

# The Beacon of Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran April 2024

## *Pastor's Corner*

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**G**reetings brothers and sisters in Christ, We are entering the month of April, springtime is approaching, and soon new life will be reappearing. Praise God! We have just finished the season of Lent and the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. It has been the highwater mark of our religious year. As we move through the Sundays of Easter, we will see Jesus appearing to His disciples after His Resurrection offering them His peace, forgiveness, and the Promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit. To many of the disciples then it seemed unreal, and they had difficulty believing what was happening. Today, 2000 years later people still have difficulty believing it really happened. Let me reassure you that it is for real. Jesus did die and rise again three days later so that we might have forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal life with Him. We must repent of our sins, believe in Him as our Savior and accept the offer of this free gift He made for us out of His love for us.

During this month we will see Jesus opening the scriptures to the disciples so that they might believe. He would even eat meals with them and let them touch Him so that they might believe. Wow, what evidence we have that this all really happened. We will hear familiar stories of Jesus love for us as the good shepherd and how He is the vine, and we are the branches. The season after Easter is a time for us to let the Holy Spirit work in our lives to increase our faith and remove our doubts. Let us use this time well by frequently attending worship, studying God's Word and receiving His Sacraments. We can rejoice in the knowledge that Christ is truly risen and boldly respond that He is risen indeed! We are now children of God and are His disciples. Let us grow like the plants of spring, attached as branches to Jesus who is our vine. May we all have a successful and blessed Easter season.

God Bless us all, Pastor John



**& HLCW NEWS**

**C**indy Burgess will lead the women's Bible study on Tuesday, April 9th at 10:00A.M. at the church. The topic will be discussion of favorite Bible verses of those attending. All women are welcome. *(Continued on Page 5)*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Hope Lutheran Church Annual Meeting of the Congregation January 28, 2024**

**Call Meeting to Order** Council President Bubba Vance called the meeting to order at 10:22 AM.

**Confirmation of Quorum by Ushers:** Usher confirmed a quorum was present (43).

**Approval of Agenda** - Motion made by Todd Messner, support by Carolyn Hosking to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

**Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes** – Motion made by Carolyn Hosking, support by Pat Seredinski to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

**Recognition of outgoing council member** – Bubba Vance was thanked for his many years of service on the Church Council.

**Proposed state of Candidates for Council Position** – Gary Gustafson and Carolyn Hosking are the two candidates for the two open positions on the council. (Proposed slate of candidates was included in the annual report.)

**Nominations from the floor** – There were NO nominations from the floor.

Motion by John Seredinski, support by Todd Messner to elect Gary Gustafson and Carolyn Hosking to a three year term (ending January 2027). Motion carried.

### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Burgess' report was included in the Annual Report. Pastor report that this is his 6<sup>th</sup> year and they feel that this is their family! Some of our best attendance at the Christmas program and the Lent soup suppers happened this past year. Pastor has been teaching Bible study at the Riverview Apartments the first and third Thursdays of the month and another after fellowship on Sundays.

He has also been teaching confirmation classes to two students; Lacey Wojtysiak will be confirmed this year and Lilyana Johnson next year.

Pastor continues to teach for PEG Ministries a class on pastoral care ministry in small rural congregations to new pastors who have stepped up to serve in their congregations. He has taught 3 already and is now teaching his 4<sup>th</sup>.

Prayers for 2024 to develop an increasing hunger for God's word and sacraments. We need to once again be thankful to God for all the blessings this nation has received. He will provide for us as we turn to him because he loves us so much, he is a promise keeper to those who trust him.

**Presidents Report (Bubba Vance)** – We are so blessed here at Hope, to have all the people that volunteer, help out, donate, and do all the things everyone does to make the church what it is. Thank you.

**Treasurer's Report/ 2024 Budget Proposal and Approval** Administrator Jeff Kletscher provided a brief verbal review of the information included in the annual report (pages 8 - 16). The Endowment fund balance was not in but it will be listed in the Beacon

of Hope once it comes in. Average attendance in 2023 was 40 people. 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. We received \$300 from the Clothing Etc. as a donation, that will be used to offset our cost for 2024 Community VBS.

2023 General Fund Giving totaled \$83,340.20 with expenses of \$88,860.07. Jeff reviewed the proposed 2024 proposed budget (pages 17 - 19), highlighting the accounts that were changed. The Church Council approved the proposed 2024 Budget at their January 21, 2024 Council Meeting. Motion by Todd Messner, second by Elsie Tollgaard to approve the 2024 Budget as included in the Annual Report. Motion carried.

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

**Closing Comments** – Hope is the people here, not the building! Come more often, make it a priority to support one another as Jesus has! Thank Jeff for all he has done!

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

**Adjourn Meeting** – President Vance declared the meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.

Note: Minutes approved by Church Council at their March 10, 2024 meeting.

**Committee Reports**  
(Continued from page 2)

**Hope Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
January 21, 2024**

**Members Present**

Bubba Vance, Missy Wojtysiak, Tanya Johnson, Kim Hutchinson, Pastor Burgess and Administrator Jeff Kletscher.  
Absent: Deb Tollgaard, Todd Messner, Carolyn Hosking

Pastor Burgess opened with prayer.

Meeting was called to order at 8:02 AM by Bubba Vance.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Tanya Johnson, second by Missy Wojtysiak to approve agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

**Secretaries Report**

December 10, 2023 Church Council minutes in packet. Motion to approve by Missy Wojtysiak, second by Bubba Vance. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report**

Pastors' mileage was 122 and he distributed 19 communions. He has increased his visits with Bob and Lois Jobe, Nancy Raihala, Carole and Floyd Ahlgren and Jim and Ethel Pensak. Pastor was pleased with the increase in children at the children's program and the larger attendance at the Christmas Eve service. There were 109 meals served during the Christmas meal, and a big thank you to all who helped. The Community Christmas meal and program in January was well attended. Lacey Wojtysiak will be confirmed Pentecost Sunday May 19. Gary Gustafson has been

awesome helping teach the high school class during religious release and provides snacks and drinks during class. Dawn Shafer has been helping teach the elementary class and we still need help for snack helpers with Tim & Deb Tollgaard gone. Lent starts on February 14 and assuming we will meet Wednesdays for Lent soup suppers. Will be out of town on February 28, so we will need someone to be Pastor that night. Pastor is teaching two pastors for PEG Ministries in a class on pastoral care each Tuesday morning and evening for 10 weeks. He is also teaching Bible study at the Riverview Apartments on the first and third Thursday at 10 AM and adult class on Genesis on Sundays after morning fellowship.

**Treasurers Report and Administrator's Report**

MN Power rebate second application applied for \$64.00 on November 10 and the same amount received end of December. Religious release snack fund remains the same. David Zeiroth has been replacing and repairing sump pumps. New dishwasher installed at the parsonage on January 9 by John Serebinski and Todd Messner and paid for with Rental Account funds, \$632.99. The giving statements were created and mailed. Working on the W2's and W3's. Quarterly Elevator inspection scheduled for tomorrow, January 22. Packet included December Check Register, December Financial Report, and Youth Account Report. Motion by Tanya Johnson, second by Missy Wojtysiak to approve the reports as submitted. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

**Christian Education and Youth:** Quake March 15-17 Hannah, Summer, Lacey, Lily and chaperon Tanya. Confirmation update in Pastor's report. Dates are out for Camp Patmos but registration is not open yet. Youth will be having a meeting after this to discuss upcoming events.

**Outreach Committee:** No update.

**Building Committee:** John Serebinski and Todd Messner replaced pump on boiler.

**Quilting Committee:** Resumes on January 30.

**Old Business**

- a. Christmas Dinner report and Community Christmas/ New Years Event – in Pastors report.
- b. Annual Meeting/Potluck – Youth will serve in kitchen.

**New Business**

- a. Suhonen's will be here April 21.
- b. Review draft Annual report – check for errors. Let Jeff know by Thursday, January 25.
- c. Approve 2024 Budget as proposed in Draft Annual Report. Jeff reviewed the proposed changes to the 2024 budget with the Council. Motion by Tanya Johnson, second by Bubba Vance to approve the proposed 2024 budget. Motion carried.

Date for Council installation – wait to ask newly elected members. (Continued on Page 4)

**Committee Reports (Continued from page 3)**

Employee evaluation – Council decided everyone is doing a wonderful job and evaluations are not needed at this time.

**Looking Ahead**

**Globe Offering:** Motion by Tanya Johnson, support by Missy Wojtysiak to approve February, March, and April globe offerings as proposed. Motion carried.

February - Quake, February 11 – Souper Bowl of Caring.  
March – Floodwood Area Food Shelf  
April – Suhonen Support

**Next Meeting** – March 10, 2024 at 8:00 AM.

**Closing Prayer** – Pastor provided the closing prayer.

**Adjourn Meeting** – Meeting declared adjourned at 8:43 AM.



**Wanted: Vacation Bible School Future Coordinator**

Floodwood Ministerium would like to have an assistant to learn the workings of Vacation Bible School. You would work alongside the present coordinator to understand how VBS is put together and run. 2024 VBS theme is “Scuba”. If you are interested contact Pastor Burgess or Judy Ario.

**Youth Hanging Basket Fund Raiser**



Hanging flower basket vouchers will go on sale in April for \$32.00. Look for further details on Facebook.

**Release Time**



Last day of Release Time was Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a lot of excitement. It was a great year and the children learned a lot.



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Tracy Zieroth  
Courtney Romanek  
Jody Messner
- 4 Pat Manee
- 5 Tad Farrell
- 6 Pastor Julie Gellert
- 7 Lilyana Johnson
- 9 David Zieroth  
Imijyn Thompson
- 10 Sylvia (Shafer) Romosz  
Hunter Rauvola  
Morgan Kuehl
- 13 Tracy Hutchinson
- 14 Neva Polo
- 15 Ethel Pensak  
Jazmine Johnson
- 16 Caleb Fries  
Lane Grady
- 17 Maija Hunt
- 18 Roy Autio
- 21 Marion Shafer  
Jeff Romosz (Sylvia Shafer)
- 22 Tabitha Tollgaard  
Quinn Kuehl  
Todd Messner
- 24 Hannah Zieroth
- 30 Faith Romanek

**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

**30** Bonnie & Steve Hall

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

**1** Telisha Bennett

**9** Alice Shafer

**11** Tasha Belter

**12** Rob Benson

**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)

**FLOODWOOD  
FOOD SHELF**

**2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY  
NOON - 2:00 PM**

**4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY  
9:00-1100 AM**



**Reminders**

Sign up to serve refreshments!

And

Sign up to be a Scripture reader!



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

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

*HLCW (Continued from Page 1)*



**Quilting**

Quilting will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



**HLCW Penny Jar Collection**

The women's Bible Study group collected change and bills in a "penny jar" over the past year, and donated \$51.43 to the local Food Shelf.



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

**Fighting Against Sex Trafficking**

**June 8<sup>th</sup>**

at Floodwood New Life Church

**7 A.M.** Race day Sign-up/Registration: \$40/person or whole family

Or online at [venturemiles.org/teams](http://venturemiles.org/teams), (Floodwood New Life & Community Church Run) at least 30 days before June 8<sup>th</sup>: \$30.00/person (includes tee shirt)

(donation sponsorship is encouraged)

**8 A.M.** Race Begins

For more information contact:

Ginny Larva (218) 216-5758 or Matt Larva (218) 966-6915

or

**Web: [30forfreedom.org](http://30forfreedom.org)**

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

**PREVENTION**

**RESCUE OPERATIONS**

**SURVIVOR CARE**



Meet our Church Leaders



Our Church Council was installed on Sunday, March 10, 2024. L-R: Pastor John, Carolyn Hosking, Tanya Johnson (President), Missy Wojtysiak (Secretary), Kim Hutchinson, Gary Gustafson (Vice President) and Todd Messner. Not pictured: Deb Tollgaard (Treasurer). Thank you to those who serve.

### SPRING NIGHT OUT

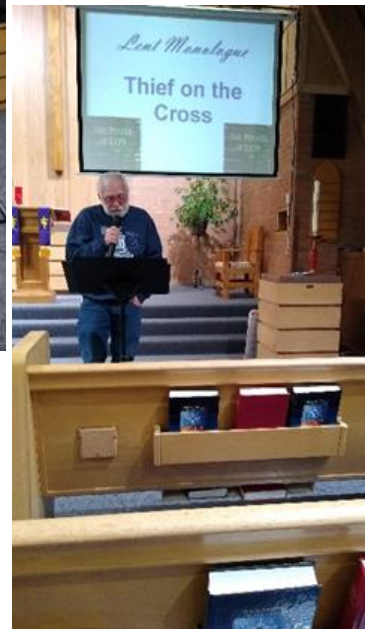


The youth and their mentors prepared a wonderful meal for the Spring Night Out youth fund raiser.

### Lenten Dramas



Jeff Kletscher lead the Lenten Service while Mark Johnsen and Marion Shafer participated in the Lenten Service dramas.



## April 2024 Hope Lutheran Planner

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <b>USHER:</b> Tim Tollgaard  <b>NO</b> - Pastor's office hours  9 AM - 3 PM Quilting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10 AM Bible Study at Riverview Manor	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30 Worship with communion & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study	<b>8</b> <b>USHER:</b> John Seredinski  9:00-Noon Pastor's office hours	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM HLCW Bible Study	<b>10</b> 12-2:00 PM Floodwood Food Shelf	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study	<b>15</b> <b>USHER:</b> Mark Johnson  9:00-Noon Pastor's office hours	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10 AM Bible Study at Riverview Manor	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:00 AM: Church Council 9:30 Worship with communion, Suhonens sharing & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship NO Bible Study	<b>22</b> <b>USHER:</b> Gary Gustafson  9:00-Noon Pastor's office hours	<b>23</b> 9:00-3:00 Quilting	<b>24</b> 9-11:00 PM Floodwood Food Shelf  Newsletter deadline	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study	<b>29</b> <b>USHER:</b> Dave Zieroth  9:00-Noon Pastor's office hours	<b>30</b>	<b>Globe Offering</b> April 7, 14, 21 – Suhonen Support Note: The Suhonen's will be here on April 21 May – Youth - Camp Patmos Support  <b>Looking Ahead</b> Community Vacation Bible School – June 10 - 14			

PRAYER REQUESTS

April 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
Jen	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  
\*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**

February 25	\$ 648.00
March 3	\$1345.00
March 10	\$2037.00
March 17	\$ 425.00

**Globe  
Food Shelf**

March 3	\$75.00
March 10	\$80.00
March 17	\$50.00

**Quake Event**

February 25	\$100.00
March 3	\$ 28.00
March 10	\$120.00

**Youth**

February 21 Soup Supper	\$ 64.00
February 28 Soup Supper	\$ 17.00
March 6 Soup Supper	\$ 31.00
March 13 Soup Supper	\$ 46.00
Spring Night Out Fundraiser	\$710.00

**Souper Bowl of Caring**

Total Giving \$972.00  
60 pounds of food to Floodwood Food Shelf

**Endowment Balance**

12/31/23 \$102,591.14

**Memorials**

In Memory of Floyd Ahlgren from John & Pat Seredinski	\$ 50.00 (Mem Savings)
In Memory of Rueben Wenstrom from John & Pat Seredinski	\$ 50.00 (Mem Savings)
In Memory of Rueben Wenstrom from Bubba & Sue Vance	\$ 25.00 (Mem Savings)
In Memory of Sulo Jatkola from Kim Miner	\$100.00 (Mem Savings)

**Globe Offering**

April 7, 14, 21 – Suhonen Support  
*Note: The Suhonen's will be here on April 21*



# Easter Story

Word Search

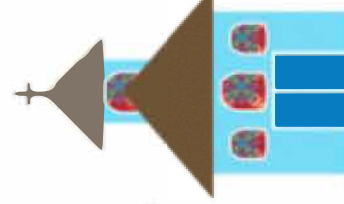


S K J Y L I T S O C E T H X N E P L E B S  
 C A V M I X O P E S P U R V E N E K H C A M K O I R W I S  
 R O S P I I R U P P N E P A L A T N C H A M I E S E N W R Q I P  
 S U S C H R I S T E  
 V A R R C B N O L  
 E R C T R M O L  
 Q O X I ● N R E S T  
 A L Y E D M T E K O  
 V F E S I H M R P  
 F E S I H M R P  
 A R R A J R S M N A ● X J  
 C T F I D A O E A D  
 I T Y A O E P A  
 L E S C I P L E S C X G S

APOSTLES  
 BETRAYAL  
 CAVE  
 CHURCH  
 CROSS  
 CROWN  
 DISCIPLES  
 FAITH  
 GOOD FRIDAY

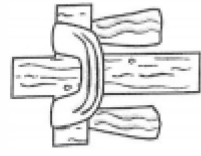
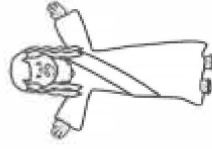
JESUS CHRIST  
 JUDAS  
 LAMB  
 LAST SUPPER  
 LENT  
 MARY  
 MIRACLE  
 PASSOVER  
 PENANCE  
 PENTECOST

PRAYER  
 REDEMPTION  
 REJOICE  
 RESURRECTION  
 RISEN  
 SAVIOR  
 SON  
 THORNS  
 TOMB



# EASTER

WORD SEARCH



P L S A C I R I A F I C E M B K  
 S B C W S A D U J K I M K U B L  
 A P E E A N G E L S S D R Z  
 J B R S D R A U G W E C L  
 B H U U C L V R Z V X C L  
 P H U U C L V R Z V X C L  
 U C L V R Z V X C L  
 C A I L R Y S B N E T C E I A  
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 I B T W C F P T S S T X K X O  
 F B T W C F P T S S T X K X O  
 I L E N T V X S I S T C Z I G  
 C A T V I N E D R A G T B O L  
 E M M Y O F P W X P N W D N O  
 K B C E N A M E S H T E G C G

JESUS  
 ANGELS  
 LENT  
 SACRIFICE

CROSS  
 GARDEN  
 JUDAS  
 PILATE

RESURRECTION  
 CRUCIFIXION  
 PASSOVER  
 GETHSEMANE

GUARDS  
 ALIVE  
 SUNRISE  
 GOLGOTHA

TOMB  
 CHRISTIAN  
 LAMB  
 BARABBAS



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

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**