

### 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**

December, 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 Ignite  
(Confirmation)  
Classes/Teen Power

### ***Coffee & Fellowship:***

Following Worship at  
Hope



### **WORSHIP TIMES:**

**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   |
| Council Minutes      | 3-4 |
| GLOW                 | 5   |
| Order Forms          | 6   |
| December Work Group  | 7   |
| December Calendar    | 8   |

**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:  
Office/Kitchen: 507-872-6446  
Parish Secretary: Chris Pesch  
Secretary's Cell: 507-530-5666

Pastor:  
Pastor Email:  
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**

|                             |                       |                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Gather Magazine Bible Study | December 2, 6:30 pm   | At Church               |
| Women of the Bible Study    | December 11, 10:00 am | At Angie Borstad's Home |
| Men's Bible Study           | December 6, 8:00 am   | At Porter Cafe          |



**2024 Church Attendance**

|            |     |             |         |             |
|------------|-----|-------------|---------|-------------|
| October 6  | 137 | November 3  | 137     | December 1  |
| October 13 | 65  | November 10 | 96      | December 8  |
| October 20 | 81  | November 17 | 114     | December 15 |
| October 27 | 217 | November 24 | 100 Est | December 22 |
| Total:     | 500 | Total:      | 447     | December 24 |
| Average:   | 125 | Average:    | 112     | December 29 |
|            |     |             |         | Total:      |
|            |     |             |         | Average:    |



**Workgroup Chairpersons**

**Altar Guild (November 27 –December 24)**

Marlys Skaar 872-6600  
 Gayle VanVooren 872-6927



**Date Sound Operators**

December 1 Matt Myhre  
 December 8 Todd Sonnenburg  
 December 15 Scott Josephson  
 December 22 Cole Myhre  
 December 29

**Date Acolytes**

December 1 Blayze Hulzebos & Beckham Norby  
 December 8 Aiden DePestel & Levi Pohlen  
 December 15 GLOW Christmas Program  
 December 22 Taryn Myrvik & Beckham Norby  
 December 29 Sydney Hennen & ??



**Money Counters:** December—James Danielson & Rose VanUden

**Upcoming Dates:**

- \***November 27**—NO GLOW, Thanksgiving Break
- \***December 1**—Order Forms Due (Christmas Baking & Poinsettia's)
- \***December 8**—10:30 am, Christmas Baking
- \***December 11**—10:00 am, Bible Study at Angie Borstad's, 'A Christmas Lesson'. Wear something Christmas related and bring an hors d'oeuvre to share.
- \***December 15**—10:00 am, GLOW Christmas Program  
 Following program, SOS (Social on Sunday) Christmas Party
- \***December 18**—GLOW Family Christmas Party
- \***December 31**—End of Year Cutoff for Church Offerings
- \***January 5**—Scholarship Distribution Sunday
- \***January 10**—Annual Reports Due to Church Secretary
- \***January 26**—Annual Meeting

**Church Council Notes – November 6, 2024**

|                                     |              |                   |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Fund Balances:</b> General Fund: | \$ 21,873.78 | Cornerstone Fund: | \$ 41,574.23 |
| Building Fund:                      | \$ 2,320.31  | Petty Cash Fund:  | \$ 500.33    |
| Building Fund Savings:              | \$ 2,601.57  | GLOW:             | \$ 2,257.72  |

**Attendance:**

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

**Secretary's Report** – Deb forgot to send the secretary's report with the agenda, so we will need to approve during next month's meeting.

**Pastor's Resignation**

- Terri received Pastor Jon's resignation effective immediately. Terri contacted the synod office to make them aware of this.
- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to accept pastor's resignation. Sandy Josephson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- A letter will be sent out to the congregations on Thursday notifying everyone of this. A pastor from the synod will be at Hope & St. Paul's and Bethany-Elm this Sunday to lead the service. We will do continuous communion on Sunday as we will need to work through getting pastors arranged to lead the service.
- November 10 – Pastor from synod with communion.
- November 13 – Wednesday evening was supposed to be FUEL family night. Will have Christmas program practice instead.
- November 17 – Let it Shine service – Terri will contact Jess Moriarty about providing a message.
- November 24 – Praise Band – We will need someone to do sermon and there is a walk around offering.
- December 15 – Christmas program
- Everyone agreed that we need to find a Pastor for Christmas Eve service
- Lizzy will reach out to Ellen Munter to see if she would be willing to do services for us during the winter.
- Confirmation – Terri agreed to continue helping lead through the end of the year
- Terri will contact the individuals who have been attending Bible study on Thursday at Hope.
- Terri will follow up with Jeff and Dawn Van Keulen on the video system update that pastor was working on.

