

The Beacon Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran May 2026

Pastor's Corner

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

May is here and that means Spring weather, opening of fishing season, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and graduations. These are all highlights of what we will celebrate soon, but what special things will we celebrate with God?

I enjoy Spring with the change from brown and dead foliage to new green and colorful flowers in God's creation. It reminds me of our rebirth as Christians that Jesus made available to us by being our Savior. By His suffering and death on the cross, He gained forgiveness for our sins, and by His Resurrection, He has obtained eternal life for us. We have been born again. He is risen, Alleluia!

This month we also celebrate God's gift of mothers. We remember our mother and all the unique gifts she has brought to her children. We thank God for giving her to us to help us in our life.

In May we also celebrate the love of Jesus for us by remembering His promise to send us a helper to guide us, to encourage us, and never leave us. This helper is the Holy Spirit who we celebrate on Pentecost Sunday. He is always with us to help us in our calling as disciples to go and share the good news, teach it, serve, love, and attend to the needs of all who are lacking, suffering, or lost. He teaches us the ways of Christ so that we will become more like Jesus.

For some of us there will be graduations this spring. It is a special time to pray for them as they begin their spiritual journey to adulthood. Remember them in your prayers and encourage them to develop a relationship with the God who loves them. *(Continued on Page 5)*



Cindy Burgess will continue leading the study of Women of the Bible. May's group includes Athaliah, Jehosheba, and Huldah. Who??? Join the discussion on Tuesday, May 12th at 10:00 A.M. at the church to learn about them. All women are welcome. *(Continued on Page 5)*

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hope Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes January 18, 2026 (Church Council Approved 4.19.2026)

Members Present

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

Meeting was called to order at 8:02 AM by Gary Gustafson.

Pastor Burgess opened with prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Pat Seredinski, second by Kim Hutchinson to approve agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report

October 26th, 2025 Church Council minutes in packet. Motion to approve by Kim Hutchinson, second by Pat Seredinski. Motion carried.

President's Report

Nothing new to discuss. Annual meeting discussion will be with new business.

Pastor's Report

Mileage 119 November, 207 December for a total 326 miles. Communion given 7. Special thanks to all who helped decorate for Christmas and helped take the decorations down. Special thanks to Dawn and Patti who helped the kids perform the children's Christmas program.

Special thanks to all those who helped make the community Christmas dinner a success serving 130 meals. Special thanks to Dawn and Marion Shafer who performed their duet about Hannukah Rededication at the Community January Christmas Program at the Event Center, about 100 attended.

I have restarted adult bible class on Sunday morning and Thursdays at the Riverview apartments.

I will be having same day surgery January 20th on my right index finger and thumb in Grand Rapids. I won't need time off. I will have cataract surgery on February 2nd and 16th at Essentia in Duluth. I hopefully will no longer need my glasses. February 18th will be Ash Wednesday at 7 p.m. No Soup supper that night. The remaining Wednesday evening services will be a soup supper followed by Martin Luther teaching us the Lenten service. Hope Lutheran Church will host the community Good Friday service this year focusing on the Wounds of Jesus at 7:00 pm on April 3rd.

Treasurers Report and Administrator's Report

October, November, and December check registers, Financial Report and Summarized Financial Report included and reviewed, nothing unexpected noted. Attended USCCA Church Security Seminar on November 19 in Superior, WI. Not much learned. 40-50% sales pitch for USCCA. Important for those who "carry " to have proper insurance. Get down-know where the exits are. Greet strangers; visit with them-keep alert. If something does not feel right, then it might not be right. Need to consider getting a "casualty-trauma" first aid kit. Focus: wound care, bleeding, major trauma. Carolyn Hosking verbal resignation from Council on October 29, 2025. Christmas Dinner Donations: \$60 Sunday Offering, \$200 from Clothing Etc.

John S. bought some LED tubes, \$24.00 rebate from MN Power for those. Camp Patmos - Report to their Congregation today from Camp Committee could be changes coming. New Ricoh Copier delivered January 7, previous lease expired, would not renew, said lack of repair parts available, went with decrease in speed to maintain low monthly lease price. Building & Grounds October - Boiler pump impeller replaced at Church. November - additional boiler pump impeller work and replacement coupler. November 12 - Sump pump work at Church. November 30 - Eternal Candle installed, Memorial Savings funds to purchase candle, shelf made by Tracy Zieroth. Elevator Inspection January 8, no issues. Religious Release Snack Fund \$583.63 (held in Missions I/O Checking). CCLI Reporting Period - 10/1/2025 to 3/31/2026. Giving Statements mailed this past week. Still working on W2's & W3. Lost a tree at the Parsonage in June or July. Dave Zieroth is taking down some others that have died. Spring Project - possible need to create a committee to handle project Tree planting at Parsonage (Maple (possible Floodwood maple), Oak). Possibly in the Green Space as well.

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

Committee Reports

Christian Education and Youth:

Religious Release going well. Thank you to all the teachers who help. No confirmands this year. Kids are signed up and Quake is paid for.

Building Committee: Update included in the Administrator's report. (*Continued on Page 3*)

Committee Reports
(Continued from Page 2)

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

Old Business

- a. None

New Business

a. Accept resignation of Carolyn Hosking which was verbally submitted on October 29, 2025 via voice mail. Motion by Kim Hutchinson, second by Pat Seredinski to approve the resignation request from Carolyn, thanking her for her service. Motion carried.

b. Discussion on Number of Council Members. According to our by-laws we have a maximum number of 9 but not a minimum number required. We are able to operate with at least 4 members to fill the executive board positions, without changing the by-laws/constitution.

c. Annual Meeting Potluck - Council & Youth will help in the kitchen.

d. Review Draft Annual Report - Proof and check for errors. Discussed security, reviewed giving report and financial reports for the year.

e. Approve 2026 Budget as proposed in Draft Annual Report. New phone and internet number went up about 18% when Midco took over. Renaming line number 6.1 - Employer cost. Insurance costs continue to rise, that has been adjusted up to \$14,000. Pastor received a wage increase this year and the addition of the MN Paid leave cost were added. Motion by Kim Hutchinson, second by Jan Dornseif to approve the budget as submitted. Motion carried.

f. Church Council Installation Date – February 1, 2026

g. Employee evaluation (if council feels the need) – No need at this time.

Looking Ahead

Globe Offering: February – Quake Event Support, Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday Feb 8th. March - Floodwood Area Food Shelf. Motion by Kim Hutchinson, second by Jan Dornseif to approve the Globe Offering as submitted. Motion carried.

Next Meeting – Sunday, April 19th at 8:00 AM.

Closing Prayer – Pastor provided the closing prayer.

Adjourn Meeting – Meeting adjourned by Gary Gustafson at 9:04 AM.

**Hope Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting of the
Congregation
January 25, 2026
(Church Council
Approved 4.19.2026)**

Call Meeting to Order: Council President Gary Gustafson called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM.

Confirmation of Quorum by Ushers: Usher John Seredinski confirmed a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Shelly Arjes, second by Nancy Raihaila to approve agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

Approval of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Pat Seredinski, second by Elvi Tollgaard to approve the minutes submitted. Motion carried.

Recognition of outgoing council members: Missy Wojtysiak, Jan Dornseif and Carolyn Hosking were thanked for their service on the Church Council.

Proposed state of Candidates for Council Positions: Tanya Johnson is willing to be elected to fill a 3-year term (expire January 2029). Jan Dornseif is willing to be elected to fill a 1-year term (expire January 2027). (Proposed slate of candidates was included in the annual report).

Nominations from the floor: No additional nominations.

Motion by Bubba Vance, second by Shirley Johnson to elect Tanya Johnson and Jan Dornseif. Motion carried. Note: 1 two-year term remains unfilled.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Burgess' report was included in the Annual Report. Pastor reports this is his 8th year and they are thankful for the congregation's involvement and support in their lives. This past year has we have sadly lost 5 members of our congregation, which resulted in many hospital and nursing home visits. Religious Release included 20 elementary and high school students. There was 1 confirmation, Lilyana Johnson. Hope Lutheran hosted the Baccalaureate Services for the graduates of Floodwood High School, we had 3 graduates from our own congregation. There were several infant baptisms as well in the past year. Pastor continues to teach adult Bible classes at the Riverview Apartments and well as Sunday mornings after fellowship as well as teaching several new pastors the course in Pastoral Care ministries for PEG ministries. Cindy has continued to teach the ladies bible class. Last summer Pastor helped teach the Community VBS class. Pastor has also participated in several community events such as the National Day of Prayer walk through Floodwood, Open House at Floodwood school, community Good Friday service and National Night out. Hope Lutheran will be hosting the community Good Friday service

this year. Pastor thanked all who volunteer who make events and celebrations special and a success. His prayer for the coming year is that we all have a safe and healthy year during which we can develop a closer relationship with Our Lord and Savior Jesus and that we can become a faithful witness to all in our congregation and our community.

President’s Report and High School Religious Release Report (Gary Gustafson):

A written report was included in the Annual Report. Gary verbally reported this year’s attendance for Religious Release decreased to 10 enrolled students, with 8 regularly showing up. Gary stated his goals for instruction remain unchanged and instruction has been split between himself and Pastor John. Gary also included topics that have been covered up to date and future lessons for the rest of the year. Gary also reported on the extended youth outreach program with Young Life. Investigation of the program revealed a 18-36 month training with at least 6 staff, which does not currently seem feasible to develop an independent group for our area with our current congregation size and finances. Currently the Cloquet Young Life group meets on Mondays and is very open to students from the Floodwood area attending and transportation has been easily arranged. Associated costs have been met by local giving. In addition, New Life has a Youth Program that meets on Wednesdays that has not yet been investigated. Gary addressed the concern of Congregational Security. The Floodwood police chief has some training and organizational security but attempts to coordinate a meeting during the monthly pastor’s meeting has been unsuccessful. Gary mentioned some pastors in the area are routinely armed during services, however, it is not clear if allowing

parishioners to be armed is a desired path. The congregation was encouraged to discuss this and communicate ideas to council members. The ushers were encouraged to get together and develop a response and evacuation plan. Gary also discussed training for trauma response and treatment as well as obtaining a first aid kit with focused supplies. The last topic of discussion was Church Council Size. It was suggested that the council size be decreased related to the smaller size of the congregation and the remaining open council seat. The current bylaws do not specify a minimum amount but do limit the size to a maximum of nine of members. Changing the bylaws would require a full congregational vote. Past practice has been to simply go with what we get with a quorum based upon actual membership size. Pastor is also included as a voting member of our council.

Treasurers Report and Administrator’s Report:

A written report was included in the Annual Report. Administrator Jeff Kletcher provided a brief verbal review of the information (pages 10-24). HLCW Treasurers report is found on page 10. There is noticeable decrease in some accounts, but we have opened some CD’s. Jeff explained that he uses the rental account as a “holding account” as some donations come with very strict donor restrictions and cannot be placed directly into the general account which pays the everyday bills.

The Endowment fund balance on 12-31-2025 was \$124,223.37. Average attendance in 2025 was 37 people. 2025 Memorials are listed in the Annual Report. The council receives budget information at every council meeting and they are well informed and work hard to keep track of the budget and various accounts. Leadership, Church

Council, Committees, Leading Volunteers, Statistics, and Building and Grounds Reports were also included in the report. Jeff stated he would like to establish a committee regarding planting trees this Spring.

2025 General Fund Giving totaled \$83,666.45 with expenses \$94,007.39. Jeff reviewed the proposed 2026 budget (pages 22-24), highlighting the accounts that were changed. The Church Council approved the proposed 2026 budget at their January 18th, 2026 Council Meeting. Motion by Bubba Vance, second by John Seredinski to approve the 2026 budget as included in the Annual Report. Motion carried.

Jeff again reminded the congregation that he is always available to answer questions and that the financial reports and related information is always available for anyone to review if they have questions.

Election Results: None as no ballots needed. (see above)

Closing Comments: Jan Dorseif wants to thank Jeff for all the work he puts in behind the scenes.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Burgess lead the closing prayer which included a table prayer for our potluck meal.

Adjournment: President Gary Gustafson adjourned the meeting at 11:07 AM.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Telisha Bennett
- 9 Alice Shafer
- 11 Tasha Belter
- 12 Anna Lisa Dusek
- 14 Keven Johnson

- 19 Jacob Seredinski
- 23 Grace Autio
Ben Rosemore
- 28 Carol Schminski
- 29 Kathy Johnsen
- 30 Laverne Hutton

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Grace & Roy Autio ('55)

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Emily Hall
- 5 Cooper Tollgaard
- 10 Kolt Bennett
- 17 Preslie Kjoberg
- 18 Sheryl Abell
- 19 Deb Tollgaard
Jan Metso
- 22 Jamie Peterson
- 26 Pastor John Burgess
- 28 Karly Tollgaard
- 29 Leigha Kuehl

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Kent & Missy Wojtysiak
- 10 Sylvia (Shafer) & Jeff
Romosz
Tammy & Jamie Peterson
Russ & Sheryl Abell

- 12 Todd & Jody Messner
(’99)
- 24 Pastor Owen & Linda
Christianson



Pastor's Corner
(Continued from Page 1)

At the end of the month, we remember, on Memorial Day those who have served us in the military with the sacrifices they and their families have made so that we might enjoy the freedom and blessings of living in America. Their actions remind us of the loving, serving lives God wants us to live. We have so much to thank God for in our lives. Help us all to remember how much He loves us and does for us.

God Bless Us All,
Pastor John

HLCW
(continued from Page 1)



QUILTING

May's quilting date is Tuesday, May 26th, beginning at 9:00 A.M. in the church basement. This will be the last quilting until September. Any and all help is appreciated. We hope to welcome Anne Lundstrom back from her winter stay in Florida.

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!



Hope Lutheran Youth Fundraiser

Once again the Youth are selling coupons for 10” hanging flower baskets, locally grown at Piontek’s greenhouse.

You can get your coupon from any Youth or contact LuAnn Heikkila at 269-1284, or Tanya Johnson. The hanging baskets are \$32 and you can start picking them up when the greenhouse opens May 2nd. Remember to bring your ticket to give to Maryls.

Financial Update – General Fund

	Income	Expense
January 2026	\$6,253.00	\$7,882.67
February 2026	\$8,312.95	\$8,118.35
March 2026	\$6,294.31	\$11,047.46
Year to Date	\$20,860.26	\$27,048.48
Year to Date Deficit \$6,188.22		



Beautification Committee

The Beautification Committee will meet on Sunday, May 3rd during refreshment time to discuss plans for planting trees at the Parsonage and possibly in the Green Space. All are welcome to attend and discuss completing this project.



Usher/Church Security Meeting

The Ushers are asked to meet on Sunday, May 17 during refreshment time to begin discussions on “Church Security.” It is anticipated this will be one of many meetings to discuss this topic and to make plans that will increase security in the Church. Other interested Congregation members are also invited to attend and provide their input.

Hibbing Salvation Army



The Hibbing Salvation Army reached out to Hope Lutheran Church about holding a “Pop Up Food Pantry” in May and July.

The Church Council approved the request, and Jeff will be working with the folks in Hibbing on dates and times. Their goal is to provide the Floodwood Community with better access to fresh fruits and vegetables as well as other food pantry staples. Stay tuned for additional details.



Floodwood Fourth Annual 5K Run/Walk/Bike For Freedom Fund Raiser

Fighting Against Sex Trafficking

May 23rd, 2026

at Floodwood New Life Church

8:00 A.M. Race day Sign-up/Registration

8:30 A.M. Race Begins

For more information contact: Ginny Larva (218) 216-5758 or Matt Larva (218) 966-6915

Donations:

[Venturemiles.org/myVM/Floodwood](https://venturemiles.org/myVM/Floodwood)

30 for Freedom is a movement that exists to end sex trafficking in our lifetime through:

- PREVENTION**
- RESCUE OPERATIONS**
- SURVIVOR CARE**

YOUTH



Easter Egg Hunt



Spring Day In



Thirteen people came for the Youth's Spring Day In. Everyone tried the Bible Escape Room; some enjoyed it some did not. Everyone had a good time, fun games, great food!

PRAYER REQUESTS

May 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	
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

March 22	\$1155.00
March 29	\$579.16
April 2 (MT)	\$50.00
April 6	\$2450.00
April 12	\$801.00
April 19	\$1613.00

Good Friday

Good Friday Offering \$234.00
to Floodwood Ministerium Account

**Globe Offering
Floodwood Area Food Shelf**

March 22	\$10.54
March 29	\$50.00
Total to Food Shelf	\$340.54

**Youth
Soup Suppers/Easter**

March 18	\$31.00
March 25	\$39.00
Easter Breakfast	\$231.00
Easter Breakfast Cash Support	\$100.00

In Memory of Danielle Durovec from Bubba & Sue Vance \$25.00 (Mem. Savings)

Globe Offering



May – Camp Patmos Support

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

May 2026

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH PLANNER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	USHER: John Seredinski				1	2
3 9:30 Worship & Sunday School with communion 10:30 Fellowship & Beautification Committee mtg. 11:00 Bible Study	4 USHER: Mark Johnsen 9:00-Noon Pastor's office hours	5	6	7 10 AM Bible Study at Riverview Manor 5:30 PM National Day of Prayer Walk (meet at the water tower)	8 12-2:00 PM Floodwood Food Shelf	9
10 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study 	11 USHER: David Zieroth 9:00-Noon Pastor's office hours 9-11 AM Floodwood Food Shelf	12 10:00 AM HLCW Bible Study	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 Worship & Sunday School with communion 10:30 Fellowship & Usher mtg regarding Church Security 11:00 Bible Study	18 USHER: Gary Gustafson 9:00-Noon Pastor's office hours	19	20 7 PM Baccalaureate at Four Rivers Fellowship	21 10 AM Bible Study at Riverview Manor	22	23
24 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship NO Bible Study NEWS ITEMS DUE	25 USHER: Dale Rauvola NO Pastor's office hours 	26 9:00 AM Quilting	27	28	29	30
31 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study						

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

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

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