



Hope Lutheran Church
PO Box 886
Summit, SD 57266
605-398-6150
hlchurch1969@gmail.com

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WORDS OF HOPE, FROM HOPE

"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 and Educate all people.'

Everyone Is Welcome Here

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

Greetings People of Hope!

Grace and peace to you from Christ our Savior, his loving Father, and the Holy Spirit!

In January, I wrote about Star Words—a word to focus on for the year as a way to listen for the Holy Spirit’s guidance. (There are still plenty available in a basket at the church 😊) My word for the year is silence. Initially, I took it as a hint to be quiet and to listen. As I spent time contemplating the word and listening for the Holy Spirit, my understanding expanded. Silence can be powerful or weak, devastating or inspiring, essential or destructive. How we use and understand silence is important to consider. Without silence, it’s difficult to communicate; too much silence makes communication just as difficult.

Lyrics from the song *Ain't I Really Want* by Alanis Morissette came to mind: *Why are you so petrified of silence? Here, can you handle this?* (followed by a beat or two of complete silence) *Did you think about your bills, your ex, your deadlines? Or when you think you're gonna die? Or did you long for the next distraction?*

It’s tempting and easy to get caught up in busyness: always moving from one thing to the next, just keep moving. It often feels like we have to constantly fill the silence. There is always something else that needs to be done, demands our attention, provides distraction. Eventually, it gets exhausting. We feel worn out, overwhelmed, disconnected.

God rested on the seventh day of creation; we, too, are creatures who need rest in order to survive and thrive. Even in the chaos, especially in the chaos, the Holy Spirit urges us to breathe deeply and take moments of silence in the presence of God. Even a few moments can make a huge difference, allowing us to step back from the urgency, rest, and be aware of our actions rather than continuously being in motion. Silence reminds us we have a choice.

During Lent this year, take some time to practice being silent. What comes to mind? How does it feel? What does it reveal? Meditation and centering prayer are more formal ways of doing that. Other options include breath prayers, the Jesus prayer, and simply taking a few deep breaths before moving on. Try it and see what happens.

Peace,

Pastor Kari

Breath Prayer: breathe deeply, think

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am

Be still and know

Be still

Be (from Psalm 46)

The Jesus prayer: *Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*

Repeat several times. Try different ways of saying it: eg. get slower each time, with deep breaths, shorten it similar to the breath prayer, etc.

Hope Lutheran Church
Offerings and Expenses

	<u>Feb 2026*</u> <u>incomplete</u>	<u>January 2026</u>	<u>YTD 2026</u>
Income			
41120 · Traditional Offerings *	\$ 3,145.25	\$ 4,763.00	\$ 7,908.25
41130 · Auto / Online Offering *	\$ 850.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,600.00
41140 · Venmo Offerings	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
44310 · Building Project Donations	\$ 2,936.00	\$ 560.00	\$ 3,496.00
44200 · Thrivent	\$ 230.00	\$ -	\$ 230.00
Total Income	\$ 7,161.25	\$ 6,093.00	\$ 13,254.25
Expense			
Total 66100 · Pastoral Payroll	\$ 3,900.53	\$ 5,233.65	\$ 9,134.18
Total 66190 · Relief Pastor Expenses	\$ 78.15	\$ 388.15	\$ 466.30
66310 · Secretary Salary	\$ 375.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 625.00
66320 · Janitor Salary	\$ 249.99	\$ 250.00	\$ 499.99
66330 · Organist Salary	\$ -	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
66350 · Payroll Taxes	\$ 47.80	\$ 38.26	\$ 86.06
66390 · Other Payroll Expenses	\$ 55.22	\$ 55.22	\$ 110.44
63300 · Insurance Expense	\$ 564.87	\$ 552.45	\$ 1,117.32
63110 · Worship Materials	\$ 120.74	\$ -	\$ 120.74
62200 · Office Supplies	\$ 144.59	\$ -	\$ 144.59
62300 · Printing and Reproduction	\$ 174.60	\$ 407.63	\$ 582.23
62600 · Postage and Delivery	\$ -	\$ 78.00	\$ 78.00
62500 · Software Subscriptions and Dues	\$ -	\$ 191.05	\$ 191.05
67420 · Electricity	\$ 152.73	\$ 107.93	\$ 260.66
67430 · Water/Sewer	\$ 84.00	\$ 84.00	\$ 168.00
67440 · Telephone & Internet Expenses	\$ 76.47	\$ 76.47	\$ 152.94
63402 · Online Giving Fees	\$ -	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.48
Total Expense	\$ 6,024.69	\$ 7,753.29	\$ 13,777.98
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 1,136.56	\$ (1,660.29)	\$ (523.73)
Net WITHOUT Building Project Donations	\$ (1,799.44)	\$ (2,220.29)	\$ (4,019.73)