**Treasurer's Report**

- **Bills:** Bills for the month of November were presented by Cory Myhre. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$5,643.56.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Treasurer's Report. Lizzy Reiss seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Board of Trustees Report**

- **Bills:** Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$5,643.56. There were no additional bills for this month.
- **Carpet:** We need to replace the carpet in the basement of the parsonage as there is still an odor from the cat and water. We at least need to remove the old carpet; we will ask Teen Power to do it as they were willing and able to remove the old islands in the kitchen.
- **Budget Planning:** The board of trustees will meet on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm for a budget planning meeting, so we can bring a budget to December's council meeting for approval.
- **Motion made by Emily Hennen to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Jen Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**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. There was discussion about doing the walk around differently, but it agreed that we would continue to do it the same as we have been, but we need a Temple Talk on the day of the walk around so people know what the walk around is for.
  - November 24 – Christmas Angels
  - December – No Walk Around
- **Thanksgiving Service:** We received a note from Caren Buysse at St. Edward's that she had talked with the priest there, and he suggested that we skip this year as Pastor Jon was scheduled to be at Bethany-Elm. We will look at resuming this next year and see what happens.
- **Christmas Poinsettia Form:** It is in the weekly bulletin and in the November newsletter.
- **Motion made by Aimee Ascheman to approve the Board of Deacons report. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

(continued on page 4)

## Church Council Notes (continued)

### Board of Education Report

- Mission Trip:
  - We are continuing to research locations and organizations.
  - Fundraising - Mission Trip Apparel available at <https://missiontrip2024.itemorder.com/shop/home>. The store is open until November 14 (deadline may be extended.) This is a great way to promote our Mission Trip organization as well as identify ourselves at various fundraisers though out the year. They make great Christmas gifts, too.
  - Fundraising – We are taking Christmas baking orders now! All orders are due December 1<sup>st</sup>. Baking will take place at Hope Lutheran Church at 10:00 am on December 8, 2024. Order forms are in the newsletter, weekly bulletin, and in the back of church. We will be making and selling lefse, Oreo truffles and Belgian cookies. Checks can be made out to Youth of Hope.
- GLOW:
  - We have a record number of students participating in GLOW this fall.
  - This year’s curriculum is going over really well; it is easy for teachers and students to follow.
  - Christmas program planning has started.
  - GLOW messages
    - Angie Borstad did the Pumpkin Prayer last week after the pumpkin carving during Family Night.
    - Jess Moriarty gave tonight’s message.
    - Thank you to our Hope Lutheran community for stepping in and helping out when needed.
  - Upcoming events -
    - November 13 – Was going to be FUEL but will now be Christmas program practice.
    - November 17 – Let It Shine service.
    - December 15 – Christmas Program
  - Concerns
    - Food costs – hoping they will stabilize in the future.
    - Space – Too many kids (GREAT problem) – not enough space. Hope to have a plan in place in the next 5 years to resolve.
- IGNITE / Confirmation:
  - Confirmation Sunday was October 27, 2024. There were 14 students confirmed.
  - Confirmed at Hope: Owen Dalager, Brady Anderson, Owen Myrvik, Mason Javers, Colton Bitker, Logan Esping, Imogen Moriarty, Louis DeVos, Nola Ascheman, Sophie Gillund, Khailynn Fier, Grace Horner.
  - Confirmed at Bethany-Elim: Addy Kiley and Kaylee Schmidtt
  - Christmas Program: The Christmas program will be on Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.
- VBS:
  - Emily and Amie have been consulting with Alicia Tykwinski who is Bethany-Elim’s VBS Coordinator via Zoom and e-mails on doing a joint VBS with them.
  - We are looking at possibly doing VBS in Ivanhoe at Bethany-Elim the 4<sup>th</sup> week of June in the afternoon. We would be utilizing Shetek to do VBS.
  - Bethany-Elim usually has VBS the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June. We are looking at the 4<sup>th</sup> week of June because Shetek could almost guarantee they could do it then. Shetek would be half the cost of Green Lake.
  - We would do it in the afternoon instead of the morning and bus the kids over to Ivanhoe.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Education report. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### Other Business

- Nominating Committee: The members of council who have finished their terms are asked to be part of the nominating committee. Amie and Jason agreed to be on the ballot for council for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term.
- Year end cutoff: The date for the year-end cutoff is December 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Annual reports: Repots are due to the church secretary by January 10<sup>th</sup>. Annual meeting is January 26, 2025.
- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to adjourn. Rose Van Uden seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

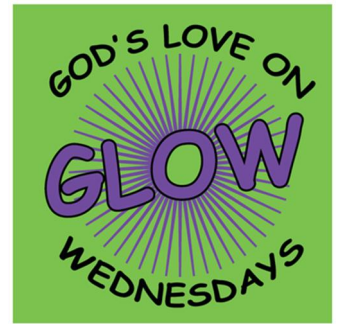
Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of December 2<sup>nd</sup> via e-mail

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Committees meet at 7:00 pm. All together 7:30 pm

**Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen**

Hello Hope Lutheran!

We missed last month's newsletter entry – so we've got a bunch to add for December newsletter. Congratulations to the Minnesota Volleyball Team on their 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the State Championship! Hopefully by the time you are reading this, the Football team has played their last game in the 2024 season, and they continue with their success in the program! Such amazing programs, not only are these students excelling on the field/gym floor, but as well as in the classroom. We couldn't be prouder to have these young women and men in our church as role models for the younger generation. We are blessed with the best.



September, we had our Town Bug Days celebration and after returned to GLOW with a big kick off on Sunday the 15th! Lots of families were able to make it and celebrate the kickoff with a meal and fellowship! The weather was gorgeous!

In October, we had our first Let it Shine Service where the kids take part in the lesson readings and singing as a group. This year's music is led by Katheryn Myhre and the kids are learning music and learning the word of God through Song. We are so Thankful that she is apart of our church family! Our next Let It Shine Service is November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and we anticipate that to be well attended as well! We started something NEW this year, with our very first F.U.E.L. evening where Pastor Jon led us in a service on Wednesday evening. F.U.E.L. is meant to bring the message to families and friends that aren't able to make it on Sunday mornings due to other obligations. Even with the resignation of Pastor, this service will start back up after the first of the year, as right now we are practicing for the Christmas Program.

Our Christmas Program will be on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. this year's program will look a little different as Jess Gronke, Tegan Gillund and Emily Hennen have stepped back from the program to let some new individuals run it! Katheryn Myhre and Lizzy Reiss have stepped up for the challenge and this year's program will be "Not so Silent Night" It's a great Christmas program and it has a lot of great parts. Did you know that our Teen Power group is OVERFLOWING with kiddos in the room behind the kitchen? It is AMAZING to see! Roberta Josephson is doing amazing work with those kids and helping them find themselves and keep their heads turned to the direction of God.

GLOW continues to be record numbers where we are feeding 150-200 individuals every Wednesday evening. We've said this before but wanted to remind our congregation that GLOW operates as a self-funded entity with little funds from the Hope Lutheran Church general fund. Donations for GLOW are always welcome - if you'd like to purchase paper products, donate vegetables, fruits, meat (hamburger, roast beef, pork, turkey, etc.), canned goods (spaghetti sauce, salsa, etc.) or volunteer to provide desserts, please let Linda or Terri know!

As always, we are looking for subs to add to our sub list, EVEN if you do not have a child/student with in the GLOW/Ignite/or Teen Power program, we would love to have you!

With pastor's resignation, we ask for your patience and love while we navigate once again to find pastoral leadership. We have a lot of great things happening at Hope Lutheran with the Youth Ministry program and we pray we can find the right fit for our congregations at Hope, Bethany and St. Paul's!

If you would like to join us for GLOW, Ignite, and Teen Power- the fun starts at 5:30 P.M. with a meal and followed by classrooms at 6:00 P.M. Everyone gathers for a short message and singing at 6:45 and we dismiss at 7:00 P.M. All are welcome to join us, can't wait to see you!

God Bless you all!  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Christ,  
Jess and Erin

**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, 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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_