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

NOVEMBER 2026

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

GLOW:
(Sept-April)
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/Notices	2
Council Minutes	3-5
Note from Jenn Warnock	5
Shoe Collection	6
Order Forms	7
Work Group	8
Calendar	9



WORSHIP TIMES:

Hope Lutheran - 9:00 am Worship

(Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays)

St. Paul's Lutheran - 10:30 am Worship

(Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays)

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

Lay Minister Cell: 320-305-4955
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

Synod Authorized Minister: Jenn Warnock
Email: Jennifermcwarnock@gmail.com
GLOW Directors: Erin Roberts
Custodians: Jason & Jen Johnson & Family
Organists: Valerie Buysse, Wendy Sarazyn
Jubilation: Gayle VanVooren

Bible Studies for Men and Women

Gather Magazine Bible Study	December 7, 6:30 pm	At Church
Women of the Bible Study	December 9, 10:00 am	??? Home
Men's Bible Study	December 4, 8:00 am	At Porter Cafe



2026 Church Attendance

October 4	103	November 1	115
October 11	108	November 8	65
October 18	53	November 15	
October 25	86	November 22	
Total:	350	November 29	
Average:	88	Total:	
		Average:	

Workgroup Chairpersons

November: Scott & Roberta Josephson
507-530-6091 or 530-6095

December: Wade & Terri Myhre
507-829-3945 or 828-0147



Altar Guild

November 1-30
Sandy Josephson 320-815-7829
Linda Nuytten 829-9379

December 1-31
Marlys Skaar 872-6600

Date	Sound Operators
December 6	Scott Josephson
December 13	
December 20	Todd Sonnenburg
December 24	Cole Myhre
December 27	

Date	Acolytes
December 6	Padriac Moriarty & Bryson Javers
December 13	Mason Minnehan & Ava Buysse
December 20	Christmas Program
December 24	Colten Kloos & Bryson Javers
December 27	Jace Bitker & Cale Bitker



Money Counters: December-Deb Belaen & Lori Dyce

Upcoming Dates:

***November 22**—Communion, Walk Around Offering-Prairie Home Hospice
***November 28**—Fellowship Hall, Bridal Shower for Hailey Allen, Bride-to-Be of Charlie Pesch, 12-3 pm
***November 29**—Jenn Gone, Tim Velde Presiding

***December 24**—Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 at St. Paul's, 5:30 at Hope
***December 28**—Year End Cutoff for Offerings

***January 3**—Scholarship Distribution Sunday
***January 15**—Annual Reports Due to Church Secretary
***January 24** –Annual Meeting

Church Council Notes – November 4, 2026

Fund Balances:	General Fund:	$ 36,260.80	Cornerstone Fund:	$ 75,402.42
	Building Fund:	$ 10,048.34	Petty Cash Fund:	$ 244.48
	GLOW:	$ 25,151.94		

Council President – Amie Ascheman / **Council Treasurer –** Jeff Van Keulen / **Council Secretary –** Deb Belaen
Attendance:
Attending in Person: Sandy Josephson, Barb Okrina, Deb Belaen, Susan Rassier, Lori Dyce, Jeff Van Keulen, Fran Fier, Amie Ascheman, Cory Myhre, Jason Johnson, Minister Jenn Warnock
Attending via Phone: Chris Pesch (church secretary)
Absent: Angie DeVos

Devotions and prayer were led by Minister Jenn.

Secretary's Report – Motion made to approve October's secretary's report by Cory Myhre. Barb Okrina seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President's Report – No report this month.

Minister Jenn's Report was sent out via e-mail prior to the meeting for review. **Motion made to approve Minister Jenn's report by Cory Myhre. Jeff Van Keulen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report

- Bills: Bills for the month of November were sent out via e-mail prior to the meeting for review. Total General Fund bills are estimated at $11,043.63 with one additional bill. **Motion made by Lori Dyce to approve the Treasurer's Report. Jason Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Trustees Report

- Bills: Total General Fund bills are estimated at 11,043.63 with one additional bill: Hope's share of the VBS bill for $2,314.28 for 41 Hope Lutheran students, which equals $56 per camper. **Motion made by Cory Myhre to pay bills as presented. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Additional discussion on VBS – The team that came from Lake Shetek did a good job despite being young, and this was the first time they had presented the program. The cost for Lake Shetek to do VBS is very affordable, and we don't need to provide housing, which does make it easier to manage. All of the volunteers did a very good job.
- Newsletter timing: It was agreed to go back to our previous timing for the newsletter with the reports due by the 15th of each month, so the newsletter can go out by the 22nd. The goal is that people will receive the newsletter by the beginning of the month.
- Banking Permissions: With the transition of BMO to First Citizens Bank, we need to update our banking permissions. **Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve Council President and Council Treasurer to have access to all of Hope Lutheran Church's accounts at First Citizens Bank (formerly BMO) and can also make changes as needed. Jasmine DeSmet seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Minister Jenn Contract Approval: The executive council made the changes discussed at the last meeting. Jenn would like to review with her mentor prior to finalizing.
- **Motion made by Jasmine DeSmet to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Fran Fier seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Deacons Report

