

The Beacon of Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran January 2024

Pastor's Corner

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Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter January 2024, we celebrate that we are another year closer to Christ's, and we will have the opportunity to get ourselves ready for that great event. We look back on 2023 and thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed on each of us and our families during the year. He loves us so much and I hope that you experienced the feeling of His love in your life.

Cindy and I want to thank you all for the Christmas cards, gifts and words of encouragement we have received. We are so grateful and blessed to be part of the Hope Lutheran family.

I want to thank all those who helped with the religious release classes and the Christmas program. It was so rewarding to see so many children participate and for us to have the chance to welcome them and their families to our church. We need to pray that this opportunity will encourage many of them to return and become involved in our church family.

Thank you to all who made our annual community Christmas day dinner at the Fair building a success. The food and fellowship were special as we reached out to those in our community who were in need of this Christmas meal and the chance to be with other people at this time of year.

This past week Cindy and I were blessed to visit the shut in members of our church and deliver the cookie tins and communion to them. Thank you to all who helped to make this possible as it is so appreciated by those who receive them. *(Continued on Page 4)*



Cindy Burgess will lead the last session on the "I Am's" of Jesus at the women's gathering at the church on January 9th at 10:00 A.M. Those attending are invited to share their favorite Bible verses for added discussion. All women are invited. *(Continued on Page 4)*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hope Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2023

APPROVED

Members Present

Tanya Johnson, Deb Tollgaard, Todd Messner, Kim Hutchinson, Missy Wojtysiak (arrive 8:05), Pastor John Burgess and Administrator Jeff Kletscher. Absent: Bubba Vance and Carolyn Hosking. Guest: Jody Messner.

Pastor Burgess opened with prayer.

Meeting was called to order at 8:03 am.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Deb Tollgaard, second by Todd Messner to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

Secretaries Report

August 6, 2023 Church Council minutes in packet. Motion to approve by Tanya Johnson, second by Deb Tollgaard. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Preached at 75th Anniversary Service at Holy Trinity in Mansfield Ohio on October 1st. Special series on Martin Luther during October, which is Reformation month. Will be conducting graveside service for Vincent Wiita on Friday, October 13 at Brookston Cemetery. Religious Release started – 7 High School students and 13 Elementary students. Continuing Sunday Bible studies on Revelation. Mentoring a new Pastor from North Dakota for

PEG Ministries. 119 miles. 9 communions.

Treasurers Report and Administrator's Report

Maui Globe Offering total was \$649.03; a check was sent to Maui Strong Fund at Hawaii Community Foundation. Still waiting to hear on MN Power rebate. CCLI Audit Reporting has been completed. No change in RR snack fund. Packet included August and September check registers, updated financial statement, account balances, and youth account report. Motion by Tanya Johnson, support by Todd Messner to approve report as submitted. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Christian Education and Youth: Religious Release started – 7 High School students and 13 Elementary students. Special thanks to Gary Gustafson, Dawn Shafer and Jody Messner for helping. Also thanks to all those who supply treats. Registration is completed for 2024 Quake Event.

Building Committee: Tree at parsonage was removed. Todd Messner and John Seredinski added extensions to furnace pipes at Church. Jeff will work with Peak Roofing to get shingles replaced.

Quilting Committee: Meeting on the last Tuesday of the month. (No quilting in November or December.)

Old Business

- a. Prayer Chain Update – Jody Messner reported sign up is going well and people are interested. People are encouraged to sign up. Jody joined Grace and Cindy during their prayer

time one day.

New Business

- a. 2022 Financial Audit – Kathy Johnsen and Tim Tollgaard completed an audit of the April and November 2022 financial records. They reviewed check registers, budget reports, and bank statements. Jeff was available to answer questions. They indicated they “*found no concerning discrepancies and have complete confidence in the accuracy of the 2022 finances.*” Motion by Tanya Johnson, second by Missy Wojtysiak to acknowledge completion of the 2022 Audit and thank Kathy Johnsen and Tim Tollgaard for completing the Audit. Motion carried.
- b. Christmas Services – Youth Christmas program will be on December 17. Only a 5 PM Service on Christmas Eve which is a Sunday (no AM Service). NO service on Christmas Day.
- c. Christmas Dinner – Will be on Christmas Day (Noon – 1:00 PM) at the Downtown Fair Center. Hope is the official sponsor. Pastor will verify details with those in charge.

Jeff shared information on the new Minnesota Earned sick and safe time law that will be effective January 1, 2024. The new Paid Family and Medical Leave benefits program will start on January 1, 2026. *(Continued on Page 3)*

Committee Reports (Continued from page 2)

Globe Offering October and 1st half of November for Operation Child. None for last half of November and December.

Next Meeting – December 10, 2023 at 8:00 am.

Closing Prayer – Pastor provided the closing prayer.

Adjourn Meeting – Meeting declared adjourned at 8:51 am.

Youth

SEE PAGE 5 FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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
- 29 Hazel Bailey
- 30 Shannon Lund
Milee Lund

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Carole & Floyd Ahlgren ('56)
- 6 Bill & Jan Manner
- 14 Tracy & David Zieroth
- 27 Marlys & Tom Piontek

Shopping Night

Elsie Tollgaard, Carolyn Hosking and Pat Seredinski join Dani Larva on shopping night in Floodwood to participate in the caroling up and down the main street.



Friday, January 12

6 PM FREE Meal

7 PM Program

The Event Center

201 W 7th Avenue, Floodwood

Come enjoy a heartwarming Christmas Program put on by the local Floodwood area churches and a FREE meal prepared by Rich Cuisine. Invite your family and friends. Children welcome. We hope to see you there!



Are you in need of prayer or want to join the prayer chain?

**Contact Jody Messner
(218) 878-0456**

Pastor's Corner (continued from page 1)

My hope for you in the upcoming year is that many of you will become involved in the bible study classes we have. I will teach the adult class on Sunday mornings as we study the book of Genesis and learn of God's plan for our redemption since our fall into sin. I will also teach a class at the Riverview apartments on the first and third Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. as we study the epistles of the apostle John. Cindy will teach the woman's bible study each month on the second Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the church. We hope you can find the time to attend a class this year.

We will be participating in the community Christmas program on Friday January 12th at the Event center sponsored by the churches of Floodwood. There will be a free meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by a program of special performances reflecting on the joy of Christmas. Please let me know if you would like to be involved.

My prayer for all of us is that we experience a safe and rewarding year in 2024 as we all continue our

spiritual journey with the Lord. May God increase in all of us a hunger for His Word and sacraments as we worship each week together. I invite you to come and hope you will invite others as our Lord commanded us in His great Commission.

May God continue to Bless each and every one of you this year,

Pastor John

HLCW (Continued from Page 1)



Quilting

Quilting will resume on January 30th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



All Annual Meeting reports should be submitted to Jeff by Sunday, January 14.

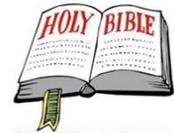
Please Email to:
jeffkletscher@yahoo.com or
hopefldwd7@gmail.com.

The annual congregational meeting will be held after the January 28th Sunday service. A potluck will follow the meeting.

Cookie Can Sunday



Hope ladies delivered around 30 cans of cookies and took a large platter to the Riverview Apartments and the Life House in Duluth on Cookie Can Sunday. Thanks to all who participated.



Sign Up to be a Scripture Reader



Sign Up to Serve Refreshments

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER



The free Community Christmas Day dinner, hosted by the Hope Lutheran Church of Floodwood, was held at the Downtown Fair Center. There were 41 take-out orders, while 68 people enjoyed the meal with friends and family at the fair building. This was a record number for attendees and take-out orders. A sincere "thank you" to all who helped to make this event possible, and to all those who participated in the meal. A very special thanks to Anne and Ed Lundstrom, whose expertise makes the meals delicious.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Youth decorating for Christmas



Release Time Party

The release time youth had a birthday party for baby Jesus on Wednesday as they head into their Christmas vacation. Jesus is the reason for the season.



Special Music

Dawn and Marion Shafer sang "Hanukkah" by Marty Goetz. It is a song of rededication of *our* temple to the Lord.



Advent Candles

Advent refers to a four-week season of remembering and celebrating the arrival of Jesus on Earth. One candle is lit each week. The candles respectively symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love.

The Johnson family lit the first candle, the Messners lit the second candle, the Vances lit the third candle and lit the fourth candle and the Mark Johnsen family dedicated the 4th candle.



Greetings From Our World Mission Prayer League Associates



WORLD
MISSION
PRAYER
LEAGUE

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Hope Lutheran,

Greetings to you in the Precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We are grateful to the Lord for your partnership in God's Kingdom, thank you for your prayers and support for us and for the work around the globe .

Please find our Prayer Letter attached and continue to thank God for His faithfulness and cover harvest field and workers in your prayers.

May the Lord bless you and your family during this season of Advent.

With Prayers

Nijhar and Neeraj

NOTE: Ekka's Prayer Letter can be found on the table in the overflow room.

January 2024 Hope Lutheran Planner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 USHER: Bob Hosking NO PASTOR OFFICE HOURS <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3 Release Time 12:45-1:30-HS 1:30-2:15-Elem.	4 10 AM Bible Study at Riverview Manor	5	6
7 9:30 Worship with communion & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study TREE UNDECORATING FOLLOWING SERVICE	8 USHER: Dale Rauvola 9:00-Noon- Pastor's office hours	9 10:00 AM- HLCW Bible Study	10 12-2:00 PM Floodwood Food Shelf Release Time 12:45-1:30-HS 1:30-2:15-Elem.	11	12 6:00 PM: Community Christmas/New Years Celebration at the Event Center MEAL 7:00: Program	13
14 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study Annual Meeting Reports Due	15 USHER: Kent Wojtysiak 9:00-Noon- Pastor's office hours	16	17 Release Time 12:45-1:30-HS 1:30-2:15-Elem.	18 10 AM Bible Study at Riverview Manor	19	20
21 8:00 AM Church Council 9:30 Worship with communion & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study	22 USHER: Bubba Vance 9:00-Noon- Pastor's office hours	23	24 9-11 AM Floodwood Food Shelf Release Time 12:45-1:30-HS 1:30-2:15-Elem. News items due	25	26	27
28 9:30 Worship & Sunday School Annual Meeting after service Potluck after meeting NO BIBLE STUDY	29 USHER: Tim Tollgaard 9:00-Noon- Pastor's office hours	30 9:00-3:00 Quilting	31 Release Time 12:45-1:30-HS 1:30-2:15-Elem.			

PRAYER REQUESTS

January 2024



For those who are ill or struggling

Ethel	Roy
Dinah	Gary
Dean S.	Lorraine
Jerry	Bob
Danette	Sadie
Grace W.	Jim
Sue	Willa
Bradley	Theresa
Heather	Wayne
Carlene	Willie
Sulo	Jen
Floyd	Kitty
Pastor John	Doug
Ella	

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
*For Pastor Carl, Jodi, and Greta
*Floodwood Police Department Officers and all law enforcement officers
*For our world and nation on dealing with the Covid-19 virus

Peace and healing in Ukraine and Israel and the world!

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
GIVING**

General Fund Giving

November 26	\$ 920.00
December 3	\$2226.00
December 10	\$1796.27
December 17	\$2588.00

Youth – Craft Sales

December 17	\$ 48.00
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Memorials

In Memory of Leonard Stokke from Bubba & Sue Vance \$25.00 (Mem Savings)

In Memory of Leonard Stokke from Jeanette Johnsen \$25.00 (Mem Savings)

GLOBE OFFERING



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



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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED