

This Week

TODAY:

9AM: Choir Practice

NO FELLOWSHIP

10AM: Worship, Confirmation & Communion Service

11AM: Confirmation Cake & Coffee Fellowship



Liturgist: Maggie Johnson

Ushers: Bob & Madge Toland

Greeters: Dale & Jeanette Matheson

Accompanist: Staci Thompson

Tuesday, April 28:

5PM: Finance Meeting

Wednesday, April 29:

2PM: St. Luke's BINGO

2:30-4:15PM: LAST DAY OF EARLY RELEASE

6PM: Ad Council Meeting

Thursday, April 30:

10AM: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study

5PM: Happy Hour with Jesus

Friday, May 1:

9AM: Kitchen Cleaning by Faith Circle

Sunday, May 3:

9AM: Choir Practice

9:15AM: Fellowship

10AM: Worship & Communion Service

11AM: Sunday School
Bible Study

Liturgist: Maggie Johnson

Ushers: Bruce & Bonnie Ankeny

Greeters: Dale & Jeanette Matheson

Accompanist: Gail Keck

ANNOUNCEMENTS



We will be holding our Confirmation Sunday on April 26, 2026, at 10am.

The following students will be confirmed:

Avery Asmus Koby Ihle

Karsyn Brandt Gavin Millmann

Caleb Goshorn Rylee Olson

Natalie Griffey

Special cake/coffee fellowship will be held AFTER the service concludes - no fellowship before worship.

Administrative Assistant Hired!

We would like to welcome Jaymee Nelson to our staff! Jaymee grew up in Blue Earth and still lives in the area with her husband and three children. She comes to us after working 16 years as an Office Assistant at Darling Ingredients. She started her training on Monday, April 20th. Her "scheduled hours" will be determined after training has wrapped up.

Please limit visits to the church office during training time (next few weeks) unless they are necessary church business visits. Thank you so much for your consideration!

NOTE: Jaymee's email address will be

HOPEOFFICE@bevcomm.net. Carolyn's email will remain the same: hopeumc@bevcomm.net.

This Sunday's KBEW Broadcast is sponsored by Pastor Judith Clark in celebration of her late husband Leon Hixon's birthday (April 24).



Sunday, April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Easter / Confirmation Sunday

Hope United Methodist Church

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

Church office hours: Monday 8:15am-12:15pm & Wednesday 8:15am-4:15pm
Pastor Godfrey Gakuru: (740) 803-6762 hopepastor@bevcomm.net
Administrative Assistant, Jaymee Nelson: (507) 525-0267 hopeoffice@bevcomm.net
Kids Coordinator, Megan Goshorn: (253) 592-5219 kidscoordinatorhope@gmail.com
Carolyn Kaiser: (763) 567-9004 hopeumc@bevcomm.net

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.

Savior, Like A Shepherd, Leads Us

Growing up in rural Kenya, tending sheep and cattle was not just a chore—it was a way of life. One of the most important—and exhausting—tasks was watering the animals. During the dry seasons, this became even more critical. The water was not always nearby. Sometimes we had to walk long distances to rivers to water the cattle. Sheep would lag, while cattle pushed forward. Watering was not just about quenching thirst; it was about survival. I could tell the condition of each animal—the weak and the strong. By the time I returned home, I would count each one carefully. I would also check their bellies to make sure they were well fed; otherwise, my mother would accuse me of abandoning them and going off to play with other children. And honestly, like any other child, sometimes I did. We would play and forget the animals, only to go looking for them later. Occasionally, I would lose one or two and find them the next morning. That was never a good feeling—it was not fun at all. Through these experiences, I began to understand what it means to be a shepherd. It has been a long time since I lived that life, although even today, my mother keeps some cattle.

When we turn to the Scriptures, one of the central images of God is that of a shepherd. From the earliest traditions of the people of Israel, this image expresses **God's intimate care, guidance, and protection**. It portrays the essential role of a shepherd: **to lead, to guard, and to provide for the flock**. In the Gospel of John, chapter 10, this imagery reaches its fullest expression as Christ identifies himself as the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep, calls them by name, and lays down his life for them. In Jesus Christ, we see the depth of God's sacrificial love—what we call *Agape* love. There is no greater love than this. If Christ is our Good Shepherd, then we are not left to wander alone. The fears we carry, the doubts that weigh us down, the struggles we try to hide—he already knows them. And still, he calls us by name.

The question is not whether the Shepherd is speaking. **The question is: whose voice are we listening to?** There are many voices in our lives—voices of fear, voices of failure and

discouragement, voices that tell us we are not enough, that we are not worthy, or that we do not belong. And that is what confirmation is all about; it reminds us that outside God, we lack care, leadership, and protection. When we are outside the fold, we are exposed to many dangers. We become vulnerable. As young people, social media is always inviting us in, and sometimes it leaves us feeling more isolated—like a lost sheep watching the rest of the flock go back to the shepherd while it is left behind, wondering.

In Psalm 23, David confidently says, **“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff comfort me.”** This psalm reminds us that being with our Savior, the Good Shepherd, even for a moment is better than wandering lost for a lifetime. **The voice of Christ calls us closer. Christ is inviting us to trust, obey, and follow Him, and He has promised that whatever we ask in His name will be given to us. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED...

FINANCE MEETING: Tuesday, April 28th at 5PM

AD COUNCIL MEETING: Wednesday, April 29th at 6PM



A Church Conference will be held on Sunday, May 24, right after worship with Pastor Judith Clark officiating. We are excited that Christine Gasheri is hearing God's call into chaplaincy. At that short meeting, we will take a written vote to approve Christine to enter into the candidacy process as a Deacon with the Minnesota Annual Conference.



Pastor Katie Menne will be covering the worship service on Sunday, May 10th while Pastor Godfrey is on vacation. Please join us in welcoming her back as she had served Hope Church in previous years.

Lawn mowing season is almost here!

A new lawn mowing sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. If you are willing and capable to help with mowing the church yard a time or two this year, it would be greatly appreciated! And if there are any issues with the actual lawn mower, contact information will be posted in the garage and in the Narthex for Yeager Implement/Farnhams. **A huge thank you to all of those who helped in previous mowing seasons!**



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

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.

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.

Attention: 2026 High School Graduates!

For those that are graduating high school this year and who are planning on continuing their education and have previously participated in either Hope's Youth or Confirmation program, you may be eligible!

In order to receive a **total of \$2,000 over 2 years**, participants must submit an application to Hope's Scholarship Program. After being reviewed and accepted, they will be required to submit their transcript to us (after completing each year or each semester) and provided they have performed sufficiently, we will send them a check!

Please see Daryl Murray or Carolyn Kaiser for an application/more details.