



Bits from Blayne

As I write this, our nation is celebrating its 250th birthday. That is a remarkable milestone. Few nations have enjoyed such longevity, stability, and prosperity. As Christians, we can and should give thanks to God for the blessings we have received through this country. We enjoy freedoms that much of the world has never known, including the freedom to gather for worship, proclaim the Gospel, and raise our children in the faith.

There is no question that Christianity played an important role in the founding and development of the United States. While our nation was not established as a church, many of its founders were influenced by Christian teachings and a biblical understanding of morality, human dignity, and personal responsibility. The values of many early Americans were shaped by the Church and by the Scriptures they read and cherished.

At the same time, Christians must be careful not to confuse the United States with the Kingdom of God. America is a great nation, but it is not the Church. The Constitution can protect religious freedom, but it cannot forgive sins. Elections can shape public policy, but they cannot grant eternal life. Only Jesus Christ can do that.

Martin Luther taught that God rules His creation in two different ways. Through earthly governments, God preserves order, restrains evil, and protects His people. Through the Church, God delivers forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life through His Word and Sacraments. Both are gifts from God, but they serve different purposes. Problems arise when we expect the government to do the work of the Church or when we expect the Church to become an arm of the government.

For that reason, you will rarely hear me preach partisan politics from the pulpit. God's Word certainly speaks to matters of morality, justice, mercy, life, marriage, and our responsibilities toward one another. Yet the purpose of a sermon is not to promote a political platform or advance a particular party. The purpose of a sermon is to proclaim Christ crucified and risen for sinners.

In recent years, much has been said about Christian Nationalism. While people may define that term differently, Christians should always be cautious whenever love of country begins to compete with devotion to Christ. Patriotism can be a virtue. We should pray for our leaders, serve our communities, and be grateful for our nation. But our ultimate allegiance belongs to Jesus Christ alone.

I spent thirteen years serving this country in the United States Marine Corps. I am thankful for my service, proud of our nation, and grateful for the freedoms we enjoy. Yet my hope is not found in Washington, D.C., a political party, or a government institution. My hope is found in Jesus Christ.

So as our nation celebrates 250 years, we will give thanks to God for the blessings of our country. We will pray for our leaders and our communities. But on July 5, as on every Sunday, our focus will remain where it belongs: on Jesus Christ. Nations rise and fall. Governments come and go. But Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. In Him we have a kingdom that will never end.

Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Minister	Lector	Readings
July 5 Bring Food Bank Items Catechesis	6PM	Pastor Blayne	Frank Wright	Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:1-14 Romans 7:14-25a Matthew 11:25-30
July 12 Communion	6PM	Pastor Blayne	Thomas Fritz	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65: (1-8) 9-13 Romans 8:12-17 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19 Council Meeting	10AM	TBD	Joel Haynie	Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 119:57-64 Romans 8:18-27 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 26 Communion	6PM	Pastor Blayne	Teri Ann Vejtasa	Deuteronomy 7:6-9 Psalm 125 Romans 8:28-39 Matthew 13:44-52



Summer Schedule

Memorial Day through Labor Day,
evening services are at **6PM**



Please submit information for the monthly newsletter by the 20th 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
Thomas Fritz, Vice President - 406-974-3336
Denise Haynie, Secretary - 406-939-3856
Wanda Robinette, Treasurer - 406-939-3404
Ron McFarland - 406-853-3348
Frank Wright - 406-974-2042
Peter Ferm - 406-529-3478

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 - May 2026

5/1/2026 through 5/31/2026

Category	5/1/2026- 5/31/2026
INFLOWS	
Div Income	4.42
Offering	2,215.00
Thrivent Donations	104.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	2,323.42
OUTFLOWS	
Donation	
Worship Building	750.00
TOTAL Donation	750.00
Internet Expense	25.55
Music	50.00
Pastoral	
Contract Pastor	1,500.00
Other	250.00
TOTAL Pastoral	1,750.00
Yard Maintenance	116.98
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	2,692.53
OVERALL TOTAL	-369.11

Financial Report submitted by Wanda Robinette.

Sunday School

July 5th - Catechesis



Council Meeting
Sunday, July 19th
following service

Bible Studies

Thursdays at the Sr. Center
at 7PM 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

There was no Council Meeting in May so there are no minutes to share.

Bits from Blayne 2.0

I would like to share some news regarding my ministry and service within our community.

Recently, I accepted a call to serve as Associate Pastor at First Lutheran Church in Miles City during their pastoral vacancy. As many of you know, I have been assisting First Lutheran for some time by leading worship and providing pastoral support. This new call simply formalizes that relationship and provides additional clarity regarding my responsibilities while they continue the process of calling a full-time lead pastor.

I want to assure everyone that this does not change my commitment to New Hope Lutheran Church or St. John's Lutheran Church. These congregations remain my primary calls, and my responsibilities here continue unchanged. In fact, the agreement with First Lutheran specifically recognizes my existing commitments and allows me to continue serving the congregations that first called me into pastoral ministry.

In many ways, our ministry together began under circumstances very similar to this. From the beginning, we have understood that the Church is larger than any one congregation and that we are called to support one another in the work of the Gospel whenever possible. I view this opportunity as an extension of that shared mission.

There are also some practical benefits. As part of this new call, First Lutheran has agreed to assist with one semester of my continuing education each year. This reduces that financial obligation for New Hope while helping me continue my studies and pastoral development.

First Lutheran remains in the call process for a full-time lead pastor. My role is intended to provide leadership, stability, and pastoral care during that transition. The agreement itself recognizes that this arrangement may conclude when a lead pastor is eventually called and accepts the position.

I am grateful for the trust, encouragement, and support you have shown me over the years. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve not only this congregation, but also the wider Church in our region.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, I encourage you to speak with me directly. We are a church family, and healthy families communicate openly, honestly, and with grace.

In Christ,

Pastor Blayne



Psalm 33:12 - Blessed is the nation
whose God is the LORD, the
people he chose for his inheritance.



New Hope Lutheran Church
PO Box 457
Circle, MT 59215

