

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**

May, 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:

Through June 30th Services

7:30 am – Hope Lutheran

9:00 am – St. Paul's Lutheran

10:30 am – Bethany-Elim Lutheran

July 7th – August 25th Services

8:00 am – St. Paul's Lutheran

9:30 am – Bethany-Elim Lutheran

5:00 pm – Hope Lutheran

'Journey with Jesus' Bible Study

6:00 pm at Hope

on Thursday's in June with Pastor Jon

Inside this issue:

Bible Study's/Duties	2
Upcoming Dates	2
From Pastor Jon	3
Council Minutes	4-5
YouVersion App	5
Quilt Auction	5
June Work Group	6
June Calendar	7

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: pastorjonhls@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	June 3rd, 7:00 pm	At Church
Circle Bible Study		
Men's Bible Study	June 7th, 8:00 am	At Porter Café
'Journey with Jesus' Bible Study	Thursdays, 6:00 pm	At Hope with Pastor Jon

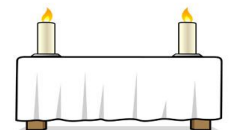


2024 Church Attendance

	May 5	85
NEW WORSHIP TIMES STARTED—	May 12	52
	May 19	45
	May 26	32
	Total:	214
	Average:	54

Altar Guild (May 29—June 25)

Linette Nelson 828-7772
Nancy Wiese 640-1263



Workgroup Chairpersons

Lynn & Barb Okrina 828-3157 or 828-4546

Date Sound Operators

June 2 Matt Myhre
June 9 Todd Sonnenburg
June 16 Scott Josephson
June 23 ?
June 30 ?

Date Acolytes

June 2 Brycen Myhre & Alexis Bitker
June 9 Kingston Ryer & Blayze Hulzebos
June 16 McKenna Geisler & Nola Ascheman
June 23 Brody Anderson & Owen Dalager
June 30 Parker Minnehan & McKenna Geisler



Money Counters: June: Sandy Josephson & Rose Van Uden

Upcoming Dates:

Saturday, June 15—Morning Bridal Shower for Katheryn Madson, Bride-to-Be of Matt Myhre, Fellowship Hall.

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

In 2017 I traveled to China as part of a mission team from my church. I was asked to give a message to a gathering of 150 Chinese Christians who were part of the underground church movement.

I was also provided with a translator, by the name of Gayle, who appeared to speak good English and I was assured that she would do an excellent job of translating my English into Chinese. At one point in my message, I made a reference to King Solomon having “many, many, many wives” but Gayle translated the phrase as “many, many, many lives!” A few of the Chinese who spoke English laughed, others looked bemused, and many bewildered. Only one stinking letter was different (1 of 17 letters!) and yet the whole meaning moved from polygamy to reincarnation!

The lesson I learned that day is how easy it is for words to get lost in translation!

I see this happen again and again in Christian conversations where each person processes language through their particular lens.

More recently, I was invited to speak at a men’s retreat and was given the topic, “Believer, Follower, Disciple.” I knew the leader of the organization, and why he had given me this topic, as we had discussed it on several occasions. You see, some people will read those three terms through their particular lens and see a linear progression. You start your Christian life as a **believer** affirming certain truths (e.g. Jesus is God, Jesus died for your sins, Jesus rose from the dead, etc.). Then, at some later time, you get more serious about your faith and become a **follower**. If you do an exemplary job of following you reach the ultimate designation of **disciple** (although this is reserved for the truly elite among us).

We can bring this issue into focus by asking a very basic question, “What is a Christian?” The answer you give depends upon the lens you’re looking through.

So, what is the **biblical lens** that answers the question, “What is a Christian?” Interestingly, the word **Christian** is used only **three times** in the New Testament (Acts 11:25-26, Acts 26:28, 1 Peter 4:16) and each occurrence is someone outside the faith describing those inside the faith!

Three of the most frequently used terms by biblical writers are **believer, follower, and disciple**. I will drill down on each of these terms, one each of the next three months in our newsletter. We’ll take them in reverse order with the most frequently used term first.

DISCIPLE

The word disciple is used over **260 times** in the New Testament. In its simplest form, a disciple is a learner or a pupil.

In its biblical context, we see Moses **disciple** Joshua, Eli **disciple** Samuel, Elijah **disciple** Elisha, Jeremiah **disciple** Baruch, and John the Baptist had his **disciples** and Jesus had the Twelve.

The thread that runs through each of these contexts is a significant personal relationship. These were not occasional or impersonal listeners but people in significant relationships for the purpose of carrying on their teacher’s work.

It was said of Jesus’ disciples, “*And he appointed twelve [relational companionship] to be with him and to be sent out [intentional training] to preach and to have authority to cast out demons*” (Mark 3:14, explanation and emphasis added).

Jesus, himself, said, “A disciple is not above the teacher, but every disciple who is fully qualified will be like the teacher” (Luke 6:40). The *process* of being fully trained leads to the *product* of being like your teacher.

Richard Allen Farmer shared an image that has imprinted itself indelibly on my mind. He said, “We should go through life with one hand reaching up [to the generation before us] and the other hand reaching down [to the generation behind us].”

Jesus gave us the all-access pass when he said, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23). Jesus’ call to “follow me” as his disciple is one of a life-long commitment to transformative, spiritual growth and obedience to him. Your language plays a huge role in the gospel you share. When we pay attention to the language of disciple-making, I believe that we will see God do amazing things in the lives of individuals and in our church.

More of Him – Less of Me,
Pastor Jon

Church Council Notes – May 1, 2024

Fund Balances: General Fund:	\$ 22,649.44	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 27,804.67
Building Fund:	\$ 8,788.85	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 444.33
Building Fund Savings:	\$ 2,589.39	GLOW:	\$ 2,828.33

Attendance:

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

Secretary's Report – Motion made by Barb Knutson 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 \$11,564.92. **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Treasurer's Report. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Jon provided a detailed weekly schedule to the council, and his office hours for both Minneota and Ivanhoe were posted in the newsletter and bulletin.
- 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:** There were no additional bills for the month of May. The total received for the walk around for the furnace with the money received previously is \$4,305 plus the match from the Endowment of \$4,305 totals \$8,610.
- **Insurance Review and Propane:** We will add these to next month's agenda and look at current insurance coverage and the past three years' cost of propane.
- **Motion made by Lizzy Reiss to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Deacons Report

- **Walk Around Offerings:** 4th Sunday of the month - Endowment matches walk around offerings 2:1 up to \$500
 - May 26 – VBS
 - June 23 – Esther's Kitchen
 - July 28 -
- **Work Groups:** The work groups are almost complete; there are 3 months left to do – July, October, and December.
- **New Members:** There are families that are coming to GLOW that aren't members, and that list will be sent to Pastor Jon. September 22nd will be new member Sunday, and the plan is to do a new member class in August. In February letters were sent out to find out if there were people who wanted to be transferred out of the church or wanted to be taken off as a member. Ten of forty letters were returned, and there was one who asked to be transferred out.
- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve the Board of Deacons' report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Education Report

- **Baccalaureate:** This will be May 5, 2024, and we have 4 graduates (Grant Anderson, Ryan Dalager, Sawyer DeSmet and Teslyn Seltzer. Service is at 9 am, and the Seniors will be reading scriptures, serving Communion, and picking the songs for the service. Lawn pictures / signs have been displayed in the front of the church. Brunch for the graduates and their families will follow the service.
- **Confirmation:** Barb Knutson has submitted her resignation for her position as Confirmation Coordinator. Thank you, Barb, for your 7 years of service in helping lead our youth in their faith journey.
- **GLOW / YOH:** Very grateful for all the teachers and people in the kitchen who help GLOW be successful each week. For the last night over 130 were served for the meal outside.

(continued on page 5)

Church Council Notes (continued)

- **Teen Power:** The “Shoe Away Hunger” footwear collection was delivered to St. Cloud on April 17. Thank you to Gene Fodness for generously donating gas money. The lady at Schiller Shoes (where the shoes were delivered) said the delivery was probably the biggest she had seen in all her years there! Thank you to the Minneota area people for your donations.
- **Youth of Hope:** The Youth of Hope played bingo and shared an afternoon snack with the residents at Minneota Assisted Living on Sunday, April 14. The kids loved it!
- **Mission Trip Fundraisers:** The cemetery clean up was on April 13, and we had about 13 volunteers help with the cleanup. A donation was given by Gordy Van Uden for our youth’s help with that clean up. We also received a \$3,000 donation from the Swede Home Cemetery Association. Currently, we have 67 students signed up for the 2025 Mission Trip. Any students going into the 8th – 12th 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.
- **VBS:** Rae from Green Lake Ministry confirmed the dates of July 28 – Aug 1, 2024, for VBS at Hope Lutheran. Amie will continue to be the contact person for Hope Lutheran regarding VBS. We are looking for a person(s) to be in charge during VBS week; please contact Amie Ascheman or Emily Hennen if interested. Amie is working on coordinating housing for the Green Lake counselors.
- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve the Board of Education report. Rose Van Uden 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.
- **Motion made by Jen Anderson to adjourn. Lizzy Reiss seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

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

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, June 5, 2024. Boards meet at 6:30 pm. All together 7:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen, Council Secretary

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.