



## 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**

September 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)**

**St. Paul's Lutheran - 10:30 am Worship**

**(Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)**

## **GLOW Kickoff!**

**Sunday, September 14th, 4:30 pm at church**

**First Night:**

**Wednesday, September 17th**

**5:30 Supper, 6:00 Classes**

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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

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](http://www.hopeminneota.org)

**Bible Studies for Men and Women**

Gather Magazine Bible Study	September 8, 6:30 pm	At Church
Women of the Bible Study	September 10, 10:00 am	At Karen Golden's Home
Men's Bible Study	September 5, 8:00 am	At Porter Cafe

**2025 Church Attendance**

June 1	78	July 6	56	August 3	64
June 8	52	July 13	60	August 10	67
June 15	52	July 20	51	August 17	45
June 22	60	July 27	55 Est	August 24	65
June 29	54	Total:	222	August 31	60 Est
Total:	296	Average:	56	Total:	301
Average:	59			Average:	60

**Workgroup Chairpersons**

Ralph & Judy Hagen  
829-7810 or 829-7185

**Altar Guild (August 27—September 23)**

Marilyn Kompelien 828-1148

**Date Sound Operators**

September 7	N/A Bug Days
September 14	Todd Sonnenburg
September 21	Scott Josephson
September 28	Cole Myhre

**Date Acolytes**

September 7	N/A Bug Days
September 14	Jagger Stassen & Beckham Norby
September 21	Blayze Hulzebos & Aiden DePestel
September 28	???



**Money Counters:** September—Amie Ascherman & Terri Myhre

**Upcoming Dates:**

**\*September 7**—Community Worship in Bug Square, 10:00 am (No services at Hope Lutheran or St. Paul's.)

**\*September 10**—Women of the Bible Study Resumes, 10 am at Karen Golden's Home

**\*September 14**—GLOW Kickoff, 4:30 pm

**\*September 17**—5:30 pm, First Night of GLOW

**\*September 26**—MAMT Food at Football Fundraiser, 5-7 pm

**\*September 28**—Walk Around Offering to Minneota Public School for school supplies for students whose families are unable to purchase items.

**Church Council Notes – August 6, 2025**

<b>Fund Balances:</b>	General Fund:	\$ 21,461.09	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 67,810.45
	Building Fund Checking:	\$ 6,899.58	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 946.26
	Building Fund Savings:	\$ 0**	GLOW:	\$ 5,769.42

\*\* closed and transferred to Building Fund Checking – see note in President's report

**Attendance: Meeting was held via e-mail****President's Report**

- Attended Executive Meeting by Zoom: Met one week before normal council meeting. Will continue to do work and set agenda. Agreed it would be good to test out an e-mail meeting for council, so we can use it in case of bad weather/conflicts to ensure we can hold the normal meeting.
- Lay Minister: Continuing communication regarding services and outreach. Discussed her future plans/outlook. I also reached out to see what a lay minister contract while she is going to school would look like.
- Camera Quote: Jason and Deb reviewed and confirmed it will work. Discussed funding and will reach out to the memorial fund. Waiting to hear back on auto locks.
- Meeting with BMO: Angie and I were added to the signature cards. We are also looking into QR codes for payments. Inquired about the types of bank accounts we have and discovered the \$15 fee for business savings was because it was actually a checking account; we combined the two building accounts to eliminate the fee. That is why one account is now listed as \$0 above. Started the process regarding credit card application for church and also started the process for the treasurer to have online access to statements. Learned that BMO may be able to look into fraud.
- Endowment: Attended 2 meetings and will coordinate insurance coverage review for the bell tower project.
- Committee for Building Maintenance: Met with Jason and will put in a note for the bulletin and newsletter. Three to four members reached out. Look to set up first meeting in September.
- MSP: Reached out to Jen Anderson to review from an HR professional experience lens. Reached out / consulted with 2 pastors about the MSP. Will be meeting with the chair of call committee about the findings / recommendations.
- Centralized Information: Want to centralize information using Microsoft Office. Working with Dawn Van Keulen and Chris Pesch for application. Received nonprofit information through local and national synod. Also want to do a record review.
- Additional Items: Would like to start a prayer chain; looking to technology options and best practices. Start to outline a Council manual including the best financial practices. I want to meet with Altar Guild and Music committees. Discuss the need for an endowment drive to replenish funds.

**Secretary's Report – Secretary's report as sent to council was approved.****Treasurer's Report**

- Bills: Bills for the month of August were sent out prior to the meeting for review. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$8,555.11 including two additional bills for VK Services for our website for January through July for \$188.35 and for copier paper from ONE Office Solutions for \$99.98. The bill from MEI for the annual service of the elevator for \$1,177.58 and will be paid from the building fund.
- **Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's report as sent to council was approved.**

**Board of Trustees Report**

- Bills: Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$8,555.11 including two additional bills for VK Services for our website for January through July for \$188.35 and for copies paper from ONE Office Solutions \$99.98. The bill from MEI for the annual service of the elevator for \$1,177.58 will be paid from the building fund.
- Camera for Side Door: Amie had received quotes for a camera for inside the church near the side door where the secretary is located. As there are no other cameras in the church, we agreed that this is a needed safety measure. The cost for the camera, hardware and installation is \$1,325. The funds will come from the Undesignated Memorial funds.
- Council Resignation: James Danielson has resigned from the council as his family is changing churches. Susan Rassier and Jeff Van Keulen have both volunteered to fill that position. Vote was taken and Jeff Van Keulen was elected to the council. He will fill that position until the next congregational meeting in January.
- **Board of Trustees' Report – Payment of the bills was approved. Purchase and installation of the camera was approved. Board of Trustees' Report was approved.**

(continued on page 4)

## Church Council Notes (continued)

### Board of Deacons Report

- Walk Around Offerings: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month - Endowment matches walk around offerings 2:1 up to \$500.
  - September – Minneota Public Schools for school supplies needed by students whose families are unable to purchase the requested items.
- Outdoor Service: Thank you to Nona Gottskalkson and the Praise Band for leading our worship service on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Unfortunately, it rained that morning, so the scheduled outdoor service was held inside the church. A picnic lunch of hot dogs, baked beans, chips and bars/cookies was served to about 40 people in the fellowship hall following the service. Thanks to the Derek and Angie DeVos family for donating bottled water and the council members for binging bars/cookies.
- Communion Services: Communion this month will be served at the August 10<sup>th</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup> services.
- **Board of Deacons Report – Board of Deacons report as sent to council was approved.**

### Board of Education Report

- Mission Trip:
  - We 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
  - Panka Anniversary on July 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Polish Days – August 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm
  - Boxelder Bug Days – September 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 2 pm at the Vendor Show.
  - Food at Football – 5:00 to 7:00 pm on September 5, September 26, October 3, and October 15 at Kompelien Field
  - Contact Emily Hennen, [emhaugland@hotmail.com](mailto:emhaugland@hotmail.com) or 507-828-6797 if interested in going on the 2027 Mission Trip
- GLOW:
  - Kick-off is Sunday, September 14.
  - The first night of GLOW is Wednesday, September 17 at 5:30 pm.
  - The Wednesday GLOW schedule will be a little different this year as we try something new.
  - We NEED 3 teachers!!
  - Registration will be sent out soon.
  - An Amazon Wishlist has been created and will be shared with families closer to start date.
- Confirmation:
  - Terri Myhre will be leading the large group discussion each week.
  - Cory Myhre and Adam Hoffman will lead small group discussions; we may need more volunteers depending on the number of students.
  - We may be having a parent/student meeting at the GLOW kickoff to encourage parents to come.
  - Angie is planning to meet with St. Paul's and Bethany-Elm to discuss possibility of them joining our Confirmation.
  - Youth of Hope: Jess Gronke has volunteered to be the Youth of Hope coordinator as Kathy Opdahl resigned this spring; this is for students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Upcoming Dates:
  - Confirmation - October 26, 2025.
  - Christmas program – December 14, 2025
  - First Communion – April 12, 2026
  - Baccalaureate – May 10, 2026
- **Board of Education Report – Board of Education report as sent to council was approved.**

### Other Business

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of August 25th

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, September 3, 2025 – 7:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

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## THANK YOU!

**A sincere than you to the Cheer Committee for the great fruit basket they shared after my recent hop surgery.**

**It is so wonderful to be remembered by the church during these trying times. The Cheer Committee, under the Hope Lutheran Church Women, continues to be a support group for our church members.**

**Thank you, Gayle VanVooren**

**From Jenn Warnock, Lay Minister**

**“ Summer and winter and springtime and harvest  
 Sun moon and stars in their courses above  
 Join with all nature in manifold witness  
 To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love! “**

What a beautiful summer we have had, and now we are headed toward the season of harvest and back-to-school time! So much about our seasons are consistent, particularly in our rural, agricultural community. Our county fairs are at the same time every year (and nobody has their fair at the same time as the neighboring counties!) The first football games are at the same times. Back to school schedules are usually the same. In Minneota, we celebrate Boxelder Bug Days at the same time every year, and in my hometown of Madison, we celebrate Norskfest (including the excitement of the lutefisk eating contest) every November. For some of us, sameness and predictability gets boring, stale. We want to see things get stirred up a bit sometimes...for others of us, stability and constancy and consistency in life is comforting.

When I was a child, one of my favorite books was Anne of Green Gables. The character Marilla in the book adopted young Anne, who tended to have a lot of adventures and misadventures. Whenever Anne would declare herself “in the depths of despair” or state that she could not go on after one of her escapades, Marilla would tell her that no matter what she has done, or gotten herself into, (like the time she accidentally died her hair green!) the sun will continue to rise and set !

The mercies, love, and constancy of God is like that. No matter what season we are living through physically or spiritually, God makes the sun to rise and set upon us. No matter what mistakes or accidents we may have gotten ourselves into, His love never fails. His mercies are new every morning. Great is His faithfulness!

In Christ Alone,  
 Jenn

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**Pastoral Services Available**

Hope Lutheran is pleased to announce that our Lay Minister, Jennifer Warnock, is now providing pastoral care services to the congregation. Whether you're in need of a listening ear, spiritual guidance, or simply someone to talk to, support is available through visitations, phone calls, and regular office hours.

Jenn has been accepted to Luther Seminary and will be starting in the Fall of 2025 in seeking her MA in its Christian Ministry program where she is seeking to be ordained in word in sacrament in the ELCA. Jenn's educational background is in psychology, Christianity, and family counseling, and her professional background social work has focused on caring for people in times of need. Most recently, she has been involved in the intensive lay ministry school at Luther Seminary and has continuing training in that role with Bishop Dee.

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays at Hope Lutheran

**Phone Availability:** 320-305-4955

**Visitations:** As scheduled

Please feel free to reach out and connect—no concern is too small, and all conversations are held in confidence. Hope Lutheran is here to walk with you in faith, support, and community.

This is a new role and opportunity at Hope Lutheran for its congregational members, so we look forward to continuing conversations about what expansion or changes can be made to better serve our members. The council is grateful that Jenn is willing, able, and qualified to provide these pastoral services in this expanded role.

## **Council President's Report – August 2025**

This has been a busy and meaningful year for our church council. At our July meeting, the council approved trying something new—an **email-only meeting** for the month of August. With winter weather often making in-person gatherings difficult, this gave us a chance to test a new option. The trial went smoothly, and in the future, if weather conditions prevent us from meeting, we'll have this method available rather than canceling or rescheduling.

We also filled a vacancy on the council this month. After a vote, **Jeff Van Keulen** was elected to serve in this role until the next council elections. Jeff will join us officially at the September meeting. I want to sincerely thank Jeff, and also the other members who were willing to step forward and serve. Your willingness to lead and support our church is deeply appreciated.

As many of you know, our **outdoor worship service and meals** had to be moved indoors due to the weather. I am grateful to everyone who helped make that transition smooth—our Praise Band for leading worship, Jenn for adjusting the schedule, Barb Knutson for coordinating the meal, and the council members who pitched in. Even with the change in plans, it was a wonderful time of worship and fellowship.

An update related to the vote that was taken at the January congregational meeting about amending our Constitution: After review and consultation with the executive committee, in the August newsletter, I had noted a compromise that if three conditions were met, that in my capacity as council president that I would be willing to call a Special Meeting. I had not received any request for a special meeting prior to August 10, 2025. In the evening on August 10, I received one email calling for a second or first vote. In the last newsletter, I outlined the conditions under which a Special Meeting could be called. Since those conditions were not met, after consultation with the executive committee, we decided not to call a Special Meeting. This decision was not made lightly, but with thoughtful consideration of many factors. To ensure all council members were equally informed, an **informational gathering was held to ensure all members had the same information as the executive committee**. At that meeting, ideas were shared, and we agreed that the ideas will be an agenda item at the September council meeting. Please know that while there are no simple answers, your council is committed to moving forward steadily and prayerfully.

Looking ahead, **September is a busy and exciting month for our youth** as they return to school and begin a new year of activities and ministry. Our youth leaders are preparing for the fall kickoff, and we look forward to all that God has in store for them this year. I find myself thinking about ways that we can get youth involved in service for others and have heard exciting ideas from others as well.

Angie DeVos, Chris, and I had a meeting with our bank. We reviewed the accounts, updated signature cards, and discussed a number of different items. As we receive more information about these items and best practices, this information will be shared.

I also anticipate the approval of the new **Building Committee** at our upcoming council meeting. This group will begin evaluating the needs of our church facility so they can provide recommendations to the trustees and council as we plan next year's budget. In addition, the **new camera system** that was approved in July will soon be underway, which will be a valuable addition to our ministry and outreach.

Thank you all for your prayers, support, and patience as we work together to lead our congregation faithfully. It definitely is like peeling onions, there are a lot of layers to look at! There are a number of items that are in the works that have been noted previously, and updates will be given as they continue to progress.

Amie Ascherman  
Council President

**OCTOBER CHALLENGE:**

Think of someone in your life—a neighbor, coworker, family member, or friend—who could be encouraged by joining us at Hope Lutheran for worship. A simple invitation can open the door for someone to experience God's love and community in a fresh way. Let's step out in faith together and see what God can do through our invitation to worship at Hope Lutheran!

Postcards will be available by September 14, 2025 at the entrance of the church for you to share.



Anyone interested in learning about and helping run the video camera for Sunday services. Training provided. If interested, call or text Deb Belaen at 507-828-1785 and leave a message. Thank You!