



Little Things from Lisa

We have just begun the advent season and as always, we begin with hope. Hope is such a small word but carries a great weight of responsibility. Without hope, what is life? But just what is hope? And not just according to the dictionary, but also according to the bible. Do we fully understand what hope is and means for us every single day?

Hope is the desire for something good in the future. We often hope that things will go our way. Or we hope for good outcomes, positive experiences, and smooth sailing, right? And yet, the biblical definition of hope is not quite the same as the way we use the word Hope. Normally, when we express hope, we are expressing uncertainty. We're not sure how things will work out, but we "hope" it will be in our favor.

But this does not convey the biblical meaning of the word hope. Biblical hope is not just a desire for something good in the future, but rather, biblical hope is a **confident expectation** and desire for something good in the future. In other words, when we place our hope in God, we not only desire that He do what we hope, but we have the expectation that God will make it happen. Biblical hope is the expectation that God will act. When scripture states, "Hope in God!" it does not mean, "Cross your fingers." It means that we hope with the expectation that God will do great things.

So, to be clear, the secular idea of hope is taking chances, a gamble, a risk that may or may not pan out. But the biblical idea of hope is a confident expectation and desire for good in the future. And there is a certainty to it.

Romans 15:13 says, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Contact Us

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Items for Newsletter: email to klgothard@att.net

Pastor

Rev Lisa Abb

Music Ministries

Holly Richardson

Custodian

Bill Melton

Moderator

Paula Pettersen or Allan Mathieu

Treasurer

Stan McCord

Financial Secretary

Diane Wheeler

Church Clerk

Marie Mathieu

Trustees

Karen Gothard, Brian Wheeler, Owen Mathieu

Diaconate

Jerry & Eldonna Clendenny

Bill & Misty Melton

Stan McCord and Reilly Mathieu



DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS				ANNIVERSARIES	
3	Noah Melton	30	Norm Iversen	8	Jonelle & Dustin Insko
6	Emily Richardson	30	Grant Wheeler		
8	Adam Henderson			27	Pat & Cathy Henderson
10	Jan Hensel				
18	Joshua Richardson				
21	Holly Dodge				
24	Janet Lind				
28	Gayle Grim				

Caring for Others

The change in our culture since the outbreak of Covid has greatly affected how we are able to care for others these days. In person visits are risky for everyone as no one is certain if they are carrying or vulnerable to the virus. Rehab centers in particular have been hotbeds of infections and carry a high risk of exposure.

Being sick, being hurt, being unable to get out is lonely enough. But not being able to receive visits compounds the problem. As the Holidays approach, please be mindful of those who are isolated and infirmed. Send more cards. Make more calls. Let them know they are loved, missed, and on your heart.

Bible Study

Bible Study will continue on Mondays at 1:00 for the first three Mondays in December. We will follow the Advent lessons of Hope, peace, joy, and love. However, on Monday, December 27th, we will not be meeting. We will take a break for the week between the Holidays to rest and refresh. There is always room for more at the table!!



Joy Fellowship is Taking December off!

We will return in the New Year!

!

Coming to the Pulpit

I hope you enjoyed our volunteer celebration, because I sure did! What a joy it is to be part of the family. Believe it or not, Advent is here! It is an important time of year for preparation. And not just our presents, cards, parties, and decorations, but what truly needs to be prepared...our hearts. In this season of gift giving, remember that God's gift of Jesus is the reason we go to all of this trouble in the first place. Keep your focus on Christ this Christmas, and prepare yourself each week by joining us in worship for hope, peace, joy, and love



Retirees & Wannabes

This group meets the first Wednesday of the month at Sophia's in Roscoe at 11:30. That means it falls on December 7th this month. Join these fine fellas as they gather for lunch, conversation, exchanging of ideas, and fellowship. If you'd like to join them, they'd love to have you.



Chair Yoga

Our church offers weekly chair yoga on Tuesday nights at 6:30. The cost is \$10 per session. They meet in the fellowship area of the lower level.

Chair Yoga is open to the community as well, so be sure to invite a friend.



People to Pray For

Tracy Terry

Tom & Barb George

Martha Darling

Betty Weeks

Sandra Brinkman

Reverse Advent Calendar

Our Worship Planning Team invites you to join us in gathering supplies for Miss Carly's Place and the Rockton Food Pantry. Both ministry partners will be in need of restocking their shelves after Christmas. We will collect much needed items for both throughout the month of December. Then on Christmas day, we will have a potluck brunch and packing party at 10:00 to celebrate the birth of Christ. Everyone is welcome to join us if they find they have no plans!

Year End Reports

Reminder time that the end of the year is coming just after Christmas. It shouldn't be a surprise, it happens every year. But we do seem to be caught off guard each year that we have committee reports to turn in once again.

Please make sure that if you are responsible for writing a year-end report, that you get this on your radar! All submissions can be sent to KLGothard@att.net.



Christmas Eve December 24th
5:00 Carols and Lessons

Christmas Day December 25th
10:00 am Brunch Potluck

New Year's Day January 1, 2023
10:00 am as usual.

Looking Ahead into 2023!

Every year in January, we have our annual meeting on the 3rd Sunday of the month. That falls on January 22nd in 2023. It is an important time where we elect new committee members and approve the budget and do other important work for the church. Your attendance is requested at this meeting. It takes place after worship in the sanctuary.

And then....IT'S BACK! Our New Committee Member Mixer will be held the following Saturday, January 28th at 9:30 am. This is an informal breakfast meeting where committees gather for the first time, make plans, share responsibilities, and talk about the upcoming year. All while eating a delicious breakfast provided for you! So please put these dates on your new calendars! Thank you!

Women's Circle

What a blessing! We had 14 ladies come to our annual holiday dinner at Thunder Bay restaurant in Rockford for our November meeting.

The group voted to make a \$200 donation to Rock House Kids in December and took up a collection of \$154 to go to the Rockton Food Pantry. The Circle will round out the food pantry donation to make it an even \$200. Hopefully we will help to bless many families this holiday season!

Preparations were made for the upcoming Cookie Walk & Craft Show on December 10th. We are in great need of donations of cookies, candies, breads, etc to sell at the Cookie Walk – mark those calendars and fire up those ovens! 😊 You can drop your goodies off at church on Friday night, 12/9.

Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
Matthew 3:1 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



JOHN THE BAPTIST

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 16-18-5-1-3-8 _____
- 2-1-16-20-9-26-5 _____
- 16-1-20-8-19 _____
- 4-5-19-5-18-20 _____
- 19-20-18-1-9-7-8-20 _____
- 12-15-3-21-19-20-19 _____
- 16-18-5-16-1-18-5 _____
- 8-15-14-5-25 _____

BAPTIZE	PREPARE	STRAIGHT	LOCUSTS
PATHS	HONEY	PREACH	DESERT

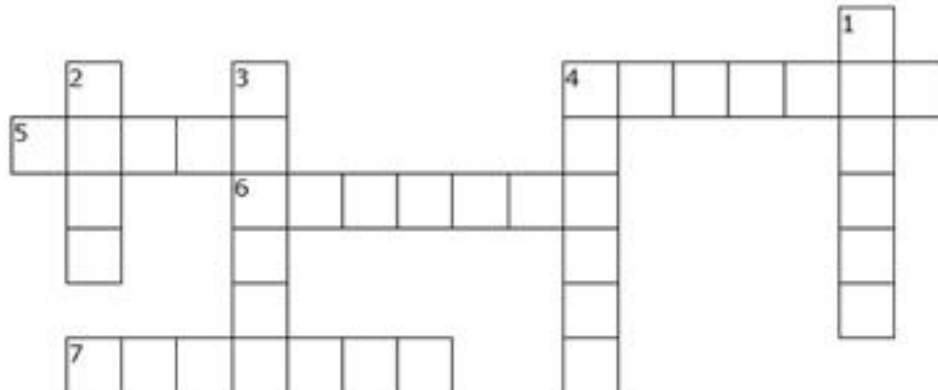
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Based on Matthew 3:1-12



JOHN THE BAPTIST



ACROSS

4. One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future
5. The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
6. To get ready for something that is going to happen
7. What John did to people in the Jordan River

DOWN

1. An area where there is little rain and not many plants
2. The man who preached that Jesus was coming
3. To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
4. To deliver a sermon

VOICE	PREPARE	DESERT	PROPHET
REPENT	JOHN	PREACH	BAPTIZE

Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



JOHN THE BAPTIST

W L U Z M H V J O J Q V Q S U
I Y V S L O G N K M D B H A K
K C T X T N M R H K Y T E X X
C I X J T E Z Y J T A E S L E
P N N Y Y Y A S L P P T R Z T
R B M G J W I L D G S U E S Q
E D A H D H A I R U X G P T C
P Z O P Y O U S C E N U E R F
A T O Q T W M O H I N J N A F
R Z S G N I L O H L R L T I M
E Z J N P O Z C P N E P Y G P
E S P O A E A E H M N N Z H C
L O R D H E M T A F T Q X T Y
J W K K R N J C U Y C T Q T U
I X E P F N M H L D Z D E N I

LORD

BAPTIZE

REPENT

PREPARE

STRAIGHT

LOCUSTS

KINGDOM

PATHS

HONEY

JOHN

PREACHING

CAMEL

HAIR

WILD

BELT



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10:00 am Worship Service with communion 11:00 am Fellowship	5 1:00 pm Bible Study	6 6:30 pm Chair Yoga	7 11am Retiree's & Wannabe's at Sopiha's <u>Women's Circle</u> 4:00 pm Bake & Decorate	8	9	10 COOKIE WALK & CRAFT SHOW 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
11 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fellowship	12 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Church Staff Meeting 7:00 Church Council Meeting	13 6:30 pm Chair Yoga	14	15	16	17
18 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fellowship	19 1:00 pm Bible Study	20 6:30 pm Chair Yoga	21 Winter Begins	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service at 5pm for Carols & Lessons
25 Christmas Day Breakfast Potluck Worship Service at 10:00 am	26	27 6:30 pm Chair Yoga	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve