

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

January , 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**

Inside this issue:

Pastor Allen's Letter	1
Bible Study's/Duties	2
Upcoming Dates	2
Council Minutes	3-4
January Walkaround	4
Financial Crisis	5
GLOW	6
Mission Trip	6
Shoe Collection	7
Mittens, Etc	7
January Calendar	7
January Work Group	8-9

Pastor's Office Hours:

**Tuesday—Friday
8:30 am—Noon**

**Or he can be reached by
cell phone, text or email
at other times.**

A Note from the Pastor

We find ourselves in the new year and thinking about new beginnings. Life is full of new beginnings, but the new calendar year tends to be the most celebrated. Of course, most parents celebrate the coming of a new school year. The church year begins in December, the school year begins in August, (or September) and the calendar year begins in January. Some even have a fiscal year, that can begin in any month of the Calendar.

Compared to the previous couple of years, 2022 has been a cakewalk, generally speaking. For me, it has felt like being freed from prison. I had a very serious health scare in 2019, so the previous three years were less than stellar for me. The pandemic changed everything for each of us personally, as well as our society. We will deal with the trauma for years to come. I have special concerns for the young ones who experienced this instability during their formative years. Please pay special attention to your children. Extra hugs, eye contact, and quality conversation can never hurt.

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Revelation 21:5-6

On January 6th we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. Epiphany means, "manifestation." In this festival we celebrate the coming of the wise men, when Jesus was manifested, or made known to the gentiles. This shows that Jesus is not just the Jewish Messiah, but the savior of the world; the whole world. In Jesus God has done a new thing. In Jesus God becomes one of us and lives among us. In Jesus we have not just a new year but a new world; creation is renewed. Christ's resurrection marks the dawning of a new day, New Year's Day for the universe. In our baptism, we are joined to this new thing that God is doing. We have been "raised to walk in newness of life" (*Romans 6*) with Jesus.

For 2023, we pray that whatever darkness we have dealt with will give way to a new and brilliant light; that the star of Bethlehem will shine for us again.

Peace Y'all—Pastor Allen

Hope Lutheran Church

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

Pastor Cell: 507-828-0272
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: Pastor Allen Campbell
Pastor Email: pastorallencampbell@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	January 2nd, 7:00 pm	At Church
Circle Bible Study	January 11th, 10:00 am	At Church
Men's Bible Study	January 6th, 8:00 am	At Porter Cafe

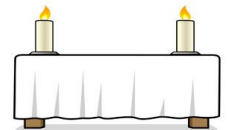


2022 Church Attendance

November 6	102	December 4	January 1
November 13	81	December 11	January 8
November 20	175	December 18	January 15
November 23		December 24	January 22
November 27		December 25	January 29
Total:		Total:	Total:
Average:		Average:	Average:

Altar Guild (December 28—January 25)

Marlys Skaar 872-6600
??



Workgroup Chairpersons

Not Available At Time Of
Printing

Date Sound Operators Acolytes

January 1	Randy Prellwitz	Addison Buysse & Imogen Moriarty
January 8	Todd Sonnenburg	Creed Stassen & Landon Esping
January 15	Scott Josephson	Owen Myrvik & Logan Pohlen
January 22	Greg Gottskalkson	Nola Ascherman & McKenna Geisler
January 29		Owen Dalager & Heydan Danielson



Money Counters: January—Barb Knutson & Dave Dovre

Upcoming Dates:

December 24th—Christmas Eve Service, St. Paul's, 4:00; Hope 5:30
 December 25th—Christmas Day Service, Hope, 9:00 (No service at St. Paul's)
 December 30th—Last day for your offerings to be counted for 2022
 January 8th—Annual Repots Due to Church Secretary (no later than January 11th)
 January 29th—Annual Meeting

Church Council Notes – December 7, 2022

Fund Balances:	General Fund:	\$ 2,988.05	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 4,034.57
	Building Fund:	\$ 9,166.71	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 649.25
	Building Fund Savings:	\$ 2,640.93	GLOW:	\$ 6,182.94

Finances:

General Fund Balance as of November 30th	\$ 2,988.05
General Fund Offering Income Dec. 4 th	\$ 1,882.00
	\$ 4,870.05
Projected Expenses for October	\$17,591.56

Attendance:

- **Attending in Person:** Barry Gronke, Aimee Ascheman, Rose Van Uden, Terri Myhre, Deb Belaen, Emily Hennen, Lizzy Reiss, Barb Knutson, Jen Anderson, Chris Pesch-Church Secretary, Pastor Allen Campbell
- **Attending via Phone:**
- **Absent:** Jason Johnson, Dave Dovre, Moriah Reiss, Gayle Van Vooren

Pastor's Report

- 2 men's Bible study breakfasts, 1 Minneota assisted living worship service, 7 home visits, 4 other visits, 1 baptism, 1 committee meeting, 1 Conference Pastor's meeting (hosted at Hope), and 1 ordination service.
- I was privileged to participate in the ordination service of Austin Krohnke, who has been called to serve as pastor at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Marshall. It was good to worship with Austin, Bishop Dee, the other pastors, the folks of Grace Lutheran in Dawson and the representatives from St. Stephen.
- I will be taking the rest of my vacation days December 27th – 30th. I will still be available by phone.

Treasurer's Report

- Bills – Bills for the month of December were presented by Barry Gronke. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$17,591.56.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Treasurer's Report. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Trustees Report

- Bills – The bill for the Minneota Mascot ad for the Meatball Supper will go to the HLCW for payment.
- Church / Parsonage repair – We have received a check from insurance for the roof. We have ordered steel to put on the roof versus replacing the shingles, and once that has come in, Guy Jeremiason has offered to install it. This will be put on both the parsonage and the garage.
- Budget planning – The trustees will meet on Sunday, December 18th to do budget planning for 2023. Our weekly giving is slightly up over last year, but we didn't receive a PPP loan this year, and we are also down on commodity payments received. We are going to be very tight on finances at the end of this year, so we would appreciate everyone's support to meet our expenses.
- Pastor FICA payment: It was agreed that we will pay this monthly next year, rather than in one lump sum at the end of the year as we need to do this year.
- **Motion made by Aimee Ascheman to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Lizzy Reiss seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Deacons Report

- Walk Around Offerings: 4th Sunday of the month -
 - January 22 – Adaptive bike for Minneota schools
 - February 26 – WRAP – WoMen's Rural Advocacy Program
 - March 26 – Food Shelf
- Christmas Services: Christmas Eve services will be at 4 pm at St. Paul's and 5:30 pm at Hope. We will have a Christmas Day service at Hope but not at St. Paul's. There will be 4 servers for communion on Christmas Eve.
- **Motion made by Barry Gronke to approve the Board of Deacons' report. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

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Council Minutes (con't)

Board of Education Report

- GLOW: The Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 18 during the regular church service at **10 am**.
- Confirmation: There have been a lot of great questions brought up at Confirmation, so the last Wednesday of the month will be random question night to allow time for discussion.
- Mission Trip 2023: Our mission trip destination has been chosen! We will be going to Elliot County, KY from June 25th through June 30th. This will be through Next Step Ministries. Our first non-refundable deposit is due December 27th.
- Mission Trip Fundraisers:
 - Christmas baking will be done on Sunday, December 11th starting at 10:30 am. Orders can be picked up at Hope or delivered in Minneota later in the afternoon on December 11. Orders can also be picked up on Monday, December 12th in Ivanhoe at the Ivanhoe Family Pharmacy.
 - We will also be serving a light lunch after the Christmas program on the 18th; this will be a free will donation.
 - We are putting together a coupon/discount card featuring local Minneota and Ivanhoe businesses. They are finishing collecting donations, and they will be printing soon.
- Teen Power: They will be collecting shoes after the holidays.
- Summer VBS: Green Lake Ministries contacted Barb about the possibility of having a different date for VBS as the week we had originally picked (July 30th – August 3rd) is extremely busy for them. We agreed that we could move our date to July 23rd – July 27th to accommodate this request as many of the summer programs will be done by that time. Barb will follow up with Green Lake on this change.
- Other: Barb Knutson asked if the Children's Bulletins were still available, and they are. It was agreed to print out 20 for each Sunday to start and adjust based on quantity left over. There was also discussion about making Christmas cards for those in the Assisted Living. With the Christmas program coming up, it was agreed that if individual teachers wanted to do something in their classroom while not practicing for the program, that would be great, but it wouldn't be a large group project for GLOW.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Education report. Barry Gronke seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- Scholarship Distribution: The date for the distribution of scholarships will be Sunday, January 8th. It is normally done on the 1st Sunday of January, but with that falling on the 1st this year, it was agreed that it would be best to move it back a week.
- **Motion to adjourn made by Barry Gronke. Rose Van Uden seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of January 2nd via e-mail

