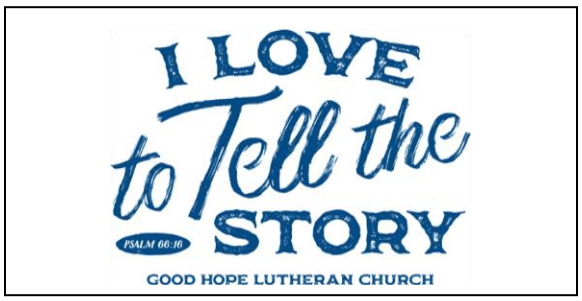


MMXXVI VOL. No. 7
November 2026

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
John Heille, Pastor
TITONKA, IOWA 50480

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EMAIL: unlikelyj@icloud.com
ghsecy@netins.net (Secretary)

GOOD HOPE WOMEN OF THE ELCA

CIRCLE	WHEN	WHERE
Morning Circle	Thurs., Nov.12 @ 9:15 a.m.	Church

Study Leader: Joyce Welsh
Hostess: Sandy Welhousen



COMMUNION SET-UP
November 8th & 22nd: Mike & Denise Heyer



COMMUNION CLEAN-UP:
November 8th: Mark & Brenda Heesch
November 22nd: Wally & Sue Heyer

COMMUNION HELPER: Roger Tjarks

NOVEMBER USHERS: Brian Bartelt, Kevin Hamilto
Randy Tjaden & Nick Trunkhill



NOVEMBER KITCHEN DUTIES: Linda Gerdis



ALTAR FLOWERS: November 1st & 8th: Debi Spear
November 15th, 22nd and 29th: Karen Knudson

ACOLYTES: Rylan Ricke & Madelyn Trunkhill

JUNIOR USHERS: Michael & MaKenna Smidt

10 Minute Bible Study
Matthew 25:31-46

In Matthew 25 Jesus spoke to his disciples just days before his cross and resurrection. They were sitting on the Mount of Olives looking across the Kidron Valley at the temple. Jesus had stirred up the crowds and the leaders of his own people wanted him dead.

It's something to think of Jesus words in this week. He knew what was coming for him, but his friends didn't know the whole story yet.

Read Matthew 25:31-33
Why aren't human words enough to describe Jesus' glory?

Jesus describes the judgement of all nations. Jesus' story of judgment starts with the sheep on the right hand side the ones told they would inherit the Kingdom.

Read Matthew 25:34-40
Jesus said the king honored the sheep, but they didn't know what they'd done to be honored.
Why didn't they recognize that they were serving the king?

What, if any limits does Jesus put on who qualifies as the "least of these"?

Read Matthew 25:41-46
Everybody wants to be a sheep, but in Jesus' parable of judgement some people were separated out as goats. They were sent to the left, sent to the fire. The thing is in Jesus' story the goats didn't see it coming.
Why did the people on the left miss their chance to serve the king?

How does this story challenge and convict us today?

How are we as sinners like the least of these in Jesus' eyes.

The last Sunday of the church year is called Christ the King. This year we'll celebrate the reign of Jesus Christ on Sunday, November 22, 2026. We will declare the Good News that Jesus has come to reign over every part of our lives. But truth is, we sinners struggle to let Jesus be in charge. We might say Christ is King, but our checkbooks and calendars might prove otherwise. And the Good News is that Jesus isn't surprised by our divided loyalties. One minute we want Jesus to reign, and the next minute we sinners fight hard to take back control.

The Gospel for Christ the King Sunday is Matthew25:31-46. Jesus describes the Son of Man enthroned in glory with all nations gathered round. Jesus says that the Son of Man will separate the sheep destined to share the kingdom and the goats destined for the fire.

The question I keep on asking is what's different between the sheep on the right-hand side and the goats on the left. The only difference between the two groups I can find in the story of judgement that Jesus tells is that one group served God by serving people in need and the other group did not.

This story really gets under my skin. Many people debate its meaning. Some say Jesus is telling us we should serve any human being in need. Others disagree, they say Jesus was only talking about how we treat other people in the church. The more I study the Gospel of Matthew the more I think Jesus is talking about how we treat anybody in need.

Part of following Jesus is learning that we need to follow his lead. That means helping the ones he called the "least of these". As a Christian, I believe Jesus started the order of the world over when he rose from the dead. That means the things that I should check my list of priorities against Jesus' directions to care for the "hungry, thirsty, strangers, unclothed, sick, and imprisoned.

There are times when I've seen the Kingdom Jesus talked about breaking into this world. I've seen great acts of mercy that God's people show to one another. I've seen volunteers spend days repairing houses after storms. I've seen hungry people fed. I've seen clothes donated and homeless people housed. But the second I think I can grab onto the kingdom and hold on to it; that's the moment when it just slips from my hands.

Many people today say they believe in God's coming kingdom. I believe all of our lives are meant to be part of it; and today I'd encourage you to look around for the places where you might see the kingdom of God breaking into our lives. God's kingdom isn't growing in vague ways in our lives. Jesus' reign is real, not imaginary. So, as this fall ends, I encourage people to look for the places when God is doing something new. Look for places where someone is in need and your gifts can make a difference.

We might see an elderly neighbor needing help with a house project. You might go visit somebody who has been sick or lonely. You might see somebody with a flat tire and pull over to help them put on a spare. You might even find out you're the one in need.
Following Jesus into the kingdom of God will move us to do new things.
And that's good news.

Peace and thanks for reading.
Pastor John Heille

HELP WANTED!

The Church Council is looking for someone to do snow removal this winter.

This would be the parking lot across the street, the sidewalk and the driveway at church as well as parsonage sidewalk and driveway.

If you are interested please talk to a council member Roger Tjarks, Debi Spear, Carole Tuecke, Kristen Hinz, Daryl Chapin or Rick Welsh.



The Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday evening, November 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Everyone is welcome to the Joint service!



We are still collecting food for the Kossuth County Food Pantry.

Please leave your non-perishable food items in the clothes basket in the back of the church.

(ex. Canned foods, cereals, shampoo, soap, toilet paper, crackers, rice, macaroni & cheese, etc.)

Thank you for your help with this project!







THANKSGIVING

Word Search

D P L J Y P U H N A U L E L L U Z J J
C E L E B R A T E T E W G U S F J F M
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CORNUCOPIA
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DESSERT
DINNER
FAMILY
FEAST
FRIENDS
GATHERING
GRAVY
HARVEST
INDIANS
MAIZE
MAYFLOWER
NOVEMBER
PECAN PIE
PILGRIMS
PLYMOUTH
PUMPKIN PIE
STUFFING
THANKFUL
TURKEY
YAMS

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, on this day of Thanksgiving,
we ask Your blessing on our family,
our friends, our homes,
our health, and on the food
we are about to eat.

We thank You for this time together
and the many gifts that you
have given us.

Help us to remember in this time of
bounty those less fortunate.
And may our love consume us all
that we might share in Your glory.

Amen.