



The Beacon of Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church DECEMBER 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Word From Pastor.....Page 1

Hope Lutheran Church Women.....Page 1

Committee Reports.....Page 2

Prayer Requests.....Page 5

Birthdays and Anniversaries.....Page 6

Church Finances.....Page 6

Calendar of Events.....Page 7

Coffee Teams.....Page 8

WORD FROM PASTOR

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!” So says the first line of John the Baptist’s famous opening solo from the musical rock opera Godspell (the prophet Isaiah said it in Scripture, too!)

We’re in the church season of Advent once again; the time to prepare for the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in a manger in Bethlehem, just as the Church has done for the last 1600 plus years.

This year, I’d like us to prepare for something a little different, if we would; prepare to be in awe of the Baby Jesus.

Let’s face it, we’re not in awe that often. As human beings, we register a lot of emotions, but awe-well- that one makes us take the time to step back and ponder, like Mary did, when the Angel Gabriel told her that she would bear the Messiah.

It’s OK to drop our jaw even! Trying to fathom why Jesus would come to be Light and Life of this hurting world, especially as a defenseless baby, is a wonderment in itself.

(Continued on Page 3)

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

BIBLE STUDY

December’s topic in the “Spiritual Warfare” series is “The Armor of God” based on Ephesians 6:10-20. In this passage Paul introduces us to each piece of Roman armor and its spiritual counterpart. God provides divine armor, so we have nothing to fear when the “evil one” attacks. We meet Tuesday, December 12th at 10:00AM. Grace will lead the lesson and Sue Coccie will serve coffee. All women are welcome to take part in the discussion. *(Continued on Page 3)*

EKKA PRAYER LETTER

Dear Praying and supporting Brothers and Sisters at Hope Lutheran Church, MN.

Warm Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ !

During this season of Thanks Giving we would like to express our deep sense of thankfulness to you for your prayers and support; for your friendship and for your wonderful partnership in sharing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Many of you would be surprised to know that Nijhar and Puna (our 13 year old son) are in India while Jhumpa and Neeraj are still in the USA. It is because of Indian Consulate in Chicago did not accept Jhumpa's (our 9 year old daughter) photograph for three times. In the middle of much uncertainty about her visa Nijhar and Puna left for India on October 11th and are already busy there. To our great relief the Consulate accepted Jhumpa's photograph as of November 10th and we got the actual visa on November 21. Thus, Neeraj and Jhumpa would travel to India on November 30th 2017. During this time of waiting and uncertainty many of you prayed for us and supported us for which we are very thankful. What should have been a routine visa application of two weeks turned out to be an ordeal of more than four months. Though we do not know yet we believe the Lord has a purpose for this delay and waiting.



Nijhar is already busy at the seminary and other events outside



Family picture before Nijhar and Puna left for India

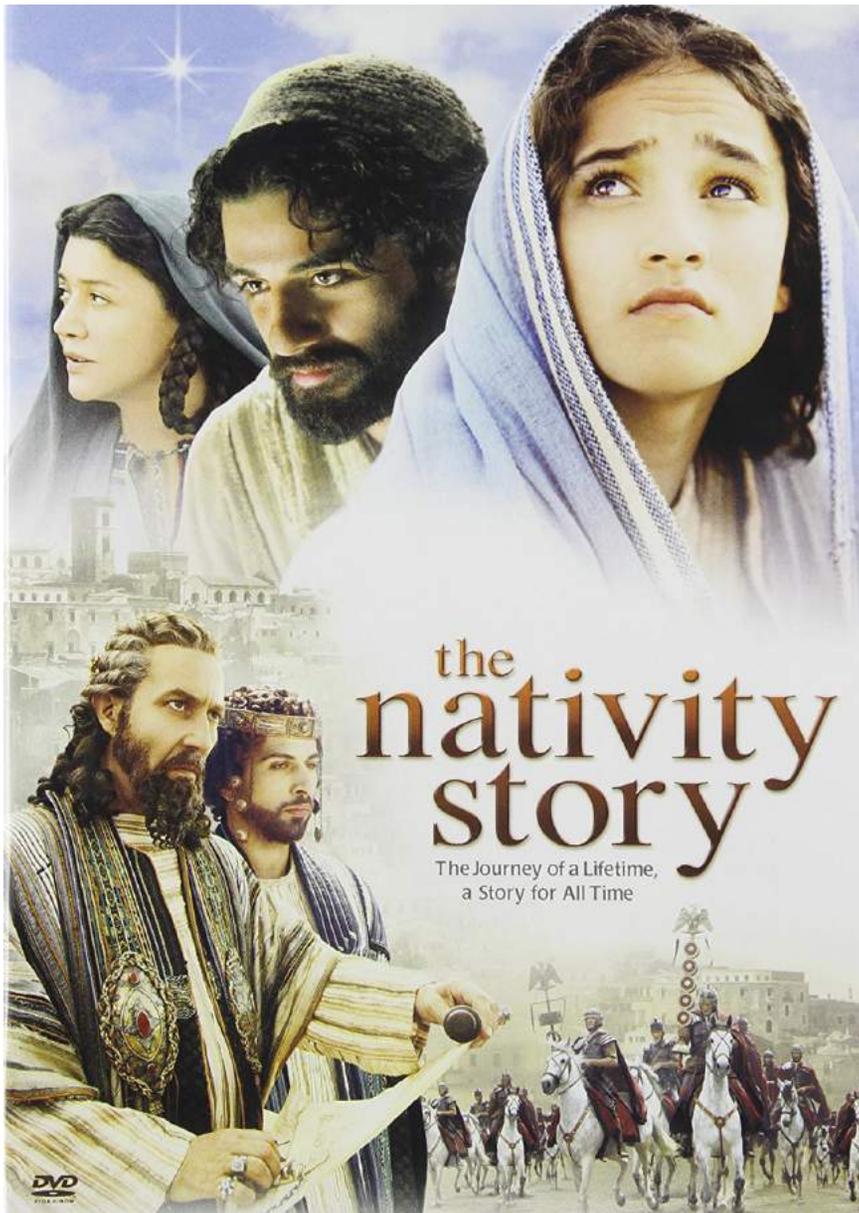
Please join us in Prayer:

- Praise and thank God for safe arrival of Nijhar and Puna; and Puna's School
- Praise and thank God for our dear friend Patty and many friends who are willing to help and support Maani and Urbas
- Praise and thank God for faithful leadership of Chuck Lindquist, our General Director who just retired
- Pray for Neeraj and Jhumpa's travel on November 30, 2017
- Pray for adjustment and maturity for Maani and Urbas as they transition to living with Patty
- Pray for governmental favor for land, registration related permission etc. for Christian Boarding School
- Pray for God's continued guidance and provision for Chuck and Cindy and for vision, wisdom and strength for Paul Gossman and Pris as Paul has become the New General Director



Maani and Urbas will be staying with our dear friend Patty to complete their high school.

With Grateful Hearts– Neeraj and Nijhar



Wednesday, December 13

6:30 PM – Hope Church Basement

Free will offering to support youth programming.
Popcorn and drinks will be available.



Committee Reports

Hope Lutheran Church Minutes of Council Meeting Floodwood, MN November 16, 2017

Present: Administrator Jeff Kletscher, Mark Johnsen, Elvi Tollgaard, Lonna Hutchinson, Susan Coccie, Pat Seredinski, Pastor Julie Gellert
Absent: Rob Benson

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Johnsen at 6:00 pm. Pastor Julie opened with prayer.

AGENDA

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

REPORTS

Secretary: Motion by Coccie to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2017 meeting with one correction, second by Seredinski. Motion carried.

Financial: Motion by Tollgaard, second by Hutchinson to approve the October financial report. Motion carried.

Pastor: Report given.

Christian Education and Youth: Children's Christmas Program set for December 10th during regular Church service. Tree decorating will take place on Sunday December 3rd after worship. Pastor Julie went over the revised Confirmation requirements. Meetings with students and parents of those to be confirmed to take place on December 17th after worship.

Outreach: No report.

Community & Technology: No report.

Building Committee: Parsonage update: carpeting is installed, tile work almost completed. Hutchinson brought in a quote for new window treatments in sanctuary. Coccie made a motion to order (7) shades with the funds to come out of the rental fund,

second by Tollgaard. Motion carried.

Befrienders: 18 cards sent out.

Quilters: 10 quilts made in October, next quilting date set for January.

Administrator: Submitted reports on all finances. Discussed Hwy 73 Right of Way (ROW), roofing donations and interior insurance claim.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion made by Coccie, second by Seredinski to deposit \$3,290 from roofing fund into endowment fund. Motion carried.

1. Hope Lutheran signed up to be helpers for Christmas in the Campground on December 8th and 9th. Sign up sheet in back of church.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual meeting set for January 28th, 2018.

1. Holiday services will be Thanksgiving Eve 7:00pm, Advent services at 7pm on December 6th and 13th, December 20th will be a family movie night with the youth supplying refreshments for a free will donation, December Christmas Eve regular morning service and also a 5:00 pm service.
2. Motion made by Tollgaard 2nd by Hutchinson to donate \$600 to the Arrowhead Shield 616 fund in support of Floodwood Police Department. Motion Carried.

Next two meetings: December 14th and January 18th at 6:00 pm
Globe offering in December will go towards the Community Christmas dinner.
Closing prayer given by President Mark Johnsen.
Meeting adjourned 7:42PM.
Lonna Hutchinson, Secretary

Christian Education & Youth & Family Committee

Minutes – November 5, 2017

Six members present: Dawn Shafer, Pat Seredinski, Telisha Bennett, Hazel Bailey, Leigha Kuehl, and Pastor Julie Gellert.
Absent: Rob Benson, Sheryl Abell

Motion by Leigha Kuehl, second by Telisha Bennett to nominate Hazel Bailey as Chairperson. Motion carried.

Leigha volunteered to serve as secretary.

Will ask Jeff Kletscher to contact Dean Fries about a Christmas Tree. Needed by December 2, 2017 as it will be decorated on Sunday, December 3, 2017.

Tree decorating on December 3rd after Church at 11:00 AM. Lunch at Noon. Sloppy Joes, hot dogs, chips. There is a Grocery Store credit from Homework Help that can be used for this. LuAnn in charge of food. Telisha & Leigha in charge of crafts. Hazel in charge of BINGO/Word Search. Hazel – reminder note to send to Release Time students.

Pat will arrange singing at Riverview on December 13. Will have Jeff make arrangements for transportation.

Christmas program scheduled for December 10. Hazel in charge.

Keeping Spirit Singing – December 17.

Religious Release.

God's guys for older boys and Pastor.

Ten Commandments - classes.

Discipline expectations.

Communion after New Year.

Small catechism.

9th Grade start.

(Continued on Page 3)

Confirmation – Rob & Pastor.
Restructured letter to be sent out.
Meeting on December 17th.

Respectfully submitted.
Leigha Kuehl

Call Committee

The Call Committee is completing the Congregational Profile and will be continuing to follow the LCMC Call Committee guideline.

VOLUNTEER(S) WANTED

1. *Sunday School teachers*
2. *Release Time teachers*
REGULAR TEACHERS
AND SUBS ARE NEEDED.
PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS
VERY IMPORTANT
MINISTRY

WORD FROM PASTOR (Continued from Page 1)

So, embrace this blessed season with wide-eyed joy! View the miracle of His birth like you did the birth of your own children; was there anything more precious?

Be sure and check the rest of the newsletter for the dates and times of our holiday worship services and events, so we can celebrate this special time together as a church family. Remember, there's always room in the stable for another worshiper, so invite someone you cherish to come with you and adore the Baby Jesus.
God's Peace +
Pastor J.

HLCW (Continued from Page 1) HLCW Minutes November 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 following the Bible Study. President Grace Autio presided,

and eight members were present. Minutes of the October 10 meeting were approved as published in the Beacon of Hope.

The treasurer's report was given by Jeanette Johnsen who noted the checking balance as of Sept. 11 was \$372.77. Apple pie sales to date were \$1,522.00, and along with other income totaled \$1,732.59. After expenses of \$322.28, there showed a balance of \$1,783.08 in checking as of 11-13-17. Designated funds (including the pie profits) amounted to \$1,396.81, leaving available funds of \$521.80.

The treasurer's report was accepted upon motion by Susan Coccie, seconded by Elsie Tollgaard, all voting aye.

It was reported that HLCW made 210 apple pies this year, and Grace said that 25 pies remain, which will be available at the Christmas Bazaar Wednesday of this week, and at Christmas Shopping Night next Monday if any are left.

Grace also reported that 35 Shoe Boxes for Christmas were brought to church on Sunday and dedicated by Pastor Julie for distribution. Also, a new microwave oven was purchased and is in the kitchen. Also, a quilt and a triptych wall hanging have been donated by Melissa Polo and are available for silent auction this Wednesday evening at the bazaar.

As the Childrens' Christmas program will be held on December 10, it was decided to have Cookie Can Sunday on Dec. 17th, at which time people are asked to bring 4 dozen cookies each for area-wide distribution.

Jeanette said she will post a list of items needed for the Bethany Crisis Shelter in Duluth for items to be placed under the Christmas Tree the next few weeks. She noted that baby food and under

clothing for small kids are what is especially needed; and things do not need to be wrapped.

There being no other business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Nancy Raihala, Secretary

THANK YOU

THANK YOU to Bob and Carolyn Hosking for driving to Bayfield in October to pick up the 9 bushels of apples used for pies.

THANK YOU to the Ahlgrens for delivering the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to Duluth.



Once again there will be a small tree decorated by the Sunday School kids in the rear of the church to collect gifts for the Bethany Crisis Shelter in Duluth. [the shelter is run by Lutheran Social Service]. This year their "wish list" includes the following:

- Baby wash, shampoo, and wipes
- Baby food in jars [the kids are encouraged to bring these]
- Underwear [male and female] of all sizes from 3T to XXL [for boys older than toddlers. NO whites — only boxers]
- Black leggings
- Sweat shirts and pants - all sizes
- T-shirts for older kids — plain

DO NOT WRAP. DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

CARD OF THANKS

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make our bazaar a fun and successful evening. The food was so good; thanks to LuAnn and the Rebecca Circle for cooking and serving the meal. Grace made a plea for more baked goods and everyone certainly responded-thank you for that. New items were good and the table of items from the young people added to the fun.

Advent Schedule

December 6th 7:00 PM

December 13th 7:00 PM
(*The Nativity Story movie*)

December 20th 6:00 PM
(*Floodwood School Christmas Program at Floodwood School*)
No church service

Julie Soderberg,
Guest Speaker
December 10th

Julie Soderberg, MSW, LGSW will join us for worship on December 10th to tell us about the adoption and foster care services that Kindred Family Focus, a private non-profit business, offers.

At the present time, there are 152 children listed on the Minnesota Waiting Children's list, and a number more who are in need of safe foster care. A loving, caring home with family and friends around them is no doubt at the top of their Christmas List. It might be their ONLY Christmas wish.

Christians throughout the centuries have sought to help orphans and other disadvantaged people by the command of Jesus Christ. We're privileged to have Ms. Soderberg come and speak at Hope Lutheran Church to address the need of child placement in Minnesota.



