



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

November 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

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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)

November 2nd

**Swedish Meatball Supper & Bake Sale
5-7 pm**

November 16

Bible Distribution for 3rd & 7th Grades

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

Lay Minister: Jenn Warnock

Email: Jennifermcwarnock@gmail.com

Missionary: Dr. Elisabeth Johnson

Missionary Email: elisajo@msn.com

GLOW Directors: Erin Roberts

Custodians: Jason & Jen Johnson & Family

Organists: Valerie Buysse, Wendy Sarazyn

Jubilation: Kasey Denney & Nona Gottskalkson

Church Email:

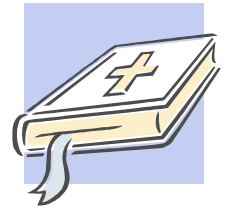
hopelutheran87@gmail.com

Church Website:

www.hopeminneota.org

Bible Studies for Men and Women

Gather Magazine Bible Study	November 3, 6:30 pm	At Church
Women of the Bible Study	November 12, 10:00 am	At Sandy Tolk's Home
Men's Bible Study	November 7, 8:00 am	At Porter Cafe

**2025 Church Attendance**

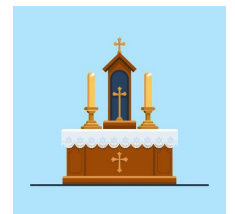
September 7	N/A	October 5	69
September 14	58	October 12	114
September 21	88	October 19	71
September 28	60	October 26	125 Est
Total:	206	Total:	379
Average:	69	Average:	95

**Workgroup Chairpersons**

Clint & Teresa Javers
605-254-6804 or 605-366-2208

Altar Guild (October 29-November 25)

Sandy Josephson 872-6706
Linda Nuytten 829-9379

**Date Sound Operators**

November 2 Scott Josephson
November 9 Greg Gottskalkson
November 16 Todd Sonnenburg
November 23 Cole Myhre
November 30 ?

Date Acolytes

November 2 Wyatt Opdahl & Aiden DePestel
November 9 Taryn Myrvik & Aiden DePestel
November 16 Oakley Norby & Ava Buysse
November 23 Colten Kloos & Padraic Moriarty
November 30 Kalli Neyens & Cami Neyens



Money Counters: November—Emily Hennen & Jasmine DeSmet

Upcoming Dates:

***November 2**—All Saints Day, **Baptism** for **Baker Tanner**

(Son of Landon & Sydney (Larson) Tanner)

***November 2**—Swedish Meatball Supper, 5-7 pm

***November 5**—Jubilation Practice, 7 pm

***November 9**—**Baptism** for **Madden & Maxwell Myhre**

(Twin Sons of Matt & Katheryn Myhre)

***November 12**—Bible Study, 10 am at Sandy Tolk's Home

***November 16**—Bible Distribution, 3rd & 7th Grades; Let It Shine Service

***November 19**—Praise Band Practice, 7 pm

***November 23**—Praise Band Sunday

***November 26**—Jubilation Practice, 7 pm; NO Youth Ministries

***November 30**—**Baptism** for **Hallie Pohlen**

(Daughter of Alex & Jenny Pohlen)

Church Council Notes – October 1, 2025

Fund Balances:	General Fund:	\$ 35,252.28	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 71,582.00
	Building Fund:	\$ 5,723.15	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 705.40
	GLOW:	\$ 10,402.39		

Attendance:

Attending in Person: Emily Hennen, Rose Van Uden, Jen Anderson, Deb Belaen, Amie Ascherman, Sandy Josephson, Cory Myhre, Angie DeVos, Jasmine DeSmet, Barb Knutson

Attending via Phone: Jason Johnson, Jeff Van Keulen, Chris Pesch – Church Secretary

Absent: Terri Myhre

President's Report

- Invite a Friend: In the September newsletter there was a note to encourage us to invite a friend to services at Hope. Starting September 14, there will be postcards available at the entrance of the church to share.
- Camera/Lock Quote: The installation of the camera is complete; Jason, Chris & Amie have access to the video. She has contacted Southwest Glass on the automatic lock.
- BMO: She has an appointment with Megan this week about QR codes for payment, credit card application for church, process to have treasurer have online access to statements, and BMO to investigate fraud related to Mission Trip.
- MSP Review: Had communication with Dawn Van Keulen regarding the call and MSP.
- Mission Trip / Attorney: Amie has connected with an attorney. He recommended that Hope Lutheran proceed with a civil matter against the travel agent. He is willing to do this pro bono for Hope Lutheran, and we would just need to pay any hard costs like a filing fee and service fees. She is waiting for an engagement letter from him, and once she receives it, she will send it to council for a vote for approval.
- Centralize information – Microsoft Office: E-mails are set up. Dawn and Jeff Van Keulen are working on backing up information. Thank you!
- Bell Tower: An agreement was signed with Buysse Roofing repair for the remaining work on the Bell Tower roof. Amie confirmed with insurance, and we just need to let them know when it is completed.
- Review Resources for Congregation: Arranged and set up a meeting with the council related to working with Peter Soli. She has communicated with him on follow-up questions. The ELCA is willing to assist with \$1,000.
- Additional Items to Work on:
 - Prayer chain – Looking to technology and best practices.
 - Constitutional amendment meeting – How can we support the committee?
 - Council Manual – Started to outline and received synod financial best practices.
 - Altar Guild/Music – Set up or meet with those groups?
 - Looking ahead - Fall Gathering – social committee? Endowment Drive – to replenish funds? Wednesdays with Jenn – adult Bible study, gathering? Review to see what will work.
 - Outreach – Youth/Adult event – going into holidays for home bound / senior citizens prior to holidays
 - Record review/retention

Secretary's Report – Motion made to approve secretary's report by Emily Hennen. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- Bills: Bills for the month of September were sent out prior to the meeting for review. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$9,129.40 with three additional bills: candle oil, Dawson Dovre for lawn mowing and Pete's Electric Motor for the camera.
- **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 \$9,129.40 with three additional bills: candle oil, Dawson Dovre for lawn mowing, and Pete's Electric Motor for the camera. The bill for Pete's Electric Motor will be paid from the building fund and then reimbursed from the Undesignated Memorial Funds. The other bill for mowing still needs to be submitted, so it can be paid. **Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve payment of bills. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- "God's Work, Our Hands": It is scheduled for October 12th. Jenn won't be here that day, so we will do a "Let It Shine" service. We can have a light lunch provided, also. We have only 2 requests for help at this point; we will make next Wednesday, October 8, the last day for requests for help. Are there things that need to be done at church, parsonage or cemetery?

(continued on page 4)

Church Council Notes (continued)

- **Pulpit Fill:** Jenn won't be here on October 19th, and Praise Band is not able to play that day. Barb Knutson has found someone to fill in for that day. There has been an increase in pulpit fill pay effective in August to \$175 for the first service and \$50 for the second service plus mileage. Chris will make St. Paul's aware of the change and the pulpit fill for that week. **Motion made by Jasmine DeSmet to approve the increased pulpit fill pay to align with the ELCA's recommended rates (\$175 for 1st service; \$50 for 2nd service; mileage at IRS rate). Jen Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried..**
- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Barb Knutson 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.
 - October 19 - Hope Harbor
 - November - Christmas Angels / YOH Christmas Blessings; It was also discussed to do hats and mittens for foster kids.
 - December - No walk around offering.
- **Pulpit Fill / Communion Dates:** October 5 - Communion at the rail; October 12 - Youth led service. A representative from Hope Harbor will do the sermon and provide more information about Hope Harbor. Jess Moriarity will do children's sermon; October 19 - Pulpit fill-in - Cami Peterson; Walk around offering for Hope Harbor; October 26 - Confirmation - 10 am service. Communion at rail for confirmand's families. Congregation will have walk-around communion.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Deacons report. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Education Report

