



Hope Scope

If I asked you to tell me everything that you remember from the Bible, chances are you would remember more of the stories of the Bible than all the other material. We remember Noah and the ark, Jonah and the big fish, and Abraham and Sarah, and David slaying Goliath. Jesus knew that stories are a great vehicle for teaching important things. This is no doubt why He was so ready to make up a story - a parable - in order to teach a lesson. And we remember many of Jesus' parables: the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, the Lost Coin, the Lost Sheep, and so many more. These stories stick with us better than the parts of the Bible that seem more like a lecture.

As I write this, I have just returned from a pastors' retreat at Clearwater Camp, at which we heard from a couple of professors from Luther Seminary. One of them suggested that while a new generation of Christians may not be too excited about hearing a sermon, everybody likes to hear stories.

He said that people in our churches have stories to tell. I know there was a time when people gave testimonies in church - testimonies to God's work in their lives. And maybe that word - testimonies - carries with it some baggage that we would rather do without. But I would bet that we have stories. I would guess that many of you have stories of God working in your life or in your presence. And maybe you tell these stories regularly, but maybe you have never told them to anyone.

I think we need to hear those stories. I think our faith would be bolstered if we knew that our friends and neighbors have had experiences of the living God in their lives. Or maybe you have a story about how you have struggled with God or with your faith. It would help us all to know this! I know this is not something that we are accustomed to, so the first few of you will just have to be brave. Are you brave? If you are, I feel really confident that others would follow.

I am not sure what this all might look like yet, but I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, and I believe in you. And I think we should make some room for these stories. If you are willing, I hope you will contact me and let me know. If you are just interested in talking about this, without making a commitment to doing anything public, see me about that. I look forward to hearing your stories.

~ Blessings, *Brian Jones*

Due to the September Session meeting happening after the deadline for the October Hope Scope, there are no Session meeting highlights to report. The November Hope Scope will have both the September and October Session meeting highlights. Stay tuned!



FINANCE REPORT

	Month of August 2025	Year to Date Monthly Avg.	Year to Date Jan 1 - Aug 31 st	Prior Year to Date Jan 1 - Aug 31 st
Income	\$24,456.96	\$21,502.67	\$172,021.37	\$179,322.74
Expenses	\$20,372.52	\$23,037.94	\$184,303.49	\$185,234.17
Net Profit (Loss)	\$4,084.44	(\$1,535.27)	(\$12,282.12)	(\$5,911.43)
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses				\$26,748.96
Per Capita Assessment for 2025				\$7,500.00
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 08/31/2025				\$4,214.00

Report prepared by Kristene King, Treasurer

In 2025, Per Capita has increased to \$46.00 per active member.

Trick or Treating for the CARE Pantry



The TAG group will once again be Trick or Treating for the CARE Pantry on Wednesday, October 29th starting at 6:30 pm. There will be a sheet for you to fill out if you would like the kids to come to your place **OR** you can bring your items to church that night and put them on a designated table in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your continued support of our CARE Pantry!

FALL Harvest

Hope
Presbyterian Church
7730 North Shore Drive • Spicer

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11th : 8am - 1pm

- Morning Coffee & Rolls and Noon Lunch (Soup/Chili, Sandwich Lunch Pie and Bars) • Bake Sale • Crafts • Garden Produce/Plants Home Décor • Books/Puzzles/CD's/Games/DVD's Everyone Welcome!!

Fall Harvest Festival set up will take place on Friday, October 10th at 9:00 am. If you are available to help, please come! We are also looking for items to sell! You can start bringing those in Wednesday, October 8th. Please put them on the tables in the Fireside Room. Thank you!

October's CARE Pantry Challenge products are..... Cleansers!

This includes window cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, scrubbing cleaner, disinfectant wipes, and multi-surface cleansers. Please place your donations on the table in front of the mailboxes. Thank you!





Come on Tuesday, October 7th at 6:30 pm to hear a more in depth testimonial about our mission trip we took to Orange Walk, Belize back in March. There will be stories, pictures, and experiences to share with you. Here are just a few of the hundreds of pictures that were taken. Come to see more!



Once again, we thank each and every one of you for your donations and purchases to help pay for this trip, and your thoughts and prayers for us as we traveled abroad. We all have been changed by this experience, and have you to thank for helping us get there!





*Linking People.
Building Community.*

AUGUST 20 25 **Impact Report**

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

The Food Pantry



209

households served

10,763

pounds distributed

355

adults

211

children

62

seniors

Household Exchange



62

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

Client Services & Outreach



13

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.

25

referrals given

13

families provided with budgeting support

6

families provided with advocacy support

11

families provided with networking support

Wildcat Backpacks



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

144

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

Foster Stitches

8

children in foster care provided with clothing

School Supplies

72

students provided with school supplies

Tuesday's Table

568

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

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

Volunteer Hours

405

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



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
- Sponsors for the Wildcat Backpack Program OR a food truck;
- 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

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



director@youarethelink.org



320-354-5465



www.youarethelink.org

Christian Education Youth & Families

Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones

“I am the LIGHT of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the LIGHT of life. John 8:12

Rally Day was September 7th!

We commissioned our Christian Education Leaders, the kids helped sing in church, we had a “Special” table for the youth, and fun games outside! What a wonderful celebration and kick-off to our Christian education programs!



“Jesus Lights Our Way”



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New Addition to our Church Library!

We have a new Children's book section in our church library. Take a look!

Check them out and take them home to enjoy!



We are doing a new thing!

We have a family meal EVERY Wednesday night at 5:30.

There is a short worship service at 6:00.
All are welcome to join us for the worship service - not just the kids, parents, and teachers!

Then the youth go to their classes as usual.

WOW 6:20-7:15

TAG 6:30-7:30



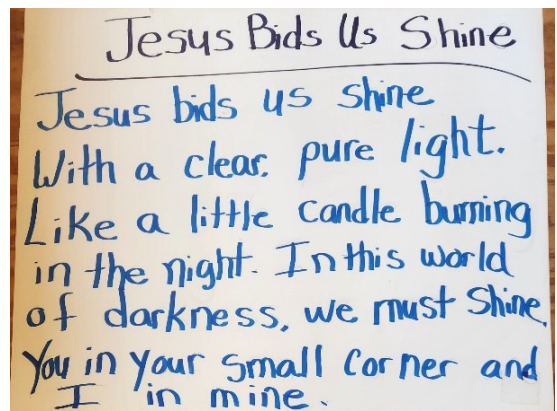
We eat together!

We worship together!

We sing together!

We learn together!

We even celebrate birthdays together!





On September 9, our youth and several adults had an opportunity to love our neighbors by helping with the Kandiyohi County Food Distribution. We were grateful to be able to help.

*If you were planning on helping with the October 14th food distribution, that has been canceled. But there may be another food distribution the morning of Saturday, November 15th. More info to come.



Christian Education Leaders 2025-2026

Thank you for sharing your time and gifts for this very important ministry.

W.O.W. (Word on Wednesdays)

Preschool- Second Grade:

Wally Titus, Sue Schiro
Substitutes: Alisa Taatjes,
Larry Bratsch

T.A.G. (Teens and God)

Seventh Grade – Twelfth Grade:

Jason and Liz Windingstad
Substitutes: Pastor Brian
and Tyann Jones

Third Grade – Sixth Grade:

Joni Lamphere, Sarah Sampson
Substitute: Jeff Lamphere

Preconfirmation:

Jonelle Foreman

Opening Exercises:

Tyann Jones

Adult Bible Study

Pastor Brian Jones
Volunteers as needed

Substitutes:

Tyann Jones, Deb Ficek

Christian Education Youth & Families Committee: Deb Ficek, Allie Johnson, Tyann Jones, Alisa Taatjes, Joni Lamphere, Melissa Mangen, Amanda Titus, Pam Sigafoos, Maggie Harp, Jonelle Foreman, Stephanie Bents

Food Committee: Robin Mulder, Pam Sigafoos, Dee Schurman, Carol Sampson

The CEYF Committee and Liz & Jason Windingstad will also be helping prepare Wednesday night meals throughout the year.

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Thank you to Hope Church for all the support and words of encouragement during this 2025 graduation time - it means so much."

