



New Hope Newsletter



Volume 1, No 3

2024

Our Mission Statement



The mission of our congregation is Building Disciples, Growing in Faith, and Serving in Christ's name. We believe the Canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God and the final authority for us in all matters of faith and life.

New Hope Lutheran Church
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Email: newhopelutheran@outlook.com
Website: www.newhopeirmo.org

Officers of the Church Council

President: Leigh Ann Lunsford
Vice President: Don Byers
Secretary: Larry Strock
Treasurer: Alan Lunsford



Thoughts & Prayers for Members and Friends



LaNair Amick Claude Lindler Tim Sauter
Andy Bickley Becky McCartha Andrea Reed
Joyce Gilbert Kathleen Pierce Dianne Clark
Doug Gilbert Michael Torrence

And Those with on-going illness: Landon Derrick



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Members who give In Memory of or In Honor of will receive a card from the church office thanking them for their gift to the church and the family will also be informed of the gift.

MONTHLY INCOME & ATTENDANCE—February

Report from Sunday, February 4th

Worship Attendance:.....51
 Offering Collected:.....\$5,971.00

Report from Sunday, February 11th

Worship Attendance:.....56
 Offering Collected:.....\$4,471.99

Report from Sunday, February 18th

Worship Attendance:.....52
 Offering Collected:.....\$8,586.00

Report from Sunday, February 25th

Worship Attendance:..... 41
 Offering Collected:.....\$4,907.00

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE
 FOR February**

50

ALTAR GUILD TEAMS & SCHEDULE

(*Donates Group Coordinator)

Group #1: * Chrystal Bouknight, Janis Strock (Saturdays—9:00am)

Group #2: *Leigh Ann Lunsford, Pat Coogler, Patsy South, Betty McCartha (Saturdays—8:30am)

Group #3: *Nancy Cannon, Mary Coltrane, Erica Richardson, Dana Monts (Saturdays—8:30am)

(Reminder— if you are not able to attend on your scheduled day, please let your coordinator know)



MONTHS ASSIGNED

Group #1—January, April, July & October

Group #2—February, May, August & November

Group #3—March, June, September & December

Remember that **all 3 teams** help with **Christmas, Holy Week and Easter Services.**



***PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Sundays in March (subject to change)

	<u>1st Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>2nd Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
3rd 3rd Lent Sunday	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 2:13-22 (23-25)
10th 4th Lent Sunday	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-9	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
17th 5th Lent Sunday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 119:9-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:(32-34) 35-45
24th Palm Sunday	Exodus 24:3-11	Psalm 116:12-19	1 Corinthians 10:16-17	Mark 14:12-26
28th Maundy Thursday	Zechariah 9:9-12	Psalm 118:19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1—15:47
29th Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13—53:12	Psalm 22 or 31	Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1—19:42
30th Holy Saturday	Daniel 6:1-24	Psalm 16	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-66
31st Resurrection of	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 16	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Mark 16:1-8

ASSISTING MINISTERS—March

	3rd	10th	17th	24th	28th	29th	31st
Lectors:	Cathy	Earl	Larry	Lynn	Ken	Kirk	Laurie
Flowers:	Lent	Lent	Lent	Palm			Byers
Fellowship:	Lent	Lent	Lent	Kitchen			Easter

Acolytes: Counts/Lucas, Hentz,
Altar Guild Group: Cannon #3

Communion Assistants: Strock/Cannon
Ushers: F. Shealy, E. Hentz, K. Monts, J. Leviner



MEN OF NEW HOPE



Men's Breakfast

Please join us on March 2nd @ 8:30am for our men's breakfast and to hear from our guest speaker, Hayne Rawls Jr.

Circle of Hope

Our next meeting will be

March 12th @ 6:30

Please join us for good food, great fellowship, and fun!

Council Meeting



We will meet right after Sunday School

March 10, 2024



CHOIR PRACTICE

7pm March 14th & 21st



The Congregational Life Committee

We will have a **Lunch Bunch** outing on **March 12 @ Noon** to be held at First Watch on Harbison Blvd. There is a sign-up sheet for this event.



We will be fasting for Lent during Sunday Morning Fellowship Time.

Coffee & juice will be available.

No Altar Flowers until Easter Sunday.

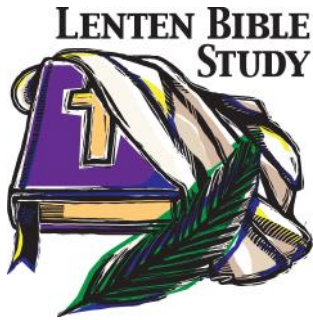


Devotions for lent are available for download:

thenalc.org/lent



Bible Study-please sign the sheet in the foyer for preferred date and time.



Lenten Services

Sunday evenings @6:00pm,
followed by a light meal.

March 3rd	Pizza & Salad	Mission Outreach
March 10th	TBD	Pastor Counts
March 17th	Sausage & TBD	Men's Group

SUPPORT SHARING GOD'S LOVE



Current Pantry needs: Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Coffee, Spaghetti Noodles, Elbow Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Mac & Cheese, Pasta Dinners, Rice Dinners, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, etc. Chili, Crackers (Ritz or Saltines), Corn, Diced Tomatoes, Canned Meats, Fruit Juices, Canned or Powdered Milk.

Household Items: New Underwear for Adults & Kids, Used Underwear for Kids & Men, White Socks of all Sizes, Queen and King Sheets, Blankets, Comforters and Bed Linens, Blankets - all sizes, Wash Cloths, Hand Towels, Bath Towels, pots, pans, plates, glasses, cookware, bakeware, kitchen linen and small appliances.

Monetary donations can be made on the website <https://sharinggodslove.net>, or mailed to:



Sharing God's Love

P. O. Box 1021

Irmo, SC 29063

thank you From the Mission Outreach Committee

Thanks to everyone who generously supports our mission projects.

Donations totaling \$384 were received at our February 11, 2024 *Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday* and have been sent to the SCOA Cares Foundation.

UPCOMING *Events*



March 10th - Daylight Savings

March 24th - Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

March 28th - Maundy Thursday

March 29th - Good Friday

March 31st - The Resurrection of Our Lord

MARCH Birthdays & Anniversaries



Andrew & Hayley Brehmer 4th

Edwin & Lavenia Hentz 7th

Bill & Patsy South 9th

John & Chrystal Bouknight 17th

Ken & Dan Monts 28th



Lynn Morris 1st Chrystal Bouknight 21st

Shirley Outlaw 11th Kathleen Pierce 26th

John Bouknight 12th Casey Strock 26th

Raegan Gray 14th Mervyn Derrick 29th

Shawn Lackey 14th

Words from The Rev. Steve Counts:

As I said in my sermon this past Sunday (February 25th) we are exposed to over 5000 advertising images each and every single day, and that's only accelerating. So to imagine you would remember one single commercial from years ago is quite a stretch nevertheless, I do, and let me tell you about it.

A group of all-American boys are playing ball in a beautiful open meadow, a ball hit deep into the outfield, deep into the surrounding pasture. One determined fielder chases after it. It disappears as does the boy. He re-appears in some sort of vast underground garage--- part museum showroom, part Batcave. An elderly, kind Japanese-American, clearly meant to look like a cross between the perfect grandfather and mad scientist, leads the boy through rows of classic Datsun roadsters and racers, past shiny new Nissan coupes and futuristic models. At the end of the tour, the old man hands the boy his baseball and says, "life is a journey. Enjoy the ride." The boy reappears in the outfield, throws the ball to home plate and the runner is tagged out. He wins the game.

Life is a journey. Albeit more serious and hopefully less shallow than a TV commercial. Lent is also a journey, but far from that omniscient Nissan man, this journey leads from recognition of the weakness and powerlessness before the forces of evil and sin, to victory over those forces through the cross and the empty tomb. Our epistle reading from 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 for the 3rd Sunday in lent, focuses attention on the cross as the power of Christ and key to this journey. "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Paul was painfully aware that the message of the crucified Christ scarcely commended itself to his first-century audience, ---Jews or Greeks. As we saw with Simon Peter's reaction to the message of the cross, the notion of a suffering messiah was a contradiction in terms for the Jews. To be crucified or "hanged from a tree" to use the words of Deuteronomy, was sure a sign of curse and criminality, and therefore offensive to readers of the Old Testament Scripture. Greeks had many and various stories about valiant, struggling heroes eventually vindicated, but a hero who died disreputably and dishonorably like Jesus had a very little appeal to them. The philosopher was a much more popular ideal for most Greeks. To be sure, for Paul to say that "Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom" was a caricature, but like most caricatures there was a core of truth.

And even though some Jews and Gentiles had become Christians, Paul could speak from his own experience of preaching the story of Jesus that the crucified Christ was a "stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to Gentiles." All those who did believe, all those who do believe for that matter, could do so only by confronting the scandal of the cross head-on. And do not be deceived, the message of the Cross is still scandalous to this fallen world. No man-made religion has this central message of redemptive suffering. No other God takes on His own punishment for His sinful creatures. It does not make sense. It is the opposite of what human logic tells us a powerful God would do. The more one reflects on the passion of Christ, the less sensible and more paradoxical it becomes. The power of God seen in a crucified victim?

And yet this power was a dominant theme in early Christian reflection on salvation. That's understandable, many of them were slaves, housewives, and day-laborers, people who were largely power-less. But their adoption in Christ changed all that. Even if the world did not see it, or refused to recognize it, they were changed; they were children of God, inheritors of eternal life. Of the gospel accounts, John's most clearly sees salvation and redemption in terms of power with its imagery of darkness and light. There is a power struggle between the forces of darkness and the forces of light. John understands the work of salvation as Christ's victory over the demonic. His crucifixion is also Christ's enthronement. In dying, He causes death to die.

The Apostle Paul affirms the theme of power of the cross when he says that "the word of the cross is folly, foolish, and those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." Likewise, Peter, in that the first Pentecost sermon recorded in Acts says, "This Jesus, delivered up

according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it” And the Letter to the Colossians speaks of Christ redemptive power as “having canceled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in him.”

But no other New Testament passage conveys this sense of power and victory over death, sin and evil—everything demonic—as does Paul’s interpretation of a passage from Isaiah: “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But, thanks be to God, who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” We most often hear these words at funerals, but they have as much, or more, to do with *living* triumphantly.

Lent calls us to reaffirm our participation in the victory of Christ over the powers of death, sin and evil. It is no accident that the Early church used the Lenten period, these forty days before Easter, to prepare catechumens for baptism, in which those who are baptized claim for themselves the redemptive work of Christ’s death and resurrection. Lent was for these early converts a journey of appropriation, of finding a new identity. Above all, Lent calls us to return to the power and victory of our baptismal experience. Lent demands that we abandon the confidence that we place in the things the world loves, our status, our material possessions, our financial security, the very things which bring us weakness in the face of evil, sin and death, the very things which make us so vulnerable.

Lent is a provocation to return to our source of power and strength----the victorious crucified Christ.

Lent invites us to renewed life in Christ, when we can say with St. Paul, in the face of every trial and tribulation, “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us, ...Christ Jesus our Lord.” Lent is a journey home. Lent returns us to the power of the word of the cross, to what Paul himself described in Galatians: “ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loves me and gave himself for me.”

Life is a journey, a journey to the cross that all our lives might have meaning, purpose and fulfillment. Life is a journey; in Christ Jesus, Enjoy the ride!