

Hope Scope

Pastor's Pen

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.
~ Psalm 130:1-4 *(NRSV)*

We instinctively know something about this Psalm. We know what it is like to cry out to God from the depths. Sometimes this crying out brings us great comfort. Sometimes it feels like something less than that. Sometimes we are not sure if God hears us at all. It seems that there is always some great difficulty we are facing. Tragedy strikes more often than we are comfortable with. Losses begin to pile up. We know something about crying out from the depths.

I know that sometimes these events will shake our faith. Why did God allow such a thing? What kind of God doesn't stop that from happening? And these are hard questions. If God is all-powerful, then why all the hardship in this life?

And I know it may not be a complete answer, but we do remember that God, in an act of love, made us free. And if we are free, then we and others will sometimes do things that are not God's work. We will end up in situations that are not of God's choosing.

But the Psalm ends on a much more positive note. It says: *hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.* So the promise of God is not that God will make everything good, or that nothing bad can happen to God's faithful people. The promise, instead, is that God is with us through all that. The 23rd Psalm reminds us that God is with us even in the darkest valley - the valley of the shadow of death.

You are never alone, and you never will be. You have never been abandoned, and you never will be. Your God is with you.

Thanks be to God!

~ Blessings,
Brian Jones

Coffee Servers:

November 1st:
Jackie Wahl &
Gaylord Lind

November 8th:
Carol & Bob Sampson

November 15th:
Melissa & Lyle Mangen

November 22nd:
Sarah & Barry Sampson

November 29th:
Karen & Jerry Bents

Deacons of the Month:

Sherry Bratsch &
Mary O'Malley

Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Schedule:

9:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Worship
(Also on Facebook & the radio at 96.9 fm)
11:15 a.m. Bible Study

Television Schedule:

Channel 18 or 181

Sundays:	2:15 p.m.
Tuesdays:	11:30 a.m.
	3:00 p.m.
Thursdays:	8:00 a.m.
	5:00 p.m.

Session Highlights

September



At its meeting on September 28th, the Session approved the following:

- Holding a mental wellness presentation following the Fat Tuesday pancake supper on Tuesday, February 9th, 2027
- Paying an invoice from West Central Roofing to repair the South edge metal work in the amount of $2,501.66

October

At its meeting on October 26th, the Session approved the following:

- Use of the Fellowship Hall and kitchen by the Jones family on Christmas Day
- Holding a dedication of the new entry following the annual meeting on Sunday, January 24, 2027
- The baptism of Hayes Vandeputte, son of Hunter & Rylee, during worship on November 22, 2026
- Joining Bethel Lutheran Church in Willmar for a Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 25, 2026
- Changing communion from Sunday, December 6th to Sunday, November 29th due to the Christmas Program being on December 6th

The following volunteered to serve communion on Sunday, November 1st at the 10:00 am worship service:

Jerry Bents, Larry Bratsch, Deb Ficek, Jody Leason, and Kathy Terpstra

Financial Report

	Month of Sept 2026	Year to Date Monthly Avg.	Year to Date Sept 2026	Prior Year to Date Sept 2025
Operating Support Received	$ 21,530.28	$ 21,329.14	$ 191,962.29	$ 192,836.66
Operating Activity	$ 23,343.50	$ 24,783.60	$ 223,052.52	$ 206,752.21
Operating Variance	($ 1,813.22)		($ 31,090.23)	($ 13,915.55)

Support Needed to Meet the Mission Plan	$ 27,674.40
Per Capita Commitment for 2026	$ 7,144.00
Per Capita Support Received Through 9/30/2026	$ 3,139.00

Christian Education Youth and Families

Our annual Trunk or Treat Community Event was a hit!! We had a great turnout and a lot of fun! THANK YOU to all who participated. It was raining, so we moved it inside to the Fellowship Hall. With little notice, everyone adjusted and set up inside. Well done! It was fantastic!

See our Facebook post for more pictures.














JESUS SAID!
Follow me,
and I will make you
fishers of men.
MARK 1:17





We are certainly Blessed!

(Thanks for carving the pumpkin, Joni!)

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Wednesday, November 4th

Potluck meal at 5:30pm
Worship at 6:00pm
Regular classes starting at 6:20pm

We have moved the Wednesday night meals and the worship services to the Fellowship Hall in the church until spring.



Our TAG (Teens and God) group, led by Jason & Liz Windingstad and Kelli & Matt Haglund, went trick or treating to the homes of people in our congregation to pick up donations for our CARE Pantry. We THANK this group for taking their time traveling to homes, and to ALL who donated all the items. The TAG crew left lovely “treats” of inspirational messages and bags of candy (and sometimes “tricks”) at the homes they visited. Thank you!

The donations filled 2 tables.

WOW!





Ashley Kjos from Woodland Centers

Beginning in September, we have had 2 mental wellness presentations. On September 2nd, Molly Olson from The Woven Family Clinic in New London came to speak to students and families about stress and anxiety.

On October 4th, Ashley Kjos from Woodland Centers in Willmar came to speak to adults about depression, grief, loss, and transitions.

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Christmas Stockings!!!!



Mission Opportunity!!!

The Christian Education Youth and Families Committee is once again embarking on a mission project of providing socks to the clients that come to our CARE Pantry. The idea is to collect **new** socks of all sizes to be handed out in December to the children and adults who visit our CARE Pantry. We invite you to join us in the "FOOT WARMING" endeavor! You may bring your donations and add them to the "sock drawer" in the Fellowship Hall.

Fridge Bridge:

November:

1 Hand bells rehearsal at 8:50am **Turn clocks back one hour!**

4 Congregational potluck at 5:30pm followed by a worship service at 6:00pm - Fellowship Hall

8 **Hand bells play in church**

10 CEYF Committee meeting at 6:30pm

11 Meal at 5:30; worship service at 6:00; regular classes starting at 6:20

18 Meal at 5:30; worship service at 6:00; regular classes starting at 6:20

22 Make Christmas ornaments during church – ornaments for tree in Fellowship Hall and for the Deacons to add to Christmas bags

Also, this is the date of the **FIRST practice for the Christmas program** after church (meal served to participants and families).

25 No school at NLS so no Wednesday classes

26 Happy Thanksgiving

29 **SECOND Christmas program practice** after church (meal served to participants and families).

December

2 Meal at 5:30; worship service at 6:00; regular classes starting at 6:20

Also, **FINAL practice for the Christmas program** right after the 6:00 worship

6 Christmas program during church.

8 No CEYF committee meeting this month

Thanksgiving Challenge

The Finance Committee has received a generous offer from a member of Hope who wants to remain anonymous. You may have seen in the bulletin that as of September 30th, Hope Church has a net loss of $31,090, meaning our expenses were $31,090 more than our income for the year thus far. This member will donate $10,000 in addition to their regular giving. This member and the Finance Committee are asking you as members of Hope together to donate another $10,000 or more over your regular giving. This will help lower our loss considerably. This "Thanksgiving Challenge" will start on Sunday, November 15th and run through Sunday, November 29th. We will be letting you know how this "Thanksgiving Challenge" is going. Please make a note on your payment that it is for the "Thanksgiving Challenge".

Thank Yous

Thank you to all of you for the wonderful 25th Anniversary Celebration we were able to have here at Hope on Sunday afternoon, October 11th. The new entry way was perfect, and the fish aquarium was such a treat! The kitchen was very convenient, and our space for children, a real gift to their parents! *Thank you all!!*



Love & prayers,
~ Palmer & Dee Norling

Words cannot express the gratitude I feel to my church family for the incredible kindness, prayers, and support shown to me following the sudden passing of my husband, Andy.

Knowing that I am surrounded by such a compassionate and faithful church family has brought me incredible comfort and strength. Your actions have been a true reflection of God's grace during a very difficult time, and it has sustained me more than words can say. I am blessed to be a part of Hope Church!

~ Connie Swanson

CARE Pantry

November's CARE Pantry Challenge product is… Laundry Soap!



Please place your donations in the CARE Pantry box by the mailboxes.
Thank you for your continued support of the CARE Pantry's mission!

A little update on the CARE Pantry…

Every time a person goes to the store, it's obvious that the price of everything has gone up significantly. Although we might grimace at the prices, most of us can still afford the things we need.

That is not true for everyone. We are seeing more and more people needing to use the CARE Pantry for items like soap, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, etc.

In August, 115 people visited the CARE Pantry, 31 of which were here for the first time. In September, 16 new people came. This is an indication of how much need there really is in the area.

