



# The Beacon of Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church NOVEMBER 2015

## A Word From Pastor Carl

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

It occurred to me recently when reviewing the history of our congregations, that 2015 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hope Lutheran Church. As I was reading from Floodwood's history book, exploratory meetings for the possible union of Bethany and Trinity Lutheran Churches began in the summer of 1965. From the progress of these meetings, representatives eventually drafted a proposal for a merger. The members of both churches voted to merge on December 12, 1965. By the spring of 1966, the blending of the two congregations was accomplished.

From my reading and listening to stories from some of you, I have gathered that there were at least three reasons that propelled the congregations towards merger. (Please feel free to correct me if I have perceived anything incorrectly.)

Trinity was originally a Scandinavian congregation of a majority of Norwegians but also Swedes and Danes. The pastor served not only Trinity but also Bethany in Cromwell and later Bethlehem in Wright. Bethany Lutheran of Floodwood was a congregation affiliated with the Suomi Synod consisting of Finnish congregations.

First, ethnic differences were diminishing. Trinity had long moved away from the Norwegian language in its worship. At Bethany, however, into the 1950's, pastors came to serve who were originally from Finland or who were stronger in their Finnish speaking skills than English. With the passage of time, English evolved into being the primary language for worship and a resident Finnish-speaking pastor was no longer needed by the majority. While the language transition was made at Bethany, worship in Finnish continued into the earlier years even at Hope by pastors who visited to lead a Finnish service. (Continued on Page 4)

## Hope Lutheran Church Women

### HLCW BAZAAR

The bazaar will be on Wednesday, November, 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be serving a meatball dinner from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. The meal will be a free will offering. Also we will have baked goods, cards and new items. Please mark it on your calendars and plan to attend. (Continued on Page 4)

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES (UNAPPROVED)

**Hope Lutheran Church  
Floodwood, MN**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
October 13, 2015**

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

Meeting was called to order by President Susan Coccie at 7:00 pm. Pastor Fiskness opened with prayer.

### AGENDA

MOTION BY HUTCHINSON, SECOND BY ZIEROTH TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY UNDER NEW BUSINESS. MOTION CARRIED.

### REPORTS

**Secretary:** MOTION BY BENSON, SECOND BY ZIEROTH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED. MOTION MADE BY SEREDINSK SECONDED BY ZIEROTH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 4. MOTION CARRIED.

**Financial:** Susan Coccie reviewed the September Financial Report. MOTION BY BENSON, SECOND BY HUTCHINSON TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

**Pastor:** Activities report attached.

**Youth & Family:** Jen Myles reported that Release Time has started, and they are still in need of help with these classes, along with help on Sunday school class. The youth will be making Christmas wreaths for a fund raising project. The wreaths will be sold at the church Bazaar and at Floodwood Christmas Shopping Night.

**Communication & Technology:** Nothing to report.

**Building:** Nothing to report.

**Befrienders:** Sent 32 cards in September.

**HLCW:** Will be having a baby shower for Telisha Bennett on Sunday, November 8, after fellowship time; making apples pies this Thursday and Friday.

**Quilters:** Met on September 29, assembled 10 quilts.

### OLD BUSINESS

A. Garage sale – Went very well. The unsold items were donated to Clothing Etc., and F.S.T.

B. Congregational meeting – October 4 – went well.

### NEW BUSINESS

A. Operation Christmas Child: “Shoe” boxes supplied by Operation Christmas Child are available at the church. If you wish to purchase a plastic container for your gifts, that too is fine. All filled boxes must be back to the church by November 15.

B. Christmas Day Dinner will again be sponsored by the church, to be held at the Downtown Fair Center.

C. The Annual Meeting will be held January 24, 2016. All committee reports are due in the church office by Monday, January 4. *(Continued on Page 3)*

***Church Council Minutes (continued from Page 2)***

**D.** 2016 will be our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, since the merger of Trinity and Bethany churches. We would like to have some type of celebration.

**GLOBE OFFERING:** October – Operation Christmas Child, November – Homework Help

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

**NEXT MEETINGS:** November 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm, December 19, 7:00 pm.

Jen Myles, Pat Seredinski, Acting Secretaries

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**Hope Lutheran Church  
Minutes of Special Meeting  
October 4, 2015**

A quorum was confirmed by the ushers. Church secretary Marion Shafer confirmed the meeting date and time had been published in two consecutive bulletins and the newsletter.

Meeting was called to order by President Susan Coccie at 10:31 am.

Susan stated the sole purpose of this meeting was to make the congregation aware of the financial situation of Hope Lutheran.

Susan called attention to the handout, which included a graph of Attendance, Income and Expenses from 2003 to 2014, and a Budget Report. She explained that utility expenses for both the church building and the parsonage have increased; we have stopped providing financial support to various ministries; and the subscription for Portals of Prayer has been discontinued. On the positive side, employee expenses are down due to fewer hours worked by the janitor and secretary, and there is a \$570 per month savings since Pastor Fiskness switched to Jodi's health insurance.

Thanks to an increase in giving in August, the church is currently \$1,586.78 in the black, but not without some sacrifices.

The Endowment Fund balance is approximately \$60,000, and Susan reminded the congregation that it is meant to be used for special circumstances, not normal expenses.

Susan ended with thanking Jeff Kletscher for his help in preparing the budget report and assuring the members that the Council is making tough decisions and trying to be good stewards of Hope's finances.

Pastor Fiskness reminded the congregation that they can subscribe to Portals of Prayer individually and closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 am.

Kathy Johnsen, Council Secretary

***Word from Pastor Carl – HAPPY ANNIVERSARY (Continued From Page 1)***

Related to the transition of the language, the demographics also began to change. I have never read this anywhere but from what I have heard and have read between the lines, Trinity had become the larger of the two congregations and that some dissatisfaction developed in the leadership in Bethany. Furthermore, as cultural differences were less emphasized, intermarriage became more frequent.

Third, the practice of consolidation in Floodwood was a microcosm of the experience throughout the country. Even the national church bodies of both congregations had recently participated in mergers. Trinity entered into the merger of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) in 1960 and Bethany was part of the merger of the Lutheran Church in America in 1962.

As the planning will progress in how we will celebrate our history, may this year be a special season of reflection. What new and exciting things could God have in store for us? What new things are possible? May this year be a season of reflection. And may this year help us also to think more intentionally of how God is going to continue to use us into the future to reach and be a blessing for our community.

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***HLCW News (continued from Page 1)***

***WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY***

**W**omen's Bible study: The theme for the November study in the "Growing Older and Wiser" series is "Listening to the Young" with the Bible reference from Job 32. In this chapter, after Job has heard advice from 3 elders a younger person, Elihu, says, "It is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding. It is not only the old who are wise. — Therefore, listen to me!!" How do we respond when a younger person makes a suggestion, or tries to give advice? This should make for interesting discussion when we meet on November 10th at 10:00 A.M. at church. Grace will lead the study and Susan will serve coffee. All women are welcome.

**HLCW MEETING OCTOBER 13, 2015**

President Grace Autio opened the meeting in Hope Lutheran Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. with a prayer. Ten members were present. Upon motion made by Susan Coccie, seconded by Lois Hendrickson, the minutes of the September meeting were approved as published in the October Beacon of Hope.

Treasurer Jeanette Johnsen distributed her report for the month which showed as of October 12, 2015, a checking balance of \$437.35; a savings balance of \$1,035.04 plus interest of \$.26. After designated funds of \$351.87, the report showed a balance of available funds of \$1,120.78. Upon motion by Elsie Tollgaard, seconded by Liz Thom, the treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Under old business, Grace reported that the recent rummage sale went well, netting \$973.00. She also reported that they would be going after apples at Apple Hill Orchard, Bayfield the next day (Oct. 14), for 9 bushels of apples at \$17.00 per bushel for the HLCW pie making sessions set for Thursday and Friday of this week.

The question of this year's charge for the pies was discussed and upon motion by Lois, seconded by Elvi Tollgaard, and unanimously approved, the pies will be sold this year for \$8.00 each.

Under new business, it was noted that Telisha Bennett lately gave birth and her little girl is named Ella Jean. Our group will have a baby shower for the Bennetts and their new addition on Sunday, November 8 at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall following coffee time.

Grace reminded the group of the Fall Bazaar coming up on November 18. The next HLCW meeting will be held Tuesday, November 10, at 10:00 a.m.

There being no other business, Grace adjourned the meeting at 10:30, and the ensuing Bible study was conducted by Liz Thom.

Nancy Raihala, Secretary

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH GIVING**  
**SEPTEMBER 27, 2015 to OCTOBER 18**

General Fund	\$ \$ 7066.50	Operation Christmas Child	\$ 80.00
Youth	\$ 121.00	Homework Help	\$ 10.00

**MEMORIALS**  
*(savings)*

In Memory of David Arfman from John & Pat Seredinski	\$ 25.00
In Memory of Ellen Lauri from John & Pat Seredinski	\$ 25.00

**“WHERE ARE THEY NOW?”**

*Featuring Brea Vance*

**B**rea Vance, daughter of Bubba and Sue Vance graduated in May 2014 from Bethel University, St. Paul, with a degree in Social Work. Not one to stop there, she completed her Master’s degree in Social Work at the University of MN-Duluth in May 2015 after which she also completed a three-month internship with St. Louis County-Virginia Mental Health Unit. Brea successfully passed her licensure exam in July 2015 and began employment at Northland Counseling Center, Grand Rapids, MN in September 2015. She is a full-time ARMHS (Adult Rehabilitation Mental Health Service) worker at this time. Her responsibilities include assisting clients who have mental illnesses with basic living and social skills, community intervention, medication education, and transitioning to community living.



Brea’s long range goal is to become a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) who will work as a therapist with individuals with mental illnesses and provide clinical supervision to other professionals working with similar populations.

Malcolm Wallaker and Brea became engaged in July 2015 and plan to be married in October 2016. Malcolm is completing his undergraduate degree in Relational Communications at Bethel University.

We congratulate Brea on her accomplishments and wish her well in her personal and career pursuits. God’s continued blessings to you.

**APPLE PIE MAKING**

**O**n October 15th & 16th, together to make 164 apple for \$8.00 each and as of October generous with their donations and



members of the congregation worked pies. The frozen pies are being sold 18<sup>th</sup>, we had 22 left. People were very we thank them for that.

**NOVEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Lilly Autio  
Pam Rahja
- 5 Rose Chambers
- 6 Susan Coccie
- 7 Mae Olson
- 9 C Jean Hutchinson  
Shawna Berendt
- 10 Rebekah Bolstad Jonas
- 12 Dawn Shafer
- 13 Nancy Raihala
- 14 Jan Benson  
Wyatt Rauvola  
Miranda Young
- 16 Pastor Carl Fiskness
- 17 Linda Chambers
- 19 Eric Hall
- 21 Sue Hutchinson
- 22 Josef Suhonen
- 23 Leanne Aho
- 26 Wyatt Peterson  
Jordan Myles
- 29 Carl Kuehl



**NOVEMBER  
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Tim & Jen Myles ('91)
- 12 LeRoy & Mildred  
Samuelson ('55)
- 22 Laverne & Ed Hutton
- 25 Pam & Bob Rahja
- 29 Robert & Darci (Rahja)  
Dahl

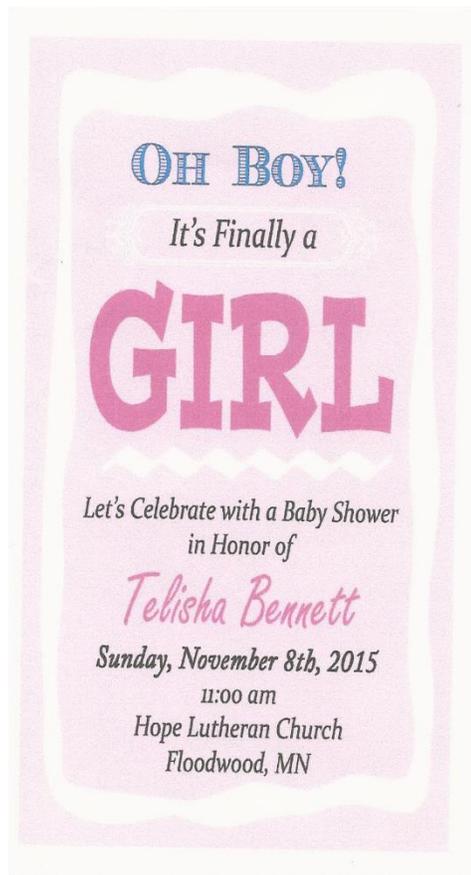


**DECEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Jor Romanek
- 4 Carole Ahlgren
- 5 Carolyn Hosking
- 6 Johanna Abell  
Cecilia Abell
- 8 Gabriella Grovenburg
- 10 Tony Speece  
Constantine Grovenburg
- 12 Danielle (Tollgaard) White
- 13 Kathy Granmoe
- 17 Courtney Young  
John Hutchinson
- 19 John Seredinski Jr.  
Ricky Kinkel
- 26 Bubba Vance
- 27 Tanya Johnson
- 28 Donald Tveit
- 30 Lois Hendrickson  
Lindsey Rosemore
- 31 Alex Larson

**DECEMBER  
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 19 Bob & Joyce Andrews
- 25 Bob & Carolyn Hosking  
( '60)
- 28 Carl & Jodi Fiskness



~ November 2015 ~ HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH PLANNER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>9:30</b> Worship & Sunday School <b>10:45</b> Fellowship & Bringing up Boys <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> <i>All Saints Sunday</i>	<b>2</b> <b>USHER TEAM:</b> Mark Johnsen & Dave Zieroth – Team 2	<b>3</b> <b>10:00</b> Lake Superior LCMC &NALC pastor’s meeting at New Life Lutheran Church in Duluth <i>Election Day</i>	<b>4</b> Release Time: 11:30-Elem. 12:20-HS & Yth Confirm. <b>2:30-7:00</b> Homework Help <b>7:00</b> -Adult Learning & Confirmation	<b>5</b> <b>9-10:30 AM</b> Ruby’s Pantry @ Arrowhead Town Hall <b>1-3 PM</b> Pastor’s Office Hours	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>9:30</b> Worship & Sunday School <b>10:45</b> Fellowship <b>11:00</b> Telisha Bennett’s Baby Shower at Hope	<b>9</b> <b>USHER TEAM:</b> Don Rosemore & Tim Tollgaard – Team 3	<b>10</b> <b>10:00</b> -HLCW Bible Study & Meeting <i>Martin Luther’s Birthday</i>	<b>11</b> <b>9-11 AM</b> FW Food Shelf at FST Release Time: 11:30-Elem. 12:20-HS & Yth Confirm. <b>2:30-7:00</b> Homework Help	<b>12</b> <b>1-3 PM</b> Pastor’s Office Hours	<b>13</b> <b>10:00</b> -Bible Study at Riverview Manor	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Pastor Gone</b> <b>9:30</b> Worship & Sunday School <b>10:45</b> Fellowship <i>Operation Christmas Child Boxes due</i>	<b>16</b> <b>USHER TEAM:</b> Roy Autio & John Seredinski – Team 4	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Release Time: 11:30-Elem. 12:20-HS & Yth Confirm. <b>2:30-7:00</b> Homework Help HLCW Fall Dinner & Bazaar	<b>19</b> <b>9:30</b> Worship and Music Committee <b>1-3 PM</b> Pastor’s Office Hours <b>7:00</b> Church council	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>9:30</b> Worship & Sunday School <b>10:45</b> Fellowship <i>Christ the King Sunday</i>	<b>23</b> <b>USHER TEAM:</b> Jeff Kletscher & Dean Fries – Team 5	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>9-11 AM</b> FW Food Shelf at FST Release Time: 11:30-Elem. 12:20-HS & Yth Confirm. <b>NO</b> Homework Help <b>7:00</b> Thanksgiving Eve Service	<b>26</b> <b>12:00</b> Thanksgiving meal served at the Fair Building <b>NO</b> Pastor’s Office Hours <i>Thanksgiving</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>9:30</b> Worship & Sunday School <b>10:45</b> Fellowship	<b>30</b> <b>USHER TEAM:</b> Marion Shafer & Burt Suonvieri – Team 6	<p align="center">Come join us for a <b>Thanksgiving Meal</b> at the Fair Building</p> <div align="center">  <p><b>Thank You, LORD!</b></p> </div> <p align="center"><b>On Thanksgiving Day, November 26th beginning at 12 noon.</b></p>				

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN  
FALL BAZAAR**

Wednesday, November 18<sup>TH</sup>  
5:00 to 7:00 PM

Meatball dinner will be served  
(Free Will Offering)

Baked Goods  
Hand Crafts  
Greeting Cards  
New Items

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WEB SITE**

Hope Lutheran Church now has its  
very own web site. Visit us at:

[www.hopelutheranfloodwood.org](http://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](mailto:draseal@aol.com)) by the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month.*

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Carl Fiskness, Pastor

*Sunday School & Worship 9:30 a.m.*

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