

The Beacon of Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church

September 2020

Pastor's Corner

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ. It is September and the beginning of the fall season. Traditionally, it is a time when we adjust from a summertime of vacations and rest and we look forward to a return to school and more normal life. This year it is certainly not a return to the normal we knew before all the COVID-19 changes affected our lives.

I remember that September used to mean back to church month. It was a time when members and friends we had not seen over the summer returned to church, excited to start worship again and renewed their study of God's Word. It would be a time to renew friendships with other members and look forward to serving in the activities of God's Church. How will it be this year?

Studies done by Pew Research have shown that since the churches have reopened nationally, only about 50% of members have returned to participate in church services. Even at Hope Lutheran we have only seen average weekly attendance of about 28 since we started back. Nationally over 65% of churches have seen a significant drop in financial giving. Fortunately, we at Hope have not seen a large drop in giving but I would like to encourage all members to remember that God's blessings and the work of His church continues even during this viral pandemic. Don't forget to remember God calls us to be faithful stewards of all that He gives us so that we can be a blessing to others.

(Continued on Page 4)

Hope Lutheran Church Women



After a long period of inactivity, we are planning to have a Bible Study/business meeting on September 15 at 10:00. We feel we can wear masks and distance ourselves in the basement.

Picking up where we left off in March, we will continue the '30 Life Principles' by Charles Stanley, we'll be looking at studies number 15 and 16. *(Continued on Page 4)*

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES July 19, 2020

Members Present:

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

Pastor John Burgess opened with prayer.

Meeting was called to order at 8:02 AM by Mark Johnsen.

Approval of Agenda

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

Secretaries Report

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

Treasurers Report

Reviewed June 2020 Financial reports. Motion by Tanya Johnson, second by Bubba Vance to approve the Treasurers report as submitted. Motion carried.

Pastors Report

Pastor Burgess provided a written report: Pastor reported that 23 - 29 people have been attending services since the church reopened. People reported the biggest reasons for not coming was due to the coronavirus,

not wanting to wear a mask, keeping a log of attendees, or not being able to sing. Mileage for June is 74 miles. Communion given was 7. Met with LCMC pastors July 14. Continue to contact those in nursing homes once a month and hold communion twice a month with prepackaged communion cups. In June and July, Mr. Kletscher arranged for food giveaways in the church parking lot. There will be another one in August. Pastor will not be attending the LCMC Convocation in October in person, but will attend on-line for when the new service coordinator will be installed.

Administrator's Report

Report was provided in packet, it included a check for Summit Companies which was for the annual fire extinguisher testing, filling or replacing.

Committee Reports

Christian Education and Youth – Some of the churches in the community will hold VBS July 27-31. Hope Lutheran Church will not participate due to the concern over Covid.

Outreach Committee – No report

Building Committee – Tree removal at Parsonage completed. Shrubs at the south end of parking will be added into the demo of the rental house.

Quilting – The quilts were blessed and delivered to the Salvation Army in Duluth.

Old Business

- a. Rental Update – Council packet contained a slide show handout that will be used at the Congregational

Meeting regarding the history, past motions, and recommendations. Council held a brief discussion and asked questions on the demolition of the rental house and garage to create additional green space. Jeff recommends funds for the demolition to come out of the rental account.

Motion by Deb Tollgaard, second by Bubba Vance to approve the demolition of the house and garage by Scott Johnston Trucking & Excavation to create additional green space. Funds for the demolition to come from the Rental Account. Motion carried.

This will be recommended to the Congregation for approval at the Congregational Meeting today following worship service.

Goal is to have appliances, plants, and other items removed by August 2. Jeff will work with utility companies and Scott Johnston to facilitate the demo.

- b. Employee Evaluation - Tabled
- c. 2019 Audit – Tabled

New Business

- a. Notice of Resignation by Susan Coccie from the treasurers work she was doing. Dean Fries will be trained to produce the spread sheets that Susan was doing.
- b. Produce Giveaway –

Thursday, August 20, 2020
at 2:00 pm

Globe Offering: Will be tabled until further notice

Next Meeting – August 19, 2020 at 8 am.

Pastor Burgess closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 am.

Special Congregational Meeting July 19, 2020

Council President Mark Johnsen called the meeting to order following worship service. Mark reviewed the reason for the meeting.

Annual Meeting January 19, 2020 – Info presented

- Repairs needed to rental house and garage
- Cost estimates for siding and windows
- Demolition and paving bids.
- Income when rented
- Garage rental income only
- Expenses from rental account
- Expenses when rented

Motions from January 19, 2020 Annual Meeting

- Nancy Raihala made a motion that Hope Lutheran Church get out of the rental business and not fix the rental property, second by Elsie Tollgaard. Motion carried
- Motion by Carolyn Hosking, second by Missy

Wojtytsiak that the council evaluate demolition costs and proposals and bring a plan back to the congregation for final approval. Motion carried

June and July Council meetings

- Council discussed the only way to move the garage would be to cut it in half or to remove it large trees in yard. It is too large to fit down alley.
- Administrator Jeff Kletscher worked with the previous renters (Dawn and Tim Lamping) on the possibility of moving the garage to their property, they expressed interest. In the end they were unable to meet the timeline the council had set forth for the removal of the garage.

Lowest Bid for Demolition

Scott Johnston Trucking and Excavation

House	\$8,880.00
Garage	\$2,950.00
Total	\$11,830.00

These totals include the black dirt, seeding and straw to turn the area into a green space.

Balance in rental account \$15,928.10 as of (7/13/2020)

Council Recommendation from July 19, 2020 Church Council Meeting

- Approve demolition of house and garage by Scott Johnston Trucking and Excavation to create additional green space.

Funds for the demolition to come from the Rental account. Motion by Deb Tollgaard, second by Bubba Vance. Motion carried.

Questions from the Congregation were answered.

Motion requested of Congregation

- Motion made by John Serendinski, second by Jim Penssek, to approve demolition of house and garage by Scott Johnston Trucking and Excavation to create additional green space. Funds for the demolition to come from the rental account.. Motion carried unanimously.

Goal is to have appliances, plants, and other items removed by August 2.

Jeff will work with utility companies and Scott Johnston to facilitate the demo.

Meeting declared adjourned by Mark Johnsen.

JUST FOR FUN

A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one child. "No," said another. "He's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use

the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Haylie Aho
- 4 Sulo Jatkola
Tara Seredinski
- 9 Sydney Lough
- 11 Megan Heikkila Russ
- 12 Jim Pensak
- 14 Kiaja Stokke
- 17 Abby Johnsen
- 19 Levi Suonvieri
- 22 Autumn Peterson
- 23 Jared Seredinski
Phil Bennett
- 24 Dean Fries
Neil Vance
- 26 Savannah Speece
- 28 Jack Moe

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Keven & Tanya Johnson ('07)
- 15 Mark & Kathy Johnsen ('84)
- 16 Burt & Cory Suonvieri
Hazel & Doug Bailey

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Liam Seredinski
Dale Rauvola
- 4 Molly Johnsen
Elvie Tollgaard
LuAnn Heikkila
- 5 Cory Suonvieri
- 6 David Jatkola
- 9 Russ Abell
Ella Bennett
- 10 Betty Abrahamson
- 11 Wayne Thom
- 12 Ann Bolstad
- 13 Pastor Owen Christianson
Anna Hall
- 17 Mark Johnsen
- 22 Shannon Johnsen
Jim Hutton
- 24 Bob Andrews
Tamera Lundstrom
- 27 Marissa Johnson
- 30 Davia Hayes

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Liz & Wayne Thom ('66)
- 2 John & Sue Hutchinson
- 3 Pat & John Seredinski ('71)

Pastor's Corner (Continued from page 1)

I know many of you have told me how depressed and anxious you have felt during the isolation and changes to your life that have occurred because of the risk of coronavirus infection. This can lead to increased stress, worry and other health issues. I will be starting a six-week Bible study entitled "Goliath Must Fall Winning the Battle Against Your Giants". Our Goliaths can include fear, rejection, comfort, anger and addictions. The Bible study will be following the Sunday worship service from 10:45-11:45 a.m. We will spread out and have a short video introduction followed by questions and insights from the story of David and Goliath. I think you will find it quite helpful and enlightening.

I would again like to reassure you that we are following recommended safety procedures and social distancing to make your worship experience a time you can feel safe. Let us get back in touch with God and His calling on your life! I look forward to seeing you soon.

You are all in my prayers.
God Bless, Pastor John

HLCW (Continued from Page 1)

Number 15, based on Jeremiah 15:19, is "Brokenness is God's requirement for maximum usefulness". Number 16 is "Whatever you acquire outside of God's will eventually turns to ashes", based on Ezekiel 25: 6-7. Cindy Burgess will lead the study.

We won't serve coffee at the first meeting. Please make an effort to attend; we need to meet with other Christians for studying God's word and enjoy the fellowship.

Rental Update

The electric stove removed from the rental is available. If you are interested in it, contact Jeff or Pastor.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION



Jeff hopes to arrange another food give away in September, but at this time is unsure when it will be. Watch the Hope Lutheran Facebook Page for additional information. Posters will also be put around town to share the information.

August 20, 2020 Free Food Distribution by the Numbers

240 Total Boxes – **3830** #'s
115 Produce – **1955** #'s
125 Sloppy Joe – **1875** #'s

137 Households
106 – under 18
151 – Adults 18 – 65
97 – over 65
18 volunteers – **38.5** hours

Total Floodwood Food Distribution Numbers

Floodwood Totals
 Distribution Dates: 3
 Total Boxes: 615
 Total Pounds: 11,955

AEOA Food Distribution Numbers

Since May 28, 2020
 Total Boxes: 29,557
 Total Pounds: 549,941
 28 Communities in 6
 Northeast MN Counties

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH GIVING

General Fund Giving

July 26	\$ 355.00
August 4	\$6720.00
August 9	\$ 830.00
August 16	\$2115.00
August 23	\$5640.00

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

Globe Offering

No globe offering for September

PRAYER REQUESTS
SEPTEMBER 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'	Willia

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**

September 2020 HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH PLANNER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Aug. 31 USHER TEAM: Dave Zieroth & Mark Johnsen 8:30-Noon- Pastor's office hours	1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 Worship & communion	7 USHER TEAM: Bob Hosking & Dale Rauvola 8:30-Noon- Pastor's office hours	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:30 Worship	14 USHER TEAM: Rob Benson & Bubba Vance 8:30-Noon- Pastor's office hours	15 10:00 HLCW Bible Study and Meeting	16	17	18	19
20 9:30 Worship & communion	21 USHER TEAM: Don Rosemore & Tim Tollgaard 8:30-Noon- Pastor's office hours	22	23	24	25	26
27 8:00 Church Council 9:30 Worship	28 USHER TEAM: John Seredinski & Bryan Hutchinson 8:30-Noon- Pastor's office hours	29	30			

The Greatest

Find the 35 **bold** words from *Matthew 18:1-6, 10* (ESV)

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

At that time the **disciples** came to **Jesus**, saying, “**Who** is the **greatest** in the **kingdom of heaven**?” And **calling** to him a **child**, he put him in the **midst** of them and said, “**Truly**, I say to you, **unless** you **turn** and **become** like children, you will **never** **enter** the kingdom of heaven. Whoever **humbles** himself like this child is the **greatest** in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever **receives** one such child in my **name** receives me, but whoever **causes** one of these **little ones** who **believe** in me to **sin**, it would be **better** for him to have a great **millstone fastened** around his **neck** and to be **drowned** in the **depth** of the **sea**. See that you do not **despise** one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven **their angels** always **see** the **face** of my **Father** who is in heaven.”

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Seventy-seven Times

Find the 37 **bold** words from *Matthew 18:21-27* (ESV)

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

Then **Peter** came up and said to him, “**Lord**, **how often** will my **brother sin** against me, and I **forgive** him? As many as **seven times**?” **Jesus** said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. “Therefore the **kingdom of heaven** may be **compared** to a king who wished to **settle accounts** with his **servants**. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who **owed him ten thousand talents**. And since he **could not pay**, his **master ordered** him to be **sold**, with his **wife and children** and all that he had, and **payment** to be made. So the servant **fell on his knees, imploring** him, ‘Have **patience** with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of **pity** for him, the master of that **servant released** him and **forgave him the debt**.”

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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
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