

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

March , 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:

**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

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning...return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love...Joel 2 12-13 (NRSV)

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety in him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves [and] keep alert...1 Peter 1:6-7 (NRSV)

Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:30-31 (NRSV)

Is such the fast I desire? A day for men to starve their bodies? Is it bowing the head like a bulrush and lying in sackcloth and ashes...No, this is the fast I desire: to unlock the fetters of wickedness, and untie the cords of [bondage] to let the oppressed go free...it is to share your bread with the hungry, and to take the wretched poor into your home; when you see the naked to clothe him, and not to ignore your own kin. Isaiah 58:5-7 (The Jewish Study Bible)

As you read this, we are well into the season of Lent. The word lent comes from the Germanic word for "long." It probably refers to those long days in February and March when it seems that winter will never end, at least in the Northern Hemisphere. In the history of the church, what we now call Lent was a 40-day period of catechetical (teaching) preparation for baptism on Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday. Now those 40 days (excluding Sundays) serve as time for us to focus on our relationship with God, deepening that relationship, and renewing our commitment to serving our neighbor and the common good.

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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	March 6th, 7:00 pm	At Church
Circle Bible Study	March 8th, 10:00 am	At Church
Men's Bible Study	March 3rd, 8:00 am	At Porter Cafe

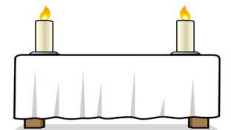


2023 Church Attendance

February 5	85 Est.	March 1	March 26
February 12	89	March 5	March 29
February 19		March 8	Total:
February 26		March 12	Average:
Total:		March 15	
Average:		March 19	
		March 22	

Altar Guild (March 1—March 28)

Jena Corbin 829-8725
Rose Van Uden 829-1806



Workgroup Chairpersons

Wade & Terri Myhre 829-3945 or 828-0147

Date Sound Operators

March 5 Randy Prellwitz
March 12 Todd Sonnenburg
March 19 Scott Josephson
March 26 Greg Gottskalkson

Date Acolytes

March 1 Brody Anderson & Owen Dalager
March 5 Landon Esping & Creed Stassen
March 8 Madison Minnehan & Sophie Gillund
March 12 Owen Myrvik & Heydan Danielson
March 15 Brooklyn Ryer & Addison Buysse
March 19 Owen Myrvik & Logan Pohlen
March 22 Khailynn Fier & McKenna Geisler
March 26 Landon Esping & Creed Stassen
March 29 Nola Ascherman & Grace Horner



Money Counters: March—Angie DeVos & Dave Dovre
April—Deb Belaen & Jason Johnson

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday's Through Lent—Services at 7:00 pm
Sunday, March 19—"Let It Shine" Service
Sunday, March 26—Walk Around Offering for the Food Shelf
Wednesday, April 12th—3:30-5:15, 1st Communion Class at Church
Sunday, April 16th—1st Communion

Church Council Notes – February 1, 2023

Fund Balances: General Fund:	\$ 6,094.60	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 134.58
Building Fund:	\$ 16,823.15	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 526.71
Building Fund Savings:	\$ 2,640.97	GLOW:	\$ 6,134.33

Attendance:

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

Election of Officers and Committees

- Deb Belaen nominated Terri Myhre for President. Rose Van Uden seconded the nomination. **Rose Van Uden made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Terri, seconded by Barb Knutson. Motion carried.** Terri Myhre is our President.
- Rose Van Uden nominated Barry Gronke for Treasurer. Barb Knutson seconded the nomination. **Barb Knutson made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Barry, seconded by Deb Belaen. Motion carried.** Barry is our Treasurer.
- Rose Van Uden nominated Deb Belaen for Secretary. Barry Gronke seconded the nomination. **Emily Hennen made a motion to cease nomination and cast a unanimous ballot for Deb, seconded by Barry Gronke. Motion carried.** Deb Belaen is our Secretary.
- Board of Trustees – Terri Myhre, Barry Gronke, Deb Belaen, Rose Van Uden, Jason Johnson
- Board of Deacons – Barb Knutson, Moriah Reiss, Lizzy Reiss, Dave Dovre
- Board of Education – Emily Hennen, Jen Anderson, Aimee Ascheman, Angie DeVos

Pastor's Report

- 1 Minneota Assisted Living worship service, 4 home visits, 1 hospital visit, 1 conference pastor's meeting, 1 Pastors' Bible Study, 1 men's breakfast, 1 committee meeting, 2 funerals, and 1 funeral planning session.
- Thank you to all of the council members who continue to serve on the council and to the those joining the council for your willingness to serve.

Treasurer's Report

- Bills – for the month of February were presented by Barry Gronke. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$15,850.79. **Motion made by Aimee Ascheman to approve the Treasurer's Report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Trustees Report

- Bills: The children's worship bulletins bill is for a 3 year renewal. The bill for VK services is for the website updates for July through December 2022. The bill for Tolk Graveling is for snow removal. We had planned to pay back the Cornerstone Fund monthly starting in January, but with the current financial situation, we were not able to do that in January. There was additional discussion on our overall financial situation, and we are looking at all options and open to suggestions.
- Money Counters – The list was sent around so people could sign up. Please show up for the months that you signed up; if you are not available, please ask someone else to fill in for you.
- Sound and Video System Upgrades – The new cameras are approximately \$1,100 each. Dave has not ordered them, yet, and he will wait until finances have improved. He is planning to only purchase one to see how it works before ordering the second one.
- **Motion made by Rose Van Uden to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Deacons Report

- Lenten Services: The Lenten services will be at 7 pm and lectors are not needed for the Lent services.
- Ash Wednesday: February 22, 2023. Service will be at 7:00 p.m.
- Work Groups: Work group leaders have been established for the year. Folders will be together with instructions for the leaders.
- Food Shelf Donations: Dave will continue to bring the food shelf donations in the cart in the narthex to the Marshall Food Shelf.

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Council Minutes (con't)

- Walk Around Offerings: 4th Sunday of the month
 - February 26 – WRAP – Women's Rural Advocacy Program
 - March 26 – Marshall Food Shelf
 - April 23 – VBS
- Installation of New Officers and Council Members: Next Sunday, February 5, 2023.
- **Motion made by Barry Gronke to approve the Board of Deacons' report. Rose Van Uden seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Education Report

- First Communion: Set for Sunday, April 16, 2023, at 9 am. The chalices are made by Lynn Okrina and Pay Myhre puts their names on them; they are already done. Currently there are 8 – 5th grade students, and we need to check with students to ensure they are planning to make their first communion at Hope. Pastor is planning to have a 1st communion class from 3:30 to 5:15 on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. Aimee Ascheman will be providing snacks for the kids. We have talked to Justin at the bus service, and they have a drop off close to church, and the students can go to GLOW after.
- GLOW: Our first Let It Shine service of 2023 was on January 15th, and it was well attended and included nontraditional songs during the service. On January 18th, we had our first grandparents' night, and we had 150 people in attendance. Some of our congregation members that didn't have their own grandchildren there stepped in as surrogate grandparents. There were 2 art projects and a photo booth; there was LOTS of fun and laughter and we will definitely do it again. February 19th is our next Let it Shine service. Next Wednesday, February 8th, is our Soup & Appetizer potluck. Lori Dyce has decided to step down from teaching this year as she has some family obligations, so we need a 2nd grade GLOW teacher. Please let Erin or Jess know if you or someone you know is interested in teaching the 2nd grade GLOW class. Due to first communion being on April 15, 2023, the April Let it Shine Service will be on April 23, 2023, instead.
- Confirmation: Confirmation is going well.
- Mission Trip 2023: The \$10 fundraiser cards are available. The next fundraiser is the Spaghetti Supper which is Sunday, February 19th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. They will be serving salad, a spaghetti meal, breadsticks and dessert. There will be a Tastefully Simple person on hand, and we will also be doing a bake sale. The Mission Trip is June 25th – 30th to Elliott County, Kentucky. 34 students and 8 chaperones are attending. Plane tickets have been purchased and van rentals made.
- Teen Power: They are continuing to collect shoes.
- VBS: VBS will be held July 24th – 27th with a parent program on either Wednesday or Thursday depending on the Summer Rec schedule. Aimee Ascheman will be the church contact person with Green Lake; she will be taking that over from Barb Knutson. We are planning for 40 students based on last year's numbers. We are looking into using Thrivent funds to purchase snacks and supplies, and we are also looking at doing a "snack tree" to get donations from the congregation. Given the church's financial situation, we are considering charging a registration fee for VBS.
- Bible Camps: We have budgeted \$1,000 for Bible camps for students to attend a Bible camp. The church will provide a scholarship for **1 camp per child**. We are planning to give a Temple Talk at Glow regarding Bible camp policies.
- **Motion made by Barry Gronke to approve the Board of Education report. Rose Van Uden seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- Insurance Review: Terri is going to reach out to several different insurance companies (Wade Boerboom, Panka Agency, and HUB) to do a comprehensive review of our current insurance to make sure we have the right insurance and to see if there are opportunities for savings, also.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to adjourn. Rose Van Uden seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

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

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, March 1, 2023. Trustees meet at 6:30 pm. Boards at 7:15 pm after Lenten service; All together 7:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen, Council Secretary

Pastor's Note (con't)

In the more recent past, Lent has become a time of focusing on our sinfulness, and doing acts of penance, in an attempt to make up for how awful we are. In the best of times, most of us do not need anything else to make us feel bad about ourselves. Last month I shared one of my favorite quotes, and it bears repeating. My friend Pastor Jim Gustafson once said, "Lent is not about how bad we are, but about how good God is." We acknowledge that "we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves," but we rejoice that "...God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

In this season of Lent, let us focus on the goodness of God, and sharing our many blessings with the world.

Peace, Y'all, Pastor Allen

From the Church Treasurer:

Greetings,

A number of congregational members have been inquiring lately as to Hope Lutheran's financial position after my last letter to the congregation in early December. Unfortunately our financial position has not improved much since the last time I wrote the congregation.

On a typical week (weeks without special events or holidays) we receive between \$1400 and \$1800 in offering, most of the time we receive around \$1600. This means that in a normal month without special events or holidays our church receives approximately \$6500 in regular giving. Unfortunately our monthly bills total approximately \$15,000 and can be higher depending on extra ordinary expenses. This translates to a shortfall of \$8500 on a normal month.

Obviously, holidays and special events help offset this normal month shortfall, however even special events and holidays do not increase our giving revenue in the amounts necessary for our congregation to meet our financial obligations. At the end of the year, based on annual giving, inflation, and estimated expenses our congregation will have a deficit of approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000. This is on top of the \$14,000 deficit from 2022.

From a practical standpoint we are not going to increase church attendance by 125% overnight. Likewise I do not expect, nor am I going to ask, that families increase their giving by 125%. Our congregation is very blessed to have large endowments and scholarship programs. We now need to explore how we can create a revenue stream that will help supplement the operations of our congregation so we may all continue to come and worship.

The trustees have cut all expenses that can be cut without affecting how we worship. If we cannot find an alternative revenue source we will need to reevaluate staffing, church hours, worship services, and how church assets are utilized going forward. I ask that everyone in the congregation think up ideas that would help our situation and provide those to me in writing. We may need to employ multiple strategies, so no idea is too small. I will be working on short term solutions in the interim that are focused on maintaining our current culture and worship practice, and will be updating the congregation monthly.

Thank you in advance for all of your ideas and prayers.

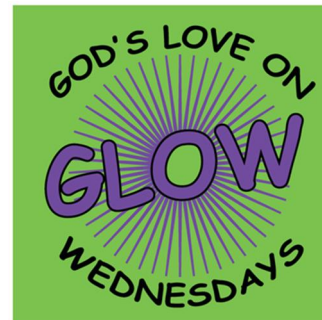
Barry R. Gronke, Jr.

Treasurer

GLOW

As Lent is now upon us, we will be still be having class, but will not meet together as a group at 7 pm to allow families to attend the Wednesday evening Lent service. This change will begin on Ash Wednesday.

Parents of 5th grade students: Please mark your calendars for First Communion at 9:00 am on Sunday, April 16th. 5th grade students will need to attend class prior to take First Communion on April 12th, from 3:30-5:15 pm.



We always need volunteers to help in the kitchen with serving and clean up after super! Please reach out if you are willing to help!

In Christ,
Jess and Erin

Teen Power

We are studying the Bible through weekly lessons and discussions, sharing our highs and lows for the week, as well as things we are grateful for. We are collecting shoes for our annual "Shoe Away Hunger" shoe drive. Please clean out your closets and bring your boxes and bags of your households gently worn footwear to Hope! Please pass the word along to family and friends.

Thank You

The family of Ona Olevson would like to thank our Mother's Church Family for all your prayers, phone calls, visits, kind words and general support to both Mom and to our families upon her passing. We are so grateful and appreciate all your gestures.

Duane Olevson, Louise Schultz, Dean Olevson and Families

Quilting Highlights

It may feel like Winter will never be over, but the quilting ladies have been working steadily as we look forward to Spring and graduation time.

The quilt tops are made in our members' homes, often using donated fabrics from other church members. Our ladies have made crazy quilts, simple block quilts, and some with a more defined pattern. Each has one block with a "Hugs from Hope" message for our seniors.

The tops are then matched with coordinating fabric for the backs. These then become quilts that are actually reversible. The group also invests in quality batting (the fluff in the middle of the quilt) and when the top, batting, and backing are put together, a handsome quilt comes to life.

It takes a larger group of members to assemble each quilt. The backing is taped to the table, the batting is placed on top and then the patterned top is pinned to both layers. The ladies then choose appropriate colored knitting yarn to tie the three pieces together. This takes time, but also a lot of chatter takes place!

Each quilt is then taken to a members' home where the edges are finished so the quilt is complete.

Funding has been from the HLCW treasury as well from the Thrivent matching funds program because this is a valuable church project. The batting, thread, and backing fabric have been purchased with a number of Thrivent grants, which is so appreciated.

Of course, when there is a group at church, there is also coffee and fellowship. There is an occasional stop at our local eatery after hours of work.

But a real example of this group's commitment recently took place. During our cold and ice spells, school was dismissed for the day, but twelve of our members made it to church, walking cautiously, to work on quilts. Just like the postal service—the quilts had to get done!

There are a large number of members who work on quilts, at one time or another, during this creative process. Included are Rita Dovre, Sandy Tolk, Marilyn Kompelien, Helen Rokeh, Gayle VanVooren, Jamie Anderson, Val Buysse, Alison Ufkin, Lorelee Miller, Judy Hagen, Becky Peterson, Karen Golden, Fran Fier and Linette Nelson.

When graduation rolls around, the quilts will be presented to our high school graduates with a hope for continued success and a reminder of the church community who supports them.

