

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

October, 2024

Sunday Worship:

September-May

Hope—8:30 AM
St. Paul's—10:30 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:

Following Worship at
Hope



WORSHIP TIMES:

Through May 25th

Hope Lutheran

Sundays—8:30 am

Bethany-Elim—8:30 am

St. Paul's—10:30 am

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Pastor Jon's September—

May Office Hours:

Mon - BE (11:00-5:00)

Tue - BE (8:00-Noon)

Wed - Hope (11:00-5:00)

Thu - Hope (9:00-1:00pm)

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: pastorjonh1sp@gmail.com

Missionary: Dr. Elisabeth Johnson

Missionary Email: elisajo@msn.com

GLOW Directors: Erin Roberts & Jess Gronke

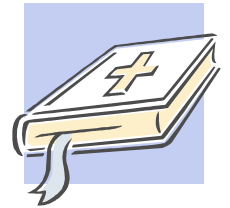
Custodians: Jason & Jen Johnson & Family

Organists: Valerie Buysse, Wendy Sarazyn

Jubilation: Kasey Denney & Nona Gottskalkson

Bible Studies for Men and Women

Circle Bible Study	October 7, 7:00 pm	At Church
Circle Bible Study	October 9, 10:00 am	At Barb Okrina's Home
Women of the Bible Study	Wednesday's, 11:00 am	At Church
Men's Bible Study	September 6, 8:00 am	At Porter Cafe



2024 Church Attendance

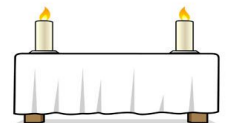
August 3	24	September 1	30
August 10	26	September 8	0
August 17	27	September 15	90
August 24	29	September 22	86
August 31	62	September 29	80 Est
Total:	168	Total:	286
Average:	34	Average:	72



Workgroup Chairpersons

Altar Guild (September 25—October 22)

Jena Corbin 829-8725
 Rose Van Uden 829-1806



Date Sound Operators

October 8 Matt Myhre
 October 13 Todd Sonnenburg
 October 20 Scott Josephson
 October 27 Cole Myhre

Date Acolytes

October 8
 October 13
 October 20
 October 27



Money Counters: October—Amie Ascherman & Lizzy Reiss

Upcoming Dates:

October 6—8:30 am, During Worship 3rd, 5th & 7th Grade Bible Distribution

***October 9—11:00 am,** Bible Study at Barb Okrina's home (109 Golf Course Road)

***October 9—FUEL** (Faith Uplifted through Expression & Love) Family Night

***October 13—10:15 am,** SOS (Social on Sunday) Games & Potluck Lunch

***October 16—NO GLOW,** MEA Break

***October 16—5:00-7:00 pm,** MAMT—Food at Football

***October 27—During Worship,** Confirmation

***November 3—5:00-7:00 pm,** HLCW Meatball Supper

FROM PASTOR JON:**BEING CONFORMED TO CHRIST**

All of us know someone for whom everything comes naturally. The straight-A student who never studies for tests. The virtuoso who mastered her instrument almost overnight. The all-star athlete who is at the top of every podium. Secretly, we often envy such people. We wish that life came as easily to us as it does to them.

Many Christians feel this same sort of envy and discouragement when they reflect on their sanctification. They see men and women who have read through the Bible countless times, while they struggle to get through Leviticus for the first time. They hear saints who pray as if they're in the very throne room of heaven, speaking with Jesus face-to-face, while their own prayer life is cold, inconsistent, and ineffective. Their minds wander constantly, unable to concentrate for even a minute in prayer. "They make it look so easy! What's wrong with me?" they ask. "Why can't sanctification come as naturally to me as it does to them? Why even try?"

A careful study of Scripture, however, reveals that sanctification is anything but natural – it is a supernatural, progressive work of God within every Christian that enables us to work out our salvation to the glory of our Savior.

THE ROOT OF SANCTIFICATION: GOD'S WORK WITHIN

Scripture teaches that sanctification is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit that begins with the renewal of one's heart and mind. In Ezekiel 36:26, God's promise of salvation is that He will sovereignly remove the sinner's heart of stone and replace it with a heart of flesh. Without this inward transformation, all external reform is hollow, hypocritical, and displeasing to God. Christ rebuked the Pharisees for such formalism, calling them "whitewashed tombs" who praised God with their lips while their hearts were far from Him (Matt. 23:27; see Isa. 29:13). The Westminster Shorter Catechism teaches that in sanctification we are "renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness" (Q&A 35). Sanctification is not partial in scope; it is a comprehensive work of the Spirit that transforms the sinner from the inside out.

To what end is this new heart given? As Ezekiel 36:27 says, "I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules." The grace of sanctification is meant to be put to use; our new and living hearts are not dead ends. The Holy Spirit's work within us empowers us to walk in obedience to God's commands as an expression of thanksgiving for our redemption in Christ.

THE FRUIT OF SANCTIFICATION: OUR WORKING OUT

The Apostle Paul called the Philippians to "work out [their] own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in [them], both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:12-13). Notice how Paul grounds the imperative to "work out" in the indicative of God's working within. Every ounce of effort that we expend in the pursuit of holiness is but the fruit of divine grace. Believers cannot work for, or merit, salvation by their works, but Paul reminds us that we are God's workmanship, "created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

In the early nineteenth century, the Keswick Movement popularized the notion that sanctification is as easy as "letting go and letting God." Like justification, sanctification was viewed as an entirely passive experience. But this is not the biblical picture. Believers are commanded in countless places to walk by the Spirit, to strive, and to put to death remaining sin (Gal. 5:16; Col. 3:5; Heb. 4:11). Sanctification is an active business. William Swan Plummer said it well: "In justification, sin is pardoned. In sanctification, sin is slain." We are commanded to wage war against our sin, but always in the strength of His might (Eph. 6:10). In God's strength, we have more power to fight against sin than we could ever think or imagine.

So if you find that being conformed to Christ is difficult, do not lose heart. You are not alone. Sanctification is hard work. And yet, challenging as it is, you can rest in God's precious promise that "he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6).

Church Council Notes – September 4, 2024

Fund Balances: General Fund:	\$ 19,550.33	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 37,806.23
Building Fund:	\$ 2,320.31	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 294.33
Building Fund Savings:	\$ 2,597.51	GLOW:	\$ 1,257.72

Attendance:

Attending in Person: Terri Myhre, Emily Hennen, Rose Van Uden, Barb Knutson, Cory Myhre, Deb Belaen, Sandy Josephson, Lizzy Reiss, James Danielson, Jen Anderson, Amie Ascheman Chris Pesch-Church Secretary

Attending via Phone: Angie DeVos

Absent: Jason Johnson, Pastor Jon Barsness

Secretary's Report – Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the corrected secretary's report (corrected 8th graders to 7th graders receiving Bibles). Sandy Josephson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Jon was not at the meeting as he was visiting a person in hospice at the family's request, but he did provide his report prior to the meeting.
- Technology: We are waiting on scheduling the technology work; the primary hold-up is ensuring we can get the internet connectivity solved before setting up the vendor to do the work.
- Outreach/Evangelism: August was a slower month for outreach / evangelism; scheduling visits was more challenging. Met with the CRU leader at SMSU. We are planning to meet again with students now that they are back on campus in September to talk about supporting GLOW and contemporary worship.
- Visitations (Homebound) –August 2024: Did 8 home/assisted living/nursing home visits. (Total we have listed is 13.) Did 1 hospital visit.
- Funerals / Baptisms / Marriages: There were no funerals, did 3 baptisms, and 2 weddings performed.
- Teaching Ministry: Have had over 190 downloads of the podcast so far with 3 followers. The weekly Bible study on Thursday is ongoing and averaged 9 people in August. There were 6 men who joined for the Bible Study in Porter in August.
- Upcoming (September): Working on a blog post – weekly “Coffee with Pastor” devotional series that will be on the website. Will be launching small groups in September.

Treasurer's Report

- Bills: Bills for the month of September were presented by Cory Myhre. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$18,368.36. **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Treasurer's Report. Lizzy Reiss seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Trustees Report

- Bills: Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$18,368.36. The bill for Lake Shetek campers was \$700; this was adjusted down to \$500 as we only pay for one camp per individual. The bill for Henle Printing for the Come & See Posters will be held until it can be reviewed with Pastor; he had an individual who was willing to pay for those items. A portion of the Green Lakes Ministries bill (t-shirts for the students) is being covered by GLOW, so Chris will pay the invoice and do an internal transfer of those funds from GLOW.
- VBS: The invoice from Green Lake Ministries for VBS was \$5,670.08, which is higher than in previous years. We had 51 kids and 6 counselors, which was a great turnout. Using Green Lake has led to greater turnout for VBS as the kids do enjoy having new people provide the programming, and they did a great job this year in doing the activities and managing the kids. We are talking about doing something with Bethany-Elim next year to share costs. We did do a walk around offering in May to help cover some of these costs. We also may want to look at using the \$1,000 that is dedicated for camps for VBS instead as it provides an opportunity for more kids to experience “camp”. This was also mentioned by the counselors. We currently charge \$10 per child to attend; should we look at charging more for VBS? We could look at going to \$20 per person. We will look at this in January and see where we are financially, and we may need to adjust the budget for this item.
- Video System Update: Scott Josephson, who is part of the technology committee, provided an update on the video system update project.
- We need to improve the internet first, and Midco has committed to help with that. We want to hardwire everything to the sound booth and to the front of church, so we have consistent internet throughout the sanctuary.
- The audio equipment that we have is pretty good, so the updates are mainly to the video system.
- We have two quotes from Mid States Audio & Video and Verum Technologies for \$26k and \$31k, respectively that would be turnkey systems. We do believe there will be items that are not needed that will reduce these costs, but we want to make sure the system is simple to operate and easy to upgrade in the future.

(continued on page 8)

Church Council Notes (continued)

- The technology committee met with the endowment fund committee, and the endowment fund committee recommended using the Building & Property Fund Endowment to fund the project upfront, as there will be downpayments that will be required. This fund also has more flexibility in use of the funds than Mission Endowment Fund.
- Once the project is completed, we would ask the congregation to donate to replenish this fund.
- **Trustees - Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the video system update project up to \$30k to be funded by the Building and Property Endowment Fund with donations to be requested from the congregation upon completion of the project. Amie Ascheman seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Full council - Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the video system update project up to \$30k to be funded by the Building and Property Endowment Fund with donations to be requested from the congregation upon completion of the project. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Rose Van Uden opposed. Motion carried.**
- **Motion made by Emily Hennen to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Jen Anderson 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
 - September 29 - Kitchen Remodel
 - October 27 - Esther's Kitchen - Looking at getting confirmation to help deliver the check and finding possible opportunities to work with this organization, also.
 - November 24 - Christmas Angels
- Upcoming Events:
 - September 8 - No church at Hope; community service will be at Bug Square.
 - September 29 - New Member Sunday. This will be the 5th Sunday, and Pastor will be there. We will plan to give the new members a CD and ornament. There will be coffee and bars served after the service; Rose has offered to make the bars.
 - October 6 - Bible distribution for the 3rd and 7th graders. We will have an estimated 17 - 3rd graders and 9 - 7th graders this year.
 - October 27 - Confirmation Sunday
- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve the Board of Deacons' report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Education Report

- Mission Trip Fundraisers:
 - Continuing to fundraise for the 2025 mission trip.
 - The Food at Football fundraisers have started; the first one did pretty well.
 - The Polish Days food stand went well; we sold out of the food we had.
 - 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.
- GLOW:
 - The GLOW kick-off will be on Sunday, September 15th at 4:30 pm.
 - We have 80 kids registered for GLOW currently.
 - The GLOW curriculum has been developed, and the theme for this year is "Prayer."
 - The GLOW calendar has been developed, and that will be available soon.
 - We are planning to do a contemporary worship service once a month for GLOW; we will be talking to SMSU students to help with that.
- Bible Distribution: October 6, 2024, for both 3rd and 7th graders.
- Confirmation: October 27, 2024
- **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Board of Education report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

The congregational meeting is Sunday, September 15th after the worship service.

Motion made by Rose Van Uden to adjourn. Cory Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of September 29th via e-mail

Next Council Meeting - Wednesday, October 2, 2024. Committees meet at 7:00 pm. All together 7:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

Hello!

1st Corinthians chapter 5 verse 4 says, "In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I am with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus!"

We're so EXCITED for this year and what is to come! We have over 90 kids signed up for our youth program and this number grows every day. Every Wednesday that school is in session, our congregation's youth meets in Hope Lutheran's fellowship hall and classrooms, where they study God's word and grow in faith together- and they get a fantastic meal as well! THIS IS OUR 10th YEAR OF GLOW!

Our GLOW curriculum this year is focused on the power of prayer. For 12 weeks the GLOW leaders will be teaching "The Power of Prayer," from True Way Kids (<https://truguaykids.com/power-of-prayer/>). This is our second year utilizing this website's curriculum and we find it to be leader and student friendly. The website states "The Power of Prayer is more than just a program; it's an adventure into the heart of God through prayer." This sums up this program up perfectly! This is a cost friendly curriculum as it is FREE! The only cost to our leaders is their print costs. Amie Ascheman and Angie Borstad have taken the lead to help with the curriculum calendar and share with our other GLOW leaders.

Our GLOW leaders this year are as follows: Pre-k/Kindergarten: Amie and Trevor Ascheman; 1st Grade: Kathy and Tony Opdahl; 2nd Grade: Jessica Horner and Sara Myhre; 3rd Grade: Rachel Bednarek and Angie Borstad; 4th Grade: Tiffany Gronke; 5th/6th Grade: Matt Myhre. We also have a few others to mention as our youth programs do not end in 6th grade. Music Coordinator: Katheryn Myhre (she works with children pre-k thru 12th grade) Ignite Leaders: Angie DeVos and Barb Knutson led by Pastor Jon; Teen Power: Roberta Josephson; Mission Trip Leaders: Emily and Andy Hennen; Youth of Hope Leaders: Kathy and Tony Opdahl
Wednesday Night Food Coordinators: Terri Myhre and Linda Nuytten

A special thanks goes to the individuals above, without your dedication to our youth we couldn't navigate the different opportunities for the students and their families! Thank you!

We are currently looking for a First Communion leader to take on 8-9 weeks of curriculum after the Christmas break to work with this year's 5th grade class. The curriculum is easy to follow! We are also looking for a sub list to call on if the above leaders for GLOW have any conflicts with Wednesday evenings. Along with these individuals we would love to see one or more individuals to step up and help with the Christmas program (practice starts the week after MEA). If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please let Erin or Jess know.

GLOW operates as a **self-funded entity** with little funds from the Hope Lutheran Church general fund. As previously stated, GLOW provides a meal each Wednesday evening, and with the consistent cost increases for groceries we are asking for help in any way you can. Donations for GLOW are always welcome - if you'd like to purchase paper products, donate vegetables, fruits, meat (hamburger, roast beef, pork, turkey, etc.), canned goods (spaghetti sauce, salsa, etc.) or volunteer to provide desserts, please let Linda or Terri know!

Something to think about: In doing some research, we have found that the largest demographic of individuals not attending church on Sundays are the ones that were born from 1981 thru the early 2000's. Both Erin and I fall into this category. These families find a hard time attending due to working weekend jobs, sports obligations or the mere lack of time they get to spend with their families outside of their busy lives. One can argue that they should make it a priority. We understand this entirely, however we have a wonderful opportunity at Hope Lutheran for individuals to come to church and that is through our Wednesday evening youth program. GLOW! On Wednesday evenings the fellowship hall and classrooms are overflowing with children and their families. GLOW has helped these young families have a relationship with Jesus. That is pretty amazing! We incorporate things like our Let it Shine service, Christmas program, bible distribution, First Communion, Confirmation and other chapters of our children's faith journey into the traditional Sunday morning church services. These special Sunday morning services usually end up being a largely attended services and it's AMAZING to see all the families there! Pastor Jon is incorporating "FUEL" program which is going to consist of a contemporary church service once a month on Wednesday evenings starting at 6:00 P.M. This will take the place of our GLOW lessons for the evening! We invite everyone who is able to attend these services. We will have a schedule posted on our GLOW Facebook page, in the Sunday morning bulletins, as well as on the church website!

Psalm 133:1 says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" This is the bible quote we will leave you with. Remembering the word unity, making our congregation one! We would like to invite individuals/couples that do not have children to come on Wednesday evenings to show support for our youth and their families, as being a Christian is so much more than Sunday morning worship. Our children/youth are the future of Hope Lutheran Church. If we can come together as one, our church will last forever, if we do not challenge ourselves to change, our church will be a memory where we once congregated to hear the message about Jesus. Let's invest time and love into our youth and if you haven't attended GLOW in the past, make this the year to "Come and See!" You will not be disappointed!

Thank you, Jess Gronke and Erin Roberts

Kitchen Remodel Project

We are up and running. A committee met to make decisions about which items to purchase and priorities for the project.

One of the biggest projects is a new large single bowl sink where the double sinks are currently located and hot water to both sinks. We will also be purchasing 2 stainless steel work tables to replace the current islands.

We are doing what we can to improve work flow and cleaning out the cupboards and parting with some of the items that were in the cupboards. We are looking to improve and organize the kitchen storage room to be less cluttered by purchasing 2 wire carts.

We do have 2 white tables set up on the stage in the fellowship hall with items that we are considering surplus. We will accept free will offerings for these items and they will be on display until October 13th. This will give members 3 Sundays to look things over. We are also looking for someone that would be willing to purchase the large island and small island in the kitchen and move them out. In addition we have a foosball table in the back storage room that we have decided to part with. Money made from these items will go back into the kitchen fund.

As part of the kitchen renovation we are looking to swap out our microwave for a slightly smaller version. We would like an oven that would fit under the upper cabinets by the stove so that we can free up the space on the counter right next to the stoves. I know that sometimes there are slightly used microwaves sitting around after someone moves or upgrades that you may no longer need. We do want to be able to accommodate a large bowl but still not be more than 13 inches high. If you have one to donate we would be happy to take it off your hands.

Also if you have slightly used electric roasters that you no longer need we would like to upgrade these also.

Looking forward to a bright and fresh new kitchen upgrade.

Thank you for your consideration. Linda Nuytten