

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am once again sitting in a hospital room waiting. Fortunately, this time I am waiting for a much better reason. Mom my got her new knee put in this morning. Although the surgery will cause some suffering, she hopes to have better mobility and balance in the end. I am thankful for all the doctors and the nurses and all those who work in the hospital caring for patients. I am thankful that I still have my mom to sit with and to care for. Although I feel a little guilty for missing work, I am thankful for a job that I find fulfilling and work that is good.

There is a sign in my office that reads, “there is always, always, always something to be thankful for!” I totally agree with this statement. In our best days, thankfulness flows easily. In our more challenging days, we may have to work harder to find our gratitude. In our worst day, we may need others to point out our gifts and remind us about thankfulness.

I read once that thankful people who feel God’s gifts are far happier, even when things might not be going as well for them. Having a sense of gratitude seems to inspire our heads and hearts. There is a song called “Goodness of God” that helps look at our life of thankfulness with our God. The second verse especially speaks to me;

“I love your voice,

You have led me through the fire, and in my darkest night

You are close like no other.

I’ve known you as a Father, I’ve known you as a Friend

And I have loved in the goodness of God.

Chorus – “All my life you have been faithful

All my life you have been so, so good

With every breath that I am able

Oh I will sing of the goodness of God”

- Goodness of God by Bethel Music and Jenn Johnson

I hope November, the month of Thanksgiving, reminds you to show your gratitude to the one who provides all that is, “so, so good”.

Pastor Janet Miller



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

October/Fall 2024 Newsletter Inserts

From the Bishop's Desk

Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father! **School and harvest are in full swing.** Please pray for students, educators, support staff, and administrators for a school year that is harder on writing utensils than on people. And, of course, we lift prayers for all those involved directly and indirectly in this year's harvest. May the safety of all be a priority and their labor not be in vain.

Fall in the synod office is filled with travel and congregational visits.

- I recently attended the **Fall Conference of Bishops meeting in Chicago**. You can read about it here: <https://elca.org/News-and-Events/8248>.
- The SD Synod also received a **second Lilly grant, focusing on strengthening children's ministry**. You can find the news release here: <https://sdsynod.org/south-dakota-synod-awarded-1-2-million-grant-from-lilly-endowment/>.
- We will be **electing a bishop at the 2025 Synod assembly**, and I have indicated to the Synod Council that I would be honored to see my name on the ballot and be elected to a second term.
- Check out **Pasque**, the synod's digital community and learning hub, to connect and learn with others from across the synod. You will also find the synod's first "Caregiver Devotional," a group effort from caregivers for caregivers. Pasque is free and accessible to you and your neighbor. Please follow this link to sign in or up: https://www.sdsynodlearns.org/users/sign_in.
- To stay updated on synod happenings, please subscribe to the **weekly e-news**. Scroll down to the bottom of the landing page, enter your email address into the space at the bottom, and click subscribe: <https://sdsynod.org/>.

Journeying in Christ with you,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the SD Synod

Every Baptized Person Is A Minister

Dear People of God,

In the July synod newsletter, I wrote about a discernment resource titled, "Called to Lead." Since writing, the entire resource is available in the Pasque Learning Community as a discernment course (www.sdsynodlearns.org). Over the course of the next several synod newsletters, I will include language and questions from the document in order that we can be in self-contemplation, as well as conversations of faith with others synod-wide. Invite someone to coffee and put these questions in front of you. Christ promises to be present: For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them (Matt. 18.20)."

On page 7, the document focuses on every baptized person as a minister:

One of the images used in the New Testament to describe the church is the "body of Christ." In his first letter to the Christian congregation in the city of Corinth, Paul reminds the people, "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). The crucified, risen and ascended Christ continues to carry out his ministry in the world through the church as his body. Just as the Holy Spirit descended upon the body of Jesus as he rose from the water of his own baptism, so the Holy Spirit also descended upon the extended body of Jesus – the church – at Pentecost. The entire church, including each of its members, shares the same vocation of ministry that was bestowed upon Jesus. To be a Christian, therefore, a follower of Christ, means also to be a minister of his good news in word and deed.

God's richest blessings be upon your reflections and conversations!

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson
Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy,
Congregation, and Rostered Minister
Accompaniment

Celebrating What God Is Doing

Before too long, the calendar will change over to another year, which means that for many of the congregations in South Dakota, the countdown to the Annual Meeting begins. Those who know me, know of my love of Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure. Some might think this time of year is exciting for me, and it is. But, maybe not for the reasons we think. The Annual Meeting, at its best, isn't just a list of reports, a few elections, and approving a budget. Those are often the necessary items to include on the agenda. The Annual Meeting is at its best when all of those things are a part of celebrating what God has done and is doing through your community. Sharing the story of how the Good News of Jesus is making a difference in the world today.

This doesn't happen all by itself; it takes a little work to reimagine the mundane work of the church to be a celebration. So, I wanted to time this encouragement far enough beforehand that seeds might be planted for how you will share what God is doing. A few considerations:

- Narrative Budget: In addition to a line-item budget, a Narrative Budget helps to tell the story of your congregation through stories and pictures. They take a little time to create, especially the first time, but there is help. Check out the new course in Pasque on Developing a Narrative Budget to break up the steps in the process.
- Temple Talks: Recruit a few members to share a story of how God has been at work in their lives in the last year.
- Share a story of what God is doing in the world because we do it together. Check out Stories of Faith in Action to learn more about how your Mission Support is impacting lives across the globe.
- ELCA World Hunger celebrates 50 Years in 2025, and if you're looking for an excuse to have cake at your meeting, here's your excuse.

I give thanks for what God is doing around and through us as the congregations of the South Dakota Synod. And I give thanks for the ministries we share for the proclamation of the Gospel.

Rev. Jonathan Vehar
Associate to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission



Good things are growing in our Synod's new learning community! Pasque offers free resources, *available to anyone!* We are hosting community discussions, live events and online learning created specifically for YOU. You can find this growing learning community at www.sdsynodlearns.org.

Pasque Learning Community is growing by leaps and bounds. Right now, the [Fellowship Hall](#) is up and running with over 200 members! Sign in to Pasque, and then introduce yourself to join the conversation.

This Fall, we launched several new learning opportunities, including [Foundations of Lutheran Worship](#) and an entry-level bible study on the [Gospel of Mark](#). A new course, "[Called to Lead](#)," is specifically designed to encourage and connect leaders (like you!) as you consider new ways that God may be calling you to ministry.

You can jump in *anytime*.

God is at work among us, stirring us to love and to good work. Please reach out with questions and ideas as we *Journey Together in Christ*.

With Good Courage,

Rev. Kari Webb
Director of Digital Community and Learning
Project Director, Journeying Together in Christ

Rural Ministry News

Beloved Travelers,

I am writing to you from Wessington Springs where I get to partner with Pastor Nancy Rieke and the people of Our Saviors Lutheran Church as we craft a youth worship service that incorporates the energies and passions these young people brought back with

them from the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

The past month has also found partnerships with Grand Valley Lutheran Church (rural Canton), Dalesburg Lutheran Church, Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church (rural Vermillion), Redeemer Lutheran Church (McLaughlin), Isabel United Church of Christ, Timber Lake United Parish, Trinity Lutheran Church (Mobridge), Trinity Lutheran Church (Rapid City), Resurrection Lutheran Church (Pierre), and the Prairie Rivers Conference. These partnerships are as varied as the places themselves but held one common thread of strengthening our ties to one another as the South Dakota Synod.

This good work will continue in the coming weeks and months in places like Trinity Lutheran Church (Carthage), Langford Lutheran Parish, Crocker Lutheran Church, St. James Lutheran Church (Belle Fourche) and a trip to our Lutheran partners in Nicaragua. I still have a few days open in my 2024 travel schedule. How might we partner together and strengthen one another?

