



The Beacon of Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church JANUARY 2016

A Word From Pastor Carl

A NEW YEAR WITH NEW FACES IN OLD PLACES

The beginning of the year 2016 includes leadership changes for Hope Lutheran Church. The first transition has already taken place. Towards the end of this year just completed, Jen Myles stepped down from the custodial position. We thank Jen for her time and talents during the past year. We also thank Hazel Bailey for agreeing to return to the position with her many years of experience and efficiency to keep our space clean and organized.

Another change will soon take place in the office. Marion Shafer decided to retire from the church secretary position. Marion's last duty will be to prepare the packet for the annual meeting. The new person (whoever that will be) will observe Marion performing the tasks and begin after the meeting. We recognize Marion for his dozen years of service.

Besides unscheduled staffing changes, with every change of the calendar, a new church council will be elected at the annual meeting. Bubba Vance, Kathy Johnsen and Bryan Hutchinson will have completed their council terms. Bubba will have finished two full terms of three years each and so we especially thank him for what he has done, particularly with building and grounds projects.

(Continued on Page 4)

Hope Lutheran Church Women

HLCW BIBLE STUDY

The January topic for the women's Bible study will be "Wiser by Faith" based on Genesis 24:1-9. Wisdom does not automatically with age. However, we can get wiser as we get older, if we tap into the eternal wisdom of God. We've been having some great discussions with these lessons, sharing experiences from daily life. HLCW will meet for their business meeting and Bible Study at 10:00, Monday, January 12, 2016. Elsie and Elvi will serve coffee and Jeanette Johnsen will lead the lesson. If you don't have a study book, see Jeanette Johnsen.

Thank you to all who brought items for the Bethany Crisis Shelter. There was a nice selection of the outdoor play things plus mittens and hats that were requested. And a big THANK YOU to the Ahlgrens for delivering everything.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (UNAPPROVED)

**Hope Lutheran Church
Floodwood, MN**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 17, 2015**

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

Meeting was called to order by President Susan Coccie at 7:04 pm. Pastor Fiskness opened with prayer.

AGENDA

MOTION BY BENSON, SECOND BY ZIEROTH TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED.

SECRETARY REPORTS

MOTION BY VANCE, SECOND BY ZIEROTH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, AND THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 6. MOTION CARRIED.

Financial: The November Financial Report was reviewed. MOTION BY BENSON, SECOND BY VANCE TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

Pastor: Activities report attached.

Youth & Family: Jen Myles reported that there is interest with the youth to attend Quake Zone next year. Rob Benson and Pastor Fiskness met with the youth to discuss their raising funds for their event.

Outreach Committee: Due to a change in time when boy's basketball practice is held, we are now serving dinner at 3:00 for the boys and younger children, and also serving at 5:00 for the girls basketball team.

Communication & Technology: Coccie reported so far this week there have been 1,370 people reached on Face Book.

Building: Nothing to report

Befrienders: Cards continuing to mailed.

HLCW: The council and pastor appreciate that this organization is going to make a financial contribution to two of the missions that the council can no long financially support. HLCW will also be making a contribution to the church from the apple pie sales, and the bazaar.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee will consist of Bubba Vance, Kathy Johnsen, and Bryan Hutchinson.

B. Community Christmas Dinner – all arranged, December 25, 12 noon, at the Downtown Fair Center

C. Annual meeting – to be held January 24. Requesting that all committee reports be in the office by January 4

D. Our 50th Anniversary – to ask HLCW if they would like to organize this event.

E. Family Fun Night – Held December 6 – enjoyed by many.

F. Christmas Tree – The Dean Fries family purchased and delivered a beautiful tree to the church. Thank you.

G. MOTION BY VANCE, SECOND BY BENSON, THAT WE ACCEPT MARION SHAFER'S RESIGNATION AS CHURCH SECRETARY, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 28. PASSED.

H. Pastor Fiskness and Susan Coccie did contact a representative of the Catholic Church to see if they might be interested in sharing our building; they have voted to build a new church building.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MOTION BY VANCE SECOND BY ZIEROTH THAT WE ACCEPT JEFF KLETCHER'S REQUEST FOR PAID USAGE OF THE CHURCH COPY MACHINE FOR THE 2016 SAX ZIM BOG. PASSED.

Globe Offering: January – World Mission Prayer League.

Next meetings: January 14, February 11, both at 7:00 pm

Jen Myles, Acting Secretary

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

Meeting was called to order by President Susan Coccie at 10:40am.

The council discussed the resignation of Jen Myles as Church Custodian.

MOTION BY BUBBA VANCE THAT WE HIRE HAZEL BAILEY TO WORK A MAXIMUM OF 4 HOURS PER WEEK AS CUSTODIAN. SECONDED BY ROB BENSON, VOTED ON, PASSED.

The council discussed the resignation of Marion Shafer as Church Secretary, effective January 28. It was determined to place an ad in the two local papers advertising for an Administrative Assistant to work 15 hours per week; salary to be negotiable. Applications due by December 23. Interview Committee: Pastor Fiskness, Lonna Hutchinson, Kathy Johnsen.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Jen Myles, Pat Seredinski, Acting Secretaries

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Featuring Kaylee Kopic

Kaylee, daughter of John & Sue Kopic, graduated with an AA degree in Nursing from Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College in 2014. She has had a varied experience in her nursing career thus far. One of the most impressive experiences was her clinical assignment to the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Essentia in Duluth. Following graduation, she provided care for ventilation-dependent residents in a residential setting in Duluth and worked each shift: day, evening and night. Her next experience was at the Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment in Duluth. She was the RN Supervisor for 80 chemically dependent clients in three residential facilities and also supervised outpatient clients. When an opportunity arose to work closer to home, she applied for and was hired as the RN at the Cromwell Medical Clinic, working with Dr. Shawn Bode. She has been at the clinic since October 2015. Kaylee finds that she enjoys the variety of Family Practice where she is able to assist in the care of all ages of people, both well and sick, and finds the challenge of a busy clinic exciting. No two days are alike, including those days when walk-in emergencies occur. Presently, Kaylee works four days per week with Dr. Bode.

When Kaylee isn't working, she enjoys visiting with her extended family and friends. Kaylee's extended family live close to her in the Prairie Lake area, including her 93-year-old great grandmother Lila Niskanen, grandparents Tom & Marlys Piontek, parents John & Sue Kopic and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Her dad's family is from Meadowlands. Her other favorites include her 5 cats and 2 dogs which enjoy country living with her. Gardening, being outside in nature and doing DIY projects like repurposing furniture and creating new-from-old allude to Kaylee's creative side.

Long term goals include continuing her nursing career in a Family Practice setting, perhaps joining the local ambulance crew, and staying in the area close to family. Our community is fortunate to have such a caring caregiver enjoy her nursing career and we are proud of her accomplishments. God's blessing, Kaylee, now & always.

word from Pastor Carl – A New Year With New Faces In Old Places (Continued From Page 1)

This year's council will also see some turnover in officers. Susan Coccie has led as the president for the last two years. Thank you, Susan, for your dedicated and engaging leadership. Susan indicated that she is interested in serving as the treasurer instead. Therefore the council will also elect a new president for 2016.

The outgoing council personnel serves as the nominating committee in seeking those who are interested and willing to sit on the council. The process leading up to the annual meeting often consists of phone calls and personal requests and invitations to consider being on the council. If you are approached and have not served in some time or have never served before, consider accepting such a request or inform the president or pastor if you are interested in doing your part.

While it does require a monthly evening commitment, the church council is an interesting forum for exploring and discussing important matters of our church. You will enjoy combining your impressions with listening to other people's opinions to together arrive at the best action to take. One quickly gains a bigger picture of the work of our congregation and observe the fullness of the ministries that our congregations offers. Pray about your involvement and others who will be our new leaders for the upcoming year.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Sunday, December 20, 2015

For those who are ill or hurting

Dinah Tveit	Millie Samuelson	Warren Johnson	Michael Mancuso
Shannon Dickey	Theresa Fisher	Ethel Pensak	Jack Moe
Deanna Runquist	Danette Johnson	Ed Hutton	Elsie Tollgaard
Brody Wilton	Pam Hastings	Violet Johnson	Bette Copp

Family of Ramona Dalbacka on her passing

For those in the military

Michael Thom
John Seredinski Jr.
David Shafer
Damien Autio

For places where wars and conflict take place

Syria and Iraq Christians and missionaries threatened by the advances of ISIS
Israel and Palestine
Persecuted church around the world and Pastor Saeed Abedini in Iran

For our missions and world missionaries

Ekka family & WMPL
Operation Mobilization and AIDS Link International
Vision Petrozavodsk
Judy Yund and Bethel Hospital

Thanksgiving:

Visiting missionaries with us on December 20

"Do not be afraid." I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)



Dear Friends and Prayer Partners

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO
YOU ALL



Gift of Christmas reminds us that you are also a gift to us. We are much thankful to you for your precious prayer support and sacrificial financial support for God's mission in India. God has been so good in leading us in many ministries and we remain very excited as he has been blessing his mission. With 37 students the seminary is growing while many graduates are serving in many states of India. We have opportunity from time to time to visit and encourage them.



Nijhar has been chosen for "Faithfulness in Ministry Cross Award" by Luther Seminary. The award is to be presented during Mid-Winter Convocation in February next year. We are very excited about this.

Annual Youth Gathering in which Neeraj spoke to 4000 youth and young adult in October. It is a wonderful time for public witness and celebration of faith.

Among many blessings of this year have been many friends who visited us. We thank you for your fellowship and encouragements. Maani, Urbas, Puna and Jhumpa are growing and looking forward to our home assignment next year. They are excited that they would go to school in the US. The big and open seminary campus is good for them to run around, ride their bicycles and jump on the trampoline on special occasions. We too look forward to seeing you in person during our time in the US next year.



Children of after school program enjoying outdoor activities with the seminary students.

Arvind and Salima work in community health ministry. Please pray that their involvement in differentr village will be effective.



Join us in thanking God

1. For good health of children
2. For the growth of students in the seminary
3. For God's continued grace in using both of us in many ministries both in the seminary and ecumenical circle beyond seminary
4. For graduates of this year serving in different areas
5. For the starting of community health ministry
6. For many friends who visited us this year
7. For many churches and individuals who pray and support us financially

God is leading us to start a school for village children, the children of Pastors, missionaries, evangelists and for those children who are orphans or semi-orphans. Also there are many parents that are seeking good Christian school. After many years of ministry here we have also felt the need of a good school that would provide quality education to children in Christian faith and local cultural ethos to prepare them to be leaders in Church and society. We seek your prayers for this ministry so that it will have decisive impact for the kingdom of God.



Neeraj moderating a session on college day in which other seminaries also participated.

Please join us in praying

1. For the proposal of starting a school. Please pray that the Lord may grant clarity in vision and provide committed personnel and needed provision
2. For our home assignment next year, especially for adjustment of kids and their schooling
3. For the faculty and students as they would be busy in ministries and for safety as they travel for ministry during this season
4. For the Church of Jesus Christ in this region to be a witness as many non-Christians Christmas Gathering and worship services
5. For short term teachers for English, music computer, Lutheran Doctrine
6. For peace and harmony in God's world all over

Together in God's Mission

Neeraj and Nijhar
Maani, Urbas, Puna and Jhumpa
jneka@gmail.com



**FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Bradley Hutton
- 3 Kalen Kuehl
- 7 Jaimen Davis
- 8 John Seredinski
- 15 Jill Fries
Gladys Marttila
Shirley Johnson
- 17 Barbara Larson-
Peterson
- 25 Judy Dressely

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

**FEBRUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**

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

**JANUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**

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

Thank you to:

*The family of Jill and Dean Fries for the beautiful Christmas tree.
Hazel Bailey for organizing the Sunday School and Youth Christmas program.
LuAnn Heikkila, Hazel Bailey, & Leigha Kuehl, for organizing the church Family Fun Night.
Liz Thom for conducting the Community Choir.*

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
GIVING**

Giving
Sunday Offering \$
Operation Christmas
Child \$

Giving)
Sunday Offering \$
Homework Help \$
Operation Christmas
Child \$

MEMORIALS

January 2016 – HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH PLANNER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>New Year's Day Presentation and Name of Jesus</i>	2
3 9:30 Worship & Sun.Sch. 10:45 Fellowship <i>Second Sunday in Christmas Celebration of the Name of Jesus</i>	4 USHER TEAM: Roy Autio & John Seredinski – Team 4 Year end reports due for the annual meeting packet	5 10:00 Lake Superior LCMC & NALC pastors' meeting at New Life Lutheran Church in Duluth <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">LCMC--Three Days of Prayer for our association</div>	6 Release Time: 11:30-Elem. 12:20-HS 2:30-7:00 Homework Help <i>Epiphany of our Lord</i>	7 9-10:30 AM Ruby's Pantry @ Arrowhead Town Hall 1-3 PM Pastor's Office Hours	8	9
10 9:30 Worship & Sun. Sch. 10:45 Fellowship <i>First Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	11 USHER TEAM: Jeff Kletscher & Dean Fries – Team 5	12 10:00-HLCW meeting and Bible Study	13 9-11 AM FW Food Shelf at FST Release Time: 11:30-Elem. 12:20-HS 2:30-6:30 Homework Help	14 1-3 PM Pastor's Office Hours 7:00 Church Council	15 10:00 Bible Study at Riverview Manor	16
17 9:30 Worship & Sun. Sch. 10:45 Fellowship <i>Baptism of our Lord (observed)</i>	18 USHER TEAM: Burt Suonvieri & Dave Zieroth – Team 6 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day Confession of St. Peter</i>	19	20 Release Time: 11:30-Elem. 12:20-HS 2:30-6:30 Homework Help	21 9:30 Worship and Music Committee 12:30 Floodwood Bus. & Community Partnership @ Savanna Portage 2-4 PM Pastor's Office Hours (note later time)	22	23
24 9:30 Worship & Sun. Sch. 10:30 Annual Meeting Potluck following meeting <i>St. Timothy, pastor and confessor</i>	25 USHER TEAM: Bob Hosking & Dale Rauvola – Team 7 <i>Conversion of Paul</i>	26 9:00 AM-HLCW Quilting (bring a bag lunch) 7:00 Floodwood Ministerium <i>St. Titus, pastor and confessor</i>	27 9-11 AM FW Food Shelf at FST Release Time: 11:30-Elem. 12:20-HS 2:30-6:30 Homework Help	28 1-3 PM Pastor's Office Hours	29 Pastor gone from January 29-February 3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Minkota District NALC pastors' meeting at Brookings, SD</div>	30
31 9:30 Worship & Sun. Sch. (Pastor gone) 10:45 Fellowship	Notes: February 10-Ash Wednesday					

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2016, 10:30 A.M.
(Following the church service)



POTLUCK DINNER

Following meeting

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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Carl Fiskness, Pastor

Sunday School & Worship 9:30 a.m.

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