



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF HOPE

Save the Date!

- December 3: First Sunday of Advent
- December 24: Christmas Eve
- December 25: Christmas Day

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HOPE HAPPENINGS

DECEMBER 2023



From Pastor Liz

Dear People of Hope,

Advent is a season of longing. Longing for hope, for peace, for justice, for healing, for Christ to come again, for all things to be made new. When the world is weary and the nights are long, we are invited to honor our longing. What do you long for?

At the same time, there in the midst of our longing, even in our longing *for God*, there God is. God is shaping and forming and

creating and longing right there in us and with us. In our first Advent text, Isaiah starts with longing, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,” and later says, “Yet [...] we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.”

We are all. We are all the work of your hand.

I invite us into this period of longing and wondering together. I invite us to rest in the knowledge that it is God’s work. Truly. Completely. Whatever we are longing for, may we entrust it to God. May we cry and scream and laugh and sing in our longing. May we be soft and tender like clay. May the God who is an artist create in our community. May we step out in faith that God is doing the work.

Through this season, join us on Wednesday nights for a meal and Holden Evening Prayer. Worship with us on the Sundays leading up to Christmas. Go out with us into our community on the last Sunday of Advent. Invite friends and neighbors into this time with you. May we discover together the work of God’s hand.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Liz

The Work of
Your Hand

Advent Starting December 3



Holden Evening Prayer
Wednesdays during Advent
Meal at 6:30 PM,
Service at 7 PM

Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24
5 PM and 7 PM-Worship Service

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25
10 AM-Worship Service

HOPE HIGHLIGHTS



New art on the fence thanks to Chris Terry and Beaty Graves!



New members of Lutheran Church of Hope!



Elena Rankin would love to see you at the **Mini Maker's Market on December 2 from 12-3 pm at The Nave in Spenard**. She is selling items she has been crocheting to raise money for her Close Up trip to Washington DC in the spring with school.

Come see **Bob Hancock**: **December 3 at 2 pm** at Our Lady of Guadalupe: come sing your favorite choruses from **Handel's Messiah** along with an orchestra and soloists. All singers and

listeners are welcome! [Get your tickets here.](#)

December 10 at 4:30 pm at Anchorage Lutheran Church: Anchorage Civic Orchestra Holiday Concert. Admission is Free

December 17 at 4 pm at the Atwood Concert Hall: Come join the Anchorage Concert Chorus, Holiday Pops Orchestra and UAA's University Singers as they celebrate the holiday season with the 76th annual Holiday Pops. [Get your tickets here.](#)

Megan Bladow Addis invites you to the TBA Theatre shows **Twice Upon a Christmas** **December 1-3 at 7pm** at the Sydney Laurence Theatre - Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. And **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever** December 8-17 at APU Grant Hall [Buy tickets here!](#)

Meredith Rude will be performing with the Alaska Chamber Singers on **December 9, 2023 at 7:30 pm** at St. Patrick's Parish and **December 10, 2023 at 4 pm** at St. Andrew Church (Eagle River). [Tickets are available here.](#)



Here it is, Advent. The first day of Advent is the first day of a new church calendar. It begins a 4 week period of preparation of our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in today's world. I've always thought of it as a waiting period for Baby Jesus to come, and it is. I'd like to also suggest this: let's commit to making Advent a season of action and trying/doing, spurred on by leaps of faith.

The world of the arts affords a multitude of experiences that create new excitement and passion for Christmas. Take music, for example. At home, at concerts, in church, on the radio-we are surrounded by the beauty and warmth of song. We are lucky to have Meredith, Bob, Howard, and Josh, whose music encourages us to sing our hearts out!

The art of illustration, with bold graphics in paint, pen, and paper is so obvious at Hope. The fence art reminds us to act in love. Thanks for your handiwork Chris!

The art of giving will take on a new face at Hope on the morning of the last Sunday of Advent, which is also Christmas Eve. After meeting in the sanctuary for a short liturgy at 10 AM, we will leave the building in small groups (or individually as you prefer) and go into our community to distribute boxes of food, clothing, treats, handwarmers, etc to our neighbors.

The success of this mission of giving depends on your help to gather, bake, and pack. Stay tuned for more information!

"We do not think ourselves into a new way of living. We live ourselves into new ways of thinking."

Richard Rohr, from Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent
Beaty Graves, Council Member

What LCOH shared with the Alaska Synod from our Synod Values meeting on November 5:

- Provide encouragement and inspiration
- Connecting our local congregation/community with the broader Alaskan community, the nation, and the world
- Respecting, accepting, and celebrating diversity in all forms, including cultural and economic.
- Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ by keeping our eyes on God
- Love

The Alaska Synod's Guiding Principles



This is what the Alaska Synod released. More than 70% of synod congregations participated in a synod vision and values exercise to identify who we are as a synod as we approach the bishop election in April 2024.

When we are at our best, you will find us:

- Listening to the Spirit and following Jesus
- Engaging each other with humility, honesty, respect, courage and grace
- Celebrating our diversity through full participation, decision-making and leadership
- Sharing our resources across the Alaska Synod so that ministries thrive
- Taking risks and being open to working in new ways for the sake of the Gospel
- Equipping and supporting resilient, creative lay and ordained leaders
- Working for justice and serving God's creation across the Alaska Synod and beyond
- Living out and sharing the love of Jesus wherever we are



PRAYER REQUESTS

Our December prayer partner is Alaska Native Lutheran Church in Anchorage, AK.



- We pray for Val Byrnes, Erin Arno, & Axel Byrnes as they mourn the loss of Timothy. Be with them Lord and give them strength and comfort as they grieve.

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.



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS
& ANNIVERSARIES**

Happy Birthday!

Ken Eisses, Susan Halvor, Kip Hudson, Xander Lemke

Happy Anniversary!

Barb & Tom Middendorf, Patty & Todd Bryant, and Brett Sarber & Katie Schroeder

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



Be Nourished



Sunday morning Bible study meets at 8:30 am in person. We are studying the first two chapters of Luke through December.

Wednesdays during Advent: Holden Evening Prayer
Meal at 6:30, Service at 7 PM.



The Other 4H Group meets monthly to discuss books chosen by the group. The next discussion book is **Sivulluq: Ancestor** by Lily H. Tuzroyluke. Keep an eye out for the discussion date!



Confirmation

The last class for this session is November 5. We return on January 14 at Lutheran Church of Hope.

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

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 will meet again in January. 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 **Tuesday, December 19 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.

Drawn Together, ALL Together: This team is exploring how we can be a welcoming community to a variety of people in a variety of ways. It is particularly engaging in what it would mean to be a "Reconciling in Christ" community. Contact Adam Bryant for more information.



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
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Lutheran Church of Hope
**"UGLY" XMAS SWEATER & PAJAMA
SUNDAY**



**CHRISTMAS DAY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25
10:00AM**