

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/February, 2025

Sunday Worship:

September-May

Hope—8:30 AM
St. Paul's—10:30 AM
With Communion
on the first and third
Sundays

GLOW:

(Sept-May)

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

Coffee & Fellowship:

Following Worship at
Hope

Inside this issue:

Bible Study's/Duties	2
Upcoming Dates	2
Council Minutes (January)	3-4
Council Minutes (February)	5-6
Mission Trip Update	7
Shoe Collection	7
February Work Group	8
February Calendar	9

All Are Welcome

WORSHIP TIMES:

**Hope Lutheran
Sundays—9:00 am
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays**

St. Paul's—10:30 am

Annual Meeting Sunday, January 26th!

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

Pastor:
Pastor Email:
Missionary: Dr. Elisabeth Johnson
Missionary Email: elisajo@msn.com
GLOW Directors: Erin Roberts & Jess Gronke
Custodians: Jason & Jen Johnson & Family
Organists: Valerie Buysse, Wendy Sarazyn
Jubilation: Kasey Denney & Nona Gottskalkson

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

Bible Studies for Men and Women

Gather Magazine Bible Study	February 3, 6:30 pm	At Church
Women of the Bible Study	???, 10:00 am	At ??? Home
Men's Bible Study	February 7, 8:00 am	At Porter Cafe



2024 Church Attendance

2025 Church Attendance

December 1	92	January 5	89
December 8	68	January 12	73
December 15	323	January 19	70 Est.
December 22	88	January 26	
December 24	321	Total:	
December 29	55	Average:	
Total:	947		
Average:	158		

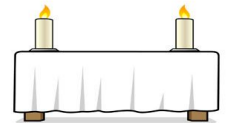


Workgroup Chairpersons

Andy & Emily Hennen
507-828-6797

Altar Guild (January 28-February 25)

Val Buysse 828-4404
Sandy Tolk 872-6730



Date Sound Operators

February 2 Matt Myhre
February 9 Todd Sonnenburg
February 16 Scott Josephson
February 23 Cole Myhre

Date Acolytes

February 2 Logan Esping & Jagger Stassen
February 9 Beckham Norby & Blayze Hulzebos
February 16 Keatyn Bouwman & Sydney Hennen
February 23 Rory Strandmark & Parker Minnehan



Money Counters: February -

Upcoming Dates:

- ***January 26**—Annual Meeting
- ***February 2**—Minneota Area Mission Trip Serving Breakfast at Wilno Cathloic Church following 8:15 Mass
- ***February 16**—5-7 pm, Minneota Area Mission Trip Annual Spaghetti Supper
- ***April 13**—First Communion
- ***May 11**—Baccalaureate Sunday
- ***June 9-12**—Vacation Bible School with Bethany-Elim
- ***June 22-27**—Mission Trip to Perry, FL

Church Council Notes - DECEMBER 4, 2024

Fund Balances: General Fund:	\$ 22,449.77	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 41,574.75
Building Fund:	\$ 4,320.31	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 515.30
Building Fund Savings:	\$ 2,6013.60	GLOW:	\$ 2,257.72

Attendance:

Attending in Person: Terri Myhre, Emily Hennen, Rose Van Uden, Barb Knutson, Cory Myhre, Deb Belaen, Jen Anderson, Amie Ascheman, Angie DeVos, Jason Johnson, James Danielson

Attending via Phone:

Absent: Lizzy Reiss, Sandy Josephson, Chris Pesch-Church Secretary

Secretary's Report - Motion made to approve the October and November's secretary's report made by Cory Myhre. Jason Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- **Bills:** Bills for the month of December were presented by Cory Myhre. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$5,703.56
Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Treasurer's Report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees Report

