



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

February 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

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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)

March 1—Following Worship

Special Meeting

Regarding Constitutional Amendment

And Continuation of Annual Meeting

(quorum was lost on January 25th)

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 January 5, 6:30 pm
 Women of the Bible Study January 14, 10:00 am
 Men's Bible Study January 2, 8:00 am

At Church
 At Karen Golden's Home
 At Porter Cafe

**2025 Church Attendance**

December 7 87
 December 14 77
 December 21 222
 December 24 187
 December 28 N/A Weather Cancelled
 Total: 573
 Average: 143

January 4
 January 11
 January 18
 January 25
 Total:
 Average:

**Workgroup Chairpersons**

Kasey & Brice Denney
 507-828-8646 or 507-531-6135

Altar Guild (February 1-28)

Linette Nelson 828-7772
 Nancy Wiese 640-1263

**Date Sound Operators**

February 1 Scott Josephson
 February 8 ?
 February 15 Todd Sonnenburg
 February 22 Cole Myhre

Date Acolytes

February 1 Levi Pohlen & Keatyn Bouwman
 February 8 Taryn Myrvik & Keatyn Bouwman
 February 15 Oakley Norby & Jagger Stassen
 February 22 Padge Moriarty & Aiden DePestel



Money Counters: February—Susan Rassier & Angie DeVos

Upcoming Dates:

***February 18**—Ash Wednesday Service with Communion, 6:45 pm

***February 22**—Walk Around Offering for Confirmation Retreat/YOH Concert; Installation of Council Members

***March 1**—Communion, Baptism for Camrynn Hammitt (Daughter of Tonya Kloos Hammitt); Following service-Special Meeting for 2nd Constitutional Amendment Vote (see mailed letter). Following the Special Meeting, the continuation of the Annual Meeting (quorum was lost on January 25th)

***April 12**—First Communion Sunday—Join family and friends for cake following service in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate!

***April 18**—Funeral for Bonnie Hanson, 2 pm

***May 10**—Baccalaureate Sunday

Church Council Notes – January 7, 2025

Fund Balances:	General Fund:	\$ 46,827.05	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 71,593.87
	Building Fund:	\$ 5,420.30	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 1,053.10
	GLOW:	\$ 22,404.52		

Attendance:

Attending in Person: Emily Hennen, Jen Anderson, Deb Belaen, Amie Ascheman, Sandy Josephson, Angie DeVos, Barb Knutson, Terri Myhre, Cory Myhre, Rose Van Uden, Chris Pesch – Church Secretary

Attending via Phone: Jeff Van Keulen, Jason Johnson

Absent: Jasmine DeSmet

President's Report

- St. Paul's: We had an executive meeting with St. Paul's just prior to our meeting tonight.
- ESST/Paid Leave: We are now in compliance, and Amie is working with Chris on a method to track (48 hours on payroll starting January 1). We have reported 3rd quarter time, and we need to report the 4th quarter time by 1/31. We also need a method to remember to report.
- Camera/Lock Quote: Jason and Jeff are working on the YALE locks (automatic locks). Southwest Glass can rekey the others.
- BMO/Banking: Still working on the treasurer having virtual access and statement reviews.
- Centralize information – Microsoft Office: E-mails are set up. Dawn and Jeff Van Keulen are working on backing up information and a database.
- Meeting with Altar Guild: They need additional members to learn the tasks that they do. Look into pairing confirmed youth with long time members?
- Additional Items to Work on:
Prayer chain–Looking to technology/best practices. / Constitutional amendment meeting – They will be taking a pause. Building committee meeting will take a pause. / Council packet for February meeting. Set up or meet with Music? / Looking ahead – Reverend Petere Soli follow-ups. Outreach / Social event – Winter 2026 Season; Lent – Soup/Service? / Record review/retention

Secretary's Report – Motion made to approve secretary's report by Cory Myhre. Terri Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- Bills: Bills for the month of January were sent out prior to the meeting for review. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$9,765.33 with two additional bills. **Motion made by Terri Myhire 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 \$9,765.33 with two additional bills: Prairie Conference dues of \$133.50 (based on 534 baptized members) and Peter Soli consulting services for \$1436.46 for the month of December (bill was for \$1936.46 with the \$500 deposit deducted).
- Budget Approval: The proposed budget was provided via e-mail. There is a 20% increase in insurance based on the current rate increases in the industry. There is also a 4% increase in the janitor's salary. The organist pay will also be increased from \$65 to \$70 per service. **Motion made by Terri Myhre to approve the proposed budget. Sandy Josephson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Annual Meeting Agenda: The agenda was provided via e-mail. We agreed to move the elections and approval of the proposed budget to the beginning of the meeting as we did last year.
- Annual Reports: The annual reports for all committees are due to Chris by January 15th.
- Audit of Church Books: Chris has the books ready to be audited, so they can be audited at any time. Amie will reach out to several people to do this.
- MN ESST and Paid Leave: We are now up to date on all the requirements for these two items. This only applies to Chris, and the additional cost is included in the proposed budget under a separate line item.
- Proposed Disclosure Policy and Proposed Forms: Amie has been working on policies that the church as a non-profit should have in place. Amie had sent them out via e-mail a few weeks ago. She has drafted an Operational Ethics Policy based on the ELCA policy including a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure form. She also proposed a Disclosure of Liens and Judgements form for those serving on as President and Treasurer of the council or on committees that manage money in that role. The second form would not be shared with the whole council but would be kept on file with the President of the Council. **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the proposed policy and associated forms drafted by Amie. Cory Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Emily Hennen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

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Church Council Notes (continued)

Board of Deacons Report

- Walk Around Offerings: 4th Sunday of the month - Endowment matches walk around offerings 2:1 up to \$500.
 - January – Lutheran World Relief
 - January 18 – Sandy will do a temple talk on that day, and there will also be an insert in the bulletin that day.
 - January 25 – Date for walk around offering.
 - February – Confirmation Retreat and YOH Concert
 - Confirmation will be going on a retreat to Inspiration Hills.
 - The concert for YOH will be in Clara City and feature the group Sidewalk Prophets.
 - March – Marshall Area Food Shelf
- Pastor's Visitation: Jenn provided her visitation report, and this was e-mailed out prior to the meeting.
- Communion Dates:
 - January communion dates – January 4 and 18
 - February communion dates – February 1st and Ash Wednesday – February 18.
 - Ash Wednesday: February 18th and will start at 6:45 pm.
- Work Groups: The deacons are continuing to get work group chairpersons for 2026.
- **Motion made by Terri Myhre to approve the Board of Deacons report. Emily Hennen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Education Report

- GLOW:
 - The Christmas program went well, and all the kids did a great job.
 - 1st Communion classes are starting January 14th; Lori Buysse and Brenda DeSmet are leading the class of six 5th graders.
 - Grandparents' Night at GLOW will be February 4th.
 - We are grateful for all the adults who lead our youth each week.
- Confirmation / Youth of Hope:
 - Christmas Blessings Service Project was a huge success!! We were able to support families locally through Minneota Public School and Lyon County with hats and mittens for foster children with Southwest Health and Human Services.
 - Confirmation Retreat is March 6-8 at Inspiration Hills in Vining, MN. Details are still being worked on.
 - We will be attending a concert in Clara City on March 11, 2026, from 7 to 9 pm; the Sidewalk Prophets are performing.
- Teen Power: They are starting their annual Teen Power Shoe Collection. Please drop off any worn-out shoes, boots, tennis shoes, slippers and sandals at church. The goal is to donate more than 700 pairs of shoes that were donated last year.
- Mission Trip:
 - Continuing to fundraise for the 2027 mission trip.
 - Fundraisers –
 - Heidi Guttormson donated her winnings from a Northwest Farm Management Contest to our trip.
 - We also received a portion of the Boxelder Bug Day community service offering.
 - The Spaghetti Supper is February 15, 2026, from 5 to 7 pm.
 - We are also a 2026 Panka Insurance referral recipient. For each referral to the Panka Insurance Agency for a quote in 2026, Panka Insurance will donate \$15 to the Minneota Area Mission Trip.
 - All students in grades 8 – 12 this fall at Minneota Public School are welcome to attend the next trip.
 - Contact Emily Hennen at emhaugland@hotmail.com or 507-828-6797 if interested in going on the 2027 mission trip.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - First Communion – April 12, 2026
 - Baccalaureate – May 10, 2026
- **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Board of Education report. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- Peter Soli Meeting: Council thought that the letter that Peter Soli had written was very insightful, and we discussed people for the steering committee. We agreed that we should keep the committee to a total of 5 to 6 members.
- Communication system: Amie would like to get a system in place that we can use for weather, announcements, etc. The recommendation from Amie is to use Text in Church, which is what she and Chris had tested. This program allows people to sign up themselves, and the cost is \$470 per year. **Motion made by Terri Myre to move forward with Text in Church. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Motion made by Cory Myhre to adjourn. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of February 2nd via e-mail.

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, February 4, 2025, with full council at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

Hope Lutheran Teen Power's Annual Shoe Collection

Clean out your closets and bring your shoes, boots, sandals, and other footwear to Hope Lutheran Church! Give away your gently worn shoes to help to provide shoes that aren't worn or an old pair that may end up in a landfill. We will gather footwear and deliver our donations to one of the drop-off points, Schuler Shoes in St. Cloud, MN. They shared with us that after the footwear is donated, the shoes are paired and sorted, and the footwear goes to four different places. The newer ones may be donated to the shelter food shelf and then sold at shelters for \$5.00/pair. The money is then donated to the shelter's food shelf. Some of the shoes stay in Minnesota with a program called "Shoe Away Hunger", and some go to other countries where they are needed for people without shoes. The rest, if pretty worn out, or are singles, are shredded and used for playground surfacing or rubber mulch. **Please clean out your closets and bring your bags and boxes of your household's gently worn footwear to Hope Lutheran Church.**

Help us to promote "Shoe Away Hunger".

GOAL IS TO GET MORE THAN 700 SHOES



Spaghetti FUNDRAISER

At Hope Lutheran Church

February 15th • 5-7pm

INCLUDES SPAGHETTI, SALAD,
BREADSTICKS, DRINK & DESSERT

**Tastefully Simple by Kim Johnson and
MAMT Bake Sale will also be available!**

**PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE
2027 Minneota Area Mission Trip**

FOR MORE INFORMATION Contact Emily Hennen 507-828-6797 or
emhaugland@hotmail.com

**Takeout
available**



February 2026 Council President's Newsletter Article

The February Board Meeting began with the election of officers and the selection of committees. For 2026, the Deacons Committee will be led by Sandy (chair), with Nona, Barb, Lori, and Jason serving alongside her. The Education Committee includes Jasmine (chair), Angie, Jen, and Susan. The Executive Committee is made up of Amie (Council President), Jeff (Vice President and Treasurer), Deb (Secretary), and Cory. I had the opportunity to meet with the new council members prior to the first council meeting for onboarding, and I am grateful for their willingness to serve. Each brings unique gifts and perspectives, and I look forward to the ways God will work through them as we move forward together as one church body. If you have questions or concerns related to any of these areas, please feel free to reach out to a council member or to me. Open communication and mutual support help keep us united in our shared mission.

One of the most meaningful nights for Hope Lutheran Youth Ministries each year is Grandparents Night. The energy is truly unmatched as students invite a grandparent or another important person in their life to share a GLOW night together. This year, the evening also included a service project benefiting the local food shelf. Participants colored taco kit content sheets and packed food items—kits that are especially appreciated, as these items cannot be purchased through Second Harvest. Each child and adult also decorated a picture frame, which will hold photos taken that evening as a lasting reminder of their shared experience.

The worship message focused on family trees, reminding us that we are a family rooted deeply in faith—connected to God and to one another like a strong, living tree. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this night so special. The week prior, students practiced being good neighbors by creating Valentines that were donated to **Minneota** Assisted Living and another local nursing home. During a meeting I recently **attended**, several ideas for additional community service were shared, and I warmly invite you to pass along any service ideas or opportunities you may have. Serving together is one way we live out our faith in unity.

The annual meeting was adjourned and will continue on March 1, 2026. This action was taken because, after the vote to approve the new council members and budget, a quorum was no longer present. At the continued meeting, the previous reports will be approved to ensure clarity and transparency regarding those votes taken. You might ask yourself - a quorum? what is needed and why is it that? Our quorum of 50 members, as well as the structure of the meeting agenda, is defined by the Hope Lutheran Constitution. Prior to adjournment, a Call to Order was made for a second vote on a constitutional amendment. The council voted to approve setting a date for this vote. A special meeting will be held before the continuation of the annual meeting on March 1, 2026. A Notice of Special Meeting has been issued outlining the proposed agenda and procedures. Again, there must be fifty voting members for a quorum to be met for the special meeting to proceed.

Finally, the Deacons have developed a plan regarding weather-related decisions for Sunday services. Jason, Sandy, and Amie will consult together, with the goal of making a decision by Saturday when possible. The Deacons are also working on a backup plan so that worship may still take place when conditions allow. In the event of a cancellation, announcements will be shared via Marshall Radio, Facebook, and the church website. While the church communication app is unlikely to be ready for weather events this year, work is underway to make that possible in the future.

Reverend Peter Soli started in January working with the steering committee – which is Jessica Moriarty, Lori Dyce, Terri Myhre, and Roberta Josephson. If you are interested in being a part of the steering committee, please contact myself, a council member, or steering committee member regarding.

As we move through these decisions and ministries together, let us continue to extend grace, patience, and encouragement to one another. We are strongest when we walk together in faith, grounded in Christ and united in love.

Amie Ascheman
Hope Lutheran Council President

2026 WORK GROUP 1**Updated 2-2026****FUNERALS ARE SERVED ON A ROTATING BASIS*****Duties are Ushering for Church Services***

January:	Scott & Barb Knutson	507-828-9111	507-828-9117
April:	Fig & Linda Nuytten	507-828-7789	507-829-9379
July:	Nancy Wiese	507-640-1263	
October:	Lois VanDePutte	507-872-6422	507-530-9385

	#1		#2	Home #	#1 Cell	#2 Cell
Anderson			Bri			
Anderson			Jennifer			507-828-2326
Anderson	Keith			507-872-6290		
Anderson	Scott				507-828-1971	
Breyfogle	Nicholas	&	Allison		763-234-5767	507-828-2787
Dalager	Charles	&	Linda	507-872-6062		
DeSmet	Richard	&	Jasmine		605-881-4887	605-881-4138
Dovre	Allan	&	Rita	507-872-6059	507-828-7682	507-828-1415
Drown	Joe	&	Judy			507-828-4468
Fier			Fran	507-872-6795		507-828-1423
Gilgert	Ronald			507-872-6743		
Hennen			Jen		507-829-4547	507-828-8394
Hettling	Royal			507-872-6326		
Horner	JJ	&	Jessica		507-828-7497	507-829-2799
Knutson	Scott	&	Barbara		507-828-9111	507-828-9117
Kompelien			Courtney			507-829-4783
Larson	Danny	&	Tracy	507-872-6068	507-828-6080	507-828-0389
Miller	Stan	&	Loralee	507-872-6526		
Muhl	Austin	&	Whitney			507-829-0455
Myhre	Cory	&	Leah		507-706-0006	507-401-7983
Myhre	Kurt	&	Kim	507-872-5481	507-829-2902	507-828-8008
Myhre	Nels	&	Pat		507-872-6787	
Nuytten	Richard (Fig)	&	Linda		507-828-7789	507-829-9379
Obe	Brian				507-829-3403	
Opdahl	Anthony	&	Kathy		507-828-6987	605-999-1557
Pesch	Henry	&	Taylor Burley		507-828-2459	218-330-3097
Petersen	Patrick				507-401-7922	
Pohlen	Alex	&	Jenny		507-829-2693	507-330-4628
Prellwitz			Brenda	507-872-6996	507-530-3878	
Rassier			Susan			507-828-2509
Reiss	Chad	&	Moriah		507-828-2999	507-828-2627
Roberts	Jerren	&	Erin		605-370-1679	507-530-4333
Rokeh	James	&	Helen	507-872-6847		
Sonnenburg	Tavin	&	Caitlyn		507-530-6055	507-829-2549
Tolk			Sandy	507-872-6730	507-530-1849	
Van Keulen	Jeff	&	Dawn		507-829-8398	507-829-8399
VanDePutte			Lois	507-872-6422	507-530-9385	
Wambeke			Judy	507-872-6069		763-843-9703
Wiese			Nancy			507-530-5502