

2023



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Hope Scope

- <sup>1</sup> *If it had not been the LORD who was on our side  
— let Israel now say —*
- <sup>2</sup> *if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,  
when our enemies attacked us,*
- <sup>3</sup> *then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled against us;*
- <sup>4</sup> *then the flood would have swept us away,  
the torrent would have gone over us;*
- <sup>5</sup> *then over us would have gone the raging waters. Psalm 124:1-5 (NRSV)*

Here's something to think about: Where would we be without God's help and guidance? Obviously we wouldn't even exist if not for God having created us. But what if, after creating us, God had left us to our own devices?

The Psalmist tries to imagine this, and in doing so, decides that Israel's enemies would have swallowed up Israel, if God had not been on Israel's side. And I wonder how often we are grateful, not only that God is interested in the goings on of humanity, but that God is on our side. That God is with us. That God is for us.

Lots of bad things happen to people. We all suffer losses, and those losses are very real. But in the part of the universe we occupy, it surely seems like a whole lot of bad things do not happen to us. Of course, there is no way to prove it, but when you think about all the bad things that could happen in one's lifetime, doesn't it seem like we have been showered with blessings?

We have God's promises, which no one can take away. We have each other. We have our church and our faith. Add in the people we love and the ones who love us, the education and health care we are able to access in our country, the security and safety of our homes, the opportunities that seem to be ever before us, and it starts to look like God really is on our side.

There are places in this world, of course, where people seem not to be so blessed. What does it mean that we have seen so much goodness in our lives? Where does that leave us? What do we do with that? I am sure we could come up with some good ideas, but maybe, just for today, we could savor our God's love and the gifts we have known at God's hand. Maybe we could just celebrate our belief that God is on our side.

Blessings,

**Brian Jones**

At its April 3rd meeting, the Session approved the following:

- A representative of the Gideons giving a Minute for Mission during worship on a date to be determined and taking a free-will offering;
- Pastor Brian taking continuing education in the Twin Cities May 15-18 and taking vacation May 26-June 2, 2023;
- Receiving into membership of Hope Church the confirmands Grade Gau, Isaac Taatjes and Blake Sampson and to remove them from the baptized member list;
- Having a spring cleanup the evening of Tuesday, May 9, 2023;
- Having the meatball supper on June 9, 2023 from 4-7 p.m.;
- Allowing youth to sell meatball supper tickets at the Seasonal Décor Sale on April 29 and during fellowship on Sundays;
- Hope Church paying the Tier 3 Level (\$660/week) per baptized member (or child who regularly attends weekly Christian Education activities at Hope) who attends Clearwater Forest Camp in 2023 with the requirement that the families pay the first \$100 of the fee per child and the children work during the meatball supper or help in some other fashion required by the Meatball Supper Committee;
- the TAG group taking a mission trip to Minneapolis on a date to be determined in 2023;
- churchwide outing to a Stingers game in the summer of 2023;
- holding a reception for graduates during coffee fellowship on Sunday, April 30;
- the Christian Education classes going to Glen Oaks Apartments on May 10 to do a craft and sing songs with the apt. residents;
- participate in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade in Spicer and the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Water Days parade in New London;
- paying approximately \$12,544.01 from the New Covenant Fund for the remaining balance due on the restroom remodeling project;
- holding an Eagle Scout Court of Honor and reception at Hope Church on April 23, 2023; and wedding rehearsal and wedding of Hunter Vandeputte and Rylee Holme be held in Hopewood Chapel on July 28 and July 29, 2023, respectively.

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**FINANCE REPORT**

	Year to Date	Year to Date
	March	03/31/2023
		Monthly Average
Income	\$17,679.03	\$56,367.07
Expenses	\$25,278.41	\$77,394.13
Net (Loss)	(\$7,599.38)	(\$21,027.06)
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses		\$24,895.98
Per Capita Assessment for 2023		\$8,494.08
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 3/31/2023		\$1,863.70

Jerry Bents, Treasurer

## HOPE'S HAPPENINGS!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to assist Maggie in preparing for the outdoor service's musical needs, helping her at 7:30 am on Sunday mornings, from Memorial Day weekend (May 28th) thru Labor Day weekend (September 3rd). A sign-up sheet will be available.

### **JEWELRY DONATIONS NEEDED**

The Accessory Sisters would like jewelry donations for the Fall Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 14th. Please place them in the blue tote by the library.

### **SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY**

Spring Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9th. The time is set for 6:00 pm, but you can come anytime that day and Joni will have a job for you to do!

### **CLEARWATER WORK WEEKEND**

Clearwater Work Weekend is scheduled for May 19th-21st. Please sign up on the sheet in the library area.

### **GRADUATION PARTIES**

Isaac Haglund's graduation party will be held at the River of Hope Youth Center on Saturday, May 13th 2-5 pm.

Carter Taatjes' graduation party will be held at his home on Sunday, May 28th 5-8 pm. (10460 North Shore Drive)

### **ANNUAL MEATBALL SUPPER!**

Save the date! Our Annual Meatball Supper, a fundraiser for the youth attending Clearwater Forest Camp this summer, will be held on Friday, June 9th 4-7 PM. Cost is \$15 and Children 6-10 years old \$10. Menu includes meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, coleslaw, homemade bread, homemade bars, lemonade, coffee and water.

**Christian Education Youth & Families**

**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11**

Movie night on April 14 was a success! We hope to have more family get togethers at the River of Hope Youth Center.



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**Congratulations to the high school graduates:**

**Carter Taatjes   Isaac Haglund  
Wyatt Steele   Jacey Altermatt   Zach Schandorff**



**We honored them with a reception during coffee and in church on April 30. Baccalaureate is May 14 at the PAC at 7:00.**

**Everyone is welcome!**

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**Congratulations Confirmation Students!! We are proud of you!  
Blake Sampson, Isaac Taatjes & Grace Gau**

# Fridge Bridge

## Upcoming events:

- May 3 The last family meal is at 5:45. Wednesday night classes will take place as normal.
- May 7 We will honor Christian Education Leaders during the 10:00 A.M. church service.
- May 10 This is the last night of Wednesday night classes until fall. All classes will meet at Glen Oaks at 6:15 P.M. We will be done at 7:15.
- May 14 Baccalaureate will be held at the Performing Arts Center at 7:00 PM Everyone is welcome!
- May 19 Clearwater Forest - Work Weekend
- May 23 CEYF Committee meeting at 6:30 P.M.
- June 9 Meatball supper 4:00-7:00P.M. This is a fundraiser to help send kids to Clearwater Forest Camp. All students help with this.
- June 11 TAG mission trip to Minneapolis with Pastor Brian and Tyann.
- June 14 First Family Fun Festival 6:00-8:00 P.M. at ROHYC.



Theme for the summer: **Adventure Island**

- June 27 CEYF Committee meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones

**Christian Education Leaders 2022-2023**

**Preschool- Second Grade**

Wally Titus, Alisa Taatjes

**Third Grade – Sixth Grade**

Joni Lamphere, Sarah Sampson

Substitute: Jeff Lamphere

**Seventh- Eighth Grade**

**Pre-confirmation**

Jonelle Foreman

**Confirmation**

Rev. Brian Jones

**T.A.G.**

**Ninth Grade – Twelfth Grade**

Sherry and Larry Bratsch

Brian and Tyann Jones

**Adult Bible Study**

Greg Mulder

Tyann Jones

Dave Helmstetter

Jo Holm

**Opening Exercises**

Tyann Jones

**Music**

Maggie Harp

**Substitutes**

Mary O'Malley, Jody Leason

Tyann Jones, Deb Ficek

Liz and Jason Windingstad

**Christian Education Youth & Families Committee**

Deb Ficek, Allie Johnson, Tyann Jones,

Alisa Taatjes, Joni Lamphere, Melissa Mangan,

Amanda Titus, Pam Sigafos,

Maggie Harp, Jonelle Foreman, Stephanie Bents

**Wednesday Night Family Supper Committee**

Robin Mulder  
Pam Sigafos  
Dee Schurman  
Carol Sampson

**Ministry & Staff Assistant**

Karen Bents

**THANK YOU** for helping us!

**“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
To Him be the glory now and forever!” 2 Peter 3:18**

**Thank you  
for sharing your gifts with our church family!**



## April 2023 Updates



**The MN FoodShare campaign has come to an end. We are extremely grateful to all of the individual, church and business donations throughout the month! We will update next month on actual numbers raised during the campaign!**

**SAVE THE DATE!!!! RibFest 2023 planning is officially underway!** It is scheduled for **June 10, 2023** from 2pm-5pm in the large city parking lot behind The Link! If you are interested in having a Rib team, please contact Ashley at 320-354-5465! We also have sponsorship opportunities available for businesses and individuals. If you would like to help financially with RibFest this year, please contact us at 320-354-5465 and we will send you the sponsorship information.

There are many different opportunities available! There will also be volunteer opportunities for the day of RibFest!

**Silent Auction items needed for RibFest!** We have decided to bring back the silent auction to RibFest this year! If you have anything you would like to donate to this, please call Shawna at 320-897-5146. We will also have chance drawings for 3 big ticket items and live music!

**Volunteer Opportunities:** If you or someone you know would like to be a part of The Link's mission and volunteer at the **Community Revival Boutique and Thrift**, we are looking for extra help on-call and on a consistent basis (mostly Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays). Our store hours are 10-3 Wednesday-Friday and 10-2 Saturdays. Our current volunteers are amazing and have a great time together building friendships. If you'd like to join the fun, call Shawna at 320-347-1047 or Ashley at 320-354-5465.

In March, The Link was able to serve 2 families with common household needs with our **Household Exchange Program**. The Household Exchange program takes in donations such as smaller furniture, bedding, towels, kitchen utensils, pots and pans etc. to provide families when they are getting back on their feet.

**The Food Pantry saw a 46% increase in families served from February to March!** In March, The Link served 93 households (including: 172 adults, 101 children and 28 seniors) and distributed a total of 5040.5 pounds of food (which is up almost 2,000 pounds in one month). The need of food has increased significantly the past couple months, requiring The Link to increase their food budget to meet the needs of the people served.

**The Wildcat Backpack Program** is currently serving 88 children. Each week, students from the NL-S High School pack bags to each school to ensure our students nutritional needs are met on the weekends. If you know a family that could benefit from this program, please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555 or Vicki Mickelson at NLS schools at 320-354-2252 ext. 2607.

The Link's **Client Outreach** program served 11 families in March by helping with transportation, medical bills, utility bills and rental payments. This program also provided advocacy for 6 families, In-depth budgeting support for 11 families, networking for 6 families and provided 14 families with referrals for additional assistance to meet basic needs.

**Tuesday's Table's** schedule is as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month: Our Lady of the Lakes (Spicer), 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant (New London), 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday: Faith Lutheran (Spicer), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday: Peace Lutheran (New London), 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday: Rotating (call 320-354-5555 for more information).

As always, a HUGE THANK YOU to those who have donated food and/or monetarily and to those who have prayed for and with us here at The Link! With the increased need for food and in client outreach, we are asking for your continued support- financially and prayerfully.

### Monthly Giving Opportunities:

The Link makes monthly giving a convenient option for our donors. You can set up online giving through The Link's website at [www.youarethelink.org](http://www.youarethelink.org) or directly through your bank. If you would like to make a one time donation, you can send a check to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273 or via Venmo @The-Link-1. Please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555 or email her at [ashley@youarethelink.org](mailto:ashley@youarethelink.org) for more information.



## 2023 GRADUATES

**Wyatt Steele**

**Son of Kari & Jason Steele**

**Future plans are undecided at this time.**



**Zachary Schandorff**

**Son of Beth Rierson & Pete Schandorff**

**Future plans are undecided  
at this time.**

**Jacey Altermatt**

**Daughter of Devory & Dan Fischer**

**She plans to attend Ridgewater  
College in Willmar to study  
business and marketing.**



## Lay Readers:

May 7th Jonelle Foreman

May 14th Open

May 21st Sue Block

May 28th 8:30 am Open  
10:30 am Open

## May CARE Pantry

Challenge is.....

### Items for Birthday Kits

Birthday plates, napkins, cups, tablecloth, candles, decorations, birthday bag, cake mix, frosting tub and a 9 x 13 disposable cake pan.

**WE**   
VOLUNTEERS



## Coffee Servers

May 7th: Dee & Bill Schurman

May 14th: Jonelle & Harold Foreman

May 21st: Kim & Ben O'Malley, Mary O'Malley

May 28th: Greg Swenson & Deb Steele





### **Members with Health Concerns:**

Audrey Dean, Darlene Thompson, Pete Bratberg, Larry Bratsch, Darlene Bratberg, Bob Sampson, Bob Hinderks, Ed Johnston, Dick Lindahl, Sandy Ardoff, Judy Heath

### **Family and Friends with Health Concerns:**

Mike (Friend of Tim Block)	Darah Altermatt
Josh Gerhke	Ali Zare
Kristi Barber	Brian Johnson (Jo Holm's son)
Gladys Guitz (Guatemala)	Sue Anderson
Kim (Friend of Sherry Bratsch)	Joanna Hanson (Helmstetter's niece)
Sandy Aalderks	Ross Antonson (Deb Steele's brother)

### **Grieving:**

Family of Jim Kubesh (Isaac Taatjes' godfather), Family of Josh Owen, Family of Justin Owen, Family of Sandra Amdahl

### **Care Facilities:**

Gary Anfinson (Bethesda-Willmar), David Carlson (Bethesda North Pointe), Jeanette Gault (GlenOaks), Betty Harder (Bethesda North Pointe), Ed Johnston (GlenOaks Apts.), Arlos Jones (GlenOaks Apts.), Bob Sietsema (Bethesda North Pointe), Barb Morris (Copperleaf-Willmar), Mary Lou Swart (PCU's at GlenOaks)

### **Other Concerns:**

For those dealing with mental health issues and who struggle with addiction  
 For those deeply wounded by domestic violence, violence in schools, mass shootings  
 For those grieving the death and injury of a loved one due to violence and war  
 For those affected by natural disasters, COVID-19 pandemic  
 For those serving in the military in Ukraine and elsewhere

**April Deacons of the Month: Sandy Meyer & Celia Evenson**

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WEBSITE: <http://hopechurchspicer.org>

RADIO: KGLH 96.9 FM



2023

## SUNDAYS

### Office Hours

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

\*Monday thru Thursday

(Starting May 28th)

8:30 A.M. Outdoor worship  
in the Hopewood Chapel

9:15 A.M. Coffee

10:00 A.M. Worship in Sanctuary

Also Facebook Live & on Radio 96.9 FM

Also on TV - Channel 18 or Channel 181

Sundays 2:30 pm, Tuesdays 11:30 am &  
8:30 pm and Thursdays 8:00 am & 5:00 pm