

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, 2024

Sunday Worship: Through August

Hope Saturdays—5:30 PM
St. Paul's Sundays
—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 Confirmation
Classes/Teen Power

Coffee & Fellowship:

WORSHIP TIMES:

August 3rd—31st Services

8:30 am – Bethany-Elim Lutheran

10:30 am – St. Paul's Lutheran

Saturdays—5:30 pm

Hope Lutheran

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Pastor's Office Hours:

Mon: Hope, 7:30-Noon
Tues: Bethany-Elim, 8:30-Noon
Wed: No Office Hours
Thurs: Hope, 7:30-Noon
Fri: Day Off

Hope Lutheran Church

**113 South Jefferson Street
PO Box 87
Minneota, MN 56264-0087**

Pastor Cell: 612-477-4673
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

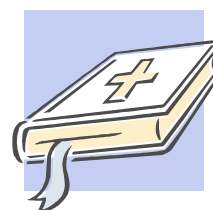
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**412 East Lyon Street
Minneota, MN 56264**

Pastor: Jon Barsness
Pastor Email: pastorjonh1sp@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

Bible Studies for Men and Women

Circle Bible Study	August 5, 7:00 pm	At Church
Circle Bible Study		
Men's Bible Study	August 2, 8:00 am	At Porter Café



2024 Church Attendance

7:30 AM Worship

May 5	85
May 12	52
May 19	45
May 26	32
Total:	214
Average:	54

June 2	41
June 9	39
June 16	46
June 23	34
June 30	40 Est
Total:	200
Average:	40

Sunday 5:30 PM Worship

July 7	53
July 14	33
July 21	38
July 28	50 Est
Total:	174
Average:	44



Workgroup Chairpersons

Jamie & Kevin Anderson
605-323-7416

Altar Guild (July 24—August 27)

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	Grace Horner & Khailynn Fier
August 10	Beckham Norby & Logan Esping
August 17	Parker Minnehan & ??
August 24	Beckham Norby & Logan Esping
August 31	Mason Javers & McKenna Geisler



Money Counters: August: Sandy Josephson & ??

Upcoming Dates:

July 28-August 1—Vacation Bible School

August 8—WELCA Summer Retreat, 8:30-Noon, at Bethany in Arco. 'Focus on the Positive' program by Tammy Busselman & Jesse Busselman. Potluck Noon Luncheon, bring salads or deserts.

August 10—Wedding for Matt Myhre & Katheryn Madson

August 24—Wedding for Amanda Prellwitz & Jesse Bureau

September 11—10:00 am—Women's Bible Study Kickoff in the church library. We are starting a new series, **Women of The Old Testament** followed by **Women of The New Testament**. If you are interested please call or text Angie Borstad (605) 380-2882 and she will get a study guide for you. She will need to know by August 30th.

From Pastor Jon

BELIEVER

This is the last of the three summer articles related to words that can get lost in translation as a church. When we hear the word **believe** we tend to think through the lens of Western Culture. A person can proclaim, “Yes, I believe in the existence of God, the deity of Christ, and the triune nature of God.” In other words, I agree with those propositional statements, but when the Bible uses the word **believe** it means much more than intellectual agreement.

The Book of James cautions us against this very thing: “You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you? Even the demons believe this and they tremble in terror” (James 2:19).

The biblical word **believe** goes way beyond mental assent. It uses the words **believe** and **obey** interchangeably emphasizing God’s view of faith as obedient faith. In John 3:36 (ESV), “Whoever **believes** in the Son has eternal life, whoever does not **obey** the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God remains on him” (see also Hebrews 3:18-19 NLT, Hebrews 5:9 NIV).

As Martin Luther famously said, “Man is saved by faith alone, but never is genuine faith alone.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer captures the relationship beautifully when he says, “Only the believer is obedient and only the obedient believe.”

If we are to recapture a more biblical discipleship, a good first step would be to recapture a more biblical language and biblical meaning. Biblically speaking, a Christian is much more than one who **believes** in God, goes to church, or is learning about Jesus. It is a transformative journey of apprenticeship to Jesus, following his teaching and surrendering our lives to him in obedient faith.

Just as he called his first disciples to follow him, Jesus invites us to do the same.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Jon

Hope Lutheran is now on YouVersion!



<https://www.bible.com/organizations/00603eda-d734-45cb-85a0-bed2eef53bfe>

With most people having a cell phone today, why not put the Bible on it so you can have it everywhere you go? Download the app using the link above to be a part of Hope Lutheran YouVersion. We will be adding Bible reading plans, sermon notes, and many other features in the coming months. The YouVersion app helps you stay connected to Jesus through His Word.

Discipleship Pathway

What is a discipleship pathway? Before I answer, I want to remind everyone that we spent the summer exploring the gospel that Jesus preached. This culminated in a working definition for our church on the gospel that Jesus preached. If you missed this sermon please head over to our teaching ministry [Spirit Speak](#) to listen to this definition. Our working definition of the gospel using the **seven essential elements** that Jesus preached is:

*The **Kingdom of God** has come through Jesus of Nazareth. He is **Christ**, the King, God's one and only Son. He **died** on the cross for our sins, was buried, and was **resurrected** on the third day according to the Scriptures. In His great love and by His amazing grace, God our Father saves everyone who **repents** of their sin, **believes** the gospel, and **follows** Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. When King Jesus returns on the last day, the great Day of Judgment, everyone who followed Him will enter the eternal Kingdom of God.*

(Mark 1:14-17; 8:27-31; 1 Cor. 15:1-5; John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-10; Matt. 25:31-46)

*A **discipleship pathway** is a sequenced plan to move disciples from one stage of growth to the next. It is broad enough to include everyone, but specific enough to meet each spiritual generation where they are. The end goal is growth that will result in mature, relationally connected disciples who make disciples.*

The purpose of a discipleship pathway in the local body of the church is not only to make disciples as Jesus commanded (Matt. 28:18-20) but also to remind Christians that they are called to be disciple-makers.

Imagine what would happen if we shifted the focus of our Wednesday night from a program-centric model that only focused on our youth into a critical discipleship pathway for all generations. A discipleship pathway that not only connects our Wednesday night ministry to Sunday but all aspects of the lives of each generation in our church.

Can we move from a place where someone goes to get personally fed to a place where someone can go to learn to feed others?

Will you join me in wrestling toward clarity in our identity in Christ as a disciple-maker?

We must each understand our unique gift in the Body of Christ. We each can impact the implementation of the Body following Jesus. I want to invite you to wrestle with the questions:

- What is our identity as a church?
- How are we rooting our identity in disciple-making?

What does it mean to equip and not just consume?

How we answer these questions might just change everything! Join me in September on the discipleship pathway.

For Him,

Pastor Jon

Church Council Notes – July 1, 2024

Fund Balances: General Fund:	\$ 21,341.24	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 37,804.67
Building Fund:	\$ 3,808.26	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 294.33
Building Fund Savings:	\$ 2,591.42	GLOW:	\$ 1,257.72

Attendance:

Attending in Person: Terri Myhre, Emily Hennen,, Rose Van Uden, Barb Knutson, Cory Myhre, James Danielson, Jason Johnson, Jen Anderson, Amie Ascheman, Deb Belaen, Angie DeVos, Pastor Jon Barsness, Chris Pesch-Church Secretary

Attending via Phone:

Absent: Sandy Josephson, Lizzy Reiss

Secretary's Report – Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve the secretary's report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

- 1st 100 Days: Pastor reviewed his 100 day plan through June 30th. He has been working on opportunities to get to know church members, leaders, staff, volunteers, and community members.
- Technology: He has been working with the technology team to outline what needs to be completed to get the video/audio back up and running for a fuller worship experience and online capabilities.
- Outreach/Evangelism: He has met with prospective families about membership, and he has also been connecting with GLOW families who are not current members. He has also met with CRU leader at SMSU to discuss interest from their membership in helping with GLOW and in Music Ministry.
- Visitations (Homebound) – June 2024: Has done 9 home/assisted living/nursing home visits and 2 hospital visits.
- Funerals / Baptisms / Marriages: Performed 3 funerals and had pre-marriage sessions for 2 couples for August 2024 weddings.
- Teaching Ministry: Have had over 100 downloads of the podcast so far. The weekly Bible study on Thursday is ongoing and joined 5 men for their monthly Bible Study in Porter.

Treasurer's Report

- Bills: Bills for the month of July were presented by Cory Myhre. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$11,664.82. **Motion made by Emily Hennen to approve the Treasurer's Report. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Trustees Report

- Bills: Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$11,664.82, and there were no other bills for building fund at this time.
- **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Deb Belaen 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
- As the June walk around was accidentally missed, it was agreed that we would not do a walk around in July or August, but would resume them in September with the kitchen remodel.
- September 29 – Kitchen Remodel
- October 27 - Esther's Kitchen – Looking at getting confirmation to help deliver the check and finding possible opportunities to work with this organization, also.
- Work Groups: The work groups have been finalized, and it was suggested that they should be rearranged next year as there are some groups that have very few people who are able to help with funerals due to work, age, etc. There will be no coffee after service for July and August, so just ushers need to be found.
- Funeral Director: Marilyn Kompelien wants to retire as funeral director as she has been doing it for many years. One suggestion that will be worked on is to make a more detailed list of people who can serve at funerals during the week, those who can serve at funerals on weekends, and who is willing to make a cake, etc. This will help avoid contacting people who aren't able to help at certain times.
- **Motion made by Amie Ascheman to approve the Board of Deacons' report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

(continued on page 6)

Church Council Notes (continued)

Board of Education Report

- VBS: Will be held July 29 - August 1, 2024; counselors from Green Lake will arrive on Sunday, July 28. We have 53 students signed up to attend with 11 student helpers assisting. Dawn Van Keulen has offered to house the counselors. Amie Ascheman, Kathy Opdahl, Linda Nuytten, and Jess Moriarity have offered to provide supper for the counselors. As the counselors will arrive on July 28th, it was decided that we will have them come to our Sunday night worship and do a hot dog supper after service as a kickoff for VBS. Supper will hot dogs, beans and chips.
- Mission Trip Fundraisers:
 - Continuing to fundraise for the 2025 mission trip. Upcoming fundraisers include the Shine Center Car Wash (next to Lockwood's in Marshall) with a percentage of the sales from 10 – 3 pm going to our group, and there will also be an option to provide a donation to have your car dried off. We will also be at the Belgian American Days softball tournament concession stand on August 3. Also, we will be helping at the Polish Days food stand on August 10. We are not currently planning to have a food stand at Bug Days due to the number of students involved in band and the parade. There also is a burger stand that is being run by the Knights of Columbus and other food trucks, so sales have been slower than previously. A suggestion was made to look at having a food stand by the craft / vendor area during the Bean Bag toss area as that would have less competition with other food vendors.
 - Currently, we have 67 students signed up for the 2025 Mission Trip. Any students going into the 8th – 12th grade the fall of 2023 are eligible to go on the 2025 Mission Trip. Please let Emily Hennen know if your child would like to participate; her email is emhaugland@hotmail.com.
- **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Board of Education report. Cory Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- Sexton: We are still in need of a sexton for the cemetery, so if anyone is interested in volunteering, please have them reach out to a council member. We will also put this in the bulletin.
- Service Times: We are in a trial period right now, and we are looking at trying some things after Sunday evening service. We agreed that we will have root beer floats in the fellowship hall after the July 7th service as that will be the first Sunday evening service. Val will be able to play organ for the first 2 Sundays in July. Services will be at 8:30 am at Bethany Elim and 10:30 am at St. Paul's. The Executive Councils met to discuss what is working well and what isn't working.
- Kitchen Remodel: The kitchen remodel is being managed by HLCW, and there is a committee working on it.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to adjourn. Rose Van Uden seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of August 5th via e-mail

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, August 7, 2024. Boards meet at 6:30 pm. All together 7:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen