



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

SEPTEMBER 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)

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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:

Church Email:

hopelutheran87@gmail.com

Church Website:

www.hopeminneota.org

Bible Studies for Men and Women

Gather Magazine Bible Study	October 7, 6:30 pm
Women of the Bible Study	October 14, 10:00 am
Men's Bible Study	October 2, 8:00 am

At Church
Karen Golden's Home
At Porter Cafe

**2026 Church Attendance**

July 5	49	August 2	67
July 12	52	August 9	43
July 19	56	August 16	
July 26	72	August 23	
Total:	229	August 30	
Average:	57	Total:	
		Average:	

Workgroup Chairpersons

September: Gayle VanVooren
507-828-2432

October: Lois Van DePutte
507-872-6422 or 530-9385

**Altar Guild****September 1-30**

Marilyn Kompelien	828-1148
Karen Golden	829-3954

October 1-31

Rose Van Uden	829-1806
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Date Sound Operators

September 6	Scott Josephson
September 13	?
September 20	Todd Sonnenburg
September 27	Cole Myhre

Date Acolytes

September 6
September 13
September 20
September 27



Money Counters: Sept—Amie Ascherman & Cory Myhre Oct—Jen Anderson & Jeff VanKeulen

Upcoming Dates:

***September 20**—Baptism for Parker Guetter, Daughter of Sam & Chesney Guetter; Communion; Temple Talk for Walk Around Offering; **Fall Potluck** following Worship (watch your bulletin & newsletter for more info)

***September 23**—5:30 meal, 6:00 GLOW, Confirmation/Ignite, Teen Power classes begin.

***September 27**—Baptism for Layn & Linken Damm, Twins of Lucas & Larissa Damm; Walk Around Offering for 'Help Tuck Them In'

NOTICE: There was a Text In Church email that was sent out on August 24, 2026. If you did not receive the email, please reach out to Chris by phone or email at hopelutheran87@gmail.com.

Church Council Notes – September 2, 2026

Fund Balances: General Fund:	\$ 37,568.60	Cornerstone Fund:	\$ 71,617.64
Building Fund:	\$ 9,930.09	Petty Cash Fund:	\$ 443.87
GLOW:	\$ 21,414.96		

Attendance:

Attending in Person: Amie Ascherman, Sandy Josephson, Barb Okrina, Deb Belaen, Jen Anderson, Susan Rassier, Lori Dyce, Jeff Van Keulen, Angie DeVos, Cory Myhre, Fran Fier, Chris Pesch (church secretary)

Attending via Phone:

Absent: Jason Johnson, Jasmine DeSmet

Devotions were led by Amie Ascherman

- **Secretary's Report – Motion made to approve August's secretary's report by Angie DeVos. Jeff Van Keulen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report

- **Bills:** Bills for the month of September were sent out via e-mail prior to the meeting for review. Total General Fund bills are estimated at \$8,737.10 with two additional bills. **Motion made by Cory Myhre 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 \$8,737.10 with two additional bills: Augsburg for \$486.55 for baptism candelers & certificates, bulletins, and devotionals and CCLI for our annual copyright license for \$297.00.
- **Minister Jenn TEEM Vote Next Steps:**
 - There were 64 votes; 1 person didn't sign their ballot, so it was not counted.
 - 63 votes – 56 yes and 7 no.
 - Amie is working on the application that needs to be submitted to the synod.
 - There will be some curriculum requirements for Jenn through Wartburg.
 - There are no specific requirements from Wartburg for us; it is very flexible, and we can make it fit our specific needs.
 - We will need to do a contract with Jenn, and it was agreed that the trustees will meet with Jenn to lay out the expectations, communication channels, etc.
 - The trustees would like input from both the education and deacons on these areas, and one area that was specifically called out was making connections with our youth on Wednesday nights.
 - While we are hiring Minister Jenn to lead us, this program is similar to an internship program in that we will also be working with her to help her develop and grow as minister and pastor when she is ordained.
- **Monthly Potluck:** We are going to try to have a monthly potluck after church services starting in September. We are targeting the third Sunday of the month, so the first one will be September 20th.
- **Liability Waiver:** Our insurance company had asked for a liability waiver to cover when students are attending events outside of our church (Mission Trip, for example). Amie has drafted one, and our insurance company approved it. Amie has started getting those signed, and she will continue to administer it.
- **Motion made by Sue Rassier to approve the Board of Trustees's report. Deb Belaen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Attorney engagement letter – Amie has been in contact with an attorney who specializes in non-profits. We have several areas of governance that need to be addressed to ensure that we are protecting our resources. **Motion made by Jeff Van Keulen to approve Amie Ascherman, in consultation with the trustees, to engage the stated attorney in the engagement letter to address the following areas: formalization of legal structure of Hope Lutheran Scholarship Fund; compliance with MN Corporate Farm Act; review of how property is titled and recommended course of action; review of endowments and recommendations. Cory Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Financial update:** Jeff has been continuing his work of reviewing the different funds and documenting the original fund information including the intent and original rules for distribution. This work will be coordinated with the attorney engagement process to help make sure we have the appropriate controls and governance in place to protect the funds that we have, so they are available for the future.

Board of Deacons Report

- **Walk Around Offerings:** 4th Sunday of the month - **Endowment matches walk around offerings 3:1 up to \$750.**
 - September 27 – Tuck Them In, which is a program that provides beds for kids based out of Tracy. There will be temple talk on September 20th for this.
 - October 25 – Mustang Market, which is a food bank for students at SMSU.
 - November 22 – Prairie Home Hospice. Fran Fier will be working on coordinating a temple talk for this.

(continued on page 4)

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (con't)

- Upcoming Dates:
 - September 6th – Jenn won't be here, so there won't be communion. We are planning to have a synod sermon via a YouTube video. Lori Dyce will do the liturgy and children's sermon. We will also have a hymn sing starting at 8:45 am, which will be led by Gene Fodness.
 - September 13th - Boxelder Bug Days, so no service at Hope as the community worship service is downtown.
 - September 20th - Communion
 - October 4th and 25th – Communion
 - October 11th – Let it Shine Service
 - October 18th – New Member Sunday and potluck.
 - October 25th – Confirmation Sunday
- Lutheran World Relief has bulletin inserts for fundraising for the floods in Nepal; there will be information on where people can donate.
- Website: The website has been updated with inactive groups and events removed.
- **Motion made by Deb Belaen to approve the Board of Deacons report. Cory Myhre seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Board of Education Report

- GLOW:
 - The GLOW kick-off is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th, and GLOW registrations have been sent out.
 - All teaching positions are filled. Thank You! to all who have volunteered. We even have extra people lined up to sub when the need arises.
 - Terri Myhre has shared that she will no longer be able to plan & make meals in the winter when Linda Nuytten is wintering down south. We thank her for all her years of making meals for everyone on Wednesday evenings. This means we are looking for someone to step into the kitchen role on Wednesday nights during the winter months. Please reach out to Lina or Erin if you are interested or have any ideas regarding this.
 - The Youth Ministries calendar is almost complete; for the most part, all big events are filled and scheduled. This information has been shared with Jasmine DeSmet, Amie Ascherman and Sandy Josephson.
- Confirmation: Confirmation kicks off September 16th with a lesson and a parent meeting. We are looking forward to a fun year ahead!
- Teen Power: Teen Power will kick off September 16th.
- Mission Trip:
 - On Sunday, August 30th, an information meeting was held for students and families that are wanting to go on the mission trip in 2027.
 - The Mission Trip continues to fundraise for our 2027 Mission Trip.
 - They are collaborating with Dollars for Scholars, and they will again be doing Food at Football this year.
 - The dates for these are September 3rd, 18th, 25th and October 15th.
 - A new fundraiser called RaiseRight is also being discussed. It helps raise money when participants buy gift cards to pay for purchases, shop online, dine out or book travel through RaiseRight. Once all the details are finalized, a QR code will be provided so that anyone interested in helping the mission trip funds can join the RaiseRight program and create an account.
 - Contact Emily Hennen, emhaugland@hotmail.com or 507-828-6797 if interested in going on 2027 Mission Trip.
 - Students need to be freshman in high school through freshmen in college at the time of the mission trip
- Important Dates:
 - September 16th – GLOW Kickoff
 - October 4th – Bible Distribution for 3rd and 7th graders
 - October 25th – Confirmation Sunday
 - Statement of Faith day is tentatively planned for the Sunday prior to that on October 18th
- **Motion made by Lori Dyce to approve the Board of Education report. Jeff VanKeulen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Business

- **Motion made by Cory Myhre to adjourn. Jeff Van Keulen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Next Executive Discussion on Agenda: Week of October 5th via e-mail

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, October 7th with committees at 7:00 pm and full council at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Belaen

From the Minister's Heart:

Happy Fall Ya'll! I am excited to report that September 12th is the National Day of Encouragement! I am sure it is no mistake that this date coincides with the kick off of the Minneota Box Elder Bug Days Festival, which is enjoyed by many!

Think about it, how important is encouragement? What a difference encouragement makes to an individual, a situation, and to a church. Yes, attitude is everything, and encouragement is a nurturing vitamin for the soul. In his letters to the early churches, St. Paul often encourages his church family to be encouraging to each other. He even goes so far as to say that some people are given the spiritual Gift of Encouragement! (Romans 12:8) Many of us think we need spiritual gifts that are very visible or vocal or impressive to make a difference. But the truth is, that the "invisible" spiritual gifts such as prayer and encouragement are the most important and powerful. And the good news is, we can all be encouragers, no matter our age or varied abilities. Encouragement is pure and proactive, it doesn't destroy and you don't have to go behind it cleaning up a mess. Encouragement is loving your neighbors in spirit, thought, and word.

I want to encourage you to think about all the people in your life who have been encouraging to you. Say a prayer of thanks for them. Ask God to help you to encourage others. It doesn't always come naturally, and the Holy Spirit is our Teacher and Helper and will guide us. I want to share an encouraging verse with you today: Deuteronomy 31:8 *'The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.'*

Be Encouraged, the Lord is with you!
In Christ's Love,

Jenn

Dear Hope Lutheran Family,

I just want to give up a heart felt "thank you" for your decision to join with me in the TEEM process through Wartburg Seminary. For me, your decision felt like an affirmation of trust in my ministry among you. I am thankful for that trust and excited to move forward with you into the future God has planned for us!

I fully and completely feel that God has brought me to minister in Minneota. When I first came here as pulpit supply almost two years ago, my ministry interest and intention was chaplaincy, not congregational ministry. In this small amount of time, I have become committed to preaching, to pastoring, to candidacy, and to you! When God brings you to it, God will bring you through it!

Please pray for me and I will pray for you that we will grow together.

In Christ,

Minister Jenn

Council President's Newsletter Article

Congregational Meeting Update

A Special Congregational Meeting was held on August 23, 2026, after a quorum was met. Voting members were asked whether they were in agreement with Hope Lutheran serving as Minister Jennifer Warnock's TEEM congregation placement and with suspending the call process.

The voting process was conducted in the same manner as the previous Special Congregational Meeting. Each voting member placed their name and affirmation of their voting eligibility in an envelope, with their completed ballot placed inside. The Trustees first reviewed the envelopes to confirm voting-member eligibility. The ballots were then removed from the envelopes and separated from the identifying information to ensure that all votes remained anonymous.

A total of 64 ballots were cast. One ballot was not counted because the member did not affirm their qualifications to vote. Of the 63 ballots counted, 56 votes were Yes – I am in agreement, and 7 votes were No – I am not in agreement.

The Trustees and Minister Jenn will be meeting to discuss the TEEM placement, and further updates will be provided as information becomes available.

Review

The Council approved moving forward with Avisen Legal Counsel to review Hope Lutheran's various funds and endowments. Recommendations will be provided to the Council to determine how to proceed.

This review will help ensure that Hope Lutheran remains in compliance with applicable nonprofit laws while also ensuring that we are practicing the best stewardship and providing appropriate protections for the various assets of Hope Lutheran.

I look forward to providing continued updates as this process moves forward.

Youth Ministries

Prior to the September Council Meeting, Linda Nuytten and Jessica Moriarty hosted a meal for the Council members and Hope Lutheran Youth Ministry leaders. Following the meal, the youth leaders met to plan for the 2026–2027 Youth Ministries year. A special thank-you to Linda and Jessica for providing this opportunity for fellowship. It was very much appreciated!

I am looking forward to another successful year with our Youth Ministries and am grateful for all the thoughtful work and planning that has already been completed. I wish our Youth Ministry leaders and youth a wonderful year ahead filled with meaningful fellowship, opportunities to grow in faith, and many blessings as we journey together. May the coming year be a joyful and rewarding one for all involved!

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

Amie Ascherman

amie@rlwlawyers.com

320-249-5285

2026 WORK GROUP 1**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.***

January:	Scott & Barb Knutson	507-828-9111	507-828-9117
April:	Fig & Linda Nuytten	507-828-7789	507-829-9379
July:	Nancy Wiese	507-640-1263	
October:	Lois VanDePutte	507-872-6422	507-530-9385

	#1		#2	Home #	#1 Cell	#2 Cell
Anderson			Bri			
Anderson			Jennifer			507-828-2326
Anderson	Keith			507-872-6290		
Anderson	Scott				507-828-1971	
Breyfogle	Nicholas	&	Allison		763-234-5767	507-828-2787
Dalager	Charles	&	Linda	507-872-6062		
DeSmet	Richard	&	Jasmine		605-881-4887	605-881-4138
Dovre			Rita	507-872-6059	507-828-7682	507-828-1415
Drown	Joe	&	Judy			507-828-4468
Fadness			Lisa			507-829-7487
Fier			Fran	507-872-6795		507-828-1423
Gilbert	Ronald			507-872-6743		
Hennen			Jen		507-829-4547	507-828-8394
Hettling	Royal			507-872-6326		
Horner	JJ	&	Jessica		507-828-7497	507-829-2799
Knutson	Scott	&	Barbara		507-828-9111	507-828-9117
Kompelien			Courtney			507-829-4783
Larson	Danny	&	Tracy	507-872-6068	507-828-6080	507-828-0389
Miller	Stan	&	Loralee	507-872-6526		
Muhl	Austin	&	Whitney			507-829-0455
Myhre	Cory	&	Leah		507-706-0006	507-401-7983
Myhre	Kurt	&	Kim	507-872-5481	507-829-2902	507-828-8008
Myhre	Nels	&	Pat		507-872-6787	
Nuytten	Richard (Fig)	&	Linda		507-828-7789	507-829-9379
Obe	Brian				507-829-3403	
Opdahl	Anthony	&	Kathy		507-828-6987	605-999-1557
Pesch	Henry	&	Taylor Burley		507-828-2459	218-330-3097
Petersen	Patrick				507-401-7922	
Pohlen	Alex	&	Jenny		507-829-2693	507-330-4628
Prellwitz			Brenda	507-872-6996	507-530-3878	
Rassier			Susan			507-828-2509
Reiss	Chad	&	Moriah		507-828-2999	507-828-2627
Roberts	Jerren	&	Erin		605-370-1679	507-530-4333
Rokeh	James	&	Helen	507-872-6847		
Sonnenburg	Tavin	&	Caitlyn		507-530-6055	507-829-2549
Tolk			Sandy	507-872-6730	507-530-1849	
Van Keulen	Jeff	&	Dawn		507-829-8398	507-829-8399
VanDePutte			Lois	507-872-6422	507-530-9385	
Wambeke			Judy	507-872-6069		763-843-9703
Wiese			Nancy			507-530-5502