

The Beacon Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran February 2026

Pastor's Corner

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

February is here and with it some of the coldest weather of the winter season. We have been moving through the Epiphany lessons and on Sunday February 8th we will celebrate the Souper Bowl of Caring when we collect food for the food Shelf and monetary donations for Life House ministry in Duluth. Our congregation has been very generous to these ministries in the past.

We will celebrate the beginning of Lent on February 18th Ash Wednesday at 7 p.m. with the imposition of ashes and a communion service. There will be no soup supper that evening but there will be each Wednesday at 6 p.m. during the following weeks followed by the midweek Lenten service at 7 p.m. Special thanks to all those who make those wonderful soups and to those who help serve each week. This year, brother Martin Luther will be our guest pastor as he covers eloquently and simply what each part of the catechism means for us believers and ends each week with an affirmation of certainty. "This is most certainly true!"

Week 1: The Ten Commandments

Week 2: The Apostle's Creed

Week 3: The Lord's Prayer

Week 4: Holy Baptism

Week 5: Office of the Keys

Week 6: Holy Communion (*Continued on Page 4*)



Cindy Burgess will lead the Women's Bible study on Tuesday, February 10th at 10:00 A.M. This month's featured women of the Bible will be Abigail and Bathsheba, two of David's numerous wives. All women are welcome.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hope Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes October 26, 2025 (Approved January 18, 2026)

Members Present

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

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Gary Gustafson.

Pastor Burgess opened with prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Missy Wojtysiak, second by Kim Hutchinson to approve agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

Secretaries Report

July 27th, 2025 Church Council minutes in packet. Motion to approve by Kim Hutchinson, second by Pat Seredinski. Motion carried.

President's Report

We did indeed go to Young Life in Cloquet and they are very nice. They do fun things like games, skits, sing songs/play guitar and then a bible lesson. It is in an old school, so there is also a gym for the kids to utilize. I did get more information from Brian. More informative regarding getting staff, etc. We would really like to move forward, also discuss with other

local pastors. Lacey had a lot of fun, took a little bit to engage but then really enjoyed it. There are 3 different groups that meet separately, Elementary, Middle School and High school.

Discussion regarding policy on armed parishioners.

Pastor's Report

This month's mileage was 199 miles, with three communions given. The funeral for Ethel Pensak was completed, along with the final burial ceremony for Doug and Hazel Bailey, attended by the Honor Guard. I'm teaching two pastors a ten-week PEG ministries course in pastoral care, two hours each week—Jeff will wrap up this Thursday, and the other pastor will finish in 5–6 weeks. I'm also leading Bible studies twice a month on Thursdays at Riverview Apartments, teaching an adult Bible class every Sunday, and working with High School and Elementary students in religious release each week. There are no confirmation students this year. Advent begins November 30th, we'll also decorate the church for Christmas that day. Cindy and I will be in town for Thanksgiving.

Treasurers Report and Administrator's Report

July, August and September check registers, Financial Report and Summarized Financial Report included and reviewed, nothing unexpected noted. Sam's Club Credit Card issue – payment dispute was resolved. Have been informed there will be a Community Christmas Dinner this year. Private wedding on 9/20/25 went off with no issues, donation was made and placed in General Fund Offering. New eternal Sanctuary Lamp has arrived,

electric. Will be wall mounted, cost was \$384.99, purchased from Concordia Publishing—waiting for bill, funds will be from Memorial Savings. Waiting for wall mount to be installed. September Globe offering for Religious Release snacks \$378. Religious Release snack fund \$632.89 (held in Missions Checking). CCLI Reporting period 10/1/25-3/31/26: every song or video we play in church. We pay a yearly fee and this reporting period has to do with royalties paid. Fire Extinguisher testing completed on 9/30/25—they met with John S—no issues. Elevator Inspection on 10/8/25—ok, no issues. Several letters to City of Floodwood regarding Lead Waterlines. They hired consultants to evaluate. Jeff wrote letters regarding the parking lot and vacant lot and met with the consultants. Insurance premiums increased to \$12,245.34 per year (from \$11,529.00). Snow removal contract with FST for 2025-2026 completed. CDs up slightly. Endowment fund is doing well.

Motion by Jan Dornseif, second by Kim Hutchinson to approve the reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Christian Education and Youth:

Included in Pastor's and Administrator's reports. Quake event will be March 20-22. Lacey, Kendra, Lilyana, and Allie are registered. Tanya and Summer will be chaperones. Bill paid in full \$1334.00

Building Committee: Update included in the Administrator's report.

(Continued on Page 3)

Quilting Committee: Meeting on the last Tuesday of the month.

Old Business

- a. Roof Update – 10/8/25 (Jeff) – They have indicated they will replace the entire roof next spring. Tamco is not backing their shingles so PEAK Roofing will cover the cost.
- b. Sump Pump – Dave is working on it; he adjusted it during pie making.

New Business

- a. Minnesota Paid Leave Act Update and Discussion – Paid leave is covered by premiums paid by employers and employees. The standard premium for small businesses is 0.66%. The employer must pay at least 0.22% and employee up to 0.44%. Jeff proposes a 0.33%/0.33% split. Motion made by Kim Hutchinson, second by Missy Wojtysiak. Motion carried.
- b. Budget Discussion (increase Pastor's Pay) – Pastor is currently receiving the same salary of \$36,000/year as when he started on September 2, 2018. Suggested pay increase of 10% to become

effective on November 1, 2025. Motion made by Kim Hutchinson, second by Jan Dornseif. Motion carried.

