

## Council President's Article – April 2026

As this newsletter reaches you, we find ourselves just coming out of the Lenten season—a meaningful time of repentance, reflection, and spiritual preparation. Lent invites us to slow down, look inward, and draw closer to God, and it also brings a fuller calendar of worship and ministry opportunities here at Hope Lutheran.

From a practical standpoint, this season involves a great deal of additional planning, coordination, and effort behind the scenes. With extra services and special gatherings, many hands are needed to make everything run smoothly. I want to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone who contributed their time, talents, and energy. Whether you helped organize, participated in worship, shared your musical gifts, or quietly supported things in the background, your efforts truly made a difference. We are blessed to be part of a congregation that steps up so faithfully.

A special note of appreciation goes to our musical leaders for the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer services. These services added a unique and reflective dimension to our Lenten journey and were deeply meaningful to many.

Looking ahead, we are excited to start using the communication tool for our congregation called *Text In Church*. Chris has been working diligently behind the scenes to prepare for its launch. This tool will help us stay better connected as a church community through text messages, automated phone calls, and emails.

To make sure everything is working properly, there will be a TEST text message and phone call sent out on April 27, 2026 to all members who have a phone number on file. If you do not receive either a text or a call on that day, please reach out so we can update our records. You can email Chris at [hopelutheran87@gmail.com](mailto:hopolutheran87@gmail.com) or call the church office at (507) 872-6446. Even if your number is a landline, you should still receive the phone call portion of the test.

At our April council meeting, there was a continued conversation about the choir loft. Several members of the congregation have shared thoughts and concerns, and we appreciate that input. The council is currently gathering information and exploring options to make the space more accessible and flexible, while still preserving its character and purpose. Some ideas being considered include the use of stacking chairs which can be multipurpose and potential updates or replacements within the space. As we move forward, we are committed to keeping the congregation informed and involved. Once more details—including potential plans and costs—are available, we will schedule a listening and informational session so that everyone has an opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and share feedback.

Thank you again for your continued support, involvement, and care for our church community. Hope Lutheran is a special place because of each and every one of you.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas regarding Hope Lutheran feel free to reach out to me.