



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

April 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

Welcome

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)

April 26th Walk Around Offering: Hope Harbor

Hope Harbor offers family-style care for teens as they heal from a variety of issues that are unfortunately commonplace for youth today. These include past abuse, trauma, anger, substance use, mental health challenges, exploitation, self-harm, suicidal ideation, anxiety, attachment issues, and more.

“We work with ordinary kids who are healing from extraordinary things; each one a child of God, loved by the Savior.”

Endowment Fund will match offerings 3:1 with a \$750 cap.

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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

Synod Authorized
Minister: Jenn Warnock
Email: Jennifermwarnock@gmail.com
GLOW Directors: Erin Roberts
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 April 6, 6:30 pm
 Women of the Bible Study April 8, 10:00 am
 Men's Bible Study April 3, 8:00 am

At Church
 At Karen Golden's Home
 At Porter Cafe



2026 Church Attendance

March 1	108	March 22	72	April 2	65	Maundy Thursday
March 4	75	March 25	100	April 3	49	Good Friday
March 8	64	March 29	85	April 5	176	Easter
March 11	91	Total:	715	April 12		First Communion
March 15	0	Average:	89	April 19		
March 18	120			April 26		
				Total:		
				Average:		



Workgroup Chairpersons

Fig & Linda Nuytten
 507-828-7789 or 507-829-9379

Altar Guild (March 1-31)

Marilyn Kompelien 828-1148
 Karen Golden 829-3954



Date Sound Operators

April 5 Scott Josephson
 April 12 ?
 April 19 Todd Sonnenburg
 April 26 Cole Myhre

Date Acolytes

April 5
 April 12 Oakley Norby & Pierce Ascheman
 April 19 Colten Kloos & Camden Johnson
 April 26 Ava Buysse & Taryn Myrvik



Money Counters: April—Susan Rassier & Jen Anderson

Upcoming Dates:

- ***April 18**—Funeral for Bonnie Hanson, 2 pm; Prairie Conference WELCA Spring Gathering, 8:30 am, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Canby
- ***April 19**—Last Let It Shine Service, Baptism for Hadley Rae Hennen, Daughter of Jen & Danny Hennen; Temple Talk from Hope Harbor
- ***April 24**—Graveside service for Marie Hovland, 1:30 pm, a gathering to celebrate Marie will be held from 2:30-5:00 at the Senior Center
- ***April 26**—Praise Band Service; Walk Around Offering-Hope Harbor
- ***April 29**—GLOW Year End Celebration
- ***May 10**—Baccalaureate Sunday, 9 am
- ***May 24**—Jenn is gone this Sunday
- ***June 8-11**—Vacation Bible School at Hope
- ***August 1**—Wedding of Laura Knutson & Charles Meier

Church Council Notes – April 1, 2026

Fund Balances: General Fund:	\$ 36,555.98	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 71,602.41
Building Fund:	\$ 11,323.27	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 400.16
GLOW:	\$ 22,410.90		

Attendance:

Attending in Person: Angie DeVos, Jeff Van Keulen, Sandy Josephson, Barb Okrina, Cory Myhre, Deb Belaen, Jen Anderson, Susan Rassier, Jasmine DeSmet

Attending via Phone: Jason Johnson, Lori Dyce, Chris Pesch (church secretary)

Absent: Nona Gottskalkson, Amie Ascheman

Devotions were led by Jeff Van Keulen

Secretary's Report – Motion made to approve February and March's secretary's report by Cory Myhre. Jasmine DeSmet seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- **Bills:** Bills for the month of April were sent out via e-mail prior to the meeting for review. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$11,437.55 with three additional bills; there is also one bill for the building fund. **Motion made by Angie DeVos to approve the Treasurer's Report. Barb Okrina seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Trustees Report

