

The Beacon Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran December 2025

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Pastor's Corner

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are now into the month of December, starting with the season of Advent to be followed by the Christmas season. Special thanks to all who helped decorate our new Christmas tree and put up the decorations within the church. Also special thanks to all those who are helping with the Advent wreath candle lighting acts each week of Advent.

The first Sunday of December will be the cookie tin Sunday when the women of Hope bake Christmas cookies to be put in cookie tins to be distributed to shut-ins and some of the elderly members of our community. Thank you to all who contribute and those that help deliver them during the Christmas season.

The second Sunday of December will be our annual children's Christmas program directed by Dawn Shafer and Pat Seredinski. The theme will be Christmas Hallelujah. Special thanks to all who make this event special and to all the children who participate.

Our Christmas Eve service will be December 24 in the evening at 5:00 p.m. It will conclude with the special candlelight ceremony. All are invited to attend as we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. My wish is for all to have a safe and blessed Christmas. *(Continued on Page 4)*



Cindy Burgess will continue to lead the study on Women of the Bible. December's person is Anna, a prophetess, who "never left the temple", and is mentioned in the second chapter of Luke. The group will meet on Tuesday, December 9th, at 10:00 A.M. at the church. All women are welcome. *(Continued on Page 4)*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hope Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes July 27th, 2025 (Approved Oct. 26, 2025)

Members Present

Gary Gustafson, Missy Wojtysiak, Jan Dornseif, Pat Seredinski, Pastor Burgess and Administrator Jeff Kletscher. Absent Kim Hutchinson and Carolyn Hosking.

Meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM by Gary Gustafson.

Pastor Burgess opened with prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Pat Seredinski, second by Jan Dornseif to approve agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

Secretaries Report

February 23rd, 2025 Church Council minutes in packet. Motion to approve by Pat Seredinski, second by Gary Gustafson. Motion carried.

President's Report

Update -Outreach Initiative. Gary and Lacey met with Emmett P, from Young Life, and had dinner. Young Life is a national and international program. They started out as a mentoring program. They go to where the kids are and build personal relationships with them and introduce them to Jesus Christ. They provide fun, adventurous, life changing experiences and work in communities alongside like-minded adults (volunteer leaders, committee members, donors and staff). They believe every young person deserves the right to hear about God's love. The next step is to meet with Brian, who runs Cloquet operations, and learn more,

attend a Young Life session in Cloquet.

Pastor's Report

Visits and communion given 4, mileage for May and June was 104 miles. Funerals done for Dinah Tveit and Marilyn Stephen. We hosted the Baccalaureate Service for Floodwood graduates. Special thanks to all who made that evening so special. Pastor participated in the Floodwood Community Vacation Bible School as the pastor teaching the daily bible story. During Catfish Days Parade we had a float for it in the parade with Hannah and Rivka Shafer riding on the float. Next Sunday is our annual outdoor service followed by a picnic lunch. Special thanks to all who will make it such a fun and successful day. Our theme will be God's creation. Thank you for the new computer in the office which is making my life so much better and efficient as I prepare each week. National Night Out is on August 5th, the church service will be at 4:30 and there will be a nice picnic dinner after at the Pavillion. We will be serving ice cream again at the Floodwood School Open House on Wednesday August 27th from 4-6 pm. Religious Release will begin on Wednesday September 24th. I hope we will find enough volunteers to pull it off this year. The area pastors are all meeting with the Superintendent on August 15th. I will restart bible class at the Riverview Apartments on Thursday September 4th and an adult class on Sunday September 8th after fellowship hour. I hope we can find a volunteer to help with children's sermons and Sunday school on Sundays this year. Sometimes we have 5 children now. I would like to attend the LCMC National meeting in Lakeville on October 5-8th and meet with our missionaries the Ekkas again there.

Treasurers Report and Administrator's Report

April, May and June check registers, Financial Report and Summarized Financial Report included and reviewed, nothing unexpected noted. Reminder August 3rd, the outdoor service, Jeff is gone. It will be a printed service and Youth will take care of the music. Building, working with PEAK Roofing (they are working with the manufacturer) on shingle issues. They came out yesterday and looked, will be coming Tuesday to replace shingles. They are also meeting with the Tamko rep on Thursday to discuss what to do with the constant failing roof. The gutters need cleaning out at the parsonage, trees and grass are growing in them and water was flowing over them, Pastor and Cindy completed this yesterday. Sam's Club credit card issue-payment dispute, we were credited much more than the amount of the cash they cashed. Sent check/payment for \$76.17, check was cashed. Amount credited to account was \$318.20. Working on selecting and ordering a new eternal Sanctuary lamp, electric and wall mounted. These range from \$75-about \$4000. Funds will be used out of the Memorial Savings for this. Fund for Religious Release for snacks and Funeral Lunch - no change since the last meeting. Expenses currently exceed income. We have had some members leave and some pass, this is likely the reason. Endowment Fund up at \$114,673.30.

Motion by Missy Wojtysiak, second by Jan Dornseif to approve the reports as submitted. Motion carried.

(Continued on Page 3)

Council Minutes
(continued from page 2)

Committee Reports

Christian Education and Youth: Included in Pastor's and Administrator's reports

Building Committee: Update included in the Administrator's report

Quilting Committee: Will resume in future months

Old Business

- a. Office Computers – Laptops were \$1260.54

New Business

- a. Certificate of Deposit Renewals. They are up the end of October. Motion made by Jan Dornseif, second by Pat Seredinski to renew or enter into new CD's, with the goal of doing some time laddering if possible. Signers would be available officers and Jeff. Motion carried.
- b. Nancy LaPlant was hired as custodian in December. Starting wage was \$15/hr and was told we would re-evaluate after 6 months. No concerns noted. Motion made by Pat Seredinski to increase wage by \$1/hr as of August 1st, second by Jan

Dornseif. Motion carried.

- c. LCMC Annual Gathering and Conference, Sunday, October 5th to Wednesday, October 8th Hosanna Church, Lakeville MN. Registration deadline is September 15th.
- d. Use of church. Rex Dahlman (Missy's dad) and Jeannie Larsen would like use the church September 20th to get married, they have a friend who will be performing the service. Motion by Jan Dornseif, second by Pat Seredinski to allow them to use the church. Motion carried.

Looking Ahead

Globe Offering: August - None, September - Religious Release fund, October-beginning of November – Operation Christmas Child. Motion by Jan Dornseif, second by Gary Gustafson to accept. Motion carried.

Next Meeting – Sunday, October 26th at 8:00 AM.

Closing Prayer – Pastor provided the closing prayer.

Adjourn Meeting – Meeting adjourned by Gary Gustafson at 9:01 AM.



RELEASE TIME



High School Release Time Children



Elementary Release Time Children

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Lisa Dusek
- 3 Jordan Romanek
- 4 Carole Ahlgren
- 5 Carolyn Hosking
- 6 Johanna Abell
Cecilia Abell
- 10 Tony Speece
- 12 Danielle (Tollgaard) White
- 15 Lacey Wojtysiak

(Continued on Page 4)

- 17 Courtney Young
John Hutchinson
- 19 John Seredinski Jr.
- 26 Bubba Vance
- 27 Tanya Johnson
- 29 McKennah Keil
- 30 Lindsey Rosemore

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

No anniversaries
during December

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Rae Rosemore
Deacon Laine
- 6 Elbert Holmes
- 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)



Reminders

**Sign up to serve
refreshments!**

And

**Sign up to be a
Scripture reader!**

FOOD SHELF

NEW HOURS

**2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
12-2:00 PM**

**THEN: THE FOLLOWING
MONDAY 9-11:00 AM**

Pastor's Corner (Continued from Page 1)

The next day is Christmas and we from Hope will be serving the Community Christmas Day Dinner at the Fair Building starting at noon. Special thanks to all who volunteer to make this day special for those in our community of Floodwood each year. This is such a great outreach activity as we share the love of Christ with those in need at Christmas time.

On Sunday December 28th we will have a special service of Christmas carols and lessons to conclude the week of Christmas. It is a good time to gather together and sing those special hymns that tell the good news that our Savior was born and that He would grow up to save all of us from our sins if we would only believe and accept His free gift. It is truly the good news of Christmas.

My prayer is for all of us to have a Blessed Christmas,

Pastor John

HLCW (continued from page 1)



QUILTING

There will be no quilting activities scheduled for the month of December. Further updates regarding the quilting ministry will be provided during church services or included in the next edition of the newsletter.



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

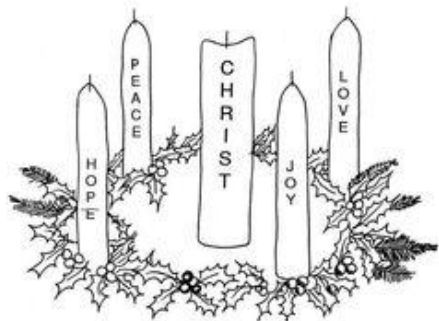
FREE

**Thursday,
DECEMBER 25**

**Noon - 1:00 PM
DOWNTOWN
FAIR CENTER
FLOODWOOD**

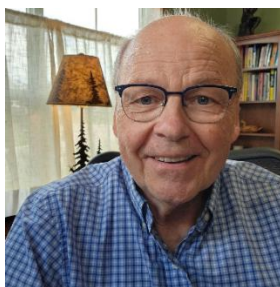
Come join us for a wonderful meal
and great fellowship.

Advent



Hope Lutheran Church supported the Operation Christmas Child ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Fourteen boxes were filled and collected by individuals of the congregation. Thank you for your caring and generosity. Thank you Mark and Kathy Johnsen for delivering the boxes to the collection site.

Doug Scholla's Celebration of Life



Doug Scholla's Celebration of Life service will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, Waconia. On December 13, 12:30 visitation, 2:00 service followed by an ice cream social.

Service will be live streamed on the Churches Facebook Page.

Address for Chris Scholla
140 Vista Way
Waconia MN 55387-5007



Pastor portraying Martin Luther during October 31st Reformation Sunday Service.



Cookie Can Sunday

Please bring 4 dozen cookies to church to be packed in containers for shut-ins on Sunday December 7th. A tray of cookies will be taken to also. Please wrap the cookies in packs of 3 or 4 cookies when you bring them in.

Please volunteer to deliver cans to friends and neighbors.

The Youth and Tanya Johnson will take the rest of the cookies to the Life House in Duluth for their Christmas party given for homeless teens in Duluth. Thank you for doing that.

PRAYER REQUESTS

December 2025



For those who are ill or struggling

Kitty	Gary
Dean S.	Jerry
Danette	Sadie
Carlene	Elsie
Grace W.	Willie
Sue	Willa
Bradley	Theresa
Wayne	Carolyn
Roy	
Erik	

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

Those mourning the loss of loved ones.

For those in the military:

Owen Seredinski, Liam Seredinski, Jacob Seredinski

For places where wars and conflict take place

Ukraine

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

Pashtun People Group

Robert & Ulla Suhonen

Vision Petrozavodsk

Judy Yund and Bethel Hospital

Peace*Love*Haiti

Madagascar Mission Project

*For our congregation and Church Council

*Pastor Julie

*Floodwood Police Department Officers
and all law enforcement officers

**Peace and healing in Ukraine and
Israel and the world!**

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH GIVING

General Fund Giving

November 2	\$2341.00
November 9	\$1166.00
HLCW Pie Sales	\$ 970.02
November 16	\$1691.05

Globe Support Operation Christmas Child

November 9	\$ 45.00
November 16	\$ 10.00

**Total for Support Operation
Christmas Child \$235.00**

Memorials

In Memory of Ethel Pensak from Jack &
Willie Moe \$50.00 (Memorial Savings)

In Memory of Doug Scholla from Bubba &
Sue Vance \$30.00 (Memorial Savings)

Globe Offering

December
None

***Offerings can be mailed to:
Hope Lutheran Church
PO Box 288
Floodwood, MN 55736***

Hope Lutheran Planner

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**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
INFORMATION AND UPDATES**

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.

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(419) 571-0299 for pastoral care

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED