

2023



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Hope Scope

*Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

**Jeremiah 29:4-7 (NRSV)**

God's people—Israel—had been defeated and taken captive and uprooted and hauled off to Babylonia. They were nowhere near Jerusalem and the temple, so they did not know how to worship God. They were nowhere near the only land they had ever known—the land God had promised to them. And they hated the Babylonians for defeating them and taking them away. So how should they regard Babylonia and the Babylonians?

The prophet Jeremiah, speaking on behalf of God tells them to seek the welfare of the place they find themselves in. I am guessing this bit of prophecy was a bitter pill to swallow. They hated the Babylonians. Maybe they should just maintain a violent uprising until they wear the Babylonians out. No, says Jeremiah. Seek their good. Become part of the community. Make this your life, for now. Mix with the people. It is, says Jeremiah, for your own good.

Jeremiah could see that even when people mistreat you, you have an interest in the welfare of those people. And this is because our welfare is tied up in the welfare of every other person on earth.

Jesus said we should love our neighbor. And that is true, but at least part of the reason for that is that it is for our own good. God has made us a certain way, and when we don't live in that way, things will not go as we had hoped they would.

Even if you find yourself living in a situation where you are surrounded by enemies, seek their welfare. I am reminded of this as I see all the violence in Israel and Gaza. I wish they could all listen to the prophet.

But we all find ourselves in these situations, living next to, working with, commuting with—somehow having to deal with people we don't much like. Maybe we even consider them our enemies. Seek their welfare, says God.

Wherever you find yourself, take the old advice, and bloom where you are planted. And it won't hurt if you help your neighbor bloom, as well.

Blessings, *Brian Jones*

**At its October 2nd meeting, the Session approved the following:**

- \* depositing funds to be received in the approximate amount of \$2,304 from a former member's estate into the church's general fund.
- \* Youth and church members assisting with a produce distribution by the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf on October 10th at the Kandiyohi County Fairgrounds.
- \* the Christian Education, Youth and Families Committee holding an Advent fun hour on November 26 from 3-4 p.m.
- \* having practice for the children's Christmas program after worship on December 3rd and 6th and holding the Christmas program during worship on December 10th with December 17th as a backup date.
- \* changes to the Activity Request Forms for the River of Hope Youth Center.
- \* paying \$50 per student, per year, to attend a retreat at Clearwater Forest to be paid from the meatball supper account.
- \* apple picking at The Land at a date to be determined and an apple pie sale to raise funds for the restroom remodeling projects.
- \* the baptism of Cason James Hatch, son of Jayeden Christensen and Alex Hatch, during worship on a date to be determined between the parents and Rev. Dr. Jones.
- \* having the ushers ring the bell 12 times at 5 minutes before 10 a.m. as a call to worship.



The following volunteered to serve communion on Sunday, November 5th: Steve Barney, Deb Ficek, Kristene Foreman, Dee Schurman and Wally Titus.

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**FINANCE REPORT**

	Year to Date	Year to Date	
	September	09/30/2023	Monthly Average
Income	\$20,422.01	\$198,841.36	\$22,093.48
Expenses	\$20,987.23	\$216,836.64	\$24,092.96
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$565.22)	(\$17,995.28)	
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses			\$24,895.98
Per Capita Assessment for 2023			\$8,494.08
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 9/30/2023			\$3,244.38

Jerry Bents, Treasurer

# HOPE'S HAPPENINGS!

- \* **Sunday, Nov. 5th-Birthday cake to celebrate Virginia McKean's 90th birthday**
- **November 5th Installation of HPW Officers during worship with lunch for officers & spouses after worship**
- **Sunday November 19th-Thanksgiving service in sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.**

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**Dear Church Family,**

**Thanks so much for all the thoughts, love & concern, prayers and cards given to us during my brother's illness and when he was called home to be with Jesus. This is all so very much appreciated!**

**Love-Karen & Jerry Bents & Family**



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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

“...just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.”  
Matthew 25:40b



Kandiyohi County Food Shelf Food Distribution on October 10th

We assisted the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf with 2 produce distributions, one in September and one in October. It was a pleasure to serve! There were several of our CE students there as well as many willing adults from our church.



The WOW students use a portion of their offering money to purchase Bibles for babies who are baptized in our church. They presented Harrison Wade Swenson with a Bible on October 15th.

**“Are you Grumbly Hateful or Humbly Grateful?”**

This is a title of a Sunday school song but still a good question.  
The WOW students will be singing this song in church in November.

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made know to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” Phil. 4: 6-7

**Happy Thanksgiving!**



**Fridge Bridge**

November 1            All Saints Day  
                              5:45 – Family meal  
                              5:30 –Confirmation  
                              6:15 – WOW and Adult Study  
                              6:30 – TAG will go Trick or Treating for the Care Pantry

November 22    No Wednesday night classes – Thanksgiving break

November 26    WOW, Pre-confirmation and TAG classes will be dismissed after the children’s sermon to go to the classrooms to make ornaments to help decorate the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall.

**ADVENT FUN HOUR:** 3:00-4:00 - Christmas snacks & potluck

December 4            We will have rehearsal for the Christmas program after church. Pizza will be served for participants and families.

December 6            Rehearsal for the Christmas program at 6:15 for all classes

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

**WANTED!!**

**We are in need of lawn games that are in good shape and have all the pieces. We could use corn hole games, ladder ball, and bocci ball. Thank you.**

Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones



## Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.

If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something,  
for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.

During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations,  
because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge,  
because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes.

They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary,  
because it means you've made a difference.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things.

A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who  
are also thankful for the setbacks.

Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive.

Find a way to be thankful for your troubles,  
and they can become your blessings.

Poet Unknown

## **THE LINK'S MONTHLY IMPACT UPDATE**



### **THE FOOD PANTRY**

The Food Pantry continues to see an increase in need due to increased cost of living. In September, The Link welcomed 25 new families and served 129 households - distributing a total of 7,285 pounds of food.

### **WILDCAT BACKPACK AND SNACK PANTRY**

The Link is currently serving 86 children each week from NL-S schools! This is an ability to supplement children's food for the weekend when they are not in school. The Link is also currently connecting 28 teachers with snacks for students in their classroom.

### **CLIENT OUTREACH**

Each month, The Link is able to provide support to a number of families facing hardships, such as (but not limited to): job loss, chronic illness, unexpected change in family dynamics and increase in the cost of living. In September, your donations were able to support 17 families by helping with transportation, medical bills and prescription cost, gas, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic needs.

### **TUESDAY'S TABLE**

A free community meal the 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).

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Pray for the Link and the community; Help us spread awareness by talking about The Link to your friends and family and sharing on social media; Donate unexpired food items to the food pantry or organize a food drive; Volunteer at the Thrift Store or in the food pantry; Donate your gently used clothing and household goods- (all proceeds kick back into The Link's programs; Donate financially- Remember for every \$1 donated, The Link can purchase \$10 in food through Second Harvest.

### **DONATIONS MADE EASY**

Monthly giving at The Link is convenient. You can set up online giving directly through your bank or by visiting The Link's website at [www.youarethelink.org](http://www.youarethelink.org). You can also mail your donation to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273, drop off your donation in person or leave your check in the drop box outside of The Link's door at 20 Central Ave E, New London. Questions? Contact Ashley at 320-354-5555.

### **CURRENT NEEDS:**

Gently used kids clothing, winter gear in all sizes, new socks/underwear, gently used/clean blankets.

Food: Kid friendly food (corn dogs, chicken nuggets, French fries, pizza, snacks, etc.)

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

**Lay Readers:**

**November 5:  
10:00 am Jonelle Foreman**

**November 12:  
10:00 am Sue Block**

**November 19:  
10:00 am**

**November 26:  
10:00 am**

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**November Deacons  
of the Month:  
Dave Helmstetter &  
Greg Swenson**

**November CARE Pantry**

**Challenge is.....  
Laundry Detergent**



**Coffee Servers**

**November 5: Jackie Wahl &  
Gaylord Lind**

**\*Virginia McKean's 90th Birthday\***

**November 12: Carol & Bob Sampson**

**November 19: Wendy & Bob Barr**

**November 26: Jill & Grace Gau**







**Members with Health Concerns:**

Dick Lindahl, Kathy Jansen, John Williamson, Bob Hinderks

**Family and Friends with Health Concerns:**

Travis Muller

Chet (Kylie Taatjes' friend)

Pete & Steve (Pastor & Tyann's friends)

Anakin Jorschumb

Bobby (Joni Lamphere's aunt)

Kevin Taatjes

Sheila Kelly (Jody Leason's cousin)

Ross Antonson (Deb Steele's brother)

Vicky Mattson (Friend of Sharon Jones)

Connie Benson (Helmstetter's friend)

Dale (Friend of the Hagemeiers)

Greg Skinner (Virginia McKean's son-in-law)

Jordan Bast

Holly (Dee Schurman's sister)

Pastor Jeff DeYoe

**Grieving:**

Family of Dennis Benson, Family of Bob Rierson (Sue Block's uncle), Family of Shelly Erickson, Family of Bob Dieken (Karen Bents' brother), Family of Mary Austvold, Family of Denise Gjerde

**Care Facilities:**

Jerry Gault (Prairie Senior Cottages, 1705 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW-Willmar), Shar Williams (Carris Health Care Center-Rice 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

For those serving in the military

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**WEBSITE: <http://hopechurchspicer.org>**

**RADIO: KGLH 96.9 FM**



# November

# 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