**Community
Movie Night
December 13th
at 6:30 pm**

We'll extend an invitation to our neighbors to join us for a showing of the movie **The Nativity Story**. The movie was produced in 2006, and is a very realistic telling of the birth of Jesus Christ, both in content and in casting.

A Freewill Offering will be taken to benefit our Youth. Popcorn and drinks will be served by them for refreshment.

Please make plans to attend! The movie duration is 1 hour and 45 minutes, which could be a welcome respite from the flurry of holiday preparation.

**Favorite Christmas Attire
Contest December 17th**



You have it hidden in the back of your closet. You pull it out once a year, and wonder if you have the fortitude to wear it. Others may call it ugly, but you think it's beautiful!

December 17th is your chance to wear it proudly to church, whether it's a Christmas sweater, sweater vest, sweatshirt, or tie.

During Fellowship time, you'll get to cast your vote for the favorite Christmas attire worn. A prize will be given for one guy and one gal that receives the most votes.

Be festive and have fun :-)

***The IRA Charitable Rollover
Act before December 31, 2017
to save on taxes!***

This year, instead of paying more in taxes, use your IRA distribution to support Hope Lutheran Church, to the program or account that you designate!

If you're 70 ½, you can roll over up to \$100,000.00 from your IRA to a 501c3 ministry. You won't be taxed on the transfer, and it counts against your required distribution.

Contact your IRA Administrator to see how it's done, and contact Jeff or Pastor Julie if you have any additional questions.

Youth

Happenings from the youth and family committee reorganizational meeting: President appointed: Hazel Bailey. Secretary appointed: Leigha Kuehl

Discussion included: Christmas tree decorating and family fun afternoon scheduled for December 3 after church with lunch to follow- Come join us for tree and church decorating followed by bingo, sloppy joe lunch, games and fellowship! We will begin following Sunday worship service. Mark your calendars for the annual Hope Christmas program December 10th.

We are also taking suggestions on fundraising activities for the youth!! Please let us know any ideas! All welcome!!

We also discussed confirmation requirements and classes. More info to come from pastor! Past, present and future confirmands!!

Thank you to all who support our youth!! More to come in the next weeks!! Leigha Kuehl, Secretary

PRAYER REQUEST DECEMB 2017



For those who are ill or struggling

Dinah	Lorraine	Joy G.	Mary
Sadie	Danette	Coach	
Frances	Grace W.	Lois	
Theresa	Joy C.	Willa	

Those suffering from natural disasters
Spiritual healing and salvation for our family and friends

For those in the military

Michael Thom
David Shafer
Damien Autio

For places where wars and conflict take place

Syria and Iraqi Christians and missionaries threatened by ISIS and the refugees
Those suffering from terrorism
Israel and Palestine and the peace of Jerusalem
Persecuted church around the world

For our missions and world missionaries

Ekka family & WMPL
Robert & Ulla Suhonen
Vision Petrozavodsk
Judy Yund and Bethel Hospital
Peace*Love*Haiti
Madagascar Mission Project

For our congregation, the Call Committee and Church Council
For Pastor Carl, Jodi, and Greta

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jordan Romanek
4 Carole Ahlgren
5 Carolyn Hosking
6 Johanna Abell
Cecilia Abell
10 Tony Speece
12 Danielle (Tollgaard) White
17 Courtney Young
John Hutchinson
19 John Seredinski Jr.
26 Bubba Vance
27 Tanya Johnson
29 McKennah Keil
30 Lois Hendrickson
Lindsey Rosemore
31 Alex Larson

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 19 Bob & Joyce Andrews
25 Bob & Carolyn Hosking
('60)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Rae Rosemore
Deacon Laine

- 6 Elbert Holmes
12 Liz Thom
15 Lukus Fries
Carter Stokke
23 Nolan Heikkila
27 Dalton Hutchinson
Drake Laine
28 Elsie Tollgaard
Jayna Kemp
30 Shannon Lund
Milee Lund

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

Free Community Christmas Day Dinner



12 noon -
Downtown Fair Building

Everyone is invited to attend

Please tell Pastor Julie, Jeff
Kletscher, or Susan Coccie if you
will be attending.

COOKIE CAN SUNDAY

We will be distributing Cookie Cans on December 17th. If you are able, we are asking each person to bring 4 dozen cookies. After the cookie cans are filled, a large tray will be brought to Riverview and the rest will go to Lifehouse for their Christmas party for homeless teens.

Mary Circle is filling the cans this year.

GLOBE OFFERING



*The Globe Offering will go to
support the Community
Christmas Dinner*

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH GIVING

General Fund Giving

Oct. 29	\$2114.31
Nov. 5	\$1946.35
Nov. 12	\$1570.81
Nov. 19	\$2116.34

Globe Offering

Operation Christmas	
Child	\$ 372.00
Christmas Dinner	\$ 15.00

Memorials

In Memory of Vance Baxley
from John and Pat Seredinski
\$50.00 (Memorial Checking)

In Memory of Alva "Buds"
Miller from Floyd and Carole
Ahlgren \$25.00 (General
Savings)

December 2017 HOPE LUTHERAN PLANNER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27 USHER TEAM: Don Rosemore & Tim Tollgaard	28	29	30	1	2
3 9:30 Worship & Sun.Sch. 10:45 Fellowship Decorate Christmas tree	4 USHER TEAM: Roy Autio & John Seredinski	5	6 Religious Release: 11:23-12:00 -High School; 1:00-1:45 – Elementary; 2:30-3:30 Confirmation Class 7:00 Advent Service	7 9-10:30 AM Ruby's Pantry @ Arrowhead Town Hall	8 Christmas in the Campground	9 Christmas in the Campground
10 9:30 Worship(Julie Soderberg, speaker) & Sun.Sch.Christmas program 10:45 Fellowship	11 USHER TEAM: Dean Fries & Jeff Kletscher	12 10:00 HLCW Bible Study and Meeting	13 9-11 AM FW Food Shelf at FST Religious Release: 11:23-12:00 -High School; 1:00-1:45 – Elementary; 2:30-3:30 Confirmation Class 6:30 Movie night	14 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	15	16
17 9:30 Worship & Sun.Sch. 10:45 Fellowship Bethany Crisis Center items due Christmas attire contest Cookie Can Sunday	18 USHER TEAM: Dave Zieroth & Mark Johnsen	19	20 Religious Release: 11:23-12:00 -High School; 1:00-1:45 – Elementary; 2:30-3:30 Confirmation Class Winter Concert at Floodwood School	21 9:30 AM Worship and Music committee	22	23
24 9:30 Worship 10:45 Fellowship 5:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 USHER TEAM: Bob Hosking & Dale Rauvola <i>12:00 Community Christmas dinner- Fair Bldg.</i>	26	27 9-11 AM FW Food Shelf at FST No Release Time	28	29	30
31 9:30 Worship 10:45 Fellowship	ADULT CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE FOR NEW LIFE CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 17: Rehearsals are: November 29, December 6, December 13 at 6 PM at New Life. All are welcome. Contact: Judy (218) 590-4806 Council Meeting Thursday, January 18 Annual Meeting January 28, 2018 followed by Potluck Meal					

SUNDAY COFFEE TEAMS

December

*Leader: Roy & Grace Autio
Dale & Mary Rauvola
Floyd & Carole Ahlgren*



January

*Leader: Pat & John Seredinski
Bubba & Sue Vance
Jan & Rob Benson*

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

Contact Julie Gellert, Pastor
(218) 476-2259 (Church) or
(907) 654-4625 for Pastoral Care
Sunday School & Worship 9:30 a.m.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED