

2023

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Hope Scope

*To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, do not refuse to hear me,
for if you are silent to me, I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.
Hear the voice of my supplication, as I cry to you for help,
as I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary. **Psalm 28:1-2 (NRSV)***

The song I heard in the store said that Christmas is “the hap-happiest time of the year!” And for a lot of people that is true. It can be very special, sharing gifts and meals and time with the people we love. But it is not all happiness, and many people seem to suffer this time of year. Whether it is the lack of sunlight, or the recognition that because of their family situation or health concerns or travel difficulties, they are not able to gather in celebration as many people do, or some other reason, this can be a really difficult season for some.

And even if you do have a nice Christmas celebration, the fact is that after Christmas, a whole lot of us feel some degree of disappointment because we had hoped or even expected more from the holiday. We hoped things would get better. We hoped it would have made more difference. And now we are just left to clean up the mess, try to strengthen ourselves for a few more months of Minnesota winter, and maybe try to lose a pound or two.

I don't know what level of desperation that might lead you to, but if you read the verses from the Psalm above, you will see that sometimes people go to God when things are quite desperate. If that is you, then don't hesitate to go to God (or others) for help. Don't tell yourself, “Everything is OK, because it's Christmas, and who has problems at Christmas?” Because the answer is: We all do.

I hope your Advent and Christmas seasons are fulfilling, joyful, and meaningful. This is the time when we remember our Savior's birth and his promise to return. And Christians should draw strength, and yes, joy, from that. But if this year things don't go as you had hoped, or if you are having trouble finding a reason to celebrate, then I hope you will remember that you are loved by the God who came to us as one of us. And you are loved by your church, as well.

Blessings, *Brian Jones*

At its November 6th meeting, the Session approved the following:

- * Youth being dismissed from worship after the children's sermon on November 26 to create tree ornaments and cards for shut-ins.
- * Holding the Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 19, at 7 p.m.
- * Holding a special congregational meeting on December 17, 2023 following worship to elect officers.
- * Holding regular worship service on December 24 at 10 a.m. and an evening service at 5 p.m. with communion.
- * The choir singing Christmas carols at Teal's on November 15.
- * Changing the December 4 Session meeting to 5 p.m. to accommodate the Presbytery meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m.
- * Receipt of a resignation letter from Darlene Bratberg as coordinator of the Prayer Chain.



The following will serve communion on Sunday, December 3, at the 10 a.m. service: Steve Barney, Allie Johnson, Bob Sampson, Liz Windingstad and Dee Schurman.

The following will serve communion on Sunday, December 24, at the 5 p.m. service: Steve Barney, Greg Mulder, Bob Sampson and Wally Titus.

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 FINANCE REPORT

	Year to Date	Year to Date	
	October	10/31/2023	Monthly Average
Income	\$30,192.85	\$229,034.21	\$22,903.42
Expenses	\$22,439.18	\$239,275.82	\$23,927.58
Net Profit (Loss)	\$7,753.67	(\$10,241.61)	
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses			\$24,895.98
Per Capita Assessment for 2023			\$8,494.08
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 10/31/2023			\$3,511.50

Jerry Bents, Treasurer

**Per Capita payment for 2024 will be \$45.00 per member

HOPE'S HAPPENINGS!

***Sunday, December 10th 2:00 p.m. GlenOaks Worship service-please arrive at 1:00 p.m. to carol for them with the choir.**

***Also, on Sunday December 10th, there will be a Christmas Open House at Pastor & Tyann's home (306 Miller St. in Spicer) from 3-5! All are welcome!!**

***Sunday, December 17th Congregational Meeting immediately following worship, for the election of officers. Please plan to stay!**

***Pastor and Tyann will be on vacation December 25th thru January 1st.**

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Diaper Collection for the Youth For Christ-Parent Life Program

HPW will be collecting diapers to give to the Youth for Christ Parent Life for Teens Program. Last October Kay Levesque was invited to our HPW meeting to speak about this program and informed us of how they impact the lives of teen parents through support and mentoring relationships. Bring your donations before Dec. 11th.

Snow Camp at Clearwater

Middle and high school campers are encouraged to register today for Snow Camp at Clearwater, January 12-14.

Christmas at Trinity

Please join the Trinity Lutheran Church in Grove City for "Christmas at Trinity" on Saturday, December 2nd, 9 a.m. to noon for brunch and Bake Sale and more!

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries

The GLLM Dinner Theater is back for its 9th year! The show runs December 7-10. Tickets are \$80 per person. A great evening with a show and a four-course meal!

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I am so grateful for all of you at Hope Church! I asked for a favor and got help getting a birthday cake. You all came to help me celebrate! Thank you for the cards and the birthday song! You all helped to make it a party for me!

Thank you and God bless you all!

Love, Virginia McKean



Christian Education Youth and Families

“But the angel said to them, do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Luke 2: 10-12

Advent

Advent starts Sunday, December 3rd. “Advent” means “coming”. It is a time when we think about the coming of Christ.

