

Council President's Report – October 2025

This month has been full of blessings and highlights at Hope Lutheran.

There is a lot of turmoil in the world and in our daily lives, and it's very easy to focus on what could be improved or made better. So, I want to take a moment to celebrate all the good that's happening here at Hope. Every day, our members are doing incredible things—big and small—to live out their faith and serve one another.

On October 12, we held our “God’s Work. Our Hands” fall workday. The day began with a full church for a “Let It Shine” student-led service. These services are so meaningful—they engage our youth by giving them opportunities to lead worship and help fill in when we do not have our lay minister present. Despite the rainy morning, lack of leaves, and busy weekend schedules, our group pivoted with flexibility and enthusiasm—focusing instead on window washing and other indoor tasks. About 30 youth volunteers of all school ages and 10 adults worked hard throughout the day. Many of our younger volunteers even learned a new skill—window washing! We were not sure what to expect this first time, but we hope to continue and expand this event in the future. We’d like to engage more members outside of our youth ministries in this project and possibly partner with additional groups to serve both our members and the wider Minneota community.

Earlier in the month, I attended a meeting with the Altar Guild. Many may not realize how much behind-the-scenes work goes into preparing for worship—setting up communion, maintaining candles and oil, and tending to countless other details that make our sanctuary ready for services. The month of November there are four parament color changes, three Sundays, and the All Saint’s service – whew! I’m deeply thankful for the dedication and leadership of Marlys Skaar and the entire Altar Guild for the important work they do. The Altar Guild is currently seeking new volunteers. New members will be paired with an experienced partner, making it a wonderful way to learn and serve. If you’re interested, please reach out to Marlys or email [hopelutheran87@gmail.com](mailto:hopenlutheran87@gmail.com).

The Building Committee also met this month to identify facility needs and upcoming projects. One immediate concern is finding a new snowblower before winter arrives. The committee’s long-term goal is to help the Council prioritize and plan for building needs—so that instead of facing expensive emergencies like a furnace failure, we can budget wisely and schedule projects in advance. We’ve made a great start, and I look forward to sharing more updates soon.

A major celebration this month was the Confirmation Service on October 26, marking the culmination of two years of faith formation for our eight confirmands. Jenn was unable to lead the service due to illness and Bishop Dee graciously answered our call for assistance within the hour, led the service beautifully, and spent meaningful time with our students beforehand. This particular group of students was the first to complete our confirmation model focused on small group leadership, service, and faith exploration—a model that continues to grow stronger each year with evaluation and the hard work of the confirmation leaders. If you weren’t able to

attend, I encourage you to visit our Facebook page and listen to our confirmation student's Statements of Faith. Their words were truly inspiring.

A heartfelt thank you to Terri Myhre and Angie DeVos for their leadership, to our small group leaders Cory Myhre and Adam Hoffman, church members who supported the program in various capacities, and to the families who walked alongside these students on their journey of faith.

Each month, our Hope Lutheran Youth Ministries hosts a Wednesday Worship service at 6:30 p.m. on select dates. The remaining dates for the program year are November 19, January 21, March 18, and April 22. I challenge you to attend at least one. You'll see our pre-K through confirmation students worshipping together—and notice a wonderful number of confirmed youth who continue to come, even though they're no longer required to. Their presence is a powerful example of faith in action and leadership among peers. This service is likely much louder and busier than what you might be used to, but it's inspiring to see all that energy focused on worship, learning, and faith building.

Jenn Warnock has now been with our congregation for about a year, consistently showing up and leading Hope Lutheran in ministry. She recently completed her Synod Authorized Ministers (SAM) training and has begun seminary studies. It's exciting to see her take these next steps in her ministry journey, and we are blessed to walk beside her.

As the leaves change and our local teams head into postseason play, I've begun looking ahead to next year's plans, including preparations for our annual meeting and budget. We have at least five council spots available – if you have any questions regarding what the role entails, please reach out to a council member or myself. Serving on the council is a great way to get involved and do the work that keeps Hope Lutheran running. Your time and effort truly make a difference.

Let us also remember, in this busy season of change, to pause and pray—often and with intention. God invites us into constant conversation, not only in moments of need but also in gratitude and stillness.

Thank you all for your continued faith, service, and support of Hope Lutheran.

With gratitude,
Amie Ascherman
Council President