



# The Beacon of Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church DECEMBER 2016

## *A Word From Pastor Carl*

### *AN EARLY & A FULL CELEBRATION*

Without a doubt, the most significant push to celebrate Christmas early is the desire for businesses to make more sales. We are familiar nowadays with stores opening on Thanksgiving evening and with the additions to the calendar of Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. This is not only a motivation of the malls. In Floodwood, the season comes quicker with the charming Floodwood Christmas Shopping Night the Monday before Thanksgiving.

While I understand that commercial interests are the primary reason for Christmas being pushed earlier, there are other motives, as well. Christmas seems to come earlier because people forget that the twelve days proper do not end on the 25<sup>th</sup> but only start then and last until January 5.

I am convinced that yet another reason that people celebrate Christmas earlier all the time is because people's lives are busier than ever. One of the most significant differences of being a child versus an adult is how time seems to pass quicker after each year rolls around. Consequently, folks try to get as much of the season before it soon passes away.

One way to experience the season is to make worship a priority. When you can participate in the four weeks of Advent and then the twelve days, the season does not feel like it simply whizzes by without linger for a while.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## *Hope Lutheran Church Women*

### *WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & MEETING*

The topic for December's Bible Study is "The Anatomy of a Wise Decision." The Bible reference is Proverbs 3:1-26 — which has much to say about wisdom. The main point is that we should always seek the wisdom of God when making decisions. Who do you consider to be wise, and how has this wisdom been demonstrated? Join in on the discussion on December 13th at 10:00 AM at the church. All women are welcome.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## *COUNCIL MINUTES*

Hope Lutheran Church  
Minutes of Council Meeting  
Floodwood, MN  
Nov. 17, 2016

Present: David Zieroth, Jeff Kletscher, Elvi Tollgaard, Susan Coccie, Rob Benson, Pat Seredinski, Pastor Carl Fiskness. Absent: Lonna Hutchinson, Jennifer Myles. Meeting was called to order by President David Zieroth at 7 pm. Pastor Carl Fiskness opened with prayer.

### AGENDA

Motion by Coccie, second by Tollgaard to approve the agenda, motion carried.

### REPORTS

Secretary: Motion by Coccie second by Seredinski to approve the minutes of Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Motion carried.

Treasures: Motion by Benson, second by Tollgaard to approve the Oct. financial report. Motion carried. Some amounts will be going up such as Gas/heating. 6.0 Janitorial and Office Mgmt., have been kept low. 11.0, Ministries was approved to donate \$450.00 to Lutheran Social Services, \$1000.00 to World Mission Prayer League and Robert Suhonen. Motion by Coccie second by Tollgaard for these donations, motion carried.

Pastor Report: Activities Report Attached.

Administrators Report: Rental Deposit sent back to Ena Mason. Motion by Benson second by Coccie to order windows, motion carried. Windows to be frosted, like the ones that are frosted now. Divided, also like they are now. Other windows will be clear. A small cabinet was bought for the office to keep Sunday School/Release Time papers in. Needed, a new person to Snowplow.

Christian Education and Youth: Homework Help will start Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. David Bolstad will get a sign-up sheet going to find teachers. Christmas Program will be Dec. 18th during our service.

Out Reach Committee: No Report

Quilting: 10 made

Building Committee: Zieroth has changed bulbs in the sanctuary. He will be buying more. John Seredinski has changed light bulbs in the downstairs area and replaced

ballast. It was asked if John Seredinski could check the outlets in the office.

Befrienders: Liz Thom has sent out 19 cards.

HLCW: Bazaar went well. Cookie cans will be filled on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, for local people. Extras will be taken to the Lifehouse in Duluth, by the Youth Group.

### OLD BUSINESS

- A. Rental House. Kletscher has someone interested. He will get ahold of and let them know it's available, as is for \$300.00 plus utilities, short term. This was made a motion by Coccie and second by Benson. Zieroth had bids on siding and windows for the rental. We will wait and see if that will be done. Also, four different types of roofing/bids, for the Church ranging from \$76,650 to \$160,000. No decision was made.
- B. Church Literature. Zieroth will see if he can make or find/buy a stand for the 8 different booklets.

### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Council 2017. 3 terms will be up, Zieroth, Myles, Seredinski. This will be talked about again at the Dec. meeting.

Globe offering Nov. 20 and all of Dec will go to the Christmas Dinner.

Next two meetings: Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 17, 2017. Annual Meeting/Pot Luck set for Jan. 22, 2017.

Closing prayer given by Pastor Fiskness

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm

Pat Seredinski, Acting Secretary

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH AND FAMILY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES – October 23, 2016.

Seven members present.

Financial report was presented and accepted. \$438.00 credit at the grocery store for after school dinners

Letters were sent out to people to Volunteer for Sunday School. *(Continued on Page 3)*

Christmas program was discussed. No final plans yet.

Release class has had several people volunteer to help.

Homework help will begin on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed.

Next meeting -November 20<sup>th</sup>.

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*HLCW NEWS (Continued from page 1)*

**REPORT ON PIE MAKING AND THE BAZAAR**



**A** HUGE thank you to all who made the bazaar a success. Special thanks to Luann Heikkala for preparing the food for a delicious meal, to those who donated toward the meal, the bakers, and all who helped in any way. Proceeds from the evening totaled \$989.00 with expenses of \$144.00 so far, with a couple more expected. The pie project netted \$1,325. A check will be given to the church by the end of the year.

**BETHANY CRISIS NURSERY NEEDS**



**W**e will do an in-gathering of items for the Bethany Crisis Nursery in Duluth. These items need to be at the church on or before Sunday, December 18th. Following is a list of needed items:

- Pull-ups — all sizes
- Diapers - sizes 1 and 6 only
- Formula - especially Similac Sensitive
- Hygiene products - Wipes, Baby Wash, Baby Lotion
- Desitin [or other diaper rash products]

Clothing is not needed at this time — or other sizes of diapers, as they do a diaper drive once a year.



**QUILTING**

We will not meet for quilting until January 24, 2017.

## HLCW MINUTES NOVEMBER 8, 2016

President Grace Autio called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., with nine members present. Grace opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of the October 11 meeting were read and upon motion by Susan Coccie, seconded by Lois Hendrickson, were voted approved as read.

Jeanette Johnsen presented her treasurer's report, which showed a beginning balance of \$215.86. After income of \$1,682.00 and expenses of \$428.90, there was a checking balance of \$1,468.96. After designated funds of \$1,857.32, available funds as of this date are \$460.73. Upon motion by Susan, seconded by Jan Benson the treasurer's report was approved as read.

Grace noted that the Shoe Boxes are due this week, the deadline being Sunday, November 13.

Under New Business, Grace reported that Meadowlands (First Lutheran) annual luncheon is set for Thursday, December 1.

There will be no quilting session in December.

Funeral luncheons were discussed and it was decided that there should be some gluten free bread and bars available also.

A reminder that the Christmas Bazaar is coming up November 16; and the annual Cookie Can Sunday is December 11.

There being no other business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Nancy Raihala, Secretary

### *COOKIE CAN SUNDAY*



**S**unday, December 11<sup>th</sup> we will be distributing cookie cans. We are asking each person to bring 4 dozen cookies. Wrap 3-4 cookies together so the flavors don't get mixed together when they are in the cookie can. The cans will go out to local shut-ins. A tray will be given to Riverview Apartments. The rest will be brought to Lifehouse in Duluth by our youth and their advisors on December 11th.

Lifehouse will host a big Christmas party for homeless teens on December 22.

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## *THANK YOU*

**T**hank you, dear church family, for the cards and prayers for our Golden Anniversary and for the surgeon's skill and Wayne's recovery after heart surgery. Your prayers were heard.

Wayne and Liz Thom

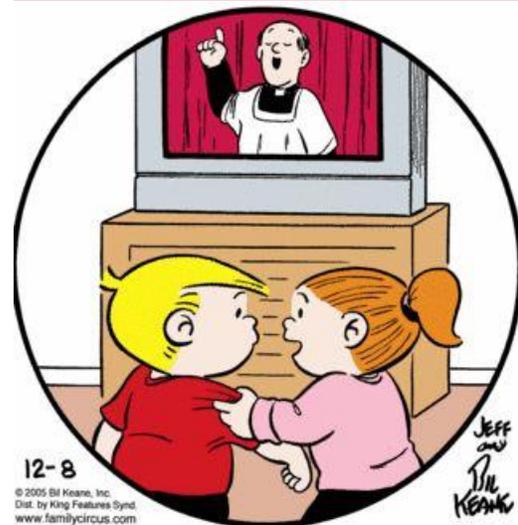
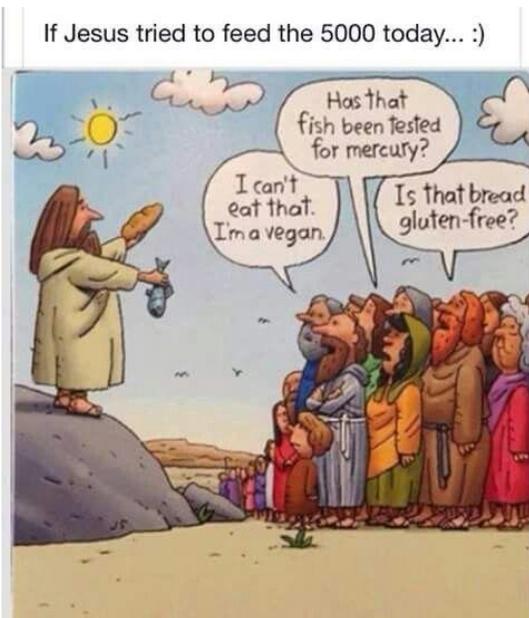
## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

For many years, the Hope Lutheran Church has taken part in Operation Christmas Child, organized by Samaritan's Purse. According to their Facebook page "Samaritan's Purse is a non-denominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ". Last year over 10,000,000 shoeboxes were shipped to underprivileged children in over 100 countries.



In the above photo, Pastor Carl Fiskness leads the congregation in prayer while the children lay hands on the boxes.

Remember our Free Community Christmas Dinner to be held 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Christmas Sunday, at the Downtown Fair Center. If you know of someone who might be alone on Christmas Day, please invite them to share a meal with us. Everyone is invited to attend. The Globe offering for the month of December will pay for the community meal.



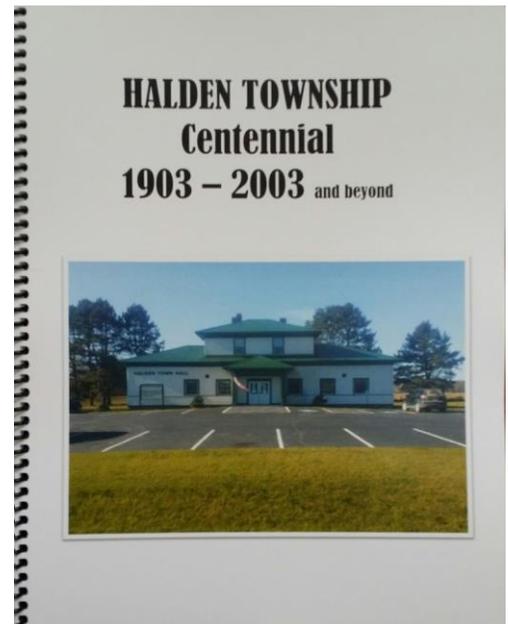
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"Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life."

## *HALDEN TOWNSHIP CENTENNIAL BOOK*

**D**ave Bolstad has been writing a book about the history of Halden Township. The book has been published and can be purchased from Carole Ahlgren, LuAnn Heikkila, Dawn Shafer, and Dave or Ann Bolstad for \$12.00. Proceeds will go to the Halden Women's Club.



### *A Word From Pastor Carl (Continued from page 1)*

To further deepen the experience, we will again have a specific focus to each of these worship services. Last year, the four Sundays of Advent were noted with an emphasis and we will do so again. On the last Sunday of November, we started off this season by remembering how the foretelling of stars in the times of Daniel in Persia was used to point towards the Lord's coming as a baby boy.

Then moving into the second week which is the first Sunday of December, we will again remember the three ways that Christ arrives: as an infant in the manger, how he will come again at the end of time and how he comes to you now in the hearing of his word. For the third Sunday of Advent, we will think on the annunciation of his arrival to Mary and Joseph. And then for the final Sunday, we will enjoy the portrayal of the nativity by the children and youth.

On the 24<sup>th</sup>, we will specifically recall that Jesus is the messiah out of Israel and then on Christmas Day, we will examine the themes of the twelve days of Christmas and how their observations fills out the celebration of the incarnation. Make worship a priority as you honor the child who is indeed the reason for the entire season.



## PRAYER REQUEST DECEMBER 2016



For those who are ill or hurting

Dinah Tveit  
Theresa Fisher  
Wayne Thom

Millie Samuelson  
Barbara Barrows  
Cindy Swenson

Violet Johnson  
Joy Greene  
Char Pulling

Marvin Wiita  
Danette Johnson  
Char Kadin

all those who spiritually struggle  
all those who find themselves in patterns of hurt and abuse

For those in the military and their families

Michael Thom  
David Shafer  
Damien Autio

For places where wars and conflict take place

Syria and Iraq Christians and missionaries threatened by ISIS  
Other victims of terrorism  
Israel and Palestine  
Persecuted church around the world  
Those suffering from natural disasters

For our missions and world missionaries

Ekka family & other missionaries commissioned with the World Mission Prayer League  
Vision Petrozavodsk  
Judy Yund and Bethel Hospital  
Peace\*Love\*Haiti

Thanksgiving

## December 2016 HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH PLANNER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>USHER TEAM:</b> Roy Autio & John Seredinski			<b>1</b> <b>9-10:30 AM</b> Ruby's Pantry @ Arrowhead Town Hall <b>1-3 PM</b> Pastor's Office Hours	<b>2</b> <b>1:00</b> Floodwood Ministerium at Hope	<b>3</b> <b>4:00</b> Family Fun Night
<b>4</b> <b>9:30</b> Worship & Sun.Sch. <b>10:45</b> Fellowship <b>12:00</b> Community Choir practice-Hope <b>6:00-7:30</b> Financial Peace University <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i>	<b>5</b> <b>USHER TEAM:</b> Burt Suonvieri & Dave Zieroth		<b>7</b> <i>Religious Release:</i> <b>12:55</b> Elementary <b>1:45</b> High School <b>2:30-6:30</b> Homework Help <b>3:00</b> Second class confirmation <b>3:00</b> Community Choir-Hope	<b>8</b> <b>1-3 PM</b> Pastor's Office Hours	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
		<i>St. Nicholas</i>				
<b>11</b> Cookie Can Sun. <b>9:30</b> Worship & Sun.Sch. <b>10:45</b> Fellowship, Christian Ed. & Yth & Fellowship Mtg <b>11:00</b> Youth trip to the Lifehouse <b>12:00</b> Community Choir practice-Hope <b>6:00-7:30</b> Financial Peace University <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent</i>	<b>12</b> <b>USHER TEAM:</b> Dean Fries & Jeff Kletscher	<b>13</b> <b>10:00</b> HLCW Bible Study	<b>14</b> <b>9-11 AM</b> FW Food Shelf at FST <i>Religious Release:</i> <b>12:55</b> Elementary-caroling at the apartments <b>1:45</b> High School <b>2:30-6:30</b> Homework Help <b>3:00</b> Second class confirmation <b>3:00</b> Community Choir-Hope	<b>15</b> <b>9:30</b> Worship & Music Committee <b>12:30</b> FBCP <b>2-4 PM (Note later time)</b> Pastor's Office Hours <b>7:00</b> Church Council	<b>16</b> <b>10:00</b> Bible Study at Riverview Manor	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>9:30</b> Worship with Children & Youth's program <b>10:45</b> Fellowship <b>6:00-7:30</b> Financial Peace University <b>7:00</b> Christmas celebration at New Life Church of Floodwood	<b>19</b> <b>USHER TEAM:</b> Mark Johnsen & Dave Zieroth	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Religious Release: <b>12:55</b> Elementary Religious Release <b>1:45</b> High School Religious Release <b>2:30-6:30</b> Homework Help <b>3:00</b> Second class confirmation	<b>22</b> <b>1-3 PM</b> Pastor's Office Hours	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Nativity of our Lord</i>  <b>5:00</b> Christmas Eve service  <i>Beginning of Hanukkah</i>
<b>25</b> <b>9:30</b> Worship (no Sunday School or coffee fellowship) <b>1:00</b> Christmas dinner at Fair Building	<b>26</b> <b>USHER TEAM:</b> Bob Hosking & Dale Rauvola <i>St. Stephen</i>	<b>27</b>  <i>St. John</i>	<b>28</b> <b>9-11 AM</b> FW Food Shelf at FST  <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	<b>29</b> <b>1-3 PM</b> Pastor's Office Hours	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i>  <i>(No Sunday School on Jan. 1.)</i>
Pastor & family gone for Christmas						

