

### 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 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 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)



## Important July Dates and an Opportunity for Hope Lutheran

### (See pages 4-5 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

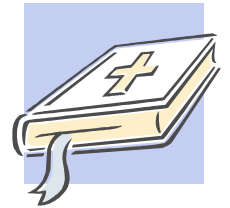
Lay Minister Cell: 320-305-4955  
Office/Kitchen: 507-872-6446  
Parish Secretary: Chris Pesch  
Secretary's Cell: 507-530-5666

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	August 3, 6:30 pm	At Church
Women of the Bible Study	Resumes in September	
Men's Bible Study	August 7, 8:00 am	At Porter Cafe



**2026 Church Attendance**

June 7	67	July 5
June 14	54	July 12
June 21	71	July 19
June 28	49	July 26
Total:	241	Total:
Average:	60	Average:

**Workgroup Chairpersons**

**July:** Nancy Weise  
507-640-263

**August:** Kevin & Jamie Anderson  
605-323-7416



**Altar Guild**

**July 1-31**  
Val Buysse 828-4404  
Sandy Tolk 872-6730

**August 1-31**  
Val Buysse 828-4404  
Sandy Tolk 872-6730

**Date Sound Operators**

July 5 Scott Josephson  
July 12 ?  
July 19 Todd Sonnenburg  
July 26 Cole Myhre

**Date Acolytes**

July 5  
July 12  
July 19  
July 26



**Money Counters:** July—Sandy Josephson, Jason Johnson; Aug—Jeff Van Keulen & Jen Anderson

**Upcoming Dates:**

**\*July 12—Following Worship:**

Question-and-Answer Session about the Wartburg TEEM Program

**\*July 19—Following Worship:**

Special Congregational Meeting and Vote regarding Minister Jennifer Warnock's request for Hope Lutheran to serve as her TEEM congregation

**\*August 1—Wedding of Laura Knutson & Charles Meier**

No Walk Around Offerings for June through August.



**NOTE: THE JULY COUNCIL MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BY EMAIL****July Church Council Notes****Church Council Notes - July 1, 2026**

<b>Fund Balances:</b>	General Fund:	\$ 39,189.95	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 71,611.66
	Building Fund:	\$ 11,318.78	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 305.55
	GLOW:	\$ 22,565.72		

**Attendance:**

*Via email with all council members.*

**Board of Trustees**

- Bills—total \$8,180.75

**Deacon's Report**

- Walk Around Offering- no walk arounds June - August
- Outdoor Service - Deacons are working on preliminary plans for an outdoor service on Sunday, August 9. Location discussed will be the north parking lot, so personal chairs can be positioned on a hard surface. Plans will be finalized at a Music & Worship Committee meeting scheduled for July 15th, so watch for an update in coming bulletins and via church text/email.
- Communion Services for July - July 5th and July 19th

**Education Report**

- GLOW/YOH/Confirmation - on break for summer. Angie is still working on finding a date for the youth to serve at The Banquet in Sioux Falls.
- Mission Trip - there are no new fundraisers at this time.
- VBS - overall it went well.

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of August 3rd via e-mail

Next Council Meeting - Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Offering Counters: (Offering counting goes from monthly meeting to monthly meeting)

- July: (Sunday, July 5 - Sunday, August 2) - Sandy Josephson, Jason Johnson
- August: (Sunday, August 9 - Sunday, August 30) - Jeff Van Keulen, Jen Anderson
- September: (Sunday, September 6 - Sunday, October 4) - Amie Ascherman, Cory Myhre

## FROM THE MINISTER'S HEART....

*“ I thank God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making requests with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Phillipians 1:3-6*

Dearly Beloved Church,

This month, I am giving thanks for **you**, and for our ministry together! It is hard to believe that I have already been with you for one year and a half, as of June! I am thankful to God for the blessing I have received being able to minister to you and with you, and to grow in grace and knowledge. Since we first met in December 2024, I have finished Faith Lead Lay Ministry School with Luther Seminary, begun the Masters of Divinity Program at Luther Seminary, been approved and endorsed in candidacy for ordination, and been authorized as your Synod Authorized Minister! Five years ago, none of this would have even occurred to me, and I am without doubt, it is “a God thing” as God has opened doors, given strength and grace, and worked within.

Now, I have encountered another opportunity, that I would like to share with Hope and St. Paul's. I have applied for the TEEM program at Wartburg Theological Seminary. The TEEM acronym stands for Theological Education for Emerging Ministries. The program literally “teams” theology students with rural and small town congregations. The student serves the church during the program which lasts three years, and then at the end of that time, the student is ordained through the chosen church. The program is a partnership between the student, the synod, and the congregation. As there is not the availability of pastors/ministers for any (not just rural) congregations that there has been in the past, this program has been developed to help that situation. As I have been serving already at Hope and St. Paul's as your SAM, I felt compelled to ask if Hope would be willing to be my partner congregation, and I would also like to continue to serve at St. Paul's. The synod is in agreement and supportive of me with this opportunity and I would continue to be supervised by the synod and your council, along with mentors from Wartburg. During the last year, I would be working full-time with you, which has already been a goal for me. Not a lot would change from our current ministry together, except that during the three years the pastor search would cease. So this is a commitment for all of us, to partner and covenant together in ministry. At the end of the three years, once I am ordained, it will be up to the congregations whether to continue our partnership with me as your official Pastor, or whether you would prefer to search again for someone else.

As you know, I have spent the last twenty six years in children and family social work. However, I began my career after college working as a Minister to Youth and Children for two years, and then teaching at a church preschool for four years. As a college student, I felt the call to church ministry. As I began in the church, I would love to end working back in the church again! I told the Bishop that I want God to be my last boss! My father was a pastor for fifty-five years, my husband is a pastor, and both my mother and father in law were Methodist pastors...ministry is in my genetics, my family culture, and my heart. In the tradition of the prophet Isaiah, “ I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, “here am I , Send me!”

I have a degree in psychology from Brewton-Parker College in Mt. Vernon, Georgia, and did post-graduate work in family and child counseling at South University in Savannah, Georgia, and theological studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. My career in social work has been served by my love for God and love for people. I have a strong faith in God and in the ministry of the church in this world. I feel blessed that God has called me and led me to Minnesota to minister, and am thankful for the support of Bishop Dee, the SWMN ELCA synod and my home church, Faith Lutheran in Madison.

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a question and answer session after the service, and also a congregational vote on July 19<sup>th</sup> after service. I wanted to share a little bit from my perspective what that is all about! I know it can sound a little either confusing or intimidating. But as I mentioned before, not a lot would change from the point of the congregation, we would continue on serving this community together, as long as the Lord blesses.

In Christ's Love,

Jenn

## Important July Dates and an Opportunity for Hope Lutheran

- **July 12, following worship**—Question-and-Answer Session about the Wartburg TEEM Program
- **July 19, following worship**—Special Congregational Meeting and Vote regarding Minister Jennifer Warnock's request for Hope Lutheran to serve as her TEEM congregation

So, why are these dates important?

Minister Jennifer Warnock has informed both the synod and Hope Lutheran that she plans to continue her path toward ordained ministry through the Wartburg TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) program. TEEM is an alternative route to ordination within the ELCA that focuses on preparing leaders for ministry through a certificate program rather than a traditional Master of Divinity degree.

As part of that process, Jennifer has asked Hope Lutheran to serve as her TEEM congregation. The TEEM program is designed to integrate theological education with active ministry. Through coursework, mentoring, and practical experience, candidates develop competency in areas such as Scripture, theology, ethics, Lutheran confessions, church history, worship, teaching, evangelism, stewardship, administration, service, and pastoral care.

A congregation that agrees to serve as a TEEM site enters into a partnership with the candidate for approximately three to four years. During that time, the candidate serves in ministry while receiving support and guidance from Wartburg Seminary, a pastoral mentor, and the synod. The program also includes an internship period, which often takes place within the same congregation.

One important aspect of the TEEM process is that when a congregation commits to being a TEEM site, any active pastoral call process is stopped while the congregation fulfills that commitment.

If you would like to learn more about the TEEM program, I encourage you to explore the information available through Wartburg Seminary. We will also hold a Question-and-Answer session on July 12 following worship. We hope to have synod representation available to help answer questions. If the synod is unable to attend and there are questions, we cannot answer that day, we will work with the synod to gather the information and share it with the congregation.

### Hope Lutheran's Decision

Serving as a TEEM congregation would be an exciting opportunity for Hope Lutheran. It would allow us to participate directly in the formation of a future ELCA pastor while continuing to benefit from Jennifer's gifts for ministry among us.

At the same time, this is not a decision for the Council alone. It is a decision for the entire congregation. The commitment extends for at least three years, and the hope is that the ministry relationship would continue beyond Jennifer's completion of the program and ordination.

At its June meeting, the Church Council voted to call a Special Congregational Meeting on July 19 following worship. As with our previous special meeting, voting will be conducted by ballot. According to our congregational requirements, at least 50 voting members must be present for the vote, and a majority vote is needed for approval.

We are sharing this information well in advance so that everyone has the opportunity to learn about the TEEM program, ask questions, and prayerfully consider what this decision means for the future of Hope Lutheran. If the congregation approves Jennifer's request, the Council and Jennifer will work together to clearly define expectations, responsibilities, and areas of ministry. Jennifer is already providing leadership in worship and offering pastoral care to members experiencing health challenges, death, or other difficult circumstances. Together, we would continue to evaluate the needs of Hope Lutheran and explore how her gifts can best support our congregation, including strengthening connections with our youth and families.

If the congregation does not approve the request, Jennifer would continue working with the synod to identify another congregation to serve as her TEEM site. In that case, Hope Lutheran would no longer receive the ministry and pastoral care she currently provides as she begins that journey elsewhere.

As we approach these important conversations and decisions, I invite all of us to keep Jennifer, our congregation, and the discernment process in our prayers. May God guide us with wisdom, faith, and openness to the opportunities before us.

Do not hesitate to reach out to me regarding any thoughts, questions, or concerns regarding this matter and other items regarding Hope Lutheran.

Aside from this last sentence – this information was previously provided in the June newsletter; just wanted to re-send it to make sure the information was provided and June was a quieter church month.

Amie Ascheman—[amie@rlwlawyers.com](mailto:amie@rlwlawyers.com)—507-537-0515

## 2026 WORK GROUP 2

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.**

<b>February:</b>	<b>Kasey &amp; Brice Denney</b>	507-829-0646	507-531-6135
<b>May:</b>	<b>Todd &amp; Lisa Sonnenburg</b>	507-530-3932	
<b>August:</b>	<b>Kevin &amp; Jamie Anderson</b>		605-323-7416
<b>November:</b>	<b>Scott &amp; Roberta Josephson</b>	507-530-6091	507-530-6095

	#1		#2	Home #	#1 Cell	#2 Cell
Anderson	Kevin	&	Jamie			605-323-7416
Ascheman	Trevor	&	Amie		701-403-0250	320-249-5285
Bednarek	Josh	&	Rachel		507-828-0599	507-829-8170
Bitker	Russ	&	Jocelyn		507-829-3352	507-829-5863
Bradley	Bill	&	Jessica		507-829-5385	507-530-5494
Bulander	Walter	&	Kathy	507-872-6729	507-829-3096	
Buysse	Jon	&	Mandi		507-531-0105	507-829-5313
Buysse			Valerie	507-872-6809		
Dalager	Michyl	&	Karen		507-530-6032	507-530-6031
Denney	Brice	&	Kasey		507-531-6135	507-829-0646
Desmedt	Doug	&	Brenda			320-444-1297
DeVos			Chris		507-530-4637	
Dovre	David	&	Paula	507-872-6899	507-828-6453	507-828-7785
Fink	James	&	Glenda	507-872-5243		
Gillund	Wade	&	Tegan		507-828-9311	507-828-9310
Gottskalkson	Greg	&	Nona		507-829-3378	507-829-3379
Hennen	Andy	&	Emily	507-428-3562	507-828-0706	507-828-6797
Javers	Clint	&	Teresa		605-366-2208	605-254-6804
Jeremiason	Brian			507-872-6695	320-894-4492	
Jerzak	Jack	&	Lori	507-872-5216		
Johnson	Ben	&	Becca		507-828-9079	763-843-0865
Johnson	Jason	&	Jennifer		507-380-7065	507-382-9040
Josephson	Scott	&	Roberta		507-530-6091	507-530-6095
Kloos	Brian	&	Shalayna		320-260-2995	507-828-3547
Kompelien			Marilyn			507-828-1148
Larson	Keven	&	Kari		507-476-8559	507-531-7899
Minnehan	Brad	&	Robyn		507-829-4633	507-829-0156
Moriarty			Jessica			763-350-4240
Myhre	Matt	&	Katheryn		507-829-1446	507-829-5072
Pesch	Jonathon	&	Paula		507-317-4943	612-816-6265
Pochardt	Bob	&	Rachel Kimpe		507-829-0343	507-530-2232
Pohlen	Nathan	&	Cari		507-829-4595	507-828-7454
Prellwitz	Brandon					
Rodas	Brian	&	Amber		563-880-4529	563-880-4885
Skaar			Marlys	507-872-6600		
Sonnenburg	Todd	&	Lisa		507-530-3932	
Swedzinski			Beth	507-872-6851		507-829-3575
Thompson			Carla			507-530-3658
Ufkin	Bill	&	Alison		507-829-5241	
Van Uden	Gordy	&	Rose			507-829-1806
Yost			Carmen			507-829-8141