

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**

July, 2024

**Sunday Worship:**

**Through June**

Hope—7:30 AM  
St. Paul's—9:00 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:**

Hope—Following Worship

**WORSHIP TIMES:**

**July 7th—28th Services**

8:30 am – Bethany-Elim Lutheran

10:30 am – St. Paul's Lutheran

**Sundays—5:30 pm – Hope Lutheran**

**August 4th—25th Services**

8:30 am – Bethany-Elim Lutheran

10:30 am – St. Paul's Lutheran

**Saturdays—5:30 pm – Hope Lutheran**

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**Pastor's Office Hours:**

**Mon: Hope, 7:30-Noon**  
**Tues: Bethany-Elim, 8:30-Noon**  
**Wed: No Office Hours**  
**Thurs: Hope, 7:30-Noon**  
**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

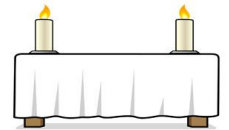
**Bible Studies for Men and Women**

Circle Bible Study	July 1st, 7:00 pm	At Church
Circle Bible Study		
Men's Bible Study	July 5th, 8:00 am	At Porter Café



**2024 Church Attendance**

	May 5	85	June 2	41
NEW WORSHIP TIMES STARTED—	May 12	52	June 9	39
	May 19	45	June 16	46
	May 26	32	June 23	34
	Total:	214	June 30	40 Est
	Average:	54	Total:	200
			Average:	40



**Workgroup Chairpersons**

**Altar Guild (June 26– July 23)**

Linette Nelson 828-7772  
Nancy Wiese 640-1263

**Date    Sound Operators**

July 7 Matt Myhre  
 July 14 Todd Sonnenburg  
 July 21 Scott Josephson  
 July 28 ?

**Date    Acolytes**

July 7 Colton Bitker & Kingston Ryer  
 July 14 Brody Anderson & Owen Dalager  
 July 21 Blayze Hulzebos &  
 July 28 Owen Myrvik & Logan Pohlen



**Money Counters:** July: Deb Belaen & ???

**Upcoming Dates:**

**July 28-August 1—Vacation Bible School**

**August 10—Wedding for Matt Myhre & Katheryn Madson**

**August 24—Wedding for Amanda Prellwitz & Jesse Burau**



## From Pastor Jon

Last month we began to look at the three most frequently used terms by biblical writers: **believer, follower, and disciple**. Last month we examined the word disciple. This month we will dig deeper into the term follower. As a reminder, we'll take them in reverse order with the most frequently used term first. How are you doing at making disciples? It was a question I had never been asked. In all my years of church life, I had never been asked about my basic obedience to Jesus' final and most straightforward command: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you," (Matt. 28:19-20a).

I was at a conference in Thailand and our trainer was a long-time missionary working in Southeast Asia. His work with a previously unreached tribe in a neighboring country was built on one basic strategy—obey Jesus and make disciples who in turn make disciples.

My paradigm of discipleship was largely based on the idea that more information would form me into Christ-likeness. The method was to read more books, attend more seminars, and, if I wanted, to have a mentor. Discipleship then was much more about spiritual formation than about actually learning how to obey Jesus and make disciples.

Spiritual formation is of immense importance and I've benefited from good books, great seminars, and some terrific mentors. But the discipleship of my youth largely ignored the idea that I should obey Jesus and make disciples who also obey Jesus and make disciples. It was there in Thailand that I began a journey toward understanding obedience-based discipleship as opposed to knowledge-based discipleship. This led me to understand our term this month – **follower**.

How does one become a disciple? The biblical answer to this question is summed up in the words, "**Follow me.**" Nowhere in Scripture are we told to pray the sinner's prayer, sign a card, raise our hand, or walk an aisle. Rather, we are asked to respond to the call of Jesus to "follow me."

We see this call repeatedly in Jesus' words to Phillip (John 1:43), Andrew and Peter (Matthew 4:18-20), James and John (Mark 1:19-20), and Matthew (Luke 5:27). The three would-be disciples (Luke 9:57-62), the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-22), to small groups like the disciples (Luke 9:23), and to large crowds (Luke 14:27).

They not only *began* their life of discipleship by responding to Jesus' invitation to follow me, but they *continued* their life of discipleship by following Jesus.

Jesus' followers became known to others, not as Christians, but as followers of "the Way" (Acts 9:2, 19:19, 23, 22:4, 24:14, 22). They were also people of the "way of truth" (2 Peter 2:2) and those who followed "a new and living way" (Hebrews 10:19-20). Why this particular language? Clearly, it signified that being a disciple of Jesus implied a way of life, a path to be followed, and a life to be imitated. Because of this biblical emphasis on following, I've stopped asking people if they are Christians and started asking them if they are Christ followers or disciples. Interestingly, people seem to pause for a moment before they answer. Why is that? Because language shapes perception and using more biblical language shapes a more biblical understanding which makes people take a reflective pause.

– Grace and Peace Pastor Jon

## The Place of Worship

Animal sacrifices constituted a major part of old covenant worship, and the place where these sacrifices could be offered was highly regulated by God. Following the settlement of Israel in the Promised Land, the Israelites were supposed to seek the Lord for the place they were to bring their burnt offerings and sacrifices (Deut. 12:5–7), and God revealed to David that the temple and altar were to be built in Jerusalem (1 Chron. 21:1–22:1). After the construction of the temple, anyone who offered sacrifices at other places violated the Lord's will, and the books of 1 and 2 Kings frequently condemn kings who built altars elsewhere even if they were altars to the God of Israel.

This establishment of a central sanctuary for sacrifice does not mean the old covenant saints could not worship God at all outside of Jerusalem. Jesus' participation in the synagogue services in Nazareth, for example, shows us that God approved of the singing, prayers, instruction, and other acts of worship conducted at those local meeting places (Luke 4:16–27). Still, Jerusalem remained the only place where the Jews could lawfully offer sacrifices to God.

Under the new covenant, things have changed. No longer is there one sanctuary to which all believers are obliged to go to worship the Lord. Since Jesus has fulfilled the temple and its sacrificial system (Heb. 9–10), there is no need for a central place of worship. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that a day was coming when people would worship not in Jerusalem nor on Mount Gerizim but elsewhere and that such worship would be acceptable as long as it was conducted in spirit and truth (John 4:20–23). Of course, people were supposed to worship God in spirit and truth under the old covenant, but worshiping in truth then meant offering animal sacrifices only in Jerusalem.

In any case, today there is no single location where all Christians must go for corporate worship. Duly established churches may meet for worship in homes, in movie theaters, in school lunchrooms, on the seashore, or in any other location. That is not to say that creating dedicated sanctuaries for worship is prohibited. There is, in fact, great wisdom in building sanctuaries of beauty where the church can gather to worship God, and church sanctuaries at their best help us focus our hearts and minds on the Lord in worship. But they are not absolutely required. True worship happens wherever we praise God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

We are fortunate at our three shared faith communities of Hope Lutheran, St. Paul's Lutheran, and Bethany-Elim to have three churches in two communities. Each with magnificent centers of worship. As we continue to experiment with our worship days and times my request of each of you and your families is to find the time that works best for you each week in the month of July and commit to attending that service, even if that isn't your "home" sanctuary. I know this is risky and uncomfortable. I also know that what I am asking us to do is not natural as Lutherans. Many are baptized, confirmed, and buried in the same church. This is a testament to our Christian tradition. Yet, as it says in John 4:24, true worship happens wherever we praise God in spirit and in truth – this includes a different sanctuary as we worship corporately. Praise God for the blessing of this flexibility! Plus, the bonus might be that you wander into a new environment at Hope Lutheran, St. Paul's Lutheran, or Bethany-Elim Lutheran, meet new brothers and sisters in Christ, and form an extended family from your "home" congregation.

Bethany-Elim will be at 8:30 am for July & August

St. Paul's will be at 10:30 am for July & August

**Hope will be at 5:30 pm on Sunday for July & 5:30 pm on Saturday for August**

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*We want to hear from you!*

*In our ongoing efforts to improve Hope Lutheran Church's member experience, we're rolling out a congregational survey to ensure that your voice is being heard. (See survey on next page or go to this link <https://forms.gle/KUGGs3HdQerwGtoe8> The deadline to complete the survey will be July 21st (but sooner is always appreciated). We want you to feel confident sharing honest and authentic feedback so our survey will be completely anonymous.*

*We're hoping for everyone to participate and ask you to encourage your fellow members to share their insights!*

*Thank you in advance for your time and effort in making this initiative a success.*

*For His Kingdom—Pastor Jon*



**Endowment Committee Report regarding bell tower repair:**

This letter is intended to serve as a comprehensive review of the work done by the Hope Lutheran Church Endowment Committee in cooperation and consultation with Dan Maki, PE who specializes in historic building restoration as an architectural engineer, to establish a plan to repair and restore the bell tower of the church building.

As you may know, the bell tower has been an ongoing concern for the church as moisture and water has been able to enter the tower and damage the interior of the tower and balcony as well as creating a maintenance problem protecting the pipe organ. Cosmetic and possible structural damage has resulted from the inability to fix the source problem. As a result, there has been concern regarding the integrity of the structure itself as it impacts the entire tower, balcony, narthex, main entrance and basement of the church.

Considerable money (\$30,00.00) has been spent in the last 15+ years with disappointing results while failing to get the problem fixed.

Mr. Maki will devise and design the plan for repair, will interview prospective contractors for each part of the job and select who he thinks will do the best work for us according to his specifications. He will then present those contractors with the plan after getting the go-ahead from Hope Church. These may or may not be local contractors but will be the best suited for the work based on Mr. Maki's assessment. He will then operate essentially as the general contractor overseeing the work being done and assuring completion to his specifications.

Following his initial assessment, Mr. Maki felt that structurally our tower is intact with the moisture problems to this point creating only cosmetic issues. His comments were as follows:

1. The drainage system in the open top part of the tower was inadequate and was allowing pooling on the platform under the bell and resulting in some leakage through the flashing and roof barrier.
2. There is a condensation problem in the second stage of the tower that communicates with the area above the ceiling in the sanctuary. This is resulting in freezing and thawing of water on the walls and ceiling that then percolates down inside the walls. Added insulation in that room and above the sanctuary and means to ventilate more appropriately should solve this problem.
3. Tuck pointing needs to be done on the tower
4. Cosmetic repair of the ceiling and walls that surround the pipe organ needs to be completed after the other problems are addressed and adequately alleviated.

Mr. Maki intends to return for a site visit in the next couple of weeks and then begin the contractor interview process.

As always, there will be concern about how to pay for this much needed work. The Endowment Committee would suggest having a congregational fund drive with matches from the Mission Endowment Fund Capital Improvements category and the Building and Properties Endowment Fund.

Scott Josephson  
Chairman of the Hope Lutheran Endowment Committee

**Church Council Notes – June 3, 2024**

**Fund Balances:** General Fund: \$ 22,787.26 Cornerstone Fund: \$ 37,804.67  
 Building Fund: \$ 4,478.85 Petty Cash Fund: \$ 294.33  
 Building Fund Savings: \$ 2,591.42 GLOW: \$ 1,257.72

**Attendance:**

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

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

**Treasurer's Report**

**Bills** – Bills for the month of May were presented by Cory Myhre. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$12,289.82. **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Treasurer's Report. Cory Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Pastor's Report**

- Pastor Jon was unable to attend the meeting but sent his report to and was read by Terri Myhre.
- Reminder of the available sign-up for a "Get-to-know Pastor" meeting on Chris' desk. There are currently 3 families signed up.
- He also has developed a 100-day plan divided into 30 day increments detailing his goals and strategies for each time with time to review and assess how things are going at the end of each 30 day period.

**Board of Trustees Report**

- **Bills:** Total Building (Checking) Fund bills are estimated at 1,157.04
- **Insurance Review and Propane:** Review of propane costs/contract were discussed. It was proposed to not enter into a contract for propane as the savings given with a contract is not significant enough to justify.
- **Other:** In other business, Cory Myhre presented information from an architect the church has contacted to determine the issues with the Bell Tower and to develop a plan to fix the issues. The architect has visited and looked at the bell tower. In order to move forward, the architect would need a contract between him and the church to make him the general contractor for the project. He would then be in charge of hiring contractors to perform the needed repairs - would look local first. The price to hire the architect as the general manager would be \$30,000. This amount does not include the needed labor and materials to perform the repairs, which are unknown at the time. Council decided to table this matter at this time awaiting more information as well as a possible estimate of the repair costs. Further information will be presented in the July newsletter.
- **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Jason Johnson 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
  - June 23 – Esther's Kitchen
  - July 28 - Kitchen Remodel
- **Work Groups:** The work groups are almost complete; there are 3 months left to do – July, October, and December.
- **Motion made by Lizzy Reiss to approve the Board of Deacons' report. Cory Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Board of Education Report**

- **Confirmation:** Angie DeVos has agreed to take the Confirmation Coordinator position that was resigned by Barb Knutson last month.
- **Mission Trip Fundraisers:** Continuing to fundraise for the 2025 mission trip. Upcoming fundraiser will be Belgian American Days Softball Tournament concession stand on August 3. Also, Polish Days food stand on August 10. Currently, we have 67 students signed up for the 2025 Mission Trip. Any students going into the 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:emhaugland@hotmail.com).

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### Church Council Notes (continued)

- **VBS:** will be held July 29 - August 1, 2024, counselors from Green Lake will arrive on Sunday, July 28. Registration link has been posted on the GLOW Facebook page, church website and weekly bulletin  
[https://doc.google.com/form/d/e/1FAIpQLSc95tP4ix9bxPS9BbRng1iRCi8aPffYaUNMojuVgy4eYcnUw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://doc.google.com/form/d/e/1FAIpQLSc95tP4ix9bxPS9BbRng1iRCi8aPffYaUNMojuVgy4eYcnUw/viewform?usp=sf_link)  
 Offered for students who have completed 4's PreK - 5th grade; 6-12 grade students may sign-up to be helpers. Deadline to register is June 28, 2024. Amie is working on counselor housing checking if the counselors can be split up or if the all have to stay at the same place if can't be split, we are still in need of housing for the counselors - contact Amie Ascheman if able to house counselors. Looking for a person(s) to be in charge during the week of VBS. Please contact Amie Ascheman or Emily Hennen in interested
- **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Board of Education report. Jason Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Other Business**
- **Sexton:** We are still in need of a sexton for the cemetery, so if anyone is interested in volunteering, please have them reach out to a council member. We will also put this in the bulletin.
- **Service Times:** In a trial period right now. Going forward, service times are probably not going to stay the same schedule. Times are not set forever. Looking into options.
- **Motion made by Rose Van Uden to adjourn. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Next Executive Discussion on Agenda:** Week of July 1st via e-mail

**Next Council Meeting - Monday, July 1, 2024.** Boards meet at 6:30 pm. All together 7:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Emily Hennen

## Hope Lutheran is now on YouVersion!



<https://www.bible.com/organizations/00603eda-d734-45cb-85a0-bed2eef53bfe>

With most people having a cell phone today, why not put the Bible on it so you can have it everywhere you go? Download the app using the link above to be a part of Hope Lutheran YouVersion. We will be adding Bible reading plans, sermon notes, and many other features in the coming months. The YouVersion app helps you stay connected to Jesus through His Word.