- **Bills:** Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$11,437.55 with three additional bills: CM Almy (candle oil) for \$81.80; Peter Soli for \$2,175.00 for March, and USPS for \$370.00 for the annual bulk mailing permit. There was also one Building Fund bill for \$139.49 from the Minnesota Building Materials for the repair of a parsonage windowpane.
- **Contract with Jennifer:** One of the suggestions from Peter Soli is that we do a contract with Jennifer, and she has also expressed interest in that. One suggestion was to do a 6 month or 12-month contract with her that would include language that if we called a pastor, we would continue to employ her through the contracted time frame. As part of this discussion with her, we would outline expectations and opportunities for her role to also include a performance review. This would give both of us clear direction on feedback and expectations. We also think we should continue the call process and update our MSP to a 2-point call versus a 3-point call with the recent decision by St. Paul's to provide notice to end the Shared Ministry Agreement. We will include this item in next month's agenda.
- **Updating signature cards:** **Motion made by Cory Myhre to authorize Jeff Van Keulen to be added as an authorized signature to the accounts, including authorization for online access. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **President's Report:** Amie's report was sent out via e-mail prior to the meeting for review
- **Motion made by Jasmine DeSmet to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Susan Rassier 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.**
 - April 26 – Hope Harbor – There will be a rep from Hope Harbor here on April 19th to give a short presentation.
 - May 24 – The Banquet in Sioux Falls. This is a soup kitchen where the YOH will be serving again this year; the youth are very excited about doing this again.
 - June – August – No walk around offerings
- **Easter:** April 5th – 9:00 am at Hope; 10:30 at St. Paul's – led by Bishop Dee.
 - Maundy Thursday – 7 pm at Hope – led by Pastor Steve Rasmussen
 - Good Friday – 7 pm at Hope – led by members of our congregation
- **Upcoming Dates in April:**
 - April 2, 5, and 12 – Communion
 - April 12 – First Communion
 - April 19 – Let it Shine Service
 - April 26 – Praise Band and Walk around Offering for Hope Harbor
- **Upcoming Dates in May:**
 - May 3 and May 17 – Communion
 - May 10 – Baccalaureate and Senior Breakfast
- **New members:** Lori Dyce has put up signs inviting people to contact her if they are interested in becoming new members. This will also be put in the bulletin and the newsletter. Please reach out to Lori if you know of anyone who is interested.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Deacons report. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

(continued on page 4)

April Church Council Notes (continued)

Board of Education Report

- **GLOW:**
 - April 19th is the next Let it Shine service. Wednesday, April 29th will be final night of GLOW until this fall. A huge THANK YOU to all the teachers, cooks, helpers, and others for all of your work to continue to make this program a success.
- **First Communion:** Sunday, April 12th
 - Lynn Okrina will make the chalices, and Lora Lee Miller will put their names on them. We will be serving cake after the service, so if council members are available to help with that, please let Jasmine DeSmet know.
- **Mission Trip Fundraising:**
 - There are no active fundraisers currently, but we have received generous donations from Clare Novotny and Swede Home.
- **Confirmation:**
 - Terri Myhre took a group of 5 confirmation students to the concert at St. Ed's. 30 students and 6 adults attended the Sidewalk Prophets concert in Clara City on March 11, 2026. They will be serving at The Banquet in Sioux Falls in May. The Banquet is a soup kitchen, and the confirmation students served their last year. They made and served breakfast.
- **Teen Power:**
 - Their "Shoe Away Hunger" annual footwear collection has started; this will run through Easter.
 - They are also starting a new program where they will be supporting a young man from Mozambique.
- **Upcoming Dates:**
 - First Communion – April 12, 2026
 - Baccalaureate – May 10, 2026 Chris will be sending out a letter to the parents of the graduates to get estimated numbers for the breakfast following the service. A sign-up sheet for the food for this will be sent around at the next council meeting.
- **VBS:** Vacation Bible School will be June 8th – June 11th at Hope this year.
 - An e-mail will be going out as more information is available.
 - GLOW will cover the cost of the T-shirts for Hope students.
 - It was agreed that the fee will be \$10 for each camper; we are hoping that the reduced cost will provide an opportunity for more students to attend.
- **Motion made by Barb Okrina to approve the Board of Education report. Cory Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

Choir Loft Information / Discussion

- This idea was initiated as an opportunity to make the choir loft space more multi-use.
- The choir currently has 19 to 20 people.
- When the Praise Band practices and plays, it takes 30 to 45 minutes to set up and tear down.
- The proposed idea is to remove the pews and make that area a flat surface; the current permanent "steps/risers" would be replaced with flexible risers.
- The flexible risers will be lighter in weight, so they can be set up by 2 people and still provide the choir the "steps/risers" needed for when they sing.
- The pews would be replaced with chairs that could be stacked when not in use, so there would be a place for the choir members to sit when using that area.
- This would allow for most of the Praise Band's equipment to be left set up and just moved to the side as needed and potentially covered.
- The new sound system has more flexibility, so we could run all of the microphones into one box in the choir area, but we would need to run a larger wire to that area to handle the additional microphones, etc.
- The wooden half wall at the front of the choir loft area would stay in place and a gate to match that wall can be added if needed to keep children out of that area.
- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to continue getting quotes for removal of the pews and risers, new chairs, flexible risers, and wiring. Jasmine DeSmet seconded the motion. Motion carried with Barb Okrina voting no.**

Council Meeting Time: As there will be no GLOW in May, it was agreed that we will start the council meetings at 6:00 pm for the May through August meetings. Committees will meet at 6:00 with full council meeting at 6:30 pm.

Motion made by Cory Myhre to adjourn. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of May 4th via e-mail

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, May 6, 2026. Committees at 6:00 pm with full council at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

From Jenn Warnock:

Happy Easter, Alleluia! One of my favorite quotations is from Pope John Paul 11: “ Do not abandon yourselves to despair, We are the Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!”

After the darkness of Lent and the crucifixion, our salvation, we have hope in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, the Christian Church was born in the hope of the resurrection and we walk in the light of Christ, continuing the ministry he began until his return. St. Peter wrote that in his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Martin Luther wrote that “the cross is the victory, the resurrection is the triumph. The resurrection is the public display of the victory, the triumph of the crucified one. Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.” (Yes, I do realize the irony of quoting both Pope John Paul and Martin Luther together in this article! But I believe in a Savior and a hope and a resurrection in which they will be brought together with us all, in heaven.)

What joy, life, and strength we possess as the Easter people! As His church, may we continue to walk in the light of His resurrection, and to share His hope with others.

In Christ Alone, Jenn

Council President’s Article – April 2026

As this newsletter reaches you, we find ourselves just coming out of the Lenten season—a meaningful time of repentance, reflection, and spiritual preparation. Lent invites us to slow down, look inward, and draw closer to God, and it also brings a fuller calendar of worship and ministry opportunities here at Hope Lutheran.

From a practical standpoint, this season involves a great deal of additional planning, coordination, and effort behind the scenes. With extra services and special gatherings, many hands are needed to make everything run smoothly. I want to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone who contributed their time, talents, and energy. Whether you helped organize, participated in worship, shared your musical gifts, or quietly supported things in the background, your efforts truly made a difference. We are blessed to be part of a congregation that steps up so faithfully.

A special note of appreciation goes to our musical leaders for the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer services. These services added a unique and reflective dimension to our Lenten journey and were deeply meaningful to many.

Looking ahead, we are excited to start using the communication tool for our congregation called *Text In Church*. Chris has been working diligently behind the scenes to prepare for its launch. This tool will help us stay better connected as a church community through text messages, automated phone calls, and emails.

To make sure everything is working properly, there will be a **TEST text message and phone call sent out on April 27, 2026** to all members who have a phone number on file. If you do not receive either a text or a call on that day, please reach out so we can update our records. You can email Chris at hopelutheran87@gmail.com or call the church office at (507) 872-6446. Even if your number is a landline, you should still receive the phone call portion of the test.

At our April council meeting, there was a continued conversation about the choir loft. Several members of the congregation have shared thoughts and concerns, and we appreciate that input. The council is currently gathering information and exploring options to make the space more accessible and flexible, while still preserving its character and purpose. Some ideas being considered include the use of stacking chairs which can be multipurpose and potential updates or replacements within the space. As we move forward, we are committed to keeping the congregation informed and involved. Once more details—including potential plans and costs—are available, we will schedule a listening and informational session so that everyone has an opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and share feedback.

Thank you again for your continued support, involvement, and care for our church community. Hope Lutheran is a special place because of each and every one of you.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas regarding Hope Lutheran feel free to reach out to me regarding.



"Lord, guide us in our outreach efforts.
 Show us the best ways to connect with our
 community and meet their needs.
 May our actions bring glory to Your name. Amen."

If you know of someone who would like to join Hope Lutheran, text or call Chris Pesch at 507-530-5666. Minister Jenn will be have new member classes. Jenn is our Synod Approved Minister. New members will learn what it means to be Lutheran and all the ways to be involved at Hope Lutheran.



Prairie Conference WELCA
Spring Gathering
 Saturday, April 18th, 2026
 Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Canby
 108 Haarfager Ave. N.

Make a Joyful Noise

Psalm 66:1
"Praise God with shouts of joy, all people!"

Program

Hallelujah Hooligans

Registration begins at 8:30. Brunch served at 9:00.
 \$15.00 Registration Fee
 In-Kind Offering: Donation to Prairie 5 Food Shelf in Canby
 Canned goods, paper products and cash donations



Men are welcome too...
 Come and enjoy the
 Hallelujah Hooligans!

2026 WORK GROUP 1**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.***

January:	Scott & Barb Knutson	507-828-9111	507-828-9117
April:	Fig & Linda Nuytten	507-828-7789	507-829-9379
July:	Nancy Wiese	507-640-1263	
October:	Lois VanDePutte	507-872-6422	507-530-9385

	#1		#2	Home #	#1 Cell	#2 Cell
Anderson			Bri			
Anderson			Jennifer			507-828-2326
Anderson	Keith			507-872-6290		
Anderson	Scott				507-828-1971	
Breyfogle	Nicholas	&	Allison		763-234-5767	507-828-2787
Dalager	Charles	&	Linda	507-872-6062		
DeSmet	Richard	&	Jasmine		605-881-4887	605-881-4138
Dovre	Allan	&	Rita	507-872-6059	507-828-7682	507-828-1415
Drown	Joe	&	Judy			507-828-4468
Fadness			Lisa			507-829-7487
Fier			Fran	507-872-6795		507-828-1423
Gilgert	Ronald			507-872-6743		
Hennen			Jen		507-829-4547	507-828-8394
Hettling	Royal			507-872-6326		
Horner	JJ	&	Jessica		507-828-7497	507-829-2799
Knutson	Scott	&	Barbara		507-828-9111	507-828-9117
Kompelien			Courtney			507-829-4783
Larson	Danny	&	Tracy	507-872-6068	507-828-6080	507-828-0389
Miller	Stan	&	Loralee	507-872-6526		
Muhl	Austin	&	Whitney			507-829-0455
Myhre	Cory	&	Leah		507-706-0006	507-401-7983
Myhre	Kurt	&	Kim	507-872-5481	507-829-2902	507-828-8008
Myhre	Nels	&	Pat		507-872-6787	
Nuytten	Richard (Fig)	&	Linda		507-828-7789	507-829-9379
Obe	Brian				507-829-3403	
Opdahl	Anthony	&	Kathy		507-828-6987	605-999-1557
Pesch	Henry	&	Taylor Burley		507-828-2459	218-330-3097
Petersen	Patrick				507-401-7922	
Pohlen	Alex	&	Jenny		507-829-2693	507-330-4628
Prellwitz			Brenda	507-872-6996	507-530-3878	
Rassier			Susan			507-828-2509
Reiss	Chad	&	Moriah		507-828-2999	507-828-2627
Roberts	Jerren	&	Erin		605-370-1679	507-530-4333
Rokeh	James	&	Helen	507-872-6847		
Sonnenburg	Tavin	&	Caitlyn		507-530-6055	507-829-2549
Tolk			Sandy	507-872-6730	507-530-1849	
Van Keulen	Jeff	&	Dawn		507-829-8398	507-829-8399
VanDePutte			Lois	507-872-6422	507-530-9385	
Wambeke			Judy	507-872-6069		763-843-9703
Wiese			Nancy			507-530-5502