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Jor Romanek
- 4 Carole Ahlgren
- 5 Carolyn Hosking
- 6 Johanna Abell  
Cecilia Abell
- 8 Gabriella Grovenburg
- 10 Tony Speece  
Constantine Grovenburg
- 12 Danielle (Tollgaard) White
- 13 Kathy Granmoe
- 17 Courtney Young  
John Hutchinson
- 19 John Seredinski Jr.
- 26 Bubba Vance
- 27 Tanya Johnson
- 30 Lois Hendrickson  
Lindsey Rosemore
- 31 Alex Larson

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Rae Rosemore  
Deacon Laine
- 5 Jennifer Myles
- 6 Elbert Holmes
- 12 Liz Thom
- 13 Freya Olson
- 15 Lukus Fries  
Brady Dahl  
Carter Stokke
- 20 TJ Romanek  
Gwenevere Grovenburg
- 22 Sara Maki
- 23 Nolan Heikkila
- 27 Dalton Hutchinson  
Drake Laine
- 28 Elsie Tollgaard  
Jayna Kemp

**DECEMBER  
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 19 Bob & Joyce Andrews
- 25 Bob & Carolyn Hosking  
( '60)
- 28 Carl & Jodi Fiskness

**JANUARY  
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 23 Jill & Dean Fries
- 28 Dawn & Marion Shafer  
( '78)

**HOPE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH GIVING**

**General Fund Giving**

**Sunday Offering and Refreshments**

10-31-16	\$1120.50
11-6-16	\$2467.00
11-13-16	\$1881.25
11-20-16	\$ 708.50
Total	<b>\$6177.25</b>

**Globe -- Operation Christmas Child**

10-31-16	\$100.00
11-6-16	\$ 25.00
11-13-16	\$ 27.13

**Globe -- Community Christmas  
Dinner**

11-20-16	\$ 10.00
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**Memorials**

In Memory of Albertine Crist from John and Pat Seredinski \$ 25.00 (savings)

In Memory of Leslie Johnston from John and Pat Seredinski \$ 25.00 (savings)



**BOY  
SCOUTS**

See the calendar for dates and time of Boy Scout meetings at Hope Lutheran.



*(free meal)*

***December 25<sup>th</sup>***

***1:00-2:30 PM***

***Floodwood Fair Building***

***Everyone is Welcome***

## **HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH WEB SITE**

Hope Lutheran Church now has its  
very own web site. Visit us at:

[www.hopelutheranfloodwood.org](http://www.hopelutheranfloodwood.org)

**Also visit us on FACEBOOK:**

Hope Lutheran Church,  
Floodwood, MN

*The Beacon of Hope is published each month for members and friends of Hope Lutheran Church, Floodwood, Minnesota. News items should be given to Ann Bolstad (476-2130, cell 343-0943 or send to [draseal@aol.com](mailto:draseal@aol.com)) by the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month.*

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Carl Fiskness, Pastor

*Sunday School & Worship 9:30 a.m.*

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