



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF HOPE

HOPE HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY 2024

Save the Date!

- February 11:
Joint Worship
with CWC
- February 14:
Ash
Wednesday

What's Inside

- PAGE 2-3:
Coming Up
- PAGE 3: Hope
Highlights
- PAGE 4:
Council Article
- PAGE 5: Prayer
Requests

Dear People of Hope,

Mess: a disordered, untidy, offensive, or unpleasant state or condition (according to Merriam-Webster). Synonyms may be: disarray, muddle, chaos, shambles, havoc, confusion...snake pit? (Also, according to Merriam-Webster.) In internet speak, I would also add “dumpster fire.”

According to Merriam-Webster, some (not all) definitions of *bless* are: to hallow or consecrate by religious rite or word; to invoke divine care for; to speak well of; or to confer prosperity or happiness upon. Synonyms include consecrate and sanctify. In other words, to make holy.

As I write this, my dog is in the center of the living room among the scattered fluffy remnants of toys he has ripped apart. A mess. There is so much about our lives and experiences that can be “messy” - whether it is our physical environment, events that are outside our control, the consequences of our actions, or our emotions and thoughts. The mess can hang on us, overwhelm us or leave us feeling like we have no idea what to do next. I have often started a deep clean of the closet, only to sit among the ruins completely overwhelmed and wondering where any of this goes and what happened to all my energy...? Sometimes clearing out my heart and mind feels the same way. Anybody else have that experience?

This Lent, you are invited to journey with us in our theme of “**Bless this Mess.**” In what ways may our mess bring about blessing? In the words of Rev. Otis Moss III, how can we “consecrate our chaos?” It’s the mess that God uses, and it’s messy people whom God draws to God’s self. This is our prayer.

Along with joining us for this sermon series on Sunday, you’re invited to join us for some practical Lenten practices. On the **first Sunday of Lent, February 18th**, join us after service for a walkthrough of our building. We will ask ourselves what messes need cleaning, and what new ways we might bless the spaces with which we have been entrusted. From this, we will create a list of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

COMING UP



From stardust you came, and to stardust you will return.

*Ash Wednesday
February 14 at 6:30pm*

Our shelves are looking pretty bare—we are asking for donations of the following items:

- Soap
- Socks
- Handwarmers
- Canned food
- Trash bags

SUNDAY School Stories FOR ADULTS

Wednesdays starting February 21
Meal at 6:30pm

Did you learn certain stories in Sunday School as a child, but have rarely visited them since? Did you not grow up with these stories, but hear about them and wonder what they say? Let's revisit some of the common Bible stories, but dig a little deeper than we have before! **Join us for a meal at 6:30pm on Wednesdays.** If you're able to help provide the meal, [sign up online](#) or in the narthex.



CHRISTIAN WORSHIP CENTER & LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE



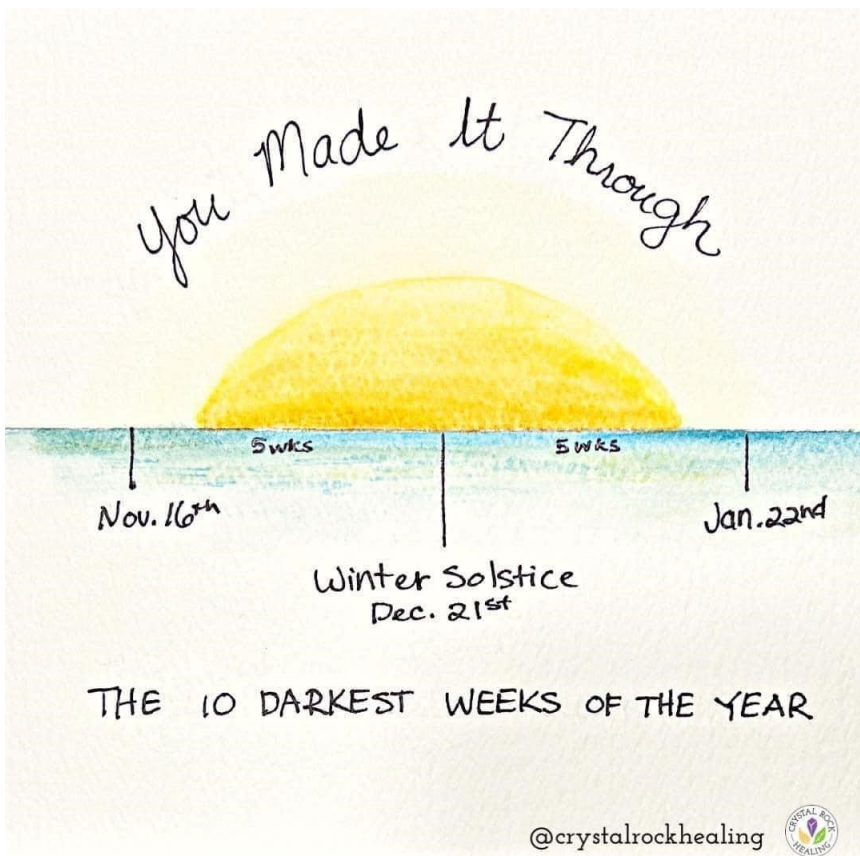
Joint Worship Service on
Sunday, February 11

→ at 10:00 am ←

HOPE HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome the newest member of our
congregation, Anna Boots!





I recently saw a meme that I wanted to share. It had a sunrise that was a time line and the caption read “You Made it Through”. On the far left was Nov 16th and the far right was January 21. In the middle was Dec 21st, the winter solstice. Beneath the timeline it read “the darkest weeks of the year”. I was struck how I never thought of those first 5 weeks as dark. With Advent and Christmas, light is all around us! But those 2nd five weeks, oh boy those are the darkest times.

Once we get past though, the light is back. Driving to and from work is now joined with the gorgeous colors of the sunrises and sun setting. Things are happening! This

time always makes me ready to start spring cleaning and getting things ready for warmer days.

This Lent, we have a chance to do some spring cleaning here at Hope. Maybe that important item that may have been overlooked, needs a change or just an opportunity to do something different with a current space.

Todd and I recently read This story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job.

Which person do you identify with? In my time at LCOH, I feel like I have been every one of these people. During Lent, I encourage you to work with others and help us prepare our church building for Easter and the coming light!



Patty Bryant

tasks that people are invited to sign up for through Lent. By Easter, we hope our building will have transformed! And on April 7, we will take another walkthrough, blessing each room for God's service.

We will also have Wednesday night gatherings, and have a daily devotional available. For more information, check out page 2. Join us this Lent in our prayer: Please, Lord, *bless this mess!*

Peace,
Pastor Liz



PRAYER REQUESTS

Our February prayer partner is Trinity Lutheran Church in Palmer, AK.



Prayer, individually and communally, is one of the highest calls of our discipleship in and imitation of Christ. We pray for one another in joy and in sorrow, for discernment and with gratitude. If you need prayers in any circumstance, please contact the church office (907 279-7714) or lcohope@gmail.com. If you wish to be on the prayer chain of the church, please let us know and we will pass along the pertinent information so that others will lift you in prayer with the help of the Holy Spirit. Prayer requests to the Pastor and church office are confidential unless you indicate otherwise.

Happy Birthday!

Erin Arno, Alice Haugen, Scott Rankin,
Ginger Randolph, Val Byrnes, Dottie
Hudson, Ann Randolph, Sam Hirsch, Glo
Clendaniel, Scott Hobbs

Happy Anniversary!

Joyce Hudson

WORSHIP



We welcome you into the sanctuary for worship with communion at 10am!
Unable to join us in the sanctuary? We are also streaming live on Facebook. It is good to gather as the people of God each week!

Drawn together by God, celebrating grace, serving all.

Prayer Team



During communion on the first Sunday of the month

LEARN



Sunday morning Bible study meets at 8:30 am in person.



For more info on the next Wednesday evening series, see page 2!



The Other 4H Group meets monthly to discuss books chosen by the group. The next discussion book is Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision of Love with No Exceptions by Jacqueline Bussie. We will be discussing this book on Tuesday, February 13 at 7 PM on Zoom.



Confirmation

Confirmation Class meets every Sunday at Lutheran Church of Hope from 4:30-6:30 PM



Thank you for continuing your financial support of our church. Check out our website for more information, www.hopeak.org/give

Your 2023 Giving Statement is on its way! Contact the church office if you don't receive it by February 7 or if you have any questions.



SERVE



LSSA Mobile Food Pantry is every Tuesday at 4:30 pm. Line up starts at 3:30 pm. You do not need an appointment to receive food. If you would like to volunteer, contact 272-0643 option 14. Distribution is drive-thru.



Worship Team The next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 22 at 6:30 PM**. They meet regularly to plan and discuss ideas for Sunday morning worship and special services. Interested in helping us? Talk to Pastor Liz.

Property Team helps us take care of the building and the grounds by discerning what needs to be done and how best to do it. Please talk with Don Bladow or Todd Bryant if interested in helping.

Council will meet on **Thursday, February 15 at 6 PM** to discern and make decisions on behalf of the congregation regarding ministry, mission and stewardship of our resources. Please pray for our council leaders.

Art Team: Notice different signs on the fence? Art on the windows? Art around the garden? These were brought together by the art team! Would you like to help or have an idea? Contact Chris Terry.



Altar Flowers

The 2024 Altar Flower Sign Up is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex, or you can [sign up here!](#)

Flowers are \$25



Lutheran Church of Hope
1847 W. Northern Lights Blvd
Anchorage, AK 99517
www.hopeak.org



Lent starting February 14

www.hopeak.org