



Hope Lutheran Church  
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# “WORDS OF HOPE FROM HOPE”

VOL. 52 ISSUE 5

June 2025

“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](http://www.seesummitsd.com)

Follow us on YouTube: Hope’s Children

When I was young, there was a sing-song rhyme for the end of the year that went, “no more pencils, no more books, no more teacher’s dirty looks.” It got written on things and sometimes even chanted by particularly naughty kids on the end of the school year. Then, the last bell would finally ring and we were off, running out the school doors into the summer. Someone would always yell, “we’re free...” as we laughed and ran into our time of freedom from school.

Modern kids probably don’t understand the freedom of spare time and running around all summer my generation had. You could get on your bike and just go in our small town. As long as we were home by the town’s 6:00pm whistle, all was good. As we aged, the home time often stretched to- as long as we were home, “by the time the yard lights came on”, or “the 10:00news”. You get the picture.

Pencils and books have been replaced with Chromebook or iPad. Freedom of running the small town outside is replaced with structured time at camps, or ball practice, or time in the car running to and from games or meets. Kids have traveling teams and summer learning events. The scheduled things leave very little time for freedom as we knew it. Now, I know the world is a different place and there are dangers we didn’t even think about when I was young. I also know looking back is always done with nostalgia so I forget the drawbacks. But, I think we’ve given up a lot of freedom in order to keep safe and scheduled.

We can tie our churches and our faith up into the same search for safety and organization. We can live as if having the best education programing, the most organized worships, or the prettiest, busiest churches will pay the way to our freedom and salvation if Jesus Christ. Like our young families’ summer scheduling, the most current and beautiful things in the church aren’t bad things. They just aren’t the most important thing and can sometimes lead us away from the truth. Jesus says, “I am the Way and the Trith and the Light” and reminds us that focusing on anything else as a goal is foolish. Early followers of the church struggled with the idea of how they were mad free from sin and the power of evil. Many were sure it would take a lot of business to get it to happen. But, int eh book of Acts chapter 13, we are told, “Let it be known, therefore, brothers and sisters, that through this man (Jesus), forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you can not be freed by the law.”

Freedom doesn’t come from things outside of us or things we do, it comes from who we have in our hearts. The gospel of John reminds us, “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

So, this summer, let’s search for what real freedom is. As you enjoy the heat of a new season, bring the joy of being free and forgiven by our Savior with you. Make a life in him your focus... and be free.

Pastor Janet Miller

May 28, 2025 Council Meeting

Present –Tim G, Pr Janet Miller, Tamijo B, Cooper E, Nicole E, Dustin N, Brittany G, & Scott K  
Others Present – Annelies S

Absent – Vicky G, Traci E, & Addison B

President Tamijo Bronson called the meeting to order, and Pr Janet lead our group in prayer.

April Meeting Minutes- Motion by Dustin, 2nd by Brittany. Motion Passed

Treasurers report – Motion to approve by Tim 2nd by Cooper. Motion Passed

Annelies will look into new slats and letters for our existing sign.

Pasters Report– I attended meetings - Companion Synod Committee, Support to Ministries, Conference Dean Committee, and I am going to Synod Assembly Thursday through Saturday.– I am continuing a WELCA bible study in Florence, I have offered to do one in Summit, and they are not interested as they don't have a WELCA anymore. - We had Baccalaureate in Summit and the youth group served cake in honor of our seniors. They always seemed to enjoy it and there was a great bunch of youth in attendance to help serve and clean up.– Confirmation was May 25th. We confirmed Karter Nelson, Avery Bronson, Allison Benthin, Airianna Benthin, Paisley Maag, Bentley Maag, and Peyton Sumner.– I will be gone on June 15th for our 40th wedding anniversary.– Worship on July 6th is the Sunday I usually do NeSoDak service. We often ask people to join us out there that week. – The boiler passed inspection, but we need to find the covers for the wire boxes and get them on. Not sure where they went.– We were invited to a Youth Event in August. This is a free event in Aberdeen. The speaker was the lead speaker at the National Youth Convention.

We are looking for a new Sunday School/VBS Director. Becky has decided to step down. She has served for several years, and we appreciate everything she has done for our Hope kids.

We have a few more painting projects that need to be finished (Sunday School/Quilting room). We are looking for volunteers to come and help Sarah with this.

Laurie K has gotten a couple of quotes for our next big project. We are looking into new kitchen cabinets.

They started our sidewalk project this week. We will now have a handicap accessible ramp into the lower Sunday school level and the sidewalk in front of the main doors will all be new. It is looking great!

Annelies is looking at digitizing the old records and also updating the current records of our congregation.

Tim is looking at programs to help with plotting and cemetery management. Plotbox and Cemify are a couple of the programs he has looked into.

The Florence Church Council joined our meeting. We plan to make this an annual thing. We plan to attend a meeting in Florence next year around this time. We had great conversation and hope that we can continue to build our church relationships and work together with Pastor Janet.

Next Meeting – Tuesday July 15th at 6:30

Meeting adjourned.

# Hope Lutheran Church

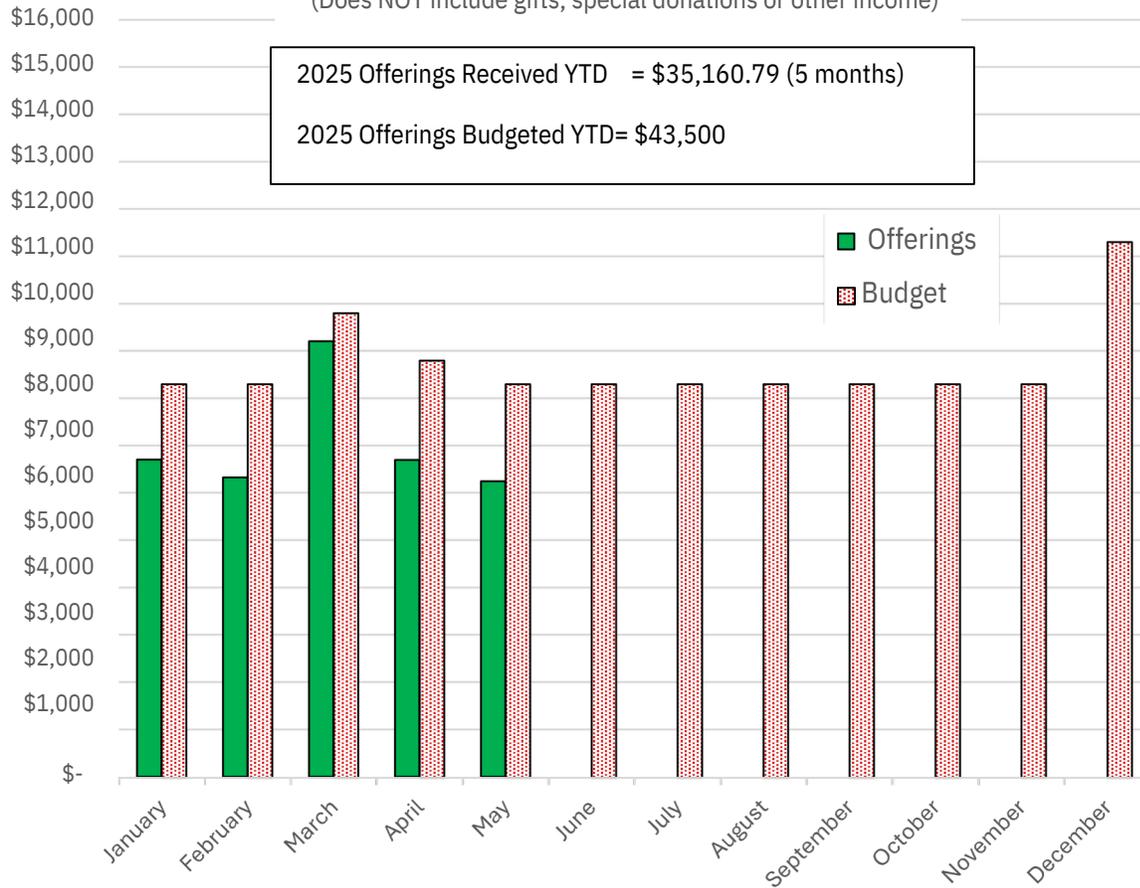
## Offerings and Expenses

April May (preliminary) 2025

|  | April               | May                  | YTD 2025<br>Jan-May |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Offerings &amp; Income</b>                                    |                     |                      |                     |
| 41120 · Traditional Offerings                                    | \$ 4,979.00         | \$ 5,013.00          | \$ 25,260.79        |
| 41130 · Auto / Online Offering                                   | \$ 700.00           | \$ 700.00            | \$ 3,353.00         |
| 41140 · Venmo Offerings  | \$ 530.00           | \$ 530.00            | \$ 2,985.00         |
| 41200 · Lent & Christmas Eve Offerings                           | \$ 485.00           | \$ -                 | \$ 3,562.00         |
| 42100 · Gifts & Memorials  | \$ 5,000.00         | \$ -                 | \$ 5,000.00         |
| 44310 · Building Project Donations                               | \$ 300.00           | \$ 300.00            | \$ 7,309.00         |
| 43000 · Florence Parish Contribution                             | \$ 3,500.00         | \$ 3,500.00          | \$ 17,500.00        |
| 44100 · Interest Earned  | \$ 1.80             | \$ 274.44            | \$ 288.67           |
| 44200 · Thrivent   | \$ 855.00           | \$ 9.00              | \$ 1,801.00         |
| 44440 · Special Offerings to Pass On                             | \$ -                | \$ -                 | \$ 418.29           |
| 44000 · Other Income - Other                                     | \$ 357.94           | \$ -                 | \$ 357.94           |
| <b>Total Income</b>  | <b>\$ 16,708.74</b> | <b>\$ 10,326.44</b>  | <b>\$ 67,835.69</b> |
| <b>Expense</b>   |                     |                      |                     |
| Total 66100 · Pastoral Payroll                                   | \$ 9,437.45         | \$ 9,437.45          | \$ 47,175.67        |
| 66191 · Relief Pastor Salary                                     | \$ -                | \$ -                 | \$ 225.00           |
| 66310 · Secretary Salary   | \$ -                | \$ 250.0             | \$ 250.00           |
| 66320 · Janitor Salary   | \$ 249.99           | \$ 0                 | \$ 1,249.98         |
| 66330 · Organist Salary  | \$ 680.00           | \$ 250.0             | \$ 680.00           |
| 66390 · Other Payroll Expenses                                   | \$ 19.12            | \$ 038.26            | \$ 114.76           |
| 60200 · Auto/Mileage Expenses                                    | \$ 428.80           | \$ -                 | \$ 428.80           |
| 61800 · Continuing Ed & Conferencs                               | \$ 847.00           | \$ -                 | \$ 847.00           |
| 63300 · Insurance Expense  | \$ 486.59           | \$ 486.59            | \$ 2,432.95         |
| 63130 · Confirmation / Adult Ed                                  | \$ -                | \$ 33.93             | \$ 33.93            |
| 63110 · Worship Materials  | \$ 151.87           | \$ -                 | \$ 512.10           |
| 63200 · Fellowship Expenses                                      | \$ 27.64            | \$ 62.65             | \$ 98.78            |
| 62200 · Office Supplies  | \$ 47.25            | \$ -                 | \$ 69.55            |
| 62300 · Printing and Reproduction                                | \$ 141.41           | \$ 130.98            | \$ 719.57           |
| 62500 · Dues and Subscriptions                                   | \$ -                | \$ -                 | \$ 70.20            |
| 62000 · Office Expenses - Other                                  | \$ 16.66            | \$ 16.66             | \$ 83.30            |
| 67210 · Major Building Projects                                  | \$ -                | \$ -                 | \$ 1,246.31         |
| 67420 · Electricity  | \$ 217.43           | \$ 175.71            | \$ 863.28           |
| 67430 · Water/Sewer  | \$ 84.00            | \$ 84.00             | \$ 420.00           |
| 67440 · Telephone & Internet Expenses                            | \$ 96.47            | \$ 96.47             | \$ 482.35           |
| 61410 · Synod Mission Support                                    | \$ 1,531.74         | \$ -                 | \$ 1,531.74         |
| 61450 · Special Offerings Sent On                                | \$ -                | \$ -                 | \$ 418.29           |
| 69000 · Miscellaneous Expenses                                   | \$ 14.85            | \$ 4.95              | \$ (388.51)         |
| <b>Total Expense</b>   | <b>\$ 14,478.27</b> | <b>\$ 11,067.65</b>  | <b>\$ 59,565.05</b> |
| <b>Net Income</b>  | <b>\$ 2,230.47</b>  | <b>\$ (741.21)</b>   | <b>\$ 8,270.64</b>  |
| <br>   |                     |                      |                     |
| <b>NET WITHOUT BUILDING PROJECT<br/>DONATIONS &amp; EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$ 1,930.47</b>  | <b>\$ (1,041.21)</b> | <b>\$ 2,207.95</b>  |

