

There have been a lot of changes on our farm this year. There are now giant windmills reaching to the sky and catching your attention. Some of the giants are as close as ¼ mile from our farm so they are obvious wherever you look. A fire this November took a shop that had stood on the farm for about 50 years. A tree grove in the middle of the yard had to be cut down as it was catching on the power lines. We have a new neighbor right across the gravel road.

For those of us who live on the farm, most of the changes happened gradually (except the shop fire.) We grew used to the changes and they didn't seem so severe when they came one at a time. However, my children who live in other states got a real shock when they drove into the place. The whole farm yard looks so different than it did in the beginning of 2020.

It's jarring to have a place you know so well and one that seemed unchangeable with such drastic differences. The sight lines you counted on to guide the way are gone. There are red lights flashing around at night. The sense of isolation from the rest of the world has been removed with the new neighbor. The highway and the rail road seem much closer without the trees to buffer them.

For a while, my grown children avoided being and looking outside because all the changes made them uncomfortable. But, as they settled in, they realized that the important parts of home can never be changed. The love and acceptance that home holds will always be here no matter what. The people they love are still here, a little older and a little chubbier for the pandemic year, but still standing strong on the farm.

As we begin our inside worship services at Hope Lutheran, we want to give you a warning. Things are going to look different. Things are going to feel different than the last time you were here. Following CDC guidelines, we will be requiring masks for everyone school age and up. We will not be singing during worship for the month of March. We will be using social distancing inside worship. (We will reassess all at the end of the month.) You might be uncomfortable or even not like worship this way. It may feel like all the landmarks are gone or that damage has been done to the congregation. You may even wonder if this is still your church home.

We encourage you to take the time to setting in and get used to the new way of doing things. If the changes are just too uncomfortable to you, we encourage you to worship online with us either on Facebook or our YouTube channel, "Hope's Children". We will continue to have Sunday school on the channel for the rest of the school year.

Most of the changes will only be temporary. However, we do have to be realistic enough to understand that a monumental event happened to our world in 2020. It will leave marks on our congregation as it has left marks on the rest of the world.

We encourage you to hold onto the one unchanging thing in this world, the love of your God for us all. As the church and our families find their way in this changed world, remind yourself that the Gospel is still being preached, the sacraments are still being given and our Savior is still being worshiped in this new and strange time.

Stay safe, stay smart and be kind to those around you as we learn where we stand in this changed world.

Pastor Janet Miller

Council minutes
February 28, 2021

Members present: Dustin Holt, Kathy Brink, Jorja Whempner, Jim Arten, Elsie Seffrood, Sarah Smith (via Zoom), Becky Pies, Pastor Janet.

Absent: Nikki Pays, Cody Sumner, Tim Gapp

Others: Anne Seffrood, Dawn Wright

Opened with prayer.

Secretary report. Kathy B asked about confirmation. CDC is still recommending no singing during Worship.

Kathy motion, Jorja 2nd to approve minutes.

Treasurer report: reviewed offerings and expenses and other changes since report was printed. Asked council to be thinking about what to do with Lenten offering. Kathy motioned, Elsie 2nd to keep it in the general fund. Jim motioned and Becky 2nd to approve treasurer report.

Pastor report: did a funeral by request at Grace Lutheran, confirmation will be starting in house on March 3 at 4:30 pm, opening for Sunday Worship on March 7 and Lenten Worships on March 10. Janet asked about withholding a portion of her salary for housing. Anne will get exact wording to Dawn for the council minutes. (insert wording here) Kathy motion, Becky 2nd to pass.

Anne also brought up possibly increasing or including wages to organist, guitarist, and other music assistance for Worship. Council will keep it in mind to add to the budget for next year. Pastor also let everyone know that the Youth convention has now been moved to 2022.

Old business:

Kathy offered to help Michael with the cemetery mapping. Council discussed needs the cemetery will have in the future.

Bids for summer mowing need to be included in the newsletter. Kathy offered to continue with Lebanon.

Residing the church was talked about. Dustin will talk with someone about giving us an estimate.

Question about WELCA was brought up. They have let us know they will be continuing with their quilting mission as always.

Jorja asked about when youth group will resume. It was decided to resume on March 17 at 6:00 pm.

Meeting closed with Lord's prayer.

Next meeting will be held on March 22 following Worship.

HOPES HAPPENINGS

*Hope Lutheran will be accepting bid for summer mowing of the church lawn and cemetery. Bids may be mailed, emailed, or dropped off at the church. A date to open bids has not been determined.

*Wednesday evening Worship for Lent will begin in house on March 10 at 7:00 pm. All events in house will require masks to be worn for all school age and up. If you don't have one, we do have disposable ones for you to have. No meals or coffee fellowship time will be held for the time being. Also, Sunday school will continue be held online. First communion classes will be held as well. (see calendar for dates and times) 🌻

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Confirmation 4:30pm Rostered minister's zoom mtg.			
7 Worship 10:30am masks required 3:00 Conference meeting	8	9	Confirmation 4:30 10 Lenten worship 7:00pm -Masks required	11	12	13 Companion synod committee
14 Worship 10:30am: Masks required	15 Pastor gone	16 conference pastors zoom meeting	Confirmation class 17 4:30pm Youth group 5:30pm- masks required Lenten worship 7:00pm- masks required	18 Advocacy meeting and justice table meeting	19	20
21 Worship 10:30am Masks required	22	23	No confirmation 24 First communion class for students only 4:00pm -masks Lenten worship 7:00pm-masks required	25	26	27
28 Worship 10:30am masks required Council meeting following worship	29	30	Confirmation 4:30pm First communion for students and parents 6:00pm- masks required			

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Find us on Facebook: Hope Lutheran Church and www.seesummitsd.com

Follow us on YouTube: Hope's Children



March 2021

"It is the mission of Hope Lutheran Church to help people grow in their faith; to be a leader in the community; to serve the needs of all people; and to teach/educate all people.

Anniversaries and Birthdays (please let me know if there is an error or omission) 🌟

March

1- Kylie Nelson

7-Michael Larson

8-Randy and Earline Holt

10-Patrick Hills

10 Jenna Larson

11-Alex Kneeland

11-Val Nelson

12-Sandy Lowery

13-Frances Wohlleber

13-Margie Wright

13-Myla Kneeland

14-Lynn and Marvin Amdahl

14-Lainey Jones

15- Donna Jensen

15-Tony Conners

17-Roger Smith

19-Allen Steinocker

19-Tim and Andrea Gapp

21-Janice Halverson

24-Scott Kneeland

24-Todd and Kathy Brink

25-Sandra Christofferson

26-Eric Moen

26-Roger and Margie Wright

28-Josh Wohlleber

30-Sidney Smith

30-Sarah Smith

31-Derek Hills

31-Raelee Ellingson