



Bits from Blayne

Strength in Weakness- The Making of a Theologian

Dear Saints,

Martin Luther once said there are three things that make a theologian: meditatio, oratio, tentatio --- meditation, prayer, and struggle. Lately, I've found myself living that final word—tentatio—in ways I never quite expected.

Many of you know that my dad was recently diagnosed with ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. For a long time, the signs were hard to pin down. But the recent shift in his health has made things clear: while his body is still strong in many ways, his ability to breathe independently has faded. He now depends on a bi-level pressure breathing machine for life and stability.

Through it all, my dad's faith has remained steady. Over the years, he's often said of others dealing with death or loss, "I can't imagine going through something like that without faith and trust in Christ." And now, here we are. That same faith—one he's spoken about for decades—is what is sustaining him now. And it is sustaining me too.

I find myself reading Scripture differently these days. Not as a pastor preparing a sermon, but as a son looking for solid ground. Again and again, I return to Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..."

Luther clung to that psalm too. He paraphrased it in his great hymn A Mighty Fortress Is Our God. And when his own father was dying, Luther wrote him a letter from afar—unable to be there in person, but very much present in spirit. "My dear father," he wrote, "be of good courage. You have a gracious God who has begun a good work in you and will also complete it... commend your soul to Him who gave it."

Those words strike me now in a way they never have before. Because I know that feeling—wanting to offer comfort while grappling with your own grief. Wanting to say something true. And realizing that only the Gospel will do.

So if you find yourself in a season of uncertainty or sorrow, know this: the Gospel was never about escaping suffering. It is about a Savior who entered it for you—and remains with you still.

Christ's strength is not for the strong.

It is for the weak.

And in that, we find our refuge.

+In Christ,
Pastor Blayne

Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Minister	Lector	Readings
August 3 No Kids' Sunday School Food Bank Sunday	9AM 10 AM	Pastor Blayne	Frank Wright	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2: 18-26 Psalm 100 Colossians 3: 1-11 Luke 12: 13-21
August 10 Communion Potluck to follow	6PM	Pastor Blayne	Joel Haynie	Genesis 15: 1-6 Psalm 33: 12-22 Hebrews 11: 1-16 Luke 12: 22-34 (35-40)
August 17	9AM	Pastor Blayne	Thomas Fritz	Jeremiah 23: 16-29 Psalm 119: 81-88 Hebrews 11: 17-31; 12: 1-3 Luke 12: 49-53 (54-56)
August 24 Communion	9AM	Pastor Blayne	Teri Ann Vejtasa	Isaiah 66: 18-23 Psalm 50: 1-15 (25-29) Hebrews 12: 4-24 Luke 13: 22-30
August 31	9AM	Pastor Blayne	Duane Nelson	Proverbs 25: 2-10 Psalm 131 Hebrew 13:1-17 Luke 14: 1-14



It's time to change!!!

On the 2nd Sunday of the month, our church service will begin at 6 PM.



Please submit information for the monthly newsletter by the 24th of the month. Send it to NewHopeLutheranNewsletter@gmail.com ready to cut and paste into the newsletter. Thank you! ~Cheryl

Contacts

Mailing Address:
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Email: NewHopeLutheran2020@gmail.com

Church Council

Duane Nelson, President - 406-485-2423
Kim Murphy, Vice President - 406-974-2445
Denise Haynie, Secretary - 406-939-3856
Wanda Robinette, Treasurer - 406-939-3404
Ron McFarland - 406-853-3348
Frank Wright - 406-974-2042
Kim Murphy - 406-974-2445
Thomas Fritz - 406-974-3336

Event Contacts

Baptisms - June Nelson - 406-485-2423
Weddings - Wanda Robinette - 406-939-3404
Funerals - Frank Wright - 406-974-2042

Facebook Group
New Hope Lutheran Church

Location 1400 B Ave, Circle

Cash Flow - Jun 2025

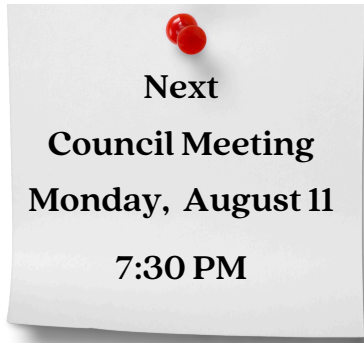
6/1/2025 through 6/30/2025

Category	6/1/2025- 6/30/2025
INFLOWS	
Div Income	6.30
Offering	2,880.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	2,886.30
OUTFLOWS	
Donation	
Worship Building	750.00
TOTAL Donation	750.00
Internet Expense	20.35
Pastoral	250.00
Contract Pastor	1,500.00
TOTAL Pastoral	1,750.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	2,520.35
OVERALL TOTAL	365.95

Financial Report submitted by Wanda Robinette.

Sunday School

None this month



Bible Studies

None scheduled at this time



Find information,
resources, online small
group study sessions,
Daily Prayer and Readings,
and more!
www.theNALC.org



Find information,
resources, and more!
www.lcmc.net

The council meeting of New Hope Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by President Duane Nelson. Council members attending were Frank Wright, Thomas Fritz, Wanda Robinette, Duane Nelson, and Denise Haynie. Pastor Blayne joined the meeting via Zoom.

Correspondence: LCMC Northwest District newsletter was shared. "Our Help and Hope" - LCMC Annual gathering and convention will be October 5th -8th in Minnesota. We received a letter from Our Daily Bread as to how many copies we need of their booklet as a church, we will adjust it from 25 to 15 copies. Frank made a motion to join the Northern Plains District of LCMC, Thomas seconded.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, Thomas made a motion to approve with correction of a typo, Frank seconded.

Wanda gave the treasurer's report. Denise made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Frank seconded.

Worship: July 6th we will have a 6 p.m. service with no catechesis or potluck. On July 13th, we will have a 6 p.m. service with potluck following. On July 27th, we will have 9 a.m. service with communion. The June 1st baptisms were rescheduled for June 22nd. The ice cream social for the baccalaureate went well after the service for the high school graduates. Blayne helped with the service and Kathy, Frank, and Denise helped serve the ice cream social. Tiffany filled the pulpit for Father's Day on June 15th. We thank her for doing a great job.

Finance: None

Education: No Sunday School till September

Building: Weeds were sprayed, flowers look good.

Old Business

Remove the solar film from the agenda till a later date

New Business

Wanda is working with Blayne on a wedding coordinator worksheet for any couples getting married. We reviewed it and made a few changes.

The new Northern Plains District conference will be the last weekend of July, the first week of August. They will start on Friday with a meet and greet and Saturday will be the event. They will be working on dates for a youth gathering, also.

Pastor's Report:

- June 22nd Baptism of Fletcher and Foster Ferm

- Pastor Blayne reported that Pastor Baer and he have been having some real good sessions together. He has been helping with mentoring for Miles City Lutheran Church, as they await finding a new pastor. Blayne reassures them his call is to New Hope Lutheran Church, but will help them out one Sunday a month, when we have our evening services.

- Blayne enjoyed his time away for Father's Day and his 50th birthday, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BLAYNE!!

Next meeting, July 14th at 7:30 p.m. with Zoom offered for those who can't make it to the church.

Newsletter items are due by the 20th of each month!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Haynie



Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..."



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PO Box 457
Circle, MT 59215

