



Hope Scope

“Greetings, favored ones! The Lord is with you.” That is how God (through the angel, Gabriel) greeted Mary in the first chapter of Luke’s Gospel. It’s a good thing he started things out that way, because Mary, when she heard she would become pregnant and bear God’s son, might have felt like this might not be great news. Indeed, in the Greek and Roman religions, when it was thought the gods were coming into the world, it was almost never good news. It was something to be pretty anxious about.

But not for Mary. And not for us, although it might seem like a scary thing. You know, if you come to church just at Christmas and Easter, you only ever hear the most outrageous stories we tell. You hear about God coming to us as a person, and you hear about the Resurrection from the dead.

What we want to remember this Advent season is that God coming to us is just about the best good news imaginable. And that good news plays itself out in the church at Advent and at Christmas and at Easter, and every other week all year long.

But Advent is the time when we think about, pray about, read about, hear about God coming to us, as one of us—why that is important—and why that is good news.

Good news, it seems, is harder and harder to come across in our time. So, as Paul Harvey used to say, “Wash your ears out with this.” The assurance made to Mary and to us is that God comes to us to love us and to show us a better way than the way we will find on our own. God comes to us to show us how to live, and to lead us home.

I invite you to spend your Sunday mornings this month at the church. As a culture, we are all about to embark on a shopping frenzy, the likes of which most people have never seen. But there is more to this life than retail therapy, and Jesus means to show us a better way.

Be with us, favored one! The Lord is with you.

~ Blessings, *Brian Jones*

At its meeting on November 24th, the Session approved:

- AA using the Fellowship Hall, kitchen and Jack Anderson Fireside Room all day and evening of Saturday, December 13th for their Christmas party
- Sneding letters to members regarding their membership
- Matt & Kelli Haglund as additional TAG leaders
- Using the book *Making Sense of Scripture* by David J. Lose for the adult Bible study, and starting this study in January
- The 2026 budget, excluding the Pastor's salary portion
- A mission trip to Belize in 2027 and all fundraising efforts towards the trip
- A down payment of \$10,383.12 to Oak Ridge Construction for remodeling the East entry



The following volunteered to serve communion on Sunday, December 14th:
Steve Barney, Deb Ficek, Jody Leason, Alisa Taatjes, and Liz Windingstad

The following volunteered to serve communion on Wednesday, December 24th:
Steve Barney, Larry Bratsch, and Alisa Taatjes; need 2 more

FINANCE REPORT

	Month of Oct 2025	Year to Date Monthly Avg.	Year to Date Jan - Oct 2025	Prior Year to Date Jan - Oct 2024
Income	\$20,289.98	\$21,063.10	\$210,631.01	\$223,349.34
Expenses	\$22,672.19	\$22,923.61	\$229,236.11	\$233,254.90
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$2,382.21)		(\$18,605.10)	(\$9,905.56)
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses				\$26,748.96
Per Capita Assessment for 2025				\$7,500.00
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 010/31/2025				\$4,534.00

Report prepared by Kristene King, Treasurer

**In 2025, Per Capita has increased to \$46.00 per active member.
The 2026 Per Capita has also increased to \$47.00 per active member.**

 **YOU ARE INVITED** 
TO OUR CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

When: Sunday, December 7, 2025

3:00 - 5:00 pm

Where: 306 Miller Street, Spicer

We hope you can come!

Merry Christmas!

Brian and Tyann



Advent Fun Hour

Sunday, December 21st, 3:00 - 4:00 pm



20 minutes of games,
20 minutes of singing,
and 20 minutes of eating!

Come for the fun and don't forget to
bring your favorite appetizer or snack
to share with the group!

Christian Education Youth & Families

Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones

"But the angel said to them, do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

- Luke 2: 10-12

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Advent

Advent starts Sunday, November 30th. "Advent" means "coming". It is a time when we think about the birth of Jesus, the LIGHT of the world. We think about what Jesus' birth and life and death and resurrection have meant to this world!

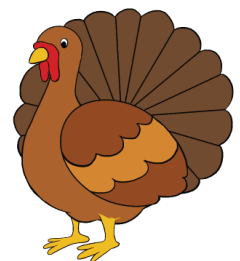
We can keep Jesus' LIGHT shining in our world by being the hands and feet of Jesus, by being a LIGHT for others.

"In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it." John 1:45

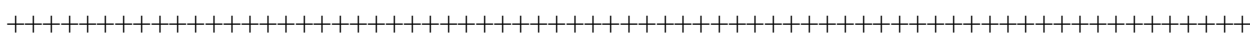


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Several of us, including Stephanie Bents, Brian and Tyann Jones, Amelie Dulas, and Jill and Grace Gau helped with the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf Turkey Breast give away on November 15th. There were 5000 turkey breasts donated from Jennie-O. Cashwise and Rambow also made other donations. It was quite the event!!!



We have a couple of photo opportunity corners in our fellowship hall.
Stop and have some fun and take a Christmas picture!



The next Adult Book Study will be discussing the book titled, *Making Sense of Scripture* by David J. Lose. The book asks interesting questions about scripture. Some questions may be questions we have had but were afraid to ask. The study will start **January 4th 2026**.

Deck The Halls!!

On November 23rd, the youth made Christmas ornaments to hang on the tree in the Fellowship Hall and also to be given to the Deacons to put in their Christmas gift baskets.



The Little Star of Bethlehem



The Christmas Program is Sunday, December 7th at 10:00

Join us and experience the Christmas story through the experiences of a busy, out-of-the-ordinary, little star who discovers she has a purpose and a very important role in the story of Jesus' birth.

FRIDGE BRIDGE

You can put this reminder sheet on your fridge!

Sunday, December 1	Rehearsal after church for the Christmas Program. Pizza will be served for participants and families.
Wednesday, December 3	Family meal at 5:30 Worship service at 6:00 Program rehearsal for ALL 6:20
Sunday, December 7	Christmas program at 10:00
Wednesday, December 10	Family meal at 5:30 Worship at 6:00 Classes as usual at 6:20
Wednesday, December 17	Family meal at 5:30 Worship at 6:00 Classes as usual at 6:20
Sunday, December 21	Advent Fun Hour 3:00-4:00
Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Service at 5:00
Thursday, December 25	Merry Christmas!
Wednesday, December 31	No meal, worship, or classes
Sunday, January 4	Adult book study begins after church
Wednesday, January 7	Family meal at 5:30 Worship at 6:00 Classes as usual 6:20





*Linking People.
Building Community.*

OCTOBER 2025 **Impact Report**

"Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other."

The Food Pantry



253

households served

14,656

pounds distributed

439

adults

243

children

73

seniors

Household Exchange



83

families provided with household needs including, but not limited to:
clothing
dishes
furniture

Client Services & Outreach



7

households

provided with financial support to families facing hardships, such as: job loss, chronic illness, homelessness & increased cost of living. This support includes, but is not limited to: medical bills, prescription costs, utility bills, rent/mortgage payments and other basic needs.

37

referrals given

7

families provided with budgeting support

7

families provided with advocacy support

4

families provided with networking support

Wildcat Backpacks



for **\$234** you can
Sponsor a child
for the 25-26 school year

154

students currently enrolled from the NL-S Schools to receive food for the weekend.

Foster Stitches

7

children in foster care provided with clothing

Volunteer Hours

433

hours donated by generous community members to keep The Link's programs running smoothly



Tuesday's Table

575

individuals served a free community meal with Tuesday's Table

Tuesday's Table Schedule:



1st Tuesday: Our Lady of the Lakes
2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant
3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran
4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran
5th Tuesday: Crossroads Community

Current Needs

- Household essentials (i.e. dishes, towels, sheets, small furniture items, etc.;
- Donations for the Thrift Store
- Gently used clothing of any size;
- Unexpired food for The Food Pantry
- Winter gear
- SHOPPERS FOR CHRISTMAS JOY;
- Monetary donations to a program of your choice OR to The Link's general fund.

For more information on The Link's programs OR to make a monetary donation, please scan the QR code or visit www.youarethelink.org

How can you help?

- Donate unexpired food items to The Food Pantry OR organize a food drive;
- Help us spread awareness about The Link's by talking to your friends and family and sharing on social media;
- Volunteer at The thrift store or in the food pantry;
- Invite The Link's staff to attend a business or church meeting, book club or any other group events to help spread awareness of The Link's programs;
- Pray for The Link & the community

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!!! YOU are The Link!!!



director@youarethelink.org



320-354-5465



www.youarethelink.org

December's CARE Pantry Challenge product is..... Toilet Paper!

Please place your donations on the table in front of the mailboxes or in the CARE Pantry box by the mailboxes. Thank you!



Used (or New) Bibles

The Mission Committee is looking for Bibles to give away to the CARE Pantry clients. If you have extra Bibles sitting at home that you don't use, aren't sentimental to you, and are still in fairly good condition, please bring them to the church and put in the CARE Pantry box by the mailboxes or give to Karen Bents. Thank you!



Dear Hope family,

My family and I wish to acknowledge with great thankfulness all your gifts of love, hugs, cards, food, visits, transportation, and certainly prayers. We are also grateful for the memorial gifts in Eileen's memory - solo de Gloria.

~ Dave Helmstetter & family

Dear Hope family,

A special thank you to our church family and friends for all the prayers, hugs, cards, cookies, and meals. What a blessing!

~ Bob Sampson

A HUGE thank you to Wayne & Darlene Thompson and Gwen Anfinson for donating televisions for the kids to use with their gaming consoles up in the Youth Center! The kids love them!

~ The Technology Committee

Office Hours

Monday thru Friday
8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Schedule

9:15 A.M. Fellowship Hour
10:00 A.M. Worship in Sanctuary

Also on Facebook Live &
on Radio 96.9 FM

TV - Channel 18 or Channel 181 - Sundays 2:15 pm, Tuesdays 11:30 am &
3:00 pm, or Thursdays 8:00 am & 5:00 pm

Members with Health Issues:

Don Knopps, Bob Sampson, Harold Foreman,
Hilda Grosklags, Ruth Birkeland

*Prayer
Requests*



Family and Friends with Health Issues:

Renae Illies (Eldy Williams' daughter), Stephanie (Ed & Cat Anderson's daughter)

Grieving:

Family of Sue Anderson (NLS teacher), Family of Gertrude (Rev. Mark Kopaka's mom), Family of baby Eshenbom (Friends of Brian & Tyann), Family of Rev. Bill Yueill, Family of Marian Cramer (Rev. Leanne Thompson's mom), Family of Dorothy Jones, Family of Carrie Lowden (Brooke's friend)

****Please Note** If you have a prayer request, please fill out a prayer request card found on the table by the mailboxes in the Fellowship Hall and return it to an usher or Pastor Brian.

December Deacons of the Month: Gaylord Lind & Jackie Wahl

December Coffee Servers

December 7th: Bob & Wendy Barr

December 14th: Sarah & Barry Sampson

December 21st: Joyce Schroeder & Clara O'Connor

December 28th: Karen & Stephanie Bents

