



New Hope Lutheran Visitor

September 2026

Chris Strohm, Pastor

(608) 523-4239 office@newhopelutheran.info



Join Pastor Chris Thursday September 3rd

"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 Pecatonica Food Pantry is
open these dates in September:**

Saturday, 9/5 9-10:30am

Wednesday, 9/9 6-7pm

Saturday, 9/19 9-10:30am

At the Blanchardville Church site



The Choir is Back!

Rehearsals start again on
Wednesday, September 9th,
at 7pm at the
Blanchardville site.

Everyone is welcome!

Mark Your Calendars

Service Times Change in October*

**For October, November, December*

8:30am—Hollandale

10:30 am — Blanchardville

Sunday School will start October 11.



God's Work. Our Hands

Sunday, September 6 - Hollandale Village Hall

- 10am Worship Outdoor Service
- Backpack Blessings
- School Kit Assembly
- Potluck





Happy September everyone,

September is that time of year of new beginnings, of fresh starts, of changes. There will be a few changes in worship as I continue to tweak things. As always I appreciate your input and feedback. The most noticeable will be that beginning on September 13 we will be using setting 10 in our hymnal. What happens here is that the musical parts of the liturgy are set to familiar hymns. We will use this for at least a few months to familiarize ourselves with it. It also allows us to give Ben a break from singing the Kyrie. I am super thankful for Ben being willing to sing this for us these last few years. In Hollandale I am going to bring back the song Lamb of God as we prepare to begin Communion.

Another change that will happen, one we've been announcing, is that our email addresses in the office will change as TDS is changing how they support email. The new email addresses will reflect our website address of NewHopeLutheran.info.

Confirmation classes will take place in Hollandale beginning at 7pm on Wednesdays. Like last year I am working for us to also include learning and service days as part of the curriculum.

Another change, one that makes me sad, is that Michele has informed me that she intends to leave her position. This means that we are in the process of seeking out a new office person. The executive council is in the process of defining the position in regard to duties, responsibilities, and time. If you know of anyone who might be interested let us know.

Something new, not a change, is that I am inviting the congregation to read a book with me. Initially my idea was that we meet as a group 3 times during the course of reading the book. At the beginning as we are introduced to the novel, two weeks later (halfway through the reading), and at the end as we conclude. The book I would like us to read is titled: *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. It has been on the NY Times best seller list and is a book about the power of kindness and second chances. Join me in reading this novel in September. Let us meet for the first time on Wednesday September 9th from 6-7 pm in Blanchardville.

God's Peace be with you,

Pastor Chris

Worship Assistants

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

September 6 – Backpack Blessings / Kit Assembly! One service at the Hollandale Village Hall – no communion

Greeters/Ushers: (H)
Readers: (H)

September 13

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Becky & Jerry Kesler (H)
Communion: (B) Beth Kundert (H) Flora Griffiths
Readers: (B) Dottie McGuigan (H)

September 20

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Becky & Jerry Kesler (H)
Communion: (B) Beth Kundert (H) Rhonda Kirch
Readers: (B) Beth Kundert (H)

September 27– Rally Day! One service at the Blanchardville Site – no communion

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Becky & Jerry Kesler (H)
Readers: (B) Lauren Becker (H)

**Remember!
Service Times Change October 4th**

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

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



We remember our members & friends, the sick and the homebound, those recovering or grieving, especially Steve Zimmerman, 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 the family of
Adaline Prust
who was baptized on Sunday, August 16th*



*Parents: Evan and
Leslie Prust*

*Sponsors: Rya Jorenby
and Glenn Jayne*



"Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." MARK 10:14



**Coming up!
Saturday, September 19
Hollandale Homecoming**

**Coming up!
Saturday, September 12
Pecatonica Homecoming**





Weekly Bible Study

with Pastor Chris every Tuesday from 8-9 am at River Bend Café in Blanchardville.

The Bible Study focuses on the upcoming readings for Sunday.

This is open to everyone.

Sunday, September 6, 2026

(bible study Tuesday, September 1)

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday, September 27

(bible study Tuesday, September 22)

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalms 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

Sunday, September 13, 2026

(bible study Tuesday, September 8)

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:[1-7] 8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, October 4, 2026

(bible study Tuesday, September 29)

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, September 20, 2026

(bible study Tuesday, September 15)

Jonah 3:10—4:11

Psalms 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16



***The Annual Fall Dinner, Bazaar and Auction
is scheduled for
Wednesday, October 14.***

Stay tuned for details!



Mission Monday

Mission Mondays

The Mission Room is 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.



Stewardship of Creation: Caring for God's Good Gift

As summer gives way to fall, fields begin to turn golden, gardens yield their final harvests, and the changing colors of the trees remind us of God's remarkable creativity. It is a beautiful season to pause and remember that the world around us is not simply a resource to be used, but a gift entrusted to our care.

The opening chapters of Genesis tell us that after creating the heavens and the earth, God looked upon creation and declared it "very good." Humanity was then given the vocation to "till and keep" the garden (Genesis 2:15).

Stewardship of creation doesn't require grand gestures. It often begins with simple acts of gratitude and care: planting a tree, reducing waste, conserving water, tending a garden, supporting local farmers, recycling, or taking time to appreciate the beauty of a sunrise or an evening walk. These small practices remind us that creation is not separate from our faith—it is one of the places where we encounter the Creator.

As Lutherans, we also remember that caring for creation is not about earning God's favor. God's grace has already been freely given to us in Jesus Christ. Instead, we care for the earth because we have been loved first. Stewardship is our joyful response to God's generosity. Just as God continues to sustain us each day, we are invited to participate in God's ongoing work of nurturing and preserving creation for our neighbors today and for generations yet to come.

This month, take a moment to step outside and notice the fingerprints of God all around you. Give thanks for the gift of creation, and ask yourself: *"How can I better care for this good gift that God has placed in my hands?"* In doing so, we honor the Creator, love our neighbors, and bear witness to the hope of God's renewing work in all creation.

May the Peace of God be with you,

Pastor Chris

FINANCIAL REPORT July 2026

Submitted by: Becky Johnson

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

- July's income of \$27,827.24 and expenses of \$23,371.27– a surplus of \$4,455.97
- YTD Income of \$129,878.28 and expenses of \$125,370.65 – a surplus of \$4,507.63

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 8/10/26**Submitted by:** Jay Massey

New Hope Trustee Meeting held on Aug. 10th. 2026 at 5:00 pm. All in attendance were Pastor Chris Stohm, Dan Hittesdorf and Jay Massey.

Pastor Chris brought in some Literature, a Booklet on Building Safety codes to read and keep up on, when it comes to keeping a safety profile we can keep in par with for the Buildings we have, also an Insurance Building Company Catalog to look at, just to see what is out there for other Church Building Insurance Companies. We talked about our Building Insurance to work on and get ready for soon this September and fall, for the 2027 year.

We also talked about our other to do projects to review and go over.

We would like to Thank Robin Gilbertson for organizing and working on the Chimney at the Hollandale Luth. Ch. along with a helping hand of Amish Carpenters. There was a lot of organizing and work involved with this Project. Thanks again for their help.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT 8/11/26**Submitted by:** Julie Saether

Board of Education 8/11/26 7:00 pm at Blanchardville site

Members present: Pastor Chris, Kayla Barnes, Julie Saether

Vacation Bible School went very well, and the kids had a great time! There were 12 kids who attended.

Aug. 26 is the parent information meeting for confirmation at 7:00 pm at Blanchardville. Confirmation will be on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 at Hollandale.

The train used for Vacation Bible School will be used in a float in both Homecoming parades. On the float should put the start date of Sunday school and also have a flyer to hand out at the parades

Rally Day will be Sept. 27. One service at 10:00 at the Blanchardville site. Will be planning carnival games to be done in the parking lot after service. Need to find volunteers to help run the games.

Sunday school starts on Oct. 11. *Sparkhouse* is the curriculum. Pastor will check with Jeff to make sure he has the log in. The Leaders guide is free. May need to purchase the handouts.

Next meeting Sept. 8 at 7:00 pm in Blanchardville.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 8/24/26**Submitted by:** Michele Kittleson

Gary called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Pastor Chris, Gary Whitford Holey, Becky Johnson, Jay Massey, Dan Hittesdorf, Robin Gilbertson, Jeff Saether, Julie Saether, Michele Kittleson.

Devotion: Pastor Chris led us in devotions based on Romans 12:9-21, the focus of which is LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Secretary's Report: Pastor Chris moved to approve the minutes of the July 27 meeting. Robin seconded and the motion carried.

(council meeting minutes, continued)

Treasurer's Report: Becky presented the treasurer's report: Total income January thru July is \$129,878.28; expenses of \$125,370.65; leaving a balance of net ordinary income of \$4,507.63.

Looking ahead to 2027, she said that Portico (Pastor's Insurance) is expected to go up double digits in 2027 for the health insurance portion.

Board Reports

Education: Vacation Bible School went very well. Will be using the train for the Homecoming parades. Rally Day will be September 27 with one service at Blanchardville at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School will start on October 11.

Trustee: Jay handed out minutes of their meeting. They will be reviewing building insurance for all of our buildings. Thanked Robin for organizing and working with the Amish on the chimney at the Hollandale Site.

Deacon: Jeff reported that they met before this meeting and will be working on some gaps that were identified.

Pastor's Report: He will be meeting with the Confirmation parents on August 26. Classes will begin on September 16 at Hollandale at 7:00 p.m. He is looking at doing some field trips such as visiting a Jewish Synagogue, helping with a meal for the homeless in Madison and assisting with the Bazaar. On September 13 there will be an informational meeting on the Youth Gathering In Minneapolis in 2027 for students grades 8-12.

Correspondence: A thank you was received from Kyssah Vogel for the scholarship she received.

No Transfers or Visitors

Calendar: Reviewed for any corrections or additions. Pastor would like to add a book club based on the book, *Theo of Golden*.

New Business:

1. **Discussion of the parishioners' comments the day Gary preached.** Recurring themes were: follow Jesus in welcoming the stranger; care for one another; feed the hungry; spread the Word. Need for ways to get more young families and children involved. Need to include more upbeat liturgy such as "Now the Feast."

2. Suggested changes to the New Hope Constitution based on the ELCA Model

It was noted that a Deacon is a rostered member of the ELCA so we should change the Board of Deacons to Worship. Decided to leave who can call a special meeting of the congregation at 10 members rather than a percentage..

Dan moved to approve the changes proposed. Robin seconded and the motion carried.

A special thank you to Andy Whitford Holey for the time he spent reviewing the proposed changes!

3. Council Vacancies

Since the year is almost complete, the Nominating Committee will need to add these positions to the terms that are ending this cycle. The Nominating Committee is Marcie Dominie, Judy Watrud and Amanda Hughes.

4. Strategic Planning

Jeff and Pastor Chris developed a questionnaire. In the interest of time, will discuss more at the next meeting.

5. Parades

We will need a truck and trailer for hauling the train. Will need at least 3 people to give handouts which will be bookmarks. Will ask for volunteers at worship on Sunday.

6. Semi Annual Meeting

The semi annual meeting will be held after worship at Blanchardville at 11:00 a.m.

Old Business: None

Information:

Bible Study continues on Tuesdays, 8 - 9 a.m. at River Bend Cafe

Items for weekly bulletins need to be in the office by Tuesdays

New emails to use NOW: pastor@newhopelutheran.info, office@newhopelutheran.info,

treasurer@newhopelutheran.info (Becky), finance@newhopelutheran.info (Tina)

Dates to Remember:

God's Work Our Hands Sunday is September 6 at Hollandale at 10:00 a.m.

Confirmation starts Wednesday, September 16 at 7 p.m. at Hollandale Site

Rally Day September 27 at Blanchardville at 10 a.m.

Fall Bazaar and Auction is October 14

Pastor off October 18

The next meeting will be September 28 at Hollandale

Jeff moved to adjourn. Dan seconded and carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Hello! My name is Jeff Saether, and I have served on council since January 2026. My current role is I am a Deacon. This role involves me contacting congregation members to volunteer to usher, help with communion, and read in church. I also help choose the hymns for church, and make sure we have musicians for our services.

I found being on council enjoyable as I get to learn how the church is run. I chose to serve on the council as I want to try to make a positive impact on the church. This involves not only growing the church's reach towards our communities but also figuring out good ways to serve our current members. Over the years New Hope has become very important to me as I see and feel the value in being a part of a religious community and practicing my faith. There is so much good I see happen in the church and I want to make sure our community is welcoming to everyone so that we all have the opportunity to reap the benefits of being a part of New Hope.

Discovering the Sacred in Creation: A Nature Spirituality Retreat with Larry Harpster

October 3-4

Spend the weekend learning, worshipping, having fun, and enjoying nature in God's creation as we invite nature to contribute in the worship experience.

The weekend begins on Saturday, October 3rd and will include songs, readings, prayers, worship and a bonfire. Sunday, October 4th will include an outdoor Wild Church service. Everyone is welcome to participate in some or all of the weekend activities.



Cost for the retreat includes all programming, one overnight, and three meals (Saturday Lunch to Sunday Breakfast):

Single Occupancy - \$150

Double Occupancy - \$100

Day rate includes programming on Saturday and Sunday, and two meals (Lunch and Dinner on Saturday): \$75

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Saturday October 3

9:30 am - Arrival

10:30 am - Session 1 - Introduction: How do we reconnect with God through Nature

12:00 pm - Lunch

1:30 pm - Session 2 - Nature Reflection Walk and Connecting to the Sacred

3:00 pm - Free Time

5:30 pm - Dinner

7:00 pm - Session 3 - While Rooted in Christian Tradition, Learning from Other Spiritual Paths

8:00 pm - Campfire & Wild Church

Sunday October 4

8:00 am - Breakfast

9:30 am - Session 4 - Wild Church & Reflecting on Jesus Relationship to Nature

11:00 am - Departure



**Upcoming 2026
Adult Ministry
Retreats**

FOR ALL REGISTRATION

REGISTER ONLINE AT LUTHERDALE.ORG OR
CALL (262) 742-2352 FOR PAPER REGISTRATION

Hollandale Community Homecoming Saturday, September 19, 2026

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

Call or email Gary Whitford Holey with questions: 612-201-4462 holeford@icloud.com

Please return this section with your check

Make checks payable to: Hollandale Community Homecoming

Mail to: Hollandale Community Homecoming, PO Box 143, Hollandale, WI 53544 **by September 11th**

Names: _____

Address Change: _____

Dinner Reservations

Ham _____ Meat Balls & Gravy _____ Combo Ham/Meatball _____

Amount Enclosed: \$20.00 per Dinner _____



Donations toward the purchase of meat, potatoes and other food items for the Homecoming dinner are appreciated!

Contact Jean Christen by September 19th if you'd like to

Needed for LWR Personal Health Kits!



- Nail clippers
- Sturdy combs
- Toothbrushes
- Soap (like Dial or Zest)

New Hope Lutheran Vacation Bible School



A BIG THANKS to everyone who helped make Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School a success! The kids had a great time! Thanks to everyone who helped decorate, teach the lessons, lead music, serve lunch, and donate food.

A special THANK YOU to Gary and Andy Whitford-Holey for making the train for Vacation Bible School! It was great and the kids enjoyed going in it!!





Confirmation

Classes will begin on September 16th at 7 pm in Hollandale. All classes through December will take place in Hollandale. Our theme this semester is WORSHIP. I am also in conversation with the Jewish synagogue in Madison for a visit and learning trip. There are other outings that I am planning and will inform the confirmands and parents when I have all the information.

Youth Gathering

Every three years, thousands of high schoolers and their adult leaders from across the ELCA come together for the ELCA Youth Gathering. It's not just an event but a movement in which faith ignites and community comes alive. Through inspiring speakers, experiential learning and transformative connections, young people experience the church in bold, unforgettable ways. The Gathering will take place in Minneapolis next summer from June 28 - July 2, 2027 under the theme of *Imagine More* "To God – whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine."

Informational meeting: Sept. 13, 11:30 in Hollandale. This event is for all students who are currently in 8-12th grades. We will discuss interest, registration time frame, estimated costs, and adult leadership.

Sunday School

We will kick off Sunday school with a Rally Day on September 27th with worship and games for the family. Classes themselves will begin on October 11. Our new teachers this year are Jeff, Carmen, and Sara Saether. A huge thank you to our teachers.

Remember: Use these new email addresses. As of October the current ones will become invalid.

pastor@newhopelutheran.info
office@newhopelutheran.info
treasurer@newhopelutheran.info (Becky)
finance@newhopelutheran.info (Tina)

Please update your default addresses and contacts to ensure your emails aren't rejected. Contact the office if you have questions.

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
Bob 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 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 or 608-523-4239.



*Please submit information to be included in the
October Visitor to the church office by
Thursday, September 17.*