- **Bills:** Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$5,703.56. There were no additional bills for this month.
- **Pulpit Fill:** We have a lay minister who will be starting on Sunday, December 8th. Her name is Jennifer Warnock, and she will be coming from Madison. She is starting the process to become a minister, and she has agreed to come over for FUEL one Wednesday night per month. We will split the cost 50/50 with St. Paul's, and this is what we did previously. Bishop Dee has found a person to bless the sacraments, so Jennifer will be able to do communion. As Sunday, December 15th is the Christmas program, we won't have communion that day or December 22nd, but we will have communion on Christmas Eve.
- **2025 Budget:** The proposed 2025 budget that the board of trustees put together was reviewed. The budget included the estimated cost if we get a pastor, and it also included a 3% raise for the secretary and custodian along with an increase to \$65 per service for the organist and pianist. We also increased the GLOW/Confirmation budget line item as grocery costs have increased and so curriculum can be purchased if needed. We also feel that this is an important part of our education program. The total budget approved was \$206,800.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Emily Hennen 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. There was discussion about doing the walk around differently, but it agreed that we would continue to do it the same as we have been, but we need a Temple Talk on the day of the walk around, so people know what the walk around is for.
- December - Walk around offering will be done during the Christmas program and will go to GLOW/Confirmation.
- January - There was discussion about doing a walk around offering to help cover costs for snow blower repair / replacement. A decision will be made in January.
- **Pulpit Fill / Pastor Call:** As mentioned earlier, Jennifer Warnock will be our lay minister starting this Sunday. The MSP (Ministry Site Profile) has been posted to the synod's website. The members of the call committee have agreed to continue to be on the committee.
- **Work Groups:** All the works groups for 2025 have been set up except for April.
- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve the Board of Deacons report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Education Report

- **Mission Trip:** We are continuing to research locations and organizations. Fundraising - Christmas baking will take place at Hope Lutheran Church at 10:00 am on December 8, 2024. Checks can be made out to Youth of Hope.
- **GLOW:** Upcoming events -
 - December 15 - Christmas Program will be at 9:00 am, and the theme is "Not So Silent Night." There will be a walk around offering for GLOW during the service.
- Thank you's -
 - Thank you to the teachers for stepping up and being flexible with all the changes that have occurred.
 - Thank you to Jess Moriarity for providing the wonderful closing messages.
 - Thank you to Terri and Linday for being amazing kitchen leaders and to all the kitchen workers and help. We will continue doing assigned kitchen help in January and the rest of the GLOW year.

(continued on page 4)

Church Council Notes (continued)

- Substitutes – We are looking for substitute teachers to fill in when needed. Thank you to those who have covered thus far as we have been able to cover when a need has arisen.
- First Communion Preparation –
- Lori Buysse has graciously stepped forward to teach the 5th graders their First Communion lessons. Classes will start after the new year.
- We purchased curriculum from Concordia Publish House, “This is the Feast” workbook. The cost for the curriculum and workbooks was \$210.
- FUEL – contemporary worship services on Wednesday; they will be led by the lay minister in the new year.
- Confirmation:
 - Terri Myhe is leading along with Angie DeVos.
 - Cory Myhre and Adam Hoffman are leading small group discussions of weekly lessons.
 - December 18th they will be doing a service project. They will be purchasing winter items for foster kids who are in foster care in Lyon County. There are 70 – 75 kids currently in foster care in Lyon County, and there are similar numbers in surrounding counties as well.
- Teen Power: They are rehearsing for the Christmas program, and they will be starting their annual shoe collection the week of December 4th.
- VBS: We are looking at doing a joint VBS with Bethany-Elim.
 - Emily Hennen and Amie Ascheman have been consulting with Alicia Tykwinski (Bethany-Elim’s VBS Coordinator) via Zoom and e-mails on doing a joint VBS with them.
 - We are looking at possibly doing VBS in Ivanhoe at Bethany-Elim the 4th week of June in the afternoon. We would be utilizing Shetek to provide onsite VBS.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - December 15, 2024 – GLOW Christmas program
 - April 13, 2025 – First Communion / Palm Sunday
- **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Board of Education report. Jason Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- Nominating Committee: The members of council who have finished their terms are asked to be part of the nominating committee. Amie Ascheman, Jason Johnson, and Jen Anderson have agreed to be on the ballot for council for a 2nd term.
- Year-end cutoff: The date for the year-end cutoff is December 30th.
- Auditors: Krista Bowman and Mike Stassen did it last year, and Scott Knutson helped them. Cory will contact them about doing it again this year.
- Annual reports: Repots are due to the church secretary by January 10th. The reports will be ready at church the week before the annual meeting, which is Sunday, January 26, 2025.
- Service Time: As Jennifer needs to drive from Madison on Sunday mornings, it was agreed to move the service time to 9:00 am beginning in January. Service time at St. Paul’s will remain at 10:30 am.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to adjourn. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of January 6th via e-mail

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, January 8, 2025. Committees meet at 7:00 pm. All together 7:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

Church Council Notes - JANUARY 8, 2025

Fund Balances:	General Fund:	\$ 45,610.74	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 41,574.75
	Building Fund:	\$ 4,320.31	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 515.33
	Building Fund Savings:	\$ 2,605.63	GLOW:	\$ 7,291.72

Attendance:

Attending in Person: Terri Myhre, Emily Hennen, Rose Van Uden, Barb Knutson, Cory Myhre, Deb Belaen, Jen Anderson, Amie Ascheman, Angie DeVos, Jason Johnson, Sandy Josephson, Lizzy Reiss

Attending via Phone:

Absent: James Danielson, Chris Pesch-Church Secretary

Secretary's Report - Motion made to approve December's secretary's report by Angie DeVos. Emily Hennen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- **Bills:** Bills for the month of January were presented by Cory Myhre. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$6,518.84. **Motion made by Sandy Josephson to transfer \$30,000 from the General Fund to the Cornerstone Fund. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Treasurer's Report. Lizzy Reiss seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Trustees Report

- **Bills:** Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$6,518.84. The only additional bill for this month is from VK Services for the website updates; the total bill was reduced by \$500 as a donation to the church.
- **You Tube page:** We will contact Dawn Van Keulen about removing Pastor Jon's name from the You Tube page.
- **Reports & Annual Meeting:** Reports are due by January 10th. The Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 26, 2025, immediately after church in the sanctuary. It was discussed about having it in the basement, but there was concern about losing too many people and there are no microphones in the basement, so it can be difficult to hear. We need 50 people for a quorum. We are also following the same agenda as last year with elections and approval of the budget first.
- **Auditors:** Christa Bouman and Scott Anderson have agreed to be auditors.
- **Motion made by Emily Hennen to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Jen Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Addition to the Meeting

- Scott Josephson met with the council as the chairman of the Hope Mission Endowment Fund.
- The current by-laws of the Mission Endowment Fund call for the current distribution of 4.5% of the total principal of the fund:
 - 20% to local outreach
 - 20% to global outreach
 - 20% to congregational projects
 - 40% discretionary (any of the 3 other categories)
- The Mission Endowment Fund has been in place for 10 years, and the by-laws require a review every 5 years.
- Scott would like to propose changing the distribution of the Mission Endowment Fund by decreasing the congregational projects to 10% and increasing the discretionary to 50%. The main reason for this suggestion is that when the Mission Endowment Fund was established, we didn't have the Building and Property Endowment Fund, which has provided us the flexibility to cover congregational projects with this new fund.
- This change wouldn't affect the amount distributed from the Mission Endowment Fund on an annual basis.
- To make this change, the council would have to approve it and then it has to be approved by two-thirds of the congregation.
- **Motion made by Aimee Ascheman to adjust the distribution of the Hope Mission Endowment Fund from 20% to 10% for congregational projects and from 40% to 50% for discretionary projects. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- This will now be brought to the congregation at the annual meeting.
- Scott will also provide an update at the annual meeting about the Bell Tower; the contractor has been having a very difficult time finding people to do the work.

(continued on page 6)

Church Council Notes (continued)

Board of Deacons Report

- Walk Around Offerings: 4th Sunday of the month - Endowment matches walk around offerings 2:1 up to \$500. There was discussion about doing the walk around differently, but it agreed that we would continue to do it the same as we have been, but we need a Temple Talk on the day of the walk around, so people know what the walk around is for.
 - January – Snow blower repair / replacement. We will also request a 3 to 1 match from the Endowment Fund for this.
 - February – United Way of Southwest Minnesota
 - March – Food Shelf. We will request a 3 to 1 match with no cap from the Endowment Fund.
 - April – VBS. We will request a 3 to 1 match from the Endowment Fund for this, also.
- Lent: March 5th is Ash Wednesday.
- Funeral Coordinator: Marilyn Kompelien has retired as the funeral coordinator, and we thank her for her many years of service. If anyone is willing to volunteer, please reach out to Terri Myhre or Barb Knutson. Barb Knutson will be the contact for now, and we have enough workers for Saturday's funeral.
- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve the Board of Deacons report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Education Report

- Mission Trip:
 - The Mission Trip is June 22 – 27, and we will be going to Perry, Florida, to do hurricane relief with TEAMEffort Missions. There are 48 (possibly 49) students and 10 chaperones going.
 - We have a verbal agreement with 4.0 Bus Service on the busing to the Minneapolis airport.
 - Fundraising – We will be helping serve at the Wilno Catholic Church Breakfast on February 2nd, and the Spaghetti Supper will be February 16th from 5 to 7 pm.
- GLOW:
 - FUEL – We had our first FUEL service of 2025 tonight.
 - First Communion Preparation – Lori Buysse has graciously stepped forward to teach the 5th graders their First Communion lessons.
 - Upcoming dates – February 2nd is our next Let it Shine Service, and February 5th is Grandparents' Night.
- Confirmation:
 - Terri Myhe is leading along with Angie DeVos.
 - Cory Myhre and Adam Hoffman are leading small group discussions of weekly lessons.
- Teen Power: They have started their "Shoe Away Hunger" annual footwear collection.
- VBS: We will be doing joint VBS with Bethany-Elim in the afternoons from June 9 to 12.
 - Shetek Lutheran Ministries Day Camp will be providing the program, and 4.0 Bus will be transporting the students to and from Hope.
 - Registration will start in April, and Aimee Ascheman will be the Hope contact person.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - April 13, 2025 – First Communion for 5th graders / Palm Sunday. There are 16 students, and Emily will contact Lynn Okrina and Loreale Miller about the cups.
 - May 11, 2025 – Baccalaureate for 9 students. Emily will contact Rita Dovre about the quilts
- **Motion made by Jason Johnson to approve the Board of Education report. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- Call Committee: We have not received any names from the synod.
- Parsonage: It was agreed that we do want to rent out the parsonage if we find an interested party. Rose will be the contact for house showing and advertising.

Motion made by Deb Belaen to adjourn. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of February 2nd via e-mail

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, January 5, 2025. Committees meet at 7:00 pm. All together 7:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

Minneota Area Mission Trip

Plans for the 2025 mission trip are in full swing. Students have voted and we will be heading to the Perry, FL area to assist with hurricane relief through the TEAMeffort Missions organization. We have 49 students signed up for the trip along with 10 chaperones. The trip will be June 22 - 27, 2025.

Mark your calendars for February 2, and February 16! On February 2, we will be serving breakfast after the 8:15 am Mass at the Wilno Catholic Church. The meal will include egg bake, muffins and rolls. On February 16th, we will be hosting our annual Spaghetti Supper fundraiser from 5:00-7:00 pm at Hope Lutheran Church. The meal will include a spaghetti dinner with breadsticks and dessert. Take-out will be available, too. We will also have a Tastefully Simple booth set up and bake sale available.

God continues to bless us with the gracious giving and support of our congregations and communities. Please keep our group in your prayers as we continue to plan and fundraise for the 2025 mission trip. If you have any questions regarding the 2025 Mission Trip, please contact Emily Hennen at emhaugland@hotmail.com or 507-828-6797.

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**. 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".