



Bits from Blayne

The Imperative Word

In January at New Hope, we gathered around the font as young Philip was baptized. Water was poured. God's Word was spoken. A promise, was given. And something holy happened that did not depend on Philip's understanding, decision, or effort. Faith was given. Trust was created. A child was claimed.

How fitting that this took place during the season of Epiphany.

Epiphany is the season of revelation. Not revelation about us, but revelation of who Christ is and what His Word does. In the Gospel reading last week, Jesus calls His first disciples with a simple, imperative word: "Follow me." There is no explanation, no persuasion, no argument. And yet, immediately, they follow.

That word "immediately" is important. It tells us something about how God works. Jesus does not reason people into faith. He does not wait for the right emotional conditions. He speaks. And when He speaks, things happen. Scripture says it plainly: faith comes from hearing. Not from striving. Not from understanding everything. From hearing.

This is why repentance in Scripture is not a task to be completed or a standard to be met. It is more like surrender than achievement. The responsibility to repent is real—but the ability within that word belongs to God. His Word does the work it calls for. Our response is not calculated or manufactured. It is instinctive. Immediate. Like light appearing when God says, "Let there be light."

That is also why obedience, in the Christian life, is never the starting point. Obedience flows from trust, and trust is created by God's action, not ours. When Jesus says, "Follow me," He is not issuing a burdened demand. He is revealing Himself as the One worth trusting—the One who carries the weight for us.

One of my favorite lines in Scripture comes just a few verses later, when Philip tells Nathanael about Jesus. Nathanael is skeptical. He has questions. He is unsure. Philip does not argue with him or try to convince him. He simply says, "Come and see."

That invitation still stands.

At the font. In the preached Word. At the Lord's Table. Christ continues to speak, and His speaking continues to create faith. This is not about blind obedience or emotional certainty. It is about a faithful God who keeps His promises and never lies.

Epiphany reminds us of this comforting truth:

Christ is revealed. His Word is powerful. And what He asks for, He Himself creates.

Come and see.

+In Christ,
Pr. Blayne

Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Minister	Lector	Readings
February 1 Annual Meeting Brunch Food Bank Sunday	9AM 10 AM	Pastor Blayne	Thomas Fritz	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31 Matthew 5: 1-12
February 8 Communion	2PM	Pastor Blayne	Denise Haynie	Isaiah 58: 3-9a Psalm 112: 1-9 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16) Matthew 5: 13-20
February 15 Council Meeting	9AM	Pastor Blayne	Duane Nelson	Exodus 24: 8-18 Psalm 2: 6-12 2 Peter 1: 16-21 Matthew 17: 1-9
February 18 Ash Wednesday	6PM	Pastor Blayne		Joel 2: 12-19 Psalm 51: 1-13 (14-19) 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
February 22 Communion	9AM	Pastor Blayne	Teri Ann Vejtasa	Genesis 3: 1-21 Psalm 32: 1-7 Romans 5: 12-19 Matthew 4: 1-11
February 25 Lenten Service & Soup Supper	6PM	Pastor Blayne		



February 8



Super Bowl Sunday
Church Service at **2PM**

 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

P.O.Box 457
Circle, MT 59215

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 - Dec 2025
12/1/2025 through 12/31/2025

Category	12/1/2025- 12/31/2025
INFLOWS	
Div Income	955.83
Offering	4,301.00
Thrivent Donations	57.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	5,313.83
OUTFLOWS	
Building Improvements	
Cushions	2,942.64
TOTAL Building Improvements	2,942.64
Building Maintenance	7.97
Donation	
Good Neighbor	1,550.00
Worship Building	750.00
TOTAL Donation	2,300.00
Internet Expense	20.55
Music	100.00
Pastoral	
Contract Pastor	1,500.00
TOTAL Pastoral	1,500.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	6,871.16
OVERALL TOTAL	-1,557.33

Financial Report submitted by Wanda Robinette.

Sunday School

None this month



Bible Studies

- Wednesdays at the Sr. Center at 6:30PM with Mabel



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

Council Meeting

December 8th, 2025

The council meeting of New Hope Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Duane Nelson. The council members attending were Frank Wright, Duane Nelson, Ron McFarland, and Denise Haynie. Blayne joined us via Zoom.

We need to add annual the meeting to agenda under new business.

Correspondence: None

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Frank made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections, Ron seconded.

The **treasurer's report** was presented by Ron in Wanda's absence. Denise made a motion to approve the treasurer's report; Frank seconded the motion. Ron made a motion to renew the 4 mo. CD at Grasslands Federal Credit Union; Ron seconded. The good neighbor fund was discussed; we need to disperse the monies for 2025. Discussion was had.

Committee reports:

Worship: Blayne will be available for all Sundays in January. On January 4th, we will have catechesis Sunday and January 11th will be our potluck with worship. Our next council meeting will be on Sunday, January 18th . We will change this and see how it works for everyone. On January 25th, we will have communion Sunday. Our Christmas Eve service will be at 5 pm with our regular candlelight service.

Finance: Jay Wright will take the place of Kim Murphy on the finance committee.

Education: Sunday School is going well, per Wanda. Thank you, Wanda, for your service to our children. The catechesis Study went well yesterday. The Revelation bible study is being enjoyed by all attending, thank you Duane and June for leading the study.

Building: Ron reported the handicap lift he has been gathering information on will be less than \$10,000. He will continue to study and gather more information on this project.

Old Business:

Pew cushions are on the way, hopefully to be in place by Christmas Eve in the sanctuary.

New Business:

The ratification of the NALC constitutional amendments will be voted on as a congregation on December 14th after worship and our potluck will follow in the basement. Duane will have copies of what is being amended at the meeting. Our end-of-year disbursements have been discussed above. Our annual meeting will be February 1st , with the meeting following the service and breakfast following meeting in the basement.

Pastor's Report:

- Blayne has been encouraging Tiffany to continue her education and work toward ordination.
- Blayne is helping Miles City with their search for a pastor.
- Blayne baptized 2 of his grandchildren last Sunday in Miles City, the baptisms will be recorded here at New Hope Lutheran Church in our records, as Miles City doesn't have a pastor.
- Blayne purchased a new device to make our sound system work better.

Next meeting, January 18th at 10:00 a.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 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Haynie



Then I turned my
face to the Lord God,
seeking him by prayer
and pleas for mercy
with fasting and
sackcloth and ashes.
Daniel 9:3



New Hope Lutheran Church
PO Box 457
Circle, MT 59215



Annual Meeting
February 1st
Following Service