



## 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 2025

### ***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

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# 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)**

**October 12th**

**God's Work, Our Hands Service Day  
(see inside for information)**

**Let It Shine Service**

**October 26th**

**Confirmation**

## **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

Lay Minister: Jenn Warnock

Email: Jennifermcwarnock@gmail.com

Missionary: Dr. Elisabeth Johnson

Missionary Email: elisajo@msn.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](http://www.hopeminneota.org)

**Bible Studies for Men and Women**

Gather Magazine Bible Study	October 6, 6:30 pm	At Church
Women of the Bible Study	October 8, 10:00 am	At Church
Men's Bible Study	October 3, 8:00 am	At Porter Cafe

**2025 Church Attendance**

June 1	78	July 6	56	August 3	64
June 8	52	July 13	60	August 10	67
June 15	52	July 20	51	August 17	45
June 22	60	July 27	55 Est	August 24	65
June 29	54	Total:	222	August 31	60 Est
Total:	296	Average:	56	Total:	301
Average:	59			Average:	60

**Workgroup Chairpersons**

Tony & Kathy Opdahl  
828-6987 or 605-999-1557

**Altar Guild (September 26-October 28)**

Jena Corbin 829-8725  
Rose VanUden 829-1806

**Date Sound Operators**

October 5 Scott Josephson  
October 12 Greg Gottskalkson  
October 19 Todd Sonnenburg  
October 26 Cole Myhre

**Date Acolytes**

October 5 Pierce Ascherman & Keatyn Bouwman  
October 12 Mary DeVos & Oakley Norby  
October 19 Keatyn Bouwman & Taryn Myrvik  
October 26 Jagger Stassen & Levi Pohlen



**Money Counters:** October—Amie Ascherman & Deb Belaen

**Upcoming Dates:**

**\*October 5—Communion;** Altar Guild Meeting, Following Worship

**\*October 8—Bible Study** at Church, 10 am

**\*October 12—No Communion;** Let It Shine Worship (Jenn Gone)

“God’s Work, Our Hands” Day of Service (See insert)

**\*October 15—No GLOW/Youth Ministries** (MEA Break)

MAMT Food at Football Fundraiser, 5-7 pm

**\*October 19—No Communion** (Jenn Gone, Lay Minister Cami Peterson-DeVries Here);

Walk Around Offering for Hope Harbor; Statement of Faith Night, 5:30 pm

**\*October 22—Jubilation Practice,** 7 pm

**\*October 26—Communion;** Confirmation Sunday

**\*October 29—GLOW/Youth Ministries:** Pumpkins Family Night for All ;

Jubilation Practice, 7 pm

**Church Council Notes – September 3, 2025**

<b>Fund Balances:</b>	General Fund:	\$ 28,320.79	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 67,814.00
	Building Fund:	\$ 5,723.15	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 975.23
	GLOW:	\$ 5,769.42		

**Attendance:**

**Attending in Person:** Terri Myhre, Emily Hennen, Rose Van Uden, Jen Anderson, Deb Belaen, Amie Ascheman, Sandy Josephson, Cory Myhre, Angie DeVos, Jasmine DeSmet, Barb Knutson, Jeff Van Keulen, Chris Pesch – Church Secretary

**Attending via Phone:** Jason Johnson

**Absent:**

**President's Report**

- **Invite a Friend:** In the September newsletter there is a note to encourage us to invite a friend to services at Hope. Starting September 14, there will be postcards available at the entrance of the church to share.
- **Camera/Lock Quote:** The installation of the camera is confirmed to be starting the week after Labor Day. She is waiting to hear back on auto lock quotes; she has e-mailed and called.
- **BMO:** We have provided them with updated information for signature cards. Items that need to continue to be followed up on include QR codes for payment, credit card application for church, process to have treasurer have online access to statements, have BMO look into fraud related to Mission Trip.
- **MSP Review:** Had meeting with two pastors to review our MSP to get their perspective and sent those notes to the chair of the call committee.
- **Centralize information:** Working with Dawn Van Keulen and Chris Pesch on application for Microsoft Office.
- **Council and Executive:** Communication on information received and coordinated with new council member.
- **Bell Tower:** Reviewed report of work completed and last bid for roof approved.
- **Review Resources for Congregation:** Researched options. Set up and attended meeting with Reverend Peter Soli and reviewing proposal. Synod also has "coaching."
- **Additional Items to Work on:**
  - Prayer chain – Looking to technology and best practices.
  - Constitutional amendment meeting – How can we support the committee? Printed out sections and provided to council to review our respective areas.
  - Council Manual – Started to outline and received synod financial best practices.
  - Altar Guild/Music – Set up or meet with those groups?
  - Looking ahead - Fall Gathering – social committee? Endowment Drive – to replenish funds? Wednesdays with Jenn – adult Bible study, gathering? Review in September to see what will work.
  - Outreach – Youth/Adult event – going into holidays for home bound / senior citizens prior to holidays
  - Mission Trip – Need to schedule an appointment re: potential civil suit. Have attorney referral; have e-mailed and need to call.
  - Record review/retention

**Secretary's Report – Motion made to approve secretary's report by Terri Myhre. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report**

- **Bills:** Bills for the month of September were sent out prior to the meeting for review. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$8,840.69 with two additional bills: copyright license for music and VBS T-shirts.
- **Motion made by Terri Myhre to approve the Treasurer's Report. Jasmine DeSmet seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Board of Trustees Report**

- **Bills:** Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$8,840.6 with two additional bills: copyright license for music and VBS T-shirts. The estimate for the VBS counselors is \$2,000; we budgeted \$4,000, so we will come in well under budget on this. **Motion made by Cory Myhre to approve payment of bills. Barb Knutson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Building Committee:** We have had several people volunteer for the Building Committee. Jason Johnson will be the chairperson, and Jeff Van Keulen, Fran Fier, Gene Fodness, and Lynn Okrina have volunteered to be on the committee. They will meet prior to the budget meeting prior to the annual meeting to provide recommendations on things that need to be addressed. **Motion made by Sandy Josephson to approve the building committee members. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

(continued on page 4)

## Church Council Notes (continued)

- **"God's Work, Our Hands":** This day is always the same weekend as Boxelder Bug Days. It was agreed that we should set a date and start advertising for both volunteers and those who need help. It was agreed that we schedule it for October 12<sup>th</sup>. Jenn won't be here that day, so we will look at doing a "Let It Shine" service. We can have a light lunch provided, also.
- **Invite a Friend:** This opportunity was listed in the September newsletter, and there are postcards available starting September 14 to invite a friend to church.
- **Constitutional Amendment:** Amie printed out items from the model constitution and each board is asked to review their sections to compare what is in our current constitution versus what we are actually doing and what is in the model constitution. For example, our current constitution calls for a Financial Secretary, but we don't do it currently.
- **Council Meeting via E-mail Feedback:** Overall, it went well, and everyone was willing to try it again. The goal is that if we have bad weather, we can do it this way or do a Zoom call. We can also look at doing this in the summer when people are not available in person.
- **Reverend Peter Scoli:** Peter Scoli is a former pastor who does consulting with congregations. He worked with Granite Falls when they had two pastors leave in quick succession and were also combining with another congregation. The executive committee met with him previously on a consultation; he asked a lot of good questions, like what does success look like for us? There are several different options available with costs ranging from \$2,500 to \$7,500; onsite programming is \$950 per day. There was additional discussion about costs and what services he would provide.
  - Follow-ups: Amie will follow up on what money is available from the synod for this type of program. She will also follow up to get a few dates where he could meet with the full council via Zoom or Teams.
- **Motion made by Barb Knutson to approve the Board of Trustees' report. Emily Hennen 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.
  - September 28- Minneota Public Schools for school supplies needed by students whose families are unable to purchase the requested items.
  - October 19 - Hope Harbor
- **Communion Dates:**
  - September - Communion will be on September 14 and September 28.
  - October - Communion will be on October 5 and October 26 (Confirmation Sunday).
- **Terri Myhre made a motion to approve the Board of Deacons. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

## Board of Education Report

- **Mission Trip Fundraising:** Food at Football has started. They will be serving BBQ's at the vendor show during Boxelder Bug Days. There will also be mission trip apparel available again this year.
- **GLOW:**
  - Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> is the kickoff, and Porcia Baxter will be the speaker on Building Disciples.
  - Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> is the first night of GLOW.
- **Confirmation:** The large group will be led by Terri Myhre, and the small groups will be led by Cory Myhre and Adam Hoffman. There are 2 students from Bethany-Elim who will be joining our confirmation this year.
  - October 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm will be Statement of Faith night
  - October 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am is Confirmation; there are 8 students being confirmed.
- **Youth of Hope:** Angie and Terri have agreed to be Youth of Hope leaders.
  - Service Projects - Prairie Home Hospice sets up Independence Park, and the Youth of Hope may help with that.
- **Upcoming Dates:** Confirmation will be October 26, and the Christmas program will be December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Motion made by Angie DeVos to approve the Board of Education report. Jen Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

## Other Business

- **BMO:** The bank may be able to get some money back on the Mission Trip fraud.
- **Call Committee Update:** We had received one name, but she had already accepted another call. In August there were 2 candidates who asked to look at our MSP.
- **Grant Proposal:** We had put in a grant proposal to the synod for Youth in Motion, and we just received notification that we were rewarded \$3,000. Additional paperwork will be completed prior to receiving the funds, but that is great news!
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to adjourn. Angie DeVos seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Next Executive Discussion on Agenda:** Week of September 28th via e-mail.

**Next Council Meeting** - Wednesday, October 1st, 2025, with committees at 7:00 pm; full council at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

**From Jenn Warnock, Lay Minister**

HAPPY FALL Y'ALL!

“ From ghoulies and ghosties  
And long-legged beasties  
And things that go bump in the night,  
Good Lord, deliver us!  
(traditional Scottish prayer)

October is here, a bright, beautiful month! Bringing with it change, and harvest and cool winds and golden leaves and pumpkins and the excitement of fun for the kids, and activities and candy! And then---ghosts!? When I was a child and old enough to hear about ghosts, I was very frightened of them. Until my Granny, a very spunky gal, told me that she did not believe in any ghost except the Holy Ghost! She explained to me that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus, the Comforter who is always with us, who always loves us, who always protects us....even from “things that go bump in the night”!

The more I learn about the Holy Spirit the more I want to learn, and the more I learn that there is more to learn! I always thought it would be fun to host an October Bible Study called “Haunted by the Holy Spirit”! The Holy Spirit is our Comforter and Counselor. The third Person of the Trinity, who is always with us and as the Spirit of Truth is guiding us into all truth. He was present at creation with the Father and the Son according to Genesis 1: 20, (let Us make man/human according to Our own image) According to St. Paul, the Spirit gives spiritual gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith and self control...the Fruits of the Spirit! The Holy Spirit helps us to love God, each other, and the world, and to use our gifts to the glory of God!

The Holy Spirit is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14) and is not the Spirit of Fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind! (2 Timothy 1:7) The Spirit brings nothing but good to those of us in the family of God, continual grace upon grace upon grace. As requested by the Old Scottish prayer, we are protected by the presence of the Spirit. In the Spirit is healing, fulfillment, and love. Enjoy the good gifts of autumn, that God, the Father of Lights, the Lord of the Harvest has given us, beloved church!

In Christ Alone,  
Jenn

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**Pastoral Services Available**

Hope Lutheran is pleased to announce that our Lay Minister, Jennifer Warnock, is now providing pastoral care services to the congregation. Whether you're in need of a listening ear, spiritual guidance, or simply someone to talk to, support is available through visitations, phone calls, and regular office hours. Jenn has been accepted to Luther Seminary and will be starting in the Fall of 2025 in seeking her MA in its Christian Ministry program where she is seeking to be ordained in word in sacrament in the ELCA. Jenn's educational background is in psychology, Christianity, and family counseling, and her professional background social work has focused on caring for people in times of need. Most recently, she has been involved in the intensive lay ministry school at Luther Seminary and has continuing training in that role with Bishop Dee.

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays at Hope Lutheran

**Phone Availability:** 320-305-4955

**Visitations:** As scheduled

Please feel free to reach out and connect—no concern is too small, and all conversations are held in confidence. Hope Lutheran is here to walk with you in faith, support, and community.

This is a new role and opportunity at Hope Lutheran for its congregational members, so we look forward to continuing conversations about what expansion or changes can be made to better serve our members. The council is grateful that Jenn is willing, able, and qualified to provide these pastoral services in this expanded role.

## Council President's Report – September 2025

While this past month was a bit quieter from a Church Council perspective, our **youth ministries were full of life and activity!**

My husband and I continue to teach the Preschool–Kindergarten class, and we've had a fun and meaningful start to the year. One of our first lessons was about building our lives on a strong foundation, based on the parable of the wise and foolish builders. To help our little ones connect with the message, we created "houses" using marshmallows and chocolate kisses—some built on "sand" (pudding), and others on "rock" (Oreos with frosting). After the story, we discussed strong and weak ways to act, helping the children understand how making good choices starts with a solid foundation in faith. It should be of no surprise that they enjoyed the lesson and needed a bit of cleaning up, additionally they voted in favor of more projects with Oreos, marshmallows, and frosting.

It has been in the bulletin, but I don't want you to miss this update: Hope Lutheran's Youth Ministry was awarded \$3,000 from the Endowment Fund Committee of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod-ELCA. Sandy Joesphson had brought the opportunity to the attention of the Education Committee. A big thank you to Terri Myhre, Erin Roberts, Emily Hennen, and Angie DeVos for their time and efforts in the application process.

Although the council had a quieter schedule, we did hold an additional Zoom meeting led by **Peter Soli**, founder of *Dialog Works*. Peter shared some proposals to help **Hope Lutheran "Hope Together."** His organization was founded in October 2020 as a ministry focused on congregations navigating transitions, especially in the wake of COVID-19. The mission of Dialog Works is *"to enlarge the capacity of faith leaders to establish and nurture sustainable ministries."*

We anticipate voting in our October meeting on whether to move forward with Peter's guidance and support.

We're excited to announce that the **Building Committee** has been formed and will hold its first meeting following worship on **Sunday, October 19**. At the September Council meeting, the following members were approved to serve:

***Jason Johnson, Jeff Van Keulen, Fran Fier, Lynn Okrina, Gene Fodness***

We are grateful for their willingness to serve and look forward to their insights as we assess the needs of our facilities. If you believe there is anything that needs to be addressed with the building in the future or have useful ideas to share regarding, please contact one of these building committee members.

I've been working to move forward on the situation regarding our **mission trip funds**. After consulting with multiple attorneys, I was able to connect with one in South Dakota who has kindly agreed to assist *pro bono*, aside from any incurred fees. Due to the defendant's connections, several attorneys I previously contacted were unable to take the case due to conflicts of interest.

I will be seeking **Council approval to proceed** once an engagement letter is presented. Please continue to pray for a just resolution to this matter.

There have been updates from the synod shared in regards to the candidate search. In August there were two candidates that received our paperwork and in the past month, Hope Lutheran's open call has been shared with 2 candidates, and our MSP has been shared with 1 candidate.

As we reflect on all that's happening in the life of our church—from youth ministry and council work to building updates and mission outreach—we're reminded of the importance of building on a strong foundation.

Just like our preschoolers learned with their marshmallow houses, the storms of life will come—but when we are rooted in Christ, in community, and in faith, we can stand firm.

Let us continue to build **Hope Lutheran** on the solid rock of Christ's love, truth, and grace—so that together, we remain strong, steady, and ready for whatever lies ahead.

Amie Ascheman

## OCTOBER CHALLENGE:

Think of someone in your life—a neighbor, coworker, family member, or friend—who could be encouraged by joining us at Hope Lutheran for worship. A simple invitation can open the door for someone to experience God's love and community in a fresh way. Let's step out in faith together and see what God can do through our invitation to worship at Hope Lutheran!

Postcards are available at the entrance of the church for you to share.



### Meeting for the Altar Guild – October 5, 2025

Are you interested in learning what it is all about? There will be an Altar Guild Meeting for present and interested new members in the Fellowship Hall after our morning service.

### October Walk Around

The October 16th walk around offering will to Hope Harbor.

Hope Harbor offers family-style care for teens as they heal from a variety of issues that are unfortunately commonplace for youth today. These include past abuse, trauma, anger, substance use, mental health challenges, exploitation, self-harm, suicidal ideation, anxiety, attachment issues, and more. They work with ordinary kids who are healing from extraordinary things; each one a child of God, loved by the Savior.

### Confirmation is October 26th!

This years students being confirmed are:

Parker Minnehan, Brad & Robyn Minnehan  
 Sydney Hennen, Andy & Emily Hennen  
 Beckham Norby, Matt & Mandi Norby  
 Kingston Ryer, Danielle Ryer  
 Blayze Hulzebos, Mike Hulzebos & Jami Traen  
 Colton Bitker, Russ & Jocelyn Bitker  
 Logan Esping, Becky Esping, Nick & Nicole Esping  
 Brycen Myhre, Cory & Leah Myhre



Anyone interested in learning about and helping run the video camera for Sunday services. Training provided. If interested, call or text Deb Belaen at 507-828-1785 and leave a message. Thank You!

**ALSO! Anyone willing to learn/do sound for funerals. Would not have to do it on Sundays.**

