

VOL. XXVVVI No. 1
February 2024

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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GOOD HOPE WOMEN OF THE ELCA



CIRCLE	WHEN	WHERE	STUDY LEADER	HOSTESS
Morning Circle	Thurs., February 9 9:15 a.m.	Church	Sandra Harms	Sandra Harms

FEBRUARY USHERS
Mark & Brenda Heesch
Jim Mayland, Nick Trunkhill

FEBRUARY ACOLYTES
Rowan Welhousen
Jeremiah Trunkhill

FEBRUARY JR. USHER
Mary Eden

COMMUNION SET UP
Ken & Deb Spear

COMMUNION CLEANUP
Feb. 11
Gary & Sherill Meinders

Feb. 25
Dwane & Dawn Schutter

Do this in memory of Me.

February Kitchen Duties:
Marie Schutter

ALTAR FLOWERS

Feb. 4 & 11: Sherill Meinders
Feb. 18 & 25: Laurie Lee

Pastor's Column

This year Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are the same day Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Combining these two very different days has gotten me thinking about love. There are some very real and different definitions of love.

Valentine's Day celebrates one kind of love—romance and all the passion that goes with it.

Valentines seems tailor made for selling greeting cards and roses by the dozen.

Ash Wednesday is all about God's love for imperfect people. In so many ways the heart of Ash

Wednesday is remembering that we can come to God as is needing his transforming love.

Putting Ash Wednesday and Valentines together can challenge us to talk about all the full power of love. When we talk about love we start to see how God's love and our love can be so very different. Looking at Valentines roses on Ash Wednesday might help you expand the meaning of love. On Valentine's Day romance and sentimentality flow so easily but Ash Wednesday reminds us that there's so much more to love than flowers and heart shaped candy boxes.

With so much "love" talk maybe it's a good time as church to think about some of Jesus' most challenging words about love. Jesus talked about love for all people—even love for our enemies.

Jesus said,

²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:27-31 (NRSV)

Jesus' words about love enlighten and challenge us. Jesus' words about loving our enemies pushes us far past our sentimental definitions of love. There's a place for love and romance—but Jesus invites us to go past the romance to a love that gives without expectation.

Jesus words about loving our enemies challenge us. Love and compassion come easily for lovable people. But Jesus' says love everyone even our enemies.

A couple years back I was leading a worship service/bible study in a county jail. We were talking about Jesus definitions of love. The men were eager to joke about love. The men all nodded in agreement when I said it's easy to care for people who love us back. Then I asked what the "golden rule" had to do with love. I walked into that room with a definition of the golden rule in my mind. One man on the other side of the table said, "I know the golden rule—the one with the gold makes all the rules." The other men laughed. His "golden rule" is simple—but it's so different Jesus' teaching.

Jesus said it so simply,

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31 NRSV

These words sound like good advice for us in our most cherished relationships—but Jesus wasn't just talking just about our relationships with close family and friends. Jesus is giving us an ethic, a way of life, that is shaped by concern for the well-being of all people. He is talking about the hard relationships even with people who misuse and mistreat.

Peace and thanks for reading,

Pastor John

10 Minute Bible Study February 2024

Love in the Bible

The word love appears well over 500 times in English translations of the Bible. This one word has many different meanings.

The word love is used to describe the feelings of a husband Jacob for his wife Rachel in Genesis 29:20.

Look up Genesis 29:15-30

How does our love for other people fit into God's plan for the world?

How did love change Jacob's life?

How does love change us as people?

In Exodus 34:6-7 we hear about God's steadfast love for the people of Israel as they were given the commandments.

Look up Exodus 34:1-9

What does it mean to say God's love for his people is endless?

Where/when do you experience God's steadfast love?

Jesus talked a whole lot about love—love for God and love for people. He challenged his followers to love each other and even to love their enemies.

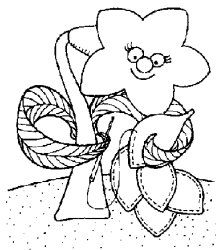
Look up Luke 6:27-36

How could Jesus call to love our enemies change this world?

When are times that you have seen people act with love and concern for their enemies/former enemies.

SEWING/QUILTING: Those (men and women) interested in sewing and tying quilt tops for Lutheran World Relief meet at 9:00 a.m. every Tuesday during the months of February and March.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
Bring a sack lunch
and join us when you can!



The website for the church page is:

<http://www.goodhopelutheranchurch.com>

There are many things posted each week on the site.

Stop by and check it out!

The Facebook Page for the church is:

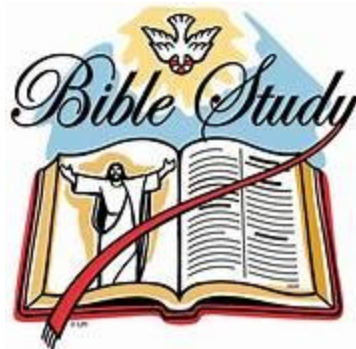
<https://www.facebook.com/GoodHopeLutheran/>

Or you can do a search on Facebook :

Good Hope Lutheran Church Titonka Iowa

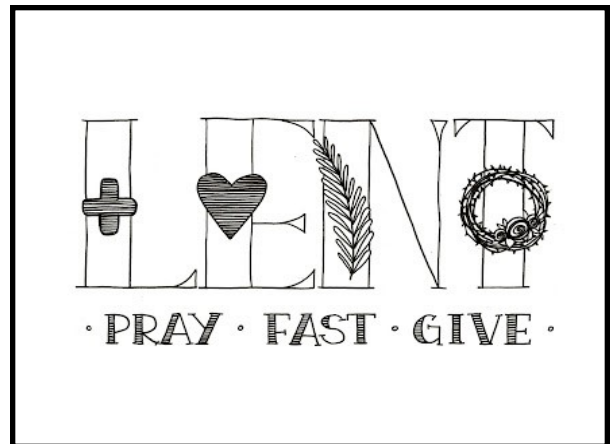
Adult Bible Study
will be held on Monday, February 5th
at Good Hope.

Bring your bible and join us!



THE JOINT
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 14TH AT
IMMANUEL
BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M.

ALL CONFIRMATION
STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO
ATTEND!



Joint Lent Services will be held on
Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.
during February and March.
Confirmation students are
expected to attend!

Wednesday, February 14th
The Ash Wednesday service will be
held at Immanuel

Wednesday, Feb. 21: at St. John's

Wednesday, Feb. 28: at Good Hope

Please join us when you can!

ASH
WEDNESDAY

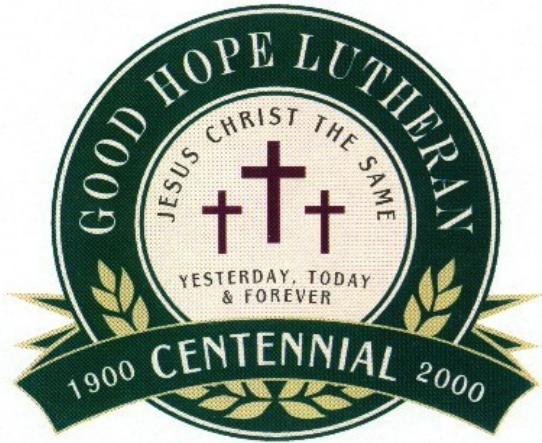


Remember that
You are dust, and to
dust you shall return.

Ecclesiastes 3:20

catholic.org





TITONKA, IOWA

PASTOR JOHN HEILLE

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Return Service Requested

AN EARLY VALENTINE:

"For God so loVed the world,
That He gAve
His onLy
BegottEn
SoN
That whoever
Believes In Him
Should Not perish,
But have Everlasting life."

John 3:16