~ Ava O'Malley, 2025

(The delay in getting this heartfelt note in the newsletter is my error. – Tyann)



When: Sunday, October 26th
4:30-5:30 pm
Set up trunks at 4:00 pm

Where: Parking lot of
Hope Presbyterian Church

Who: All of us at Hope and
Our Whole Community

Also: We are asking all participants to bring kids' products for our CARE Pantry. These items will be placed in a "Trunk" by our door. (Items include: baby shampoo/wash, baby lotion, baby wipes, diapers, kids' toothbrushes, toothpaste, detangler spray, and hair gel.)

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Fridge Bridge

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| October 1 | Family Supper 5:30, followed by worship at 6:00 and then classes |
| October 5 | Hand bells rehearsal 8:50 am |
| October 8 | Family Supper 5:30, followed by worship at 6:00 and then classes |
| October 12 | Hand bells PLAY in church |
| October 14 | CEYF committee meeting at 6:30 pm |
| October 15 | NO Wednesday night classes
Football game before MEA fall break |
| October 19 | Hand bells rehearsal 8:50 am |
| October 22 | Family Supper 5:30, followed by worship at 6:00 and then classes |
| October 26 | Hand bells rehearsal 8:50 am
Trunk or Treat 4:30-5:30 pm - All Welcome! |
| October 26 | ALL YOUTH pizza, devotional, and fun at ROHYC from 5:30-6:30 pm |
| October 29 | Family Supper 5:30, followed by worship at 6:00 and then classes
TAG trick or treating for the CARE Pantry from 6:30-7:30 pm |



Members with Health Issues:

Paul Hagen (Betty's son/Nancy Birkeland's nephew), Hilda Grosklags, Dee Norling, Arlos Jones, Jo Holm, Conny & John Williamson, Daryl Taatjes, Eileen Helmstetter,

Prayer Requests



Family and Friends with Health Issues:

Friend of Sarah Sampson Dan Dolan (Maggie's brother)
Joanna Hanson (Helmstetter's niece) Fred Nathan (Joni's cousin)

Grieving:

Family of Jeanne Poe (Sandy Wersal's sister-in-law), Family of Tom Dokken (previous member), Families of the victims in the shootings, Family of Ron Van Hueveln's sister (friend of Steve Barney)

****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.

October Deacons of the Month: Kathy Terpstra & Greg Swenson

Missional Outreach Opportunity!!!!

We have once again started serving meals at Campus Ministries across the street from Ridgewater College. We will be serving on Tuesday, September 30th and Tuesday, October 28th. If you would like to help serve, please meet us at

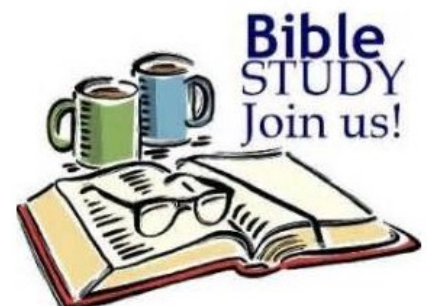


Love. Grow. Serve.

Campus Ministries by 10:30 am. Otherwise you can donate bars and cookies. Questions: please contact Robin Mulder or see the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your help in ministering to the students of Ridgewater College!

Adult Bible Study

Bible Study will be starting up again on Sunday, October 5th after the worship service in the Jack Anderson Fireside Room. We will be continuing our study on the book of John. All are welcome to attend!



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

Fall Clean-up date

Saturday, October 4th - 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
(or until all work is done)

Many hands make little work!

Please plan on coming to help! Thank you!

Announcement to All Committees

Due to the Session meeting moving to the 4th Monday of each month and Steph needing to get out the Session packets to the Elders a full week ahead of the meeting, Steph needs **ALL** committee reports and other materials for the Session packets, no later than 12:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Any questions, please ask Steph. Thank you for your understanding!

October Coffee Servers

October 5th: Dee & Bill Schurman

October 12th: Jonelle & Harold Foreman

October 19th: Pam Sigafos &
Mary O'Malley

October 26th: Julie & Bob Ehrlich

