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We are a community empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to bring God's comfort,
to work for God's justice, and to share the hope and love of Jesus with all.

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

**ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICES**

~ see pg. 7

**LENTEN SOUP
SUPPER SCHEDULE**

~ see pg. 8

**PASTOR'S 30TH
ORDINATION
CELEBRATION**

~ see pg. 9

Our Core Values



faith
acceptance
compassion
gratitude
love

**HOLY WEEK
SERVICES**

~ see pg. 11



This month begins our forty-day Lenten journey through the wilderness, starting with Ash Wednesday. Each lectionary year (A, B, or C) during Lent, the readings are taken from one of the four gospels, as you might expect. But more specifically in year A & B, the gospel readings come predominately from the gospel of John. However, this year (year C), four of the five Lenten gospel readings are from the gospel of Luke. So why is this important?

“The unique Lukan pericopes [lessons] in year C can be seen as celebrating the persistence of God’s mercy despite stubborn obstacles: in the face of threats from Herod and the religious authorities (Lent 2); surrounded by the disorienting rubble of catastrophes (Lent 3); and in the wake of estrangement, sin, jealousy (Lent 4). In the fifth week of Lent, Jesus himself receives the gift of anointing through the persistence of Mary of Bethany, who perseveres in her gift-giving despite Judas’s attempt to shame her.” (Sundays and Seasons, pg. 107)

In Luke’s gospel in particular, Mercy becomes the greatest gift one can both give and receive during this Lenten season. But what do we mean by mercy? According to the Oxford dictionary, “mercy is the compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one’s power to punish or harm.”

In both the Old and New Testaments, God over and over again shows mercy. Mercy to those who are in trouble and in need of God’s intervention. God shows mercy to those who are being oppressed unjustly. In God’s mercy, God withholds punishment to those who because of their sin, rightly deserve it—instead offers forgiveness and healing.

During our Lenten journey we are invited to reflect on how we can be merciful to others in our lives and those whom we encounter. Our God is a God of mercy. He sent his son, Jesus, to be a conduit of that mercy in the flesh. As disciples of Christ, we are called to follow Christ Jesus in being a people of mercy.

During this Lenten season Luke invites us to look at the obstacles, both personal and societal, that get in the way of our being merciful. Our Lenten journey provides us with the opportunity to first see and then move beyond such obstacles.

May this season of Lent fill you with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and in your ability to both give and receive the gift of mercy.

Pastor Pamela



With the snow still on the ground, it's time to start thinking about summer vacation and nice warm weather. Bob and I made our reservations for the Lutheran Summer Gathering at Silver Bay on beautiful Lake George, NY. We recommend it highly as a time for rest, recuperation, and relaxation. For more information, go to <https://www.lutherans-silverbay.org/>. Scroll down to see a man talking about the Lutheran Gathering at Silver Bay. He does a much better job than I could, and the background pictures will give you a good idea of the beauty of Silver Bay. After watching the video, you'll want to reserve immediately! We hope you'll join us there. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me.

Chris Nash



7th Sunday after Epiphany

**The measure you use**

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Luke 6:37-38

I was given three Scripture passages to use this week: Psalm 37:1-11, Luke 6:27-38, and Genesis 45:3-11. I chose Luke as my lead-off Scripture because of the line, *The measure you use*. This phrase sums up the main messages in all of these passages. Psalm 37 speaks of the need to trust God and not bother ourselves with the actions of bad people. Our patience and God's faithfulness work hand in hand towards an end result of righteousness. Genesis 45 tells the age-old story of Joseph's forgiveness of the brothers who sold him into slavery. Joseph gives God the glory for turning the brother's harmful action into good during a great famine. And Luke 6 reveals Jesus' teaching of "The Golden Rule:" *Do to others as you would have them do to you*. But more than this, we are not just to treat friends & family with love and respect; we must also love our enemies and do good to them.

These are difficult passages to share with young people who have been victimized by adults with evil intentions. Their raw emotions and intense anger at what happened to them leaves little room for even the *thought* of forgiveness! And for those teens and preteens who have been blessed *not* to have been mistreated, why should they be on the lookout for predators when none appear to exist? I have spoken to and with both these kinds of teens, and my message is always the same: "As a survivor of sexual assault at gunpoint myself, I *get* it. I *get* YOU!" I also was angry and swore to never forgive, never let my guard down for one second.

But then I found God and asked Jesus into my life as my personal Savior. The transformation wasn't instantaneous; I didn't even know how God would provide me grace, gently, gently, like silky clouds enveloping my raw emotions and soothing my frazzled soul. I dreamed a white dove landed on my head, before I knew the dove was a symbol of God's peace. A group of church women went through adult confirmation with me, though they had all done it before as teens. Soon, I found myself saying—and believing—that I had forgiven the man who assaulted me! Oh, I still didn't like what he *did* to me, and I still experience trauma just as real as that horrid day. But the measure God will use to measure *me* must look *something* like the measure I use to measure others. My life was spared; many women *don't* come home. I have lived a full life, with two husbands, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. How can I stay stuck at my point of pain and trauma? Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." Dr. King's idea matches the concepts in this week's Scripture passages: through trust in God and in the possibility of restoration, we survivors can find a path to healing.

Jesus, show us the measure you would have us use in our assessment of ourselves and others. Amen.

Written by Meg Corrigan, Christian author, speaker and survivor. Discover Meg's books, blog, and more at www.MegCorrigan.com.

Cherish All Children is a ministry within Lutheran Social Service MN that partners with churches to prevent child sexual exploitation.

Your donations make this ministry possible!

[Give today!](#)

Thank you for making a difference in protecting children.

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial?

[Click here!](#)

Designate your Choice Dollars to Cherish All Children - it really adds up!

"Love born of faith in Jesus Christ calls us all to attend to, discuss, resist, and reject the system of sexual exploitation."
(ELCA Message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation, pg. 1)



MARCH PRAYER CALENDAR

March 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 Nancy Clarkson	2 Ja'net Malstrom
3 Daniel Hoh	4 Joshua Hoh	5 Monica Hoh	6 Dickie Dodson	7 Mary Schmidt	8 Matt Schmitt	9 Lucas Schmitt
10 Lisa Rogers	11 Jim Freehart	12 Jake Freehart	13 Cyndy Rogers	14 Charlie Huff	15 Zina Huff	16 Lynda Seiling
17 Kathy Zorian	18 Edith Easterling	19 Iola Pratt	20 Karen Hill	21 Sue Anthony	22 David Armento	23 Pastor Pamela Hoh
24 Pastor Jo Page	25 Athena Batsios	26 Tom Batsios	27 Luis Clemente	28 Susan Clemente	29 Daniel Clemente	30 Nancy Davis
31 Anita Renault-Ford						



EACH MONTH WE LIST NAMES FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS FOR OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY. OUR PRAYERS SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. (A REMINDER...THESE ARE NOT PRAYERS FOR HEALING.)

March Birthdays

We wish you a very Happy and Blessed Birthday ...

Tonya Humphrey ~ March 6th





**Join Us for Service
In-Person or Online on:
Wednesday, March 5th
at 12 PM or 7 PM
in Reflection of**



470 Winter Street Ext. in Troy or www.HOPELC.ORG



Our church family will have the opportunity to gather on Wednesday evenings during Lent to share a simple soup and bread supper as we walk with Jesus on his journey to the cross.

Supper will begin at 6:30 PM with devotions/worship at approximately 7:00 PM.

If you are able to provide soup and/or bread for the suppers, it would be most appreciated. Marion will need 3 people each week to make their favorite soup and 2 people each week to bring bread to share. Please email Marion Daus at mjd12198@gmail.com to sign up for soup/bread and let her know which date and what kind of soup you will do, or use the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Soup should arrive hot at about 6 PM so we can sit down promptly at 6:30 PM.

Hoping lots of our folks will come out for this time of fellowship and faith.
Thanks so much!

Here's the scheduled dates for the Lenten Soup Suppers:

Wednesday	March 12 th	6:30 – SOUP SUPPER #1
Wednesday	March 19 th	6:30 – SOUP SUPPER #2
Wednesday	March 26 th	6:30 – SOUP SUPPER #3
Wednesday	April 2 nd	6:30 – SOUP SUPPER #4
Wednesday	April 9 th	6:30 – SOUP SUPPER #5

Pastor Pamela's 30th Ordination Celebration



Sunday, March 23rd following Worship Service

Pastor Jo Page will preside at the Worship Service

**There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the
Narthex for food and desserts.**

**Donations in honor of Pastor Pamela's
ordination anniversary may be made to the
Alzheimer's Association in memory of her parents,
James W. and Georgia O. Tucker.**

**(Checks can be made out to Hope Lutheran Church, and we will
mail one check with all donations to the Alzheimer's Assoc.)**

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Hope Lutheran Church
470 Winter Street Ext., Troy, NY 12180
Sanctuary

Saturday, March 29, 2025
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To schedule your appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS, visit
www.redcrossblood.org, or, download the free Blood Donor App.

Use sponsor keyword: **hopelutheran**



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

**Give in March for a \$10 Gift Card by email & successful
donations get A1C testing. rcblood.org/March**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Holy Week Schedule



All Services will be In-Person & Online

April 13th ~



Service at 10 AM

April 17th ~



Dinner at 6 PM
Service at 6:30 PM

April 18th ~



Service at 7 PM

April 20st ~



Service at 10 AM



GATHERING OF HOPE NEWS - *Cinco de Mayo on May 3rd.*

February Gathering of Hope was a great success with a plethora of shared talent and laughter. A special thanks to **Greg Whitney** for organizing and emceeing the event.

With Lent around the corner offering Wednesday soup and learning events, it was decided by the Gathering of Hope Team to support the Lenten events rather than schedule Saturday events in March and April. Therefore, we will gather for a **Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 3rd** (that's the first Saturday). Plans are for an evening of fellowship and food. Check your favorite cookbooks for Mexican food recipes to share. A sign-up sheet with suggested food offerings will be available after Easter Sunday. If you have ideas for summer events, speak with Marion Daus or Pr. Elaine Berg.

A bit of Cinco de Mayo History: The first American Cinco de Mayo celebrations date back to the 1860s, when Mexicans living in California commemorated the victory over France in Puebla. At that time, the United States was embroiled in a Civil War. News of the underdog Mexican army beating back Napoleon III's forces gave new strength to California's Latinos, who sought to stop the advances of the Confederate army.

About a century later, Chicano activists rediscovered the holiday and embraced it as a symbol of ethnic pride. But the party-filled Cinco de Mayo that Americans celebrate today didn't become popular until U.S. beer companies began targeting the Spanish-speaking population in the 1970s and 1980s.



Worship Volunteer Duties for March 2025

Please find your own replacement if you cannot be available on date of assignment.

	2-Mar	5-Mar	5-Mar	9-Mar	16-Mar	23-Mar	30-Mar
	Worship 10:00am	Ash Weds. 12:00 noon	Ash Weds. 7:00pm	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Susan R	XXX	XXX	Bonny M	Charlie H	Donna S	Marilyn D
Greeter	Diane C	XXX	XXX	Ja'net M	Anna-Lisa H	Marlies P	Nora G
Usher	Cindy W	XXX	XXX	Lois B	Marion D	Maureen H	Bonny M
Assisting Minister	Luis C	Chris N	Pam D	Cindy W	Mike D	Sandra G	Bonny M
Comm. Assistant	Luis C	XXX	XXX	Pam D	Mike D	Chris N (+ candles)	Donna S
Snack Set-Up	Susan C	XXX	XXX	Marilyn D	Charlie H	Susan C	Marilyn D
Offering Counters	Pam D & Cindy W	XXX	XXX	Pam D & Diane C	Anna-Lisa H & Marion D	Maureen H & Charlie H	Bonny M & Nancy C



News & Upcoming Events for March of 2025

We have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM.

We also live-stream our services on our website, Facebook and YouTube.

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all

- 1st: Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at RFB.**
- 2nd: Prayers of Hope Team meets in the small classroom following Worship Service.**
- 4th: Beginner Tai Chi, 7 – 8 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Tuesday).**
- 5th: Ash Wednesday Service @ Noon in the sanctuary & online.**
- 5th: Qigong, 1:30 – 2:30 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Wednesday).**
- 5th: Advanced Tai Chi, 3 – 4 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Wednesday).**
- 5th: Ash Wednesday Service @ 7 PM in the sanctuary & online.**
- 6th: Choir Rehearsal @ 6:15 PM in the small classroom, (every Thursday).**
- 11th: Women's Book Club @ 6:30 PM at Marilyn Dyer's home.**
- 17th: St. Patrick's Day.**
- 18th: Hope's Hands meets @ 10 AM in the small classroom.**
- 18th: Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM, in the large classroom & via Zoom.**
- 20th: Grief Support Group @ 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.**
- 21st: Hope's Dine-Out Group @ 6 PM; TBD.**
- 23rd: Pastor Pamela's 30th Ordination Celebration following Worship Service.**
- 29th: Red Cross Blood Drive, 8 AM – 12 PM, in the sanctuary; Register Online at:**
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=hopelutheran>