- Walk Around Offerings: 4th Sunday of the month - **Endowment matches walk around offerings 3:1 up to $750.**
  - November 22 – Prairie Home Hospice. Fran Fier is coordinating a temple talk for this, which will be on November 15.
  - December 20 – Minneota Senior Center
  - January 24 – Project Turnabout
- Upcoming Dates:
  - November 8th and 22nd – Communion
  - November 12th – Deacons are meeting to work on the work groups.
  - November 15th – Potluck Lunch
  - November 29th - Minister Jenn will be gone; Tim Velde will be presiding that day.
  - December 6th and 24th – Communion
  - Christmas Eve Services – 4:00 pm at St. Paul's and 5:30 pm at Hope
- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve the Board of Deacons report. Jeff Van Keulen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

(continued on page 4)

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (con't)

Board of Education Report

- GLOW:
  - Faith in Action and Wednesday Worships are going well.
  - Pumpkin carving was a success.
  - Christmas program practice will begin this month.
  - Thank you to Morgan Hilfers who has agreed to run the kitchen while Linda is away!
- Confirmation:
  - Confirmation was amazing. We had 9 students get confirmed, and their Statements of Faith emphasizes that their faith journey had a strong foundation to lead them forward. Thank you to the council for a great meal on Statement of Faith nigh. Thank you to Terri Myhre for spending time with these students individually and working with them on their Statements of Faith. The service was nice, but many families commented that it was long. There was discussion about having the students only read their Bible verses and not their whole statement of faith. For some of the confirmand's families, the service is the only time they will have a chance to hear the confirmand's read their statements. There was also discussion that some of the special services like confirmation are going to be longer. The confirmation students helped at the Meatball Supper again this year. Thank you to Angie DeVos for being there to work with our kids. Confirmation will be doing some service projects during the months of November and December. We will be supporting the Christmas Angels project through the Minneota Public School. We will also be supporting SWHHS with socks and underwear for youth in foster care.
- Teen Power:
  - They have been studying Paul, his life in prison, and his writings to the Philippians. This past week, thy started with Paul's letters to the Thessalonians.
  - They have started reading skits for the Christmas program and will start practicing on Wednesday evenings for the program, which will be on December 20th at 9 am.
  - They will be doing their annual shoe collection; donations of all types of footwear (sandals, shoes, & boots of all sizes) are accepted and appreciated.
- Mission Trip:
  - We are researching Mission Trip organizations and locations. We are looking at going June 27th – July 2nd/3rd. More information to come.
  - We are continuing to fundraise for the 2027 Mission Trip.
    - Stensland On-The-Go – https://www.stenslandonthego.com. This is an online fundraiser featuring ice cream products, caramel and cinnamon rolls, cheese curds, preserves, salsas and more. This fundraiser will run until Monday, November 16th. Pick-up will be from 5:00 to 5:45 pm on Wednesday, November 18th at Hope.
    - Christmas Baking selling lefse, Oreo truffles and Belgian cookies. Taking orders now with orders due by December 6th. Order forms will be in the bulletin, newsletter and at the back of church. Checks can be made out to **Youth of Hope**. Baking will take place at Hope at 10:30 am on December 13th. Please mark your calendars to help with baking. Lunch will be provided. If you know anyone who is skilled at making Belgian cookies and/or lefse, please invite them to help on the 13th as well. They can also contact Emily with any questions.
    - RaiseRight Fundraiser – This helps raise money when participants buy gift cards to pay for purchases, shop online, dine out or book travel through RaiseRight. The QR code is in the bulletin and the newsletter, so you can use that to create an account and help support the mission trip by joining the RaiseRight program.
  - Contact Emily Hennen, emhaugland@hotmail.com or 507-828-6797 if interested in going on 2027 Mission Trip.
  - Students need to be freshman in high school through freshmen in college at the time of the mission trip
- Scholarship language: The education committee was asked to review the scholarship language. Included with the information sent via e-mail included the list of scholarships that are available. The scholarship committee members are Jasmine DeSmet, Matt Myhre, Ralph Haugen, Dawn Van Keulen, and Jess Moriarty.
- Important Dates:
  - January 3, 2027 – Scholarship Awards
  - April 11, 2027 – First Communion
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Education report. Cory Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