- c. Youth Christmas Program – December 14th
- d. Annual Meeting – Be thinking of dates and candidates for Council Positions. Council Positions to be filled in 2026 – Missy and Jan's seats (Jan is currently completing a 1-year term and is eligible for another term, Missy is not eligible for another term). Annual Meeting report due – Jan 11th, Council Meeting date – Jan 18th, Annual meeting and potluck - Jan 25th

Looking Ahead

Globe Offering: October - November 16th – Operation Christmas Child (already approved). November 17th - December – None. Motion by Missy Wojtysiak, second by Kim Hutchinson to accept. Motion carried.

Next Meeting – Sunday, January 18th, 2026 at 8:00 AM.

Closing Prayer – Pastor provided the closing prayer.

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bradley Hutton
- 3 Kalen Kuehl
- 7 Jaimen Davis
Janet Zganjar
- 8 John Seredinski
- 11 Greta Fiskness
- 15 Jill Fries
Shirley Johnson
- 16 Madison Wojtysiak
- 17 Barbara Larson-Peterson
- 25 Judy Dressely

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Bill & Jan Manner
- 14 Tracy & David Zieroth
- 27 Marlys & Tom Piontek

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tammy Peterson
- 7 Scott Peterson
- 8 Brooke Hughes Johnson
- 10 Amelia Aho
- 11 Carlene Jatkola
Ross Tollgaard
- 12 Alexis Stokke

(Continued on Page 4)

- 13 Steve Hall
- 15 Nathan Seredinski
- 17 Patricia Seredinski
- 19 Amber Schoenrock
(Fries)
Bode Hutchinson
- 21 Kaleb Holmes
- 22 Tanya Hovi
Shelly Arjes
- 23 Burt Suonvieri
- 26 Evan Suonvieri
- 30 Adam Schminski



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 31 LuAnn & Terry Heikkila

Pastor's Corner (Continued from Page 1)

I encourage all to attend the midweek Lenten services as we prepare for the coming Easter season. There is no better way to prepare than having Martin Luther review the truths of our faith. And the Lenten soup suppers are awesome! I Hope to see you there.

God Bless Us All,

Pastor John

FOOD SHELF NEW HOURS

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

THEN: THE FOLLOWING
MONDAY 9-11:00 AM



Reminders

**Sign up to serve
refreshments!**

And

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

HLCW (continued from page 1)



QUILTING

Quilting will resume on Tuesday, February 24th at the church at 9:00 A.M. Any and all help is welcome.



On Super Bowl Sunday, February 8th, the Hope Lutheran Youth will be joining other youth around the nation in the Souper Bowl of Caring, to help tackle hunger. Leading up to Super Bowl Sunday, the youth will be collecting non-perishable food items and cash for the Floodwood Food Shelf. Items can be dropped off at the church. On Super Bowl Sunday, the youth will present a skit on hunger to the congregation. All cash donated on that day will be given to the Life House in Duluth. The Life House works with homeless teens.

From Samaritan's Purse:

Taking the Gospel to the
Ends of the Earth!

Thank you for partnering with Operation Christmas Child to help take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to millions of boys and girls around the world. The shoebox gifts that you prayerfully packed in 2025—**12,205,900**, praise God!—will help open doors for us to reach even more children with God's love in the new year.

These shoeboxes go to the very ends of the earth—from jungles to deserts, from megacities to remote villages. One of the most powerful testimonies we've received recently comes from one of our teams deep in the Amazon rainforest of Peru. The Chapra people are an indigenous tribe, far removed from modern life in many ways. Recently, more than 1,000 Chapra children received shoebox gifts, most of them hearing about our Savior for the very first time.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Christmas Day Community Dinner



Community Churches Christmas Party

January 11, 2026



Each church had a presentation for
The community.



Elsie Tollgaard's Birthday Party



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
ELSIE



Week 1: The Ten Commandments

Week 2: The Apostle's Creed

Week 3: The Lord's Prayer

Week 4: Holy Baptism

Week 5: Office of the Keys

Week 6: Holy Communion

PRAYER REQUESTS

February 2026



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	Jack
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

January 4	\$2214.00
January 11	\$ 654.00
January 18	\$1080.00
January 25	\$2305.00

Globe Offering



February	Quake Event Support
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February 8	Super Bowl of Caring (One Day Only)
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March	Floodwood Area Food Shelf
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Offerings can be mailed to:
Hope Lutheran Church
PO Box 288
Floodwood, MN 55736

February 2026 Hope Lutheran Planner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Worship & Sunday School with Communion 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study <i>Church Council Installation during Service</i>	2 USHER: Dave Zieroth NO Pastor's office hours	3	4 Religious Release HS 12:35-1:20 Elem 1:30-2:15	5 10 AM Bible Study at Riverview Manor	6	7
8 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study 	9 USHER: Gary Gustafson 9:00-Noon- Pastor's office hours	10 10:00 AM HLCW Bible Study	11 Religious Release HS 12:35-1:20 Elem 1:30-2:15	12	13 12-2:00 PM Floodwood Food Shelf	14 
15 8:00 AM: Church Council Meeting 9:30 Worship & Sunday School with communion 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study	16 USHER: Dale Rauvola NO Pastor's office hours 9-11 AM Floodwood Food Shelf <i>President's Day</i>	17	18 Religious Release HS 12:35-1:20 Elem 1:30-2:15 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 	19 10 AM Bible Study at Riverview Manor	20	21
22 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study	23 USHER: Kent Wojtysiak 9:00-Noon- Pastor's office hours	24 9:00 AM Quilting <i>NEWS ITEMS DUE</i>	25 Religious Release HS 12:35-1:20 Elem 1:30-2:15 6:00 PM: Soup supper 7:00 PM: Lenten Service <i>The Ten Commandments</i>	26	27	28



**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.*

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

Contact Pastor John Burgess
(218) 476-2259 (Church) or
(419) 571-0299 for pastoral care

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED