

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"WORDS OF HOPE FROM HOPE"

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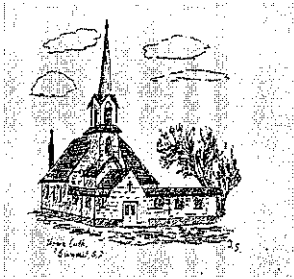
Church: hlchurch@tnics.com/Phone-(605)-398-6150

Pastor Janet Miller-cell #605-237-8005/home #605-947-4482

Secretary Dawn Wright -cell #605-881-4377

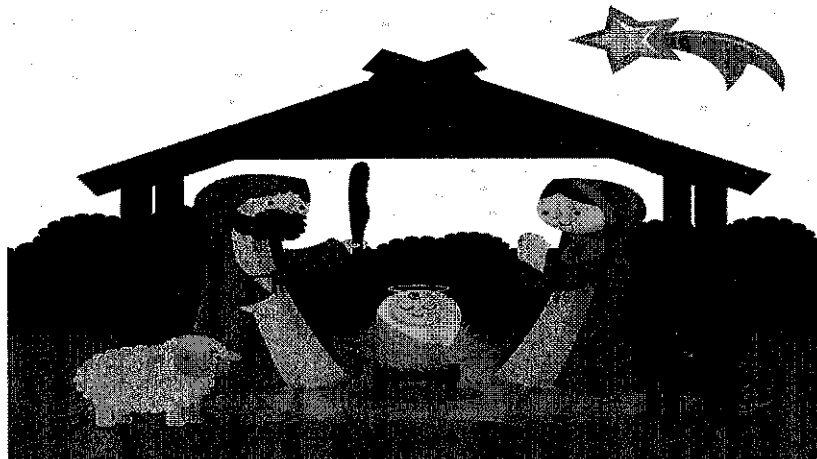
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December 2022

"It is the mission of Hope Lutheran Church to help people grow in their faith; to be a leader in the community; to serve the needs of all people; and to teach/educate all people.





December 2022

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	
Pastor Janet plans to be in the office on Wed. and Fri. afternoons, except on the 23 rd and will take some time off during the Christmas holiday. 😊				1 9:00-Quilting *Conference Dean call	2	3	
4 blue 3:00-Piano recital at Hope Communion	5	6	7 Pastor office afternoon	8	9 Pastor office afternoon	10	
11 blue SS Christmas program during Worship- 6:00-Council	12	13 1:00 Ladies Tea at Pastor Janet's house	14 Pastor afternoon office 6:00 Confirmation (Addison snacks) 7:00 Youth group Christmas party	15 9:00-Quilting *Conference Dean call	16 Pastor office afternoon Newsletter items due	17	
18 blue SS family time at 10:00 am. communion	19	20 Conference Pastor's mtg in Watertown	21 Pastor office afternoon	22	23	24 5:30 Candlelight Christmas Eve service with communion	
25 white NO WORSHIP OR SUNDAY SCHOOL (Online Worship)	26	27	Starting on January 1, Worship time will change to 11:00 am. Sunday school will remain at 10:00 am. No Sunday school on January 1.				28
			28	29	30	31	

WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED).
 Worship Helpers: (C-coffee, U-usher, R-reader, CS-communion set-up, SC-serve communion)
 12-4-C:-Bruce/Diane, U: needed, R: Earline, CS: Diane/Becky, SC: needed
 12-11-C:Becky, U:Becky, R:Kids
 12-18-C:Tim/Andrea, U:Ben, R:Brittany, CS:Tim/Andrea, SC:Andrea/Jacob
 12-24-U:needed, R:Beth, CS:needed, SC:needed

HOPES HAPPENINGS

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

*Communion 4th, 18th and 24th this month- no communion Jan. 1.

* If you are setting up communion on a regular Sunday, please take our 2 of our flat breads. We can always give bigger pieces to get rid of extra, but it is impossible to make too little go too far. Thanks!

*Pastor Janet plans on being in the office Wed. and Friday afternoons except on the 23rd and will take some time off during the Christmas holiday. ☺

***Reminder- worship time changes in January to 11:00- Sunday School will stay the same time.**

***We need parents to come and help keep kids under control during our Christmas program practice 12/04. We have a lot of "littles" this year and they need more hands to help with practice, bathroom breaks, craft times, etc. Without enough help, kids have been getting out of hand. Don't wait for an invitation to come and help- this is your invite!**

*** There will not be Sunday School Dec. 25th or Jan. 1st.**

Youth News

12/14- youth group to meet at 7:00- we will have our Christmas party! Bring a small (and possibly silly) gift to pass. A cap of \$10.00 on the gift and less if possible- this is for fun!

The kids had their monthly meeting and went bowling in November. Below are a few pictures from the fun times. ☺



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

November 2022 - December 2022 - January 2023

<u>Sunday Nov 20</u> 9:00 Hope church service 10:00 Sunday School! Hope's kids will be practicing for their awesome program!
<u>Sunday Nov 27</u> 9:00 Hope church service No Sunday school! Enjoy the Thanksgiving weekend!
<u>Sunday Dec 4</u> 9:00 Hope church service 10:00 Sunday School! Hope's kids will be doing a <i>last</i> run through of the program.
<u>Sunday Dec 11</u> 9:00 Hope church service which will be Hope's kids' program!!! 10:00 Sunday School! We will discuss what the kids learned from Hometown Nazareth & do a fun craft!
<u>Sunday Dec 18</u> 9:00 Hope church service 10:00 Sunday School <i>with</i> our family & friends! All are welcome! Bring games, snacks, etc.
<u>Sunday Dec 25</u> No church service MERRY CHRISTMAS! No Sunday school
<u>Sunday Jan 1</u> 11:00 Hope church service No Sunday school
<u>Sunday Jan 8</u> 10:00 Sunday school resumes! 11:00 Hope church service

Sunday school is going great! We started with the Monumental them & then did Hometown Nazareth! The kids did some awesome crafts & learned great lessons! We are now simply working on our Christmas program. We look forward to hearing your children tell the story of Christmas! We have a lot to cram into a very short time, but I have faith that Hope's kids will do great!

We understand that there are many obligations around the holiday time which is why we chose to do the Christmas program a week earlier than normal. On December 18th which is our last day of Sunday school in 2022 we would love to have family & friends join everyone in Sunday school. Let's celebrate Hope's kids' accomplishments, knowledge, & the blessed holiday season! We can all sing happy birthday to Jesus & celebrate early with snacks, crafts, games, & togetherness. We are inviting all who can make it & look forward to having a great time! If all you want to do is sit & drink coffee & partake in some snacks that is fine. If you want to play some games with some kids that is great. If you want to do some crafts or coloring with some kids that is also great. We just want you all to join us in whatever way you would like. If you have any coloring stuff, crafts, snacks, games, or other feel free to bring them to share!

We could definitely use some more adult help. There are a lot of really young children. You do not need any special skills, just yourself!

If you have any comments, suggestions, questions, or would like to help feel free to talk to any staff member or call Pastor Janet @605-237-8005, Becky Pies @605-237-0539, or Annie Seffrood @605-949-5658.

November 13, 2022 Council Meeting

Present: Tim G, Kathy B, Becky P, Elsie S, Carrie R, Traci E, Pastor Janet

Absent: Michelle U, Brianna L, Laura F, Sarah S

Others Present: Annelies S

Opening Prayer: Pastor Janet

Secretary Report: Read, Motion to approve – Elsie S, 2nd – Carrie R, Motion Passed

Treasurer Report: Motion to Approve – Becky P, 2nd – Traci E, Motion Passed

Motion by Traci E. to transfer \$5,644.52 from the Cemetery checking account to General Fund to pay for 2022 mowing and weed spraying of the Hope Lutheran Cemetery and weed spraying at Lebanon Cemetery. 2nd – Kathy B, Motion Passed

Pastor's Report Motion to approve – Kathy B, 2nd – Becky P, Motion Passed

1 Baptism and 1 Marriage performed since the last meeting. Pastor was called about performing a funeral and burial service. The date is still to be determined. Five Youth Group members went bowling on October 30th in Webster. The Boundaries Workshop offered by the SD Synod was completed. Pastor Janet attended a Mental Health First Aid Class. Christmas greens will be picked up on Monday, November 21 from Minneapolis.

Old Business

*Servant Teams were restarted in August. Many comments that it is nice to see more people ushering, reading, serving communion. Group leaders agree it is going OK, but still need more people to serve in church. The WELCA Communion Schedule is no longer in effect. The Servant Teams will setup for Communion. This is a change from the past.

There was a request for congregation members to update phone numbers. The numbers will not be published, but Team Leaders need to have accurate contact information.

*Florence Ministry Covenant: Executive Committee (Tim G, Kathy B, Annelies S) will attend worship and the Council meeting at Florence on December 4th.

*Church Website – Traci E has a demo scheduled for early December. She hopes to have a recommendation at the next council meeting.

*Sunday School – The Christmas Program will be on December 11th at 9:00 am worship service.

There will be a “Noisy Offering” taken during the program. Clean out all your change jars and bring your coins to church on the 11th.

Yes, there will be Sunday School on December 18 with activities for the whole family.

Sunday school students will have juice & snacks in the “downstairs” area to allow adults to have fellowship time in the upper room.

January 8th will be RE-RALLY Sunday. It will be the first session after Christmas and Sunday School will be at 10:00 before worship at 11:00.

All parents will be asked to take a turn helping with Sunday School. A schedule / sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex.

New Business

Christmas Eve Service: Saturday, December 24 Candlelight Service at 5:30 pm

**Christmas Day : Sunday, Dec 25 – NO in-person worship at Hope Lutheran Church,
There will be an online service.**

New Year's Day: Sunday, Jan 1 – worship at 11 am (no Sunday School)

***note worship time change: Jan – April 2023 is at 11 am**

*Thrivent Assistance Team –It was discussed to form a group of 3-4 congregation members to assist others completing Thrivent Choice Dollar selection in January-March 2023 and Thrivent Action Team Grants. More information in the future.

*The council received a phone call from Pam Seefeldt. Pam serves on the SD Synod Council from the Prairie Coteau Conference. The Synod Council thanks Hope Lutheran Church for our generous support of the Synod and its Mission, including Rev. Alan Blankenfeld, the new Rural Ministry Liaison. His role is to help rural congregations fill their ministry needs. So far in 2022, thirty-three calls have been extended in the SD Synod. All ELCA members are invited to Coffee with the Bishop. It is held the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Caribou Coffee on Minnesota & 28th in Sioux Falls.

*Preliminary Budget for 2023 was discussed. The council will present the budget to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Adjourned and Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting is Sunday, December 11th at 6:00 pm

1:53 PM
11/11/22
Cash Basis

**Hope Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
As of November 11, 2022**

	<u>Nov 11, 22</u>	<u>Oct 31, 22</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
11102 · General Fund Checking	\$ 23,945.87	\$ 20,227.08
11112 · MWBank MC -Dawn	\$ 84.03	\$ 84.03
11113 · MWBank MC - Pastor Janet	\$ 164.69	\$ 393.01
12110 · CD 27566	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
12001 · Undeposited Funds	\$ 19.81	\$ 19.81
Total Current Assets	\$ 39,214.40	\$ 35,723.93
11300 · HS Youth Group Checking Acct	\$ 9,200.64	\$ 9,200.64
11400 · Sunday School Checking Acct	\$ 732.83	\$ 732.83
11500 · Campership Checking Acct	\$ 393.92	\$ 393.92

A Note from the Treasurer

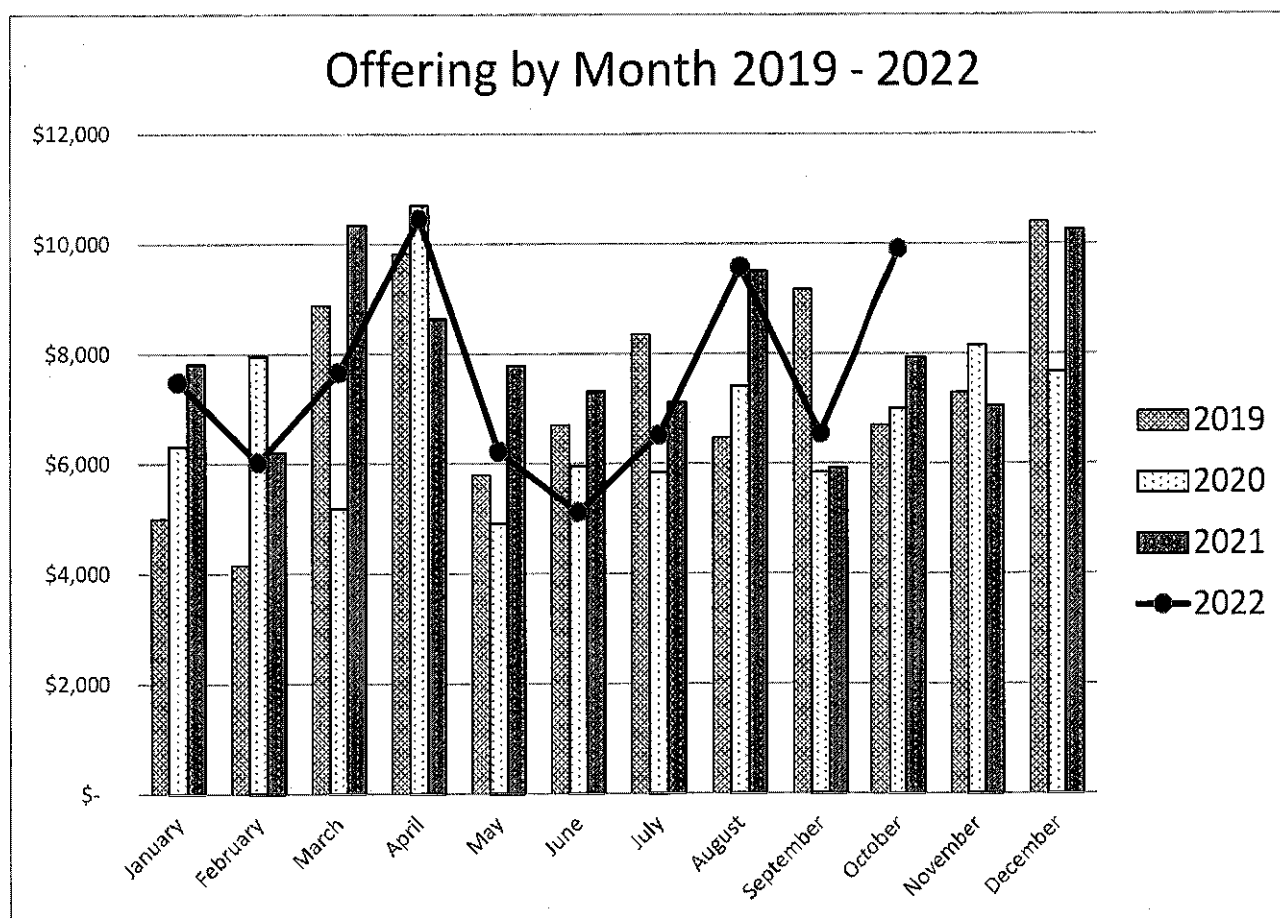
Below is a chart of monthly offerings for 2019 – October 2022. It includes Sunday offerings plus Lent services and Christmas Eve. This chart does not include special gifts, memorials, or other income.

Historically March/April (Lent & Easter) and December have the highest monthly offerings. May – September are lower offering months. As of the end of October, Hope Lutheran is \$1,000 below budget for offerings. We are close to meeting the offering budget for the first time since I have been treasurer – THANK YOU.

BUT.... The congregation's budget is dependent on extra offerings and gifts in December. There are many ways to make tax friendly donations. Hope Lutheran received its first Gift of Grain in October. If you are interested in this, please reach out to me (605-949-5658 or annelies.seffrood@gmail.com).

In 2019, the shortfall in offerings was covered by transferring a \$10,000 CD to the General Fund Checking Account. In 2020 and 2021, Hope Lutheran received PPP Grants totaling \$30,525. Also, in July 2021 Hope Lutheran entered into a Ministry Covenant with the Florence Parish. Their contribution has helped our budget greatly.

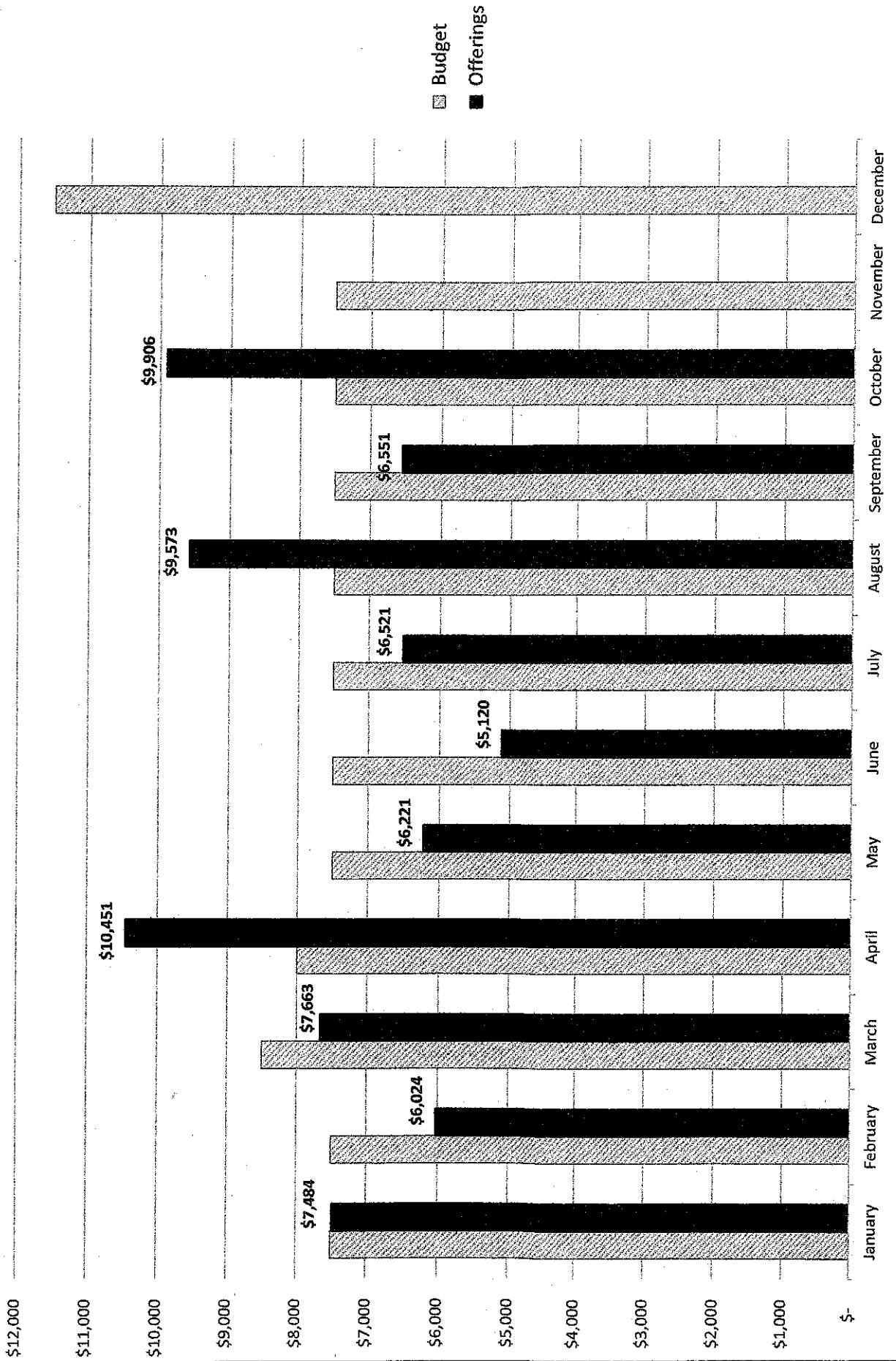
Hope Lutheran is "The Little Congregation That Could". The Church Council realizes that inflation has affected everyone (including the Church). We are seeing increases in all areas just like you. So again, THANK YOU to all members for your offerings and donations this year.



2022 Monthly Offerings vs Budget

(does not include memorials, special gifts, other income)

As of October 31, 2022 Actual Offerings are \$986 below budget



Hope Lutheran Church Offerings and Expenses

October 2022

	September 2022	October 2022	YTD 2022	
41100 · Regular Offerings	\$ 6,551.00	\$ 9,906.00	\$ 73,578.25	
41200 · Special Services Offerings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,936.00	
42100 · Gifts & Memorials	\$ -	\$ 3,298.47	\$ 7,851.47	*gift of propane \$4473
43000 · Florence Parish Contribution	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	
44600 · Amazon Smile	\$ 12.36	\$ -	\$ 39.69	
44440 · Special Offerings to Pass On	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 570.00	
44100 · Interest Earned	\$ 0.20	\$ 13.98	\$ 80.54	
44200 · Thrivent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 425.00	
44000 · Other Income - Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,751.29	
Total Offerings & Income	\$ 9,563.56	\$ 16,218.45	\$ 113,232.24	
Expense				
71100 · HSYG National Gathering Exp	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4.09	
Total 76000 · Sunday School Expenses	\$ (1,181.57)	\$ -	\$ -	reimbursed by SS fund
Total 66100 · Pastoral Payroll	\$ 8,165.70	\$ 8,165.70	\$ 81,657.00	
66310 · Secretary Salary	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 3,500.00	
66320 · Janitor Salary	\$ 215.00	\$ 215.00	\$ 1,935.00	
66330 · Organist Salary	\$ -	\$ 480.00	\$ 1,880.00	
61800 · Continuing Ed & Conferencs	\$ 35.00	\$ -	\$ 789.56	
63300 · Insurance Expense	\$ 298.52	\$ -	\$ 2,686.68	
63130 · Confirmation / Adult Ed	\$ -	\$ 275.39	\$ 275.39	
63120 · Sunday School Materials	\$ 31.32	\$ 113.05	\$ 144.37	
63110 · Worship Materials	\$ 116.53	\$ 78.20	\$ 1,009.61	
62200 · Office Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43.65	
62300 · Printing and Reproduction	\$ 80.35	\$ 327.29	\$ 1,391.20	
62500 · Dues and Subscriptions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 176.92	
62600 · Postage and Delivery	\$ 73.30	\$ 45.34	\$ 645.38	
62000 · Office Expenses - Other	\$ 15.66	\$ 15.66	\$ 173.27	
67100 · Landscaping Expenses	\$ 878.63	\$ 1,065.01	\$ 5,644.52	
67200 · Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 662.76	\$ 1,368.64 **	\$ 2,118.88	**boiler repair
67300 · Small Tools and Equipment	\$ -	\$ 9.56	\$ 18.05	
67410 · Propane/Heat	\$ 1,146.90	\$ -	\$ 6,467.33	*gift of propane \$4473
67420 · Electricity	\$ 57.69	\$ 95.27	\$ 1,345.06	
67430 · Water/Sewer	\$ 74.00	\$ 74.00	\$ 740.00	
67440 · Telephone & Internet	\$ 115.73	\$ 115.73	\$ 1,157.30	
61410 · Synod Mission Support	\$ -	\$ 1,811.60	\$ 5,464.77	
61420 · Good Samaritan Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 144.17	
61450 · Special Offerings Sent On	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 570.00	
61470 · Thrivent Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
69000 · Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 9.90	\$ 84.90	\$ 224.00	
Total Expense	\$ 11,145.42	\$ 14,690.34	\$ 120,706.20	
NET Offerings & Income Minus Expenses	\$ (1,581.86)	\$ 1,528.11	\$ (7,473.96)	

As we approach the Christmas season, I see a lot of signs for "Keep Christ in Christmas". Which are good. But, I do find the argument against the use of "Xmas" interesting. People feel that taking the word "Christ" out of Christmas and replacing it with an "X" makes it less about Jesus and more about the worldly consumer attitude. I came across a writing about this I wanted to share with you. It is from a writer named Brian Stoffregen. (He is a pastor and a text study specialist who many of us turn to for help with our sermons.)

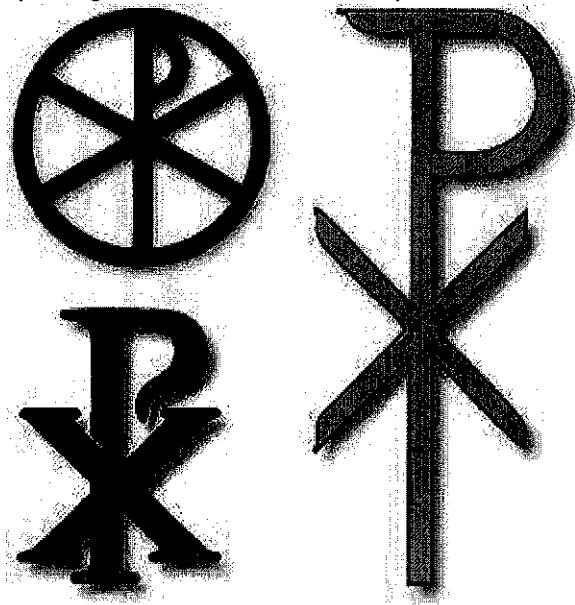
"There are often complaints about the word "Xmas". "They've taken Christ out of Christmas," decry some.

Christ may have been replaced by commercialism in the celebration of this Festival season, but that isn't where the "X" comes from.

The word "Christ" in Greek looks like this: ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ (pronounced "christos"). The first letter is an "X," but it isn't an "ex" as in our alphabet, but a "chi" (rhymes with "sky") in the Greek alphabet. This letter has a "ch" sound – like in the word "Christ".

While the second letter looks like a P (pee), in Greek it is a Rho and sounds like the English "R". The "chi rho" is common Christian symbol that uses the first two letters from ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ. Because of the shape of the letters, the symbol is often mistaken for a "PX". A chi-rho symbol is one of the oldest Christian symbols. Some examples of the Chi-Rho symbols are attached. There's probably one in your congregation.

Spelling the holiday "Xmas" doesn't necessarily take Christ out of the holiday; neither does spelling the word "Christmas" put Christ into the holiday."



You may have seen these signs around the church.

They are all from the Greek language, the original language the New Testament was written in, and mean the name of Christ. So, the next time you see "Xmas" don't cringe. Just smile and know that there is nothing that the world can do to remove our Savior from the celebration of his birth.

Commercialism, business, greed, political correctness or anything the world can throw at it does not matter. Christ the Savior was born! That makes all the difference!

Pastor Janet Miller