- **GLOW:** We appreciate all the people who are leading GLOW this year including teachers, music and kitchen staff. Strong start to the year with wonderful attendance; it's great to see all the kids on Wednesday night. Kick-off was not as well attended as hoped; will re-evaluate plan for kick-off next year. Kitchen help has been assigned to families this year which seems to be working really well. GLOW calendar is planned for entire year and can be referenced online if need be. The new structure/schedule for GLOW seems to be popular so far. The group time is immediately after the meal, students then go to the classrooms and are dismissed after that. We still NEED 3 teachers!!
- **Confirmation:** The large group will be led by Terri Myhre, and the small groups will be led by Cory Myhre and Adam Hoffman. October 19th at 5:30 pm will be Statement of Faith night for the 9th graders. The meal will be lasagna, breadsticks, salads and desserts. Chris will be sending out a letter to families to confirm number of families attending. October 26th at 10:00 am is Confirmation; there are 8 students being confirmed. They are Sydney Hennen, Brycen Myhre, Parker Minnehan, Beckham Norby, Kingston Ryker, Blayze Hulzebos, Colton Bitker, and Logan Esping.
- **Youth of Hope:** This is for students in 6th thru 8th grades. Angie and Terri have agreed to be Youth of Hope leaders and are working on service projects. Service Projects - The Banquet in Sioux Falls. In the fall, we will have 8th graders and their parents serve. In the spring, we will have 7th graders and their parents serve. Prairie Home Hospice puts up decorations in Independence Park on Sundays in October, and the Youth of Hope will be helping with that.
- **Mission Trip:** They have started fundraising for the 2027 mission trip. All students in grades 8 - 12 this fall at Minneota Public School are welcome to attend the next trip. Fundraisers - Food at Football - 5:00 to 7:00 pm on October 3rd and October 15th at Kompelien Field. Mission Trip and Faith Apparel will be available again this year and will be coming soon.
- Contact Emily Hennen at emhaugland@hotmail.com or 507-828-6797 if interested in going on the 2027 mission trip.
- **Upcoming Dates:** Statement of Faith - October 19, 2025, at 5:30 pm. Confirmation - October 26, 2025, at 10:00 am.
- Let it Shine and Bible Distribution for 3rd and 7th Graders - November 16, 2025, Christmas Program - Moving to December 21, 2025, at 9:00 am. First Communion - April 12, 2026, Baccalaureate - May 10, 2026
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Education report. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- **Informational Meeting:** Scott Josephson has approached Amie and wanted to inform the council of an informational meeting with a LCMC rep that he will be inviting members of the congregation to.
- **Peter Soli:** As a follow up to the council's call with him, Amie had some additional communication with him, and she provided that information to the council. There are several different types of plans/programs that Petter does with different costs, and we can take a pause at any time. If he came on-site, he would do pulpit fill at no charge, and then we could have meetings on Sunday. Before that, he would like to identify a steering committee that would be members of the congregation and not from the council. The synod is willing to contribute \$1,000 to this. **Motion made by Angie DeVos to move forward with a negotiated contract with Peter. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Motion made by Angie DeVos to adjourn. Jen Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of November 3rd via e-mail.

Next Council Meeting - Wednesday, November 5, 2025, with committees at 7:00 pm; full council at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

From Jenn Warnock, Lay Minister

*"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise,
Give thanks to him and praise His name. For the Lord is good, His love endures forever; his faithfulness continues
through all generations." Psalm 100 vs. 4-6*

Several years ago, I heard a sermon on the topic of Thanksliving...

The pastor challenged the congregation to extend the attitude of gratitude we have around our Thanksgiving holiday to an everyday attitude of Thanksliving. What a challenge that is! It includes our being mindful, and being intentional. Thanksliving is a practice in which we actively look for places and things in our lives to give thanks to God for. Once we get started, there are so many things to be thankful for...and once we get started, we set in place a habit of gratitude, rather than grouchitude!

When I was a child, we sang a song in children's church, "We've Got So Much". The lyrics went, "we've got so much so much so much so much so much so much so much so much so much so much so much so much so much (BIG CLAP) to be thankful for!" It was such a popular song among the youth and children, that for a while the whole congregation sang it during worship. Along with you, at this time of year, I am thankful. Every day I say thanks to God for the privilege to serve with you at Hope and St. Paul's. And, I would like to say a special thanks to all of you for your welcome and support in this past year...it is hard to believe, but last November is when I first met some of you in an interview for lay minister! God is so good, and we have so much, so much, so much to be thankful for! Happy Thanksgiving, and God's blessings on all of you and your families!

In Christ Alone,
Jenn

<https://hopelutheran2025.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

**CUSTOMIZE APPAREL WITH
LOGO OF YOUR CHOICE!**



CHRISTIAN APPAREL FOR EVERYONE!

MINNEOTA AREA MISSION TRIP

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS.

SCAN FOR ONLINE STORE



Council President's Report – October 2025

This month has been full of blessings and highlights at Hope Lutheran.

There is a lot of turmoil in the world and in our daily lives, and it's very easy to focus on what could be improved or made better. So, I want to take a moment to celebrate all the good that's happening here at Hope. Every day, our members are doing incredible things—big and small—to live out their faith and serve one another.

On October 12, we held our “God’s Work. Our Hands” fall workday. The day began with a full church for a “Let It Shine” student-led service. These services are so meaningful—they engage our youth by giving them opportunities to lead worship and help fill in when we do not have our lay minister present. Despite the rainy morning, lack of leaves, and busy weekend schedules, our group pivoted with flexibility and enthusiasm—focusing instead on window washing and other indoor tasks. About 30 youth volunteers of all school ages and 10 adults worked hard throughout the day. Many of our younger volunteers even learned a new skill—window washing! We were not sure what to expect this first time, but we hope to continue and expand this event in the future. We'd like to engage more members outside of our youth ministries in this project and possibly partner with additional groups to serve both our members and the wider Minneota community.

Earlier in the month, I attended a meeting with the Altar Guild. Many may not realize how much behind-the-scenes work goes into preparing for worship—setting up communion, maintaining candles and oil, and tending to countless other details that make our sanctuary ready for services. The month of November there are four parament color changes, three Sundays, and the All Saint's service – whew! I'm deeply thankful for the dedication and leadership of Marlys Skaar and the entire Altar Guild for the important work they do. The Altar Guild is currently seeking new volunteers. New members will be paired with an experienced partner, making it a wonderful way to learn and serve. If you're interested, please reach out to Marlys or email hopelutheran87@gmail.com.

The Building Committee also met this month to identify facility needs and upcoming projects. One immediate concern is finding a new snowblower before winter arrives. The committee's long-term goal is to help the Council prioritize and plan for building needs—so that instead of facing expensive emergencies like a furnace failure, we can budget wisely and schedule projects in advance. We've made a great start, and I look forward to sharing more updates soon.

A major celebration this month was the Confirmation Service on October 26, marking the culmination of two years of faith formation for our eight confirmands. Jenn was unable to lead the service due to illness and Bishop Dee graciously answered our call for assistance within the hour, led the service beautifully, and spent meaningful time with our students beforehand. This particular group of students was the first to complete our confirmation model focused on small group leadership, service, and faith exploration—a model that continues to grow stronger each year with evaluation and the hard work of the confirmation leaders. If you weren't able to attend, I encourage you to visit our Facebook page and listen to our confirmation student's Statements of Faith. Their words were truly inspiring. A heartfelt thank you to Terri Myhre and Angie DeVos for their leadership, to our small group leaders Cory Myhre and Adam Hoffman, church members who supported the program in various capacities, and to the families who walked alongside these students on their journey of faith.

Each month, our Hope Lutheran Youth Ministries hosts a Wednesday Worship service at 6:30 p.m. on select dates. The remaining dates for the program year are November 19, January 21, March 18, and April 22. I challenge you to attend at least one. You'll see our pre-K through confirmation students worshiping together—and notice a wonderful number of confirmed youth who continue to come, even though they're no longer required to. Their presence is a powerful example of faith in action and leadership among peers. This service is likely much louder and busier than what you might be used to, but it's inspiring to see all that energy focused on worship, learning, and faith building.

Jenn Warnock has now been with our congregation for about a year, consistently showing up and leading Hope Lutheran in ministry. She recently completed her Synod Authorized Ministers (SAM) training and has begun seminary studies. It's exciting to see her take these next steps in her ministry journey, and we are blessed to walk beside her.

As the leaves change and our local teams head into postseason play, I've begun looking ahead to next year's plans, including preparations for our annual meeting and budget. We have at least five council spots available – if you have any questions regarding what the role entails, please reach out to a council member or myself. Serving on the council is a great way to get involved and do the work that keeps Hope Lutheran running. Your time and effort truly make a difference.

Let us also remember, in this busy season of change, to pause and pray—often and with intention. God invites us into constant conversation, not only in moments of need but also in gratitude and stillness.

Thank you all for your continued faith, service, and support of Hope Lutheran.

With gratitude,
Amie Aschman
Council President

November Walk Around

The November 23rd walk around offering will go to Christmas Angels / YOH Christmas Blessings.

Confirmation was held October 26th!



Left to right: Bishop Dee Pederson, Beckham Norby (Matt & Mandi Norby), Kingston Ryer (Danielle Ryer), Logan Esping, (Becky Esping, Nick & Nicole Esping), Parker Minnehan (Brad & Robyn Minnehan), Blayze Hulzebos (Mike Hulzebos & Jami Traen), Sydney Hennen (Andy & Emily Hennen), Colton Bitker (Russ & Jocelyn Bitker), Brycen Myhre (Cory & Leah Myhre)

Did you know????

The flame that burns in the red glass holder on the left side of our altar is known as the **Christ Candle**. It is also sometimes called the **Eternal Light**, as it burns continually and is never extinguished. It represents God's everlasting presence, hope, and eternal life.

Our Christ Candle was donated by my grandmother, **Clarice Josephson**, and her children, **Allan, Charles, Marilyn, and Lester**, when my grandfather, **Adalbjorn (Abo)** died in 1980. Initially, a clear glass insert embossed with a cross and filled with beeswax was purchased to be lit and placed inside the glass holder. Weekly, members of the Altar Guild completed that task as a part of their monthly duties.

For many years, Grandma contributed funds to the church to pay for boxes of inserts until it became financially difficult for her to do so. Ever resourceful, she even took the burned-down beeswax candle stubs from the altar candelabra home to melt and refill the glass inserts herself, as throwing anything reusable was wasteful! When that became too much of a burden, the church began ordering pre-filled glass inserts instead.

The church later decided to use refillable liquid paraffin candles for the two candelabra at the back of the altar and a similar refillable insert also became available for the Eternal Light. This eliminated the need to discard the glass inserts, and that conversion was also made.

In the spring of 2024, you may have noticed that the red-glowing light was missing from the left side of our altar. While completing our weekly Altar Guild duties in April, **Linda Nuytten** and I discovered that the glass insert had developed a crack encircling its entire top edge. When the paraffin-filled insert was carefully placed back into the glass, the entire top edge broke off. The glued-on top edge of the insert also detached when we lifted it from the glass. Back to the Altar Guild workroom went the brass holder, the broken glass, and the insert—and problem-solving began again.

Altar Guild President, **Marlys Skaar**, suggested checking the website the church uses to order liquid paraffin. I began researching a replacement for the Eternal Light, remembering that the original was donated by my family in 1980 in memory of my Grandpa Abo. Miraculously, I found both a replacement red glass holder and insert that matched the original brass holder exactly. I ordered them and personally donated the cost in memory of my parents, **Allan and Marlene Josephson**, continuing our family's legacy of the original gift.

Within a couple of months, the Eternal Light returned to the altar, once again burning brightly to remind us of God's faithful and everlasting presence.

Thanks be to God!

Sandy Josephson



Swedish Meatball Supper



Sunday, November 2, 2025

5-7 PM

Hope Lutheran Church

Minneota, MN

Meals:

\$15 for Adults, \$8 for Youth, 4-10 years

Free for Age 3 and Under

Serving: Swedish Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,
Candied Carrots, Buns & Butter, Cranberries,
Pie/Dessert, & Beverage - Take Out Available
Thrivent Financial is helping with funding.





Minneota Area Mission Trip

Christmas

Orders Due
Dec 1st

baking

Pick-up & Delivery
Dec 7th

**Let us help you with your holiday baking.
We are now taking orders for Oreo
truffles, lefse, and Belgian cookies.**

**Baking on Dec 7th
Pick-up at Hope Lutheran Church and delivery in
Minneota later that day.
Pick-up in Ivanhoe at Ivanhoe Family Pharmacy
December 8th.**

**Any questions: Contact Emily Hennen
507-828-6797 or emhaugland@hotmail.com**

MINNEOTA AREA MISSION TRIP CHRISTMAS BAKING

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

LEFSE (3 SHEETS/BAG) _____ @ \$5 EACH = _____

BELGIAN COOKIES (12) _____ @ \$7 EACH = _____

OREO TRUFFLES (8) _____ @ \$7 EACH = _____

TOTAL = _____

Orders due Dec 1, 2025 – drop off at Hope Lutheran or call Emily Hennen (828-6797). Baking Day is Sunday, December 7, 2025 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 _____ (Pick up Dec 8)

Poinsettias

A Christmas Poinsettia Fund will be set up and contributions will be used to purchase Poinsettia plants. Please complete the form below and return it to the church office **by December 1st.**

If you prefer to share a Poinsettia plant of your own, please bring it to the church by December 23rd.

_____ Donation _____ Bringing own plant

Given in memory of:

Given in honor of:

Given by:

