

2023



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hope Scope

*The idols of the nations are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.*

Psalm 135:15 (NRSV)

This word from the Book of Psalms talks about how the world has idols made of silver and gold, but that Israel has God (and us). But as I read these words, it occurs to me that it could be said of our nation that our idols are silver and gold.

I know that we are inclined to say we have no idols—we worship no idols—but God only. But the wealth that is present in our country is massive, and such things do not happen by accident. We are a very wealthy nation because we work hard at gathering wealth. And then we spend it, mostly on ourselves and on weapons of war, to protect us and all that we have accumulated.

This is all understandable, because having money is more fun than not having it. Having nice things is more fun than not having them. And whatever wealth we are able to amass, it affords not only security for ourselves and our families, but also status in the community. Most of us like all these things. We really like them.

As a nation and as individuals, we share some small portion of our wealth with people in other places who do not have anything like what we have—people who very often live in very scary places and often don't know much about where the next meal might come from, or whether their families will have shelter. It is usually a very small portion.

Think about the amount of time and energy in your life that has gone into making money, acquiring things, and securing the things you have acquired. Many of us live as if that is the point of our lives. And then think about how much of your time and energy have gone into service of others—the love of God and neighbor. Maybe when you do that equation for your own life, you see that you are in a good place—that your priorities are just as they should be. But maybe you begin to see that wealth has become an idol for you—something to work for, to ponder, to worry about, to stew over.

Living among so much wealth, these become difficult issues for Americans—I would guess for all of us.

All these things—our homes, our bank accounts, our 401(k)s, our clothes, our boats, our cars—can be idols. If so, we are expecting too much from them. They cannot satisfy us, and if we are satisfied with what they offer us, we have set our hopes and our expectations too low. Our God calls us to a life of love—a life that is ultimately fulfilling. And that life is a life free of idols.

Blessings, **Brian Jones**

At its July 10th Session meeting, the Session:

*Approved holding Rally Day and to commission the Christian Education leaders during worship on Sunday, September 10, 2023 and to begin Wednesday classes on September 13, 2023.

*Approved adding a fee of \$120 for nonmembers who have overnight sleepovers at the River of Hope Youth Center and that checkout time be 11:00 a.m. the next morning and that these be added to the Policies and Procedures Manual.

*The Session extended their thanks to Kathy Jansen for donating a pool table for use in the River of Hope Youth Center; to Myron Ficek, Duane Taatjes and Pastor Jones for moving the table from the Jansen home to the Youth Center, and to Pastor Jones for paying to have the pool table leveled and ready for use.

*The next stated Session meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 7th.



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FINANCE REPORT

	Year to Date	Year to Date	
	June	06/30/2023	Monthly Average
Income	\$18,724.06	\$121,100.24	\$20,183.37
Expenses	\$21,724.33	\$148,455.01	\$24,742.50
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$3,000.27)	(\$27,354.77)	
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses			\$24,895.98
Per Capita Assessment for 2023			\$8,494.08
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 6/30/2023			\$2,756.18

Jerry Bents, Treasurer

HOPE'S HAPPENINGS!

JEWELRY DONATIONS NEEDED

The Accessory Sisters would like jewelry donations for the Fall Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 14th. Please place them in the blue tote by the library.

DONATIONS FOR OUR BLESSING BOX NEEDED

Bibles, Children's Bible story books and non-perishable shelf stable pantry items (no expired items please) are needed for the Blessing Box (outside, by the Christian Education Entrance sign). If the box is full, please place your items in the tote underneath the mailboxes in the Fellowship Hall.

SUMMER CHRYSALIS 2023 August 17-20 Clearwater Forest

"HERITAGE OF WOMEN" will be presented by Sue L. Hamilton, who will share her personal story of hope, from being set free of alcohol and drugs, how God loves us and needs us to pass on our skills and talents to the next generation. Please see the information on the Community Events board by the offices. Register on the Clearwater website under "Summer Registration."

Thank you to everyone for your well wishes, cards and most of all your prayers during my heart procedures and recovery. Thank you to the Deacons for your cards and the gift card. This means a lot to me and Sherry. We belong to a Great Church Family! God is Great!!
Larry & Sherry Bratsch

Thanks to the Crossroads Church congregation for donating items to the CARE Pantry-they collected items for women in May and items for men in June. They also brought in toilet paper and laundry detergent from the monetary donations that were given. What a blessing!!



Christian Education Youth and Families Report

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.





