



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

August 2026

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 1st and 3rd Sundays)

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

(Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays)

Important August 23rd Congregational Meeting Following Worship (See page 7 for information!)

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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

Synod Authorized

Minister: Jenn Warnock

Email: Jennifermcwarnock@gmail.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 September 7, 6:30 pm
Women of the Bible Study Resumes in September
 Men's Bible Study September 4, 8:00 am

At Church

At Porter Cafe

**2026 Church Attendance**

July 5	49	August 2	67
July 12	52	August 9	43
July 19	56	August 16	
July 26	72	August 23	
Total:	229	August 30	
Average:	57	Total:	
		Average:	

Workgroup Chairpersons

August: Kevin & Jamie Anderson
 605-323-7416

September: Gayle VanVooren
 507-828-2432

**Altar Guild****August 1-31**

Val Buysse 828-4404
 Sandy Tolk 872-6730

September 1-30

Marilyn Kompelien 828-1148
 Karen Golden 829-3954

Date Sound Operators

August 2 Scott Josephson
 August 9 ?
 August 16 Todd Sonnenburg
 August 23 Cole Myhre
 August 23

Date Acolytes

August 2
 August 9
 August 16
 August 23
 August



Money Counters: Aug—Jeff Van Keulen & Jen Anderson; Sept—Amie Ascherman & Cory Myhre

Upcoming Dates:

***August 23**— Special Congregation Meeting regarding Jenn Warnock's TEEM Request following the 9:00 am service in the Fellowship Hall (see back page 7 for information)

***August 30**—Baptism for Westin Muhl, Son of Whitney & Austin Muhl

***September 6**—Jenn Gone (No Communion)

***September 13**—Community Worship in Bug Square, 10:00 am (No services at Hope Lutheran or St. Paul's.)

***September 20**—Baptism for Parker Guetter, Son of Sam & Chesney Guetter; Communion; Temple Talk for Walk Around Offering; **Fall Potluck** following Worship (watch your bulletin & newsletter for info)

***September 27**—Baptism for Layn & Linken Damm, Twins of Lucas & Larissa Damm; Walk Around Offering for 'Help Tuck Them In'

Church Council Notes – August 5, 2026

Fund Balances:	General Fund:	\$ 37,961.49	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 71,614.60
	Building Fund:	\$ 11,166.55	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 316.55
	GLOW:	\$ 21,814.96		

Attendance:

Attending in Person: Amie Ascherman, Jasmine DeSmet, Sandy Josephson, Barb Okrina, Jason Johnson, Deb Belaen, Jen Anderson, Susan Rassier, Lori Dyce, Jeff Van Keulen, Chris Pesch (church secretary)

Attending via Phone:

Absent: Angie DeVos, Cory Myhre

Devotions were led by Amie Ascherman

- **Secretary's Report – Motion made to approve July's secretary's report by Jasmine DeSmet. Barb Okrina seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report

- **Bills:** Bills for the month of August were sent out via e-mail prior to the meeting for review. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$9,207.80 with two additional bills. **Motion made by Jeff Van Keulen to approve the Treasurer's Report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Trustees Report

- **Bills:** Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$9,207.80 with two additional bills: MEI for \$1,236.46 for annual elevator service (Building Fund) and VK Services for \$378.45.
- **Peter Soli update:** Peter has completed his report, and we will send out an e-mail and text with a link to the report. There will also be copies available in the back of the church for people to pick up.
- **TEEM Vote:**
 - There were only 40 people signed in for the special meeting, so there was no vote.
 - We need to give 5 days' notice for a meeting.
 - It was agreed that we will have the meeting for a vote on August 23rd. If there isn't a quorum, the council will make the decision.
 - Amie will revise the meeting agenda and send to the executive committee and full council to review before sending out to congregation.
- **Fran Fier:** Fran reached out to Amie and expressed interest in filling the open spot on council since Nona's resignation. **Lori Dyce made a motion to appoint Fran Fier to fill the council position on the Deacons until the next annual meeting. Barb Okrina seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Monthly Potluck:** We are going to try to have a monthly potluck after church services starting in September. We are targeting the third Sunday of the month, so the first one will be September 20th.
- **Financial update:** Jeff has been going through our different funds - both endowments and scholarship fund and documenting restrictions and governance. We are lacking in controls and auditing has not been done on a consistent basis. Jeff and Amie had a consultation with a lawyer who specializes in non-profits. They will have the retainer agreement for the September meeting. The goal of this review is to make sure we have the appropriate controls and governance in place to protect the funds that we have, so they are available for the future.
- **Motion made by Lori Dyce to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Susan Rassier seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Deacons Report

- **Walk Around Offerings:** 4th Sunday of the month - **Endowment matches walk around offerings 3:1 up to \$750.**
 - June – August – No walk around offering
 - September 27 – Tuck Them In, which is a program that provides beds for kids based out of Tracy. There will be temple talk on September 20th for this.
 - October 25 - Walk around will be for the Mustang Market, which is a food bank for students at SMSU.
- **Upcoming Dates:**
 - August 9th – Darwin Dyce, Emily Hoffman, and Val Buysse will be leading the outdoor contemporary worship service.
 - August 16th - Communion
 - September 6th – Jenn won't be here, so there won't be communion. We are planning to have a synod sermon via a YouTube video. Lori Dyce will do the liturgy.
 - September 13th - Boxelder Bug Days, so no service at Hope as the community worship service is downtown.
 - September 20th - Communion
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Deacons report. Jasmine DeSmet seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

(continued on page 4)

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (con't)

Board of Education Report

- GLOW:
 - The GLOW kick-off is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th.
 - Erin is working on the registration process. For the registration form, it would be great if we could ask if they have been baptized, confirmed or have a church home on that form.
 - Lori is interested in being a leader for GLOW.
- Confirmation:
 - Angie DeVos and Terri Myhre took 10 students to serve at the Banquet in Sioux Falls. They served 220 meals and had a great time.
 - Thank You! to the generosity of our congregation, they were able to cover the cost of the meal plus part of another meal.
 - On July 20th, the education team reviewed Peter Soli's report.
- Teen Power: No update as they are currently on break.
- Mission Trip Fundraisers:
 - The next fundraiser is August 8th at Polish Days; they will be serving from 11 to 1:30 pm.
 - They are collaborating with Dollars for Scholars, and the first Food at Football is Thursday, September 3rd.
 - Contact Emily Hennen, emhaugland@hotmail.com or 507-828-6797 if interested in going on 2027 Mission Trip.
 - Students need to be freshman in high school through freshmen in college at the time of the mission trip
- **Motion made by Jeff Van Keulen to approve the Board of Education report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

Church Website: The website needs to be updated as there are still small groups listed that are no longer active.

Motion made by Deb Belaen to adjourn. Jeff Van Keulen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of August 31st via e-mail

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, September 2nd, with committees at 6:00 pm and full council at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen



School Starts August 24th

Thank you, Lord, for Your divine protection over our children. Keep them safe as they travel to and from school. Protect them from any physical harm while they are in school. We stand on Your Word that no weapon formed against them will prosper. We thank you that Your angels stand guard over them and surround them like a shield. Guard their hearts and minds as they step out to meet new friends. Let negative words or comments, roll off them and not take root in their souls. Cover them as they navigate this new school year and guide them in the right direction. In Jesus' name, Amen!

From the Minister's Heart:

*"Now may the Lord of Peace Himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all."
II Thessalonians 3:16 ESV*

THE LORD BE WITH YOU! AND ALSO WITH YOU!

This is usually the way we begin our worship services. When I was growing up in the Baptist church, this was not done, and so the first time I heard it I was very impressed. What better gift can we give each other than this? And what better way to be dismissed from each other than with, **GO IN PEACE, TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD.** To many of you, these may just be the words you say and you are no longer (seriously) getting a big kick out of them as I am! When I say 'the Lord be with you' and get a big, 'and also with you' back, it is a big deal to me! Even better when it is sung!

In this letter, Paul is extending the olive branch of peace to his friends who live in Thessaloniki, Greece. He writes from Corinth, where he is working to establish the church there, and you know we have his letters to the Corinthians in the New Testament. He is concerned about his friends in Thessaloniki, as they are hearing some false teachings, and he is writing to reassure them in the truth of the faith, and to remind them of the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. That peace that passes all understanding, as he wrote to his friends in the letter to the Philippians. As I as minister bless you in service with the words, The Lord be with you, St. Paul blesses his Greek friends. This is a reminder to them and to us, that the Lord Jesus is always present with us no matter what we are going through. The Lord is near. The Lord of peace brings peace out of confusion, and he makes a way when there is no way. I know August can be a transitional period for a lot of us, kids and teachers going back to school and college students going back to college...we can already feel a change in the air leading to autumn and to harvest. We are looking ahead to winter already! Wherever you are and wherever you are going, The Lord be with you!

In Christ's Love,

Jenn



Council President's August Newsletter Article

This has been a busy summer for many of us, and we are quickly approaching the start of the school year in Minneota. I was grateful to attend our outdoor musical service and to experience the gifts and talents shared with our congregation. It was a beautiful morning, made even more special by the wonderful weather. Thank you to everyone who helped plan, prepare, and participate in the service.

There was not a quorum present for the special meeting called on July 19, although 40 members were signed in. The Church Council has called another Special Congregational Meeting for August 23, 2026, to vote on whether Hope Lutheran will proceed as the congregational site for Minister Jenn Warnock.

A separate mailing with the Special Meeting Notice contains additional information. The Council has proposed a revised agenda format for this meeting, with the primary purpose being the congregational vote. We also recognize that some members were unable to attend the Q&A held on July 12, while others may not feel comfortable participating in a public Q&A. If you have questions, please email or call Chris, as noted in the August 23 Special Meeting Notice. Questions may be submitted anonymously, and your name and identifying information will be kept confidential.

If a quorum is not present for this subsequent meeting, the Council will vote on the matter, as a congregational vote is not required for this matter.

Beginning in September, we will also be starting a third-Sunday brunch potluck following our 9:00 a.m. worship service. Please bring a brunch dish or treat to share. This will be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, conversation, and, of course, good food! As we get started, there may be adjustments to the schedule, so please continue to watch the bulletin and church announcements for updates. Thank you to the members who brought this idea forward.

Peter Soli's report will be, or may already have been, distributed through Text in Church, depending on the timing of this newsletter. Copies will also be available at the back of the church. If you have not received a copy, please reach out. The Church Council will continue its discussion of the report and address related action items in the months ahead.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your thoughts, questions, or concerns—whether regarding this matter or anything else related to Hope Lutheran. Open communication and thoughtful conversation are important as we continue to work together as a congregation.

Thank you for your continued participation, support, and care for our church community.

Amie Ascherman
amie@rlwlawyers.com
507-537-0515

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING

When: August 23, 2026 following the 9:00 am service in the Fellowship Hall

Purpose: Minister Jennifer Warnock's TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) Congregation Request

(There was not a quorum at the Special Meeting on July 19, 2026).

Called by: Hope Lutheran's Church Council

TEEM PLACEMENT – Minister Jennifer Warnock has decided to transition to the TEEM Certificate program through Wartburg College. As part of this program, she has requested that Hope Lutheran be her TEEM congregation. The TEEM Certificate program prepares candidates for ministry with theological education and pastoral formation through academic studies, pastoral accompaniment, and practical ministry training with dedicated seminary faculty along with experienced supervisors, mentoring partners.

The TEEM program is designed for completion in three years, with the last year a full-time internship in the congregation (if a candidate chooses four years – the last two years is a half-time internship). The TEEM candidate may be called/ordained to serve as a pastor in their TEEM congregation at the completion of the program. Prior to the internship, the congregation/candidate determine the scope of duties aside from presiding over worship services. Once a TEEM site, any call process stops.

NOTICE: If there is NOT a quorum, then Hope Lutheran's Church Council will vote after this special meeting.

Proposed Agenda

- Call to Order
- Adoption of Agenda
- Vote on Minister Jennifer Warnock's TEEM Placement
- Adjournment

Procedural Considerations

- A vote cannot be held unless there is a quorum of 50 voting members.
- A voting member are members of Hope Lutheran who are:
 - ♦ Baptized and Confirmed
 - ♦ In the last two years have:
 - ♦ Attended church services and taken communion
 - ♦ Made a monetary contribution according to Hope Lutheran's Records
- Voting members will receive a ballot to vote after they have completed the following:
 - ♦ Signed in with their name
 - ♦ Affirmed they can meet the requirements

Question and Answer

If you have any questions about the Wartburg TEEM Program and what this vote means, email hopelutheran87@gmail.com or text/call 507-872-6446.

Your name will be kept anonymous and answers will be shared to the congregation.

2026 WORK GROUP 3**Updated 2-2026*****DUTIES: Locate ushers from your group for church services, unless instructed otherwise.******Prepare food and serve funerals on a rotating bases, with the funeral coordinator instructing you at the appropriate time.***

March:	Bob & Linette Nelson	507-476-8608	507-828-7772
June:	Darwin & Lori Dyce	507-476-2042	507-828-9567
September:	Gayle VanVooren	507-828-2432	
December:	Wade & Terri Myhre	507-829-3945	507-828-0147

	#1		#2	Home #	#1 Cell	#2 Cell
Belaen			Debra			507-828-1785
Boe	Jason	&	Natasha		507-438-5051	320-444-5654
Boettger			Katie			
Bouwman	Drew	&	Christa		507-828-5424	507-530-2732
Buyse			Kalynn			507-828-0354
Buyse			Stacey			507-530-3925
DePestel			Holly			507-828-5976
DeVos	Derek	&	Angie		507-530-2760	507-531-2526
Dyce	Darwin	&	Lori		507-476-2042	507-828-9567
Esping			Becky			507-828-5299
Esping	Nick	&	Nicole		507-828-1222	507-828-8446
Esping	Tony	&	Tammy	507-872-5468	507-829-2953	
Farrell	Tim	&	Rachel		612-281-8883	612-708-5258
Fodness	Gene			507-872-5161	507-530-6634	
Gawarecki	Lon				507-829-9805	
Golden	Rodney	&	Karen			507-829-3954
Guetter	Sam	&	Chesney		651-280-5523	507-530-8106
Hagen	Ralph	&	Judy	507-872-6993	507-829-7810	507-829-7185
Hetland			Caryn		507-530-5179	
Hoffmann	Adam	&	Emily		507-828-0468	507-828-5541
Hovland	Mark			507-872-6114	507-530-5621	
Jensen	Coty	&	Haylee		507-531-6122	507-530-6097
Jeremiason	Guy			507-872-5442	507-829-9029	
Josephson			Sandra			320-815-7829
Koppien	Timothy	&	Dee			507-829-0502
Laleman	Spencer	&	Melissa		507-829-3631	507-828-1902
Myhre	Gerald	&	Shirley		507-763-3430	
Myhre	Wade	&	Terri		507-829-3945	507-828-0147
Myrvik	Matt	&	Patty		507-829-5544	507-829-6811
Nelson	Bob	&	Linette		507-476-8608	507-828-7772
Norby	Matt	&	Mandi		507-476-5908	507-476-5907
Okrina	Lynn	&	Barbara		507-828-3157	507-828-4546
Peterson	Marlin	&	Becky		507-626-0159	507-626-4176
Pohlen	Nick	&	Casey		507-829-0863	507-828-1389
Reiss	Brendan	&	Lizzy		507-828-7163	507-476-2508
Rieder	Shane	&	Dana		605-521-6269	507-530-1986
Skaar	Earl	&	Lori		507-828-4475	507-828-4470
Stassen	Mike	&	Sarah		320-444-4813	320-444-1344
Thostenson	Ronald	&	Tammy	507-872-5437		507-829-2941
Van Vooren			Gayle	507-872-6927		507-828-2432
Wenker			Linda	507-872-5129		