



2025

Hope Scope

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.

Matthew 13:22 (NRSV)

This verse comes from a parable where Jesus is explaining that the way the Word of God lands on us is something like the way scattered seed lands on good ground, or something else. And he says that sometimes the seed falls among the weeds, and those weeds choke out the Word. This is like when we hear the word of God, but this busy, demanding world we live in just has our attention.

And this is certainly a teaching of Jesus that very readily translates to our time. Because we know - don't we? - that we could all be closer disciples of Jesus if the world: our work, our families, our neighbors, the news - everything, really - didn't take so much of our attention, energy, and money.

So here is something for us all to remember. Jesus never says that we should feed the hungry, unless there is something else we want to do. He doesn't say that we should heal the sick, unless we'd rather do something else with our money. He doesn't say that we should welcome the stranger or love our enemies, unless we think it would be too dangerous.

It is simpler than that. Feed the hungry. Heal the sick. Welcome the stranger. Love the enemy. It is as simple as can be. Which is not to say that it is easy. Often, it is not. Often, it seems almost impossible.

Our God loves us and knows us. God knows that we will not get any of this done perfectly. This is no excuse for not doing as Jesus does. We have to know that as we go through life, trying to follow Jesus, seeking the path, and making an attempt to stay on it, we can never excuse ourselves by saying "I didn't feel like doing that today."

But at the same time, we serve a God who knows our shortcomings and loves us enough to forgive us, time and time again. God does that for us out of love, and in the hope that we will, in gratitude for that grace, return to the life we were created for and called to.

~ Blessings, Brian Jones

At its meeting on September 29, 2025, the Session:

- Approved the following requests by the Christian Education, Youth and Families Committee: painting the Christian Education rooms and hallway; Holding a sock ministry for CARE Pantry clients in December and requesting donations from the congregation; and Payment of \$100 by anyone attending Clearwater Camp and the remaining fee being a scholarship paid by Hope Presbyterian Church;
- Appointed an ad hoc committee to recommend to the Session landscaping around the new outdoor electronic sign and for a sign with the church's name on it along with cost estimates.
- Heard about the donation of an anti-choking device and future training on it.
- Set the Service of Remembrance for Sunday, November 2nd.
- Directed that the ushers be informed they are to have one usher at the East entry to welcome people.



At its October 27th meeting, the Session approved:

- Changing communion in December to the 14th rather than the 7th due to the children's Christmas program;
- Accepting the following individuals as new members of Hope Church: Charlie Carver, Heather Carver, Matt Haglund, Tyann Jones, Ann Roguske, Jeff Roguske, Jerry Schiro, Sue Schiro, and Connie Swanson;
- The following requests of the Christian Education Youth and Families Committee: the WOW offering for 2025-2026 going to either a shoe or sock ministry or to purchase school supplies for the 2026-2027 school year through The Link; disposing of the desk and other broken items located in the River of Hope Youth Center; and youth participating in the Jennie-O turkey distribution on November 15 through the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf at the Willmar High School.
- The following requests of the Mission Engagement Committee: Hope Church's portion of the 2025 Pentecost offering going toward Hope Church's Wednesday night meals and the 2025 Peace & Global Witness offering going to The Compassionate Way; asking members to donate any unused/unneeded Bibles for CARE Pantry clients and to allow the Mission Engagement Committee to go through the church's inventory to find any extra, unused Bibles to donate to CARE Pantry clients;
- The following requests of the Technology Committee: disposing of old televisions and non-working equipment, including the old printer/copier/scanner located in the Christian Education wing;
- Approved the wedding request of Jayeden Christensen and Alex Hatch for August 1, 2026 in the Hopewood Chapel and the baptism of their son, Kolter John Hatch, during worship on January 25, 2026.

FINANCE REPORT

	Month of Sept 2025	Year to Date Monthly Avg.	Year to Date Jan 1 - Sept 30th	Prior Year to Date Jan 1 - Sept 30th
Income	\$16,319.66	\$21,149.00	\$190,341.03	\$203,495.71
Expenses	\$22,205.21	\$22,950.54	\$206,554.82	\$208,588.20
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$3,885.55)		(\$16,213.79)	(\$5,092.49)
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses				\$26,748.96
Per Capita Assessment for 2025				\$7,500.00
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 09/30/2025				\$4,260.00

Report prepared by Kristene King, Treasurer

In 2025, Per Capita has increased to \$46.00 per active member.