ACCOUNT BALANCES

	<u>12/31/2025</u>	<u>1/31/2026</u>	<u>2/21/2026</u>
Checking/Savings			
11102 · General Fund Checking	\$ 39,304.92	\$ 37,903.87	\$ 35,427.75
11201 · Building Fund Saving	\$ 18,626.49	\$ 19,186.49	\$ 22,122.49
11115 · MWBank MC - Pr Kari	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
12004 · CD 710143990	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Total Checking/Savings	\$ 72,931.41	\$ 72,590.36	\$ 73,050.24
Credit Cards			
22003 · Secretary Credit Card x4670		\$ (640.23)	\$ (133.37)
22004 · Sarah Holt Credit Card x4597		\$ (169.82)	\$ -
22000 · BL Master Account - Other		\$ -	\$ -
Total 22000 · Credit Cards	\$ (214.79)	\$ (810.05)	\$ (133.37)
11300 · HS Youth Group Checking Acct	\$ 4,238.29	\$ 4,238.29	\$ 4,238.29
11400 · Sunday School Checking Acct	\$ 497.68	\$ 761.43	\$ 873.50
11500 · Campership Checking Acct	\$ 933.92	\$ 1,453.92	\$ 1,453.92

January 25th, 2026 – Hope Lutheran Annual Meeting held as part of the worship service.

Welcome and Opening by Treasurer Annelies Seffrood.

Motion – Dustin H 2nd Laurie K to proceed without a quorum (35 voting members present) Passed.

Accept 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes Secretary Report – M Beth H 2nd Tim G – Passed

- Presidents Report given by Tamijo Bronson – Thank you for serving our congregation, Tamijo B
- Pastor Report given by Pastor Kari
- Treasurers Report – reported by Annelies S – The Building Fund is mainly funded by donations or gifts from members. The Youth Group Fund is funded mostly from Lenten suppers and Christmas greens. The Sunday School fund is funded by our noisy offering once every month. Campership fund is funded mainly by donations. Last year we also raised money for campership fund on Easter.
- Cemetery Report given by Tim Gapp – They have received very generous donations this last year. They are planning to use those donations to do some projects including mapping the cemetery and replacing the fence.
- Kitchen Report – Laurie Kneeland thanks everyone that steps up to help whenever asked.
- Hope Lutheran Church Women Report in packet

Motion-Laurie K, 2nd-Mark A to approved President's Report, Pastor's Reports, Treasurer's Reports, Cemetery Report, Kitchen Report, and ELCW Report – Passed

-2025 General Fund Summary:

Offerings=\$91,468; Memorials & Gifts=\$30,081.45; Total Income \$165,814.06

-Building improvements – Sidewalk replaced in front of the church and inside painting and trim

-Thrivent Share was \$1,938 – Thank you to those who continue to get Thrivent cards for our events

-Total expenses \$132,747.94 There was a budget surplus (without building projects) of \$26,807.43

- Pastor salary was lower due to Pastor Janet departing.

Motion-Scott K, 2nd- M Ben G to accept the 2025 Financial Report – Passed

2026 Budget and Mission Plan Discussion

Building Project was set to \$50,000 to do a kitchen remodel – After discussion, it is increased to \$65,000

The Pastor's salary, housing, and benefits are based on a 50% call.

We are looking to update our membership list and we will be using new software to do that.

Church decorations – update banners and other decorations - \$1,5000

Motion - Vicky G 2nd - Laura F to accept our mission and change the building project amount. Passed

New Council Members – Beth Hills, Michelle Urban, Mark Amdahl, Dash Ebsen and Vicky Gleason has agreed to stay on. Motion – Dustin H – 2nd Tim F; Passed

Synod Assembly Member person – Annelies Seffrood Motion - Laurie K 2nd Sarah H; Passed

Audit Committee – the report we have has not been audited at this time. There is not enough time to audit between end of year and the annual meeting so it will be audited and reported to the council later in the year. We are hoping to add a new face to the auditing committee. If interested please contact Tim Gapp

Nominating Committee – Brittany Graf, Jacob Gapp, and Kaitlyn Christofferson have agreed to stay on.

Transition team – We are looking at the future and what we want to be. Please reach out with ideas or thoughts on what you want to see with the future of Hope Lutheran Church. This is all of our church family. We want to hear from you.

Beth Hills will be stepping down from the offering group and Brittany Graf will be filling in her position.

Thank you, Pastor Kari, for serving as our interim Pastor. We appreciate all you have done and will continue to do.

Motion-Brittany G, 2nd- Vicky G to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

A potluck lunch was enjoyed by many after the service and meeting.

Church Council Re-organization meeting held immediately following the Annual Meeting

Tim G, VP called the meeting to order

President – Tim Gapp is Nominated M by Mark A and 2nd- Scott K; Passed

Vice President – Scott Kneeland is Nominated – M Beth Hills 2nd Mark Amdahl; Passed

Motion-Beth H, 2nd– Vicky G to authorize a \$500 prepaid debit card from MinnWest Bank for Pastor Kari Foss. Passed

We started a 7-day free trial for Adobe. We are also going to do a Tithe.ly trial for our membership to see if that is what we would like to go with.

Lent meals will be served at 6pm and the Wednesday Lent services will be at 7pm. Council will do first meal on Ash Wednesday – lasagna or pasta bake, garlic bread, and salad. The High School Youth Group will serve the other 5 Lent suppers.

Next meeting – Sunday February 22nd after church.

The meeting was adjourned.

December 14th 2025

Present – Brittany Graf, Tim Gapp, Vicky Gleason, Tamijo Bronson, Nicole Ebsen, Traci Ellingston and Dustin Holt - Pastor Kari and Treasurer Anneliese Seffrood

Pastor Kari opened in prayer and devotion

Secretary Report – Vicky M, Tim 2nd Motion passes

Treasurers Report November – Brittany m, Vicky 2nd Motions passes

Budget for 2026 – Dustin M, Traci 2nd Motion Passes.

New door key pad lock on the Sunday school door. The old one did not like the freezing rain.

Annual Meeting – January 25th or February 1st for a weather date. Budget will be available at church on the 18th and will be emailed out when ready

Venmo is still out of commission. We do have a PayPal that we can use going forward until Venmo is back up

December 28th pastor Kari will be out; Anne will cover service.

Memory Cross wall – Do we have limits or regulations on cross? Past member or connection to church.

Membership list software – Pastor Kari recommends Icon CMO as an option to look at.

Audit committee needs to do an audit this year. Kitchen needs to submit a kitchen report, Quilting ladies need to submit a report as well, and Cemetery also needs to submit a report.

Emergency Shelter – at this point we are not able to provide shelter, but we are willing to help facilitate in other ways.

February 8th – 3rd Annual Super Sunday Meal and fundraiser

Next meeting - January 25th during service and new council will meet after church as well.

LOVE ON THE WAY



LOVE WELCOMES. LOVE FEEDS.
LOVE HEALS.

Love on the Way: A Palm Sunday Procession and Worship

On Palm Sunday (March 29th), from 2-4 pm CT, Christians of all denominations are invited to gather in downtown Sioux Falls for a positive, non-partisan, and prayerful procession, worship, and reflection on Jesus' way of love. We will walk, pray, and sing as a public witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ: love that welcomes, feeds, and heals. Participants are invited to bring palms from their Sunday worship services. Clergy are encouraged to wear the symbols of their office.

Details on starting and ending location(s) will be forthcoming. Individuals with limited mobility are invited to join us for worship at the end of the procession. Following worship, participants are invited to gather at local establishments for informal conversation. Details about specific locations will follow.

We are committed to this being a peaceful, nonpartisan, and prayer-centered gathering and, if you choose to attend, we expect you to uphold that commitment. Please fill out [**this form**](#)* to let us know you're interested in attending and how you might like to help!

Love welcomes. Love feeds. Love heals.

*to find the form, go to sdsynod.org and click on the link to Love on the Way

Hope Happenings

We would like to invite 2nd grade and up who would like to participate in First Communion this year.

Please contact Pastor Kari Foss or Nicole if you plan on your child participating. There will be a first communion class for the child and parent/guardian after church on March 29th, Palm Sunday.

↑ March

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship w/ Communion	2	3	4 5:45 Confirmation 6:00 Supper 7:00 Lent Worship	5 Quilting	6	7
8 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship T-T Meeting after Worship	9	10	11 5:45 Confirmation 6:00 Supper 7:00 Lent Worship	12	13	14
15 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship w/ Communion	16	17	18 5:45 Confirmation 6:00 Supper 7:00 Lent Worship	19 Quilting	20	21
22 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship w/ Pastor Laura Phillips	23	24	25 5:45 Confirmation 6:00 Supper 7:00 Lent Worship	26	27	28
29 9:30 SS Palm Sunday 10:30 Worship w/ Communion	30 ^{1st} Communion Class after Worship on Sunday	31	1	2 7:00 Maundy Thursday and 1st Communion Worship	3 7:00 Good Friday Service	4