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## Bits from Blayne

Happy New Year, dear friends in Christ!

As we step into January, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past month and look ahead to some meaningful opportunities for growth and engagement in the coming weeks.

### Infant Baptism

In December, we delved into the topic of infant baptism during our catechesis. This is such a rich and foundational teaching of our faith, rooted in the promises of God. Scripture gives us beautiful assurance that baptism is His work, not ours—a means of grace through which He claims us as His own. Acts 2:38-39 reminds us, *"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children."* Similarly, in Titus 3:5, Paul declares, *"He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit."*

Infant baptism beautifully reflects God's initiative in our lives—that He seeks us first, and His grace is given freely, even before we can respond. If this is a topic you'd like to discuss more or if you've missed the session, I'd be happy to revisit these conversations with you.

### Holy Communion Study

In January, we'll continue our catechesis with a focus on Holy Communion. As we study this sacrament, we'll look at its scriptural foundation, its profound promises, and its role in the life of our congregation. I encourage you to join us as we dive deeper into understanding the mystery of Christ's body and blood given for the forgiveness of sins.

### Ministry Review in February

Looking ahead to February, we'll be undertaking a ministry review as a congregation. This is not a pastor evaluation but rather a meaningful time for us to reflect together on who we are as the body of Christ, review the traditions and practices of our church, and discern how best to carry out our mission.

This review is an opportunity for healthy communication, mutual encouragement, and clarity about how we can faithfully serve our Lord and each other in the year ahead. I encourage everyone to participate with open hearts and minds as we reflect on what it means to be New Hope Lutheran Church, and how God is calling us to live out our faith in this community.


As always, I am grateful for each of you and the ways you contribute to the life and ministry of our congregation. May God bless you richly as we journey together into 2024.

Yours in Christ,

**Blayne**

# Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Minister	Lector	Readings
<b>January 5</b> Sunday School Food Bank Sunday	9AM 10 AM	Pastor Blayne	Frank Wright	1 Kings 3:4-15 Psalm 119:97-104 Ephesians 1:3-14 Luke 2:40-52
<b>January 12</b> Communion Potluck to follow	4PM	Pastor Blayne	Joel Haynie	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Romans 6:1-11 Luke 3:15-22
<b>January 19</b>	9AM	Pastor Blayne	Duane Nelson	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 128 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11
<b>January 26</b> Communion	9AM	Pastor Blayne	Teri Ann Vejtasa	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 Psalm 19: (1-6) 7-14 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Luke 4: 16-30

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



## Food Bank Sundays

Please bring items to donate to our local Food Bank the first Sunday of each month.

### Contacts

Mailing Address:  
 P.O.Box 457  
 Circle, MT 59215

Email: [NewHopeLutheran2020@gmail.com](mailto: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, Worship Committee - 406-853-3348  
 Frank Wright, Worship Committee - 406-974-2042  
 Kim Murphy, Finance Committee - 406-974-2445  
 Jessica Bradley, Ed. Committee - 406-853-2515

#### 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 - Nov 2024 11/1/2024 through 11/30/2024

Category	11/1/2024- 11/30/2024
<b>INFLOWS</b>	
Div Income	11.97
Offering	1,638.00
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>1,649.97</b>
<b>OUTFLOWS</b>	
Building Improvements	
Flooring	3,071.04
<b>TOTAL Building Improvements</b>	<b>3,071.04</b>
Donation	
Worship Building	500.00
<b>TOTAL Donation</b>	<b>500.00</b>
Internet Expense	20.16
Pastoral	
Contract Pastor	1,250.00
<b>TOTAL Pastoral</b>	<b>1,250.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>4,841.20</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-3,191.23</b>

Financial Report submitted by Wanda Robinette.

## Sunday School

Sunday School  
January 5

Next  
Council Meeting  
Tuesday, Jan. 14  
at 7PM

## Bible Studies

Wednesdays at  
6:30pm lead by Mabel  
Haynie at the  
Sr. Center



Find information,  
resources, online small  
group study sessions,  
Daily Prayer and Readings,  
and more!  
[www.theNALC.org](http://www.theNALC.org)



Find information,  
resources, and more!  
[www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net)

New Hope Lutheran Church Council Meeting

November 11th, 2024

The council meeting of New Hope Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Duane Nelson. Council members present were: Frank Wright, Duane Nelson, Ron McFarland, Wanda Robinette, and Denise Haynie. Pastor Blayne and Jessica Bradley joined us via Zoom for the meeting. We will continue to use Zoom for those who have a distance to drive or just can't join the meeting in person due to weather or other related reasons.

**Correspondence** – We received a thank you from Michael, Samantha & Etta Vaira for the support we have given them with our prayers and donations. We received a letter from the LCMC, they will be increasing income on their budget for 2025 at 11-1/2% up, from 2024. They are still operating at \$100,000 under what they budgeted for 2024. We received a newsletter from the LCMC district. The Samaritan's purse sent out a Christmas giving catalog with ideas for Christmas that can really impact people's lives in other counties, anyone interested in this can contact a council member.

The previous minutes were read, Frank made a motion to approve the minutes, Ron seconded. Wanda gave the treasurer's report, Denise made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Ron seconded.

### Committee Reports

**Worship Committee:** There are 5 Sundays in December; Blayne can fill the pulpit every Sunday except December 29th. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 5:00p.m. on December 24th. On December 7th, the Evangelical Church will be having Bible Tours, as a Christmas program for the children of the church. They encouraged children of all churches, to join them to make this happen. It will run from 2-5 pm with tours starting every 15 minutes. It will be a journey through the Bible. Sounds like fun! December 8th, our worship service will be at 4:00 p.m., with a potluck and white elephant Christmas gift exchange to follow. Communion for December will be on the 8th and 22nd of the month.

The funeral service for Rae Murphy will be November 16th at 11:00 a.m. at Stevenson's & Son Funeral Chapel located in Circle. There will be a luncheon to follow at CCM.

**Finance Committee:** None

**Education Committee:** The first Sunday in December, we will have a topic discussion on Baptism in the church basement with coffee and snacks. The ladies Bible Study on Romans has wrapped up. **Building Committee:** Ron reported on the carpet flooring project. After we decided to possibly hire Trevor, to do the hard flooring for us, our quote for just the carpet was \$4,051.04. We will revamp the steps before they come to lay the carpet, to make the step on top a little wider. The carpet color is Bronze that was picked. Frank made a motion to have Paxon's flooring install the carpet for \$4051.04, being funded from the building savings account, Jessica seconded. We will wait on hard flooring to make decision at annual meeting. The carpet install will happen in January.

### Old Business:

The memorial plaque is finished; we will find a place to hang it. We have a mission statement to ponder. "Grow, equip and nurture the Kingdom of God, in love for one another, gifted to us by Christ.

### New Business:

We would like to see the communion dates put in the Newsletter for the congregation to be aware. We talked about putting the stained glass stickers on the window above the entry way. There is a place in Miles City that makes these. We need to see what would be best with the weather and temperature changes.

### Pastor's Report:

Pastor Mike from Miles City asked Blayne to be a reference for him in his new call. We need to pray for Lutheran Church in Miles City for a new pastor call. Blayne continues to share his ministry with the Lutheran Church in Jordan, MT once a month. On the 4th Sunday of the month, December 21st, Blayne will be a part of their Christmas program in Jordan at 11:00 p.m. Blayne would like to give a homebound communion class to a couple people of the church to administer to homebound people, as needed.

Blayne has created a website for NHLC, it is [newhope-lutheran.church](http://newhope-lutheran.church). Blayne purchased the domain for it.

Next meeting will be December 10th at 7:00 p.m., with Zoom offered for those who can't make it to the church.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Newsletter items due by the 20th of each month!

Respectfully submitted, Denise Haynie

May the God of hope fill you with all joy  
and peace as you trust in him, so that you  
may overflow with hope by the power of  
the Holy Spirit. ~Romans 15:13



New Hope Lutheran Church  
PO Box 457  
Circle, MT 59215

Annual Meeting in February.  
Watch for info!