

This Week

Sunday, May 31:

9AM: Choir Practice
10AM: Worship
11AM: Church Conference

Liturgist: Nancy Steinke
Ushers: Donna and John Roper
Greeters: Marilyn and Louis Schaefer
Accompanist: David Murray

Tuesday, June 2, 2026:

2PM: UWF Meeting
2PM: St. Lukes Communion

Thursday, June 4, 2026:

1-4PM: Mat Weaving

Sunday, June 7, 2026:

9AM: Choir Practice
10AM: Worship

Liturgist:
Greeters:
Ushers:
Accompanist: Staci Thompson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a potluck on May 31, 2026 following the church service.

May 31 will be the last Sunday for the choir to sing, prior to their summer break.

There is a sign up sheet for volunteers in the narthex on the bulletin board for liturgist, greeters and ushers. This will get us through the summer.



The missions committee at Trinity Lutheran Church has proposed that instead of a Tour of Tables fundraiser to benefit Trinity's libraries as in recent years, a community-wide event will be organized with all profits going to the Faribault County Food Shelf. It is hoped that one or two people from at least five Blue Earth area churches will join the group to do the planning: no table decorating required! If you are interested or have questions, please contact Terri Hanson (Trinity Lutheran Cares Committee) at 701-527-0611 or Linda Steinhauer (Faribault Co. Food Shelf) at 507-525-2162. We need a committee meeting in June for the purpose of deciding on a location for the October 10 event. So let us hear from you in the next ten days!

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.



Sunday, May 31, 2026:

Trinity Sunday

Peace with Justice Sunday

Hope United Methodist Church

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

Church office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 8:15AM-3:00PM

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

Bookkeeper, Carolyn Kaiser: (763) 567-9004 hopeumc@bevcomm.net

Prelude
Welcome
Announcements

***Call To Worship**

Leader: We come to praise the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

All: We praise God who creates, redeems, and sustains all creation!

Leader: We come to wade into the depths of the divine mystery of God who dwells with us.

All: We come with wonder and awe, drawn into the mystery of God's presence among us.

Leader: We come to witness the interconnectedness of the Triune God, and to marvel at the divine dance of love, partnership, and communion.

All: We receive the invitation to join the divine dance of God who creates, redeems, and sustains all creation!

Leader: Come, let us worship the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

All: Come, all people from every place and language, let us speak with one voice. Amen.

***Unison Prayer**

**Gracious Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—
We come before You as one people gathered from many places, cultures, races, and languages. You are the God who creates all humanity in Your image. We confess that though we speak in different languages, you are the One who understands every heart. Though we come from different stories and backgrounds, You call us into one body, one family, and one hope in Christ. Break down the walls that divide us, heal what is broken between us, and teach us to love one another as You have loved us. Empower us to speak words of grace, to listen with humility, and to walk together in unity and peace. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** “How Great Thou Art” UMH 77

Children's Message

1st Scripture Reading: **Genesis 11:1-9**

2nd Scripture Reading: **Mathew 28:18-20**

***Preparatory Hymn** “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling” UMH 348

Sermon Series: **One in Christ, One with One Another**

***Hymn of Response:** “Jesus Calls Us” UMH 398

Sermon: **“Many Languages, But Still One Voice”** Rev. Godfrey Gakuru

Choir Anthem The Family of Christ

Offering *(please put any written prayer requests & offerings in offering plates as they are passed)*

Offertory Prayer

Doxology

Sharing of Birthdays, Anniversaries, Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” UMH 557

Benediction

**Please stand if you are able*

Many Languages, But Still One Voice

In 1974, Kiswahili was officially recognized as Kenya's national language. So by the time I was born, Kiswahili was already the national language. However, before I began school, my parents introduced me to another language, *Kitharaka*, our local language. Later, when I first joined kindergarten, I was introduced to Kiswahili. I still remember those moments from a distance—the little chairs, the other children around me, and my mother packing food and drinks for me and placing them in my backpack. At school, if we did not speak Kiswahili, there were consequences. In fact, no one was allowed to speak *Kitharaka* within the school compound. If you did, you were given something called a “monitor.” It was passed from one student to another, marking whoever had broken the language rule. If you caught another student speaking *Kitharaka*, you would hand them the monitor, and by evening, all who had it would be disciplined. But as soon as we left school, we returned to *Kitharaka*—two languages, two worlds; I had to navigate both.

While this was happening, English was also being introduced. By the time we moved to the next level of class, things became even more challenging—we were expected to speak and write in English as well. Speaking any other language was discouraged, and discipline was even stricter. It was at this point that I truly began learning English, and it was not easy. As many of you know, learning a new language takes time, patience, and persistence. Ask me about my Greek and Hebrew class at seminary—it is a story for another day.

Last Sunday was Pentecost Sunday, when we remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples gathered in one place. They had obeyed Christ's command to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father, as recorded in Acts 1:4–5. What is striking is this: something I struggled for years to learn; God enabled them to speak in an instant. There was no language school, no textbooks, no training. Yet they were empowered to speak different languages. In Acts 2:9–11, we read of people from many places—Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya near Cyrene, Rome, Crete, and Arabia—each hearing the message in their own language. **But who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is God's promise to everyone who believes.** Jesus told His disciples, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4). What came was not only a gift, but power—the power to witness and share Christ with the world. **The Holy Spirit is also God's living presence and the power of God within us.** All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Christ, and therefore, when we believe in Him, this power is also given to us. So, when He sends us, we do not go in our own strength, but in His power and authority. And this authority shapes us into the likeness of Christ,

who came for the poor, the rejected, the outcast, and the sinner. Jesus commanded His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything He commanded. Obedience, therefore, is central to our calling—not obedience rooted in fear, but obedience rooted in love and trust. And in that obedience, we receive this promise: “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

Our founding father, John Wesley, recorded a powerful moment of spiritual transformation on May 24, 1738. After a day of reading Scripture and seeking God, he wrote about what happened that evening: He had gone to America to minister but returned to England feeling discouraged. “In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street... while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, **I felt my heart strangely warmed...**” Wesley's experience reminds us that the Holy Spirit is the power of God who warms our hearts, bringing assurance, peace, and true faith in Jesus Christ.

My education in the United States taught me something even more challenging than what I faced in Kenya. As a requirement for admission to an American university, I had to take English proficiency tests such as TOEFL or IELTS. This is a requirement for all international students who apply to join American universities. With these journeys of learning new languages, I recognize that it is the Holy Spirit who gives us power to thrive—in our careers, families, and ministry, and life, it is God's presence with us. And whether someone grew up speaking three languages or only one, we are reminded of this truth: God loves all people equally. God meets each of us in our own language, culture, and story. Our teachers were patient with us. They walked with us, corrected us, and watched us grow. Let us therefore walk with one another in the same way—not rushing ahead, not isolating ourselves, but growing together in patience and grace. **Just as my teachers walked with me—and even more, just as God walks with us—let us speak with one voice.**