With more people using the CARE Pantry and the price of the products going up that are needed to stalk the shelves, the budget is stressed.

The CARE Pantry is the biggest mission outreach of our church. If you are able, next time you donate online or use your envelopes, please add a little extra and note the CARE Pantry in the memo line, so that we are able to continue to support all those who need a little help to cover the necessities. Thank you!

Announcements

Campus Ministries/CARE Pantry Serving Opportunities

Just an update to those who have been wondering, the Mission Committee has decided to forego serving meals at Campus Ministries across from Ridgewater due to the amount of work it takes to make the meal and then transport it to the campus. If you would like to continue serving in a similar way, we always welcome you to come and help (or visit with) our CARE Pantry clients! CARE Pantry distribution days happen every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. We start taking clients at 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. You will also get lunch at noon! If you would like to get product at any time, we would love to have your help with that as well! The church would pay for it. We just need someone to do the shopping. Interested in helping or have any questions, talk to Karen, Robin, or Steph. We can always use your help!

Women's Retreat

Tyann is once again involved with helping plan a Women's Retreat at Eagle Lake Lutheran Church on Saturday, November 21st starting at 9:30 am until 3:30 pm. Come enjoy music, worship, arts, creativity, food, and fellowship! Any questions, please talk with Tyann. All are welcome to attend – not just Lutherans!

Thanksgiving Eve Service at Bethel

Since we won't be having a Thanksgiving Eve Service here at Hope, you are invited to attend the community service being held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Willmar on Wednesday, November 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Requests

Members with Health Issues: Robert Pinske, Kathy Taatjes

Family and Friends with Health Issues: Sally (Jill Nelson's sister), Thea Pfeiffer, Logan Hagedorn (NLS football player), Shelby Groen (friend of Jacob Pfeiffer)

Grieving: Family of Brittany Gehrke, Family of Felicia Swenson (Greg & Carol's nephew's wife), Family of John Gronli, Family of Allan Christoperson (mother is friend of Jeff Lamphere), Family of Carter Soberg (Soberg & Boklep families are friends of Brooke Appleby), Family of Andy Swanson, Family of Dick Lindahl

Christmas is right around the corner! (hint, hint…)



November 2026 – Birthday Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUEDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Virginia McKean		Connie Swanson
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Jenna Oie	David Carlson Jan Saulsbury	Sharon Jones	Don Heath		Allie Johnson	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
					Wally Titus	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Eldy Williams	Jeremiah Bents Heather Carver		Bev Jones		Blake Hines	
29	30					

November 2026 – Hope's Events Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUEDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:50 am Handbells practice 9:15 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship w/ communion 11:15 am Bible Study	10:00 am Coffee & Conversation	11am-2pm CARE Pantry distribution 12:00 pm CARE Pantry lunch 6:00 pm Tuesday's Table - Our Lady of the Lakes	5:30 pm Cong. Potluck 6:00 pm Worship 6:20 pm WOW 6:30 pm TAG 7:15 pm Choir	11:00 am Brittany Gehrke's Funeral		7:00 pm AA
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:15 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship – handbells playing 11:15 am Bible Study	10:00 am Coffee & Conversation 5:45 pm Deacons 6:30 pm Finance mtg.	6:00 pm Tuesday's Table - NL Cov. 6:30 pm CEYF mtg. 6:30 pm HPW mtg - devotions: Sue Block	5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:20 pm WOW 6:30 pm TAG 7:15 pm Choir			7:00 pm AA
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:15 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Bible Study	8:30 am Staff mtg. 10:00 am Coffee & Conversation	11am-2pm CARE Pantry distribution 12:00 pm CARE Pantry lunch 6:00 pm Tuesday's Table - Faith Luth.	5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:20 pm WOW 6:30 pm TAG 7:15 pm Choir			7:00 pm AA
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:15 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship – kids - ornament making 11:00 am Lunch/ Christmas Program Practice	10:00 am Coffee & Conversation 6:30 pm Session	6:00 pm Tuesday's Table - Peace Luth.	No CE Classes or Choir - Thanksgiving Break 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Community Service at Bethel Church - Willmar	Thanksgiving – Office Closed Hope Scope deadline		7:00 pm AA
29	30					
9:15 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship w/ communion 11:00 am Lunch/ Christmas Program Practice	10:00 am Coffee & Conversation					