



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

August 2025

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

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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)

Outside Worship Service at Hope!

August 3rd

10:30 am (no 9:00 am worship)

Bring your lawn chairs!

Enjoy lunch of hot dogs, beans and chips!

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

Lay Minister: Jenn Warnock

Email: Jennifermcwarnock@gmail.com

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	August 4, 6:30 pm	At Church
Women of the Bible Study	Will Resume in September	
Men's Bible Study	August 1, 8:00 am	At Porter Cafe

**2025 Church Attendance**

June 1	78	July 6	56
June 8	52	July 13	60
June 15	52	July 20	51
June 22	60	July 27	55 Est
June 29	54	Total:	222
Total:	296	Average:	56
Average:	59		

**Workgroup Chairpersons**

Matt & Kathryn Myhre
507-89-1446 or 507-829-5072

Altar Guild (July 23—August 26)

Val Buysse 828-4404
Sandy Tolk 872-6730

**Date Sound Operators**

August 3 Matt Myhre
August 10 Todd Sonnenburg
August 17 Scott Josephson
August 24 Cole Myhre
August 31

Date Acolytes

August 3
August 10 Pierce Ascherman & Wyatt Opdahl
August 17 Colton Bitker & ??
August 24 Beckham Norby & Levi Pohlen
August 31 Jagger Stassen & Levi Pohlen



Money Counters: August—Sandy Josephson & Jason Johnson

Upcoming Dates:

***August 3**—Outdoor Service at Hope Lutheran Led by Praise Band at 10:30—Bring your lawn chairs! Lunch of hot dogs, beans and chips will follow the service. (St. Paul's service at 9:00)

***August 14**—WELCA Summer Retreat, at Bethany in Arco, 8:30-Noon 'Choose Joy' program by Lenae Bulhuis. Music with Treava Lundberg. Potluck salad luncheon (bring a salad or dessert). Men are welcome also! No registration fee...free will offering. Come and enjoy a morning of inspiration, food and fellowship. Sponsored by WELCA's of Bethany, Bethany-Elim, and Danebod.

***August 16**—Blake Reiss & Morgan Kockelman Wedding

***September 7**—Community Worship in Bug Square, 10:00 am (No services at Hope Lutheran or St. Paul's.)

Church Council Notes – July 2, 2025

Fund Balances:	General Fund:	\$ 24,122.99	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 67,809.88
	Building Fund:	\$ 335.05	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 1,071.73
	Building Fund Savings:	\$ 2,375.59	GLOW:	\$ 5,769.42

Attendance:

Attending in Person: Terri Myhre, Emily Hennen, Rose Van Uden, Jen Anderson, Deb Belaen, Amie Ascheman, Sandy Josephson, Cory Myhre, Angie DeVos, Jasmine DeSmet, Chris Pesch – Church Secretary

Attending via Phone: Barb Knutson

Absent: James Danielson, Jason Johnson

President's Report

- **Meeting with Executive Boards:** She scheduled, completed agenda, and attended the executive meeting with the executive leadership from St. Paul's and Bethany-Elim. Deb and Angie also attended. The goal is to set this up quarterly. A number of things were discussed including what was going well for each congregation, and who is on the call committee from each council.
- **Lay Minister Expanded Role:** We had a Zoom meeting with Jen about her willingness to have an expanded role to visit shut-ins and be a resource for people to connect with in times of need. Amie, Angie, Sandy, and Beth Buysse (St. Paul's) also attended. Jen will be taking half a day off on Wednesdays to come to Minneota to visit shut-ins, and she would like to stay for GLOW. We agreed to 20 hours a month to start and see how that worked. We will be paying her \$25 per hour plus mileage for this additional time. She had already started on 6/29 and had plans for 7/2, also. Currently, St. Paul's does not have any shut-ins.
- **Camera Quote:** Aimee received a quote for installation of a camera by the side door, and she asked for others to review. She is waiting to hear back on auto locks.
- **Endowment meetings:** Attended 2 endowment meetings. More information on the bell tower project is in the Board of Trustees report below.

Secretary's Report – Motion made to approve secretary's report by Terri Myhre. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- **Bills:** Bills for the month of July were sent out prior to the meeting for review. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$7,223.78. There was an increase in our insurance costs that is higher than budgeted, but insurance costs have been rising.
- **Motion made by Jasmine DeSmet 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 \$7,223.78, and there were no additional bills. **Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve payment of bills. Emily Hennen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Lay Minister Expanded Role:** See President's Report
- **Endowment Meetings:** The endowment committee met twice to discuss the Bell Tower repair proposal. During the second meeting, the contractor came in person along with one of the main people from one of the companies who bid on the job. The endowment committee accepted the proposal from this company as it was the lower of the two bids, and the contractor has worked with this company on several occasions. The total estimate for the repair of the Bell Tower was \$130,000 which includes an apron coating for added protection, \$10k for exploration work and a 15% contingency. The estimated time it will take to do the project is 3 weeks depending on weather; the contractor and the repair company are aware of the wedding in August and GLOW and Bug Days.
- **Council Resignation:** James Danielson is resigning from the council as his family is changing churches. We will need to fill that position until a new person can be elected at the next annual meeting in January.
- **Sexton:** JD Pesch is interested in being the sexton, and he wanted to talk to Clark more about it.
- **Motion made by Sandy Josephson to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Jasmine DeSmet seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

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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 will be no walk around offerings in June, July and August.
 - When we resume the walk around offerings in the fall, we would like to have space in the newsletter for the walk around offerings the prior month to provide the congregation with more information about what each of the offerings are going to.
- July 27th Service: Jen will not need to go to St. Paul's on this Sunday as they are having an Icelandic Settlement 150th Anniversary gathering at St. Paul's that day.
- Outdoor Service: There will be an outdoor service on Sunday, August 3rd at 10:30 am. St. Paul's service will be at 9 am that day. Praise Band will be leading the service. We will have a hot dog meal after it; we will be serving hot dogs, baked beans, chips, and bottled water. The council is asked to bring cookies and bars. Barb Knutson will coordinate getting the other food. A mailing will be sent out so people are aware of this service.
- **Amie Ascherman made a motion to approve the Board of Deacons. Cory Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Education Report

- Mission Trip:
 - The Mission Trip was a HUGE SUCCESS!!
 - We left Minneota at 1 am on Sunday, June 22nd on two buses provided by 4.0 Bus Company. We returned on Friday, June 27th. 56 people attended – 46 kids and 10 chaperones. Our home base was at Calvary Baptist Church in Perry, Florida, working with TEAMEffort organization. We worked at five locations in Steinhatchee, Florida throughout the week.
 - Miss Lorraine – built a deck, replaced siding on house, built roof over deck, and cleaned up debris around her yard.
 - Jeff – built/repaired fence, took down damaged hoop barn, cleaned up debris and his dream woodworking shop (he was a skilled woodworker), collected wood and other tools from the forest behind his house.
 - Misty – recently had her leg amputated – built a new moveable ramp so she can access her camper once she returns home.
 - Buster – cleaned up debris from behind his house and reinforced a shed in his backyard.
 - Miss Christy – her mom is bedridden, and she hadn't been able to clean up branches around her yard after the hurricane. We picked up branches, trimmed and removed bushes around her house.
 - Outings included the Sea Hag Marina where we ate lunch each day and Keaton Beach where we spent our free day along the Gulf.
 - We had nightly chapel time with live music provided by different worship groups each night with time for devotions and reflection.
 - Thank You's
 - 4.0 Bus Company for providing transportation to and from the Minneapolis airport.
 - Community members for their continued support through fundraisers and prayers.
 - Community churches – especially Hope Lutheran.
- GLOW, Confirmation & Teen Power: Summer break
- Upcoming Dates: Confirmation will be October 26.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Education report. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- August Meeting: **Angie DeVos made a motion to have the August council meeting via e-mail. Jasmine DeSmet seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- July 13th Service: Bishop Dee will be here for the July 13th service, and she would like to meet with the council after church. Jen will be able to have the day off as Bishop Dee will lead the services.
- Congregation Survey: We had a low response rate on the survey, but the ones that were submitted had common themes about needing more communication and the need for a pastor. We do feel that communication is improving but will continue to work on that. There were positive comments about GLOW. We do want to do a survey annually, and it was suggested to do it in mid-November thru mid-December so the results can be reviewed at the annual meeting.
- Council Survey: There was a discussion about having a building and maintenance committee. There had been one prior to the 150th anniversary, and it hadn't met since then. Previously there were 6 people on it; we do feel that Jason needs to be a part of that committee as the custodian. There was also discussion about having different music groups, but for those to be successful, we need people to lead them. Wednesday nights are already filled with activities. If anyone is willing to lead one of these group, please reach out to the council.
- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to adjourn. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of August 3rd via e-mail

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, August 6th, 2025, via e-mail.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

From Jenn Warnock, Lay Minister

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” (1 Corinthians 13: 4-7)

This beautiful summer time is going by very fast! Along with the season of baseball, fishing, camping, vacationing and visiting, it is also wedding season. I know many of you have been enjoying the weddings of family and friends in the last few months, and in our family, our son McKae was married in July in a beautiful ceremony at Jekyll Island, Georgia. His bride is also named Jennifer, so we now have two Jennifer Warnocks in the family! At Hope Lutheran, we will celebrate the marriage of Blake Reiss and Morgan Kockelman this month, and we congratulate them and pray for blessings upon their marriage. 1 Corinthians 13 is often included within a wedding ceremony, and it is undeniably a beautiful and sacred scripture. But the thought has occurred to me that the words are universal to all types of loves, relationships, interactions. Once a wedding is over, and becomes a marriage, the ins and outs of everyday life which strain at our nerves and psyches require the application of 1 Corinthians 13 love! When we become parents, and are losing sleep as a result of restless infants or teenagers, we call on 1 Corinthians 13 love. When we are angered by our work manager, by someone in traffic, by our neighbor, by anything happening in Walmart? 1 Corinthians 13. When we are upset with others in our church family? 1 Corinthians 13. Because 1 Corinthians 13 love is the Love of Christ, it is the only kind of love that never fails, never ceases, never passes away. It is the only way to love, and to live. “Abide in me”, said Jesus,” and I will abide in you”. “Love one another”, he told us, “love one another as I have loved you.” Amen.

In Christ Alone,

Jenn

Pastoral Services Now Available

Hope Lutheran is pleased to announce that our Lay Minister, Jennifer Warnock, is now providing pastoral care services to the congregation starting in July. Whether you're in need of a listening ear, spiritual guidance, or simply someone to talk to, support is available through visitations, phone calls, and regular office hours.

Jenn has been accepted to Luther Seminary and will be starting in the Fall of 2025 in seeking her MA in its Christian Ministry program where she is seeking to be ordained in word in sacrament in the ELCA. Jenn's educational background is in psychology, Christianity, and family counseling, and her professional background social work has focused on caring for people in times of need. Most recently, she has been involved in the intensive lay ministry school at Luther Seminary and has continuing training in that role with Bishop Dee.

Office Hours: Wednesdays at Hope Lutheran

Phone Availability: 320-305-4955

Visitations: As scheduled

Please feel free to reach out and connect—no concern is too small, and all conversations are held in confidence. Hope Lutheran is here to walk with you in faith, support, and community.

This is a new role and opportunity at Hope Lutheran for its congregational members, so we look forward to continuing conversations about what expansion or changes can be made to better serve our members. The council is grateful that Jenn is willing, able, and qualified to provide these pastoral services in this expanded role.

Council President's Report – July 2025

While summer is often a quieter season in the life of our congregation, much has taken place since the June newsletter, and I'm grateful to share several important updates with you.

