

## **February 2026 Council President's Newsletter Article**

The February Board Meeting began with the election of officers and the selection of committees. For 2026, the Deacons Committee will be led by Sandy (chair), with Nona, Barb, Lori, and Jason serving alongside her. The Education Committee includes Jasmine (chair), Angie, Jen, and Susan. The Executive Committee is made up of Amie (Council President), Jeff (Vice President and Treasurer), Deb (Secretary), and Cory.

I had the opportunity to meet with the new council members prior to the first council meeting for onboarding, and I am grateful for their willingness to serve. Each brings unique gifts and perspectives, and I look forward to the ways God will work through them as we move forward together as one church body. If you have questions or concerns related to any of these areas, please feel free to reach out to a council member or to me. Open communication and mutual support help keep us united in our shared mission.

One of the most meaningful nights for Hope Lutheran Youth Ministries each year is Grandparents Night. The energy is truly unmatched as students invite a grandparent or another important person in their life to share a GLOW night together. This year, the evening also included a service project benefiting the local food shelf. Participants colored taco kit content sheets and packed food items—kits that are especially appreciated, as these items cannot be purchased through Second Harvest. Each child and adult also decorated a picture frame, which will hold photos taken that evening as a lasting reminder of their shared experience.

The worship message focused on family trees, reminding us that we are a family rooted deeply in faith—connected to God and to one another like a strong, living tree. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this night so special. The week prior, students practiced being good neighbors by creating Valentines that were donated to **Minneota** Assisted Living and another local nursing home. During a meeting I recently **attended**, several ideas for additional community service were shared, and I warmly invite you to pass along any service ideas or opportunities you may have. Serving together is one way we live out our faith in unity.

The annual meeting was adjourned and will continue on March 1, 2026. This action was taken because, after the vote to approve the new council members and budget, a quorum was no longer present. At the continued meeting, the previous reports will be approved to ensure clarity and transparency regarding those votes taken. You might ask yourself - a quorum? what

is needed and why is it that? Our quorum of 50 members, as well as the structure of the meeting agenda, is defined by the Hope Lutheran Constitution.

Prior to adjournment, a Call to Order was made for a second vote on a constitutional amendment. The council voted to approve setting a date for this vote. A special meeting will be held before the continuation of the annual meeting on March 1, 2026. A Notice of Special Meeting has been issued outlining the proposed agenda and procedures. Again, there must be fifty voting members for a quorum to be met for the special meeting to proceed.

Finally, the Deacons have developed a plan regarding weather-related decisions for Sunday services. Jason, Sandy, and Amie will consult together, with the goal of making a decision by Saturday when possible. The Deacons are also working on a backup plan so that worship may still take place when conditions allow. In the event of a cancellation, announcements will be shared via Marshall Radio, Facebook, and the church website. While the church communication app is unlikely to be ready for weather events this year, work is underway to make that possible in the future.

Reverend Peter Soli started in January working with the steering committee – which is Jessica Moriarty, Lori Dyce, Terri Myhre, and Roberta Josephson. If you are interested in being a part of the steering committee, please contact myself, a council member, or steering committee member regarding.

As we move through these decisions and ministries together, let us continue to extend grace, patience, and encouragement to one another. We are strongest when we walk together in faith, grounded in Christ and united in love.

Amie Ascheman

Hope Lutheran Council President