



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

October, 2024

Sunday Worship:

September-May

Hope—8:30 AM
St. Paul's—10:30 AM
With Communion
on the first and third
Sundays

GLOW:

(Sept-May)

God's Love On
Wednesdays
5:30 PM Supper
6:00 PM GLOW
6:00 PM Confirmation
Classes/Teen Power

Coffee & Fellowship:

Following Worship at
Hope



WORSHIP TIMES:

Through May 25th

Hope Lutheran
Sundays—8:30 am

Bethany-Elim—8:30 am

St. Paul's—10:30 am

Inside this issue:

Bible Study's/Duties	2
Upcoming Dates	2
From Pastor Jon..	3
Council Minutes	4-5
GLOW	6
Meatball Supper	7
Kitchen Remodel	8
October Work Group	9
October Calendar	10

Pastor Jon's September—

May Office Hours:

Mon - BE (11:00-5:00)
Tue - BE (8:00-Noon)

Wed - Hope (11:00-5:00)

Thu - Hope (9:00-1:00pm)

Fri - Day off

Hope Lutheran Church

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

Pastor Cell: 612-477-4673
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: 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

Bible Studies for Men and Women

Gather Magazine Bible Study	November 4, 7:00 pm	At Church
Women of the Bible Study	November 13, 10:00 am	At Gayle VanVooren's Home
Men's Bible Study	November 1, 8:00 am	At Porter Cafe



2024 Church Attendance

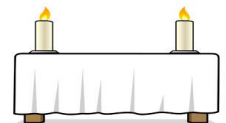
August 3	24	September 1	30	October 6
August 10	26	September 8	0	October 13
August 17	27	September 15	90	October 20
August 24	29	September 22	86	October 27
August 31	62	September 29	80 Est	Total:
Total:	168	Total:	286	Average:
Average:	34	Average:	72	



Workgroup Chairpersons

Altar Guild (October 23—November 26)

Sandy Josephson 872-6706
Linda Nuytten 829-9379



Date Sound Operators

Date Acolytes

November 3	Matt Myhre	November 3
November 10	Todd Sonnenburg	November 10
November 17	Scott Josephson	November 17
November 24	Cole Myhre	November 24



Money Counters: November—Angie DeVos and ??

Upcoming Dates:

- ***November 10—10:15 am, SOS** (Social on Sunday) Games & Potluck
- ***November 13—FUEL**
(Faith Uplifted through Expression & Love) Family Night
- ***November 17—Let It Shine Service**
- ***November 24—Walk Around Offering for Christmas Angels**
(Endowment Matches 2 to 1, up to \$500)
- ***November 27—NO GLOW**, Thanksgiving Break
- ***December 8—10:15 am, SOS** (Social on Sunday) Christmas Party
- ***December 15—GLOW** Christmas Program
- ***December 18—GLOW** Family Christmas Party

FROM PASTOR JON:**Our Only Infallible Rule**

At the time of the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation, one of the key points of dispute between the Reformers and the Roman Catholic Church was related to the doctrine of Scripture. To be more specific, the Reformers taught the doctrine of *sola Scriptura*, or Scripture alone. The use of the word *sola* indicates that they were affirming that there is something unique about the Scriptures. But what is it that is true only of Scripture? The Holy Scriptures are the *only* rule of faith and obedience. Why? Because the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God. That is the fundamental point of the doctrine of *sola Scriptura* – namely, that Scripture has the authority of God whose Word it is, and God's authority is infinitely higher than *any* human authority because God is God and humans are not. In other words, the doctrine of *sola Scriptura* ultimately rests on the distinction between the Creator and His creatures.

There remain many misunderstandings of the doctrine of *sola Scriptura* and its implications. There are, for example, those who believe that Scripture's ultimate divine authority rules out the existence of any subordinate human authorities. In such a view, not only is Scripture the ultimate and final authority, but it is the only authority at all. There remains no place for ecclesiastical authority or creedal authority. *Sola Scriptura*, according to those who hold this view, is diametrically opposed to any positive use of traditional teaching or practice. It is important to understand that this concept of *sola Scriptura* is not the doctrine taught by the early Reformers. It is a serious distortion of that doctrine, influenced more by post-Enlightenment philosophies than by the theology of the Reformation.

For the Reformers, the doctrine of *sola Scriptura* meant that Scripture is the final authoritative norm for faith and life and that Scripture is to be interpreted in and by the church. The Reformers did not deny that the church and its creeds have any real authority. They denied that the church and its creeds have the same kind of authority that God has. The Reformers distinguished God's ultimate divine authority from subordinate human authorities.

To understand why they saw no conflict, it is necessary to recognize what a creed or a confession is and how such writings differ from the writings that we find in the Bible. The writings that we find in the Bible are unique because they are the very Word of almighty God. In 2 Timothy 3:16, we read that "all Scripture is breathed out by God." Other translations read, "All Scripture is inspired." This is where we get the technical theological term inspiration. The doctrine of inspiration is a translation of the Greek word *theopneustos*, which literally means "God-breathed." It is an assertion that the words of Scripture are not merely human words. Yes, they are the words of men such as Moses and Paul, but ultimately these words are God's words. They are God-breathed. Their ultimate source is the mouth of God. Therefore, the words of Scripture carry the very authority of God.

Creeds and confessions, on the other hand, are not *theopneustos*. They are not God-breathed. They are man-breathed. They are human statements of faith. The word *creed* comes from the Latin *credo*, which simply means "I believe." *Credimus* means "We believe." Everybody has a creed, whether they call it a creed or not. Even those who say, "I believe in no creed but Christ" or "I believe in no creed but the Bible" have a creed. Their words "I believe" indicate the existence of their creed.

Creeds are subordinate to and dependent on Scripture. If there is no Scripture, there is no creed. In a creed, the church is corporately stating what it believes that God's inspired Word teaches. It is a faithful response to the divinely authoritative teaching of Holy Scripture. Scripture is God saying, "Thus says the Lord." A creed is the people of God saying, "We believe You, Lord."

My prayer is that you are daily in the Word of God, resting on His Word to learn more and more about who God is.
Pastor Jon

YouTube – You Bet-cha!

Did you miss last Sunday's message or want to revisit another sermon? Our church's YouTube channel is the perfect way to stay connected! You'll find videos of past sermons, special announcements, and our **weekly video Devotional** plus highlights from recent events, like our Wednesday night F.U.E.L gatherings. Make sure to **subscribe** to the channel and turn on notifications so you never miss out on new content! Whether you're catching up or sharing with a friend, this is a great way to experience what God is doing in our community. Find us at <https://www.youtube.com/@HopeLutheranMinneota> and join the conversation online! Or use the QR code to get to our YouTube channel.

SCAN ME

Church Council Notes – October 2, 2024

Fund Balances: General Fund:	\$ 9,920.09	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 41,574.23
Building Fund:	\$ 2,320.31	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 323.33
Building Fund Savings:	\$ 2,599.54	GLOW:	\$ 2,257.72

Attendance:

Attending in Person: Terri Myhre, Emily Hennen, Rose Van Uden, Barb Knutson, Cory Myhre, Deb Belaen, Lizzy Reiss, James Danielson, Jen Anderson, Amie Ascheman
Chris Pesch-Church Secretary, Pastor Jon Barsness

Attending via Phone: Angie DeVos, Sandy Josephson

Absent: Jason Johnson,

Secretary's Report – Motion made by Lizzy Reiss to approve the secretary's report. Amie Ascheman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

- **Technology:** We are moving forward with this using Verum Technologies out of South Dakota to do this work including networking/internet.
- **Outreach/Evangelism:** September was focused on preparing for IGNITE, new member Sunday, and other internal activities so outreach was not as fruitful. Have 2 individuals who can commit to the FUEL Wednesday worship from CRU at SMSU but not until November. Had the youth ministry kickoff with an outdoor contemporary service and meal.
- **New Member Sunday Follow Up:** I will be reaching out to each new member to schedule a follow-up in-home visit. I have sent a thank you note to each family already.
- **Visitations (Homebound) for September 2024:** Did 8 home/assisted living/nursing home visits. (Total we have listed is 13.) Did 2 hospital visits.
- **Funerals / Baptisms / Marriages for September 2024:** There were no funerals, 1 baptism performed by someone else while I was out, and 0 weddings performed.
- **Teaching Ministry:**
 - **Podcast:** Have had over 220 downloads of the podcast so far with 3 followers. Need to get this in front of younger generations at Hope but also need to take a Sunday and help any of our older or less technologically proficient members to get this podcast.
 - **Bible Study:** The weekly Bible study of Mark on Thursday averaged 10 people in September. There were 5 men who joined for the Bible Study in Porter in September.
 - **Hope Lutheran on the Bible app:** 5 people have set Hope Lutheran as their church. Need to do the same with this app as with the podcast to gather more usage.
 - **Blog – Shaped by Grace:** Launched this new weekly video devotional; it can be found on our website.
 - **YouTube Channel:** There is now an active Hope Lutheran YouTube channel. Will be adding sermons each Monday to the site from the previous Sunday. You can also find the weekly video devotional there. Once the technology project is complete, we will be able to go live on YouTube and/or Facebook with our 8:30 am Sunday service and our once-per-month FUEL Wednesday service.
 - **Small groups:** Attempting to launch but not much interest yet.
- **Upcoming (October):**
 - **Bible Distribution on Sunday, October 6:** This will be for 3rd, 5th and 7th grades; there are 41 registered in those grades. Age-appropriate Bibles have been purchased for each level. Each age level will come up and receive their Bible; their names will be printed in the bulletin. I am writing a note to each student and placing it in their Bible.
 - First FUEL Wednesday worship is October 9th.
 - **Confirmation Sunday:** It is October 27th, and the service will be at 10 am. Have two Sunday evenings set up to meet with 9th graders and parents (October 6th and October 20th) to prepare them for faith statement and confirmation Sunday. Confirmation dinner will be Sunday, October 20th at 5:30 pm. Coordinating with Rose on the meal and will be getting her numbers for attendance from 9th grade families but also including all council members and families. The meal will be at 5:30 pm with the practice of faith statements in the Sanctuary to follow.

Treasurer's Report

- **Bills:** Bills for the month of October were presented by Cory Myhre. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$11,993.28.
Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Treasurer's Report. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

(continued on page 5)

Church Council Notes (continued)

Board of Trustees Report

- Bills: Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$11,993.28. There were no additional bills for this month. We do need to pay Dawson Dovre and Cole & Chase Johnson for the mowing, so we will ask them to get their bills submitted. We did receive our payment from the wind towers.
- 2nd Sunday Worship: Deb Belaen has agreed to lead the service on the 2nd Sunday this month (October 13th). Communion will be the 1st and 4th Sunday this month as October 27th is the 4th Sunday, and that is Confirmation. Service will be at 10 am. We will check to see if the Praise Band can lead the service on October 20th; if not, we will need to look at finding someone to lead the service.
- **Motion made by Emily Hennen 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 6 – Kitchen Remodel (This was added as we missed doing the walk around on the 4th Sunday in September.)
 - October 27 - Esther's Kitchen – Looking at getting confirmation to help deliver the check and finding possible opportunities to work with this organization, also.
 - November 24 – Christmas Angels
- New Member Sunday: We will add the names of the new members in the November newsletter.
- All Saints' Sunday: All Saints' Sunday is the first Sunday in November – November 3rd. Chris will send a letter to the families of those who have been baptized or died since the last All Saints' Day.
- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Lizzy Reiss seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Education Report

- Mission Trip:
- The next Food at Football fundraiser is Wednesday, October 16 (MEA) serving from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.
- Currently, we have 67 students signed up for the 2025 Mission Trip. Any students going into the 8th – 12th grade the fall of 2023 are eligible to go on the 2025 Mission Trip. Please let Emily Hennen know if your child would like to participate; her email is emhaugland@hotmail.com.
- GLOW:
 - We have 140 PreK to 12th grade kids signed up (still missing registration for some). We have 20+ youth volunteers, and we are at max capacity.
 - A helper is needed to assist the 4th grade teacher (Tiffany Gronke). Barry Gronke is helping with the 9th and 10th graders; Roberta is working with 11th and 12th graders.
 - October schedule -
 - Oct 6th - Let It Shine Service w/ Bible distribution for 3rd, 5th, & 7th grade students
 - Oct 16th - NO GLOW – MEA
 - Oct 23rd - Christmas Program Practice starts during regular GLOW time
 - Oct 30th - Pumpkin Carving activity with Pumpkin Prayer - If you have pumpkins you are willing and able to donate, please contact Jess or Erin.
 - GLOW Offering: Pennies Matter – This is a classroom offering and attendance competition. Students can give whatever they can give each week, and the funds will go to Hope Lutheran General Fund. There will be a year-end prize to the classroom that had the most funds donated. This is GLOW's way of giving back to the church and to teach the importance of giving.
 - Coordinator thoughts:
 - Would some council members be able to attend a few GLOW evenings? This would be a way for the council members to introduce themselves to GLOW families and to acquaint the GLOW families with the council members.
 - Coffee & Fellowship after church - How can we be encouraging to our younger families to go downstairs after church for fellowship?
 - Hope Hosts - people sign-up to stand at the back of church and invite families to join them for coffee. They would also be responsible for providing desserts for kids and adults to munch on (kid friendly cake, bars and cookies).
 - FUEL: **F**aith is **U**plifted through the power of **E**xpression and **L**ove
 - Our first Wednesday evening FUEL service will be next Wednesday, October 9th. The meal will be at 5:30 with a contemporary worship service to follow. Everyone is invited to attend, and it will be another opportunity for people to worship together.

(continued on page 6)

Church Council Notes (continued)

- IGNITE / Confirmation:
 - Confirmation is Sunday, October 27, 2024, at 10 am. There are 12 students from Hope being confirmed; the 2 students from Ivanhoe will be doing their confirmation separately.
 - Statement of Faith night is October 20th at 5:30 pm. The meal will be lasagna, breadsticks, salad and dessert. An e-mail will be sent to RSVP by October 15th, so we have a count for the meal.
 - We are looking for some male leaders for small group discussions.
- VBS:
 - We received the Green Lake Lutheran Ministries day camp information for 2025. The 2025 rates are \$130 per camper; it was \$120 per camper in 2024. There is a 25-camper minimum, which would be \$3,000. They require a \$500 deposit to hold our spot.
 - We are not finalizing anything, yet, but we wanted to make the council aware of the costs. We are looking at ways to cover the costs of VBS such as increase registration fees, requesting a bigger match from the Endowment Committee, and discussing it at the Annual Meeting as it is a line item in the budget.
 - Emily is also talking to Bethany Elim about doing something together with them.
- Christmas Program: The Christmas program will be December 15th, and it will be a 10 am service.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Education report. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- Stewardship Planning: Pastor is starting to work on a program. We are also working on a way to be able to give via a text message.
- Mission Sunday: We will hold off on doing it this year, and we will do something after the Mission Trip.
- Thanksgiving Eve service: It was held at St. Edward's last year, so it would be at Hope this year. Bethany Elim does a Wednesday evening service, and Pastor Jon will confirm what time that is so we don't overlap with them. **(Update: Father Todd at St. Edward's said that there would not be an Ecumenical Service this year as Pastor Jon wouldn't be available.)**

Motion made by Deb Belaen to adjourn. Rose Van Uden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of November 4th via e-mail

Next Council Meeting - Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Committees meet at 7:00 pm. All together 7:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

MINNEOTA AREA MISSION TRIP CHRISTMAS BAKING

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

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

BELGIAN COOKIES (12) _____ @ \$5 EACH = _____

OREO TRUFFLES (8) _____ @ \$5 EACH = _____

TOTAL = _____

Orders due Dec 1, 2024 – drop off at Hope Lutheran or call Emily Hennen (828-6797). Baking Day is Sunday, December 8, 2024 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 9)

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:

