

November 2021

Life @ Hope

Hope Lutheran Church: a Community of Faith in the Heart of Fond du Lac

Security

“The land of opportunity.” That’s where they were bound. Times were tough. Money was short. Work was hard to come by. And so the four of them—husband, wife, and two sons—pulled up stakes and journeyed to a far country.

They came to stay. They did what they had to do to fit in. Difficult as it was, they learned the language. They mastered mystifying social customs. The family labored hard, and, in time, their new neighbors accepted them. The new land treated them well. In return, they became model citizens.

The two boys grew fast. Then, tragedy struck. The husband died suddenly, leaving his wife with two late-teenage sons and no savings. Times were hard, but the little family scraped by. Soon, the boys met and married local girls.

It was not long after the second son’s wedding that the unspeakable happened. First, one son died, then the other.

For their mother—whose name was Naomi—this news was devastating. It rocked her life to its very foundations. In the space of a short time, the woman had lost the three people she held most dear in all the world.

Naomi takes stock of her situation. She’s an Israelite woman living in Moab. She’s worked hard every day of her life. But in that place and time, neither she nor her daughters are permitted to inherit property.

But Naomi is a foreigner in a foreign land with no husband and no sons. The only family she has—her two daughters-in-law—are Moabites. They have their own families in the area. They will be taken care of.

As for Naomi, it’s hard to imagine a greater calamity. She’s too old to marry again. The best she can hope for is the charity of strangers—who may (if she’s lucky)

hire her as a household servant. Her life will be dawn-to-dusk labor.

For the first time in 10 years, Naomi’s thoughts turn to Israel’s old country—the snug house in Bethlehem, she and her husband Elimelech, left behind. “I wonder who’s living there now?” she asks herself. The famine is over, they say. Israel is prosperous again.

“Surely there are still some kinfolk in Israel who will take me in,” Naomi says to her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah. “I’ve made up my mind. I’m going home.”

“We will come with you,” they reply.

Naomi looks back at them in astonishment. “Stop this foolishness!” she snaps. “I can offer you no future. You know that. Your place is with your own families.”

But the two young women are persuasive. They love their mother-in-law very profoundly. They convince Naomi to allow them to come with her.

The three of them are not even out of Moab before Naomi has second thoughts. She stops in the middle of the road, turns to Ruth and Orpah, and *commands* them to go home to their own mothers. They are still marriageable, she tells them. “The Lord grant that you may find security, each in the house of your husband.”

“Orpah kissed her mother-in-law,” the Scriptures say—a respectful kiss, a kiss of blessing, a good-bye kiss. But Ruth “clung to her.”

The verb “to cling” is the very same word used in Genesis 2:24 to describe the relationship of Adam and Eve: “a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife.” Ruth holds fast to Naomi, who tries one more time to convince Ruth to go. But Naomi’s resolve is weakening. Ruth responds with some of the most famous lines in all literature:

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“Do not press me to leave you, or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!” (Ruth 1:17 NIV)

It’s nothing less than an oath of faithfulness, a truly extraordinary thing for a young Moabite widow to say to her widowed Israelite mother-in-law! Ruth has absolutely no reason to go with Naomi—to risk a journey of many days on foot, to a foreign land and a murky future. No reason, that is, but love.

It’s love that alters the equation, that redistributes the weights on the scales. It’s love that impels Ruth to turn aside from the only home she has ever known and continue down the dusty road with everything she owns bundled on her back.

Spoiler Alert: You can read ahead in the story of Ruth and discover a happy ending: how she and Naomi make it to Israel, how they find some distant relatives, and how Ruth marries one of them. But that’s not what I want to write about today! (“Really?” You say. “You used 820 words for an introduction?” Yep 😊)

I want to linger on Naomi’s blessings to her daughters-in-law, “The Lord grant that you may find security”

Security: The Blessing

Security. That’s what life’s all about, some will tell you. It’s the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, the IRA coming due, the lottery ticket with all six numbers matching the ping-pong balls. The world is a fierce and hostile place, many will tell you. The life task of each one of us is to somehow keep the chaos at bay, to gain some measure of this thing called “security,” to take care of our own and to “look out for number one.”

Security is a good thing—no doubt about it.

Security: The Curse

Can security also become an obsession? We’ve all heard tales of misers who scrimped, saved, and did without necessities, all to protect themselves from poverty, but who died leaving millions behind. We’ve all known people who’ve felt so personally *insecure* that they would do almost anything to earn affection from others.

There are times when security is still a good thing, but it can turn sour. Listen to these words from a great political leader of our country: *“The things that will destroy America are prosperity-at-any-price, compromise-at-any-price, self-first instead of duty-first, the love of soft living, and the get-rich-quick theory of life.”*

Do you know who said that?

Teddy Roosevelt, one of the most determined, full-speed-ahead promoters of this country—particularly its’ business—to occupy the White House. Roosevelt lived in an era when speaking of morality in politics had not yet gone out of fashion. He believed that financial prosperity—and the security it represented—should never become an end in itself. There were higher values, Roosevelt thought, than mere survival.

Sometimes nations and individuals need to live with a certain degree of risk if that’s what it takes to uphold the intrinsic value of security, freedom, and peace.

Spiritual Security

Ruth sets aside her craving for security and follows her mother-in-law, Naomi. She does so for one reason and one reason alone. She does it for love.

In taking those first steps down the winding, dusty road to Bethlehem, Ruth declares her decision to live on the razor edge of risk. In so doing, she trades her physical security for spiritual security. As she makes that fateful decision, she puts all her trust in God. As it turns out, the road she and Naomi travel will lead to Bethlehem in more ways than one.

“In more ways than one.” What does that mean? You have to turn to the first chapter of Matthew to find out. There, as you scan through the cascade of Hebrew names that is the genealogy of Jesus, you come to the words, “Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.” (Matthew 1:5-6).

This very same Ruth—the Moabite widow who impulsively left her homeland on a journey everyone (even Naomi) thought was crazy—becomes, by the sheer grace of God, ancestor not only to King David but also to Jesus himself. Ruth’s personal journey leads her to Bethlehem. But in a spiritual sense, her journey also leads to a particular Bethlehem night, centuries in

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Catechism/Faith Mentors

New school year, new Catechism class. It is great to have the students back in class on Sundays! One of the things that I wanted to talk about, is that I am happy to announce that we are continuing our Faith Mentoring with the students. We feel this is a very important part of the Catechism class as the students get the opportunity to connect with others in the church that have a strong commitment to their own faith. The students can connect with others in the church, and this helps them feel that they are a part of something bigger. Which they are! We started this last year as some of you may know, and it went very well for both the Faith Mentors and the students. We started again in October this year and it is off to another great start. I would like to thank last year's Faith Mentors for being Pioneers in helping to make this a success and thanks to this year's Faith Mentors for helping to continue the success.

On another note, the 8th grade Catechism class will be going on a Faith Retreat to Camp LuWiSoMo the weekend of November 5-7. This is also something new that was started last year. The 8th graders go for the weekend to grow in their faith and

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the future. A star hangs high in the sky. Shepherds stand astonished at angel-song. A specific descendant of Ruth named Joseph smiles at his wife, Mary, holding their newborn baby in her arms.

Security: Now and in the Future

Ruth had no idea how her decision would turn out. Nor did Naomi, for that matter. But they trusted God. Ultimately that is what the baseline always is in our life.

Here is my closing thought. When San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge was built in the 1930s, there was

fellowship. It is an opportunity for the students to get to know one another better and, they get the opportunity to get to know myself and Alex. The students will also provide the camp with some sweat equity in helping the camp get ready for the winter season. This is an opportunity for them to complete their required service hours for the year. I am looking forward to another year with the students and to see all the growth in them.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to talk about the missionaries that we are supporting this year. Pastor Fung and Pastor Bombaro continue to send us monthly newsletters to keep us updated. Copies of their newsletters are available in the entryway of the Fellowship Hall. I encourage you to take the time to pick them up and read about all the great things these men and their families are doing in their work. If you find it in your heart to support them financially, there are envelopes in the hallway of the church basement that are designated for this. So far, we have raised over \$13,000 of our \$15,000 goal. Thank you to all who have donated to this great cause.

Until next month,
Deacon, Bob Mengert



no safety net under the construction site. 23 workers fell to their death. Eventually, a vast net was deployed under the area for \$100,000. A good chunk of change in 1937. 10 men were saved through the net. You know what, though? Construction speed increased by over 25%.

God has a net. Let's make the most of today!

Your pastor
Phillip M. Enderle





Music Ministry

Christmas Concert

Hope Lutheran Church, 260 Vincent Street, Fond du Lac, invites the public to its 62nd Annual Christmas Concerts: **Sunday, December 5**. Two performances: 10:40 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Groups featured include choirs, handbells, worship teams and brass. Refreshments will follow the 4:00 p.m. concert. No admission charge; free-will offering will be taken. Call Ken Hill at 920-922-5130 for more information.

Trumpet en Chamade Project

The Board of Music is continuing to raise funds for the trumpet en chamade addition to the organ. At this point we have raised over \$41,000 for this project, the final cost of which will be approximately \$50,000. Thanks to the support of faithful members of Hope Lutheran Church, we are now well on our way to reaching this goal. This addition will be installed this fall in coordination with the sanctuary renovation.

Heritage of Lutheran Music

Heritage of Lutheran Music embracing and cherishing the highest quality of music of the Church that has come down to us through the ages; The hymns and liturgy we use in our worship services comes from 3,000 years of God's people praising Him through the gift of music.

In the world of music, the years of 1750 to 1900 are designated as the Classical-Romantic era. During this time the new republic of the United States of America was being established and growing as it pushed its boundaries westward across the continent of North America. Immigrants from Germany and the Scandinavian countries were establishing Lutheranism in the United States. Classical composers of this era were writing music not only for the concert hall, but also sacred music: masses, oratorios, choral music, organ music.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wolfgang Mozart 1756 - 1791 Austrian | Felix Mendelssohn 1809 – 1847 German | Johannes Brahms 1833-1897 German | Catherine Winkworth 1827 - 1878 English |
| masses, <i>Ave Verum Corpus</i> | organ preludes oratorio: <i>Elijah</i> | organ preludes <i>German Requiem</i> | hymn writer translated many hymns from German to English |



Ken Hill , Minister of Music
922-5130 church; 922-4577 home
539-3977 cell; khill@lifeathope.org

This project can be supported through gifts to the music ministry (specify *trumpet en chamade* or *organ addition* on memo line of checks), through memorials, or by buying SCRIP.

SCRIP Gift Cards

The Board of Music is selling SCRIP gift cards for your favorite stores. We have cards for Kwik-Trip, Pick N Save, Piggly-Wiggly, Festival, Culvers and many others. SCRIP is a great fundraiser, because it costs the purchaser nothing extra, but promotes important music projects here at Hope!

Three ways to buy SCRIP:

- Sold in the hallway between services on Sundays.
- If nobody is selling at the SCRIP table, you can still fill out an order form and leave it and a check in an envelope at the table. We'll get your order to you within two weeks.
- Go to Hope's website (lifeathope.org), print off and fill out form; leave form and check at table in hallway or mail to Ken Hill, c/o Hope Lutheran Church, 260 Vincent St., Fond du Lac, WI 54935

HOPE LUTHERAN KIDS

"Bringing faith to life in our homes is a great privilege. I'm encouraged that we don't have to have a perfect life to pass down a faith-filled life. God has got this.

Our role is to simply teach our children what we already know and to continue learning and sharing more day by day as we grow. You can make a difference even if you're only one second ahead of your children in your own journey to know Jesus Christ better." – Courtney DeFeo | Parent Cue

Children's Ministry Update

What are Sunday Schoolers learning in November?

Sunday, November 7: God can help you be content (Philippians 4:11b-13)

Sunday, November 14: Wanting more and more can make you miserable (1 Kings 21:1-19, 27)

Sunday, November 21: Don't miss out on what you have now (Exodus 16:2-21; 17:1-7)

Sunday School Offerings

All Sunday School offerings collected during the months of November and December will be donated to Operation Christmas Child. Their mission is "to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ." Thank you for your donations!

Mealtime Prayer

Praying as a family at mealtimes is a great way to teach your child how important prayer is in our daily lives. Here is a simple prayer idea sung to the tune of "Johnny Appleseed":

Oh, the Lord's been good to me.

And so I thank the Lord,

For giving me the things I need.

The sun and the rain and the apple seed.

The Lord's been good to me. Amen.

Dates to Remember

- November 7 Grades 2-5 sing at 10:40 a.m. worship service
- November 14 4 year olds-Grade 1 sing at 10:40 a.m. worship service
- November 21 Blue Moose Caboose
- November 28 No Class: Happy Thanksgiving!

Ashley Carus
Sunday School Facilitator
acarus@lifeathope.org



Student Ministry Update

What are middle and high school students learning about in November?

Sunday, November 7

C1: Lord's Prayer 1st & 2nd Petitions

C2: The 7th Commandment

C3: (Catechism Retreat)

HS Ministry: God uses serving to grow our faith (Matthew 14:13-24, 26-29)

Sunday, November 14

C1: Lord's Prayer 3rd & 4th Petitions

C2: The 8th Commandment

C3: Apostles Creed 3rd Article

HS Ministry: God can use tough times to grow our faith (John 11:1-45)

Sunday, November 21

C1: Lord's Prayer 5th & 6th Petitions

C2: The 9th & 10th Commandments

C3: (Joining HS Ministry)

HS Ministry: God can use your daily habits to grow your faith (Mark 9:16-24)

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Dates to Remember

- November 7 Catechism Retreat
- November 14 LCMS Youth Gathering Informational Meeting
- November 21 Student Night: Operation Christmas Child service project!
- November 28 No Class: Happy Thanksgiving!

Instagram

Students and parents are invited to follow our @hopexp3students Instagram page! We'll post encouraging pictures, event promos, and pictures of students and friends in action during Catechism, Student Nights, and other events.



Alex Cargin
Director of Youth & Education
acargin@lifeathope.org

Hope Happenings

3rd grader receiving Bible at Education Sunday



Sunday Schoolers at "252 Kids" Sunday School



Recognizing Teachers at Education Sunday

Student and LCC K-9 Comfort Dog



HOPE

PRESCHOOL and 4K



PRESCHOOL



4-YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN



NATURE CLASSROOM

Pumpkins/Gourds/Hay Bales/Corn Stalks Needed

Hope's Nature Center is looking for pumpkins, gourds, hay bales and corn stalks. Donations can be placed outside the fence at the entrance to the Nature Center. If you would like to give a monetary donation to purchase these items, please drop off at the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Carus.



4K morning class learning about fire safety!



4K afternoon class enjoying the nature classroom!

Deacon/Preschool Director, Bob Mengert

Renovation Highlight

The Narthex

Welcome Center

One notable addition will be the Welcome Center when you walk into the new narthex after the renovation. This area is designed for visitors as well as members. It is the plan to have a member staff it at every service. Information about Hope Church will be available here, and sign-ups for church functions, activities, and organizations.

More Seating

The narthex renovation will also provide for more seating in the café area and all around it.

The Sanctuary

Baptismal Font

The Baptismal font will have a permanent home in the altar area. As a Sacramental church, how essential to display the visible means by which the Holy Spirit acts.

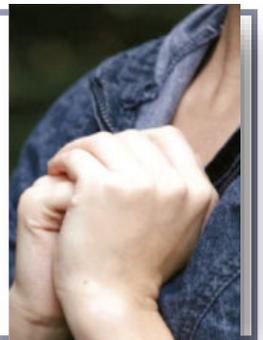
The Altar

The Altar will be freestanding, which is not flush with the wall behind it. A freestanding altar allows the pastor to stand behind the Altar and face the congregation leading up to the celebration of Holy Communion. The pastor will still face the Altar during the prayers and responses with the assembly where the pastor and congregation speak to God.

Gifts or pledges in memory or in honor of someone can still be made. Please see the information table in the hallway for a brochure on making a special gift or check out the website at: www.lifeathope.org/renovation-project.

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet Hour of Prayer will meet on Mondays, November 8 and 22 at 11:00 a.m. in the Office Conference Room. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Come join us!



Women On Their Own

“Women on Their Own” will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 18 at Faro’s. We are pleased with attendance and the opportunity new Hope members have to chat with other ladies. All “women on their own” are invited to join us. For reservations call Sylvia at 921-2237; text 920-979-8465 or Email syl63@charter.net.



Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild will meet on Thursday, November 11, at 10:00 a.m. in H102. An LWML Bible Study and Devotion will be followed by fellowship and a business meeting. Guests are welcome.



Women of Hope, mark your calendars for an evening to renew and refresh before the Christmas rush begins!

Please join us on Wednesday, December 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m. for “Simple Reflections—a reflective evening by candlelight on God’s promise fulfilled” for a special evening designed especially for women of Hope, their families and friends. The event will be held at Hope Lutheran Church.

Under the hue of candlelight, the evening’s theme of “The Christmas Star” is a specially prepared program of music, scripture and prayer that will inspire guests as they enjoy the evening sky on the night of the Christ-child’s birth.

Guests are welcome.

To RSVP or for questions contact: Tana George Laudolff (920) 375-0367 tglaudolff@gmail.com.

There is no charge for this event. Sponsored by the Board of Outreach.



Chili Supper 2021

The Men’s Club will host a Chili Supper on Tuesday, November 16, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Like last year, only drive-thru, cold take-out orders will be available. Tickets for the chili will be sold only in advance by club members or after church services in November. There will be no sales at the drive-thru. The deadline to purchase advanced tickets is Thursday, November 11. Tickets for the carry-outs, which include crackers, cheese and dessert, are \$10.00 for a quart and \$5.00 for a pint.



November 2021 - Calendar of Events

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 1 10:00 Women's BC 6:00 Adult Bells  | 2 10:00 Adult BC 11:00 Exercise 6:30 Brd Trustees | 3 6:30 Adult Choir | 4 11:00 Exercise | 5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Year 3 Catechism Retreat Camp LuWiSoMo November 5-7 </div> | 6 5:30 Traditional Service w/HC |
| 7 8:00 Traditional Service w/HC 9:10 Catechism 9:10 HS Ministry 9:10 Sunday School 9:15 Adult BC 10:40 Blended Service w/HC | 8 10:00 Women's BC 11:00 Sweet Hour of Prayer 6:00 Adult Bells | 9 9:00 Circuit Pastors 11:00 Exercise 5:30 Brd Elders 6:00 Brd Finance 7:00 Church Council | 10 6:30 Adult Choir | 11 10:00 Ladies Guild | 12 | 13 Yth Pizza Making (Fellowship Hall) 5:30 Traditional Service (in H-102 because of youth event) |
| 14 8:00 Traditional Service 9:10 Catechism 9:10 HS Ministry 9:10 Sunday School 9:15 Adult BC 9:45 LCMS Youth Gathering Meeting 10:40 Blended Service | 15 10:00 Women's BC 6:00 Adult Bells | 16 10:00 Adult BC 11:00 Exercise 4:00-7:00 Drive-Thru Chili Supper 6:00 Brd Youth | 17 6:30 Adult Choir | 18 11:00 Exercise 11:30 Women On Their Own-Faros | 19 | 20 5:30 Traditional Service w/HC |
| 21 8:00 Traditional Service w/HC 9:10 Catechism 9:10 HS Ministry 9:10 Sunday School 9:15 Adult BC 10:40 Blended Service w/HC 4:00 Student Night | 22 10:00 Women's BC 11:00 Sweet Hour of Prayer 6:00 Adult Bells | 23 10:00 Adult BC 11:00 Exercise 6:30 Brd Education | 24 6:30 Thanksgiving Eve Services w/HC | 25 Church Office Closed  | 26 | 27 5:30 Traditional Service |
| 28 8:00 Traditional Service 9:15 Adult BC 10:40 Blended Service | 29 10:00 Women's BC 6:00 Adult Bells | 30 10:00 Adult BC 11:00 Exercise | | | | |

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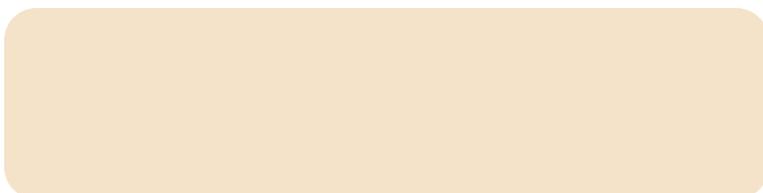
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Ken Hill, Minister of Music
Alex Cargin, Director of Youth and Education
Bob Mengert, Deacon/Preschool Director
Rick Mackie, Director of Social Media and
Communications
Marci Scharf, Office Manager
Ashley Carus, 4K Teacher/Sunday School
Facilitator
Tammie Hanks, 4K Assistant
Stephanie Neff, Preschool Teacher
Dan Joseph, Maintenance
Nadine Arndt, Custodial
Linda Lefeber, Custodial
Dan Joseph, Church Council President
Dan Schneider, Church Council Vice President
Jill Harmsen, Church Council Secretary



Traditional Services

- Saturday 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Blended Service

- Sunday 10:40 a.m.