

The Beacon of Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

December 2020

Pastor's Corner

Season's Greetings for a Blessed Advent and Christmas,

When I look out of my window and see the snow, I know that means Christmas is coming soon. We have just finished celebrating Thanksgiving in an unusual manner for many of us this year with no large family gatherings or travel because of the COVID pandemic. Our political leaders encouraged us to stay home and limit our contact with other people. If that is what lies ahead, it just doesn't seem like Christmas. This Advent how are we to prepare?

In many ways, this year we are missing the excitement and anticipation usually associated with the Christmas season. It seems a much more somber time this year with all the fear, uncertainty, panic and desperation that seems to be spreading faster than the virus itself, despite being placed in lockdown and people being told to shelter in place. With all of this uncertainty around us, how do we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus? I think it can only happen by being reassured that God has everything under control, and these things will eventually pass. We need to know God is a promise keeper as evidenced by the gift of His Son Jesus born on that Christmas eve over two thousand years ago to fulfill His promise to all people to send them a Savior. He has also made promises to us on how we can survive the difficulties in our time.

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Lessons 21 and 22 will be discussed at the December women's Bible study—part of the "30 Life Principles" by Charles Stanley. We're finally moving into the New Testament with lesson 21, based on Luke 11:28, "Obedience always brings blessing". Is obedience sometimes challenging?? Lesson 22, "To walk in the Spirit is to obey the initial promptings of the Spirit", based on Acts 10:19. Do you wish that God's direction was clearer to you? Join the discussion at 10 A.M. on December 8th at the church.

Cindy Burgess will lead the study. We wear masks and distance ourselves. There is room for more people, all women are welcome.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES October 25, 2020

UNAPPROVED

Members Present:

Dean Fries, Missy Wojtysiak, Tanya Johnson, Deb Tollgaard, Mark Johnsen, LuAnn Heikkila, Bubba Vance, Pastor John Burgess, and Administrator Jeff Kletscher,

Pastor John Burgess opened with prayer.

Meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM by Mark Johnsen.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Bubba Vance, second by Deb Tollgaard to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Secretaries Report

September 27, 2020 Council Minutes - Motion by Deb Tollgaard, second by Bubba Vance to approve minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report

Reviewed, no changes or questions. Motion Bubba Vance, second by Tanya Johnson to approve the Treasures report as submitted. Motion carried.

Pastors Report

Pastor Burgess provided a written report: He baptized two of Hazel Bailey's great grandchildren, held a

funeral for Jay Kadin and gave communion to two shut ins. Great response with kids a Religious release, 14 in elementary and 7 in high school. Big thank you to Cindy, Grace, and Jan for providing treats and Rob, Tim, Deb and Hazel for helping. LCMC churches have seen a similar drop in attendance do to COVID. They are showing trends in younger generations where Gen-X and Gen-Z prefer on-line church. Even 20% to 30% of Millennial's say they prefer on-line worship. Pastor states he has been teaching a Bible study on Goliath Must Fall, it gives helpful suggestions on how to deal with the giants of fear, rejections, comfort, anger, and addictions in our lives. A prayer vigil for the election will be Nov 1st at 6:00 p.m. hosted by the local Pastoral group. This will be to pray for a peaceful time and that God's will be served. December 18 there will be a community dinner at the Event Center sponsored by the Pastoral Group, more to come later.

Administrator's Report

Report was provided in Council packet. Signed contract with FST for snow removal. Elevator – quarterly check-up 10/20/2020 – all is good. Funds for religious release snacks – no activity- \$71.41.

Committee Reports

Christian Education and Youth – Confirmation – Summer and Hannah are on track to be confirmed this spring. Religious release is mentioned in Pastors report and the youth is looking to do an ornament fundraiser, but they will not be able to do the dinner take out meal fundraiser. The women will be doing a bake sale on certain Sundays to help raise money.

Outreach Committee – No report.

Building Committee –

David Zieroth will remove dead tree on rental property once the ground is frozen. No recent updates from Peak Roofing on shingle repairs on the Church. May need to do some additional seeding on the new green space in the spring.

Quilting – Quilters have returned to work, there was a good turn out and they will be working all winter.

Old Business

- a. Mark has the stove from the rental at his place and if anyone needs it please let him know.
- a. Employee Evaluation – Tabled.
- b. 2019 Audit – we will see if Tim Tollgaard and Kathy Johnsen can complete this on line, files will be sent to both and they will do a video conference.

New Business

- a. Motion to allow Pastor Burgess to carry over vacation days to 2021 because of COVID-19. Motion made by Tanya Johnson, second by Bubba Vance. Motion carried.
- b. Thanksgiving Eve of Day service? Have not done one for the last 2 years. Yes, we will hold Thanksgiving Eve Service at 6:00 PM on November 25.
- c. Children's Christmas program will be held Sunday, December 20. Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at 5 PM. *(Continued on Page 3)*

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Mark Johnsen asked that we have a discussion on live streaming worship services at the next council meeting.

Looking Ahead

Annual meeting – Sunday, January 24, 2021 following Service.

Recruit council members – Bubba Vance is completing remaining time on Rob Benson's term which ends January 2021. Dean Fries' 1st term ends January 2021. They both indicated they would be willing to stand for election again if asked.

Globe Offering: Motion was made by Bubba Vance, second by Dean Fries that the November Globe Offering be to support Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes (Dollars sent to Samaritan's Purse). Motion carried.

Next Meeting – December 13, 2020 at 8 a.m.

Pastor Burgess closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 a.m.

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HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN MINUTES

November 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Grace Autio at 11:30 a.m.

Seven members were present.

Shoe Box Project will be completed on Sunday, November 15, 2020.

Floyd and Carole Ahlgren will deliver them to Duluth.

The cookie exchange will be held on Sunday, December 13th. Three dozen cookies are being requested packaged in baggies containing 4 cookies each.

All ladies are invited to join the quilting on Tuesday, November 24 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the church basement.

The next bible study will be on Tuesday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m. Cindy Burgess will lead the lesson on chapters 21 and 22.

Meeting adjourned.

Jan Benson, Secretary

YOUTH NEWS

Things have been a little on the quiet side with the Youth. There will be no Release Time for a few weeks and Sunday School is a hit and miss with the young kids. We are always ready and hope to see kids on Sunday morning for Sunday School.

The Youth got together on Sunday, November 1st after church to work on a Christmas ornament fundraiser. They came up with some very decorative Christmas stars made out of clothespins and pine cones. After a job well done, we all enjoyed pizza and yummy bars made by Lu Ann. The ornaments are on display in the back of the church for your shopping pleasure.

The bake sale organized as another fundraiser for the Youth was a big success. Thank you to everyone

that helped with the bake sale and of course the shoppers!!!

Thank you for supporting the Youth.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jordan Romanek
4 Carole Ahlgren
5 Carolyn Hosking
6 Johanna Abell
Cecilia Abell
10 Tony Speece
12 Danielle (Tollgaard) White
17 Courtney Young
John Hutchinson
19 John Seredinski Jr.
26 Bubba Vance
27 Tanya Johnson
29 McKennah Keil
30 Lois Hendrickson
Lindsey Rosemore
31 Alex Larson

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 19 Bob & Joyce Andrews
25 Bob & Carolyn Hosking
(’60)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Rae Rosemore
Deacon Laine
6 Elbert Holmes
12 Liz Thom

- 15 Lukus Fries
Carter Stokke
23 Nolan Heikkila
27 Dalton Hutchinson
Drake Laine
28 Elsie Tollgaard
Jayna Kemp
30 Shannon Lund
Milee Lund

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

Pastor’s Corner (Continued from page 1)

It is in times like this we need to know His promise to us as outlined in Psalm 91, also known as the rescue scripture. It begins with these words, “He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” This means that we are to stay close to God in our lives. It is not the time to go outside the will of God. The world around us is panicking and wondering what to do, buying toilet paper and hand sanitizer like there is no tomorrow, living like they don’t really care about others in this world. We however, must be steadfast on and in His Word. We cannot be wavering with uncertainty deceived by news reports, whether they are true or false., but we must dwell and abide in the steadfast secret place of the Most High. Are you asking where is the secret place? The secret place is in the Hand of God.

Psalm 91 goes on to say in verse 3, “surely, he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler and from the noisome pestilence.” The word noisome pestilence means calamity and ruin. That is exactly what the COVID-19 is doing, it is spreading rapidly trying to ruin our normal way of living leaving calamity, fear and panic as it spreads over the entire planet. But God promises us that if we stay in His Hands, we can have the peace that passes all understanding. No more fear and uncertainty.

Psalm 91 vs.9-16 talks about the promises that we who dwell in the secret place have. These verses say, “Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, they habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.”

There are some great promises here, but it requires that we stay in His Hands. This Advent, as we prepare for the birth of Jesus and celebrate the coming of His Hands, we need to be encouraged and not despair in the difficult times we are living in now. We need to understand that Jesus has a name above all names and COVID-19, coronavirus, or whatever other name there is out there, has to bow down to the name of Jesus. So, although the times ahead are uncertain, although some states have shut down, although some churches have had to cancel services, we can be assured that at the name of Jesus this pandemic has to cease. At the name of Jesus even demons have to flee. There is nothing that can stand against us when we call on His Great Name, Jesus. Jesus precious Savior in you we have the victory!

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Pastor's Corner (Continued from page 4)

My prayer for all of us is to take time during Advent to prepare ourselves for His coming again. We remember and rejoice at His birth, but we must prepare ourselves for His imminent return. He warned us before He left to return to heaven that things would get crazy like in the time of Noah before the flood. There would be wars and rumors of wars. There would be pestilence and disease. People would fall away from the church. There would be violence, deception and evil all around. People would call evil good and good evil. All these things seem to be occurring. So, let us get ready for His coming. Let us repent of our sins and become the disciples he has called us to be. Let us spread the good news of His coming and all that He has done for us. Let us abide in Jesus this Christmas and make it truly a Merry Christmas for us all.

During this month we will have the opportunity to serve others with the filling of the cookie cans December 13 and with the Christmas bake sale on December 20th, the Sunday of our children's Christmas program. Our kids will also be selling homemade Christmas star ornaments then. Please join us then and on Christmas Eve for our candlelight service to celebrate the birthday of Jesus.

God Bless,
Pastor John

HLCW (Continued from Page 3)



We will not have quilting until after the New Year when we will decide if we can continue. Stay

safe everyone and see you in church.



Nineteen Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes were blessed on Sunday, November 15.

Cookie Can Sunday



We will distribute cookie cans on December 13th. If you are able, please bring 3 dozen cookies, 3 in a baggie to fill the cans. Rebecca Circle will fill the cans, but we ask others to help deliver them. We can't stay and visit with people, just give them at the door.

**PRAYER REQUESTS
DECEMBER 2020**



For those who are ill or struggling

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Dinah | Gary |
| Dean S. | Lorraine |
| Frances | Bob |
| Danette | Sadie |
| Grace W. | Lilly |
| Theresa | Lois |
| Bradley | Phil |
| Coach | Heather |
| Rosie | Liz |
| Gary 'Curly' | Willa |

Those suffering from natural disasters
Spiritual healing and salvation for our family and friends

For those in the military

David Shafer
Owen Seredinski
Cody Farrell

For places where wars and conflict take place

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
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**

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH PLANNER

December 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----------|
| | USHER TEAM: Bob Hosking & Dale Rauvola | 1 | 2 Religious Release: 12:45-1:30-HS 1:30-2:15-Elem. | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 9:30 Worship & communion & Sunday School | 7 USHER TEAM: Bubba Vance & Rob Benson 8:30-Noon- Pastor's office hours | 8 10:00 HLCW Bible Study and Meeting | 9 9-11 AM Floodwood Food Shelf Religious Release: 12:45-1:30-HS 1:30-2:15-Elem. | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 8:00 Ch. Council 9:30 Worship & Sunday School  Cookie Can Sun. | 14 USHER TEAM: Tim Tollgaard and Don Rosemore 8:30-Noon- Pastor's office hours | 15 | 16 Religious Release: 12:45-1:30-HS 1:30-2:15-Elem. | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 9:30 Youth Program during service Bake Sale following Service | 21 USHER TEAM: John Seredinski and Bryan Hutchinson 8:30-Noon- Pastor's office hours | 22 NO Quilting | 23 9-11 AM Floodwood Food Shelf Religious Release: 12:45-1:30-HS 1:30-2:15-Elem. | 24 5:00 Christmas Eve Service | 25  | 26 |
| 27 9:30 Worship & Sunday School | 28 USHER TEAM: Dean Fries and Jeff Kletscher 8:30-Noon- Pastor's office hours | 29 | 30 | 31 | LOOKING AHEAD: January 24, 2021-Annual Meeting following worship service (Start preparing your report for the annual meeting now) | |

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
GIVING**

General Fund Giving

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| November 1 | \$1220.00 |
| November 8 | \$1560.00 |
| November 15 | \$ 693.00 |

Samaritan's Purse for Operation Christmas Child

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| November 8 | \$ 124.00 |
| November 15 | \$ 60.00 |

Youth Account

| | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| November 8 | Bake Sale | \$ 100.50 |
|------------|-----------|-----------|

Offerings can be mailed to:

**Hope Lutheran Church
PO Box 288
Floodwood, MN 55736**





**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

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.

Hope Lutheran Church
401 Highway 73
P.O. Box 288
Floodwood, MN 55736
(218) 476-2259
Hopefldwd7@gmail.com

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

Hope Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 288
Floodwood, MN 55736

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED