

FEBRUARY
2023

THE VISITOR

A monthly newsletter from New Hope Lutheran with sites in Blanchardville & Hollandale

Our Mission: "Serving God by sharing, teaching and connecting people to God with Jesus in our hearts."

Engaging Generosity

We are created to care for God's creation. We are created to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are created to care for our families and those in need. We are created to glorify God, to seek justice, and to do mercy. To be a Christian is to follow Jesus Christ and to seek to do his will in our lives. It is to say, "Here I am, all of me! I'm yours. Put me to work, help me to serve, use me to accomplish your work."

Now if this is our life purpose, then our money and possessions should be devoted to helping us fulfill this calling. We are to use our resources to help care for our families and others, to serve Christ and the world through the church, missions, and everyday opportunities. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Barbara Glanz is a motivational speaker who conducts workshops for large companies. One day she was speaking at an event for employees of a grocery store chain. She talked to them about how they saw their life purpose. She told them that every person they met was an opportunity to bless someone, to live out a higher calling or mission. The employees were inspired by her words, including one 19 yr. old bagger named Johnny.

Johnny, who has a learning disability, took her word to heart. He went home and tried to think of ways he could be blessing to others. Finally, he came up with a plan. Each night he would search the Internet for a positive saying that would encourage people. Then he would print out 300 copies and carefully cut the saying into individual strips. The next day, he would put one of the sayings in the grocery bag of each of his customers while saying, "I put a saying in your bag. I hope it helps you have a good day. Thanks for coming here."

A month later, the manager noticed that Johnny's line was much longer than the others. Even when he announced no waiting in other lines, no one left. People wanted Johnny to be their bag boy. **He touched them and filled them with hope.** He was pursuing a mission that was bigger than his personal satisfaction.

What about us? Are we pursuing a mission that is bigger than our personal satisfaction? Can we speak about this mission and its relationship to our faith? Does the allocation of our time and money reflect this mission? Answering these questions should cause us to reflect on the true role of money and possessions in our lives. Is money, or the things that money can buy, really an appropriate goal or focus for our lives? Is money an end in itself, or is it a means to another end? **Money should never be an end in itself. Rather, it should be a means for accomplishing an end, specifically, for accomplishing our life purpose.**

Each of us is called to be a blessing to others. We have a life purpose that is greater than our own self interests, and how we spend our God-given resources reflects our understanding and commitment to this life purpose or mission.

Blessing to you from your Engaging generosity team.

Semi-Annual Meeting Scheduled

Sunday, February 5th, 2023

The Semi-Annual Meeting will be held immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Worship which will be held at our Hollandale Site. Sunday School will sing this day!

Our Council members will be installed during our Worship service.

Pastor's COLUMN

“Now concerning the spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but it is the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-7

Hello Everyone,

I often think of the Spiritual Gifts that are given to us in regards to the ministry of New Hope. We all have our gifts. We all know or have an idea of what our strength is. Some of us are leaders and these are the ones who step forward to be on council or to lead the various events we have going on here at New Hope. Some of us have the gift of help and these are the ones who volunteer to do the work that is involved in our events becoming successful. Some of us are teachers and these step forward to help teach Sunday School, Confirmation, or adult learning. Some of us have the gift of money and these step forward to help fund the ministries of New Hope and to help lead others in the gift of giving. I could go on with other examples but the simple truth is that God has given all of us gifts to aid us in whatever way God is calling us to serve.

Not everyone is given the same gift because that would be redundant and cause the ministry of New Hope to fail. Everyone is given different gifts so that all can contribute in one way or another to the building up and success of New Hope. Your gift is wanted. Your gift is needed. As of this writing we are still looking for someone to step forward with the gift of leadership to be President of the council. We are always looking for people to help out at the various events and fundraisers the kids are doing. We are always looking for stewards of our faith to help with the education of our youth.

The gift of the Spirit is given not for us to hide away but for us to use and as we use it we will see that gift multiply in ways we cannot imagine. God is calling you to service, what gift have you been given to aid you in that call?
God's peace be with you, Pastor Chris

New Hope Lutheran,

Thank you!! Thank you for the Christmas bonus that you gave to me. Thank you for the many gifts given to me personally. They are all appreciated. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Your words, your prayers, the many ways in which you support me and New Hope throughout the year does not go unnoticed. It is what makes this such a great church and an even better community. You are a blessing to me and my family.

Thank you,
Pastor Chris



Ash Wednesday

40 days OF LENT

Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023.

There will be two services on this day, both with Communion & Imposition of Ashes.

- 12 noon @ Hollandale Site - 7 PM at Blanchardville Site

Lenten Worship Plans: Theme: "Amazing Grace"

The story of how "Amazing Grace" came to be is a fascinating and surprising account.

Beginning March 1st, Wednesdays during Lent we will gather together at 12:00 noon in Hollandale with a bible study. Bring your own lunch! In the evenings, we will meet together for a meal from 5:30 pm –6:30 p.m. at our Blanchardville Site, with Worship at 7pm

Meals will be served by the following groups: Board of Education, Trustees, Deacons, Executive Committee & the Women of New Hope Lutheran.



"Amazing Grace" is a Christian hymn penned by the English poet and Anglican clergyman John Newton to accompany a sermon he preached on New Year's Day, 1773. Over the last 250 years, it has become an immensely popular hymn, particularly in the United States where it is used for both religious and secular purposes. The text for the hymn is drawn from 1 Chronicles 17:16-17, in which King David responds to the prophet Nathan's words that God intends to continue David's royal line for eternity. The text reads: *Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And even this was a small thing in your sight, O God; you have also spoken of your servant's house into the distant future. You regard me as someone of high rank, O LORD God!*

Newton wrote the words of "Amazing Grace" from his own personal experience. He was once a man far from faith who was brought near to God by a harrowing event in his life. In 1748, while Newton served as a sea captain of a ship in the Atlantic slave trade, a violent storm off the coast of Ireland struck his vessel so severely that he called out to God for mercy. This moment marked Newton's turn toward God, what he called "the hour I first believed." Eventually leaving sailing behind, Newton then began studying Christian theology and was ordained in the Church of England in 1764. He served as a minister in Olney, England, where he began writing hymns.

"Amazing Grace" was published in *Olney Hymns* in 1779 but was rarely sung in England. It was in the United States where the song would become widely known during the early 1800s. While the hymn was associated with more than 20 melodies over the years, in 1835, American composer William Walker set it to the tune known as "New Britain," and the melody stuck. Today "Amazing Grace" remains one of the most recognizable songs in the English-speaking world.

SHROVE TUESDAY SPAGHETTI DINNER

Tuesday, February 21st

New Hope Lutheran– Blanchardville Site
4:30 PM - 7:00 PM (or until gone!)

DINE IN OR CARRY OUT

For delivery, please contact the office at 608-523-4239
or newhopeoffice@tds.net by Monday, Feb 20th.

FREE WILL OFFERING!

Meal includes: Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, corn, drink and dessert

Hosted by New Hope Lutheran Youth group.
Proceeds from this event will benefit the Youth.

February Worship- 8:30 Blanchardville & 10:30 Hollandale

*ONE SERVICE on Sun.Feb.5th at 10:00 a.m. at our Hollandale Site



If you'd like to help in Worship, please contact the office and Tiffany can put you in touch with one of the deacons who assist in planning/scheduling Worship assistants throughout the year!

Join Us for
WORSHIP

Worship Assistants

**-Feb.5th, 2023 *One service—10:00 a.m. at Hollandale Site
Installation of newly elected council members, Followed by our semi-annual meeting.**

Acolytes: (H) Alex Domine
Greeters/Ushers: (H) Jean Christen
Reader: (H) David Whitford
Communion: (H) David & Cindy Whitford

-Feb. 12, 2023

Readers: (B) Chelsea Burkeland (H) Lisa Toay
Greeters/Ushers: (B) Jerry & Becky Kesler (H) Jay Massey
Communion: (B) Ellen Syse (H) Rhonda Kirch

-Feb. 19th, 2023:

Readers: (B) Ellen Syse (H) Tucker Bethke
Acolytes: (B) (H) Tucker Bethke
Greeters/Ushers: (B) Jerry & Becky Kesler (H) Andy Whitford-Holey
Communion: (B) Ellen Syse (H) Gary & Andy Whitford-Holey

-Feb. 26th, 2023:

Readers: (B) Becky Johnson (H) Kaye Gilbertson
Acolytes: (B) (H)
Greeters/Ushers: (B) Jerry & Becky Kesler (H) Robin Gilbertson
Communion: (B) Ellen Syse (H) Kaye Gilbertson

Musicians: Bev Lien, Becky Johnson, & Marlys Hittesdorf

**February
Altar Committee:**

Blanchardville Site:
Becky Kesler

Hollandale Site:
Wayne & Jean Christen

Thank you to all who help with Worship, stop in to check on the churches from time to time, or just help in any way. It is greatly appreciated!

REVENUE/EXPENSES

December Revenue \$29,325.73
December Expense \$16,256.51
December Revenue over Expense \$13,069.22

YTD Revenue \$210,421.16
YTD Expense \$184,599.60
YTD Revenue over Expense \$25,821.56

YTD Restricted Contributions \$31,914.13

December Attendance

Sunday	12/4/22	47
Sunday	12/11/22	49
Sunday	12/18/22	98
Sunday	12/24/22	96
TOTAL:		290
AVERAGE		72

Youth News

First Communion class completed! On Saturday, January 7th, Frederick Barnes & Kennedy Morris completed their First Communion class & were recognized at Worship the next day. They assisted in making the communion bread for the worship services and decorated their very own chalice . Congratulations on this spiritual milestone!



Confirmation News

Confirmation class resumes again on Wed. 2/1 from 2:30 pm –3:30 pm at the Blanchardville Site. During this semester of class, we will be discussing the questions we have about Lutheran faith or religion in general. We will also discuss some of the key elements of our faith during Lent as we enter into a study of Luther's Small Catechism.

Quake: We have EIGHT of our youth going to Quake this year. Quake is an event where the kids come together for a weekend of worship, music, learning time, service activity, and fun with hundreds of other kids from around Wisconsin. This event takes place in the Wisconsin Dells on February 10-12. Please be praying for those in attendance. We do look forward to coming back and sharing our experience with you at some point on a Sunday morning.

On Feb.21st, we'll be serving a spaghetti dinner as a fundraiser to help with the expense of going to Youth Quake, Mission Trips, and other outings. Ash Wednesday is on Feb 22nd and the students are asked to attend the 7 pm service in Blanchardville. In March, we'll meet more regularly thru the season of Lent; meeting each Wednesday evening from 5:30 –6:30 pm having dinner together before participating in the Worship Service which starts at 7 pm.

As always, never hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need transportation! We do appreciate all your help thru this busy season. God Bless!

Thank you from the Friends of McKellar Park Inc

With your generosity, we're swimming a little closer to our \$1.8 million goal to build a new pool in Blanchardville.

We sincerely appreciate all you've done to support our efforts.

With deepest gratitude,
Friends of McKellar Park Inc.
PO BOX 277
Blanchardville, WI 53516

Thank you
to the New Hope Lutheran Women!
Thank you for your generous donation to the Friendship Fund of Lafayette County. Thank you for helping us help others.
- Chris Virtue, Friendship Fund Director

Dear New Hope Lutheran members:

Last year, you (along with other community members) began a fundraising campaign to provide every student at the elementary school with a book purchased from the book fair. The campaign was wildly successful - beyond anything we could have imagined. You were able to purchase a book for every student as well as supply the birthday book bin with a wide selection for students to choose from on their birthdays.

In fact, the funds were so great that after both those actions were fulfilled, the school saved the remaining funds for students to again select a book **this year** from the Scholastic book fair! We at Pecatonica Elementary are so very grateful for your generosity and kindness to our students. With each book you are providing students with a start to their own libraries at home and encouraging them to be bolder, prouder, stronger readers! Thank you for such a wonderful contribution to our community and kids!
-Pecatonica Area School Staff & Students

— STAYING —
CONNECTED

Newsletter Deadline

If you'd like to submit an article/announcement for the monthly newsletter "Visitor" it is due by

Friday, February 17th

Newsletter assembly:
Thursday, February 23rd at 11:00 AM by Blanchardville area volunteer team!

THRIVENT ACTION CARDS

Do you have a Thrivent Financial policy? If so, did you know that you are eligible to receive two \$250.00 Thrivent Action Team gift cards per year to be used to make an impact on a cause you personally care about? That's right! **Two \$250.00 gift cards per year!**

It's never too early to start thinking ahead about how these cards can do great work! If you need an idea, contact the office today!

Coming soon....Easter Flower orders.

Be on the lookout in the near future for an order form.

-THANK YOU-

A sincere thank you to the Pecatonica Area Food Pantry for the really nice goodies package you brought to us for Christmas. It was so nice to be remembered. You are so generous! With our sincere thanks, Morrion and Volly Berg

Did you know....

New Hope Lutheran pays for a subscription to "Living Lutheran" for each of our members (household) to receive each month!? If you do not currently receive this magazine and would like to, please contact the office. If you currently receive this magazine, but would prefer to receive this subscription electronically, please contact the office. Thanks!

Arrange your priorities

Here's an exercise that will absolutely amaze you. At the end of any ordinary day sit down and write down everything that you did that day. Every detail. If you are thorough (and honest), you're going to end up with a list with many more than a hundred items. Now go back and rank your activities according to the following scale, which was developed by Richard Foster.

- 1- Essential
- 2- Important but not essential
- 3- Helpful but not necessary
- 4- Trivial

When you're done, look at your list. You will see two remarkable things. First, you'll notice how many details there are in one day. Second you will notice how much time you spent on unnecessary and trivial things, and how little time you actually spent on essential and important details. Assuming that you were honest, you now have a measure of your priorities and they may not be what you expected. However, it's the unnecessary and even the trivial things that occupy the majority of your time.

The trouble is that the details of your lives don't really amount to much when you look at them from God's perspective. It's not that God doesn't care about the small stuff in our life. He cares more than we do. All that He asks is that we put God at the top of our priority list. When we reduce our priorities to one detail and it's God, then every other detail falls into place. Not right away. If you stay focused and give the small stuff to God, you will have a clearer and more effective focus on your life 🙏

♡ Strive to be a person of faith rather than fame

- Author unknown-

**PECATONICA AREA
FOOD PANTRY**

**1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month
10:00-11:00 a.m.
2nd Wed of the month 5:30 -7:00 pm
at New Hope-Blanchardville Site**

Non perishable food items, toiletries, hygiene products and \$40 in vouchers per month available.

Please contact a committee member if you are in need of delivery or have questions:

- Tiffany Bethke—608-212-9028**
- Jean Christen -- 608-967-2349**
- Bev Lien -- 608-215-3956**
- Alice Yaeger -- 608-523-4960**

Thank you to all who gather monthly to assemble the newsletters. It is very much appreciated!

We remember our members & friends, the sick and the homebound, those recovering or grieving: especially Jeff Love, Terry Lockard, Jeff Kurschner, Vladimir Glannik & family, Marian Swenson, Jenne O'Connor, Spencer Olson, Karen Beecher, Vicki Hughes, Ryan Kurschner, Roger Kittleson, Donna Arneson, Lyle & Audrey Klosterman, John & Mary Carr, Doris Hermanson, & Richard & Peggy Gilbertson. We pray for the family of Priscilla U'Ren as they grieve.



Free Piano Concert



Saturday, February 4
7:00 pm
New Hope Lutheran
Blanchardville Site

Come enjoy music played by Becky Johnson
Refreshments served following the concert

Mission Monday dates are set!

February 27, March 27,
April 24 & May 22
1:00 pm -3:00 pm &
6:00 pm- 8:00 pm

*Mission Monday isn't just
for women. All ages – men,
women and youth – are
invited to come help. We'll
be doing plarn mats,
cutting/sewing quilts and
tying fleece quilts, if we
have
material. Mission Mondays
will be held at the
Blanchardville campus in
the "Mission Central"*

Lay Communion/Visitation Team members needed:

The Visitation ministry team met on
Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the
Blanchardville Site.

What is this mission?

This team provides communion to those
who are unable to come to Worship.
Anyone who is able to receive communion,
is able to distribute communion. This is
SUCH a simple task and SO rewarding for
both the one giving and the one receiving
the communion. This is typically done
once monthly. We really do need addition-
al team members to deliver to folks in the
Hollandale, Dodgeville, and Darlington
area. Questions? Contact Pastor Chris or
Tiffany in the office.

Thank you from Sugar Creek!

Thank you for your generous gift to Sugar
Creek Bible Camp! This will allow our
ministry to make a positive impact for years
to come as we share the love, joy, and peace
of our Lord, Jesus Christ with all who come
to experience this place.

Thank you from Community Foundation

Thank you for your recent gifts to the Community
Foundation of Southern Wisconsin

It is through the generosity of dedicated & caring
people like you that the Foundation has been able to
accomplish hundreds of community projects and
offer so many life-changing scholarships.



Melvin & Diane	Kleppe	02/02/1963	February 2
Roger & Michele	Kittleson	02/23/1964	February 23
Tom & Joanne	Eveland	02/21/1981	February 21
Dave & Meta	Chrostowski	02/14/1997	February 14
Steve & Mary	Pilling	02/14/2004	February 14
Kory & Barbara	Kolb	02/18/2006	February 18

New Hope Lutheran-
 On behalf of the Blanchardville-Hollandale Area Fund advisory board, I would like to thank you for the very generous donation. Your generosity will have a huge impact on the quality of life in our communities. Thank you again for sharing this kindness. With humble thanks - Connie Harker

To the Women of the ELCA:
 Thank you for your Pennies for Poverty offering of \$24.35 to the South Central Synod synodical women's organization received in the fourth quarter of 2022/23. This is greatly appreciated. 2022-2023 Pennies for Poverty offerings were passed on to DIAS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services) in Madison. 2023-24 Pennies for Poverty offerings will be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern WI- which serves/supports food pantries in our south central area of WI.
 Sincerely, Sandy Seffrood, Synodical WELCA Treasurer

New Hope Lutheran Women of the ELCA:
 On behalf of the Community Connections Free Clinic, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$1,200. The donation helps to support our mission to provide basic health care for those who cannot afford or access medical services in Iowa County and the surrounding areas.
 With gratitude, Julie Martin, Volunteer Fundraising Coordinator

