

### 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

December, 2023

### Sunday Worship:

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

### GLOW:

God's Love On  
Wednesdays  
5:30 PM Supper  
6:00 PM GLOW  
6:00 PM Confirmation  
Classes/Teen Power

### Coffee & Fellowship:

Hope—10:00 AM

*Hope Services Are  
Streamed on  
Facebook*

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### Pastor's Office Hours:

## Christmas Worship

### December 24th

**NO morning worship at either church**

**4:00 p.m. St. Paul's Worship**

**5:30 p.m. Hope's Worship**

### December 25th

**NO worship at either church**



### 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

Pastor Cell:

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

Pastor:

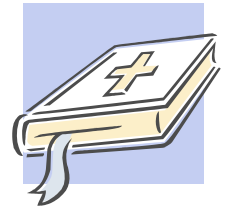
Pastor Email:

Missionary: Dr. Elisabeth Johnson

Missionary Email: elisajo@msn.com

**Bible Studies for Men and Women**

|                    |                         |                      |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Circle Bible Study | December 4, 7:00 pm     | At Church            |
| Circle Bible Study | December 13th, 10:00 am | At Sandy Tolk's Home |
| Men's Bible Study  | December 2nd, 8:00 am   | At Porter Cafe       |

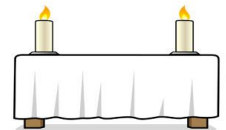


**2023 Church Attendance**

|            |              |             |             |             |                         |
|------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| October 1  | 135          | November 5  | 101         | December 3  |                         |
| October 8  | 113          | November 12 | 72          | December 10 |                         |
| October 15 | 141          | November 19 | 134         | December 17 |                         |
| October 22 | 78           | November 26 | 67          | December 24 | N/A No morning worshiip |
| October 29 | 185          |             |             | December 24 | Christmas Eve           |
|            | Total: 652   |             | Total: 374  | December 31 |                         |
|            | Average: 130 |             | Average: 94 | Total:      |                         |
|            |              |             |             | Avg:        |                         |

**Altar Guild (November 29—December 26)**

Marlys Skaar 872-6600  
 Gayle VanVooren 872-6927



**Workgroup Chairpersons**

Jim & Glenda Fink 872-5243

**Date Sound Operators**

December 3 Randy Prellwitz  
 December 10 Jack Jerzak  
 December 17 Scott Josephson  
 December 24 Greg Gottskalkson  
 December 31

**Date Acolytes**

December 3 Madison Minnehan & Brooklyn Ryer  
 December 10 Cole Johnson & ??  
 December 17 Christmas Program  
 December 24 Christmas Eve—Dawson & Mason Javers  
 December 31 ??



**Money Counters:** December: Rose Van Uden & ??

**Upcoming Dates:**

**\*December 3**  
 Following services, HLCW Meeting, Fellowship Hall  
 11-2 pm, SOS (Social On Sunday) Fellowship Hall  
 Christmas Baking Forms Due

**\*December 10, Communion**

**\*December 17, 10 am, No Communion**  
 GLOW Christmas Program

**\*December 20**  
 No GLOW – Merry Christmas!

**\*December 24-25 – Christmas Worship**  
 December 24<sup>th</sup>, NO a.m. Worship,  
 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship, With Communion  
 December 25<sup>th</sup>, NO Worship

**\*December 27**  
 No GLOW

**\*December 31**  
 Year End Cutoff for Offerings

**\*January 3**  
 No GLOW

**\*January 7, During Worship**  
 Scholarship Distribution

**\*January 15, Noon**  
 Annual Reports Due to  
 Church Secretary

**\*January 28, Following Worship**  
 Annual Meeting

**Church Council Notes – November 1, 2023**

|                       |                        |              |                   |              |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Fund Balances:</b> | General Fund:          | \$ 11,906.33 | Cornerstone Fund: | \$ 15,135.02 |
|                       | Building Fund:         | \$ 4,433.88  | Petty Cash Fund:  | \$ 36.33     |
|                       | Building Fund Savings: | \$ 2,641.15  | GLOW:             | \$ 3,264.55  |

