

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of my favorite hymns is "I Love to Tell the Story." I learned it at vacation Bible School in Waubay, S.D. when I was little. The song has stuck with me for years. No matter where I find myself and my faith life, it seems to fit.

Through my childhood and into adulthood, the first verse spoke for me, *"I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story because I know it's true. It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do. I Love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love."* My belief that Jesus walked with me and guided me was a steady and unchanging fact in my life.

As I began my life in ministry, the second verse sang out to me. *"I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat what seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy word."* I learned to tell that story and be an evangelist to the world around me. Learning to minister to communities and people, the love of the story of God guided and upheld me. For almost 19 years, I have lived and told the story of God in different congregations.

2020 has caused a radical shift in how we tell God's story. Though the story hasn't changed, our situations have drastically. Yet this old song still holds true, *"I love to tell the story for those who know it best, seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, I'll sing the old, old story that I have loves so long."*

The challenge of living in 2020 has been learning how to tell this "old, old story" of our Savior, Jesus and his salvation in a new way. We learned the art of preaching on Facebook. We learned which hymns could be done on guitar. We learned how to set up and use speakers, radio transmitters and how to preach from a pickup bed. We learned we could be a community in our car church and worship can still happen when we are apart. We learned how to do "YouTube" channels and how to download Sunday School lessons. The learning curve was pretty steep. There were times we thought, "we didn't sign up for this!" (Please notice I say "we" not "me" because my family and Hope's secretary, Dawn have been with me all the way in our learning. I could NEVER have learned all of it alone.)

We are not perfect, but we have slowly learned to sing this, "new, new song." As the pandemic continues to grow and the numbers of infected and deaths in our state continue to rise, the "new, new song" continues to be challenged and to grow, but God's Word cannot be stopped!

The Word is always challenged. Romans 8:38-39 remind us, *"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

There is nothing in our present and nothing in our future that can stop the story of our Savior. As our challenges continue to rage against us, our God is always with us! He is with us in the pandemic. He is with us as we vote in our contested national election this week. He is with us as we wrestle in defining ourselves as a moral people of God in a free country. He is with us when we lay those we love to rest.

In the middle of it all, we still rise and sing the old, old story of God in a new, new song! *"I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love."*

Blessings to you as we "hunger and thirst" for the one thing that never changes... our God's love.

Pastor Janet Miller

What's Going On?

There has been some confusion about how we are worshiping and what the schedules are in Hope right now. We had agreed that we would be outdoors in our car worship as long as the weather held. When the weather did its October snows, we had the intention of heading inside for worship. However, the boiler didn't work right when we tried to start it for heat and the church was very cold on Sunday. So, we held Reformation Sunday as car church.

What's up for November? The world keeps throwing challenges at us that change our plans. Pastor Janet's sister-in-law has covid-19 right now. Her husband and Michael farm together and were moving cattle home together with him and his son last weekend. This leaves us with a potential exposure we don't want to spread to you all. Our community has also seen a surge of Covid-19 cases. The Coffee Cup had several infections and the bank had to shut down this week for cleaning after many of its' employees came down with the virus. With the numbers reported to Pastor Janet, at least 10% of our small community have covid-19 right now. With all these situations in mind, we have decided to put off opening our inside worship for a few more weeks. Our current target for opening worship inside is Nov. 22nd. We have also decided that we will continue the car worship outside and our online services even when we open for inside worship. This should give everyone an option for worship each week. Inside worships will be at 8:30am and car worship at 10:30am. This will give us time to set up our car worship sound system between services and give pastor a small break between worships.

We need everyone to understand that inside worship will not look like it used to. We need to protect our staff and each other at this time. We will be mandating masks for everyone 3 and older. We will not be singing hymns in worship. Pews will be spread apart to help with social distancing. Offering and communion will be done in a different and safer way. Because of these changes, worships will be shorter. We will not be holding coffee fellowship. Sunday School will continue to be online at this time.

We do not encourage anyone who is in the high risk part of our community to attend worship inside. According to the CDC, attending worship inside is one of the most high risk activities for those who are vulnerable. If you have to care for your parents, grandparents or anyone who is at risk, we encourage you to use our car church or online worship for their safety. If you are sick or have been in contact with people who are sick, please stay home and worship with us online.

