



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

May, 2024

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*



To Pastor Jon Barsness, his wife Anna and their son Ethan!

Please see Pastor Jon's first article and information regarding worship times on the following pages.

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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

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
412 East Lyon Street
Minneota, MN 56264

Pastor Cell: 612-477-4673
Office/Kitchen: 507-872-6446
Parish Secretary: Chris Pesch
Secretary's Cell: 507-530-5666

Pastor: Jon Barsness
Pastor Email: pastorjonhisp@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

Church Email:
hopelutheran87@gmail.com
Church Website:
www.hopeminneota.org

Bible Studies for Men and Women

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

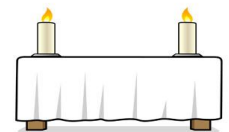


2024 Church Attendance

March 3	73	March 20	76	Lent	April 7	56
March 6	93	March 24	91		April 14	164
March 10	72	March 28	63	Maundy Thursday	April 21	129
March 13	101	March 31	60	7:30 am Easter	April 28	100 Est.
March 17	106	March 31	125	10:00 am Easter	Total:	449
		Total:	861		Avg:	112
		Avg:	86			

Altar Guild (April 24—May 28)

Sandy Josephson 872-6706
Linda Nuytten 829-9379



Workgroup Chairpersons

Bob & Linette Nelson 476-8608 or 828-7772

Date Sound Operators

May 5 Matt Myhre
May 12 Todd Sonnenburg
May 19 Scott Josephson
May 26 Greg Gottskalkson

Date Acolytes

May 5 Brody Anderson & Owen Dalager
May 12 Imogen Moriarty & Louie DeVos
May 19 Khailynn Fier & Mason Javers
May 26 Colton Bitker & Alexis Bitker



Money Counters: May:

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, May 5 (Communion) — Baccalaureate Sunday

Wednesday, May 8—10:00 am, Bible Study at Kathy Bulander's

Last one until September (None in June, July, August)

Saturday, June 15—Morning Bridal Shower for Katheryn Madson, Bride-to-Be of Matt Myhre, Fellowship Hall.

July 28-August 1—Vacation Bible School

August 10—Wedding for Matt Myhre & Katheryn Madson

August 24—Wedding for Amanda Prellwitz & Jesse Burau

Church Council Notes – April 3, 2024

Fund Balances: General Fund:	\$ 20,438.89	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 27,804.15
Building Fund:	\$ 6,583.85	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 530.55
Building Fund Savings:	\$ 2,587.36	GLOW:	\$ 4,035.44

Attendance:

- **Attending in Person:** Terri Myhre, Deb Belaen, Rose Van Uden, Angie DeVos, Barb Knutson, Cory Myhre, James Danielson, Jen Anderson, Aimee Ascheman, Jason Johnson, Sandy Josephson, Emily Hennen, Chris Pesch-Church Secretary
- **Attending via Phone:** Lizzy Reiss
- **Absent:**

Devotions were led by Terri Myhre

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

Treasurer's Report

- **Bills** – Bills for the month of April were presented by Cory Myhre. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$6,308.96. **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Treasurer's Report. Jason Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Trustees Report

- **Bills:** We had one additional bill for the installation of the furnaces for \$195.00, and that will be paid out of the building fund. As Pastor Jon will be doing the service on April 21st both here and at St. Paul's, we will pay him \$200 plus mileage for this service.
- **Pastor Jon's Schedule:**
 - Pastor Jon will be here from April 20th thru April 24th and will be staying in the parsonage. The renter will be out of the parsonage by April 15th. We will have lunch at 11:15 am that day with a free will offering to give him and his family an opportunity to meet our members. He will also be attending an ice cream social at Bethany-Elim that afternoon.
 - On April 22nd, the executive councils of all three parishes will meet with Pastor Jon to work through service times and office hours, etc.
 - On April 23rd the call committee will be having supper with Pastor Jon at the golf course.
 - Pastor Jon will also be here for the last night of GLOW on April 24th.
- **Motion made by Emily Hennen to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Deacons Report

- **First Communion:** First Communion will be on April 14th; all the cups are done and in the pastor's office.
- **Pulpit Fill** - Due to Tim Velde's availability, we are adjusting dates for communion.
 - April 7th – Tim gone / Pastor Heather – No Communion
 - April 14th – First Communion
 - April 21st – Pastor Jon / Last Let it Shine Service / No Communion
 - April 28th – Tim's last service / Praise Band / No Communion
- **Walk Around Offerings:** 4th Sunday of the month - Endowment matches walk around offerings 2:1 up to \$500
 - April 28 – Furnace – 1 to 1 match with a maximum of \$5,000
 - May 26 – VBS
 - June 23 – Esther's Kitchen
- **Work Groups:** The work groups are almost complete; there are 3 months left to do.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Deacons' report. Cory Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

(continued on page 4)

Church Council Notes (continued)

Board of Education Report

- **Confirmation:** Angie did a panel discussion with the Confirmation students tonight (April 3rd), and there were people from the Altar Guild, HLCW, Endowment Committee, Scholarship Committee, Mission Trip, etc that attended and provided insight into what those groups do. The students were very engaged and enjoyed the panel and discussion. Thank you to Scott Josephson, Terri Myhre, Emily Hennen, Gayle Van Vooren, Deb Belaen, Rose Van Uden, Barb Knutson, Rita Dovre and Nona Gottskalkson for volunteering to do this. It was an excellent opportunity for both the adults and the confirmation students to make connections and learn more about the church and the ways that everyone can both help support the church and use their different talents. Thank you to Angie for the panel idea, and thank you to Angie and Barb for teaching confirmation this year.
- **Mission Trip:** We received a check from the Varsity Pub fundraiser for \$1,024.65; thank you to all who participated in purchasing and supporting this fundraiser. We currently have 67 students signed up for the mission trip. Any students going into 8th – 12th grades the fall of 2023 are eligible to go on the Mission Trip. Please let Emily Hennen know if your child would like to participate at emhaugland@hotmail.com.
- **GLOW / YOH:**
 - This is the last month of GLOW. On April 21st we will have our last Let it Shine service, and April 24th will be the last night of GLOW.
 - The date for 1st Communion for the 5th graders is **April 14th** due to Tim's availability. There are 10 students for First Communion.
 - On Sunday, April 14th at 2:00 pm, the 6th thru 8th graders will be playing bingo at the assisted living.
 - On April 13th the YOH will be helping with the cemetery clean up. April 20th is the back up day.
 - Baccalaureate is May 5th. Letters will be sent out the 1st week of April to the seniors to RSVP by April 24th, so we can have an accurate count for the senior breakfast.
- **Teen Power:** Teen Power will be taking the "Shoe Away Hunger" items that were donated to St. Cloud on either April 10 or April 17. Roberta has started collecting senior pictures for the yard signs.
- **VBS:** VBS will be July 29th through August 1st. Aimee will continue to be the contact person for Hope Lutheran regarding VBS, and she is working on finding a place for the counselors to stay. We are looking for a person(s) to be in charge during VBS week. Please contact Aimee Ascheman or Emily Hennen if interested.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Education report. Jason Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- **Sexton:** We are 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.
- **Technology committee:** As we want to get the video program running again and resolve the spotty internet service in the church, we agreed that we need to have a technology committee that can work together with the internet provider and the sound and video committees to work as a coordinated group. Jason and Deb agreed to be on the committee from the council.

Motion made by Angie DeVos to adjourn. Emily Hennen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of April 29th via e-mail

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Boards meet at 6:30 pm. All together 7:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen, Council Secretary

Executive Committees Meeting Information

On April 22, executive council members of Bethany-Elim, St. Paul's, and Hope Lutheran churches, along with Pastor Jon, met to discuss and plan our coordination of our pastor and his schedule. We discussed our programs, our worship service times, office scheduling, etc. Church service times must be flexible as Pastor Jon intends to preach at all 3 churches each Sunday. Our **Summer Schedule** will be as follows:

Schedule of Services

May 5 Service

- 9:00 am – Hope Lutheran
- 10:30 am – St. Paul's
- Bethany-Elim will have a lay minister

May 12 through June 30 Services

- 7:30 am – Hope Lutheran
- 9:00 am – St. Paul's
- 10:30 am – Bethany-Elim

July 7 – August 25 Services

- 8:00 am – St. Paul's
- 9:30 am – Bethany-Elim
- 5:00 pm – Hope Lutheran

Pastor Jon's Office Hours

- *Monday:* Hope – 7:30 to Noon
- *Tuesday:* Bethany-Elim – 8:30 to Noon
- *Wednesday:* No office hours
- *Thursday:* Hope – 7:30 to Noon
- *Friday:* Day Off

If our church service times are inconvenient, then we encourage anyone in the congregation to attend another service time at one of our "partner" churches. The service will be the same, the message will be the same and the Pastor will be the same. We hope this will become our new community of faith with all of us meeting and getting to know each other.

