

New Hope Lutheran Visitor

October 2026

Chris Strohm, Pastor

(608) 523-4239 office@newhopelutheran.info



Service Times Change in October*

8:30am—Hollandale

10:30 am — Blanchardville

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

Sunday School

starts Sunday October 11th, 9:30am at the Blanchardville site.

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



Thank you Pastor for pointing hearts toward Christ through your example, teaching and care.



Overwhelming Lutheran World Relief Ingathering!

The 2026 Lutheran World Relief donations have been delivered. The response from New Hope Lutheran was absolutely overwhelming this year! This picture shows just half the boxes that were delivered to Platteville to be sent for LWR distribution. Here's a summary of what was gathered this year:

- 26 Fabric Kits (each kit included 6 yards of fabric and 2 spools of thread)
- 26 Baby Kits (each kit included 2 t-shirts, 2 sleepers, 2 receiving blankets, 4 cloth diapers, 1 jacket/sweater, 2 pairs of socks, 1 towel and 2 diaper pins)
- 27 Personal Care Kits (each kit included 1 bath towel, 2 bars of soap, 1 toothbrush, 1 comb and 1 nail clipper)
- 131 Quilts
- 331 School Kits (each kit included 4 spiral notebooks, 1 ruler, 1 pencil sharpener, 1 scissor, 5 pencils, 5 pens, 1 box of crayons, 1 eraser and 1 backpack)

A total of 88 boxes! Sincerest thank you to everyone who donated items for the kits, helped put the kits together or worked in the mission room to get quilts made. A special thank you to Chuck Meyer, Dave Gerber and Butch Watrud for their willingness to haul all the donations (all 88 boxes!) to Platteville for us. It takes many hands to make this annual mission event happen. Thank you to everyone involved for your help and overwhelming generosity!

88 boxes is a lot...but this isn't all the mission work that is being done at New Hope! A complete report of all mission work done in 2026 will be included in the 2026 annual report.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me." Matthew 25:40



Happy October Everyone,

Let's talk about worship. Worship is the topic for Confirmation this fall and will culminate in the class planning and leading worship for us one Sunday, most likely in January. Worship is the centerpiece of our life of faith. As Lutherans, we are called to worship God, this is something that has been happening even before there were Lutherans. From the beginning we see the Israelites gathering together to praise and serve God who has freed, formed, and sustained them. Jesus invites us to do the same.

Our hymnal puts it this way, "Worship takes place in particular assemblies within particular contexts. Yet every assembly gathered by the Holy Spirit for worship is connected to the whole church. Worship unites the people of God in one time and place with the people of God in every time and place. We use patterns, words, actions, and songs handed down through the ages to express this unity and continuity." We worship because in Jesus Christ, God saves us, changes us, forgives us, and sends us into the world to share the good news about what God has done.

We do all this in a recognizable pattern of Gather, Word, Meal, and Sending. Depending on where you worship your experience can seem quite different or similar to how we do worship here at New Hope but the pattern should be similar. Not every church has the meal every Sunday, we do because I for one need to hear those words of grace and mercy quite often.

We gather together, we come together in community where we praise God in song and prayer, often hearing that we are a people who have been forgiven. We listen to God's Word through the various readings for the day. The sermon is a part of this as we learn how God's Word is still speaking to us today. We confess our faith, what we believe in, through using the Apostle's Creed and pray, for the church, the world, and those in need. The meal begins with bringing gifts of thanksgiving to God, this is our offering. We hear again and remember the night in which Jesus was betrayed, listening to him remind us that his body was broken for us and his blood was shed for our forgiveness. Words of Grace and Mercy. This is a meal we eat with those around us and all those past, present, and in the future. A true community meal. After the meal we are then sent into the world to share the good news of God's love.

Worship is a time of remembering. When we gather together to hear the stories of God's saving work through Jesus and to remember that we also are a part of God's story.

Go in peace, and serve the Lord.

