



The Beacon of Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church DECEMBER 2015

A Word From Pastor Carl

DIFFERENCES IN ISLAM

As we seek to understand what is happening in the world around us, it may be helpful to review a little bit more about Islam.

Muslims worship Allah. Allah is the Arabic language word for god. People sometimes say that Christians and Muslims both worship "God/god." This is true and not true at the same depending on the context. Christians believe that God is one-in-three. God the Father is God. Jesus is God and the Holy Spirit is also God. Muslim strongly disagree that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are God. So in one sense, the God of the New Testament and Allah of Islam are completely different and teach different ways to reconciliation with the Almighty.

Yet Christians who speak Arabic use the name of Allah to praise the Triune God, too, because Allah is also the word for God in their language. There have been efforts in some Muslim governments over the years to prevent Arabic-speaking Christians from using the name Allah for worship because Muslims believe it should be reserved only for themselves. *(Continued on Page 4)*

Hope Lutheran Church Women

Quilting will resume in January, beginning at 12:00 noon.

Cookie Cans will be distributed on the second Sunday in December. Rebecca will be responsible for filling the cans, we ask that anyone that is able, to help deliver them. We are asking each person to bring 4 dozen cookies, wrapping 3 or 4 together so the flavors don't mix too much. These will be brought to individual homes, the Riverside Apartments, and for the Lifehouse Christmas party in Duluth. This is a party for homeless teens.

(Continued on Page 4)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Word From Pastor Carl.....Page 1

Hope Lutheran Church Women.....Page 1

Committee ReportsPage 2

Church Finances.....Page 3



Where Are They Now.....Page 3

Birthdays and Anniversaries....Page 6

Calendar of Events.....Page 7

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(UNAPPROVED)

**Hope Lutheran Church
Floodwood, MN**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
November 19, 2015**

Present: Pastor Carl Fiskness, Rob Benson, Jennifer Myles, Pat Seredinski, Susan Coccie, David Zieroth, Bryan Hutchinson, Lonna Hutchinson. Absent: Bubba Vance, Kathy Johnsen.

Meeting was called to order by President Susan Coccie at 7:02 pm. Pastor Fiskness opened with prayer.

AGENDA

MOTION BY BENSON, SECOND BY MYLES TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITIONS UNDER NEW BUSINESS. MOTION CARRIED.

REPORTS

Secretary: MOTION BY SEREDINSKI, SECOND BY BRYAN HUTCHINSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER, 2015 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

Financial: Susan Coccie reviewed the October Financial Report; we are currently in the black for the year. MOTION BY BRYAN HUTCHINSON, SECOND BY BENSON TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

Pastor: Activities report attached.

Youth & Family: Jen Myles reported that church children and youth will be decorating the church Christmas tree on Saturday, December 5. The Jill and Dean Fries family are going to provide the tree again this year. The Family Fun Night is scheduled for Sunday, December 6. The youth made wreaths which were sold at the bazaar.

Outreach Committee: Clothing, Etc., has donated \$500 to our account at the Grocery Store.

Communication & Technology: Coccie reported so far this week there have been 1,456 people reached on Face Book.

Building: Zieroth reported that there is a problem with the dehumidifier in the elevator; the sump pump is working well.

Befrienders: Sent 27 cards in October.

HLCW: Bazaar and dinner served 94 meals, and took in donations of \$816.44.

Quilters: Met in October, assembled 10 quilts.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Free Christmas Community Dinner: To be held at the Downtown Fair Center, Christmas Day, 12 noon.

B. Our 50th anniversary next year; ideas suggested include opening the time capsule, and making a new one, inviting former pastors, display of old photos, write "new" history.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Nomination Committee: Bryan Hutchinson will not run for a second term, Pat Seredinski and Susan Coccie will.

B. Catholic Church: They are considering building a new church. MOTION BY ZIEROTH SECOND BY BENSON THAT WE MEET WITH THEIR COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR SHARING OUR BUILDING WITH US. PASSED.

GLOBE OFFERING: November – Homework Help, December – Christmas Day Dinner

NEXT MEETINGS: December 19, 7:00 pm., January 14, 7:00 pm.

Pastor Carl Fiskness closed the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02

Jen Myles, Pat Seredinski, Acting Secretaries

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Featuring Megan Heikkila

Megan, daughter of Terry & LuAnn Heikkila, graduated from Bethel University, Arden Hills, MN in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. She interned at Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids, MN on a “fast-paced cardiology unit.” This experience peaked her interest in furthering her education in cardiology. Currently she is employed at the University of Minnesota Health hospital (aka Fairview) in Minneapolis and works primarily evening and night shifts which are far busier than one would expect. As Megan says, “There is never a dull moment, even on night shifts!”



Fridley, where Megan lives, is only about 20 minutes from her work. When she comes home from work, she is greeted by her two tabby cats with their unique personalities. Her hobbies include reading (excluding textbooks!), spending time outside during her favorite time of year (fall), biking, and spending time with family & friends and following her mother’s interest in cooking and baking.

Personally, congratulations are in order for Megan and Lance Russ on their recent engagement. Lance is also from Floodwood. No date has been set for the wedding yet but we know that it will be beautifully planned. If anyone would like to contact Megan, her email address is megan.heikkila@live.com.

Nursing is a dynamic field and Megan is enjoying her chosen career field. God’s continued blessings to her in her career and future wedding.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH GIVING OCTOBER 19 TO NOVEMBER 22, 2015

October 29 Giving

Sunday Offering	\$	969.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$	10.00

November Giving (November 1 to 22)

Sunday Offering	\$	5510.81
Homework Help	\$	10.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$	67.00
Thanksgiving Meal	\$	1.00
Youth – Schwan’s	\$	36.25

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Donald Tveit from Jeanette Johnsen	\$	25.00 (Memorial)
In Memory of Donald Tveit from Lily Autio	\$	15.00 (Savings)
In Memory of Donald Tveit from Bubba & Sue Vance	\$	25.00 (Savings)
In Memory of Ellen Laurie from Family	\$	1000.00 (General)
In Memory of Ellen Laurie from Karen & Roger Mattson	\$	25.00 (General)

Word from Pastor Carl – (Continued From Page 1)

Other terms that we hear frequently in the media are the Sunni and Shi'a Muslims. The followers of Sunni Islam are called Sunnis and the followers of Shi'a Islam are called Shiites. The Sunni are the majority of the Islamic population numbering roughly 85% whereas the Shia number approximately 15%.

The origin for the distinction between the two groups is a disagreement about the succession of leadership after Mohammed's death. The Sunnis believe that the next man who was the legitimate successor to Mohammed was his father-in-law Abu Bakr who was not a blood relative. The Shiites believe that Mohammed's cousin Ali was the rightful heir and that the leadership should become hereditary.

There is much internal conflict between the two spheres of Islam and we have seen this play out on the world's stage. The stronghold of Shia Islam is Iran and a significant population of Iraq, too. Much of the tension in Iraq has been between these two groups. Saddam Hussein's political allies came from the Sunni tradition even though they are not majority of the population of Iraq.

Breaking it down further, there is a conservative and puritanical school of thought that originates from the Sunni tradition. This larger family is known as Salafism and a further subdivision is known as Wahabism. The Wahabis have been particularly associated with the royal family of Saudi Arabia. Salafism generally and Wahabism specifically dislikes more moderate forms of Islam and consider them heretics.

The Wahabi Saudis welcomed the Americans to defend their country and its oil against Saddam Hussein. Those Wahabis who disliked the Saudis welcoming the Americans and instead want to wage violent jihad are the radicals known with the names of ISIS, ISIL or Daesh.

As we seek to learn more about what our civilization is contending with, we pray that there may be opportunities amidst the disagreements inside of Islam for the Christ child to be revealed to them as we Christians seek to remember his Advent to us this season.

HLCW News (continued from Page 1)

As President of HLCW, I would like to thank everyone for doing such a good job at the bazaar. First the meatball dinner was delicious. Thank you LuAnn for making the Swedish meatballs. And to the Mary Circle for the serving and cleaning up afterward, all led by LaVerne Hutton. Another thank you goes to all the people who donated the food. We always wait for the bakery items. And again the ladies didn't disappoint. Thanks to Rebecca Circle for taking care of that. Thanks to the people who brought new items, and to Naomi for their help. Thank you to Rae Rosemore for doing the checkout. Together with the meal, apple pies, and the bazaar night we had a successful night. Another bright spot at the bazaar was the beautiful wreaths made by the youth, under the guidance of Hazel and LuAnn. These were sold to raise money for the youth of our church to pay for their activities. Thank you to all who helped. *Grace Autio*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

“**W**hen the Kids Are Grownups Too” is the December topic for the women's Bible study. The scripture focus is Exodus 18. In this chapter Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, gives Moses advice about dealing with the disputes among his people after their escape from Egypt. Moses accepts this advice, making his load much lighter and easier to handle.

When we see a younger person making foolish or dangerous choices, what do we do? What wisdom would we like to pass along to grown children or other young people? Ask God for wisdom to know when to be silent and when to speak up.

These questions will be discussed on December 8th, 10:00 A.M., at church. All women are welcome. Carolyn Hosking will lead the study and Susan Coccie will serve coffee.

HLCW MINUTES, NOVEMBER 10, 2015

President Grace Autio opened the meeting at 10 a.m. in Hope Fellowship Hall with a prayer. Nine members were present.

The minutes of the October 13 meeting were read by the secretary and upon motion of Susan Coccie and seconded by Jan Benson approved with one modification: Grace said that the baby shower was not given by us, but by Telisha's family, and we helped with the space and the lunch. The motion passed with the change.

Jeanette Johnsen's treasurer's report showed a balance in checking of \$1,966.18, as of November 10; a savings balance of \$1,035.30 with a balance remaining after designated funds of \$1,703.70 a total of \$1,297.78. Upon motion by Carolyn Hosking, seconded by Liz Thom, the report was approved.

It was noted that we have eight pies left from the recent sale. Grace said that we will be buying apples from the Apple Hill Orchard in Bayfield again next year.

Grace reminded us that the annual fall bazaar is next week, Wednesday, November 18, the week before Thanksgiving. Everyone is reminded of their designated duties that day, and workers should be on hand well ahead of the 5 o'clock hour to set up their departments. She said that Cory Suonvieri has again made the posters that will be seen around town.

Cookie Can Sunday will be coming up. HLCW meets again December 8th, and everyone is asked to bring 4 dozen cookies for the second Sunday in December, December 13th. We will once again send cookies to Life House in Duluth.

The annual Sunday School Christmas program is also scheduled for Sunday, December 13th.

Jeanette suggested that since Hope is not able to finance missions as in the past, that HLCW use some of our extra funds to send to missions this year, at least. This will be brought up and voted upon at the December meeting, and send our contributions in January.

Carolyn told the group about a project called Peace and Love in Haiti that is being carried on by two nurses she knows at Essentia Health in Duluth. The nurses travel to Haiti every two months, camp out on the mountain sides and distribute bill caps and sunglasses to eager citizens who flock there when they are there.

She asks that everyone donate caps and sunglasses to her if they have any to spare, and she will give them to the couple to take to Haiti. Also, Carolyn's foster family member, the boxer Al Sands, plans to go to Haiti soon to help "dig a well."

The Christmas theme quilt top on display was donated by Melissa Polo, and will be finished in time for next week's bazaar and at Christmas Shopping Night November 23, to be sold at "silent auction." It was decided to ask a minimum of \$50.00 for a beginning bid. Quilt will be displayed in the Fair Building on the same frame that the Fair Quilt is displayed each year. The HLCW was not asked to babysit during Shopping Night this year.

There being no other business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 followed by the HLCW Bible study which was conducted by Grace Autio.

Nancy Raihala, Secretary



The youth made wreaths, which they sold the night of the bazaar.



Hope Lutheran Church Bazaar and Dinner.

**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.
Ricky Kinkel
- 26 Bubba Vance
- 27 Tanya Johnson
- 28 Donald Tveit
- 30 Lois Hendrickson
Lindsey Rosemore
- 31 Alex Larson



**DECEMBER
ANNIVERSARIES**

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Rae Rosemore
Deacon Laine
- 5 Jennifer Myles
- 6 Elbert Holmes
- 12 Liz Thom
- 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

**JANUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**

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

**WISH
LIST FOR
BETHANY
CRISIS
SHELTER**



Bethany Crisis Shelter has a need for outdoor games and activity items such as:

- Soft balls
- Slip & slide
- Ladder golf
- Basketballs
- Frisbees
- Bean bag games
- Sleds
- Mittens & hats for ages 8-17

Items can be brought to church on or before December 20th. No need to wrap items.

COMMUNITY CHOIR



Anyone interested in participating with the Community Choir for the community Christmas Program on December 20, 6:00 pm at New Life Community Church is invited to practice Sunday mornings at 11:30 at Hope Lutheran. We will also consider Wednesday night practice at 6:30 pm if there is an interest. Anyone interested in doing special music (vocal, piano or instrumental solos/groups) are welcome, too. Contact Liz Thom, Carol Scharnberg or Pastor Carl.

December 2015-Hope Lutheran Church Planner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:45 Fellowship	30 USHER TEAM: Marion Shafer & Burt Suonvieri – Team 6	1	2 Release Time: 11:30-Elem. 12:20-HS 2:30-7:00 Homework Help 7:00-Adult Learning & Confirmation	3 9-10:30 AM Ruby's Pantry @ Arrowhead Town Hall 1-3 PM Pastor's Office Hours	4	5
6 <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i> 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:45 Fellowship & Christian Education and Youth and Family Ministry 5:30 Family Fun Night <i>St. Nicholas' Day</i>	7 USHER TEAM: Bob Hosking & Dale Rauvola – Team 7 <i>Hanukkah</i>	8 10:00 HLCW meeting and Bible Study	9 9-11 AM FW Food Shelf at FST Release Time: 11:30-Elem. 12:20-HS 2:30-7:00 Homework Help	10 1-3 PM Pastor's Office Hours	11	12 9:00 Love Lights a Tree—Pastor Carl leading prayer
13 <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i> 9:30 Worship with Youth Christmas Program 10:45 Fellowship (HLCW Cookie Can Sunday) <i>St. Lucy's Day (Sankta Lucia)</i>	14 USHER TEAM: Rob Benson & Bubba Vance – Team 1	15	16 Release Time: 11:30-Elem. students sing at the Riverview Manor 12:20-HS 2:30-7:00 Homework Help	17 1-3 PM Pastor's Office Hours 7:00 Church Council	18	19
20 <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> 9:30 Worship with Robert & Ulla Suhonen present 10:45 Fellowship 6:00 Community Christmas program-New Life Community Church	21 USHER TEAM: Mark Johnsen & Dave Zieroth – Team 2 <i>St. Thomas Day</i>	22 <i>Winter Solstice</i>	23 9-11 AM FW Food Shelf at FST <i>No Elementary or High School Religious Release or Homework Help</i>	24 No Pastor's Office Hours 5:00 Christmas Eve Service <i>Nativity of our Lord</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 12:00 Dinner served at the Fair Building	26 <i>St. Stephen's Day</i>
27 <i>First Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:30 Worship (Pastor Gone) 10:45 Fellowship	28 USHER TEAM: Don Rosemore & Tim Tollgaard – Team 3 <i>Day of the Holy Innocents</i>	29 <i>St. John's Day (transferred)</i>	30 <i>No Religious Release or Homework Help</i>	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	Notes: Community Choir practice will be held at Hope at 11:30 on Sundays until the Community Christmas Program, which will be held at New Life Community Church on December 20th.	

Hope Lutheran Church Youth will be trimming the church's Christmas tree.



Come Join the Fun
(watch bulletin for details)

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH WEB SITE

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

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) by the 24th of the month.

Hope Lutheran Church
401 Highway 73
P.O. Box 288
Floodwood, MN 55736
(218) 476-2259
Hopefldwd7@gmail.com

Carl Fiskness, Pastor

Sunday School & Worship 9:30 a.m.

Hope Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 288
Floodwood, MN 55736