If you do attend another service but want to donate to our church, you can use our envelopes in any of the offering plates and the offering will be sent to your own church. Loose offering stays with the church in which it was given.

Dear Church Family,

Seasonal changes are a fact of life, particularly for us, as we live in a part of the country that experiences four seasons that can be dramatically different (at least most years!). Life also brings “seasons” of change. As I am writing this, my family and I are moving into the newly renovated and absolutely gorgeous parsonage (me sooner than my wife and son as they finish up school and work this spring in the Twin Cities). We are excited to be a part of this beautiful area and the joy of experiencing **three** church families and **two** wonderful communities. We are also in the midst of managing life and church seasonal changes on many fronts. Some of you are experiencing life changes as you have children graduating from high school and college this spring, marriages, births, and so many other life “seasonal changes.”

So, too, for churches. In our shared ministry at Hope/St. Paul’s and Bethany-Elim Lutheran, we are blessed with a season of change. **Three churches and two communities.** What does the Lord have in mind for this shared ministry? That is likely a question that some (if not many of you) are asking today. I don’t have a “three-point plan” to present in this first newsletter message that answers this question (giant sigh of relief for all!). What I can say is change and transitions can be unsettling and often bring anxiousness. That is okay. Yet, while we know that God does not desire us to be anxious about anything (Phil. 4:6), I believe that in many ways, the Lord desires for us to have one thing in the midst of change – HOPE. In the midst of Jeremiah's Lamentations, he writes, “But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning” (Lam. 3:21-23).

Changing seasons and new beginnings each day are a gift from the Lord. God desires to bring us to a deeper relationship with Him, free from the soil of yesterday. He desires our hearts to be changed and lives that reflect this miracle. Holiness begins in the quiet place of the heart and changes our attitude and actions.

May we seek the greater change that lies within rather than merely seeking to remain the same as yesterday. May we partake of the new growth that God has for us in our daily moves through life, our new shared ministries, and may we grow more deeply together within our distinctiveness of **three** churches and **two** communities, but unified in our faith in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior.

As we navigate these changing times together, I invite you to actively participate in the changes. Let's meet new friends, welcome new opportunities to share the love of God with our communities, and grow as Jesus-shaped disciples in a world desperate for the hope that can only be found in the grace, mercy and love of God the Father, through Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Your active involvement is crucial in making this season of change a success.

Pastor Jon

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 2024

Through faith, we know that God is at work in all aspects of our lives. One way we stay connected to His plan is through prayer. Each year, Christians in the United States set aside a specific day to pray for God to help heal our nation and for people to return to Him.

In observance of this year's **National Day of Prayer**, we are inviting you to **join us on Thursday, May 2**, as we pray for revival and for God's will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

At Hope Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches, we offer you three distinct opportunities to join our faith community in prayer. You are welcome to pray at **Hope Lutheran** anytime between **7:30 and 9:00 a.m.**, at **St. Paul's** anytime between **12:00 pm and 1:00 pm**, or at Hope Lutheran again anytime between **5:00 pm and 6:30 p.m.**

During the **National Day of Prayer**, you are free to engage in prayer in a manner that resonates with you. Whether you choose to pray individually, in a small group, follow the guided prayers we provide, or simply express the thoughts in your heart, the choice is yours. Alternatively, you may find solace in silent contemplation, allowing the Spirit of God to communicate directly with your heart.

At the core of every Christian journey lies a deep and personal element: **prayer**. It's a practice as old as the faith itself, a direct line to the triune God that **empowers, comforts, and guides** us as believers.

Can't make any of these locations or times? That's okay! Gather with friends and family in your workplace, school, or community and **set a reminder for the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2, and make time to pray!**

Are you a prayer warrior? Would you like to assist at any of these times? Please reach out to Pastor Jon (pastorjonhisp@gmail.com) or call/text 612-477-4673.



New Podcast! Check out the Trailer Now...

[Spirit Speak Podcast](#) is a teaching ministry of Hope/St. Paul's and Bethany-Elm churches. We delve into the depths of the weekly sermons to uncover the profound truths and timeless wisdom they hold. Join us on a transformative journey as we explore the sacred texts, unraveling their messages and applying them to our daily lives. Grounded in the Word of God and spiritual reflections, we aim to illuminate the path of faith and understanding. Tune in each week to ignite your soul and connect with the divine through Spirit Speak. The first episode will drop on May 13th, 2024. Check out the [trailer](#) for the new shared ministry podcast with new episodes each week. Share & Subscribe!