Looking forward,

Pastor Joel Pakan
 Director for Rural Ministries
jpakan@sdsynod.org

4:22 PM
 10/07/24
 Cash Basis

Hope Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
 As of October 7, 2024

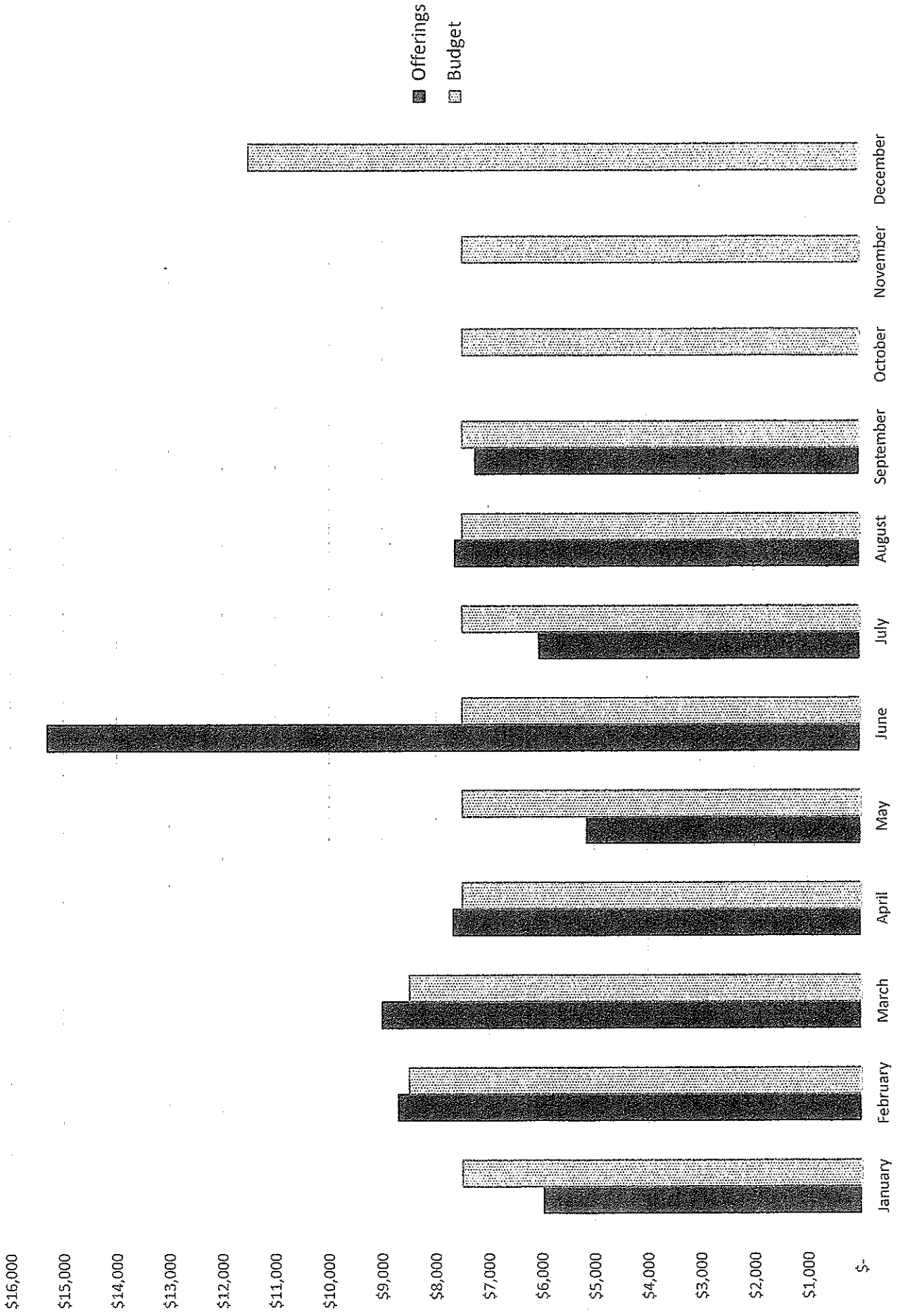
ASSETS	Sep 30, 24	Oct 7, 24
<u>General Fund Accounts</u>		
11102 · General Fund Checking	\$14,533.54	\$15,505.35
11201 · Building Fund Saving	\$5,753.48	\$6,013.48
11112 · MWBank MC -Dawn	\$234.10	\$234.10
11113 · MWBank MC - Pastor Janet	\$174.34	\$117.02
11114 · MWBank MC - Sarah	\$362.91	\$362.91
12004 · CD 710143990	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Total Checking/Savings	\$36,058.37	\$37,232.86
11300 · HS Youth Group Checking Acct	\$3,459.61	\$3,459.61
11400 · Sunday School Checking Acct	\$246.38	\$246.38
11500 · Campership Checking Acct	\$76.92	\$76.92

Hope Lutheran Church Offerings and Expenses 2024

	<u>Sep 24</u>	<u>Aug 24</u>	<u>Jan - Sep 24</u>	
41000 · Offerings				
41130 · Auto / Online Offering	\$830.00	\$830.00	\$7,980.00	
41120 · Traditional Offerings	\$5,754.00	\$5,592.00	\$57,361.22	
41140 · Venmo Offerings	\$665.00	\$1,210.00	\$4,973.38	
41200 · Special Services Offerings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,392.00	
42100 · Gifts & Memorials	\$0.00	\$3,731.16 *1	\$3,831.16	*1 - gift of propane
43000 · Florence Parish Contribution	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$31,500.00	
44100 · Interest Earned	\$0.00	\$1.80	\$171.71	
44200 · Thrivent	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,346.00	
44310 · Special Project - Siding	\$260.00	\$5,260.00	\$22,526.11	
44440 · Special Offerings to Pass On	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,200.00	
44000 · Other Income - Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,124.69	
Total Income	\$11,009.00	\$20,124.96	\$136,406.27	
Expense				
Total 71000 · HS Youth Group Expenses	\$0.00	-\$349.90	\$0.00	
Total 66100 · Pastoral Payroll	\$8,989.03	\$11,967.56 *2	\$80,901.27	*2 - delay in July payment to Portico
66310 · Secretary Salary	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$3,375.00	
66320 · Janitor Salary	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$2,250.00	
66330 · Organist Salary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,240.00	
60200 · Auto/Mileage Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$639.18	
61800 · Continuing Ed & Conferencs	\$372.84	\$125.00	\$1,387.95	
63300 · Insurance Expense	\$371.47	\$371.47	\$2,971.76	
63130 · Confirmation / Adult Ed	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$72.22	
63120 · Sunday School Materials	\$14.86	\$34.13	\$851.32	
63110 · Worship Materials	\$54.39	\$0.00	\$690.44	
63100 · Worship & Education - Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4.49	
63200 · Fellowship Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$144.32	
62800 · Website Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.46	
62200 · Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$42.43	\$83.06	
62300 · Printing and Reproduction	\$112.22	\$239.94	\$1,323.90	
62500 · Dues and Subscriptions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$176.38	
62600 · Postage and Delivery	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$136.00	
62000 · Office Expenses - Other	\$16.66	\$16.66	\$164.80	
67100 · Landscaping Expenses	\$1,200.00	\$900.00	\$3,825.00	
67200 · Repairs and Maintenance	\$1,425.86	\$1,094.31 *3	\$2,755.10	*3 - paint, new lights, AC repair
67210 · Siding & Glass Partition	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$68,659.91	
67410 · Propane/Heat	\$0.00	\$3,626.16 *1	\$3,688.68	*1 - gift of propane
67420 · Electricity	\$81.90	\$60.76	\$1,413.49	
67430 · Water/Sewer	\$78.00	\$78.00	\$702.00	
67440 · Telephone & Internet Expense	\$96.47	\$96.47	\$863.73	
61410 · Synod Mission Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,951.56	
61450 · Special Offerings Sent On	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,200.00	
61400 · Charitable Contributions - Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	
69000 · Miscellaneous Expenses	\$14.85	\$4.95	\$123.75	
Total Expense	\$13,453.55	\$18,932.94	\$185,445.77	
Net Offerings less Expenses	-\$2,444.55	\$1,192.02	-\$49,039.50	
Net without Siding Project	-\$2,704.55	-\$4,067.98	-\$2,905.70	

2024 Monthly Offerings vs Budget

(does not include memorials, special gifts, other income. Does include Lent Services)
 (* June -received a large, once-a-year offering)



October 7, 2024 Council Meeting

Present: Nicole E, Cooper E, Ben G, Vicky G, Billi W, Levi W, Dustin H, Tamijo B, Pastor Janet

Absent: Kevin C

Others Present: Annelies S

President Dustin Holt called the meeting to order. He informed the Council that Traci Maag officially resigned her position on the Council.

Motion by Vicky, Second by Ben to approve Minutes of August 13, 2024 meeting. Motion passed.

Motion by Billi, Second by Nicole to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Pastor Janet gave her Pastor's Report. She performed 2 funerals since August meeting. She attended the Fall Theological Conference in Pierre and a Support to Ministries Committee meeting in Sioux Falls. She has led communion worships at Cederview and Memory Care in Watertown. The locations will be changing in 1-2 months. There will be 2 confirmation classes at Summit & 1 at Florence this year. The Youth Group met the 2nd Wednesday of September and will meet on October 9th to carve pumpkins. She is assisting with the Helping Kids Round 1st fundraiser to be held November 14th. She plans to use vacation time for a family wedding the weekend of November 23-24.

Discussion items included the following.

Snow removal bids are needed. Anyone interested should contact the church.

Laura Frankenhoff & Kathy Brink are organizing a Bible Study to held this fall at the church.

Dec 15th is the Sunday School Program. Family Lefse Day originally planned for the 15th will be held on a different date (possibly Nov 24th or Jan 5th).

There was discussion about a Mission Trip for both youth and adults. Ben said he would ask Levi Waddell from Milbank to share his experiences leading several groups from Central Methodist Church.

The Youth Group will not sell wreaths this year. Pastor Janet has a local source for 50 wreaths to be used as memory wreaths. Extras will be for sale. There will be a sign up sheet in the entry.

Motion by Billi, Second by Tamijo to share the money raised from the Strasser auction lunch stand with \$550 to both the Sunday School & Campership funds. The balance (approx. \$1000) will go to the High School Youth Group. Motion passed.

Motion by Levi, Second by Tamijo to proceed with the entry way & inside glass door projects. The estimates are \$3200 for labor (Travis Hansen) and \$700 for materials (Skyview CBS). Motion passed.

Motion by Nicole, Second by Cooper to approve the GOLD+ health insurance plan for 2025. Motion passed.

The next Council meeting will be Sunday, November 10th at 6:30 pm.

Motion by Billi, Second by Vicky to adjourn.

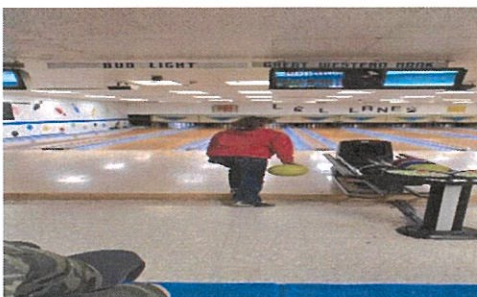
Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

HOPES HAPPENINGS

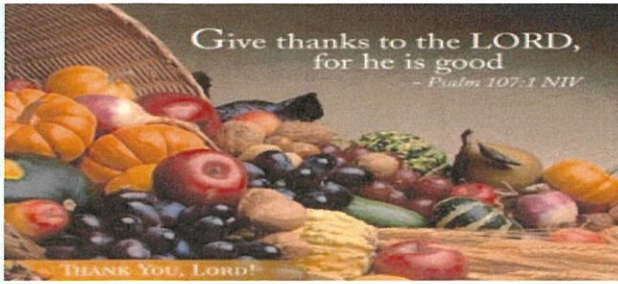
YOUTH GROUP NEWS:

***Due to transportation to get wreaths and inability to make money for our youth, they have decided not to sell Christmas wreaths this year as in the past. Instead they will be selling one size wreath that will also be sold as a memory wreath. They are 26" and cost \$27.00. A sign-up sheet is on the table at the church. You may also contact the church or any youth member to order. Something fun they have planned is a Porch Pot class. That will be held in early December (watch for more information) Cost will be \$45 or \$35 if you provide your own pot. 😊**

YOUTH PUMPKIN DECORATING AND BOWLING:



QUILTING NEWS: Our little dedicated group of quilters have outdone themselves again this year making 123 quilts!! They also had 56 school kits, and 6 personal kits donated! God's blessing to all at Hope for your generosity and commitment to helping others. 😊



November 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	
UPCOMING- *December 1-NO Sunday School *Porch Pot event-watch for more information. *December 15-Christmas program						1	2 FALL BACK ONE HOUR-DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS
3 green Communion	4	5	6 Pastor at Helping Kids Round First mtg.	7 9am-noon-quilting Conference dean zoom	8	9	
10 green Children's church Church council-6:30pm	11	12	13 Group 1 confirmation-3:30-4:30 Gr. 2-5:00-6:00 Youth group-6:30	14 Pastor at HKRF banquet	15	16 Companion Synod Meeting	
17green Communion	18	19	20 Group 1 confirmation-3:30-4:30 Gr. 2-5:00-6:00	21 9am-noon-quilting	22 Newsletter items due	23	
24white-Christ the Pastor gone	25	26	27 No Confirmation	28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	29	30	

Notes

Worship times (unless noted otherwise)-9:00am Worship, 10:00am Sunday school/coffee fellowship. Worship helpers: 11/3-C, U-Bruce Kneelands, R, CS-Laurie Kneeland, 11/10-C- Stacey Amdahl, U-Corey Amdahl, R-Grey Christofferson, 11/17-C-Kaitlyn Christofferson, U-Kaitlyn, Grey, Kevin, R-Grey, CS-Kaitlyn, Grey, 11/24-C-Myla Kneeland, U-Holts, R-Dustin Holt

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO BOX 886
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"WORDS OF HOPE FROM HOPE"

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

Follow us on YouTube: Hope's Children



November 2024

"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.