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Boards at 7:15 pm; All together at 7:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen, Council Secretary

JANUARY WALK AROUND OFFERING—ADAPTIVE BIKE FOR MINNEOTA SCHOOLS

For Lisa Hennen—Physical Therapist for the School: The Minneota Public School has been generous with the supplies they provide the therapy department for special needs students, but they have a limited budget. Please consider assisting us in acquiring an adaptive bike that could be used by children who can not ride regular bikes due to weakness or neurological impairments. It would allow greater independence in getting around our school both indoors and outdoors. The bike comes with a tray to hold communication devices, a seatbelt and foot straps to keep kids in good alignment at the trunk and feet which will help strengthen them while keeping them in a good safe position.

FINANCIAL CRISIS!!

I have not written to you since becoming Treasurer as I do not believe anyone enjoys requests for more donations, however, we have reached a point in our finances where we have no choice but to have this difficult conversation.

Financially, Hope Lutheran is experiencing a deficit of over \$14,000 as of November 30 and we have over \$17,000 in expenses due throughout the month of December. Giving is down and December is short a service due to Christmas falling on a Sunday this year. It is expected that we will be out of cash for operations on or around the time you read this letter. We have utilized the entirety of the cornerstone and must pay the \$14,000 back by December 31. Our deficit is expected to be north of \$20,000 if giving does not increase. To keep the heat on and pay salaries we will be forced to borrow funds from other specifically designated funds.

How did we get here? In 2020 and 2021 we received PPP loans of about \$12,000 each (which were forgiven), however no such programs are available in 2022. Additionally, giving is down this year by approximately \$14,000 over this same time last year and 2021 was down approximately \$10,000 from 2020. Essentially the PPP money kept the church in the black for both 2020 and 2021 in the face of reduced giving. Combining the lack of government money and the reduction in giving creates over \$30,000 less revenue in 2022 than in 2021. Like all of you the church has seen our expenses increase. We now pay more for insurance, electricity, propane, and salaries than ever before.

This can seem confusing when our church has extremely large endowments and scholarship programs. We must remember that the endowments were never intended to supply the church with operating revenue, rather the endowments were earmarked for specific purposes and the availability of those funds is limited to ensure they last well into the future and are not squandered.

Gary Huso Endowment. This endowment contains assets such as farm land and securities. The income from those assets are split into buckets including: (1) local outreach; (2) regional outreach; (3) global outreach and (4) discretionary funds. At its core the endowment is purposed with helping out people and making a Christian impact on the lives of others. It is not designed to supplement the operations of Hope Lutheran or pay normal operating expenses. The endowment has done great work and helped increase the impact of a number of our walk around offerings, yet those assets and income are not available for operations such as salaries, supplies, insurance, electricity, or repairs.

Building Fund Endowment. This endowment is invested into securities. The income/interest from those assets are designated to be spent on improvements and repairs of church properties such as the church building and parsonage. These funds have helped to pay for bell tower repairs, new sound system, and other building improvements. This endowment is still very new and will continue to have a lasting impact well into the future.

Scholarship Funds. These funds are invested into securities, and the income from those investments are used to provide scholarships to the youth in the manner that was designated by the original donors. These funds have significantly impacted the young adults attending post-secondary education from our congregation.

It is unclear what the future will hold for Hope Lutheran Church, however, if expenses continue to outpace revenue, drastic changes to operations will need to occur. I ask all of you to consider Hope Lutheran when you determine your monthly budgets during this holiday season and in 2023 and beyond. No gifts are too small and every dollar does make an impact.

