

TITONKA, IOWA

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

John Heille, Pastor

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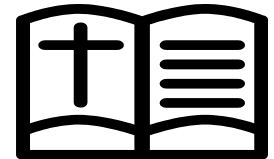
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September 2023

GOOD HOPE WOMEN OF THE ELCA



CIRCLE

Morning Circle

WHEN

Thurs., Sept. 14 @ 9:15 a.m.

WHERE

Church

Study Leader: Sandra Harms Hostess: Sandra Harms

COMMUNION SET-UP FOR SEPTEMBER:

Harold & Sandra Harms

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP:

September 24: Samantha Bell & Pam Schmidt

COMMUNION HELPER: Allan Boyken

SEPTEMBER USHERS: Rob Brandt, Jeff Hofbauer,

Kenn Larson & Nick Trunkhill

SEPTEMBER KITCHEN DUTIES: Laurie Harms

SEPTEMBER ACOLYTES: Lane Boekelman & Karly Lium

ALTAR FLOWERS:

September 24: Dawn Schutter



LUKE 22:19

Living out our faith. Living out our tradition.

This fall as the rhythm of the seasons change I give thanks for God's steadfast love. In the words of scriptures God's mercies never end.

Lamentations 3 NRSV

²² The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

God's mercy—God's compassion is new every day. And the traditions of our churches can help us see God's continuing compassion. Fall is filled with traditions in many churches. Rally day, service Sundays, prayers for the beginning of the harvest—these traditions from the past can live on today. Traditions are powerful—they can help people make sense of lives ups and downs. There are a whole lot of living traditions in our 3 churches. Some old celebrations have continued for generations. Old relationships and deep family connections can last. But at the heart of the Christian tradition there's something older than any church building and far deeper than old family bonds. The heart of living Christianity is faith that Jesus has died and risen and that in Jesus we will live on after death.

Traditions shape how we live today. But I've learned there's a difference between tradition and traditionalism. My dad used to say in churches tradition is the living faith of the dead. But he warned traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. That's a powerful warn. We want our 3 churches to carry on the values, faith, persistence, and hope of the people who walked before us. Their faith still lives. But we can't be dominated by tradition and miss the new mercies God is giving us to share with the world today.

The church's mission for 2000 years has been spreading the good news of Easter to the next generation. The good news is clear—Jesus has overcome death—and all who believe in him will live. Our top priority is to spread the news of a God who shares new mercies. As churches, our living tradition, as God's people gathered around the good news of Jesus, is sharing resurrection promise. When we are at our best as church we are talking about resurrection, the forgiveness of sins, and the new life that starts with Jesus.

My dad pointed out the difference between tradition and traditionalism. Tradition passes life along to the next generation. But traditionalism can be down-right stifling. Growing up as a Catholic I met many people who were upset by any changes in church. Some folks were so rigid in their understanding of church and worship. They looked down on anyone who worshipped differently. Some traditionalists eagerly told everybody the rules and pointed out other people's flaws. As young adult I struggled to see how Jesus and what he had to say in the 4 Gospels fit into all the rules of the traditionalists.

I keep learning reading scripture that walking with Jesus is not about living in the past. Jesus didn't ask his disciples to walk backwards in time. Jesus sent his followers into the world to share the good news of the Kingdom of Heaven. Walking with Jesus means daily taking a new step today into this world believing that God is going to be with us in the future just as he has been in the past.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor John Heille

10 Minute Bible Study

Exodus 1-2

Read Exodus 1:8-14

The story of God's people started with Abraham and Sarah. And their great grandson Joseph held the second most powerful position in the Egyptian kingdom. Joseph served the King—the Pharaoh. He was the reason Abraham and Sarah's descendants ended up in Egypt. Then generations later a new king was born who had forgotten who Joseph was or what he had done.

The Hebrew people were first welcomed into Egypt but now they faced slavery.
What was the danger of forgetting history?

What was the root cause of this king's evil intentions?

