

Mission Statement

God calls us to Mission and Ministry in our rural community and to the world. Gathered in Faith and nurtured by Word and Sacraments, we commit ourselves to share a hope for the future, to use our resources and talents guided by the Holy Spirit, and to work together to expand our ministry to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ.

HOPE LUTHERAN & ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

January, 2024

Sunday Worship:

Hope—9:00 AM
St. Paul's—10:30 AM
With Communion
on the first and third
Sundays

GLOW:

God's Love On
Wednesdays
5:30 PM Supper
6:00 PM GLOW
6:00 PM Confirmation
Classes/Teen Power

Coffee & Fellowship:

Hope—10:00 AM

*Hope Services Are
Streamed on
Facebook*

Annual Meeting

January 28, 2024

Following 9:00 am Worship
All Members of Hope Lutheran
Are Encouraged to Attend

Meeting

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Pastor's Office Hours:

Hope Lutheran Church
113 South Jefferson Street
PO Box 87
Minneota, MN 56264-0087

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
412 East Lyon Street
Minneota, MN 56264

Pastor Cell:
Office/Kitchen: 507-872-6446
Parish Secretary: Chris Pesch
Secretary's Cell: 507-530-5666

Church Email:
hopelutheran87@gmail.com
Church Website:
www.hopeminneota.org

Pastor:
Pastor Email:
Missionary: Dr. Elisabeth Johnson
Missionary Email: elisajo@msn.com

Bible Studies for Men and Women

Circle Bible Study	January 8th, 7:00 pm	At Church
Circle Bible Study	January 10th, 10:00 am	At Gayle VanVooren's Home
Men's Bible Study	January 5th, 8:00 am	At Porter Cafe



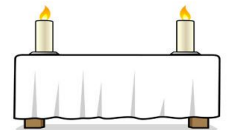
2023 Church Attendance

2024 Church Attendance

December 3		January 7
December 10		January 14
December 17		January 21
December 24	N/A No morning worship	January 28
December 24	Christmas Eve	Total:
December 31		Avg:
Total:		
Avg:		

Altar Guild (December 27—January 23)

Marlys Skaar 872-6600
 Gayle VanVooren 872-6927



Workgroup Chairpersons

Date Sound Operators

Date Acolytes

January 7	Open	January 7
January 14	Jack Jerzak	January 14
January 21	Scott Josephson	January 21
January 28	Greg Gottskalkson	January 28



Money Counters: January:

Upcoming Dates:

- *January 6, 5 pm**
Baptism for Marlowe Laleman, Daughter of Spencer & Melissa Laleman
 - *January 7, During Worship**
Scholarship Distribution
 - *January 10, 10 am**
Morning Bible Study at Gayle VanVooren's Home
 - *January 14, 11-2 pm**
SOS (Social on Sunday) Fellowship Hall (Hot lunch provided, please bring something to share)
 - *January 15, Noon**
Annual Reports Due to Church Secretary
- Please note: Your Church Secretary will be gone from January 27th-February 4th.***
- *January 28, Following Worship**
Annual Meeting

Church Council Notes – December 6, 2023

Fund Balances: General Fund:	\$ 14,903.97	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 28,903.02
Building Fund:	\$ 4,832.75	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 197.88
Building Fund Savings:	\$ 2,641.17	GLOW:	\$ 3,282.20

Attendance:

- **Attending in Person:** Terri Myhre, Rose Van Uden, Emily Hennen, Jen Anderson, Barb Knutson, Chris Pesch, Angie DeVos, Jason Johnson, Barry Gronke, Deb Belaen
- **Attending via Phone:**
- **Absent:** Lizzy Reiss, Moriah Reiss, Aimee Ascheman

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Barry Gronke to approve the secretary's report. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- **Bills** – Bills for the month of December were presented by Barry Gronke. The Prairie Conference dues are \$133.50. The SMSU Campus Ministry statement is for \$534.00 based on membership. We have done this as a walk around offering in previous years, and it was agreed that we would do this again in January. We will also pay YOH \$500, Cemetery \$500, and GLOW \$1,000, which are budgeted line items. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$8,663.21.
- **Motion made by Rose Van Uden to approve the Treasurer's Report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Trustees Report

- **Budget Planning Meeting:** The trustees will have a budget planning meeting on December 11th.
- **Auditors:** Names of auditors were discussed, and they will be contacted.
- **Other:** Randy Prellwitz has resigned from the sound board committee as they will be moving to the Pipestone area. Thank you Randy for your years of service.
- **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Board of Trustees report. Jen Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Deacons Report

- **Walk Around Offerings:** 4th Sunday of the month. Endowment matches walk around offerings 2:1 up to \$500.
 - January 28 – SMSU Campus Ministry
 - February – TBD
 - Erin & Jess have asked to do a walk around for GLOW, and we want to make it clear in the bulletin what it is for.
- **Work Groups:** Deacons are continuing to work on setting up the 2024 work groups.
- **Christmas Services:**
 - December 24, 2023 / Christmas Eve: No 9:00 am service. There will be a 4:00 pm service at St. Paul's and a 5:30 pm service at Hope. Pastor Time will be here for this.
 - December 25, 2023 / Christmas Day: No services. Giving Tim the day off to spend time with his family as he is not our contracted pastor, and we want to respect his family traditions and obligations.
- **Pulpit Supply:**
 - March 3, 6, and 10th Pastor Tim will not be available. Barb will reach out to John Lupkes for the March 3rd and March 10th services.
 - Pastor Tim is willing to do the Lenten services, and he will use a liturgy that he has.
 - Pastor Tim would like to spend more time at his lake home this summer, so we may need to find some other options for that time frame.
 - **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Deacons' report. Rose Van Uden seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

(continued on page 4)

Church Council Notes – October 4, 2023 (continued)

Board of Education Report

GLOW:

- The Christmas program will be Sunday, December 17, 2023, at 10:00 am.
- There will be no GLOW on December 20 and 27, January 3rd.
- We are looking for new leadership for the Christmas program next year, as it is time to get some new family and talent.
- After the holidays, Barry and Jess will be leading the 5th graders in preparing them for 1st Communion in April. They will be teaching them about the meaning and why it's important to us as Christians. We have adopted a curriculum from Christ in Hendricks and online resources.
- The youth music program has been a struggle. We are open to ideas on how to keep a music program director. The expectation is that the person would teach both past and present songs/music. Do we have the finances to pay them something? Would this be considered a GLOW responsibility or church?
- We also discussed connecting our youth and older congregation members. One idea was small group ministry or multi-generational (6th grade and up) Bible study. We would like to see interaction with the children's message involving the youth and adults of the church. It would also be great to have Confirmation mentors – church adults who are NOT students' grandparents or parents. Another idea was a family mission trip where families do mission work within Minnesota or further out.
- The GLOW kids voted on where to donate the funds raised from the offering taken during the children's sermon. The children's offering was \$403.45, and the Endowment Fund committee is matching it 2-1 up to \$500. The total will be approximately \$900. The votes haven't been totaled yet, but some of the voting suggestions were the Kitchen Table Food Shelf, Lyon County Heart to Heart, Mission Trip gloves and hats, Minnesota School Christmas Angels.

Mission Trip:

- Upcoming fundraisers for the 2025 Mission Trip:
 - Christmas Baking: Selling Oreo truffles, lefse, and Belgian cookies. Accepting orders now until Dec 3, 2023. Baking day will be held this Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 10:30 am at Hope Lutheran Church. Orders will be available for pick-up later that afternoon.
 - Upcoming fundraiser – The Extra Slice Fundraiser. Pizza fundraiser with Extra Innings Paninos & Pizza (Varsity Pub). 20% pizza and seasoning sales and 10% on gift card sales. Planning to hold the fundraiser from 1/15/24 to 2/16/24.
 - Any students going into 8th grade - 12th grade the fall of 2023 are eligible to go on the 2025 Mission Trip. Please let Emily Hennen know if your child would like to participate emhaugland@hotmail.com.

Youth of Hope:

- Refocusing to 6th, 7th and 8th graders instead of 7th -12th in hopes of getting more participation and involvement.
- Adopted a family of four (2 boys and 2 girls) to buy Christmas gifts through the Christmas Angels program at Minnesota Schools. 10 students and chaperones will be shopping for gifts after church on Sunday, December 10, 2023. They will be gathering at the church after shopping to wrap presents.

Upcoming Dates:

- April 7, 2024 – 1st Communion for 5th graders. Thank you to Lynn Okrina and Pat Myhre for making the cups for those receiving their First Communion.
- Baccalaureate – May 5, 2024

VBS:

- Amie is going to need to contact Green Lake regarding reserving dates for the upcoming year. We do want to VBS at Hope again this upcoming year. It was agreed that we want to do it during the same time frame as last year, so we should get it booked. Amie's schedule this summer will give her limited availability during VBS; she is willing to coordinate it but will need someone to oversee it during the week VBS occurs.
- **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Board of Education report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- Nominating Committee: The committee has been established.
- End of Year Cutoff: December 31st is the date for end of the year cutoff.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to adjourn. Rose Van Uden seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of January 1, 2024, via e-mail.

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Boards meet at 6:30 pm (no GLOW)

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen, Council Secretary

Hope Lutheran Teen Power's Annual Shoe Collection

Clean out your closets and bring your shoes, boots, sandals, and other footwear to Hope Lutheran Church! Give away your gently worn shoes to help to provide shoes that aren't worn or an old pair that may end up in a landfill. Give those shoes to Hope Lutheran Teen Power and know that steps are being taken to make that footwear useable.

Hope Lutheran Teen Power is collecting footwear **now through Easter, 2024**. We will gather footwear and deliver our donations to one of the drop-off points, Schuler Shoes in St. Cloud, MN. They shared with us that after the footwear is donated, the shoes are paired and sorted, and the footwear goes to four different places. The newer ones may be donated to the shelter food shelf and then sold at shelters for \$5.00/pair. The money is then donated to the shelter's food shelf. Some of the shoes stay in Minnesota with a program called "Shoe Away Hunger", and some go to other countries where they are needed for people without shoes. The rest, if pretty worn out, or are singles, are shredded and used for playground surfacing of rubber mulch.

It is estimated that approximately 400 million children worldwide, more than the entire population of the U.S., live in poverty. Many of these children will grow up never having had a pair of shoes, resulting in significant ramifications for their health and well-being. Lacking the proper footwear, countless children will be unable to attend the school.

Please clean out your closets and bring your bags and boxes of your household's gently worn footwear to Hope Lutheran Church. Help us to promote "Shoe Away Hunger".

