



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 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 1st and 3rd Sundays)**

**St. Paul's Lutheran - 10:30 am Worship
(Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays)**

Inside this issue:

Bible Study's/Duties	2
Upcoming Dates/Notices	2
Council Minutes	3-4
Note from Jenn Warnock	5
Note from Amie Ascherman	5
Word Searches	6-7
May Work Group	8
May Calendar	9

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 June 1, 6:30 pm
 Women of the Bible Study
 Men's Bible Study June 5, 8:00 am

At Church

At Porter Cafe



2026 Church Attendance

April 2	65	Maundy Thursday	May 3	68
April 3	49	Good Friday	May 10	92
April 5	176	Easter	May 17	
April 12	167	First Communion	May 24	
April 19	140		May 31	
April 26	90		Total:	
Total:	687		Average:	
Average:	115			



Workgroup Chairpersons

Darwin & Lori Dyce (June)
 507-476-2042 or 507-828-9567

Altar Guild (June 1-30)

Linette Nelson 828-7772
 Nancy Wiese 640-1263



Date Sound Operators

June 7 Scott Josephson
 June 14 ?
 June 21 Todd Sonnenburg
 June 28 Cole Myhre

Date Acolytes

June 7
 June 14
 June 21
 June 28



Money Counters: June—Deb Belaen

Upcoming Dates:

***June 8-11**—Vacation Bible School at Hope

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

No Walk Around Offerings for June through August.



May Church Council Notes

Fund Balances: General Fund:	\$ 35,559.24	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 71,605.16
Building Fund:	\$ 11,068.78	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 66.16
GLOW:	\$ 22,250.72		

Attendance:

Attending in Person: Angie DeVos, Amie Ascheman, Sandy Josephson, Barb Okrina, Cory Myhre, Deb Belaen, Jen Anderson, Susan Rassier, Jasmine DeSmet, Lori Dyce, Chris Pesch (church secretary)

Attending via Phone: Jason Johnson, Jeff Van Keulen

Absent:

Devotions were led by Amie Ascheman

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

Treasurer's Report

- **Bills:** Bills for the month of May were sent out via e-mail prior to the meeting for review. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$12,114.61 with four additional bills. **Motion made by Lori Dyce 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 \$11,437.55 with four additional bills: Concordia Publish for \$691.97 for 2027 Offering Envelopes; Peter Soli for \$2,226.89 for April; Jeremiason Photo for \$75.00 for the graduation signs, and Tolk Gravel for \$440.00 for snow removal in March.
- **Council vacancy:** Nona has resigned from the council - thank you for your service. We will put a notice in the newsletter. If anyone is interested in being on council, please reach out to Amie and let her know your interest.
- **Peter Soli update:** Peter is completing his report with his recommendations, and we will be reviewing that as a council and steering committee on a ZOOM call next week. The report will be sent out prior to the meeting. Lori Dyce felt that he was a very good communicator, and she was impressed with the way he listened. She recommended that everyone attend if possible.
- **Attorney Updates:**
 - The lawyer who had offered to work on the Mission Trip fraud case involving the travel agent is leaving the legal field. He did send her a draft of a complaint letter, but as Peterson Travel is dissolving, the cost to pursue this avenue may not be worth it. Amie has not heard from the SD State's Attorney in quite some time, so she will follow up on that. There is still a possibility of restitution through the criminal case but that could take several years.
 - Jeff and Amie met with an attorney from the metro area who specializes in work with non-profits, churches, etc. With our scholarship fund and the two endowment funds, we have some substantial dollars that we want to be sure are protected.
- **Contract with Jenn:** Amie shared some examples of contracts for SAM's (Synod Authorized Minister). The general consensus was that we wanted her to be an independent contractor rather than an employee. We also thought a 6-month term would be most appropriate. We will need to align on the scope of service and expectations as part of the contract, and there will need to be discussions/negotiations with Jenn on this also. St. Paul's has given us formal written notice that they want to discontinue our Shared Ministry Agreement, so that agreement will end at the end of this year. They are still having Jenn do their weekly service, and they are paying for half of that cost (including mileage). This will be another area that we will need to work through as part of this contract.
- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Susan Rassier seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Deacons Report

- **Walk Around Offerings:** 4th Sunday of the month - **Endowment matches walk around offerings 3:1 up to \$750.**
 - May 17 (Date Change)- The Banquet in Sioux Falls—This is a soup kitchen where the YOH will be serving again this year. Angie DeVos will be giving a temple talk on May 10th for this.
 - June – August – No walk around offerings
- Upcoming Dates in May:
- May 17 – Baptism and Bishop Dee will be here to do a recognition of Jenn as a Synod Authorized Minister who has entered the Candidacy Process working toward ordained ministry.
- May 24th – Jenn will be gone. Lori Dyce will lead worship, and we will look to have a sermon via video.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Deacons report. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

(continued on page 4)

May Church Council Notes (continued)

Board of Education Report

- GLOW:
 - Congratulations to our 5th Graders who received their First Communion in April. Thank you to Brenda Desmedt and Lori Buysse for teaching our First Communion classes again this year!
 - The GLOW year ended with such a fun evening with so many kids participating. Please look at the pictures on Facebook!
 - We appreciate and thank everyone who volunteered their time to make GLOW happen. Our Youth Ministries programming is amazing, and we are so blessed to have so many people give their time and talents!
 - As we move into the summer months, planning for GLOW and Hope Lutheran Youth Ministries programming for next year will take place. It was another highly successfully GLOW year, and we have so much to look forward to next year!
- Mission Trip:
 - The group continues to be blessed by amazing community support.
 - Contact Emily Hennen, emhaugland@hotmail.com or 507-828-6797 if interested in going on 2027 Mission Trip.
- Confirmation:
 - Thank you to Terri, Adam, Cory, and Angie for leading confirmation lessons this year. Terri has put in many hours planning each week, and the kids really enjoyed the lessons.
 - Planning a trip back to the Banquet with the kids in June – more details to come. The walk around offering for this will be in May.
- Teen Power:
 - Teen Power students have been busy with Lenten and Holy Week services with ushering, lecturing and serving communion.
 - The shoe collection was taken to St. Cloud; hundreds of pairs of shoes were donated by the Minneota Community!
 - On Wednesday evening, students have been learning more about the Resurrection of our Lord and what it means for us.
 - Students have been able to help with planting of the flowers for our “Growing our Gratitude” giving of flowers for our congregation.
 - Five seniors will be recognized and celebrated at church this coming Sunday, May 10th. Stop by the church and see the senior signs displayed on the front lawn! Thanks to our seniors for always being willing to help guide and lead Teen Power. We will miss you greatly!
- Upcoming Dates:
 - Baccalaureate & Senior Breakfast – May 10, 2026
- VBS: Vacation Bible School will be June 8th – June 11th at Hope this year.
 - There are 41 volunteers / campers registered!
 - Registration closes on May 18th.
 - GLOW will cover the cost of the T-shirts for Hope students, and the fee will be \$10 for each camper.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Education report. Barb Okrina seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- Choir Loft Update
 - CORRECTION from last month: When the Praise Band practices and plays, it takes 8 MAN HOURS to set up and tear down, not the 30 to 45 minutes listed previously.
 - Jeff did not have any updates this month on costs, etc. for this project, but his goal is to have it completed by the end of the summer.
 - There will be a meeting with the congregation once there is more information available and prior to the start of the work.
- Council Meeting Time: Council meetings will start at 6:00 pm for the May through August meetings. Committees will meet at 6:00 with full council meeting at 6:30 pm. We will do July’s meeting via e-mail.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to adjourn. Susan Rassier seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

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

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, June 3, 2026. Committees at 6:00 pm with full council at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

From Jenn Warnock:

"For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come..." Song of Solomon 2: 12

Springtime has arrived! We have had a blessed Easter season in our church, and are looking forward to summer. The beautiful crocuses and lilies planted so long ago, are blooming around Hope Lutheran Church. Many of you are planting at this time, many of you are looking forward to the last day of school, many of you are spring cleaning! No doubt about it, Spring is a welcome season, and often a transitional time.

This passage from the Song of Solomon reminds me of a time when my father was very ill with colon cancer. He had been in treatment for over a year, and ultimately, was pronounced in remission. Thankfully, this was thirty three years ago, and he is still doing very well! When we learned of the remission, I remember suddenly noticing some robins out of my kitchen window, and hearing the bird song. It was like something changed in me and allowed me to see and hear something I had not seen before, even though it was there, because my eyes were clouded with grief, and my spirit was drenched in anxiety. It was the time of the singing of birds, and it was a time to rejoice and to move on in faith.

The life of the church can be like this too. Often our eyesight as church can be clouded by doubts and fears. Our spirit can be frozen. Springtime brings a powerful message of renewal, hope, and God's faithfulness. Just as we do spring cleaning of our homes, of the church building, we can pray for spiritual cleaning of our hearts. We can pray for help moving forward into God's will, asking God to bring new life into our spirits, and into the life of our church. We can remember we can trust God's leading as we remember his faithfulness and love. The prophet Isaiah shared with us a reminder of God's constant care and concern for us, "forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now is springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness, and streams in the wasteland." Trust Him as we move into a new season, beloved church!
In Christ's Love, Jenn

Council President's Article – May 2026**Hope Together**

As we continue our journey together in faith, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the steering committee members, church council, and congregation for their prayerful participation and support while working with Reverend Soli. This has not been an easy or simple process, but through God's guidance and grace, it has been an important step in helping Rev. Soli gain a full understanding of Hope Lutheran and discern recommendations for our path forward.

An initial meeting was held with Rev. Soli to review his report with the council members and steering committee. At the next council meeting, we will continue reviewing the report and recommendations and prayerfully discuss the best way to share this information with the congregation.

As a church family, it is important that we continue laying the groundwork and having faithful conversations to strengthen and stabilize the ministry at Hope Lutheran, one of those areas is to have clear understanding of expectations and needs. Through prayer, trust, and open communication, we can work together to better understand the needs of our congregation and follow where God is leading us.

Please continue to keep Hope Lutheran, its leaders, and its ministries in your prayers as we move forward together in Christ.

Text in Church

During the week of April 27, a Text in Church message and phone call were sent to all members who have a phone number on file. If you did not receive either a text message or phone call, please contact us so we can update our records.

You can email Chris at [hopelutheran87@gmail.com](mailto:hopolutheran87@gmail.com) or call the church office at (507) 872-6446. Even if your number is a landline, you should still have received the phone call portion of the test.

The next step is to work on communication preferences, as groups can be created within the system to help prevent duplicate messages and improve communication within our church family.

Hope Lutheran Youth Ministries

Hope Lutheran Youth Ministries held its end-of-year celebration on April 29. This ministry would not be possible without the support of its families, countless volunteers, classroom leaders, kitchen helpers, congregation members, and community supporters.

We celebrated our five seniors our Baccalaureate Service, each senior was gifted with a beautiful quilt from Hope Lutheran. To our seniors: we are proud of the young adults you have become. Your church family has watched you grow in faith and in life. May God's peace guide your decisions, His love strengthen you, and His purpose shine through your lives.

We give thanks to God for the opportunity to share His love with our youth and for all those who dedicate their time and talents to this important ministry. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for this program and for the many blessings it brings to our congregation, youth, families, and community.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas regarding Hope Lutheran, please feel free to reach out to me.

2026 WORK GROUP 3**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.***

March:	Bob & Linette Nelson	507-476-8608	507-828-7772
June:	Darwin & Lori Dyce	507-476-2042	507-828-9567
September:	Gayle VanVooren	507-828-2432	
December:	Wade & Terri Myhre	507-829-3945	507-828-0147

	#1		#2	Home #	#1 Cell	#2 Cell
Belaen			Debra			507-828-1785
Boe	Jason	&	Natasha		507-438-5051	320-444-5654
Boettger			Katie			
Bouwman	Drew	&	Christa		507-828-5424	507-530-2732
Buysse			Kalynn			507-828-0354
Buysse			Stacey			507-530-3925
DePestel			Holly			507-828-5976
DeVos	Derek	&	Angie		507-530-2760	507-531-2526
Dyce	Darwin	&	Lori		507-476-2042	507-828-9567
Esping			Becky			507-828-5299
Esping	Nick	&	Nicole		507-828-1222	507-828-8446
Esping	Tony	&	Tammy	507-872-5468	507-829-2953	
Farrell	Tim	&	Rachel		612-281-8883	612-708-5258
Fodness	Gene			507-872-5161	507-530-6634	
Gawarecki	Lon				507-829-9805	
Golden	Rodney	&	Karen			507-829-3954
Guetter	Sam	&	Chesney		651-280-5523	507-530-8106
Hagen	Ralph	&	Judy	507-872-6993	507-829-7810	507-829-7185
Hetland			Caryn		507-530-5179	
Hoffmann	Adam	&	Emily		507-828-0468	507-828-5541
Hovland	Mark			507-872-6114	507-530-5621	
Jensen	Coty	&	Haylee		507-531-6122	507-530-6097
Jeremiason	Guy			507-872-5442	507-829-9029	
Josephson			Sandra			320-815-7829
Koppien	Timothy	&	Dee			507-829-0502
Laleman	Spencer	&	Melissa		507-829-3631	507-828-1902
Myhre	Gerald	&	Shirley		507-763-3430	
Myhre	Wade	&	Terri		507-829-3945	507-828-0147
Myrvik	Matt	&	Patty		507-829-5544	507-829-6811
Nelson	Bob	&	Linette		507-476-8608	507-828-7772
Norby	Matt	&	Mandi		507-476-5908	507-476-5907
Okrina	Lynn	&	Barbara		507-828-3157	507-828-4546
Peterson	Marlin	&	Becky		507-626-0159	507-626-4176
Pohlen	Nick	&	Casey		507-829-0863	507-828-1389
Reiss	Brendan	&	Lizzy		507-828-7163	507-476-2508
Rieder	Shane	&	Dana		605-521-6269	507-530-1986
Skaar	Earl	&	Lori		507-828-4475	507-828-4470
Stassen	Mike	&	Sarah		320-444-4813	320-444-1344
Thostenson	Ronald	&	Tammy	507-872-5437		507-829-2941
Van Vooren			Gayle	507-872-6927		507-828-2432
Wenker			Linda	507-872-5129		