Following the Council's approval of her expanded role, Jenn begun reaching out to those in need of care and support. The timing was a blessing—approval came on a Wednesday, and by Friday a family had requested a visit. Jenn was able to connect with them that very weekend. If you or someone you know is in need of a visit, or if you're aware of a fellow member who might benefit from Jenn's care, please contact Jenn directly, or reach out any council member. The new role is one we're excited to offer as part of Hope's ministry of presence and compassion. The Council will continue to review how this ministry unfolds, and Jenn has already shared thoughtful ideas about how she can serve our congregation beyond Sunday mornings. She is intending on most weeks to be here on Wednesday afternoons.

I also had the opportunity to attend the first meeting of the Constitutional Amendment Team. Pastor Janel from Cottonwood graciously traveled to Minneota and led a helpful and inspiring session about the process. She offered valuable insights that will be beneficial as we move forward. My understanding of the next step, is some sections of the proposed amendments will be reviewed by various committees. Pastor Janel brings deep wisdom and experience in church leadership, and I look forward to working with her as a resource in this process—though I haven't told her that yet!

One best practice we plan to implement is holding an informal budget informational meeting the Sunday prior to our annual meeting. This will allow members who are interested in the financial life of the church to review the proposed budget in greater depth and ask questions ahead of time.

Also, prior to the annual meeting, in November the Council will be sending out another congregational survey. We see this as a tool not just for gathering feedback, but for discerning the agenda for Hope Lutheran in the year ahead.

In the spirit of good stewardship, we've also begun exploring how to better use technology to support the mission and Ministry of Hope. As a nonprofit, Hope is eligible for free cloud-based services and software. I'm especially thankful to Dawn Van Keulen, who has graciously offered her time and expertise to help us move forward. She and Chris have been gathering the documentation needed to access Microsoft Office at no cost. Once the system is in place, we will discern how best to organize and prioritize our digital records—not only for day-to-day operations, but to preserve the rich history of Hope Lutheran.

I have received a quote for installing a security camera at the side entrance of the church. Several council members with technical and facility experience have reviewed it, and we'll bring it to the full Council soon. I hope I will have an update to share in the next newsletter regarding. Keeping our church building safe and secure remains a priority.

Continuing with the theme from last month—how do you help your neighbors—I've found myself reflecting on the power of prayer. Last year's PreK–6 curriculum focused on prayer, using biblical examples that helped children learn not only *how* to pray, but *why* we pray. It reminded me of how we pray for those listed in our bulletin each Sunday. But what happens during the rest of the week?

Jenn recently mentioned something shared by Bishop John Anderson—that crops that are prayed over tend to flourish. That made me think about praying at Hope for our neighbors. Something that is a way to help and support our neighbors. Currently, Hope does not have an active prayer chain, and I believe it's time to re-establish one.

This will be a developing project: launching a communication app, inviting members to participate, and most importantly, creating clear and respectful guidelines to ensure individuals' privacy and consent. Just imagine the spiritual strength and support it would bring—knowing that our church family is lifting one another up in prayer throughout the week.

Related to this, we're also implementing a small change to our prayer list in the bulletin as follows:

Names Listed in the Bulletin for Prayer

Unless we are notified otherwise, names will remain on the prayer list for six months. If you'd like a name removed sooner or kept on longer, please email hopelutheran87@gmail.com or call.

This will also be posted in the bulletin for about a month to ensure notice if given regarding this change.

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Council President's Report – July 2025 (continued)

I've also received updates from the Southwestern Minnesota Synod about our Ministry Site Profile (MSP). In June, it was shared with three candidates. One of them requested that their information be sent to our Call Committee. Dawn Van Keulen, our Call Committee Chair, reached out promptly after reviewing the candidate's materials. Unfortunately, the candidate had already accepted another call. I've also had several thoughtful email exchanges and a wonderful phone conversation with Bishop Dee, just before her recent visit to Hope. I will be receiving a monthly update from the synod regarding when our MSP has been shared.

As we move forward in faith, I want to reflect briefly on the importance of communication. As members of the body of Christ, we are called into relationship—with God, with one another, and with our community. Like all relationships, healthy communication is vital. It doesn't mean we all agree on everything, but it does mean we listen with grace and speak with love.

In my work in family law, I often see that the best resolutions come not when one party "wins," but when a compromise is reached that both parties accept as a path forward. It's the same in church life: sometimes we hold onto ideas or preferences. There are times when ideas get entrenched the disagreement is about six in one hand and half a dozen in the other are the same. I urge all to find the positives and the points of consensus. At the end of the day, I truly believe all members are all united in wanting Hope Lutheran to be successful and thrive.

Please continue to check the bulletin for announcements throughout the month, these announcements will bridge the gap in between newsletters. Additionally, I have included a separate section in the newsletter which addresses an issue that several members have spoken to me regarding at length, and I believe was important to address in this manner.

I want to extend my deep thanks to the Praise Band for leading the outdoor service on August 3. What a blessing it is to have such a talented group at Hope! Various members are also planning upcoming events and preparing for the launch of GLOW this fall. I look forward to sharing more about those efforts as they take shape.

As always, please feel free to contact me or any council member with your questions, ideas, or concerns. Enjoy the rest of summer – hard to believe the next time I will be writing this Minneota will be back in school!

Amie Ascheman
Council President

The **Building and Grounds Committee** was established in 2020.

The idea behind the group was to:

- 1) Have consistent membership to periodically review the church, parsonage and grounds,
- 2) Establish long term plans so that the financial burden is spread and;
- 3) Organize certain work and projects.

This group has not been active. We would like to re-establish this committee.

Please contact Jason Johnson at (507) 380-7065 or Amie Ascheman at (320) 249-5285 if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Constitutional Amendment Follow Up

In the July newsletter, I noted the following:

- The Special Congregational Meeting was held on June 1, 2025. We had an excellent turnout, thoughtful questions, and meaningful discussion. At the June council meeting, a motion was made to set a date for a second vote on the constitutional amendment; a written vote was held, and the motion did not pass.

At the June council meeting, some of the key points raised during the discussion prior to the vote on the issue were:

1. A lack of notice and meaningful review of the amendment.
2. No knowledge of the Model Constitution or the potential conflict that would arise with the ELCA regarding the proposed amendment.

The council's focus was on procedural fairness to the congregation, ensuring members have the ability to cast an informed vote. The council has no desire to suppress the wishes of the congregation or to have its actions viewed in that way. In fact, that would be in direct opposition to what we are working hard to achieve: open communication and transparency. The discussion prior to the vote was the longest of any that I have been involved in on council; all there were very invested in the conversation. This is a unique procedural issue, which the council has thoughtfully and thoroughly examined.

It has come to my attention that some members believe the council was wrong in not setting a second date.

There are specific requirements for who may call a special meeting. As council president, I am able to call a special meeting. To balance the interests and needs of individual members with those of the congregation as a whole, I do agree to call a special meeting regarding a request for the same or similar amendment to the constitution under the following conditions:

1. The request is submitted to me in writing.
2. The request is specific about what is being proposed and, if not immediately clear, explains how it relates to the amendment proposed in January 2024.
3. The request is made prior to August 10, 2025.

If these conditions are met, the special meeting will be conducted as follows, in accordance with our current constitution and consistent with the proposed Model Constitution language:

1. **Written notice** shall be given to all members as follows:
 - a. By letter, mailed to all members of the congregation.
 - i. Followed by notice in the bulletin for at least two consecutive Sundays leading up to the meeting.
 - ii. Announced verbally in church for two consecutive Sundays.
 - b. The letter shall:
 1. Provide the date (a Sunday) and time of the meeting.
 2. Specify what is being requested.
 3. Identify who is proposing it so members may contact them prior to the meeting, if desired.
2. The meeting will address only the matters listed in the notice.
3. The meeting will be conducted according to **Robert's Rules of Order**.

