



Hope Lutheran Church
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“WORDS OF HOPE FROM HOPE”

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“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.”

Everyone is welcome

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

Follow us on YouTube: Hope’s Children

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First words are important. Introductions to speeches, settings of stories, polite greetings or effusive embraces... what we do when we first meet is important. It sets the tone for the relationship or meeting. What you do and say first gives the people around you cues about your intent and how they should react. Do you know what the first words Jesus said after his resurrection from the dead? According to the gospel of John, Jesus appeared in the locked room to a traumatized and afraid group of followers. His first words to the huddled group weren't judgement for their betrayal at the cross, it wasn't anger that they forgot his warnings or prophecy about his death, it wasn't even sadness over a permanent parting from his friends. Jesus looked into the fearful and guilty faces of his followers and offered them peace. "Peace be with you" were his first words following his fight for the life of the world.

"Peace be with you." What must those words have sounded like to the frightened followers of Christ? A greeting that might have been ignored or answered with an accompanied, "and also with you" without much thought on a normal day took on so much more meaning on this day. It meant so much because there was so little peace in their situation. The Roman government and the Jewish leadership had bounties out on the men in that room. They were carrying around one of the hardest griefs in their hearts. They had abandoned a friend in his biggest hour of need. The leader they loved had died without most of them as witness and without them fighting for him. Yet after it all, Jesus brought a greeting of peace.

Jesus' death was a wrenching event for his followers and those who knew him. It was even a wrenching event for God as he made hours of darkness during the day and ripped the curtain of the temple in two. But Jesus' first words remind us that death wasn't the last word. The victory was won over sin and death. Jesus rose again and the first thing he did was bring his people a message of peace.

I wonder how long it took that peace to sink in? How long before the powers of the world seemed less than the power of his love?

I sympathize with those first followers of Jesus sometimes. The world seems so powerful and so out of my control. Evil seems to go unchecked way too often. Worry, fear and anxiety become normal parts of life.

Like the early disciples of Jesus, our Savior continues to show up for us in unexpected places. We find that there really is no place that is "God forsaken", no place we are really alone without our God beside us. Jesus has defeated those powers that try to pull us under and offers us peace in the middle of every storm.

"Peace be with you!" Christ is risen! Hold onto that peace and call on his name whenever you need him. Our living Savior will always come.

Blessed Easter Greetings- Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Pastor Janet Miller



Teddy Bear Drive

March 23rd through May 4th

Bring all new and gently used stuffed animals, blankets, and duffle bags to Hope Lutheran Church. All donations will be given to foster families or families who have lost their homes.

First Communion

It is the time of year to think about our First Communion students and classes. Children grade 2 and above are welcome to take the class and commune with us. We will have special first communion worships during Holy week with Hope having theirs on Maundy Thursday and Florence Parish having theirs Good Friday. I will have class at New Helgen On Sunday April 6th at 4:00pm. I will have class for Hope Lutheran on Sunday April 13th right after worship. (We will bring some food for the kids and parents at Hope as this runs over dinner time.) We would like an adult to come with the children to the class- a parent, grandparent or other adult in their life would be good.

Holy Week Schedules

Hope Lutheran will have Maundy Thursday worship at 7:30pm. Florence Parish will have Good Friday worship at New Helgen.

Easter worships will be 6:30 Sunrise service at Goodhue, 8:30 worship at New Helgen and 10:30 worship at Hope.



Please send any bids for mowing the cemeteries and the church to Hope Lutheran Church by April 25th.



Communion Bread

Several of our folks have offered to pick up the job of baking communion bread. Myla shared that she uses the Luther Seminary Communion Bread Recipe when she makes it for the congregation. Since Myla has been not feeling so well, we thought we would share the recipe and hope some of you feel inspired. Also, we are not overly picky and will take any homemade bread you want to bring for communion. This recipe is the traditional non yeast bread but any bread will be acceptable. If you bring bread in, please make sure it can be stored in the freezer for our volunteers to use in communion set up.

Luther Seminary Communion Bread Recipe

Ingredients and Method~

Sift dry ingredients together three times:

2 cup whole wheat flour

1 cup white flour

1 ¼ teaspoon baking powder

1 ¼ teaspoon salt

Stir in 4 teaspoons oil

Set aside. Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved:

¾ cup + 2 Tablespoons very hot water

3 Tablespoons honey

3 Tablespoons molasses

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be slightly sticky. Do not knead.

Method ~

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Divide into four balls and flatten each into a 1/4 inch thick disk. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and brush the tops of the loaves with oil. Bake an additional 5-8 minutes. Let cool.

Yield: four 8 oz. loaves. The loaves freeze well.



The Hope Project 2012— 2024

Sophia Seffrood has let us know she is excited to be going on a mission trip. Here are the words she sent to let her home congregation know all about it;

“ I wanted to share that I will be joining my campus ministry, LCM at Montana State University, on a service trip to Costa Rica this May. We are currently doing a March Madness fundraising effort!

Donations can be made at www.campusministrymadness.org

I am very grateful to have found a group of peers on campus to guide my faith journey through graduate school. We have decided to travel to San Jose, Costa Rica this May to volunteer at camp Roblealto (the attached pdf describes their mission.) During our visit, we will be assisting the camp with support tasks such as housekeeping, kitchen duty, and maintenance. I am most looking forward to meeting new people and practicing my Spanish!

At Hope Lutheran, I was taught to help your neighbors, especially when it's inconvenient. I was also taught to show your faith through deeds. This is why I've decided to share my skills and time with a community that doesn't have the same access to resources as I do. Our fundraiser is for the travel costs for our group of nine — a little goes a long way!

Thank you.

We have included the information on the mission Sophia sent to us on the back page. It is always exciting to see our young people using the faith nurtured here at Hope in God's big world.

Gracia Missions- In 2012, we began a social outreach program in Costa Rica, in partnership with a camp called Camp Roblealto. The project is called the Hope Project and was created to provide a camp experience to children, teenagers, and family units, living in extreme poverty and high – risk social conditions in Central America (Primarily Costa Rica). For the people we work with, obtaining money for bus fare, clothes, and even food is generally a luxury. The communities they live in have high rates of violence, crime, drug-use, and aggression/abuse - both physical and sexual. This is their daily reality. Since 2012, we have hosted more than 3000 kids, teenagers and adults at camp. Imagine the impact, traveling from the urban difficulties of their daily life and community, to the natural beauty of a camp in the mountains!

Phase 1 - Community Investigation: Community investigation to determine the needs of the community, existing and potential risks, social statistics such as prevalence of abuse and violence, population demographic and mental health situation among children, teenagers and adults. We will identify, together with community partners, those who will participate in the four-day Hope Project Camp.

Phase 2 – Hope Project Camp: The second phase involves The Hope Project Camp. Through this camp and our specially trained camping leaders, we model examples of integrity, core values, love and strive to provide a sense of hope.

Phase 3 – Camp Follow-up: During a one-day session, our team will visit the community and through a series

of recreation and activities, work to reinforce the experiences and learning during the Hope Project camp. The purpose is to assist each participant to make the transition from the experience at camp, to the reality of their personal lives.

Phase 4 - Mental Services and Counseling: Our assembled team of psychologists and mental health professionals will work within the community, with those identified as “in need, providing mental health and counseling services. This will include children, teenagers and family units. We will work with community leaders, teaching and providing training and tools to effectively work within their community.

Thank you for joining with us, to help create a life changing experience based in God’s love and hope for each individual. Your investment with Gracia Missions to make this possible, will have be a life-changing experience;

both for you and for those you interact with here in Costa Rica!

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Hope Lutheran Church

2025 Monthly Offerings & Expenses

	January	February	YTD 2025
Offerings & Income			
41130 · Auto / Online Offering	\$ 553.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,253.00
41120 · Traditional Offerings	\$ 5,435.00	\$ 5,003.01	\$ 10,438.01
41140 · Venmo Offerings	\$ 710.00	\$ 620.00	\$ 1,330.00
44310 · Building Projects Donations **	\$ 650.00	\$ 5,759.00	\$ 6,409.00
43000 · Florence Parish Contribution	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 7,000.00
44100 · Interest Earned	\$ 1.82	\$ 1.63	\$ 3.45
44200 · Thrivent	\$ 133.00	\$ 107.00	\$ 240.00
44440 · Special Offerings to Pass On	\$ 100.00	\$ 318.29	\$ 418.29
Total Offerings & Income	\$ 11,082.82	\$ 16,008.93	\$ 27,091.75
Expenses			
66110 · Pastor Salary	\$ 3,666.66	\$ 3,666.66	\$ 7,333.32
66120 · Pastor Housing Allowance	\$ 1,916.67	\$ 2,488.40	\$ 4,405.07
66150 · Pastor Social Security	\$ 427.17	\$ 471.72	\$ 898.89
66160 · Pastor Benefits	\$ 3,080.06	\$ 3,145.98	\$ 6,226.04
66191 · Relief Pastor Salary	\$ -	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00
66320 · Janitor Salary	\$ 250.00	\$ 249.99	\$ 499.99
66390 · Other Payroll Expenses	\$ 19.13	\$ 19.12	\$ 38.25
63300 · Insurance Expense	\$ 486.59	\$ 486.59	\$ 973.18
Total 63100 · Worship & Education	\$ 195.23	\$ 165.00	\$ 360.23
63200 · Fellowship Expenses	\$ 8.49	\$ -	\$ 8.49
62200 · Office Supplies	\$ -	\$ 22.30	\$ 22.30
62300 · Printing and Reproduction	\$ 120.45	\$ 216.95	\$ 337.40
62500 · Dues and Subscriptions	\$ -	\$ 70.20	\$ 70.20
62000 · Office Expenses - Other	\$ 16.66	\$ 16.66	\$ 33.32
67200 · Repairs and Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
67210 · Major Building Projects **	\$ -	\$ 1,246.31	\$ 1,246.31
67420 · Electricity	\$ 90.68	\$ 178.74	\$ 269.42
67430 · Water/Sewer	\$ 84.00	\$ 84.00	\$ 168.00
67440 · Phone & Internet Expenses	\$ 96.47	\$ 96.47	\$ 192.94
61450 · Special Offerings Sent On	\$ 100.00	\$ 318.29	\$ 418.29
69000 · Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ (428.11)	\$ 9.90	\$ (418.21)
Total Expense	\$ 10,130.15	\$ 13,178.28	\$ 23,308.43
Net Income	\$ 952.67	\$ 2,830.65	\$ 3,783.32
NET without Building Projects **	\$302.67	- \$1,682.04	- \$1,379.37

Account Balances February 28, 2025

General Fund Accounts			
11102 · General Fund Checking	\$ 16,188.87	Other Accounts	
11201 · Building Fund Saving	\$ 12,528.82	11300 · HS Youth Group Checking	\$ 2,824.61
11113 · MWBank MC - Pastor Janet	\$ 229.79	11400 · Sunday School Checking	\$ 807.20
11114 · MWBank MC - Sarah	\$ 140.32	11500 · Campership Checking	\$ 1,026.92
12004 · CD 710143990	\$ 15,000.00		
TOTAL General Fund Accounts	\$ 44,087.80		

March 26, 2025 Council Meeting

Present: Pastor Janet, Dustin Holt, Tamijo Bronson, Traci Ellingson, Tim Gapp, Brittany Graf, Nicole Ebsen, Cooper Ebsen, Vicky Gleason, Addison Bronson and Scott Kneeland

Absent:

Others Present:

Motion by Scott Kneeland, second by Brittany Graf to approve the Secretary's Report.

Motion by Dustin Holt, Second by Tim Gapp to approve the Treasurer's Report. Passed

Pastor's Report

Maundy Thursday will be First Communion in Summit - 3 families have spoken to Janet

First Communion class will be April 13th after worship in Summit

New business:

Tim Gapp spoke about organizing the cemetery records. There is software that can create digital records. Some are free, some are paid services.

There was an offer to donate trees for Lebanon Cemetery. Dustin will do research on compatible trees.

Easter Worship: breakfast at 9:30 AM and worship at 10:30 AM

Old business:

Scott Kneeland and Brittany Graf will get quotes about tearing out and replacing the sidewalk.

Tim Gapp will research framing out the window in the steeple and replacing the window with stained glass.

Dustin Holt motioned, Vicky Gleason seconded to hire Nicole Ebsen as the new church secretary.

Motion by Addison Bronson, Second by Tim Gapp to adjourn the meeting. Passed

Next meeting will be Sunday, April 27 after worship.



2025

April



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Lenten Worship Meal: 6:30 PM Worship: 7:30 PM	3 Conference Dean Zoom & Visits Quilting: 9:00-12:00	4	5
6 Color: Purple Sunday School 10 AM Worship 11AM Communion	7	8	9 Lenten Worship Meal: 6:30 PM Worship: 7:30 Music practice following worship	10	11	12
13 Color: Purple Sunday School: 10 AM Worship: 11AM First Communion Class after worship	14	15	16	17 Conference Pastors: 10 AM Quilting 9:00-12:00 Worship & First Communion: 7:30 PM	18	19
20 Color: White No Sunday School Easter Worship: 10:30 AM Communion	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Color: White Sunday School 10 AM Worship 11AM	28	29	30			