Read Exodus 1:15-16

This story is awful—it's no fairy tale. The Pharaoh was paranoid and his only solution was to kill innocent children.

What is the best response to a king like this giving an order like this?

Read Exodus 1:17-22

Two women stand out as heroes in this story.

What do you admire about them?

Read Exodus 2:1-4

A little boy was born. The order of the king was he should die. But his mother and sister conspired together to keep him alive.

What does this story have to teach us about courage?

Read Exodus 2:5-10

An unexpected character enters the story. The Princess sees this baby boy in his floating bassinet. She knows the orders of her father. And she takes this boy and raises him in the palace. A quick thinking sister brings the baby's own mother to the Princess to come and nurse the child.

God hasn't been mentioned in the story directly.

How do you feel that God has been engaged in the story of the people of Israel?

What did the story have to teach us about evil and God's faithfulness?



Rally Day 2023

Good Hope Lutheran and
Titonka United Methodist Churches
will kick off their 2023-2024 Sunday School
Year with a Rally Day Celebration on
Sunday, September 17th.

All children ages 3 through High School are invited to attend Sunday School.
You do not need to pre-register and children are welcome to attend any time.

We would love to have visitors!
Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m. each week.

Visit www.GoodHopeLutheranChurch.com
or contact Vicky Nelson for more information
515-928-7152, Be sure to join our Facebook group
“Good Hope Lutheran Sunday School”
to keep updated with Sunday School information.



FROM
THE
PASTOR



CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation program is a three year program,
6th through 8th grade.

Classes will start on Wednesday, September 6th at 6:30 p.m. at
Good Hope

**ALL PARENTS & STUDENTS
are asked to attend!**



3 Church Youth Night

Grade and up...

Open to all youth 6th

Sunday, September 10, 2023
Meet at Good Hope at 6:00 p.m.

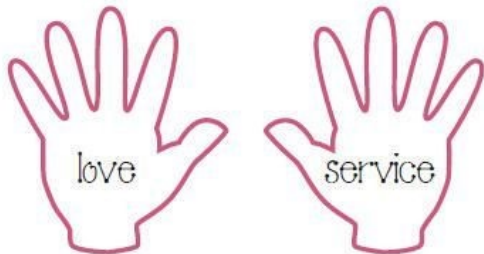
Parents and interested adults are strongly encouraged to attend!

Let's get off to a great start this year!

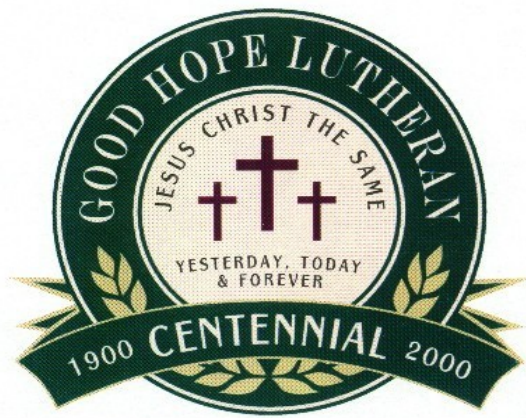
Youth nights will happen the 2nd Sunday of Every
month at 6:00 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!

I have helping hands.



Love and Service go hand in hand.



TITONKA, IOWA

JOHN HEILLE, PASTOR

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 351
TITONKA, IA 50480

Return Service Requested



Fall is here!

Fall is here, it is easy to see.

The leaves are falling from the trees.
Red, yellow, orange, green, purple, and brown.
Leaves are falling down, down, down,

The days are cooler, it is easy to see.

The season has changed right in front of me.
From summer to fall in three months time.
The apples and pumpkins are in their prime.

Fall is here, it is easy to see,

The squirrels are collecting nuts right in front of me.
The seasons change all through the year.
Before you know it winter will be here.

Fall is here, it is easy to see,

The leaves are falling from the trees.
Red, yellow, orange, green, purple and brown,
Leaves are falling down, down, down.

-Author Unknown