I believe this is a fair compromise that balances the interests of the various perspectives involved. Compromise in the church is about creating space where everyone feels valued and where our focus remains on worship and God's presence. I am hopeful that this compromise does create that space.

The Constitutional Amendment Team will continue working with our synod contact to move forward. The recommended language should address this procedural issue so that we will not encounter the same situation in the future.

Please feel free to contact me:

Amie Ascheman

Email: amie@rlwlawyers.com

Phone: 320-249-5285

Bell Tower Update

This letter is intended to serve as a comprehensive review of the work done by the Hope Lutheran Church Endowment Committee in cooperation and consultation with Dan Maki, PE to establish a plan to repair and restore the bell tower of the church building.

As you may know, the bell tower has been an ongoing concern for the church as moisture and water has been able to enter the tower and damage the interior of the tower and balcony, as well as creating a maintenance problem protecting the pipe organ. Cosmetic and possible structural damage has resulted from the inability of efforts by several trustee boards and local contractors to fix the source problem. As a result, there has been concern regarding the integrity of the structure itself as it impacts the entire tower, balcony, narthex, main entrance and basement of the church.

Considerable money has been spent in the last 15+ years with disappointing results while failing to get the problem fixed.

The Endowment identified this as a needed project and has been steadily working to get the issues addressed. We were referred to Dan Maki who specializes in historic building restoration as an architectural engineer. Mr. Maki made an initial site visit and reviewed our building blueprints, which he has digitized for a more permanent record. He made his assessment and presented the information to the Endowment Committee.

Mr. Maki felt that structurally our tower is intact with the moisture problems to this point creating only cosmetic issues. His comments were as follows:

1. The drainage system in the open top part of the tower was inadequate and was allowing pooling on the platform under the bell and resulting in some leakage through the flashing and roof barrier.
2. There is a condensation problem in the second stage of the tower that communicates with the area above the ceiling in the sanctuary. This is resulting in freezing and thawing of water on the walls and ceiling that then percolates down inside the walls. Added insulation in that room and above the sanctuary and means to ventilate more appropriately should solve this problem.
3. Tuck pointing needs to be done on the tower.
4. Cosmetic repair of the ceiling and walls that surround the pipe organ needs to be completed after the other problems are addressed and adequately alleviated.

Mr. Maki then devised and designed the Tower Masonry Repairs Proposals Analysis, as well as requested and received proposals for the repairs. The Endowment Committee met with Mr. Maki once the proposals were received, with the recommended contractor present.

The Endowment Committee was in agreement with the proposed contractors – TNT Tuckpointing & Building Restoration, LLC (TNT) and Buysse Roofing. Mr. Maki has worked with TNT in previous jobs and they have done excellent work for him, were able to do the project this year, and their bid was lower. The estimate letter to proceed with TNT has been reviewed and with the recommended changes, it has been executed. Additionally, Buysse Roofing will complete the roofing portion.

Mr. Maki will operate as the general contractor overseeing the work being done and assuring completion to his specifications. It is estimated that **the work will be started the week of July 28th** and with TNT it will take approximately three weeks.

The Endowment Committee was created to complete project like this and is the initial payor of the work. However, to be good stewards of the Endowment, the Committee we will be asking for our Hope Lutheran members to contribute to the project. We aren't yet certain what form this will take, but anticipate that it will include a match.

We were recommended these changes as what we knew and what was confirmed by Mr. Maki, that if we did not proceed, the Bell Tower would just continue to decline – it was not going to fix itself, and then the costs would just continue to rise.

We are excited to be at this stage of the project and look forward to seeing the project start.

