



Bits from Blayne

“A Mission That Shapes Us”

In April, as part of our catechesis discussions at New Hope Lutheran Church, we spent time listening to Christ, reflecting on Scripture, and discerning what it means to be His Church in this particular season and place. From that prayerful work emerged a renewed mission statement — one that reflects both our apostolic identity and our commitment to living faithfully within the broader Church:

“We listen to Christ, respond in faith, are humbly sent in love.”

This twelve-word statement wasn't chosen at random. The number twelve itself is intentional — drawing us back to the twelve apostles who were commissioned and sent by Jesus. We, too, are part of that sent people. The Church is not just a gathering of believers, but a people *on mission*. This statement helps us remember that. Each word carries weight. Let's walk through it.

- “We” speaks to our unity. We are not alone in this. We belong to one another — a family in Christ. It also echoes the LCMC's core value of being *congregationally focused and accountable to one another*. We walk this road together.
- “Listen to Christ” begins with hearing — “*Faith comes by hearing*,” as Paul writes in Romans 10:17. But this isn't just any hearing. It's a commitment to being a biblically grounded congregation. This phrase reflects the LCMC's value of being rooted in the Word and the NALC's core value of being Christ-centered. Jesus is not one voice among many — He is the voice we follow.
- “Respond in faith” reminds us that the Gospel is not a passive truth. It moves us. It calls forth trust, obedience, and worship. This is our reaction to what Christ has done, and still does, for us. And it points to Jesus' own teaching — that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.
- “Are humbly sent in love” brings it full circle. “Are” keeps us connected to the “we” — a shared identity in mission. “Humbly” echoes 1 Peter 3, reminding us that we are not sent in arrogance, but with gentleness and reverence. “Sent” draws directly from John 20 and the Office of the Keys — “*As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.*” And “in love” brings us back to the heart of Christ's command — love God, and love your neighbor.

Together, these words reflect not a break from the wider Church, but our *local embodiment* of the Great Commission. As the NALC and LCMC both affirm, we are called to *make disciples, proclaim the Gospel, and serve our neighbors in Christ's name*. This mission statement is simply the way we, at New Hope, are choosing to keep that call clear in our hearts and in our ministry.

And as we've discussed before — this isn't just a slogan. It's a lens for decision-making. As Todd Bolsinger says in *Canoeing the Mountains*, “the mission trumps.” When we face a choice — whether to start a ministry, change a structure, or adapt a practice — we ask: *Does this help us listen to Christ? Does it invite faith? Does it send us in humility and love?*

When the answer is yes — we move forward. When it's unclear — we wait, pray, and listen again. Because this mission is not ours. It's His. And we are His people.

That's why, each week, you now hear this as our sending statement. It's not just a benediction — it's a commissioning. As we leave worship and re-enter the world, we are reminded who we are and what we're here for:

“We listen to Christ, respond in faith, are humbly sent in love.”

And thanks be to God — we do not go alone.

+In Christ,
Pr. Blayne


Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Minister	Lector	Readings
May 4 Sunday School Food Bank Sunday	9 AM 10 AM	Tiffany Smotherman	Frank Wright	Acts 9:1-22 Psalm 30 Revelation 5: (1-7) 8-14 John 21: 1-14 (15-19)
May 11 Communion Potluck to follow Mother's Day	6 PM	Pastor Blayne	Duane Nelson	Acts 20: 17-35 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30
May 18	9 AM	Pastor Blayne	Thomas Fritz	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 150 Revelation 21:1-7 John 16:12-22
May 25 Communion	9 AM	Pastor Blayne	Denise Haynie	Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27 John 16: 23-33

SUMMER SCHEDULE

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:
 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 - Mar 2025

3/1/2025 through 3/31/2025

Category	3/1/2025- 3/31/2025
INFLOWS	
Div Income	12.05
Offering	2,670.00
Thrivent Donations	780.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	3,462.05
OUTFLOWS	
Advertising	225.00
Donation	
Worship Building	750.00
TOTAL Donation	750.00
Internet Expense	20.15
Music	50.00
Pastoral	
Contract Pastor	1,500.00
TOTAL Pastoral	1,500.00
Supplies	
Office	150.00
TOTAL Supplies	150.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	2,695.15
OVERALL TOTAL	766.90

Financial Report submitted by Wanda Robinette.

Sunday School

May 4
Adults & Kids

Next

Council Meeting
Monday, May 12

7PM

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 7:00 p.m. by President Duane Nelson. Council members present were: Frank Wright, Thomas Fritz, Wanda Robinette, Duane Nelson, and Denise Haynie. Pastor Blayne joined us via Zoom for the meeting, also. 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 bill from the Circle Banner for \$225, a letter from Our Daily Bread with Easter reflections we can order, an annual report from NALC and a newsletter from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Chester, MT.

Minutes from the last meeting were read, Frank made a motion to approve the minutes, Thomas seconded.

Wanda gave the *treasurer's report*. Wanda stated we needed to update our computer for \$150, so she went ahead and did this. Frank made a motion to reimburse Wanda for the \$150, Denise seconded. Denise made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Thomas seconded.

Wanda made a motion to rescind her last month's motion (to eliminate all committees, except nominating and audit committees) and keep the committees as before, Thomas seconded. Frank-worship, Kim-finance, Education-Wanda and Ron and Thomas-building.

Committees

Worship - We will have communion April 13th, 20th and 27th. Blayne will be gone April 9th -11th for

meetings, therefore he will need someone to fill in and do his Lent service that Wednesday. Denise will order palm branches for Palm Sunday. Lent suppers are filled with soup and bread on the sign-up sheet for a few weeks, but we still have some openings to be filled. On April 13th, we will see if Tara can play for our evening service and maybe she can fill in on some other evening services, too? Worship will contact her.

Worship will contact her.

Finance - no report

Education – L.J. Bradley and Charlie Hebel will be ready for first communion next year. Will Hebel will be ready for confirmation. Sunday School is the first Sunday of the month with Wanda. Mabel said she would start up her bible study in the fall. On Catechesis Sunday, we will continue working on our mission statement.

Building – We visited about the heat bill from the last 2 months and we would like to see where we are losing heat in the building. Duane has a thermal imaging camera that could measure where we are losing heat.

Old Business:

Denise needs to call about the stained glass window film to cover the east windows above the entrance of the church. She will have to get up in the attic and get some measurements to send to them for a quote. We are working on our mission statement. Duane and Denise need to go through minutes and make changes to our by-laws and constitution as were changed per our annual meetings and get them updated so we can give our new council member a copy of the by-laws and constitution. We are nearing the flooring project getting started, as Jeff at the lumber yard, said the flooring will be here by Wednesday. Duane will contact Trevor to see when they want to start. We will need to get a group to help move the pews.

New Business:

Easter breakfast will be after our 9 a.m. service, as a potluck brunch.

Pastor's Report:

~Blayne will be gone May 4th

~Catechesis Sunday will be April 6th .

~Blayne will have a wedding here at NHLC on September 27th .

Next meeting will be Monday, April 14th, at 7:00 p.m., with Zoom offered for those who can't make it to the church.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Newsletter items due by the 20th of each month!

Respectfully submitted, Denise Haynie

Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
“Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all.”

Proverbs 31:28-29



New Hope Lutheran Church
PO Box 457
Circle, MT 59215

Happy
Mother's
Day