(continued on page 5)

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (con't)

Other Business

- Parking lot: With the recent rain, there has been pooling of water by the handicap parking spots. Unfortunately, this issue has been ongoing for a number of years. There was some work done a few years ago, but the ground has settled. It will be very expensive to repair.
- Procedure for planning services: Chris is putting the bulletin together, and she is trying to have it completed by noon on Thursday / Friday morning, so Dawn can get it on the website. It was suggested that Minister Jenn join the Music & Worship committee meetings via phone or Zoom to discuss the services as Minister Jenn is in a leadership role and not just filling in.
- Lawn mower & snowblower: We were able to purchase a different mower and snowblower, so it was agreed that we should sell the old one, which is a John Deere. We will put it in the bulletin to give church members the first opportunity to purchase it.

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of November 30th via e-mail
Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, December 2nd with committees at 7:00 pm and full council at 7:30 pm.
Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

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FROM THE HEART OF THE MINISTER:

" Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise; be thankful to him and bless his name . For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." Psalm 100 4-5

Thanksgiving! The name is full of magical memories to me! As a child it was my favorite holiday. As a clergy family, we did not live around our families and it was the holiday when we got to go home and be with our families as my dad was needed at the church at Christmas and Easter. My grandmothers were both amazing cooks and we could hardly wait to sit around their tables and sample their goodies. We loved playing outside with cousins and listening to the family stories and eating pie while watching our uncles yell at the football games on television! As a mom, I have memories of feeding my baby his first pumpkin pie! The joys and also challenges of traveling to two or three different family Thanksgivings! The family Thanksgiving when my sister-in-law got mad because my husband took credit for baking the pie she baked! Family! I have always just been thankful for Thanksgiving Day.

One year a few years back, my husband Pastor Will asked me to preach for him on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. I eagerly preached from Psalm 100, the text my dad always preached from on Thanksgiving Sunday, and then asked different folks from the congregation to share different random quotes on gratitude that they picked from a Thanksgiving basket. One guy, an intense Willie Nelson fan, was thrilled that his quote just happened to be by Willie Nelson! I would like to share a few of those with you right now:

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of gratitude." AA Milne

"When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around" Willie Nelson

" Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions" Zig Ziglar

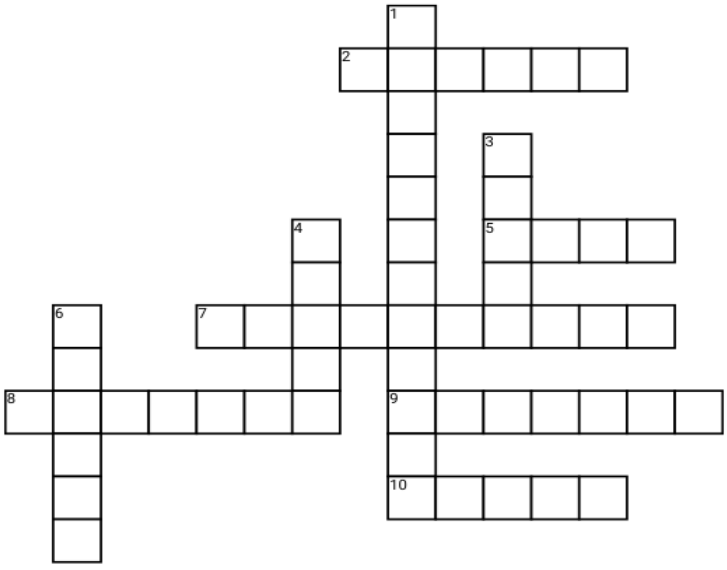
" Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things." Charles Dickens

I am thankful for you! Happy Thanksgiving beloved church!
In Christ Alone,
Minister Jenn

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 used shoes that aren't worn or an old pair that may end up in a landfill. 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. **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".**

THANKSGIVING



Across

2. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving _____ to God and the Father by him.

5. There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any _____ like our God.

7. And the shepherds returned, _____ and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

8. And Mary said, My soul doth ____ the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

9. And she coming in that _____ gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

10. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a _____ God, and a _____ King above all gods.

Down

1. And out of them shall proceed _____ and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

3. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his _____ endureth for ever.

4. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the ____ of God.

6. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with _____: be thankful unto him and bless his name.

Word Bank

GLORY	ROCK	PRAISE	THANKSGIVING
INSTANT	MERCY	GLORIFYING	THANKS
GREAT	MAGNIFY		

MINNEOTA AREA MISSION TRIP CHRISTMAS BAKING

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY_____

LEFSE (3 SHEETS/BAG) _____ @ **$5** EACH = _____

BELGIAN COOKIES (12) _____ @ **$7** EACH = _____

OREO TRUFFLES (8) _____ @ **$7** EACH = _____

TOTAL = _____

Orders due Dec 6, 2026 – drop off at Hope Lutheran or call Emily Hennen (828-6797). Baking Day is Sunday, December 13, 2026 and orders will be ready late afternoon. Pay when you order or upon delivery.
*Checks made to **Youth of Hope** (check one).*

Delivery in Minneota _____

Pick-up at Hope _____

Pick-up at Ivanhoe Family Pharmacy _____ (Pick up Dec 12)

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Poinsettias

A Christmas Poinsettia Fund will be set up and contributions will be used to purchase Poinsettia plants. Please complete the form below and return it to the church office **by December 1st**.

If you prefer to share a Poinsettia plant of your own, please bring it to the church by December 23rd.

_____Donation _____Bringing own plant

Given in memory of:

_____

_____

Given in honor of:

_____

_____

Given by:

_____

_____

2026 WORK GROUP 3 **Updated 2-2026**

DUTIES: Locate ushers from your group for church services, unless instructed otherwise. Prepare food and serve funerals on a rotating bases, with the funeral coordinator instructing you at the appropriate time.

March:	**Bob & Linette Nelson**	507-476-8608	507-828-7772
June:	**Darwin & Lori Dyce**	507-476-2042	507-828-9567
September:	**Gayle VanVooren**	507-828-2432	
December:	**Wade & Terri Myhre**	507-829-3945	507-828-0147

	#1		#2	Home #	#1 Cell	#2 Cell
Belaen			Debra			507-828-1785
Boe	Jason	&	Natasha		507-438-5051	320-444-5654
Boettger			Katie			
Bouwman	Drew	&	Christa		507-828-5424	507-530-2732
Buysse			Kalynn			507-828-0354
Buysse			Stacey			507-530-3925
DePestel			Holly			507-828-5976
DeVos	Derek	&	Angie		507-530-2760	507-531-2526
Dyce	Darwin	&	Lori		507-476-2042	507-828-9567
Esping			Becky			507-828-5299
Esping	Nick	&	Nicole		507-828-1222	507-828-8446
Esping	Tony	&	Tammy	507-872-5468	507-829-2953	
Farrell	Tim	&	Rachel		612-281-8883	612-708-5258
Fodness	Gene			507-872-5161	507-530-6634	
Gawarecki	Lon				507-829-9805	
Golden	Rodney	&	Karen			507-829-3954
Guetter	Sam	&	Chesney		651-280-5523	507-530-8106
Hagen	Ralph	&	Judy	507-872-6993	507-829-7810	507-829-7185
Hetland			Caryn		507-530-5179	
Hoffmann	Adam	&	Emily		507-828-0468	507-828-5541
Hovland	Mark			507-872-6114	507-530-5621	
Jensen	Coty	&	Haylee		507-531-6122	507-530-6097
Jeremiason	Guy			507-872-5442	507-829-9029	
Josephson			Sandra			320-815-7829
Koppien	Timothy	&	Dee			507-829-0502
Laleman	Spencer	&	Melissa		507-829-3631	507-828-1902
Myhre	Gerald	&	Shirley		507-763-3430	
Myhre	Wade	&	Terri		507-829-3945	507-828-0147
Myrvik	Matt	&	Patty		507-829-5544	507-829-6811
Nelson	Bob	&	Linette		507-476-8608	507-828-7772
Norby	Matt	&	Mandi		507-476-5908	507-476-5907
Okrina	Lynn	&	Barbara		507-828-3157	507-828-4546
Peterson	Marlin	&	Becky		507-626-0159	507-626-4176
Pohlen	Nick	&	Casey		507-829-0863	507-828-1389
Reiss	Brendan	&	Lizzy		507-828-7163	507-476-2508
Rieder	Shane	&	Dana		605-521-6269	507-530-1986
Skaar	Earl	&	Lori		507-828-4475	507-828-4470
Stassen	Mike	&	Sarah		320-444-4813	320-444-1344
Thostenson	Ronald	&	Tammy	507-872-5437		507-829-2941
Van Vooren			Gayle	507-872-6927		507-828-2432
Wenker			Linda	507-872-5129		