**Attendance:**

- **Attending in Person:** Terri Myhre, Rose Van Uden, Emily Hennen, Aimee Ascheman, Moriah Reiss, Lizzy Reiss, Jen Anderson, Barb Knutson, Chris Pesch, Angie DeVos,
- **Attending via Phone:**
- **Absent:** Jason Johnson, Barry Gronke

**Secretary's Report: Motion made by Moriah Reiss to approve the secretary's report. Lizzy Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report**

- Bills – Bills for the month of November were presented by Terri Myhre. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$5,929.38.
- **Motion made by Aimee Ascheman to approve the Treasurer's Report. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Board of Trustees Report**

- Land Lease for Wind Power: The contract for the wind tower lease has been signed. It will be 60 to 70 days until we receive the payment.
- **Motion made by Moriah Reiss to approve the Board of Trustees report. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Board of Deacons Report**

- Walk Around Offerings: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Endowment matches walk around offerings 2:1 up to \$500
  - November 26 – Winter gear for kids
  - December – No walk around but we are looking at doing a Christmas “giving” tree where people can give money for or winter gear to be donated to the Minneota Public School students
- All Saint's Day: This will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in November - November 5, 2023.
- Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service: The service will be at St. Edward's this year on November 22, 2023 at 6pm
- Work Groups:
  - Deacons working on setting up 2024 work groups
  - Work group chairmans need to find ushers and coffee servers for their designated month
  - Would like to put together a folder containing information on the responsibilities of the group chairmans
  - Work group lists need to be updated - current list contains deceased members and outdated phone numbers
  - Chris is going to include a personal information sheet in each member's offering envelope boxes
  - Members will be asked to update any outdated information on their sheet and return to Chris
  - Envelopes: Chris planning to have them ready by November 19, 2023
  - Discussed possible Venmo option for offerings - will discuss further at next meeting
- Christmas Services:
  - December 24, 2023 / Christmas Eve: No 9:00 am service; There will be a 4:00 pm service at St. Paul's and a 5:30 pm service at Hope.
  - December 25, 2023 / Christmas Day: No service; Giving Tim the day off to spend time with his family as he is not our contracted pastor and want to respect his family traditions and obligations.
  - If there is a strong desire for a Christmas Day service (Dec 25, 2023), open to anyone that is available and willing to lead the service. Anyone interested in leading a Christmas Day Service please contact the Board of Deacons.
- Communion:
  - November 5th and 26th will both be walk-around
  - December 10th will be at the rail
  - December 24th will be walkaround (will need 4 servers)
- **Motion made by Aimee Ascheman to approve the Board of Deacons' report. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

(continued on page 4)

## Church Council Notes – October 4, 2023 (continued)

### Board of Education Report

- GLOW: Christmas program planning is underway. The Christmas program will be Sunday, December 17, 2023, at 10:00 am. The next Let It Shine Services will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.
- Mission Trip:
- Upcoming fundraisers for the 2025 Mission Trip:
  - Mary & Martha Fundraiser: Mary & Martha offers faith-based inspirational products for your home. 25% of each sale will be donated to the mission trip. Products will be displayed at the following come and go events: Sunday, November 5: at Bethany-Elim from 9-11am; at Hope Lutheran from 5-7 pm, or my home, by appointment. Order online at: [www.mymaryandmartha.com/nancykrog](http://www.mymaryandmartha.com/nancykrog) Fundraiser runs November 1-11. Please call/text Nancy Krog at 507-530-4630, with questions, to make an appointment, or to place an order for you.
  - Christmas Baking: Selling Oreo truffles, lefse, and Belgian cookies. Accepting orders now until Dec 3, 2023. Baking day will be held on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 10:30 am at Hope Lutheran Church. Orders will be available for pick-up later that afternoon.
  - Any students going into 8th grade - 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 [emhaugland@hotmail.com](mailto:emhaugland@hotmail.com).
- Youth of Hope:
  - Refocusing to 6th, 7th and 8th graders instead of 7th -12th in hopes of getting more participation and involvement; Had students fill-out an interest survey. 2023 Jr High Youth Gathering: 6th-9th graders, November 17-18 or 18-19, Willmar Conference Center - Willmar, MN
  - Looking at planning a service day
  - Hoping to adopt a family to buy Christmas gifts through the Christmas Angels program at Minneota Schools
- Other Upcoming Dates:
  - April 7, 2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> Communion for 5<sup>th</sup> graders; Pat Myhre has made the cups for those receiving their First Communion
  - Baccalaureate – May 5, 2024
- **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Board of Education report. Lizzy Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### Other Business

- Nominating Committee: will be looking for people to fill open council positions
- Church Concerns:
  - Organ needs to be serviced again; Val Buysse would like to be present when repairman comes to show them the problems she is having
  - A church member would like to present an idea to the council. We agreed to allow for a short presentation at the December meeting
- **Motion made by Rose Van Uden to adjourn. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of November 27th via e-mail

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, December 6, 2023. Boards meet at 7:00 pm. All together 7:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Emily Hennen

## Christmas Baking

We are taking orders for Christmas baking. We will be offering Oreo truffles, lefse, and Belgian cookies. All orders are due Sunday, December 3, 2023. Our baking day will be held on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 10:30 am at Hope Lutheran Church. Orders will be available for pick-up later that afternoon.

### MINNEOTA AREA MISSION TRIP CHRISTMAS BAKING

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

LEFSE (3 SHEETS/BAG) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 EACH = \_\_\_\_\_

BELGIAN COOKIES (12) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 EACH = \_\_\_\_\_

OREO TRUFFLES (8) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00 EACH = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL = \_\_\_\_\_

*Orders due Dec 3, 2023 - drop off at Hope Lutheran or call Emily Hennen (828-6797). Baking Day is Sunday, December 10, 2023 and orders will be ready late afternoon. Pay when you order or upon delivery. (check one).*

*Checks made to **Youth of Hope***

Delivery in Minneota \_\_\_\_\_ Pick-up at Hope \_\_\_\_\_ Pick-up at Ivanhoe Family Pharmacy \_\_\_\_\_

We continue to appreciate all of the support we have received from our congregations and communities. Please keep our group in your prayers as we continue to fundraise for the 2025 mission trip. If you have any questions regarding the 2025 Mission Trip or are interested in going on the 2025 mission trip, please contact Emily Hennen at [emhaugland@hotmail.com](mailto:emhaugland@hotmail.com) or 507-828-6797.

## Short Meeting Held

The Hope Lutheran Church Women (HLCW) met briefly on November 12th in the church after Sunday services. Although it was a small group, a number of items were discussed.

Rose Van Uden gave a report on the meatball supper held on November 5th, and although the final counts were not in, thought it to be a big success. She thanked all those who helped with the preparations, youth and adults who helped during the evening, and all those who donated so generously to the bake sale. A number of suggestions were made including having drivers to deliver take-out meals, changing the menu from carrots to corn, and asking even more younger adults to help with the meal. We all appreciate the leadership that Rose provided for this major project. Funds raised are earmarked for the remodeling of the church kitchen.

The remodeling then became a topic of discussion, with a telephone visit with the Lyon County Environmental Health Manager giving us suggestions as to what we can do in the kitchen. We already have many of the items in our kitchen, such as a dishwasher unit, the coffee making unit, the sink for washing hands, and the food prep sink. Also discussed were the food prep tables and the cupboards in the area. A committee will be formed to make recommendations, get quotes, and then we will see how close we are to having a remodel become reality.

It was also mentioned that a Christmas tree will be used to collect caps, gloves and other outdoor winter apparel for our elementary students. Please be watching for the tree and fill it with outdoor gear that can be used by our students.

A Hope Lutheran Cookbook has also been suggested as a fundraiser for the kitchen, and that will be revisited soon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The group will meet again on Sunday, December 3rd, right after church in the Fellowship Hall . . . So that everyone can enjoy a cup of coffee while we make plans for the future.

Remember, ALL of you ladies are members of the HLCW. Come and help with decisions that make a difference in the life of Hope Lutheran.

*Gayle Van Vooren, HLCW President*