Scott Josephson
Endowment Committee

Minneota Area Mission Trip

On June 22, 2025 at 1:00 am, 46 students and 10 chaperones departed from Hope Lutheran Church. 4.0 Bus Service donated two school buses and drivers to shuttle us to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport. We departed MSP and landed in Tampa, FL. We continued our journey with a 3 hour drive to Calvary Baptist Church in Perry, FL, our home for the week. We worked with the mission organization TEAMEffort who provided lodging, meals and work projects around the Perry, FL area. Our group was joined by three other groups at the church.

Throughout the week, our group worked at five locations throughout Steinhatchee, FL which was about a forty minute drive from Perry. Our group was divided into two smaller groups. One group worked at Miss Lorraine's house the duration of the week. Miss Lorraine's home was the only house in her area that didn't have water inside her home. Her home did have outside damage so our group built her a roofed deck, replaced siding on her house and cleaned up debris around her yard. The other half of our group worked on four other projects. The first one was at Jeff's - a skilled woodworker whose dream woodworking shop was flooded. We built/repared a fence, dismantled a damaged hoop barn, organized and cleaned his woodshop from debris as well as gathered wood and tools from the forest behind his shop. On day two, our group worked at Buster's cleaning debris from behind his house and hauling to the dump as well as reinforcing a shed. On day three and four, we worked at Misty's. Misty recently had her leg amputated and was in need of a moveable ramp to access her camper once she returns home from hospital. On day three, part of the group at Misty's went to Miss Christy's house to help clean up her yard of debris and overgrown shrubs. Miss Christy's mom is bed ridden and so they haven't been able to attend to yard cleanup from the hurricanes.

Along with our work projects, our mission trip group participated in nightly worship services. The worship theme of the week was "Love the Lord Your God". The theme verse was Deuteronomy 6:5, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." Worship also included live music provided by different worship groups each night. It was a soul searching experience for our youth and chaperones. We got to experience how our time and effort can impact those around us from building a ramp or deck or just cleaning up debris from someone's yard.

Our youth and chaperones also had the opportunity to explore the Perry and Steinhatchee, FL areas. Each day we ate our lunch at a local marina known as the Sea Hag Marina. After completing our work projects on Thursday morning, we enjoyed pizza from Stoney's, a local pizzeria at the Sea Hag Marina. After lunch we went to Keaton Beach, a local beach along the Gulf. It was an eye opening experience as our group got to see more of the destruction caused by the hurricanes in the area. While at Keaton Beach, we saw the pillars of what we can only imagine was the shower/bathroom house for Keaton Beach. Another cool sight on Keaton Beach was a huge cross amongst the palm trees. A reminder of God's presence in the good times and in the bad times. We capped off our "free day", at Food Fusion, a Chinese/American buffet. On Friday, June 27, we left Perry, FL and returned home to Minneota with full hearts and renewed faith in God and each other.

We are hoping to hold a Mission Trip Recap & Recruit Night at church to share our stories and pictures from our trip, in the near future. Stay tuned for date and time. We truly feel blessed by all of the support and generosity of our church parishes and surrounding communities. Our mission trips are not possible without this continued support from all of you. Thank you does not seem adequate or enough to express our gratitude. God has blessed us with amazing communities, churches, parents, and youth.

As the 2025 Perry, FL Mission Trip is now a memory, we are looking towards our next mission trip in 2027. We do not have a location for this trip as those will not be made available until closer to our trip (late 2026 - early 2027). As we look forward, we have started to recruit and fundraise for 2027. Any students that will be entering 8th - 12th grade this fall at Minneota Public School are eligible to attend the 2027 mission trip. If you are interested in attending the 2027 trip or have any questions, please contact Emily Hennen (emhaugland@hotmail.com or 507-828-6797) or fill out the included form.

MINNEOTA AREA MISSION TRIP INTEREST FORM

STUDENT NAME _____ GRADUATION YEAR _____

STUDENT CELL PHONE # _____ STUDENT EMAIL _____

PARENTS NAMES _____

PARENTS CELL # (MOM) _____ (DAD) _____

PARENTS EMAIL (MOM) _____ (DAD) _____

(OTHER) _____