As always in this crazy time, things change fast. We will do our best to make sure everyone is informed if we have any changes to this schedule.

Confirmation

Our Confirmation class is meeting on Zoom each week. We are working on the Small Catechism and are currently doing the 10 Commandments. It is a challenge but pastor loves seeing the kids' faces and hearing from them each week. The students are really making an effort and have even used their phones to Zoom in from the bus coming back from school events.

Christmas Wreaths???

The youth will not be selling wreaths or greenery this year. The National Youth Convention for our youth has been moved back a year. We will not be doing more fundraising at this point.

Words of Thanks

We want to thank the family of Loreen Aker for their wonderful memorial. The family has established the “**Loreen Aker Quilting Mission Fund**” Their memorial begins a fund to help our quilting ladies with the expenses of making quilts for missions and for our Senior’s in high school. Materials to quilt are expensive! This fund is a great idea to help out this mission and our aging quilters. Other donations to the fund will be accepted with joy.

Letter from the Sharf family;

Hello South Dakota Friends,

Keith and I did not make our yearly trip to So Dak this year. We missed it. Because of the virus, we are not able to worship inside our local church, which is also named Hope. May we meet again in the coming year. We wish you the best for all of you. With God’s love, Keith and Anita Sharf

***As you shop for Christmas or anything on Amazon, be sure to remember to designate your Amazon Smiles to Hope Lutheran Church! It is really easy to add it on to your existing account and the church appreciates it very much!! 🙏 Thanks!!



Thrivent + Hope Lutheran Church = A perfect partnership

Congratulations! In 2019 you received \$2,193 Thrivent Choice Dollars® grants. Additionally, you may have benefited from personal donations through Thrivent's online giving platform or through Thrivent Action Teams. With over 40,000 organizations enrolled in Thrivent Choice®, we're excited to see the impact made across the country.

*If you do not have Facebook, you now have another way to enjoy Sunday Worship online!! Hope's Children is our YouTube channel that you can now find every Sunday service, starting November 1. You can easily find at anytime that is convenient for you. If you miss a Sunday, just go into the library and find the one you missed. All the Sunday school stories, activities and songs are also available at any time!! 🙏 Search for Hope Children or copy the link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-tZMcz6ELGT2sK_uRg5GBw

11:55 AM
 11/01/20
 Cash Basis

Hope Lutheran Church Offerings and Expenses October 2020

| | Oct 20 | Sep 20 | Jan - Oct 20 |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | |
| Income | | | |
| 41000 · Offerings | 7,008.00 | 5,840.00 | 69,504.30 |
| 42100 · Gifts & Memorials | 0.00 | 2,556.00 | 3,611.00 |
| 44000 · Other Income | | | |
| 44440 · Special Offerings to Pass On | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| 44100 · Interest Earned | 0.00 | 0.11 | 53.57 |
| 44200 · Thrivent | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,098.00 |
| 44000 · Other Income - Other | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,250.09 |
| Total 44000 · Other income | 0.00 | 0.11 | 2,501.66 |
| Total Income | 7,008.00 | 8,396.11 | 75,616.96 |
| Expense | | | |
| 66000 · Payroll Expenses | | | |
| 66100 · Pastoral Payroll | 7,328.83 | 7,328.83 | 73,497.40 |
| 66190 · Relief Pastor Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 189.00 |
| 66300 · Other Church Payroll | 550.00 | 550.00 | 5,500.00 |
| Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses | 7,878.83 | 7,878.83 | 79,186.40 |
| 61800 · Continuing Ed & Conferences | 0.00 | 0.00 | 68.00 |
| 63100 · Worship & Education | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,357.68 |
| 63200 · Fellowship Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 62000 · Office Expenses | 63.80 | 72.34 | 1,242.31 |
| 67000 · Church/Building Expenses | | | |
| 67100 · Landscaping Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,500.00 |
| 67200 · Repairs and Maintenance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 87.80 |
| 67400 · Utilities | | | |
| 67410 · Propane/Heat | 0.00 | 2,556.00 | 2,967.54 |
| 67420 · Electricity | 45.94 | 47.62 | 1,726.40 |
| 67430 · Water/Sewer | 62.00 | 62.00 | 620.00 |
| 67440 · Telephone & Internet Expenses | 92.13 | 92.08 | 939.18 |
| Total 67400 · Utilities | 200.07 | 2,757.70 | 6,253.12 |
| Total 67000 · Church/Building Expenses | 200.07 | 2,757.70 | 7,840.92 |
| 61400 · Charitable Contributions | | | |
| 61410 · Synod Mission Support | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,281.22 |
| 61470 · Thrivent Share | 0.00 | 0.00 | 700.00 |
| Total 61400 · Charitable Contributions | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,981.22 |
| 69000 · Miscellaneous Expenses | 9.90 | 9.90 | 89.10 |
| Total Expense | 8,152.60 | 10,718.77 | 93,765.63 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -1,144.60 | -2,322.66 | -18,148.67 |
| Net Income | -1,144.60 | -2,322.66 | -18,148.67 |

Council- November 1, 2020

Members present: Bruce Kneeland, Beth Hills, Mike Schmidt, Dustin Holt, Cody Sumner, Jolene Johnston, Nikki Pays, Jorja Whempner, Pastor Janet.

Absent: Jim Arten, Jonathan Johnston

Others: Anne Seffrood, Dawn Wright

Opened with Prayer

Secretary report read and approved. Motion Beth, Bruce 2nd.

Treasurer report- reviewed by Anne. Anne supplied council with info as to what the 2021 budget may look like. We will review in executive session at December meeting. Dustin motion, Jolene 2nd

Pastor report-1 baptism, Synod Day November 7 online from 11-4:30 (all are welcome), discussion of boiler. Anne will send contact info for someone who may be able to assist with it. Pastor let us know Natelie has taken a volunteer position with the synod to assist as a translator. All Saints Sunday was done a bit different this year. Pastor used battery operated candles and they will be available to use if needed for Christmas and other events. A tentative date of November 22 has been set to resume in church worship. It will be held at an earlier time and car worship will continue as weather allows at 10:30 am. Online worship will also continue. It was asked if the radio transmitter can reach from inside to outside the church. As an option to have just one service on Sundays. Pastor will look into. Worship will also be available on our Youtube channel for those who don't have facebook. Special prayers are being asked for Tom Frankenhoff. Christmas service will look different this year. Looking at ideas. One was to have multiple services with a limit on people allowed to attend. Pastor said confirmation has started on Zoom and first meeting went well. Mike motioned and Cody 2nd to approve.

Next meeting-December 6 at 7:00 pm

Closed with Lord's prayer

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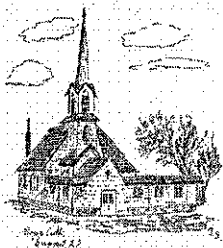
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Church: hlchurch@tnics.com/Phone-(605)-398-6150

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

Secretary Dawn Wright -cell #605-881-4377

Find us on Facebook: Hope Lutheran Church and www.seesummitsd.com



November 2020

"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.

Anniversaries and Birthdays (please let me know if there is an error or omission) 🍪

3-Tiffany Edman
4-Carrie Rauen
4-Emery Christofferson
8-Kevin Christofferson
8-Dawn Carson
9-Nicolette Kneeland
9-Jeff and Dawn Carson
9-Jeff Carson
9-Michael Miller
11-Skylar Crandall
11-Paul Larson
12-Kayla Aman
12-Jaida Young
13-Melissa Meidinger
13-Jeff Schoonover
14-Laurie and Scott Kneeland

14-Grey Christofferson
16-Angie Schoonover
16-London Rauen
17-Avery Bronson
18-Steve Christofferson
19-Kayla Zubke
20-Faith Lassang
21-Dianne Nielsen
22-Velma Slaathaug
22-Anne Seffrood
22-Joni Wohlleber
27-Jim and Val Amdahl
27- Heather Crandall
28-Maddy Hinkleman
29- Connor Bronson
30-Dustin Holt