

The Beacon Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran March 2025

Pastor's Corner

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is March and the beginning of the Lenten season. This year will start on Wednesday, March 5th, at 7 p.m. We begin with a service of communion and disposition of ashes. There is no Lenten soup supper that evening.

Lenten soup suppers start Wednesday March 12, with the meal starting at 6 p.m. followed by the service at 7 p.m. There will not be dramas this year, but I will be teaching a series on the "I Am" statements from the Gospel of John and their Lenten significance.

The "I Am" statements in the gospel of John allow us to reflect on how to focus on the proclamation of God becoming flesh and dwelling among you. Jesus' death on the cross is many things, but first it is the death of God. The "I Am" statements are more than a novelty of the Gospel of John, but they reveal in all fullness the identity of Jesus. When Jesus goes to the cross, God goes both as God and human. During Lent we remember that to believe in Jesus is to hold the fulness of Jesus' humanity and Jesus' divinity together. The challenge of Lent is to negotiate these simultaneous truths. The words "I Am" and the words after them shape our reality. I invite you to come and develop a deeper understanding of the question who is Jesus? *(Continued on Page 5)*



Cindy Burgess will lead the next session on "Women of the Bible" on Tuesday, March 11th at 10:00 A.M. at the church. The topics of discussion will be Mary, the mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalene. All women are welcome. *(Continued on Page 6)*

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hope Lutheran Church Council Minutes

January 19th, 2025
APPROVED

Members Present

Tanya Johnson, Gary Gustafson, Missy Wojtysiak, Carolyn Hosking, Pastor Burgess and Administrator Jeff Kletscher. Absent: Kim Hutchinson, Deb Tollgaard

Meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM by Tanya Johnson.

Pastor Burgess opened with prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Missy Wojtysiak, second by Gary Gustafson to approve agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report

December 1, 2025 Church Council minutes in packet. Motion to approve by Tanya Johnson, second by Carolyn Hosking. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Mileage 227. Communion 6. 6 Cookie cans delivered. Positive feedback regarding new projector. Started up all the bible studies again. Interesting dealing at the parsonage, carbon monoxide was filling the parsonage. No detectors in the house, tried the carbon monoxide detector from the church and it would go off and then be fine. John Sredinski got a new one from Menards and it showed high levels, called the gas company and they eventually found the problem.

Treasurers Report and Administrator's Report

December check registers, Financial Report and Summarized Financial Report included and reviewed, nothing unexpected noted. Giving Statements mailed on January 17, 2025. W2 & W3 completed on January 15, 2025, completed online at SSA.gov, copies of W2's mailed to State on January 17. Annual Report. Artificial Christmas Tree purchased - paid for with funds from Memorial Account. Nancy LaPlant (Custodian) will be on vacation January 27 - February 2, Ann Bolstad and Dawn Shafer will cover that week. Fund for Religious Release for snacks -No change since last meeting. Funeral Lunch Accounting - No change since last meeting. John S. replaced smoke detectors at parsonage on December 10, performed maintenance on Church Boiler on December 1. Elevator Inspection on December 17 (all OK). CO2 issues at parsonage over Christmas and first weeks of January, CO2 detector purchased and installed. Exhaust pipe repaired/replaced by Floodwood Gas.

Christmas Dinner Finances: 99
Total Meals - 66 at Event Center, 33
to go meals

Income:
12/8 & 12/15 - offering \$140.00
Day of donations - \$80.00

Expenses:

Rent- \$65.00
Deposit - \$25.00 (was returned)
Sam's Club - \$41.46

\$ in Missions Checking

Motion by Missy Wojtysiak, second by Gary Gustafson to approve the reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Christian Education and Youth: SS Update

Religious Release Update: Going about the same. Deb and Tim will be gone to Texas now and we could use more help with snacks. Patty has stepped in and filled Hazel's spot. High school kids meet with Gary and it is going well.

Confirmation Update: Lilly will be confirmed May 18th.

Quake - March 21st - 23rd in Bloomington. Registration has been completed and bill paid. Kendra Laine is going this year. Kalli Fjeld is also going and will pay her full fee. Tanya is supervising.

Camp Patmos is combining High School and Middle School. July 6th-11th. Registration has not opened yet.

Building Committee: Update included in the Administrator's report

Quilting Committee: Will resume in January 28th.

Old Business

- a. Custodian Update: Nancy LePlant hired and started. Seems to be going well.
- b. AV project update: Positive feedback from the congregation. Brighter, easier to see and read.

New Business

- a. Community Christmas/New Year's Event is tonight at The Event Center.

*(Continued on
Page 3)*

- b. Annual Meeting Potluck – youth will be in the kitchen, Tanya Johnson and LuAnn Heikkila are coordinating.
- c. Review Draft of Annual Report.
- d. Approve Annual 2025 Budget as proposed in Annual Report. Motion by Tanya Johnson, seconded by Gary Gustafson to approve the proposed budget. Motion carried.
- e. Employee Evaluations: Not needed at this time.
- f. Church Council Installation date: February 23rd during the service. Kim Hutchinson willing to go for a second term. Need 3 spots filled, one for 1 year and two for 3 years.

Looking Ahead

Globe Offering:

February: Quake Event Support, Souper Bowl of Caring is February 9th

March: Floodwood Area Food Shelf

Next Meeting – Sunday, February 23rd at 8:00 AM.

Closing Prayer – Pastor provided the closing prayer.

Adjourn Meeting – Meeting adjourned by Tanya Johnson at 8:52 am.

**Hope Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting of the
Congregation
January 26, 2025**

Call Meeting to Order Council President Tanya Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:34 AM.

Confirmation of Quorum by Ushers: Usher confirmed a quorum was present (38).

Approval of Agenda - Motion made by Ann Bolstad, support by Carolyn Hosking to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes – Motion made by Shelley Arjes, support by Nancy Raihaila to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

Recognition of outgoing council member – Tanya Johnson and Deb Tollgaard were thanked for each serving the past 6 years on the Church Council.

Proposed slate of Candidates for Council Positions – Kim Hutchinson is willing to be re-elected to another 3 year term (expire January 2028). Jan Dornseif is willing to be elected to fill a 1 year term (expire January 2026). (Proposed slate of candidates was included in the annual report.)

Nominations from the floor – Pat Seredinski volunteered to serve a 3 year term (expire January 2028).

Motion by Gary Gustafson, support by Elvi Tollgaard to elect Kim Hutchinson, Jan Dornseif, and Pat Seredinski. Motion carried. Note: 1 three year term remains unfilled.

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Burgess' report was included in the Annual Report. Pastor report that this is his 7th year, and they are happy to be a part of our “Friendly Family of God!” Pastor reminded us that he has been teaching Bible study at the Riverview Apartments the first and third Thursdays of the month and another after fellowship on Sundays. Cindy is also teaching HLCW Bible Study on the second Tuesday of the month. Pastor encouraged us all to try to attend a bible study.

Pastor encouraged us all to live our lives with Passion, not as the “frozen chosen”. We should be excited about God's word. He also encouraged us to share God's message to our Community.

Pastor also thanked all those who volunteer and participate to make our congregation what it is.

Presidents Report (Tanya Johnson) – Tanya thanked the congregation for supporting her during her time on the Church Council. She indicated that she was reluctant to be elected but felt that she wanted to volunteer and get a better understanding of how the Congregation worked. She did “buy in” and enjoyed her time on the Council. Tanya went on to Thank **all** those who volunteer and use their talents to make Hope the family it is. Tanya closed by encouraging all to give a little more if possible, as our costs continue to increase.

High School Religious Release Report (Gary Gustafson) – A written report is included in the annual report. Gary verbally reported that there are on average 14 attendees at High School Religious Release (3 of them are

seniors). Gary went on to share that while there is no established curriculum, he works to fulfill three goals: Intellectual Sharpness, Spiritual Courage, and Moral Certainty. Gary also outlined his plans for the remainder of the year.

Treasurer’s Report/ 2025 Budget Proposal and Approval
 Administrator Jeff Kletscher provided a brief verbal review of the information included in the annual report (pages 7 - 17). HLCW Treasurers report is found on page 7. There were 3 CD's opened with funds taken from the General Checking Account, General Savings Account, and the Rental Account. 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 12-31-2024 was \$106,642.22. Average attendance in 2024 was 37 people. 2024 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 & Grounds Reports were included in the report.

2024 General Fund Giving totaled \$87,980.02 with expenses of \$95,910.04. Jeff reviewed the proposed 2025 proposed budget (pages 18 - 20), highlighting the accounts that were changed. The Church Council approved the proposed 2025 Budget at their January 19, 2025 Council Meeting.

Motion by Mark Johnsen, second by John Seredinski to approve the 2025 Budget as included in the Annual Report. Motion carried.

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

Closing Comments – None

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

Adjourn Meeting – Motion by Shirley Johnson, support by Grace Autio to adjourn the annual meeting. Motion carried. President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM.

Note: Minutes approved by Church Council at their February 23, 2025 meeting.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tammy Peterson
- 7 Scott Peterson
- 8 Brooke Hughes Johnson
- 10 Amelia Aho
- 11 Carlene Jatkola
Ross Tollgaard
- 12 Alexis Stokke
- 13 Steve Hall
- 15 Nathan Seredinski

- 17 Patricia Seredinski
- 19 Amber Schoenrock (Fries)
Bode Hutchinson
- 21 Kaleb Holmes
- 22 Tanya Hovi
Shelly Arjes
- 23 Burt Suonvieri
- 26 Evan Suonvieri
- 30 Adam Schminski

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 31 LuAnn & Terry Heikkila

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
- (Continued on Page 5)*

*Birthdays and Anniversaries
(Continued from page 4)*

- 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

NONE

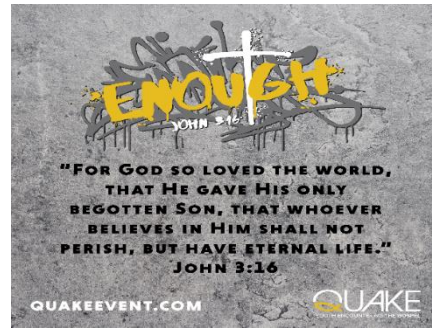
*Pastor's Corner (continued
from page 1)*

March 21-23 our high school youth will be attending the Quake gathering in Bloomington with several hundred other high school youth. We need to keep them in our prayers during this time as well as thanking God for giving them to our congregation.

May God keep us all safe and healthy this month. We hope that we don't have any really big snowstorms.

God Bless us All, Pastor John

QUAKE EVENT



The Quake Event Youth Encounter will be held in Bloomington, MN on March 21 - 23.

Youth from our church will be attending along with a chaperone. For more information contact Tanya Johnson, (218) 349-6783



While raising \$537.00 for the Life House in Duluth, the youth also collected food for the area food shelf and demonstrated to the congregation the percentage of people who are in need of those services.

**HLCW (continued from page 1)
Quilting**



Quilting will be Tuesday, March 25th starting at 9:00 A.M. Any and all are welcome.

Lutheran World Relief sent information on where quilts and kits sent out in 2024 ended up. A total of 689,814 quilts and kits were delivered to various countries from the warehouses in St Paul and Maryland. Sixteen countries, including the United States, were recipients. People affected by hurricanes Helene and Milton in North Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Florida received both quilts [13,794] and various kits. Some question whether our quilts actually get to people in need ---- and this is the answer. The poster from LWR will be on the basement bulletin board.



Saturday, March 15, 2025

Elementary Release Time



The elementary release time students decorated a bag which was then filled with goodies. Dawn spoke to them about how God and Jesus loves them.



Reminders

Sign up to serve refreshments!

And

Sign up to be a Scripture reader!

**FLOODWOOD
FOOD SHELF**

**2ND
WEDNESDAY
12:00-2:00 PM**

**4TH
WEDNESDAY
9:00-11:00 AM**



Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 PM - Ash Wednesday (no soup supper)

Wednesday, March 12, 6:00 PM – Soup Supper
7:00 PM – Lenten Services

Wednesday, March 19, 6:00 PM – Soup Supper
7:00 PM – Lenten Services

Wednesday, March 26, 6:00 PM – Soup Supper
7:00 PM – Lenten Services

Sign up sheet for providing soup or hot dogs on the narthex window.

PRAYER REQUESTS
March 2025



For those who are ill or struggling

Ethel	Roy
Dinah	Gary
Dean S.	Lorraine
Jerry	Danette
Sadie	Carlene
Grace W.	Willie
Sue	Willa
Bradley	Theresa
Wayne	Doug S.
Doug B.	Kitty
Elsie	

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

January 26	\$1455.00
February 2	\$2355.00
February 9	\$1833.00
February 16	\$ 868.00
February 23	\$ 886.87

**Globe
Quake Event Support**

February 2	\$140.00
February 16	\$105.00
February 23	\$ 54.87

**Globe
Souper Bowl of Caring
(For Life House)**

February 9	\$ 537.00
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Globe Offering



March – Floodwood Area Food Shelf
April – Polar Cubs Childcare Center
May – Camp Patmos Support

Financial Update – General Fund

	Income	Expense
January 2025	\$6,221.00	\$6,692.03
Year to Date	\$6,221.00	\$6,692.03
Year to Date Deficit		\$471.03

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

Personal Progress Wordsearch

Faith #1

Find the words in the puzzle below. These are words you find by working on Faith Experience #1! Be sure to find two conference talks on faith and write your thoughts on the included journal pages.



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

FAITH
HABIT
SMITH
SAVIOR
TRIAL
TESTIMONY
BELIEVE
FIRST
SCRIPTURES
ISAAC

MOSES
ABRAHAM
HOPE
JAMES
KNOWLEDGE
JERICHO
CHILD
VISION
ENOCH
MORONI

PRAYER
JOSEPH
TREASURE
SARA
WISDOM
TRUE
CONFOUND
DESIRE
ALMA

March 2025 HOPE LUTHERAN PLANNER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	USHER: Mark Johnsen					1
2 9:30 Worship & Sunday School with communion 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study	3 USHER: Dave Zieroth NO Pastor's office hours	4	5 Release Time 12:45-1:30-HS 1:30-2:15-Elem  7:00 PM NO SOUP SUPPER	6 10 AM Bible Study at Riverview Manor	7	8
9 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship & youth Spring day out after fellowship 11:00 Bible Study 	10 USHER: Gary Gustafson 9:00-Noon-Pastor's office hours	11 10:00 AM-HLCW Bible Study	12 12-2:00 PM Floodwood Food Shelf Release Time 12:45-1:30-HS 1:30-2:15-Elem 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Service	13	14	15 
16 9:30 Worship & Sunday School with communion 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study	17 USHER: Dale Rauvola 9:00-Noon-Pastor's office hours	18	19 Release Time 12:45-1:30-HS 1:30-2:15-Elem 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Service	20 10 AM Bible Study at Riverview Manor <i>First Day of Spring</i>	21 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Youth attending Quake Event</div>	22
23 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">in Bloomington</div>	24 USHER: Kent Wojtysiak 9:00-Noon-Pastor's office hours <i>Newsletter articles due</i>	25 9-3 PM Quilting	26 9-11 AM Floodwood Food Shelf Release Time 12:45-1:30-HS 1:30-2:15-Elem 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Service	27	28	29
30 9:30 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Study	31 USHER: Bubba Vance 9:00-Noon-Pastor's office hours	Looking Ahead: April 2 – Last Day of Religious Release April 17- Maunday Thursday Service with Communion 7 PM April 18 – Good Friday Community Service at New Life Church 7 PM April 19 – Easter Egg Hunt 1 PM April 20 - Easter Day Breakfast 8 AM Easter Day Service 9:30 AM NO Refreshments, NO 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

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