

This Week

TODAY:

9AM: Choir Practice

9:15AM: Fellowship

10AM: Worship Service with Kids
Singing & Baptism

11AM: Sunday School / Bible Study

PALM SUNDAY—Potluck after worship
Baptism of Lakeland Huber

Liturgist: Joni Jenkins

Ushers: Bob & Carol Grapevine

Greeters: Roger & LaDonna Dutton

Accompanist: David & Sandra Murray

Wednesday, April 1:

HOLY WEEK: No Early Release
NO Confirmation



Thursday, April 2:

NO SCHOOL

NO Bible Study & NO Mat Weaving!

5:30PM: Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

Accompanist: Staci Thompson

Friday, April 3:

NO SCHOOL

5:30PM: Good Friday Service

Accompanist: David & Sandra Murray

Sunday, April 5:

9AM: Choir Practice

9:15AM: Fellowship

10AM: Worship Service with Communion

11AM: *NO Sunday School*
NO Bible Study

Liturgist: Joni Jenkins

Ushers: *to be determined...*

Greeters: Louis & Marilyn Schaefer

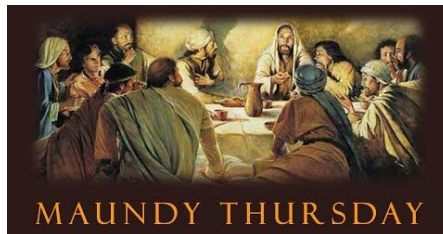
Accompanist: Staci Thompson

For more information and to see what else is happening at Hope, visit us at behopeumc.com and our Facebook page, Hope United Methodist Church-Blue Earth, MN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

5th Sunday POTLUCK after worship today!

Free will offering to go towards Terri Burns' medical expenses from all of her recent back procedures and all are welcome (whether you bring food or not)! If you'd like to bring something, please reach out to Audrey Brod.



Maundy Thursday Service at 5:30PM
(4/2/26)



Good Friday Service at 5:30PM
There will be an outdoor processional with cross
(4/3/26)



Easter Sunday Service at 10:00AM
(4/5/26)



Sunday, March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

Hope United Methodist Church

www.behopeumc.com | (507) 526-2144 | hopeumc@bevcomm.net

Church office hours: Mondays 8:15am-12:15pm & Wednesdays 8:15am-4:15pm

Pastor Godfrey Gakuru: (740) 803-6762 hopepastor@bevcomm.net

Administrative Assistant, Carolyn Kaiser: (763) 567-9004 hopeumc@bevcomm.net
Kids Coordinator, Megan Goshorn: (253) 592-5219 kidscoordinatorhope@gmail.com

Christ, the Humble Savior

I discovered my singing gift when I was a little boy. However, it did not begin with singing, it began with writing poetry. I am, at heart, a poet. I first wrote in my local dialect, Kimeru, then in Kiswahili, my national language, and later in English, which is also one of our official languages in Kenya. I recorded my first song in high school and later created a video while in university. From childhood, I have always felt a deep passion—not just to sing, but to sing songs of praise to Christ, my King and Savior, and the songs that spiritually edify my Spirit and those of others. I have always known singing as central to the life of faith. The Bible teaches that there are many kinds of songs—**psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs**—and all are meant to praise God, to address one another, and to encourage one another. As it says in Ephesians 5:19: *“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.”*

The Bible also encourages us to praise God with a variety of instruments and expressions: *“Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance...”* (Psalm 150:3–4). Moreover, again, in Psalm 149:3: *“Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp.”*

In Matthew 21:9, we see the crowd welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem, shouting praises: “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” **However, the crowd expected a political king—someone who would overthrow Roman rule.** They praised Jesus as a liberator, but they did not yet understand that His kingdom was spiritual. Only days later, when Jesus did not meet their expectations, their praise turned into rejection and conflict. **The same voices that cried “Hosanna” would later shout, “Crucify him!”** They chose Barabbas to be released instead of Jesus. The soldiers mocked Him, placing a crown of thorns on His head. They failed to recognize His humility—He who entered on a donkey—and instead saw Him as one who had failed to save them because He refused to become the political king they desired.

This moment reveals a painful truth: praise can quickly turn into disappointment when our expectations are not met.

However, Jesus knew all of this. He was not surprised. Moreover, he continued toward the cross. Step by step, He remained faithful to His mission. In a deeper sense, Jesus continued the song of obedience—the song of love—even through suffering.

Today, we are reminded not to come before the Lord with hesitation or fear, but with joy and praise. Our call to faith is a lifelong journey, walking with Christ even to the cross. It is a commitment we express through church membership, through baptism, and through being spiritual role models and mentors, especially for the children we nurture in faith.

I know that sometimes, even as we sing “Hosanna,” our hearts can feel heavy. Life brings burdens—rejection, complicated systems, overwhelming workloads, disappointment, and moments when we feel overlooked or judged. However, through Christ, we overcome whatever holds us back from praising Him.

So even when our hearts are heavy, we lift our voices.

Even when life is difficult, we raise our palms.

Even when we do not understand, we choose to sing praises.



ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED...



We'll be filling "Lenten Jars" with coins collected that we will be donated to the Blue Earth Area Schools for their BUCC-y Bags program. *Lenten Coin Calendars are available on the bulletin boards by the restrooms.* "BUCC-Y bags" are made for K – 5th Grade students with weekend food

insecurity to help reduce hunger over the weekends so students return to class less hungry and ready to learn. A cart to collect your coin-filled containers will be available in the Narthex on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

2026 Radio Broadcast Sponsorship

The 2026 Radio Broadcast sign-up list is posted in the Narthex! If you would like to sponsor/sign up for a particular Sunday, please fill out your name, message, and the sponsorship fee is now **\$30** per Sunday.

"HAPPY HOUR WITH JESUS" is back, weekly on Thursdays @ 5pm!

(no Happy Hour during Holy Week! 4/2/26)



****ODD DATES - Pete's Bar and Grill****

115 E 6th St, Blue Earth, MN 56013 (formerly Average Jo's)

****EVEN DATES - Lost Saint Brewing****

317 S Grove St, Blue Earth, MN 56013

Order your beverage-of-choice and enjoy a casual group conversation about life, struggles, celebrations... and how faith, church family, and community fits in. No RSVP required! *To be added to the text group for reminders, please contact Mark or Megan Hanson-Haase.*

Cleaning out your closet?! We need your shoes!



Blue Earth Area Tennis Team is doing a fundraiser for shoes – gently worn, used and new shoes. Collected shoes will not only help support the tennis team

financially but they will be reused and given a second life by those in need through Funds2Orgs Shoe Drive. There is a box to collect donated shoes in the Narthex by the Welcome counter. Last day to donate is April 30, 2026. Any questions, please contact Tina Prescher at 507-525-7924.



The Lord's Acre group met last Sunday, 3/22/26, and a total of \$4,200 will be donated to the following:

- \$2,000 Hope Children's Camp Scholarship Fund
- \$ 500 Interfaith Caregivers
- \$ 500 Riverside Cemetery in Blue Earth
- \$ 500 Faribault County Food Shelf
- \$ 400 Praise Band (for miscellaneous equipment)
- \$ 300 Seeds of Hope Garden Fund
- \$4,200 TOTAL**

The new Lord's Acre sign-up poster for the 2026/2027 farming season is already in the Narthex! Go sign up!
Thank you all so much!

Summer Adventure...CAMP!



Church Camp

Dive into a world of fun, learning, and adventure while meeting new friends, learning new skills and sharing the joy of Jesus and community. Camps are for everyone and all ages.

A lot of different types of camp are available as well as dates and locations. To learn more, Hope UMC will be celebrating "Camp Sunday" on April 12th. Camp Scholarships are available of \$400 per child that would like to attend a camp. For more information, please contact the church office.

Don and Wendy Nickel, *Hope Camp Ambassadors*



Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held during the week of August 3rd this year! Stay tuned for more details (times & exact dates).