

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have a lot of little people living in our house right now. Nathalie's baby, Faith is 10 months old, Suzy's sons, Ephram who is 2 and Gabriel who is 8 months keep the house busy!

There are times I envy the little ones. They are incredibly limber. They bounce when they fall and don't break like grandma does. They have the grit and determination to climb up steps that are as high as their armpits or onto high chairs that roll as they climb. No one minds when they make mistakes. It's perfectly acceptable to publically cry when they are frustrated, angry, or frightened.

The other day our 2 year old Ephram came running in from outside screaming. He stood in our entry and shouted over and over, "I hurt...I hurt...I hurt!" People from all over the house came rushing to see what was hurting and help.

It's been a tough couple years in our neck of the woods and sometimes I wish we could just stand and holler, "I hurt...I hurt...I hurt..." so someone, anyone can come and help.

I hurt...I hurt...I hurt... as I watch my neighbors and my own family struggle with the after affects of no harvest last year and crippled farm markets.

I hurt...I hurt... I hurt... as I watch my country being torn apart by political and ideological differences.

I hurt...I hurt... I hurt... when I see hundreds of thousands of people sick, school children having to quarantine, and have experienced the death of people I care about to Corona Virus Covid 19. I hurt today when I read that the president of the United States and his first Lady have the virus.

I hurt...I hurt...I hurt... that we have had to be away from worshiping in our own sanctuary for such a long time to keep our people safe.

I hurt...I hurt...I hurt...that there are still people in our world who judge others by the color of their skin or the country their parents came from.

I hurt...I hurt...I hurt... that policemen, first responders and other medical workers are not safe today and put themselves in harm's way for us.

I know we all have far more personal hurts and worries too. Where can we look for our help in the middle of a world that seems so out of control?

I was listening to a favorite song today and was reminded who we can turn to and where our help comes; *"When I am down, and oh my soul, so weary. When trouble comes and my heart burdened be. Then I am still and wait here in the shadows. Until you come, and sit a while with me. You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains. You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas. I am strong, when I am on your shoulders. You raise me up, to more than I can be."*

God has never promised that the mountains in life won't be high. He never promised that the world would not throw more than our hurting hearts can handle at us. He did promise that when we are hurting, we can call out and find our God who was always there with us. When we hurt...we hurt...we hurt...we can turn to our God in prayer, in scriptures and in song. We can have our eyes opened to the ONLY one who can do anything about our hurts. We can hand our anxieties over to our God and reach to help our neighbor along too. God not only gets us through but gives us the strength to do things we never dreamed possible.

I pray our God brings healing, safety and the inspiration to reach out in love to your lives today! Let us allow him to raise us up and heal our hurting world.

Pastor Janet Miller

Dear Members and Friends of Hope Lutheran Church,

The month, we sent out surveys to our active members (those who attend regularly). We are facing some hard decisions as the cold weather rolls around our area. Will we come inside for worship? How will we keep those who attend and our staff safe? What will be our thresholds for staying open or reclosing during this unprecedented time?

Our survey question was, "If we come inside with a mask mandate, will you attend worship?" We tried to emphasize that we are not judging our members by their choices or personal beliefs on this matter.

We are currently averaging attendance of 35 people at our car church. We did not want to open back up and lose those attending or take away their safe way of worship just to serve a much smaller number inside. (The numbers attending worship on an average end of summer/harvest or hunting season inside church were often not much more than 35.)

A third of the people who answered our survey indicated that they would not be worshipping inside with a mask mandate. Some said it was because of the masks but many more answered that they just didn't feel safe inside yet. Another third didn't know if they would attend and asked that we please keep worshipping outside as long as we can. Of the third that said they definitely would attend, most sent notes saying they also attend car worship and hope we keep doing it as long as the weather holds for safety.

The council took this information along with the reports we receive about escalating cases in our area. We discussed ideas for safety and worship. It was decided that in the month of October, we will continue to have our car worship as long as the weather holds and the pastor feels it is comfortable enough outside to do so. If we hit an October weather surprise, as SD often does, we will possibly cancel worship for a week while we ready ourselves to transfer to indoor worship and let everyone know about the plans.

When we come inside for worship, the following safety precautions will need to happen: everyone inside the church over the age of 3 will be required to wear masks- throughout the worship. We are unable to safely social distance a big crowd in our sanctuary so masks are a must. We will not be singing in worship inside. Singing has been proven to spread virus far more and at a bigger distance. Offering and communion will be done in a different, more virus safe way as well. Sunday School will continue online for the time being. Our Sunday School rooms are far too small to social distance especially with our small ones.

Thanks to the council for their work in this extremely challenging time! These are hard decisions! You are a gift to your church.

Hope Lutheran Church
Offerings and Expenses
August 2020

09/27/20

Cash Basis

	Aug 20	Jul 20	Jan - Aug 20
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
41000 · Offerings	7,405.00	5,833.00	56,656.30
42100 · Gifts & Memorials	20.00	100.00	1,055.00
44000 · Other Income	14.75	0.16	2,501.55
Total Income	7,439.75	5,933.16	60,212.85
Expense			
66000 · Payroll Expenses			
66100 · Pastoral Payroll	9,678.83	4,978.83	58,839.74
66190 · Relief Pastor Expenses	0.00	0.00	189.00
66300 · Other Church Payroll	550.00	550.00	4,400.00
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	10,228.83	5,528.83	63,428.74
61800 · Continuing Ed & Conferences	0.00	0.00	68.00
63100 · Worship & Education			
63130 · Confirmation / Adult Ed	0.00	0.00	305.23
63110 · Worship Materials	149.87	0.00	993.96
63100 · Worship & Education - Other	0.00	0.00	58.49
Total 63100 · Worship & Education	149.87	0.00	1,357.68
63200 · Fellowship Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
62000 · Office Expenses	113.92	15.66	1,106.17
67000 · Church/Building Expenses			
67100 · Landscaping Expenses	900.00	0.00	1,500.00
67200 · Repairs and Maintenance	0.00	0.00	87.80
67400 · Utilities			
67410 · Propane/Heat	0.00	0.00	411.54
67420 · Electricity	48.82	98.41	1,632.84
67430 · Water/Sewer	62.00	62.00	496.00
67440 · Telephone & Internet Expenses	92.08	92.08	754.97
Total 67400 · Utilities	202.90	252.49	3,295.35
Total 67000 · Church/Building Expenses	1,102.90	252.49	4,883.15
61400 · Charitable Contributions			
61410 · Synod Mission Support	1,724.42	0.00	3,281.22
61470 · Thrivent Share	0.00	0.00	700.00
Total 61400 · Charitable Contributions	1,724.42	0.00	3,981.22
69000 · Miscellaneous Expenses	9.90	9.90	69.30
Total Expense	13,329.84	5,806.88	74,894.26
Net Ordinary Income	-5,890.09	126.28	-14,681.41
Net Income	-5,890.09	126.28	-14,681.41

Council Zoom
September, 27, 2020

Present: Jorja Whempner, Nikki Pays, Jolene Johnston, Jim Arten, Cody Sumner, Mike Schmidt, Dustin Holt, Bruce Kneeland, Beth Hills, Pastor Janet

Absent: Jonathon Johnston

Others: Anne Seffrood, Dawn Wright

Opened with prayer.

Secretary report read and approved. Motion by Jolene, 2nd Mike to approve minutes.

Treasurers report: Anne went over the budget and shortfalls in offering. Question was asked if we should use the money in cemetery fund to reimburse general fund for payments to mowing. Bruce motion, Dustin 2nd to go ahead and reimburse the general fund.

Church had 2000 gallons of propane donated to them by an anonymous donor. Council talked about which insurance plan to offer Pastor Janet this year. Jolene motion, Dustin 2nd to offer the gold plan. Motion passed. Bruce motioned, Mike 2nd to approve treasurers report.

Pastor report: Car Worship and online worship continues, Hopes children is a Youtube channel Janet created for Sunday school. Her, Dawn and Suzy have been recording stories, songs and activities for the kids to watch at their convenience. Pastor also shared a very positive email received from a parent about how her kids are enjoying the videos. 😊 Pastor continues to attend Zoom meetings. She did a small in-person baptism, an online Zoom baptism (for another church) and continues to help the Clark/Florence parish as able. She is working on online confirmation and should be ready soon. A Thrivent card was donated to the church. She use it to purchase communion items, Sunday school supplies and other items needed. A discussion was held about moving forward with Worship. Pastor sent out a survey looking for opinions from the congregation. A few replies were gotten, with mixed feelings about in-person Worship or continuing with online or car Worship. As the days are getting colder, we know we can't keep car worship going much longer. It was decided to continue the next couple weeks outside and then move to in-house following CDC guidelines, including required mask and social distancing. We will look at the best way to accommodate that.

Next meeting-TBD

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

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



October 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) 🍷

2-Caroll Miller
2-John Seffrood
2-Bonnie Moe
4-Derrick and Carrie Rauen
4-Becky Hinkleman
5-Arlene Hovland
6-Sherrie Larson
6-Addison Bronson
8-Penny Cardwell
8-David Lewandowski
8-Shelly Anderson
9-Allyson Frankenhoff
14-Phoebe Bourassa

15-Jackie Adolph
15-Monica Larson
16-Garrett Amdahl
16-Trevor Bourassa
17-Savannah Moe
18-Grayson Amdahl
19-Gary and Caroll Miller
20-Lori O'Farrell
22-Vincent Pies
23-Addison Jensen
25-Kaci Crandall
29-Leigha Schoonover

HOPES HAPPENINGS

*WELCA NEWS: The ladies have not been idle since the quarantine! This year they made 148 quilts, 63 school kits, 7 personal care kits, 2 fabric kits and want to thank everyone who donated. Isn't that amazing!?! Everything is packed and ready to go, but if you still have school kits you can either hang on to them until next year or drop off at the church. Thanks everyone for your donations too!! Also their special offering for project comfort brought 205.00!!

*Hope Lutheran has always been blessed with generous people and this year is no different. As we move to the colder months, our church has been given a donation of 2000 gallons of propane to warm us this winter!! Thank you to our anonymous benefactor!! May God bless you always.

*Sunday school online. Be sure to follow Hope's Children https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-tZMcz6ELGT2sK_uRg5GBw on Youtube each week for stories, music and activities. As it is still unsafe for us to be together for Sunday school, we will continue to share the good news online. The links are always available so you can do them when it is convenient. 😊

*AS WE MOVE INTO THE COLDER MONTHS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE CAR WORSHIP AS LONG THE WEATHER HOLDS, AND PASTOR JANET IS ABLE TO PREACH OUTSIDE. ONLINE WORSHIPS WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE EACH WEEK ON FACEBOOK. 😊

*Just a reminder-Daylight Savings Time Ends on November 1. So be sure you Fall back!!