

2024



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Hope Scope

*<sup>23</sup>When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. <sup>24</sup>But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people <sup>25</sup>and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.*

***John 2:23-25 (NRSV)***

If you knew that God knew every single thing about you, would that give you comfort, or might it make you squirm a bit. Most of us are at least partly aware of at least some of our own shortcomings, so we are maybe just a little uncomfortable with the idea that God—whose standards are pretty high—might know everything about us.

But this is what Scripture tells us. Jesus didn't entrust himself to anyone, because he knew what was in everyone.

Well, if you are one who is made uncomfortable by that claim, maybe I can make you feel better. God knows all there is to know about you, AND, God loves you. That's the part that makes this all great. Maybe you know people who like you and think highly of you. But maybe you also think that if they really knew the truth about you—the whole truth—they might not like you, and they might not think you were so great. The good news about God's love is that God loves us, all the while knowing all the things about us that we might rather no one knew.

Take a look at the Gospel accounts of the 12 disciples. They were far from perfect. They were petty and jealous. They at times lacked even a little faith. And in the end, every one of them abandoned Jesus. And yet they were loved by God. They were loved by Jesus. That's the kind of love God has for you.

As we seek to survive another winter (it has been below zero for several straight days, as I write this), let us be warmed by the love of our God—by our faith in the love of our God. It's a tremendous gift.

Blessings,

*Brian Jones*

At its January 8th meeting, the Session:

- \* Was informed by the treasurer that envelope giving increased significantly in December ending the year with a positive balance
- \* Was informed by the treasurer that of the \$8,494.08 due for 2023 for per capita, only \$4,002.94 was received
- \* Approved Parent Life selling T-shirts on January 17th and giving a donation of \$100 from the Peace and Global Witness offering
- \* Approved reupholstering the back pew in the sanctuary at an approximate cost of \$400
- \* Is still seeking a co-head offering counter to assist Brenda Bratberg
- \* Approved holding ordination and installation of officers on January 21st
- \* Approved the Communion schedule for 2024
- \* Appointed Nancy Birkeland as Clerk and Kristene Foreman as Treasurer for 2024
- \* Assigned Ruling Elders to serve on committees for 2024
- \* Approved a Mardi Gras pancake meal on February 13 at 5:30 p.m. with speaker Earl Knutson
- \* Approved Ash Wednesday service for February 14 at 6:00 p.m.
- \* Approved the new Earned Sick and Safe Time language adopted by Minnesota and that it be added to the Policies and Procedures Manual



**Thank you was also expressed to Jerry Bents for his many years of service as the church's Treasurer!**

**Thanks to all the outgoing Elders: Deb Ficek (accepted to serve another 3 year term), Allison Johnson and Wally Titus. Kristene Foreman appointed as Treasurer, so Sandy Wersal will replace her last year on Session.**

**Thanks to all the outgoing Deacons: Celia Evenson, Dave Helmstetter, Eileen Helmstetter and Joni Lamphere.**

*Join Us!*

FOR OUR

**"POP-UP SALE"**

*Hope*  
Presbyterian Church  
7730  
North Shore Drive  
Spicer

**SAT. FEBRUARY 3RD: 8AM - 11AM**

WE WILL HAVE HOME DECORATING ITEMS FOR SPRING HOLIDAYS, LIGHTLY USED PUZZLES, GAMES, DVD'S, BOOKS, JEWELRY BY THE "ACCESSORY SISTERS" AND A BAKE SALE.  
*Coffee and muffins will be available for a free-will offering.*

**If anyone wishes to donate décor items for Spring, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter and the 4th of July, please bring them to church to the back hallway by the Jack Anderson Room! Also muffins are needed and workers for Thursday/Friday February 1st and 2nd to help set up, also Saturday for the sale and the following Monday, February 5th to take down. Please sign up on the sheet in the library area in the Fellowship Hall! Thanks!!**

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**PANCAKE SUPPER ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 5:30 P.M.**

**Please join us on Fat Tuesday for pancakes with sausages & scrambled eggs!**

**Earl Knutson will give us a presentation on "Presbytery Climate Change" following the supper. All men and women are invited to stay!**



## Christian Education Youth and Families Report

**“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43: 19**

### A New Thing

January brings a new year. It is a time to think back over the previous year and to think ahead to the new year. What new things will we experience in 2024? Undoubtedly, there will be joys and sorrows, things to learn, things to forgive, things to celebrate, new opportunities to love and serve.

As I embrace 2024, I want to be mindful of all that God has in store for us.

### Fridge Bridge

(Hang this schedule on your refrigerator.)

- February 4      Fun Day at the River of Hope Youth Center for ALL youth  
3:00-5:30 p.m. Bring sleds and outdoor clothing to play outside.  
Food provided!
- February 7      Family Meal – 5:45 p.m. before class
- February 13     Fat Tuesday (Pancake Supper) at 5:30 p.m.
- February 14     Ash Wednesday - **Fish banks handed out** – due back on  
Palm Sunday
- February 16,19 & 20    No School at NLS
- March 15-22     No School at NLS
- March 20      No Wednesday night class – spring break at NLS
- March 24      Palm Sunday – fish banks are due. WOW students singing in church.
- March 31      EASTER

**Note:            NO Family Meal on March 6—Soup & Bread Supper instead**



**Fun Day at the River of Hope Youth Center  
Sunday, February 4th from 3:00-5:30 p.m.**

**Food Provided**

**All youth and families are welcome!**

**Bring a friend!!**

**Fun inside playing games or fun in the snow!**

**Bring your sleds and outdoor clothing for fun in the  
snow.**



Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones





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

Arlos Jones, Harold Foreman, Sandy Ardoff, Jo Holm, Sharon Jones, Darlene Thompson, Dick Lindahl, John Williamson, Conny Williamson, Bob Hinderks

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

Harlan Brace	Troy Houdek (Julee Clark's brother)
Dale (Friend of the Hagemeyer's)	Genia (Pastor Candace's granddaughter)
Lennon Ludewig	Barb Knittel (Tyann's friend's Mom)
Ruth (Friend of Carol Sampson)	Kevin Taatjes
Vicky Mattson (Friend of Sharon Jones)	David (Karen Hagemeyer's nephew)

### **Grieving:**

Family of Katie (Hixon), Family of Jesse Bahner (Kiera Meadows' Dad), Family of Will & Harrison Dahl, Family of Joanie Hill (Wayne Thompson's sister), Family of Beth (Larson) Gjerde (Pastor Ray Larson's Daughter)-Ray & Judie's address is 10015 W. Royal Oak Rd, #372, Sun City, AZ 85351, Family of Pastor Jeff DeYoe (His Celebration of Life will be Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Palm Coast, Florida) Ruth's address is 1456 Idaho Ave. W., Falcon Heights, MN 55108

### **Care Facilities:**

Jerry Gault (Prairie Senior Cottages, 1705 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW-Willmar), Shar Williams (Carris Health Care Center, 1801 Willmar Ave. SW), Kathy Jansen (Bethesda Grand, 901 Willmar Ave. SE, Room 103), David Carlson (Bethesda North Pointe), Jeanette Gault (GlenOaks), Betty Harder (Bethesda North Pointe), Arlos Jones (GlenOaks Apts.), 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

For those grieving the death and injury of a loved one due to violence and war

For the unrest in Israel and Gaza

For those affected by natural disasters, COVID-19

## DECEMBER 2023 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

Happy New Year from The Link!!!!

**Christmas Joy 2023 was a HUGE success! This Year, The Link was able to provide 119 families with Christmas gifts (including 361 children and 63 adults)!!!!** It is extremely humbling to see the giving spirit of those in the community! We are grateful to each and every one of you that participated in Christmas Joy 2023 to make Christmas a little brighter for those struggling to make ends meet!

**The Food Pantry.** In December, The Link welcomed **28 new families** and served **157 households** - distributing a total of **8,651 pounds of food**.

**Wildcat Backpack and Snack Pantry.** The Link is currently serving **93 children** each week from NL-S schools! This is an ability to supplement children's food for the weekend when they are not in school. The Link is also currently connecting **29 teachers** with snacks for students in their classroom.

**Client Outreach.** Each month, The Link is able to provide support to a number of families facing hardships, such as (but not limited to): job loss, chronic illness, unexpected change in family dynamics and increase in the cost of living. In November, your donations were able to support **10 families** by helping with medical bills, gas, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic needs. **Household Exchange.** The Household Exchange Program was able to provide over **100 families** with much needed winter gear, furniture and other household necessities in November.

**Tuesday's Table.** A free community meal the 1st Tuesday of the month: Our Lady of the Lakes (Spicer), 2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant (New London), 3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran (Spicer), 4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran (New London), 5th Tuesday: Rotating (call 320-354-5555 for more information).

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?** Pray for the Link and the community--Help us spread awareness by talking about The Link to your friends and family and sharing on social media-- Donate unexpired food items to the food pantry or organize a food drive-- Volunteer at the thrift store or in the food pantry-- Donate your gently used clothing and household goods- (all proceeds kick back into The Link's programs - or Donate financially. **CURRENT NEEDS:** Gently used winter gear and kids clothing. Remember for every \$1 donated, The Link can purchase \$10 in food through Second Harvest.

Donations made easy Monthly giving at The Link is convenient. You can set up online giving directly through your bank or by visiting The Link's website at [www.youarethelink.org](http://www.youarethelink.org) by scanning the QR code. You can also mail your donation to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273, drop off your donation in person or leave your check in the drop box outside of The Link's door at 20 Central Ave E, New London. Questions? Contact Ashley at 320-354-5555.



## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 14th, 6:00 p.m. Service**



**Soup & Bread Suppers and Lenten Services**

**5:45 p.m. supper, service at 6:15 p.m.**

**Wednesday, Feb. 21 (Work Group 1 in Kitchen)**

**Wednesday, Feb. 28 (Work Group 2 in Kitchen)**

**Wednesday, March 6 (Work Group 3 in Kitchen)**

**Wednesday, March 13 (Work Group 4 in Kitchen)**

**Wednesday, March 20 (All work groups in Kitchen)**

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
7730 NORTH SHORE DRIVE  
SPICER, MN 56288

PHONE: 320-796-2650

E-MAIL: [hopepres@gmail.com](mailto:hopepres@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: <http://hopechurchspicer.org>

RADIO: KGLH 96.9 FM



2024

### Office Hours

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

**\*Monday thru Thursday**

### SUNDAYS

**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