

August 2026

This past month, I got to experience being an emergency contact. While I cannot say it's a position I would call "fun", it comes with great responsibility. Many, if not most, of the parishioners at St. John and Good Hope have probably already come to know the weight of being an "emergency contact". I think it's worth noting that the weight of this role doesn't come from dropping what you're doing to meet your loved one where they are and potentially transport them to their next place of care. The weight comes after the emergency has been handled.

My husband had his appendix removed this past week. The procedure went great, and he is doing just fine, but there have been several moments throughout this process where we have been reminded of God's sovereignty. The illusion of control we think we have during emergencies is just that, an illusion. Today, I'm not referring to the emergencies with little post-emergency needs. I'm referring to crises which require lengthier healing after the emergency has been handled — healing such as: bed rest, time off work, childcare, therapy, alternate living quarters, and more. This type of provision can make a caregiver weary.

In Galatians chapter 6, Paul emphasizes the importance of sowing "goodness" in our lives. As a result, we are promised to reap a great harvest. Caring for a loved one after an emergency is an example of sowing this goodness Paul speaks about, an act that will yield a great harvest. Galatians 6:9 ⁹"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

A bountiful harvest may be a motivating enough reward for some caregivers, but others may just wish the load they carry would become lighter... Galatians 6:2 tells us to "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Notice there is no discussion of the burden getting lighter in weight, but rather the reward that comes when the weight is shared. To be very literal - If one person recruits a partner to help them lift 100 pounds, each person only lifts 50 pounds.

I cannot compare the temporary care I'm providing for my husband with the prolonged care some of you have been providing for loved ones. I simply hope to remind you not to carry the weight alone. God is the ultimate emergency contact. He carries us, sustains us, and in many cases, send us people to help carry our burdens.

Whatever weight you are carrying; I pray that you ask God to carry it with you and open your eyes and ears to the assistance he sends.

God bless,
Tina

Coming in September: Cottage Meetings!

Each and every adult member of Good Hope is about to be invited to a cottage meeting. And we want to make sure you know what a cottage meeting is, and why it's so important you take the time to attend.

First of all, a *cottage meeting* is an evening gathering of maybe 12 or so adults, with the aim of lasting about an hour. One couple that night will serve as hosts, and the meeting will take place in their home, or “cottage”—hence the name! There will be prayer and a brief Bible study, *leading to a conversation concerning the future of our congregation.*

- Where is God leading you and your family in faith? Where is God leading Good Hope?
- What is our mission in Arlington, and in the surrounding area?
- What are some of the challenges we face, and how has God prepared us to meet those challenges?
- What role has God called you to play?

Pastor Steve's retirement is now less than a year and a half away. We do have a call committee, actively looking for our next pastor, but only God knows what path this will take. Meantime, the work of the church goes on, teaching and preaching and visiting the sick and comforting the grieving and feeding the hungry, and so on, and the fact is, *we are the church.* This is our work, together!

It is our firm belief, that the best days of Good Hope are ahead of us, and not behind. God has abundantly blessed us in the past, and God continues to do so now! Only rise up and follow, and let us seek His will together.

We want to thank our cottage meeting hosts, including Dave and Jill Seitz, Lou Ann Nagy, Roger and Amy Bower, Dan and April Beach, Mike and Michelle Palmer, Brian and Amy Hurt, Gary and Rita Bernhardt, Beth Wallwey, Rob and Patti Strasbaugh, Creg and Kim Jordan, and Dustin and Abby Windau! Blessings upon you all for stepping up.

Someone from this list will be calling you, sometime toward the end of August, to invite you to their home! Please say yes and plan to attend!

If that particular evening just will not work for you, let that be known, and we can get you on another list, to be invited to another meeting on another evening.

One meeting, one hour, one night.
One mission together in Christ.

Thank you all, and we'll see you in worship, and in someone's cottage!

Confirmation

A new year of confirmation is set to begin on Sunday, September 13, with an organizational meeting for students and parents. The meeting will take place immediately after 10 am worship, and will last no more than 20 minutes.

A letter will be going out in the mail to families involved in this ministry, on or about August 26. This letter will contain more detailed information.

For now, please note, that for the past several years, confirmation has been aimed at incoming 7th and 8th graders. This year, for a variety of reasons, we are thinking about including incoming 6th graders as well.

Parents who may have questions about this are encouraged to contact Pastor Steve and / or members of the Parish Board of Education. A decision on this will be made at the board's meeting on August 5.



First Communion



First Communion classes for our 5th graders will organize after 10 am worship on Sunday, September 27.

A letter to parents of 5th graders will go out in the mail in early September, with more information.

Shipwreck Sunday

Shipwreck Sunday this year falls on September 20, as we mark together the 195th anniversary of "The Wreck of the Famous Dove."

As part of our commemoration, there will be a special service at the Shipwreck Memorial, located in the St Paul cemetery. This service will take place at 3 pm on the afternoon of the 20th, and all are invited.



Outreach Ministries Coordinator



LYO 7th-12 Grade Mudhens Game

We will be going to the Toledo Mudhens Game on Sunday, August 23rd. The game starts at 2 o'clock, we will be meeting at church Sunday the 23rd at noon, leaving by 12:30.

Families may attend, but please RSVP by Friday, August 14th so we can confirm all tickets have been purchased together. Be on the lookout for a ticket link that we may use – that is being set up and will be posted once it is available.

Worship Night at Ghost Town



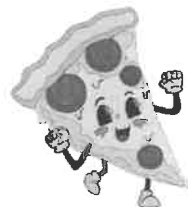
Saturday, August 22nd Ghost Town is hosting a Worship Night. If anyone in grades 4-12 would like to carpool, please let Lizzy know. Or we can meet up and sit together at the event. Bring a lawn chair or blankets. Food vendors and kids' games will be there, as well. Happening rain or shine.

4th-6th Grade

With the upcoming school year, we are looking at a new youth group schedule for the 4-6th graders. Stay tuned for the September newsletter when that is confirmed!

Pizza & Jesus

Starts back up on Sunday, September 27th.



Teen Breakfast

If you ever feel called to speak at Teen Breakfast on Thursday mornings during the next school year, please reach out to Lizzy.

Teen Breakfast will be starting back up in September.



Cottage Meeting Daycare Heads Up

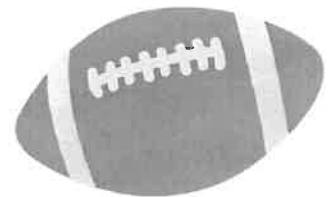
Good Hope is wanting to start up the Cottage Meetings again! (As Pastor Steve said, we have not done these for 14 years.) Cottage Meetings are gatherings of small groups that are held in a congregation member's home for a meal and fellowship. These are estimated to run this fall, between September and October, hoping for 12 Meetings in total.

In order for parents to attend these Cottage Meetings, there will be a need for childcare. That is where the youth come in! The 7th-12th graders (and Lizzy) will be at Good Hope to provide childcare. We will go over more concrete details as the dates are confirmed.

The first cottage meeting is tentatively set to be on September 20th.

5th Quarter

After 3 home football games this fall, Good Hope will host 5th Quarter for students in grades 5-8. The church will provide food, drinks, and games. A sign up sheet for adult chaperones will be posted in the narthex as we get closer to the three dates: September 11, September 25, October 23.



Board of Parish Education

Date	Grades 1-6
August 2nd	David - Part One
August 9th	David - Part Two
August 16th	David - Part Three
August 23	Object Lesson - Be a Barnabas
August 30th	Object Lesson - Words Matter

A BIG Thank You!

The Board of Parish Ed would like to extend a formal thank you for your incredible generosity and support of our Vacation Bible School, **Trailblazers of Faith!** From donating supplies, serving snacks, teaching lessons, and lending helping hands wherever they were needed, each volunteer played an important role in making this year a success.



Rally Day



Mark Your Calendars! Rally Day is Almost Here! Join us on **Sunday, September 13, at 9:00 AM** in the **Fellowship Hall** as we celebrate the start of a new Sunday School year! Come ready to represent your Sunday School class in some friendly competition, reconnect with friends, and enjoy a delicious sweet treat. It's a great way to kick off the new year of learning, fellowship, and fun together. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Join Our Sunday School Team!

Now is a wonderful time to get involved in our Sunday School ministry! Just a **one-week commitment at a time** can make a lasting impact in the lives of our children and youth. If you've been feeling called to teach or serve as a classroom helper, we'd love to have you join us. There are many opportunities available, and every volunteer makes a difference.



Stop by Fellowship Hall to view the Sunday School sign-up sheets and find a time that works for you. We hope you'll prayerfully consider being part of this meaningful ministry!

Birthdays in Aug. - 80+

Sue Rossman 8/16

Mary Jo Morrow 8/20

Jan Rossman 8/27

Anniversary in Aug. - 40+

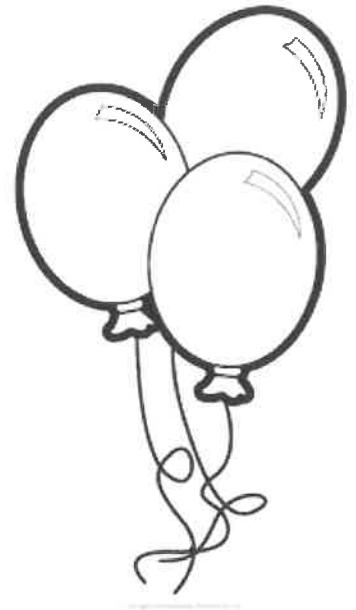
Dave & Jill Seitz 8/6

David & Tammy Bruley 8/18

Birthdays in Sept. - 80+

Anniversary in Sept. - 40+

Ed & Jo Rettig 9/8



Flowers for the Altar in Aug.



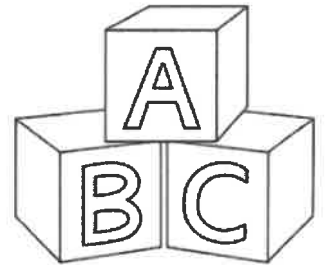
8/2 – Open 8/9 – Open 8/16 – Bernhardt Piano – Cable

8/23 – Whitmer 8/30 – Open

Hospital & Health in June/July

Infant Emma Inbody, Jody Weidman, Lilly Burgbacher, Sharon Ault, Roxie Hurt, Sally Bateson and Maddie Hartman.

Births – Mark & Johanna Inbody had a baby girl, Emma. The proud grandparents are David & Donna Inbody.



Fall Cottage Meetings – The following hosts have scheduled their cottage meetings...



Gary & Rita Bernhardt
Roger & Amy Bower
Rob & Patti Strasbaugh

Sunday, Sept. 20 at 6:00pm

Beth Wallwey

Saturday, Sept. 26 at 5:00pm

Dave & Jill Seitz

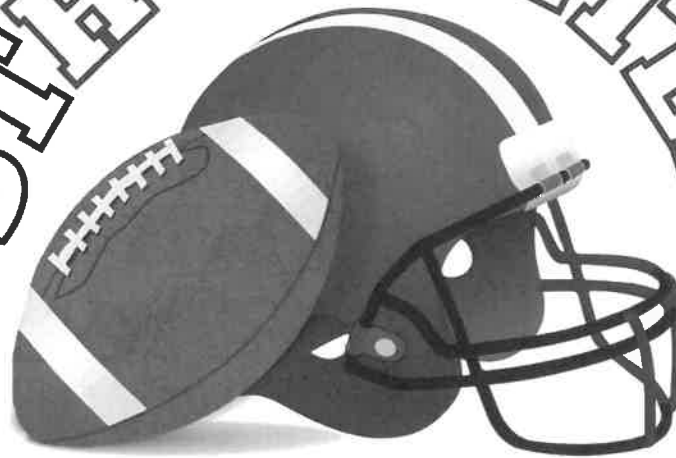
Sunday, Oct. 4 at 4:00pm

Lou Ann Nagy

Sunday, Oct. 11 at 4:00pm



5TH QUARTER



ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-8

Hosted by Good Hope Lutheran
Church; walk on over after the
varsity football game to enjoy
fellowship, food, and fun!



SEPTEMBER

11

**BEGINS 10 MINS. AFTER
THE FINAL WHISTLE**

SEPTEMBER

25

ENDS AROUND 11 PM

Looking forward to
seeing you there!

OCTOBER

23





GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**TOLEDO
MUDHENS
GAME
AUGUST 23**

LYO 7-12 GRADE

The game is on August 23rd at 2 pm.
We will be meeting at church on the
23rd at 12:00. Leaving by 12:30.

Families are welcome to attend. If
enough kids would like to attend, we
will need drivers.



Please RSVP to Lizzy by August 14th so
we can buy tickets. (Updates on a
ticket link may be available soon.)



Worship Night

On Saturday, August 22nd, Ghost Town is hosting a Worship Night. If anyone in grades 4-12 would like to carpool, please let Lizzy know. Or we can meet up and sit together at the event!

Bring a lawn chair or blankets. Food vendors and kids games will be there, as well. Happening rain or shine!

Doors open 5:30 / Concert 7:00

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AUG. 2026						
2 7:30/10Worship Special Offering 9 Sunday School	3	4	5 1-3 Sewing Ladies	6 10 Bulletin Deadline	7	1 Pastor Steve _____
7 Men's group _____ On _____	7 Trustee Mtg ____ Vacation	7 Boy Scouts	6 Parish Ed Mtg			No Worship
9 7:30/10 Worship/Com 9 Sunday School	10	11	12 1-3 Sewing Ladies	13 9 Food Pantry 10 Bulletin Deadline	14	15 Bernhardt Wedding
	7 Council Mtg	7 Boy Scouts				No Worship
16 7:30/10 Worship 9 Sunday School	17	18	19 1-3 Sewing Ladies	20 10 Bulletin Deadline	21	22
	5:15 Teen Brkfst Mtg	7 Boy Scouts		4-7 Var. Ftbl Meal		5 Worship
23 7:30/10 Worship 9 Sunday School 12:30 LYO to Mud Hens	24	25	26 10 News. Deadline 1-3Sewing Ladies	27 9 Food Pantry 10 Bulletin Deadline 4-7 Var. Ftbl Meal	28 12:30 News. Assem. Collins (FH)	29 4-7 Scout Hog Roast 5 Worship
30 7:30/10 Worship 9 Sunday School	31					