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September 2026

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
John Heille, Pastor
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GOOD HOPE WOMEN OF THE ELCA

CIRCLE	WHEN	WHERE
Morning Circle	Thurs., Sept. 10 @ 9:15 a.m.	Church

Study Leader and Hostess: Julie Larson

COMMUNION SET-UP
September 27: Sandra Harms & Debi Spear

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP:
September 27: Gary & Pam Schmidt

COMMUNION HELPER: Debi Spear

SEPTEMBER USHERS: Rob Brandt, Jeff Hofbauer,
Roger Tjarks & Nick Trunkhill

SEPTEMBER KITCHEN DUTIES: Laurie Harms

ALTAR FLOWERS: September 27: Dawn Schutter

ACOLYTES: Addilyn Heyer & Alyvia Lium

JUNIOR USHERS: Ava Heyer & Hannah Lium

What's Confirmation Like These Days?

This fall we're starting confirmation again. It's got me thinking about what confirmation is like today and how to approach this vital ministry in our church.

The number 1 thing I've learned is that confirmation is more than just a class. At it's best confirmation is time when young people meet Jesus and to become part of the church. Many students come to confirmation raw. They haven't regularly been in church or in Sunday school. Many don't know basic bible stories or church tradition. I see Confirmation as an amazing opportunity for evangelism. We get to introduce a new generation to Jesus and to his people, the church. Personally I think 3 things make up confirmation: #**1 learning, #2 worship,** and #**3 service**. The catch is only one of these 3 happens on Wednesday nights.

#1 learning What happens on Wednesday nights? The first part of Wednesday night happens upstairs in the sanctuary. The second part happens in the fellowship hall with goodies and hot cocoa/decaf coffee in hand.

Wednesday night starts upstairs with prayer. Next each student is asked to share a high and low point from their week. Sharing highs and lows helps kids who go to different schools connect better. Then comes formal teaching. This year we'll study key people in the New Testament focusing on Jesus and what he taught. We have a 3 year cycle in confirmation. 1 year on Old Testament, 1 on New Testament, and 1 on Luther's Small Catechism.

We head downstairs for study and fellowship. Our 2 textbooks are the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. This is the time when kids are invited to ask and answer questions and to read scripture. From my perspective Wednesday night is only 1/3 confirmation. The activities and conversation are great; but the rest of confirmation happens beyond a classroom.

#2 worship Many (maybe most) Confirmation students I've had in 27 years as a pastor seem very new to worship when they start Confirmation as 6th or 7th graders. We say worship is central to our life together as church and for many just being in worship is a huge part of learning what it means to follow Jesus.

#3 Service Confirmation students serve as acolytes, in Bible school, and in so many other ways. Serving is often when kids finally see themselves as part of something bigger.

As a pastor I can't decide which of these 3 parts is most important. Kids learn differently, some learn in class, others learn by doing, and some learn from the example of parents and grandparents.

Peace to you, Pastor John Heille

September 2026 10-minute Bible Study
Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus told the parable, a story with a point, to people who were trying to understand what it meant to follow God's way and to be right with God. Many people think that we can earn points with God. They think by doing so many good things they get on God's good side. But then Jesus came along and told a story about a vineyard owner instead it was a story about how the Kingdom of heaven works.

Read Matthew20:1-2
Commentators tell us this kind of scene happens all the time. We see it in big cities in the United States today. Day laborers gather outside of home improvement stores and employment agencies looking for work. In Jesus story a vineyard of honor came and he agreed to pay everybody the standard day's wage, a silver coin called a denarius. In our day it'd be similar to a farmer agreeing to pay $150.00 to somebody to come work in the field for a day.
What does it mean to get an honest "days" wage?

Read Matthew 20:3-5
Jesus puts A twist in the expected story. The landowner saw people sitting around. He came along and offered them a chance to come work in his field.
What would you expect to be paid for working 3/4 of a day or even half a day?

If you were the first worker hired to work in the vineyard would you be glad to see other people in the field if the job was tough? How about if the job was easy?

Read Matthew 20:6-7
There's a real twist in Jesus' story. The landowner kept hiring workers. Some of them probably only put in a few hours work while others had been there for maybe 10 or 12 hours.
Jesus is talking about the Kingdom of heaven, what's he telling us about people who have just come to faith?

Read Matthew 20:8-12
The vineyard owner came to settle up at the end of the day. He paid everybody the same. The people who'd been out there all day long grumbled.
Why were they grumbling? Why did they feel the vineyard owner had been unjust with them?

Read Matthew 20:13-16
Jesus told a story about a vineyard owner. But his point was about the Kingdom of God. People think God owes them something. People presume that being a Christian or doing good things like worshiping means God owes them something. But Jesus is saying something different.
Why do people get upset when God is generous?

What assumptions is Jesus challenging in this parable?



CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation program is a **three year program,**
for 6th through 8th grade. Classes will start on
Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at Good Hope
ALL STUDENTS & PARENTS OR A GRANDPARENT
are asked to attend!

YOUTH NIGHT

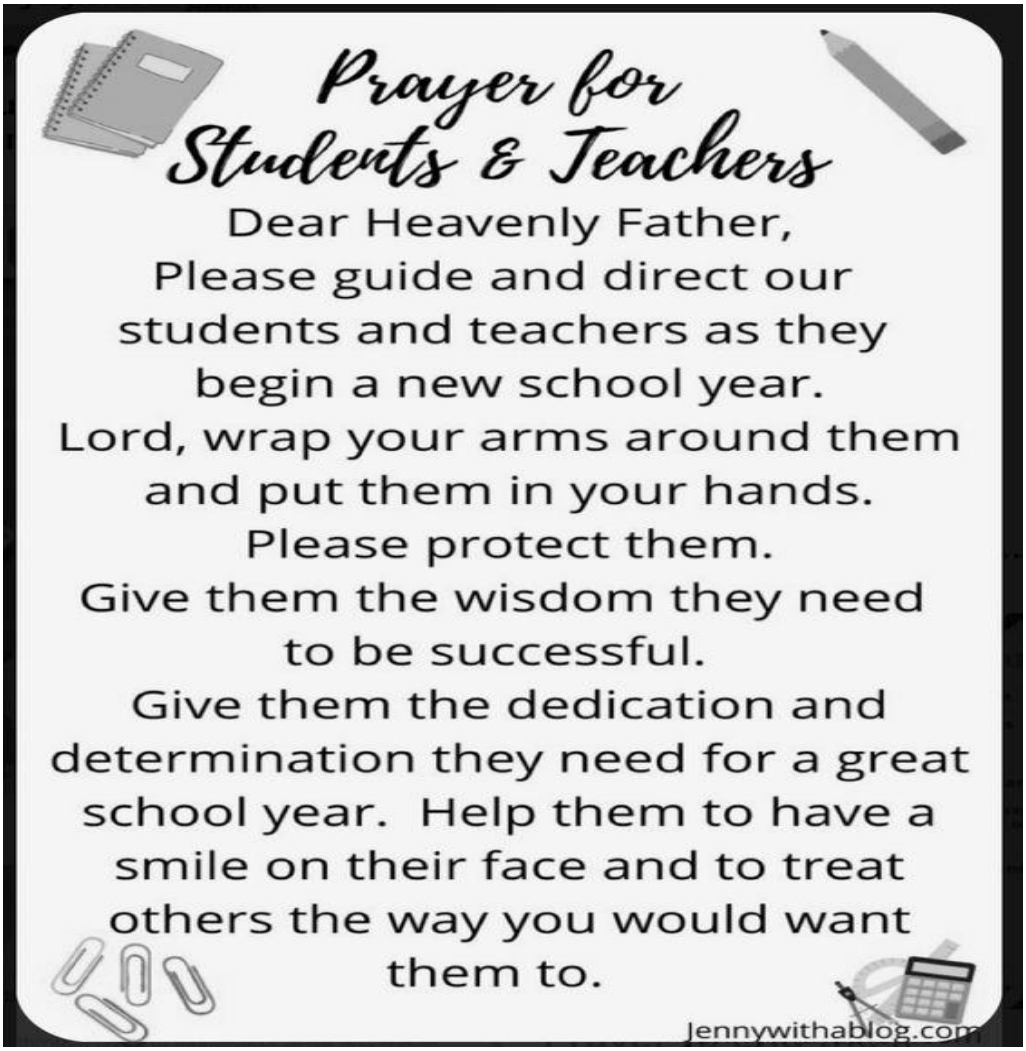
(Good Hope, Immanuel & St. John's)

Open to all youth **6th grade and up**
Sunday, September 14, 2025
Meet at Good Hope at 6:00 p.m.

Parents 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 6:30 p.m.




Good Hope Lutheran Church
323 Dieckman St. NE, Titonka, IA
RALLY DAY
Taste and See the Lord's Goodness
September 20, 2026
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
(age 3 - 6th grade)
Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Spark Choir will sing during worship
Back-to-School Blessing
O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.
Psalm 34:8 NSRV
Love
Mercy
Faithfulness
Psalm 34:8
Please register your student
Scan QR code or visit
www.GoodHopeLutheranChurch.com
Questions? Contact Vicky @ 515-928-7152
Craft, Games, Music & Ice Cream!


Prayer for Students & Teachers
Dear Heavenly Father,
Please guide and direct our students and teachers as they begin a new school year.
Lord, wrap your arms around them and put them in your hands.
Please protect them.
Give them the wisdom they need to be successful.
Give them the dedication and determination they need for a great school year. Help them to have a smile on their face and to treat others the way you would want them to.
Jennywithablog.com