Barbara	Ruegsegger	February 1
Craig	Olson	February 2
Jamie	Belstra	February 2
Kristine	Marty	February 3
Lonnie	Krebs	February 3
Aaron	Watrud	February 3
William	Doescher	February 5
Siri	Thronson	February 6
Judy	Hendrickson	February 7
Gina	Leonard	February 7
Marlys	Reeson	February 7
Kyeton	Kolb	February 9
Rachael	Corley	February 10
Dylan	Thompson	February 11
Jessica	Valcheff	February 11
Evan	Stansfield	February 11
Jubie	Simonson	February 12
Mikel	Lien	February 12
Shana	Reeson	February 14
Kyle	Kleppe	February 15
Griffin	Gordon	February 15
Stephen	Dieckhoff	February 16
Kara	Terrill	February 17
Eric	Straehl	February 17
Todd	Goninen	February 17
Melvin	Kleppe	February 17
Margaret	Disrud	February 17
Alycen	Kirch	February 18
Matthew	Kundert	February 18
Pam	Hogan	February 19
Michael	Peterson	February 19
Saige	Bedward	February 20
Gary	Bredeson	February 20
Paige	Hendrickson	February 20
Wayne	Christen	February 22
Christian	Stansfield	February 23
Lydia	Wahl	February 23
Jaime	Olson	February 24
Laura	Krebs	February 24
Steve	Van Hout	February 27
Janis	Slater	February 27
Audrey	Klosterman	February 27
Tim	Hittesdorf	February 28
Debi	Jenson	February 28
Gerry	Anderson	February 29

Feb. 2023- New Hope Lutheran — Blanchardville & Hollandale

Church Office: Ph. 608-523-4239 E-mail: newhopeoffice@tds.net

Website: newhopelutheran.info

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
B = Blanchardville Site H = Hollandale Site		3 Pastor Text Study	1 Confirmation class 230-330 pm @ B Choir rehearsal 7 pm @ B	2 Confirmation class 230-330 pm @ B Choir rehearsal 7 pm @ B	3 Pastor Sabbath Day	4 Pecatonica Area Food Pantry Open 10 am – 11 am 7 pm Piano Concert by Becky Johnson @ B Refreshments to follow
5 <i>Annual Meeting following 10:00 a.m. Worship at Hollandale Site</i> <i>Final Youth Quake meeting following Worship</i>	6 -Pastor in office 9 a.m. to 12:30 pm -Church office hours 930-12	7 <i>Pastor Text Study</i>	8 -Pecatonica Area Food Pantry 530 pm-7pm Choir rehearsal 7 pm @ B	9	10 <i>Youth Quake- Wisconsin Dells</i>	11 <i>Youth Quake- Wisconsin Dells</i> <i>Women's gathering 2pm @ Hollandale Site- Games- Bring something to share</i>
12 8:30 a.m. Worship @ B 9:30 a.m. Sunday School -10:30 a.m. Worship @ H No Communion today- <i>Youth Quake- WI DELLS</i> <i>Up & Over</i> <i>4H meeting 12noon@B</i>	13 -Pastor in office 9 a.m. to 12:30 pm -Church office hours 9:30 – 12pm -4pm Trustee Mtg @ B -7:30 pm Board of Ed @ H	14 Pastor Text Study	15 Confirmation class 230-330 pm @ B Choir rehearsal 7 pm @ B	16	17	18 Pecatonica Area Food Pantry Open 10 am – 11 am
19 8:30 a.m. Worship @ B 9:30 a.m. Sunday School @ Hollandale 10:30 a.m. Worship @ H	20 -Pastor in office 9 a.m. to 12:30 pm -Church office hours 930-12 -Council Meeting 6 pm dinner with meeting to follow at Parsonage	21 Pastor Text Study Spaghetti Dinner 4:30 pm—7 pm @ B Dine in OR Drive thru	22 <i>Ash Wednesday with Communion & Ashes</i> 12 noon @ Hollandale 7 pm @ Blanchardville 7:45 pm Choir practice	23 <i>Newsletter Assembly by Blanchardville Area Volunteers</i>	24 Pastor Sabbath Day	25
26 8:30 a.m. Worship @ B 9:30 a.m. Sunday School @ Hollandale 10:30 a.m. Worship @ H	27 Pastor in office 9 a.m. to 12:30 pm Church office hours 930-12	28 Pastor Text Study	March 1st -Confirmation/Meal 5:30pm-6:30 pm @ B -Lent Worship @ 7 pm -7:30 pm Choir practice	March 2nd	March 3rd	March 4th Pecatonica Area Food Pantry Open 10 am – 11 am