Pastor Chris

Worship Assistants October 2026
Sunday Worship 8:30 in Hollandale and
10:30 in Blanchardville

October 4

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Dave Gerber, Chuck & Ben Meyer (H)
Communion: (B) Dave Gerber (H) Cindy & David Whitford
Readers: (B) Chelsea Burkeland (H)

October 11

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Dave Gerber, Chuck & Ben Meyer
Communion: (B) Dave Gerber (H) Flora Griffiths
Readers: (B) Becky Johnson

October 18 – one service @B 10:30, semi-annual mtg
Pastor Away, no communion

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Dave Gerber, Chuck & Ben Meyer (H)
Readers: (B) Rainelde Raymond (H)

October 25

Greeters/Ushers: (B) Dave Gerber, Chuck & Ben Meyer (H)
Communion: (B) Dave Gerber (H) Kaye Gilbertson
Readers: (B) Linda Dieckoff (H)

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

Altar Committees: (B) Ellen Syse
(H) Jean Christen



We remember our members & friends, the sick and the homebound, those recovering or grieving, especially Gordy Moore, Steve Zimmerman, Jan & Tiger Slater, Alex Emberson, Ruth Vamstad, Lynette Stansfield, Sue Anderson, Rick Fredrickson, Lisa Hartz (daughter of Elaine & Marv Engelke), Dave Hermanson, Roger Kittleston, Donna Arneson, Lyle Klosterman, Mary Carr, Doris Hermanson, Carl and Patty Schneider, Richard & Peggy Gilbertson, Carole Zweifel.



The Pecatonica Food Pantry is open on these dates in October:

Saturday, 10/3 9-10:30am

Wednesday, 10/14 6-7pm

Saturday, 10/10 9-10:30am

At the Blanchardville Church site

The Choir is Back!

Practices are on
Wednesdays, at 7pm at the
Blanchardville site.

Everyone is welcome!



"May the choirs of angels come to greet you. May they speed you to paradise. May the Lord enfold you in His mercy. May you find eternal life." (Song of Farewell) This was the sending hymn at my

Dad's funeral beautifully sung by those attending. My Dad was a lover of music, just not what I listened to, and the most amazing thing about his funeral was that even though we used recorded music everyone sang. It would start in the back and just rolled to the front until the entire room was filled with song. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful and sad day. Thank you for the beautiful plant. Thank you for all the cards, blessings, prayers, thoughts, for everything. I am honored to be the pastor of such a wonderful and caring community.

Pastor Chris



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 October 11, 2026

(bible study Tuesday, October 6)

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalms 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 25, 2026 (Reformation Sunday)

(bible study Tuesday, October 20)

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

Sunday, October 18, 2026

(bible study Tuesday, October 13)

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalms 96:1-9 [10-13]

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday, November 1 (All Saints Day)

(bible study Tuesday, October 27)

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalms 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

****Mark Your Calendars: October 11, One Service, 10:30am, Blanchardville Site, followed by semi-annual and Youth Gathering Meetings.****



We are the new Sunday School teachers at New Hope!

We are starting Oct. 11th and it will be at 9:30am-10:45am at the Blanchardville site. Here is a short introduction from your new teachers!

Hello, my name is **Jeff Saether**. This is my first time teaching Sunday School, I am very excited to get to share the good news with our young youth! I always enjoyed Sunday School growing up and look forward to incorporating fun and engaging activities.

Hi everyone, I'm **Sarah Saether**. I work as a school counselor at Albrecht Elementary in Brodhead during the week and love supporting students as they navigate life. I have experience in both youth and college ministry and am looking forward to teaching Sunday school again. Everyone is welcome as we have fun and learn together!

Hello! My name is **Carmen Saether** and I'm so excited to be teaching Sunday school. I've grown up in church and am grateful for the opportunity to have grown up going to Sunday school. I want to provide kids with a space to learn and grow in their faith and a safe place to ask questions.





The other day as I was walking down the street, I saw a coin lying there and I stopped to pick it up. Yes, I do pick up all the pennies I find lying on the street, sidewalk, parking lots. One penny doesn't amount to much by itself but added to all the other ones I have, well let's just say my tropical vacation fund is growing, one penny at a time. I digress, the coin I found was a dime, ten whole cents, when I was younger the possibilities were endless with what I could purchase with a dime. I could buy candy, football cards, a soda at the pharmacy, even enter the 5 and Dime store which was filled with a plethora of items. Do you remember the Five and Dime stores? Sadly, we don't have those anymore, we have dollar stores. Still, I considered myself rich as I bent over to pick it up and promptly gave it away.

If a dime, 10 cents, doesn't seem like much these days, what then can we do with even less. What does 6 cents give us or what can we do with this smaller amount? Did you know that it is enough to feed the world? That one nickel and penny helps to support Lutheran Disaster Response as they show up after tragedy has struck an area and they stay until the job is done. That throw away change is used by the ELCA, our church, to do God's work in many different ways.

This is how stewardship works, how your offerings work, for every \$1 placed in the offering plate 94 cents remains with New Hope. 94 cents goes to pay the bills and support the local ministries which happen within and without our buildings. The other 6 cents is sent on to the Synod offices where they keep 3 cents to support the ministries of the Synod, including the wages of the Bishop. They forward the last 3 pennies on to the national church to support the ministries that happen there including Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response among others.

The next time you see a penny lying on the ground and your about to step over it, stop. Stop and think about how God can take that one penny and use it to be a blessing to others. Then bend over and pick it up so you can promptly give it away.

Thanks be to God for you,
Pastor Chris



Hi! I am Julie Saether and I am currently serving on the Board of Education.

I wanted to serve on Council because I believe in providing children and youth with a firm faith foundation through Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, and high school. Church has always been a large part of my life. I enjoyed the church experiences I had as a child and high schooler, and I wanted to help guide the faith of our children, youth and adults. My background as a former special education teacher and Sunday School teacher is helpful in serving on the Board of Education. I also like knowing what is going on with the church as a whole, helping make the decisions. I also enjoy working with the other council members.

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:

- August's income of \$13,439.15 and expenses of \$15,054.60– a need of \$1,615.45
- YTD Income of \$143,320.08 and expenses of \$140,425.25 – a surplus of \$2,894.83

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 9/14/26**Submitted by:** Jay Massey

New Hope Lutheran Trustees Minutes for Sept. 14th meeting.
Attendance: Dan Hittesdorf, Neal Klassey, Jay Massey

At the meeting we talked about Budget and Building Insurance prices for the Church this September and October.

We have received a call from Stietz Tree Service and are coming close to setting up a service time to work on the trees at the Parsonage.

We are pretty much focused on the three physical projects for the Church: Tuck pointing in Blanchardville, Seal Coating the parking lot in Blanchardville, and the trees at the Parsonage.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT 9/8/26**Submitted by:** Julie Saether

Board of Education 9/8/26 Blanchardville site

Present: Pastor Chris & Julie

Discussed ELCA Youth Gathering June 28-July 2, 2027.

- Meeting on 9/13 at 11:30 at Hollandale for those students and parents interested
- \$175 deposit per family

Discussed Rally Day plans – one church service @ 10:00 at Blanchardville.

- After church there will be a variety of games in the parking lot. Julie will check with BCPI if we can use the bouncy house.
- There will be a potluck – BBQ pulled pork will be provided along with lemonade or water, and paper products for table service. Julie will ask Hollandale Grocery about making the pulled pork

In Oct. plan for the Secret Santa needs

COUNCIL REPORT 9/28/26**Submitted by:** Michele Kittleson

Gary Whitford Holey (via zoom) called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Present were Pastor Chris, Becky Johnson, Robin Gilbertson, Dan Hittesdorf, Julie Saether, Jay Massey, Jeff Saether and Kayla Barnes (via zoom.) (Hollandale site)

Pastor Chris opened with prayer.

Jerilynn George was welcomed as a member of the Education Board to replace Teri Green.

Pastor Chris noted that a correction needed to be made to the August 24, 2026 minutes. The date of October 18 was omitted from the congregational meeting. Dan moved to approve the corrected minutes. Julie seconded and the motion carried.

Becky presented the treasurer's report through August 31. She will be paying the first installment on the member loans. She also presented the options from Portico for Pastor's insurance for 2027. Robin moved that we choose the Select Plan. Jeff seconded and the motion carried.

Pastor said that confirmation has begun. There are 3 second year and 3 first year students. He is using an interactive program. Although no one attended the meeting on the Youth Gathering, he has had a couple of inquiries since.

Correspondence: Thank you notes were received and passed around from Duane Dieckhoff and Pastor Chris for the expressions of sympathy, and Abigail Rindy for the scholarship to continue her schooling at the UW-Madison in the school of engineering. Also received a letter of appreciation from the ELCA Global Missions for the \$2,000.00 gift.

There were no transfers or new members.

The calendar for October was passed around. Need to add the Prayer Group, Gathering Hope, on October 8 and Pastor's book club.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Lefse Sales 10 % donations: Dan moved to send 10% of the November sale to Lutherans United After Disaster (LUAD,) Robin seconded and the motion carried.
- Dan moved and Jay seconded to give 10% of the December sale to the Good Samaritan Fund. Becky pointed out that these 10% donations are to go to outward mission. Dan rescinded his motion.
- Robin moved and Jeff seconded that 10% of the December Sale go to the Community Connections Free Clinic in Dodgeville. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Stewardship Program: Pastor will be starting the program toward the end of October.
- Administrative Position: There have been no applicants at this point. The Council is hoping Michele may reconsider leaving the position.
- Strategic Planning: Jeff said that Marlys Hittesdorf has offered to assist him and he will be meeting with her soon. Pastor said that he has a book that may help.
- Gary said that the focus of the worship service that he is leading on October 18 will be a follow up and brainstorming on the six points on the future of New Hope.

INFORMATION:

- Bible Study continues at River Bend Cafe from 8 to 9 a.m. on Tuesdays.
- The Constitutional Changes will go to the Synod before our Congregational vote.
- Items for the weekly bulletin need to be in the office by Tuesday
- New email addresses now:
 - pastpr@newhopelutheran.info
 - Office@newhopelutheran.info
 - treasurer@newhopelutheran.info (Becky)
 - finance@newhopelutheran.info (Tina)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- The Fall Bazaar and Auction is Wednesday, October 14
- Pastor is off on October 18
- All Saints Day is November 1
- Advent begins November 29
- The October Council meeting is October 26 at Blanchardville

Robin moved to adjourn. Dan seconded, carried. The Lord's Prayer was prayed.

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 14

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

BLANCHARDVILLE FIRE & EMS COMMUNITY BUILDING
 HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

Here's the link to sign-up for donations and help: [Fall Supper](#)



Needed for LWR Personal Health Kits!

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



Project Linus
 Providing Security Through Blankets

Fleece is Needed for Project Linus Blankets.

Size needed is 60" wide by 1-1/2-yard increments.



We will have class time on October 7, 21, and 28.

October 14 is a time of service, The New Hope Women's Fall Bazaar takes place on that Wednesday and I will need a few students to come to the EMS Community Hall right after school, 12:45, to help with setting up chairs and tables. I also need a few students to come from 4:30 – 7:00 to help with serving and bussing the tables during the meal. I have a conference that day and will not be there until around 4:00.

Looking ahead on November 11th we will be taking a trip to Temple Beth El in Madison and will need to arrive by 6:45 pm. We will gather as a class at 5:00 in Blanchardville to leave, stopping to eat on the way. This is a great way to learn about our Jewish neighbors and the foundation of our faith.

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."*

Youth Gathering meeting: Oct. 11th, 11:30 in Blanchardville. 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.



Pastor will be away Sunday, October 18th. Gary Whitford Holey will lead worship. There will not be communion.

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.

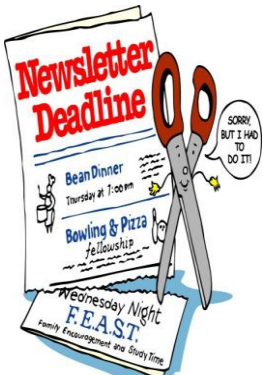
OCTOBER

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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