July Family Fun Festival "Faith Through the Roof"





Fun Under the "SON" in the Spicer 4th of July Parade and the New London Water Days Parade!

Something New!

Dee Schurman brought this idea to us. It is a corner filled with kid friendly toys and activities. It is in the fellowship hall where kids can play while parents visit and have coffee. There is a screen in the fellowship hall so services in the sanctuary can be viewed while also taking advantage of the Kids' Corner.



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Foster Stitches

Our mission component to our Family Fun Festivals is supporting Foster Stitches. This is a local resource for children in foster care. If you are interested in donating, there is more information in the fellowship hall at church.

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Fridge Bridge

August 9 The last Family Fun Festival "The Lost Parables"

Everyone is welcome! 6-8 p.m.

September 10 Rally Day

Commissioning Christian Education Leaders during church

Presenting 2nd grade Bibles

Meal and activities after church

September 13 First night of Christian Education classes

Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones

June 2023 Updates



The need for food and financial assistance has continued to reach record numbers at The Link due to the increase in food and cost of living expenses. This has kept us extremely busy, serving as many as 5 families at a time in the food pantry! We are extremely grateful to our amazing volunteers that continue to show up and serve their neighbors in need- allowing staff to work behind the scenes to find ways to keep up with the growing need for help in our community.

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 Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays). Our store hours are 10-3 Wednesday-Friday and 10-2 Saturdays. 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.

In June, The Link was able to serve 5 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 15 new families and serving 111 households in June (including: 189 adults, 115 children and 35 seniors) and distributed a total of 6257.8 pounds of food. The need of food has increased significantly the past couple months, requiring The Link to increase their food budget to meet the needs of the people served.

The Wildcat Backpack Program Summer packs are available for families if they stop in at The Link and request them. 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 7 families in June 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 10 families, networking for 8 families and provided 10 families with referrals for additional assistance to meet basic needs.

Tuesday's Table's schedule is as follows: 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). The 5th Tuesday in August will be hosted by Crossroads Community Church in Spicer.

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 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 for more information.

Lay Readers:

**August 6: 8:30 am and
10:00 am Kathryn Frazee**

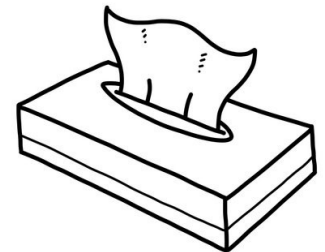
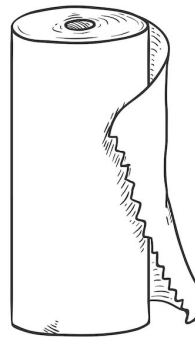
**August 13: 8:30 am Open
10:00 am Sue Block**

**August 20: 8:30 am Open
10:00 am Open**

**August 27: 8:30 am Open
10:00 am Open**

August CARE Pantry Challenge is.....

**Paper Towels
&
Facial Tissue**



HPW

**Just a reminder that we will be
having one more Craft Night this
summer on
August 1st**

Coffee Servers

August 6: Deb & Myron Ficek

**(We will be having cake in celebration of the 2nd
anniversary of Pastor Brian & Tyann being with us)**

August 13: Open

August 20: Kelli & Matt Haglund

**August 27: Bratberg Family (Cake in celebration of Darlene's
82nd birthday!)**





Members with Health Concerns:

Daryl Taatjes, Leslie Radabaugh, Mark Radabaugh, Conny Williamson, Darlene Thompson, Bob Hinderks, Dick Lindahl

Family and Friends with Health Concerns:

Jordan Bast	Craig Sietsema
Holly Carthers (Dee Schurman's sister)	Merlyn Flickinger Jr.
Bob Dieken (Karen Bents' brother)	Jenna (Joni Lamphere's daughter)
Johnnie Lee Larson (Virginia McKean's great grandson)	Pastor Jeff DeYoe

Grieving:

Family of Bob Sietsema

Care Facilities:

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, 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 in Ukraine and those living in Ukraine & Russia

****Reminder to please use the prayer request cards on Sunday mornings. These are to be returned to an usher and they will be given to Pastor Brian to be included in our "Sharing of Joys and Concerns" in worship.**

August Deacons of the Month: Dave & Eileen Helmstetter

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E-MAIL: hopepres@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <http://hopechurchspicer.org>

RADIO: KGLH 96.9 FM



AUGUST

2023

SUNDAYS

Office Hours

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

***Monday thru Thursday**

**8:30 A.M. Outdoor worship
in the Hopewood Chapel**

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