# 2025 Monthly Offerings vs Budget

(Does include Lent Services & Christmas Eve)  
 (Does NOT include gifts, special donations or other income)



|                                   | <u>March 31, 2025</u> | <u>May 31, 2025</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund Balances             |                       |                     |
| 11102 · General Fund Checking     | \$ 18,976.33          | \$ 14,284.79        |
| 12101 · Undeposited General Funds | \$ -                  | \$ 357.94           |
| 11201 · Building Fund Savings     | \$ 12,835.98          | \$ 18,435.98        |
| 11113 · MWBANK MC - Pastor Janet  | \$ 208.18             | \$ 440.94           |
| 11114 · MWBANK MC - Sarah         | \$ 135.37             | \$ 125.47           |
| 12004 · CD 710143990              | \$ 15,000.00          | <u>\$ 15,000.00</u> |
| TOTAL - General Fund Accounts     | \$ 47,155.86          | \$ 48,645.12        |

|                                     |             |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 11300 · Youth Group Checking Acct   | \$ 3,330.61 | \$ 3,510.61 |
| 11400 · Sunday School Checking Acct | \$ 864.91   | \$ 947.13   |
| 11500 · Campership Checking Acct    | \$ 1,026.92 | \$ 1,893.92 |

# Hope Happenings

Our youth group has the opportunity to attend a Middle and High School Summer Youth Conference in Aberdeen. It is August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am-4pm. This is a free event made possible by grant funding for the youth primarily in the NP & PC conferences. Please let Janet know if your Middle and High school children would like to attend. (Flyer is also in the newsletter)

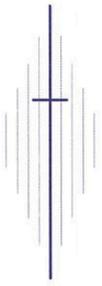
Pastor Janet will be out for a family event on June 15<sup>th</sup>. We would like to wish her and Michael a Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The sidewalk project got underway the last week of May and is already finished. We added a handicap accessible ramp to the Sunday School door and have new cement in the front of the church. It looks great!

Confirmation was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, We confirmed Karter Nelson, Avery Bronson, Allison Benthin, Airianna Benthin, Paisley Maag, Bentley Maag, and Peyton Sumner. Congratulations to our new Confirmed Members!



|                  | Coffee         | Ushers         | Reader      | Communion                                      |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Kaitlyn        | Kevin C        | Christoffer | Christoffer                                    |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Scott & Laurie | Scott & Laurie | Laurie      | X  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Bruce & Diane  | Bruce          | Bruce       | No Communion. Pastor Janet is out for the day. |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Stacey         | Corey & Andy   | Laurie      | X  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Jolene         | Joe & Jolene   |             | X  |



# St. Dysmas

Bound by Bars. Freed by God's Grace.

## Third Cross Quarterly

a publication for friends and supporters  
a network of ministry for South Dakota inmates

Easter 2025

Sisters and brothers in Christ:  
Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Easter reminds us that through the grace of God we have been given new life in Jesus Christ. The ministry of St Dysmas is based on God's promise of forgiveness and redemption. We get to walk with men through some of the most difficult times in their lives to let them know they are known, loved, and valued by God. We believe people can change, and we believe a person is never defined by the worst thing they have ever done. Not only does God love them, but God is calling them to do God's work in the world.

One of the most inspiring parts of this ministry is seeing men grow in their faith and start reaching out to help others. I think of Victor. Victor is a large, imposing kind of guy—the kind of guy you would fear meeting in a dark alley. But he is all heart; he is there to listen and pray with guys around him. He is part of a prayer group on the inside where a number of guys meet together and pray for the challenges they and their families are all facing.



*This painting, titled "Father, Forgive Them!" was created by Pr. Paul Oman during the 2024 SDSP Reformation Festival Worship Service and hangs in Hope Chapel at SDSP.*

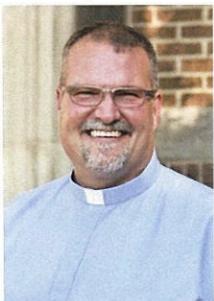
As a pastor, I've had people thank me for "bringing God into the prison," but that's simply not true! God was already there; God is never far from us and is always at work among God's people. No prison can keep God out. What we get to do is help people to see God's work and recognize how the Holy Spirit is at work in their lives. When the world wants to tell them their life means nothing, Christ shows them that new life comes from death.

The tomb was empty...He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Friends and supporters of St Dysmas of South Dakota, Jesus Christ calls us to preach and teach that we have a God of mercy and love and that there is nothing, absolutely nothing, in all of creation that separates us from his love and his promises that come most specifically in his Son, Jesus Christ. God puts death to death, for you...

As an Easter people, we give thanks that we are not left for dead, but that Jesus Christ has made each of us new and set us free. New life is known where sins are forgiven and the sacraments are administered rightly.

We value your partnership and invite you to come—come and see what God is doing to give new life to those the world often sees as worthless. Please go to our website ([stdysmas.com](http://stdysmas.com)) or call us at 605/338-1735 for more information on how to visit.



May you know freedom and new life in Jesus Christ!

Grace and peace,

Pr. Jeff Backer



Donate Now!



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Cultivating communities of caring and belonging as champions of the gospel*

April 24, 2024

Greetings, Youth Leader—

We have an exciting opportunity to share with the middle and high school youth in your congregation. A group of ELCA youth directors and pastors in the Northern Plains and Prairie Coteau conferences are organizing a free summer youth conference! Here are the details you want to share with your group:

- Date: Saturday, August 2
- Time: 10 AM—4 PM
- Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Aberdeen SD
- Food: Snacks and lunch provided
- Details: Time with Dr. Michael Chan, a keynote speaker at the ELCA Youth Gatherin music by Tangled Blue; worship; and breakout sessions full of faith and fun!
- Cost: Free

The registration deadline for this event is Friday, June 13. We ask that you register your whole group together using the link below:

[bit.ly/2025youthconference](https://bit.ly/2025youthconference)

If you have any questions, please let me know. We are excited to be able to offer a faith-building event for our youth!

Blessings,

Sandra Anderson

Ministry Coordinator: Faith Formation, Worship, & Communications  
Zion Lutheran Church  
[Sandra.Anderson@nvc.net](mailto:Sandra.Anderson@nvc.net)

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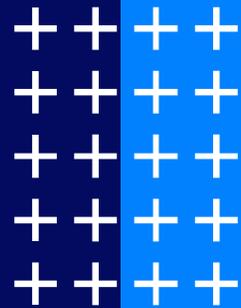
Phone: (605) 225-6755

**1732 South Main Street**  
**Aberdeen, SD 57401**

[zionlutheranaberdeen.org](http://zionlutheranaberdeen.org)

# MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER YOUTH

*Conference*



Lunch will  
be served



**2 AUG**  
SATURDAY

**10 - 04**  
AM PM

**GOOD SHEPHERD**  
ABERDEEN, SD

*Featuring*

**DR. MICHAEL CHAN**, KEYNOTE FROM  
THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

MUSIC FROM **TANGLED BLUE**



**REGISTER BY JUNE 13**

 [BIT.LY/2025YOUTHCONFERENCE](https://bit.ly/2025youthconference)

This event is free, made possible by grant funding  
for the youth primarily in the NP & PC conferences

2025

June

| SUN  | MON | TUE | WED | THU            | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----------------|-----|-----|
| 1<br>Communion<br>Worship<br>8:30                        | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5<br>Quilting  | 6   | 7   |
| 8<br>Worship<br>8:30<br>Pentecost<br>Sunday<br>Red       | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12             | 13  | 14  |
| 15<br>Worship<br>8:30<br>Pastor<br>Janet is off<br>Green | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19<br>Quilting | 20  | 21  |
| 22<br>Worship<br>8:30<br>Green                           | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26             | 27  | 28  |
| 29<br>Worship<br>8:30<br>Green                           | 30  |     |     |                |     |     |

Colors stay white all this month