

2023



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Hope Scope

*For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,*

*“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.*

***1 Corinthians 1:18-19 (NRSV)***

One of the things that is hard about being a Christian, is that there are times when, if we are being really faithful in our thinking, we will see that we are called to something that the rest of the world would think was crazy.

In fact, it happens quite often. When people do bad things to us, we are supposed to act in kind to them. But we don't. When we are threatened, when we are taken advantage of, when we are afraid, we are supposed to lash out, in order to protect ourselves. But we don't. When strangers show up, we are supposed to defend ourselves at all cost. We are supposed to protect what is ours, we are supposed to get what we can when we can, we are supposed to worry about ourselves first. But we don't, because Jesus has taught us a different way to live and to think about living. And if we take his way seriously, we will not be doing what the people around us tell us we are supposed to be doing.

And they will think we are foolish. The Apostle Paul understood this from the beginning. The world will always think the way of Jesus is foolish. We should expect it. When we decide to act ethically—let the other person go first, return the wallet with all the money in it, be kind to people who may not deserve it—our friends will tell us we are being foolish.

And I don't know whether to say, “It is not foolish, because Jesus led me to this,” or to say, “OK, so I am being foolish. There are worse things than being foolish!” Either would be true.

In any event, too often church people look to the world to see how to live and act, when, in truth, the church people are supposed to be showing the world how to live. We have been given a gift by our God. Jesus has given us instruction on how to live as if we live in the kingdom of God, and in that way, help to bring about the kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven.

Let's not waste the gift!

Blessings, *Brian Jones*

**At its September 11th meeting, the Session approved the following:**

- \* baptism of Harrison Swenson, son of Wade and Hannah Swenson, during worship on Sunday, October 15, 2023;
- \* Pastor Jones taking vacation October 22-27 and possibly September 20-21, if he chooses;
- \* Christian Education offering for 2023-2024 be given for birthday kits or to Foster Stitches at the discretion of the committee and/or by vote of the children and youth;
- \* Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 29, from 4-5:30 p.m. with set up at 3:30 p.m.; receiving canned/nonperishable goods and children’s story books for the Blessing Box; and handing out information “cards” on upcoming church events to include the church’s website;
- \* TAG students going trick or treating and collecting donations for the Hope CARE Pantry on Wednesday, November 1, starting at 6:30 p.m.;
- \* pursuing a presentation/study on understanding poverty as part of the adult education classes in 2023-2024.
- \* having a Wednesday evening adult “video” Bible study for the 2023-2024 year.
- \* holding Fall Cleanup Day on Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon;
- \* treating 17 Ash trees and one Oak tree on Hope Presbyterian Church property by Leaf & Lake Consulting; and
- \* gospel singer Tommy Griffith holding a public program in the sanctuary of Hope Church on a date to be determined in October 2023 and allowing a free-will offering to be taken with half of the collection going to the Hope CARE Pantry.

\*\*\*Scheduled for Sunday, October 15th at 7:00 pm.  
(Coffee & cookies to follow)



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**FINANCE REPORT**

	Year to Date	Year to Date
	August	08/31/2023
		Monthly Average
Income	\$28,691.55	\$178,419.35
Expenses	\$25,660.07	\$195,849.41
Net Profit (Loss)	\$3,031.48	(\$17,430.06)
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses		\$24,895.98
Per Capita Assessment for 2023		\$8,494.08
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 8/31/2023		\$3,199.38

Jerry Bents, Treasurer

# HOPE'S HAPPENINGS!

## HPW PROGRAM

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3 6:30 PM**

Kay Levesque, Director of Youth for Christ Parent Life, will be joining us to give us a presentation on Parent Life, serving local pregnant and parenting teen moms. She will share who they are, who they serve, what they do and why they do what they do! Human trafficking will also be discussed.

## FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 8 AM-1 PM**

Please mark your calendars to attend or work at our Fall Harvest Festival. We will be having Morning coffee & rolls, Noon Lunch of soup, BBQ's, pie or bars, a Bake Sale, Garden & Produce area, Accessory Sisters, Holiday Décor, Books, Puzzles, Games and CD's and Crafts. Please donate items for any area and/or sign up on the sheet in the library to bring bars or pie for lunch and also to work helping our shoppers.

## FALL CLEAN-UP

**Saturday, October 21st 8 AM-12 noon**

## RIDGEWATER LUNCH

**Wednesday, October 25th 10:30 am**

Please sign up on the sheet in the library to bring cookies or bars and/or to help assist with serving lunch for Ridgewater students.

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### **Hope Presbyterian Church is looking for a part time Church Treasurer**

**Purpose:** To coordinate the business affairs of the church, including the payment of the liabilities of the church and the maintenance of church member financial records.

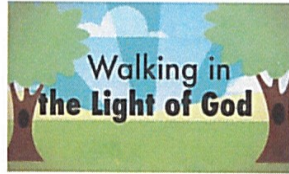
**Commitment:** About 4 hours per week, more hours as needed, flexible schedule.

**Wage:** Hourly wage will be given.

**Interested?** Please email cover letter to [sandywersal@gmail.com](mailto:sandywersal@gmail.com)

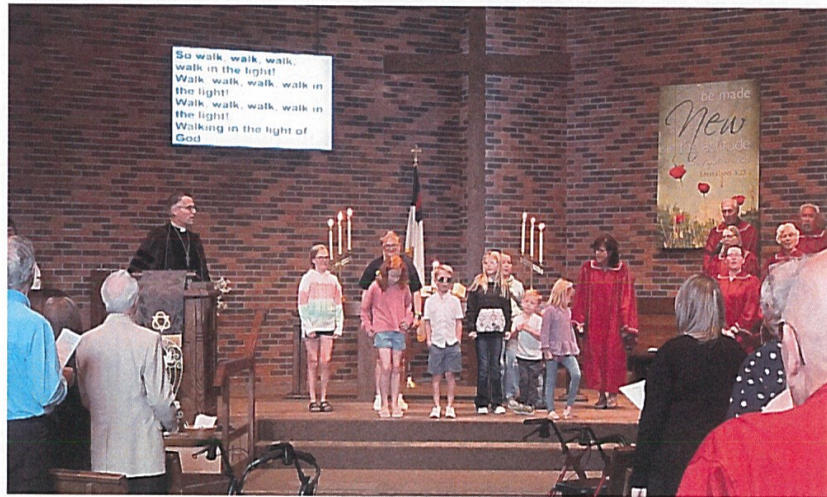
## Christian Education Youth and Families Report

Arise! **Shine!** Your **light** has come: The Lord's glory; has **shone** upon you!  
Isaiah 60:1



### Rally Day was September 10<sup>th</sup>!

We had a great time! Brooklyn Johnson was thrilled to receive her Bible, we commissioned our Christian Education Leaders AND we all learned a new song!!





We thank all of our Christian Education Leaders for sharing their talents and energy to help us all **“Walk in the Light of God!”**

Christian Education Leaders 2023-2024

**Preschool- Second Grade**

Wally Titus, Alisa Taatjes

**Third Grade – Seventh Grade**

Joni Lamphere, Sarah Sampson  
Substitute: Jeff Lamphere

**Confirmation**

Rev. Brian Jones

**T.A.G.**

**Eighth Grade – Twelfth Grade**

Jason and Liz Windingstad  
Subs - Pastor Brian and Tyann Jones

**Adult Bible Study on Wednesday**

Tyann Jones  
Volunteer needed

**2<sup>nd</sup> Bible Study**

Jody Leason, Pastor Brian Jones,  
Greg Mulder, Tyann Jones,  
Dave Helmstetter

**Opening Exercises**

Tyann Jones

**Music**

Maggie Harp

**Substitutes**

Jonelle Foreman  
Tyann Jones, Deb Ficek

**Christian Education Youth & Families  
Comte.**

Deb Ficek, Allie Johnson, Tyann Jones,  
Alisa Taatjes, Joni Lamphere, Melissa  
Mangen, Amanda Titus, Pam Sigafoos,  
Maggie Harp, Jonelle Foreman,  
Stephanie Bents

**Wednesday Night Family Supper  
Committee**

Robin Mulder  
Pam Sigafoos  
Dee Schurman  
Carol Sampson

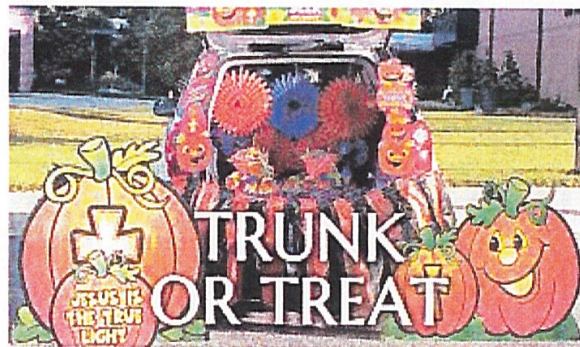
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**On September 12 we made plans to help the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf with their produce distribution. We invited the mission committee and anyone else who could make it to join us. We ended up with 12 willing servants! It was a beautiful afternoon of service and fun!**





**CALLING ALL TRUNK OR TREATERS!**



- When:** Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> 4:00-5:30  
Set up trunks at 3:30
- Where:** Parking lot of Hope Presbyterian Church
- Who:** All of us at Hope and Our Whole Community
- Other info.** We are encouraging everyone with decorated trunks to offer non-candy options. The amount of candy gets overwhelming for families.

**Something New: We are asking all participants to bring something for our Blessing Box (closing in Nov.) or Care Pantry. These items will be placed in a "Trunk" by our door.**

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**Fridge Bridge:**

- October 4**            Family Supper 5:45
- October 29**        Trunk or Treat 4:00-5:30- ALL WELCOME
- November 1**        T.A.G. Trick or Treating for Care Pantry starting at 6:30PM

**Mission statement:**

Through Christ, at Hope Presbyterian, we meet people where they are to provide opportunities for faith formation and growth to help transform individuals to become who God created them to be.

Respectfully Submitted by Tyann Jones



## August 2023 Updates



The impact The Link has been able to make in the lives of others has been more visible than ever these past few months! The need for food and outreach services continues to rise and it is extremely humbling to have the support of the community to be able to help those in need.

In August, The Link was able to serve **10 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 continues to see an increase in need**, welcoming **25 new families** and serving **136 households** in August (including: **229 adults, 135 children and 34 seniors**) and distributed a total of **8,283 pounds of food**.

**The Wildcat Backpack Program** is back up and running. Currently, there are **86 children** from the NL-S schools receiving backpacks **each week!** It has been fun to see the kids again that come from the High School to help pack and deliver the bags!!! 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 **17 families** in August by helping with transportation, medical bills, gas, utility bills and rental payments. This program also provided advocacy for 7 families, in-depth budgeting support for 17 families, networking for 10 families and provided 16 families with referrals for additional assistance to meet basic needs.

The Link partnered with the United Way's **Stuff the Bus** program this year. We were able to connect **76 families** with needed school supplies for the 23-24 school year!

**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).

**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 Fridays and Saturdays). Our store hours are 10-3 Wednesday-Friday and 10-2 Saturdays. Volunteer hours do not have to cover the entire shift-. If you are interested, but can only commit to part of a shift, we still encourage you to reach out! 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.

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.

### Lay Readers:

- October 1:  
10:00 am Kristene Foreman
- October 8:  
10:00 am Kathy Taatjes
- October 15:  
10:00 am Sue Block
- October 22:  
10:00 am Jeff Wersal
- October 29:  
10:00 am Open

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### October Deacons of the Month:

Joni Lamphere &  
Celia Evenson



### October CARE Pantry

Challenge is.....

“Cleaning Items”

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Glass Cleaner

Antibacterial multi-

Purpose Cleaners





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

Deb Steele, Kathy Jansen, Joni Lamphere, Sharon Jones, Barb Morris, John Williamson, Bob Hinderks, Dick Lindahl

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

|                                        |                                                      |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Ross Antonson (Deb Steele's brother)   | Sheila Kelly (Jody Leason's cousin)                  |
| Vicky Mattson (Friend of Sharon Jones) | Connie Benson (Helmstetter's friend)                 |
| Dale (Friend of the Hagemeyers)        | Greg Skinner (Virginia McKean's son-in-law)          |
| Jordan Bast                            | Shelly Erickson                                      |
| Holly (Dee Schurman's sister)          | Bob Dieken (Karen Bents' brother)                    |
| Pastor Jeff DeYoe                      | Johnny Lee Larson (Virginia McKean's great grandson) |

### **Grieving:**

Family of Denise Gjerde, Family of Sam & Louise Miller (Nancy Miller's parents),  
Family of Mike (Friend of the Hagemeyers)

### **Care Facilities:**

Kathy Jansen (Bethesda Therapy Suites #514-Willmar), 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, 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

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WEBSITE: <http://hopechurchspicer.org>

RADIO: KGLH 96.9 FM



2023

### 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