GLOW

While this newsletter is being written, the finishing touches are being put on the GLOW Christmas program, which will be at **10:00 am on Sunday, December 18th**. We are grateful to Emily Hennen, Tegan Gillund, and Jess Gronke for their leadership and time that they put in to organizing and planning the Christmas program each year.

Following this, we will take a short break from GLOW to celebrate the holiday season. We will resume after Christmas on January 11th. On January 18th, we will have a fun new event at glow this year—Grandparents Night at GLOW! We ask that grandparents mark their calendars and if you are a grandparent or grandparent figure, please plan to attend, as we always need surrogate grandparents at GLOW!

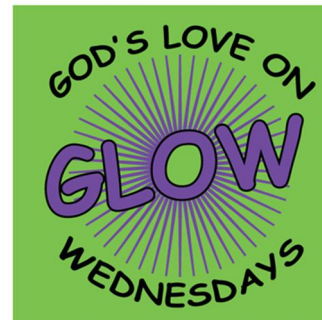
As we look forward to the holiday season and all of the events that will take place in the next few weeks, we hope that you remember that Jesus is the true reason for the season.

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
- Luke 2:10-11

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Christ,

Jess & Erin

**Minneota Area Mission Trip**

Our destination for our 2023 mission trip has been chosen. We will be serving our neighbors in Elliot County, KY June 25-30, 2023. Our group will be working with Next Step Ministries as we continue to plan our upcoming trip.

In December, we completed our Christmas baking fundraiser. We baked lefse, Belgian cookies and Oreo truffles on December 11, 2022. We fulfilled more orders this year than we did last year. We truly appreciate the support we continue to receive from everyone. We also served lunch after the GLOW Christmas program on December 18, 2022. Our next fundraiser will be a coupon/discount card which will include local businesses in Minneota, Ivanhoe, Ghent and Marshall. Purchase your coupon/discount soon.

God continues to bless us with the gracious giving and support of our congregations and communities. Please keep our group in your prayers as we continue to plan and fundraise for the 2023 mission trip. If you have any questions regarding the 2023 Mission Trip or are interested in going on the 2023 mission trip, please contact Emily Hennen at emhaugland@hotmail.com or 507-828-6797.

Hope Lutheran Teen Power **Now collecting shoes for our 2022-2023 annual shoe drive.**

The collection of shoes, sandals, boots, and all other footwear starts now in November and will run through spring 2023. We gather all footwear and deliver our donations to Schuler Shoes in St. Cloud, MN. The majority of new and gently worn shoes may be donated to shelters and then sold at shelters for \$5.00 with the money then being donated to the shelter food shelf. Some shoes will stay in Minnesota with a program called 'Shoe Away Hunger'. Some shoes will go to other countries where they are needed for people without shoes, and the rest, if pretty worn out or are singles, are shredded and used for playground surfacing rubber mulch.

It is estimated that approximately 400 million children worldwide, more than the entire population of the US, live in pronounced poverty. Many of these children will grow up never having had a pair of shoes, resulting in significant ramifications for their health and well-being. Lacking proper footwear, countless children will be unable to attend school. And tens of millions of these poverty-stricken, barefoot boys and girls will be infected with soil-transmitted parasitic diseases like hookworm, causing lasting suffering and lifelong debilitation.

**Please clean out your closets and bring bags or boxes of your household's gently worn footwear to Hope Lutheran Church!
Please pass this message along to family and friends!**

Collecting Winter Gear

There is an evergreen tree in the Narthex at church. How will we decorate it? With caps, gloves, scarves, boots, etc. to be shared with the elementary students here in Minneota.

Winter is upon us and students often mis-place their warm items, or get cold and wet from playing outside during recess. Having a stockpile of warm items for them on hand will benefit so many.

Please bring your new or gently used winter gear to the church—place them on the tree or in the box that will be provided. (Note—the school asked “Please let people know the knit ones (which are not water proof) are not what we’re looking for.”)

Your gifts will be delivered after Christmas when the students are back in session. Kids are kids and budgets are being stretched. Let's give a helping hand this holiday season.

Your Deacons