing job teaching Sunday School this year. You are awesome! The kids enjoyed it and I am grateful for your leadership and love for these children.

**--Pastor Chris**



# MAY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Chris	Strohm	May 2
Robert	O'Connor	May 2
Kenadi	Kundert	May 3
Ellen	Syse	May 4
Margaret	Barnes	May 5
Tucker	Bethke	May 6
Tara	Wahl	May 7
Neal	Klassy	May 7
Asher	Wollin	May 11
Beckett	Mieden	May 11
Vicki	Powell	May 12
Robert	Helmeid	May 13
Paige	Toay	May 14
Mark	Emberson	May 18
Tristan	Olson	May 18
Tiffany	Bethke	May 19
Brady	O'Connor	May 22
Carter	Ruegsegger	May 23
Landon	Wahl	May 23
Shari	O'Connor	May 23
Marlys	Hittesdorf	May 24
Hudson	Kleppe	May 25
Franklin	Barnes	May 28
Judy	Watrud	May 30

Bryan & Jeanne	Lisser	05/20/1967
David & Cindy	Whitford	05/20/1978
Jim & Jayne	Gordon	05/11/1985
John & Dawn	Doran	05/19/1985
John & Jubie	Simonson	05/28/1994
Mike & Tara	Wahl	05/21/2005
Jennie & Christopher	Henderson	05/16/2009
Kara & Harley	Terrill	05/23/2009



Please submit information to be included in the **June Visitor** to the church office by **Thursday, May 14.**

The birthday and anniversary lists are 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.

