



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

July 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

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)

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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

Church Email:

hopelutheran87@gmail.com

Church Website:

www.hopeminneota.org

Lay Minister: Jenn Warnock

Email: Jennifermcwarnock@gmail.com

Missionary: Dr. Elisabeth Johnson

Missionary Email: elisajo@msn.com

GLOW Directors: Erin Roberts & Jess Gronke

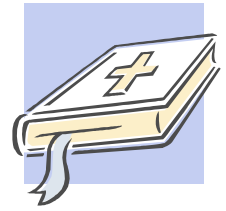
Custodians: Jason & Jen Johnson & Family

Organists: Valerie Buysse, Wendy Sarazyn

Jubilation: Kasey Denney & Nona Gottskalkson

Bible Studies for Men and Women

Gather Magazine Bible Study	July 7, 6:30 pm	At Church
Women of the Bible Study	Will Resume in September	
Men's Bible Study	July 4, 8:00 am	At Porter Cafe

**2025 Church Attendance**

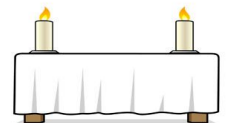
June 1	18
June 8	52
June 15	52
June 22	60
June 29	60 Est
Total:	242
Average:	48

**Workgroup Chairpersons**

Sandy Tolk
507-530-1849

Altar Guild (June 25—July 22)

Linette Nelson 828-7772
Nancy Wiese 640-1263

**Date Sound Operators**

July 6	Matt Myhre
July 13	Todd Sonnenburg
July 20	Scott Josephson
July 27	Cole Myhre

Date Acolytes

July 6	??
July 13	Keatyn Bouwman & ??
July 20	Aiden DePestel & ??
July 27	??



Money Counters: July - Deb Belaen & Angie DeVos

Upcoming Dates/Notices:

***July 13**—Bishop Dee at Services at both Hope & St. Paul's

***August 3**—Outdoor Service Led by Praise Band

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

NOTICES

- **Seniors Quilt Project**—This project is in jeopardy of running out of quilters. Several of the present ones are in their 80's. They have a few years left, but not many. Anyone interested in learning to quilt, please contact Rita Dovre at 828-1415. Accommodations will be made to fit with your schedule.

Church Council Notes – June 4, 2025

Fund Balances:	General Fund:	\$ 18,913.16	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 67,809.31
	Building Fund:	\$ 4,694.06	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 1,007.73
	Building Fund Savings:	\$ 2,388.96	GLOW:	\$ 5,769.42

Attendance:

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

Attending via Phone: Jason Johnson

Absent: Angie DeVos, Jasmine DeSmet, James Danielson

President's Report

- Amie is planning on putting an article in the newsletter next month.
- She will also work to get a meeting set up with the executive leadership from St. Paul's and Bethany-Elm.
- She provided an update on the situation with the Mission Trip, and she will include an update in the newsletter, also. We will also investigate getting a credit card for the church after this situation.
- Amie will follow up with the City of Minneota about a recent Facebook post on their page.

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

Treasurer's Report

- **Bills:** Bills for the month of May were sent out prior to the meeting for review. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$7,295.84. There was a question about the insurance cost as there was an increase in March 2025. We will be reviewing the bills from March through May 2025 to make sure we are getting charged correctly.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Treasurer's Report. Emily Hennen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Trustees Report

- **Bills:** Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$7,295.84. **Motion made by Sandy Josephson to approve payment of bills. Cory Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Lay Minister Expanded Role:** There has been a request to have Jen visit some of the members who are shut ins. We discussed how this expanded role would work. **Motion made by Cory Myhre to have Amie and the trustees meet with Jen to discuss additional contracted time and her interest and availability. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Bank Signature Cards:** The signature cards at the bank need to be updated.
 - **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the following:**
 - Chris Pesch to continue to be listed as an approved signer on the following accounts at BMO - General Fund, Building Checking, Building Savings, Cornerstone, and Petty Cash.
 - Amie Ascheman and Angie DeVos to be added as approved signers on the following accounts at BMO - General Fund, Building Checking, Building Savings, Cornerstone, and Petty Cash.
 - Chris Pesch, Erin Josephson, and Jessica Gronke to be added as approved signers on the GLOW account at BMO.
 - Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Emily Hennen 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.
 - 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.
- **Shut-ins:** Linda Nyutten has been visiting several of the shut-ins and bringing them communion, and she is willing to continue doing that.
- **Summer Service:** There has been interest in doing an outside service this summer. Barb will contact Nona to see if the Praise Band would be willing to lead the service. We could maybe do a hotdog meal after it, and it could be a Thrivent action team.
- **Emily Hennen made a motion to approve the Board of Deacons. Terri Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

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Church Council Notes (continued)

Board of Education Report

- Mission Trip:
 - The Mission Trip is June 22 – 27, and we will be going to Perry, Florida, to do hurricane relief with TEAMeffort Missions. There are 47 students and 10 chaperones going.
 - There was an email sent out to the congregation on June 1st on recent developments involving the travel agent that was used to purchase our plane tickets and vehicle rentals.
 - We are working with the authorities on this, and new tickets and rentals have been purchased, and everything is on track for the trip.
 - We will be doing service with a couple of other groups.
- GLOW: GLOW is on summer break! We do need teachers for next year as we have three teachers who are not returning. Thank you to Tiffany Gronke, Angie Borstad, and Kathy Opdahl for helping teach God's word to our youth. Let Erin or Jess know if you or someone you know would be interested in teaching GLOW next fall.
- IGNITE (Confirmation) / Youth of Hope:
 - Service Project and Lock-In – May 21st and 22nd
 - On May 21st we did a lock-in at the church; the students were well-behaved and most had not heard of a lock-in.
 - On May 22nd we served breakfast at The Banquet in Sioux Falls. We left the church at 3 am, and we served around 248 meals. The kids were amazing workers; they jumped right in and helped with any prep duties they could: preparing the meal, setting up the dining room, serving the meal, serving milk and coffee, welcoming guests, waiting on them, doing dishes and helping with the mail.
 - "It was an amazing experience for me to see our youth absorb it all in. They had so much fun, and all want to go back!"
 - We are hoping to make it an annual event for confirmation students. All the students were respectful and had fun. Hope has amazing youth, and we should be very proud.
- Teen Power: Summer Break
- VBS:
 - We will be doing joint VBS with Bethany-Elm on June 9 to 12 from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm for kids entering K – 6th grade. Student volunteers must be going into 7th grade in the fall.
 - Shetek Lutheran Ministries Day Camp will be providing the program, and 4.0 Bus will be transporting the students to and from Hope to Bethany-Elm in Ivanhoe.
 - We will be alternating the host church each year, so next year, Hope will host.
 - The cost is \$40 per camper and \$30 for each additional camper in the family; volunteers are free.
 - Thank you to the Hope Lutheran representatives – Terri Myhre, Amie Ascherman, and Erin Roberts.
 - We did have fewer kids sign up this year, and cost may be a factor. We will do an evaluation of VBS after it is done. Thank you to Amie for coordinating.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Education report. Sandy Josephson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- Congregational Survey: We had a low response rate on the survey, but the ones that were submitted had common themes about needing a pastor and communication. There were also comments about the sound system. As not everyone realized that the survey results were sent out by Amie, we will add both the congregational survey and the council survey to the agenda for next month.
- Building and Grounds: Chase Johnson is moving the church lawn this year, and Dawson Dovre is mowing the parsonage lawn. We agreed that a work night was needed for the parsonage lawn, and it was scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 pm on Wednesday, June 11th.
- Congregational Meeting: Four people signed up at the congregational meeting to be on the constitution amendment team – Barry Gronke, Scott Josephson, Val Buysse, and Linette Nelson. Sandy Josephson will be the council member on the team, and Janelle from Cottonwood has already contacted her about setting up a meeting with this team.
- **Barb Knutson made a motion that we set up a 2nd congregational meeting on August 10th to vote on Barry's amendment to the constitution. Emily Hennen seconded the motion. We discussed the motion at length before taking a written vote. The final vote was 8 no votes and 2 yes votes. Motion did not pass.**
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to adjourn. Rose Van Uden seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of June 30th via e-mail

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at 5:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

From Jenn Warnock, Lay Minister

“So if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed” Jesus, John 8:36

“May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right.” Those words were presented within a prayer in front of the United States Senate by their chaplain, Reverend Dr. Peter Marshall in 1947. Dr. Marshall, a Presbyterian minister, grew up in Scotland, the son of a poor coal miner. He was expected to become a coal miner like his father, but one night as he described it, “the Chief tapped” him on the shoulder and called him to ministry. Peter was very interested in foreign missions, to Africa or Asia, and resisted the idea of church ministry. He immediately began college studies, working hard in the coal mines by day and studying by night. Peter also served faithfully in his church, praying fervently for God to show him the way he wanted him to go. One day, an answer came from a surprising place, Atlanta, Georgia. Peter had relatives there, who had heard about his call from the Lord. His relatives invited him to come and live with them and attend Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta. Yes, the Lord hears us and answers prayers!! Peter followed the Lord’s will to Atlanta, Georgia, finished his studies, and then pastored churches in Atlanta and New York. He became well known for his eloquent sermons and strong faith in God, and eventually, this Scottish immigrant was called to be the Chaplain to the United States Senate. His sermons, often written in poetic forms have been printed in a book called *Mr. Jones, Meet the Master* and his prayers in a book, *The Prayers of Peter Marshall*. The deep faith and love for Jesus that Dr. Marshall demonstrated influenced everyone who met him.

As he stated in his freedom prayer, freedom in Christ brings responsibility to the Christian, to the Church. St. Paul reminds us of our freedom in Christ in his epistle to the Galatians (5:13-18 NIV) “you my brothers and sisters were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh, rather serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “love your neighbor as yourself”. The freedom we have in Christ compels us to love others, to help others, to share with others. The freedom we have in Christ inspires us to want and to provide freedom for others. I write this on Juneteenth, a day which celebrates the end of slavery in America, a situation that was evil and not of God. As we celebrate the freedom of this country during the month of July, let us remember that as followers of Christ, we are responsible to Christ to do what is right and pleasing to God in all of our decisions.

“In Christ Alone,
Jenn

ONLINE *giving*



Online Giving—Go to www.hopeminneota.org and click on the green “GIVE” button. Or:

On your phone, scan the QR code to be taken directly to online offering.

Text your offering to: 855-715-2588.

- Text Give to the number above. **First time users will receive a link to set up or log in to your Tithely account.**
- Click the link in the text you receive to start creating OR logging into your account. If you haven’t used Tithely before you will have to provide your email, full name, create a password, enter your bank information and set up a 4-digit pin.
- Enter your donation, choose the fund to donate to.
- In the future, once your account is created or after your first donation by text, you can simply text a dollar amount (Ex: \$50) to the number above and your donation will be made!
- If you have any questions, please contact the church secretary.

From Your Church Council President

Communication is the foundation of any healthy relationship, and this is just as true within the church as it is in our personal lives. Open, honest, and respectful communication between the church council and the congregation builds trust, fosters unity, and ensures that everyone feels informed and valued. By sharing updates, listening to concerns, and inviting input, we strengthen our sense of community and ensure that decisions reflect both our shared mission and the diverse voices within our congregation. In this way, communication becomes not just an exchange of information, but an act of mutual care and faithful stewardship.

I believe the newsletter is one of the best ways to have communication to the congregation as all members receive it. This article as well as those that follow, are a way that the church council will continue its efforts communicating to the congregation.

The congregational survey was a way to give members an opportunity to be heard. We received a total of 12 survey responses; the council will be reviewing the results and assessing action items from the surveys – I will continue to update. It is the intent of the council to continue to utilize the surveys at least on an annual basis. It is important for council members to hear the congregation's questions, concerns, suggestions, ideas – so, please continue to reach out to Hope's council regarding.

The parsonage has been empty without a pastor. In efforts to minimize the expenses of the parsonage and have rental income, we are renting the parsonage out again. This is a month-to-month lease; so, when we do get a pastor, the parsonage will be available for housing. The items left in the parsonage have been sold by blind bid and the proceeds of \$1,235 deposited into the general fund.

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

All members that were interested in volunteering for the Constitutional Amendment Team have been contacted and agreed to being on the team. The members of the team are Sandy Josephson, Scott Josephson, Barry Gronke, Val Buysse, and Lynette Nelson; the council thanks you for giving your time and doing this important work. Pastor Janel Kuester from Cottonwood has been assigned to our congregation to lead and guide Hope Lutheran through our next constitution update. The first meeting date has been set with Pastor Janel to start the work.

An email was sent out to the congregation after the Mission Trip Meeting on June 1, 2025, about an update regarding the mission trip. The travel agent, who was used previously, was given the money for the tickets and transportation - but there were no tickets or transportation. The travel agent was indicted sometime in May 2025 by a South Dakota grand jury for grand larceny; she turned herself in the evening of June 3rd, so the charges were not made public until after such time. There is an ongoing criminal investigation and the Watertown Police Department has all of the information needed from Hope. The South Dakota Attorney General's office is prosecuting the travel agent, and I am in contact with that office. I will continue to provide updates in the newsletter for the congregation.

This was the first year that Hope collaborated with Bethany-Elm for VBS, and I am thankful for them for being willing to collaborate with Hope Lutheran. Bethany-Elm's VBS has a long history and is very well organized. Our number of campers from Hope Lutheran was lower this year – there were several changes to VBS this year including being in Ivanhoe, the week it was held, as well as the increased cost. The education committee had been tasked to lower the cost of the VBS program this year, as last summer the cost was at its highest. So, in evaluating ways to lower Hope's costs, we looked to collaborate and have the campers share more in the cost. The education committee and council will continue to evaluate VBS. I coordinated VBS the week of June 9 at Bethany-Elm; I will not be coordinating next year, so if you are interested in the role, please reach out to Emily Hennen or myself.

We are working on an outdoor service and meal at Hope Lutheran. Praise Band has agreed to lead the outdoor service on August 3 with more details to follow.

I have been thinking a lot about acts of service. My son Pierce attended the lock-in and served a meal at The Banquet, and my daughter Nola will be going on the Minnesota Area Mission Trip. I am grateful for these acts of service to others and modeling to be given to our youth (and my children) at Hope Lutheran. Just as our youth are learning to serve others by volunteering by meeting specific community needs, we are also called to serve our church family by being attentive to its needs — whether that means volunteering for ministries, supporting one another in times of joy and sorrow, or contributing our time and talents to strengthen the church's mission.

Our youth volunteering and congregational service reflect the same calling: to love as Christ loves, to serve as Christ serves, and to recognize the face of Christ in every person we encounter. Also, they should involve some sort of challenge; they don't have to be big challenges (like our Minnesota youth doing manual labor in Florida in the summer) but can be small (such as reaching out to someone in need).

I want you as a member of Hope Lutheran to think about the following questions: Are there groups of members or members whose needs are not getting met? If so, what are they? Are those needs known? What can I do? How am I serving my congregation?

Again, I continue to encourage the congregation to reach out to council members regarding questions, concerns, and ideas.

Amie Ascheman, Hope Lutheran's Council President

Service Project & Lock-In Recap – A Night of Fun and a Morning of Service!

On May 21st, our IGNITE students kicked off an unforgettable **Lock-In at the church**—for many, their first ever! There was laughter, games, food and lots of fun. The students were awesome, respectful, and full of energy (which was needed for what came next!).

Bright and very early on May 22nd, we loaded up at 3:30 a.m. and headed to **The Banquet in Sioux Falls**, where our youth helped serve **over 240 meals** to community members in need. From kitchen prep to pouring coffee, setting up tables, greeting guests, and washing dishes—our students did it all with servant hearts and big smiles.

It was an amazing experience to see our youth soak it all in. They had a blast and can't wait to do it again!

We're so proud of our incredible youth and hope to make this a **yearly tradition** for future IGNITE classes. What a beautiful example of faith in action!