There is a plethora of books and devotionals about Advent available. I found one last year called Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotional through 10 Objects by Jill J. Duffield. This author looks at Advent through plain objects and relates them to Advent with the idea that God works through the ordinary stuff of life. For example, Jill Duffield chooses “gates” as her first object. She does a wonderful job of discussing how “gates” relate to Advent through that first week. Here is just one sentence from her book pg 6: “When God chooses to open the gate to our hearts, and heads, and homes, and walk through, the flood gates of Divine Blessings open too.” I like that idea. I challenge us to follow Jill Duffield's idea, but not use 10 objects, but instead, use 4, one for each week of Advent.

Advent is such a busy time as we prepare for Christmas that it is hard to give the season the time its importance deserves. My “best-laid” plan is to be aware of just one object in each of the 4 weeks of Advent that draws my attention to the season of Advent. Then, I will write a few sentences explaining why it represents Advent for ME, and add a picture. I implore you to try to do the same.

We did this last year and it was really **interesting** and **inspirational!** I thought we could do it again and then maybe compile them into our own Hope Presbyterian Advent Through Objects booklet for next year. Look for an “Objects of Advent” bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall and add your ideas to the board. Feel free to pin up your idea on any sheet of paper but I will provide little “forms” by the bulletin board if you want to use those. The goal is to do one object per each week of advent but feel free to do fewer or more. Let's observe, document, share, and prepare for Christ's coming.



Make Room for Jesus



The Christmas Program is Sunday, December 10th at 10:00 a.m.

Join us and experience the Christmas Story according to 4 readers. The story of Jesus' birth will unfold with songs, words, and visions of that first Christmas. Are we looking for Jesus in our lives anymore? Where and how can we find Him? Join us on December 10 as all of our youth and several adults help us find the answers to those important questions.



Dates to remember: aka FRIDGE BRIDGE

You can put this sheet on your refrigerator as a reminder of CEYF goings on.

Sunday, December 3 **Rehearsal** after church for the Christmas Program.
Pizza will be served for participants and families.

Wednesday, December 6 Family supper-5:45
Program **rehearsal** during all evening classes-6:15

Sunday, December 10 **Christmas program** during church at 10:00

Wednesday, December 27 No Class – Christmas break

Wednesday, January 3 Christian Education Classes Resume
Family meal-5:45



Respectfully Submitted by Tyann Jones



20" of Games

Advent Fun Hour November 26th



20" of Singing



20" of Eating



We Celebrate Your Birth

Dear Lord, as we celebrate Your birth,
let us remember that You are the true reason for Christmas.
Let every sparkling light remind us how You illuminate our lives,
a shining beacon to guide us in our thoughts and actions each day,
and how You light us from within
in the knowledge of Your love and truth.

Let the Christmas trees, standing straight, tall, unbowed,
remind us of Your uprightness, Your goodness, Your perfection,
and Your refusal to bow to worldly temptations,
no matter how great the challenge or trouble.

Lord, as we feast on Christmas treats,
let us remember that You are the sole provider
of everything worth having, that all good things come from You.

And as we enjoy our gifts, let us never forget
that You are the greatest gift of all--our wonderful Savior,
Counselor, Giver of an eternal life whose wonders we cannot imagine.
So as we delight in Christmas, the happiest and brightest of holidays,
let us remember there would be no Christmas without You, Lord,
and let us our hearts be filled with joy, and love
and thankfulness, this Christmas and all the ones to come.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

By Joanna Fuchs



Lay Readers:

December 3: Jonelle Foreman

**December 10: Christmas
Program**

December 17: Kathy Taatjes

December 24: Sue Block

December 31: Open

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**December Deacons
of the Month:**

Deb Steele & Sandy Meyer

**December CARE Pantry
Challenge is.....
Toilet Paper**

**Coffee Servers**

December 3: Kathy & Daryl Taatjes

December 10: Liz & Jason Windingstad

December 17: Sue & Tim Block

December 24: Alisa & Duane Taatjes

December 31: Allie & Joe Johnson



**Members with Health Concerns:**

Jo Holm, Sharon Jones, Darlene Thompson, Dick Lindahl, Kathy Jansen, John Williamson, Conny Williamson, Bob Hinderks

Family and Friends with Health Concerns:

Sandy Aalderks
Ruth (Friend of Carol Sampson)
Chet (Kylie Taatjes' friend)
Vicky Mattson (Friend of Sharon Jones)

Joel Jergenson (Jonelle Foreman's Dad)
Jamie Duke
Kevin Taatjes

Grieving:

Family of Sheila Henneman (Amanda Titus' Mom), Family of Terry Holmquist

Care Facilities:

Jerry Gault (Prairie Senior Cottages, 1705 19th Ave. SW-Willmar), Shar Williams (Carris Health Care Center, 1801 Willmar Ave. SW), Kathy Jansen (Bethesda North Pointe), 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

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
7730 NORTH SHORE DRIVE
SPICER, MN 56288

PHONE: 320-796-2650

E-MAIL: hopepres@gmail.com

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