

LOOKING AHEAD

March 2nd

Pancake Breakfast

March 5th

Ash Wednesday

April 17th

Maundy Thursday

April 18th

Good Friday

April 20th

Easter Sunday

May 4th

Guardian Angel Tea

June 23-27

VBS: Road Trip!



Hope is a
Stephen Ministry
Congregation.



Lent is a great time for us to think deeply about what we really believe. What are the foundational beliefs we hold and how are they living and moving with us as we change and grow? Our faith has been passed down from generation to generation - it's an unbroken line of ancestry that connects us all the way back to Jesus. The powers of the world wanted to break Jesus and yet this faith that we rest on is strong enough that they couldn't do it. We are a part of this great tradition that will not and cannot be broken. During the Sundays of Lent we will explore some of these foundational beliefs and how we are and always have been both/and people. We value both Wisdom and Innovation. We are Individuals with gifts and unique abilities and we are a part of a Community that is much larger than any one of us. We are Rooted and Growing. We are Grounded in Tradition and always Reforming.



Sundays in Lent

3/9/25	God Speaks	Luke 4:1-13
3/16/25	Jesus Incarnate	Luke 13:13-31
3/23/25	God knows our pain	Luke 13:1-9
3/30/25	God's mercy	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
4/6/25	Delight & Judgment	John 12:1-8
4/13/25	God loves us	Luke 19:28-44

Holy Lament

Midweek Worship at Hope

Lament is a type of prayer grounded in sorrow, pain or confusion that we find in the Bible. During Lent we will consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. Lament is one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and when we admit that some things are too big for our

hearts to bear, then we will find not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus' death on the cross—the place to which the season of Lent leads us—is the reason we never mourn as those without hope.

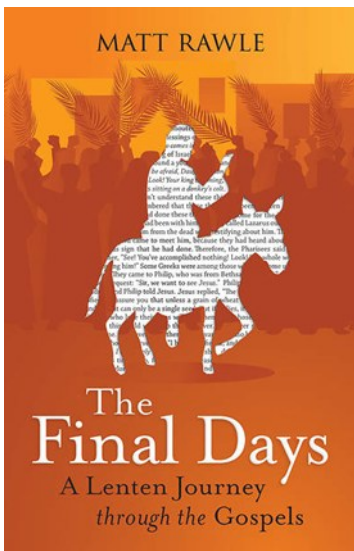
Wednesdays in Lent – March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9

5:30pm – 6:25pm Soup & Salad dinner with fellowship

6:30pm – 6:55pm Worship in Larson Hall

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9 a.m. Contemporary Service | 10:00 a.m. Faith Formation | 11 a.m. Traditional Service

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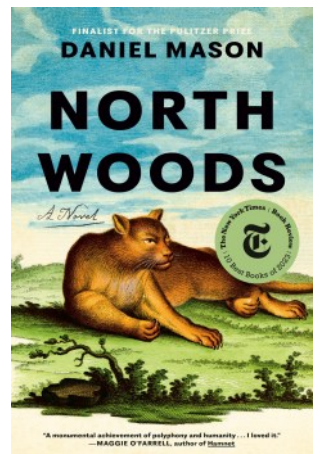
Lunches with Luther

Lunches with Luther will begin the study of the Final Days on March 4th. The four New Testament Gospels aren't the same story, but they offer the same Resurrection hope. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John devote most of their story detailing Jesus' last week in Jerusalem, all highlighting Jesus' triumphant entry into the city, the suffering and humiliation of the cross, and the empty tomb come Sunday morning, but the stories they tell aren't quite the same. Each Gospel offers a different lens through which we understand Jesus' Passion. One portrait reveals Jesus to be in control, while another emphasizes his suffering. In one story Jesus offers hope to the thief on the cross, and in another Jesus only receives derision. These different perspectives aren't a reason to dismiss the Gospels; rather they reveal an abundant, diverse, and complementary picture of God's work in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. See Pastor Kevin for a copy of the book.

Hope Book Club
March 18th at 1pm
In the Library after Lunches with Luther

North Woods by Daniel Mason

A cabin in New England becomes the setting of a long history of characters coming and going, human and inhuman alike. Join us as we examine their many stories, focusing on how people interact with and live in the world around them in this highly inventive book by Daniel Mason.



Please note that the 1pm time will remain the meeting time going forward.

Backpacks of Hope



Thanks to your continued support for Backpacks of Hope and the students at Old Orchard Elementary. As we continue to send home food this spring, our biggest needs currently are peanut butter, cans of soup, and cans of pasta. We would also appreciate boxes of hamburger or tuna helper or similar items to be sent home over spring break. Donations can be left on the white shelves. Financial contributions to purchase milk and juice should be made out to Hope and designated for "Backpacks of Hope."

Congregation Approves 2025 Budget

At the congregational meeting on February 16th, 2025, the 2024 Annual Report was presented. The Annual Report includes financial information and reports from the staff. Copies of the report are available in the kiosks and in the office. The membership also reviewed and approved the 2025 proposed budget.



SPRING FORWARD! Time Change Coming Up!

Before you go to bed on Saturday March 8th, remember to set your clocks an hour ahead!

Did you know? Because of the 2004 film National Treasure, many have the incorrect notion that Benjamin Franklin invented Daylight Saving Time. He once wrote a satirical letter about Parisians waking up earlier during summer, but never proposed changing of the clocks. It was actually proposed by an entomologist (bug scientist) named George Hudson! He wanted to use extra daylight after his working hours to better collect insects. DST was first observed in the United States during World War I, again to make better use of daylight. It was a temporary measure at the time, but was implemented again in WWII and became standardized in 1966. In 1974 there was one whole year that DST was implemented year round, but because people, especially children were left commuting in the dark for half the year, it was repealed. Today only about 34% of the world's countries observe Daylight Saving Time.



Pictured on the left, a WWI poster about changing the clocks to better use daylight and save on coal.

Taking Care of Hope

The members of Hope Lutheran Church have been worshipping since September 15, 1929, at the intersection of Secor, Indian and Bancroft Roads. An 1850's farmhouse converted to a Tea House was located at the same intersection, and after it closed, the building was used as the Ottawa Hills Elementary School, for Village meetings, and by Hope Lutheran Church for Services and Sunday School. An option to purchase the current site of Hope was taken in 1929, the groundbreaking was in 1940, and the dedication service of Hope Lutheran was held in 1941. The Larson Hall addition was built and dedicated in 1960.



A little history brings us to now. The Hope congregation is 96 years old; the church building is 85 years old, and Larson Hall is 65 years old. As we all know, age usually brings with it some issues and it doesn't matter if you are a human, an animal, a car, or a building. We knew we had issues with the Hope building. We could see the rotten stucco boards, windows, and windowsills, eroded limestone, missing mortar and caulk, aging and leaking roofs, cracked concrete, and dried out entry doors.

In the Spring of 2023, a group of leaders began working on the repairs and restoration needed to the building. The entire exterior of the building was examined along with the sanctuary. Bids and rebids were obtained as we discussed what repairs were critical to preserving our building for the future. A year later, in the spring of 2024, we were ready to start the work.

What work was done?

The church building got a bath:

The church building was power washed. It was about time that it got a bath...and the power washing loosened up and cleaned out the caulk and mortar joints that needed to be replaced.

The church got a hairdo and haircut:

The flat roofs were power washed and recoated, loose slates were replaced, roof flashings were repaired, copper gutters were repaired, and the copper dormer roofs were replaced. The trees and shrubs were trimmed around the entire building.

The church got a facelift and cosmetic surgery:

Carpenters repaired stucco, stucco boards, windowsills, and exterior doors, then painted everything to match the original colors. The main entry red doors and hardware were repainted. Masons tuckpointed and caulked the stone and brick joints around the entire building then applied a surface water repellent to preserve and protect it. The eroded limestone around the tower windows was patched.

The church got new glasses:

All the stationary windows were caulked/sealed. Four rotten windows in the DIT classrooms, one in Larson Hall and one in the old boiler room were replaced. The stone windowsills were resealed and caulked.

The church got new shoes:

The stone pad for the Indian Road entry door was replaced and its support columns were repaired and painted. The stairs on the Secor Road entrance were repaired, patched, resealed and caulked. The eroded limestone panels at the base of the Secor Road entrance were replaced and the limestone panels at the base of the main entrance were patched.

The repairs were completed in the fall of 2024. The painting of the sanctuary was bid on, but delayed, so we could focus on the exterior and other maintenance needs (water meter, exhaust fan, air conditioning, fire system, etc.).

What did it all cost? – over \$300,000. With many thanks, the funds for these projects came from the proceeds from the sale of the two houses that Hope owned, and from the generous donations by the Eisenbrandt family.

Did you know Virginia Eisenbrandt? She should be considered an "Angel of Hope." Virginia joined Hope in the 1990's, after a successful business career in Washington, D.C. In 2010, she gifted Hope Lutheran Church

\$301,000 in her will, to be used however the leadership of Hope desired. None of the pastors or lay leaders had any idea that this would occur. It was truly an act of a good and faithful servant! We have faithfully used her gift over the past 15 years to cover budget deficits. Her generosity has allowed Hope to continue to give to missions and ministry needs outside of our walls. In 2024, we used \$150,000 to partially cover the cost of exterior repairs to our buildings. We have now exhausted this wonderful gift, but are still blessed to receive an annual gift of \$9,000 from an endowed fund in her estate. So, Virginia's generosity continues to touch us every year! Do you have Hope Lutheran Church in your will? Please prayerfully consider becoming the next "Angel" of Hope. If you need assistance, please contact one of the pastors, or our treasurer, Ron Ranallo.

Virginia Eisenbrandt 

2025 VBS: Road Trip! On the Go with God!

June 23-27; 9am-12:15pm

Vacation Bible School is getting close! We have started planning! People have started volunteering BUT there are still many more opportunities in front of and behind the scenes that need to be filled. We need people who are willing to help lead groups, help the leaders of the stations, decorate, pray for all, and SO MUCH MORE! If you are interested in helping in any part of VBS at all, please see Pam Ferrara and let her know. You may also contact her via email at pferrara@hopetoledo.net or by commenting on the back on the connection card that you are interested in helping. Keep your eyes open for supply list donations coming soon. Child registration opens March 14th for the church. We will open to the public April 1st. We are so excited to see what this week has in store for us this year!

VBS Volunteer Meeting Sunday

March 9th 12:00 pm

We will be having a meeting on Sunday, March 9th after the 11:00 am Worship service for all people interested in volunteering for VBS this year. Please plan on attending if you are interested in volunteering. If you cannot attend, please let Pam Ferrara know ahead of time! See you there!

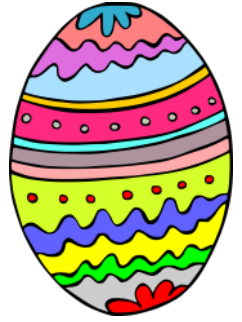


Childrens Choir

We are offering a Children's music group during Lent on Wednesdays from 6-6:30 in the choir room upstairs. This group welcomes children in Kindergarten-6th grade. We will sing, play chimes, and enjoy some fellowship. It is our hope that we'll have some music ready to present in church on Easter. All abilities welcome! Please contact Gail Mowry (gmowry@hopetoledo.net) with any questions.

EASTER EGG HUNT! Sunday, April 20th 10:30 am

We will be having our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. Before then, we are asking for donations of individually wrapped, fun sized candy. There will be a box for these donations located outside the Nest. Deadline for donations is Sunday, April 13th. Thank you in advance for any contributions.



YOUTH
MINISTRY



Pancake Breakfast

March 2nd @ 10am in Larson Hall

Join us for a pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 2 at 10am (between worship services) in Larson Hall sponsored by the youth group. Donations will go towards the costs of the youth service trip to Nashville, TN this summer. Invite your family and friends and join us for breakfast!

High School Youth Group

Sunday, March 2 from 5pm – 7pm

All high school youth are welcome to join for dinner, devotions, and a focus on service. We'll have a few hands on service projects and discuss some upcoming projects and opportunities for service this spring and summer.

Youth Breakfast

All youth in grades 7-12 are invited for a youth breakfast and devotions on Sunday, March 9 at 10am in the Upper Room. If you have questions, contact Pastor Kristin (pastorkristin@hopetoledo.net)

Youth Group Mission Trip

July 13-19, 2025 in Nashville, TN

This summer all youth currently in grades 8-12 are invited to participate in a youth service trip to Nashville, TN. The trip will be from July 13-19. Our service projects will be coordinated through Service Learning Camps to work alongside local non-profit organizations in Nashville. The cost is \$200, with \$75 due at registration. For more information or to register, contact Pastor Kristin. Registration deadline is March 16.