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

**Please place your donations on the table in front of the mailboxes or in the
CARE Pantry box by the mailboxes. Thank you!**



Christian Education Youth & Families

Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones

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. So many from our church came to decorate trunks or the cookie table. It was fantastic!! See our Facebook post for more pictures.





After the Trunk or Treat Event the youth gathered at our River of Hope Youth Center for hotdogs and s'mores over the fire and fun together, including ghost races and heating up Mr. Jack-o-lantern!!



Our TAG (Teens and God) group, led by Jason & Liz Windingstad and accompanied by Kelli & Matt Haglund went trick or treating to the homes of people in our congregation for CARE Pantry items. We THANK this group for spending hours going from home to home and to ALL who donated all the items. The TAG crew left lovely key chains inscribed with a Bible verse at all the homes they visited. What an inspirational "Treat!" Thank you.





We had two tables full of donations! WOW!!!

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We have been enjoying our new Wednesday night schedule with a meal every Wednesday and a short worship service!

EVERYONE is welcome to join us every Wednesday for the meal and the worship service. If you know you are coming, please call the office. But even if you haven't made that call, come anyway!

On Wednesday, November 5th the meal will be a congregational potluck.

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

Christmas Stockings!!!!

Mission Opportunity!!!



The Christian Education Youth and Families Committee is 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 this “FOOT WARMING” endeavor! You may bring your donations and add them to the “sock drawer” in the Fellowship Hall.

Fridge Bridge:

November:

- 2 Hand bells rehearsal at 8:50 am
- 5 Congregational potluck at 5:30 followed by a worship service at 6:00 – Fellowship Hall
- 9 **Hand bells play in church**
- 11 CEYF Committee meeting at 6:30
- 12 Meal at 5:30; worship service at 6:00; regular classes starting at 6:20
- 19 Meal at 5:30; worship service at 6:00; regular classes starting at 6:20
- 23 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).
- 26 No school at NLS so no Wednesday classes
- 27 Happy Thanksgiving
- 30 **SECOND Christmas program practice** after church (meal served to participants and families).

December

- 3 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
- 7 **Christmas program during church**



Members with Health Issues:

Bob Sampson, Harold Foreman, Hilda Grosklags,
Daryl Taatjes, Ruth Birkeland

*Prayer
Requests*

**Family and Friends with Health Issues:**

Renee Illies (Eldy Williams' daughter), Naomi Powers-Baker, Stephanie (Ed & Cat Anderson's daughter), Dorothy Jones, Joanna Hanson (Helmstetter's niece), Dan Dolan (Maggie's brother), Victor Helmstetter (Helmstetter's nephew), Friend of Sarah Sampson, Rick Gerhardson (neighbor of Greg Swenson), Fred Nathan (Joni's cousin), Paul Hagen (Betty's son/Nancy Birkeland's nephew)

Grieving:

Family of Brian Johnson (son of Jo Holm), Family of Eileen Helmstetter, Family of Richard Hopkins (Skylar's family friend)

****Please Note** If you have a prayer request, please fill out a prayer request card found on the table by the mailboxes in the Fellowship Hall and return it to an usher or Pastor Brian.

November Deacons of the Month: Karen Bents & Mary O'Malley



I wish to thank all the members of the church for the kindness of the prayer shawl gift.

Phyllis and I have enjoyed attending church services and your great meals!!

~ Don & Phyllis Shaw

(Don is currently at Bethesda Care Center in Willmar, room #445 if anyone wishes to visit or send cards)

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards, and visits. I will continue to have home therapy for a time. It is good to be home again.

Thank you also for the prayers for my grandson, Paul. He is doing better and is also back in his home.

~ Ruth Birkeland

Office Hours

Monday thru Friday
8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Schedule

9:15 A.M. Fellowship Hour
10:00 A.M. Worship in Sanctuary
Also on Facebook Live &
on Radio 96.9 FM

TV - Channel 18 or Channel 181 - Sundays 2:15 pm, Tuesdays 11:30 am &
3:00 pm, or Thursdays 8:00 am & 5:00 pm

Used (or New) Bibles & Televisions

The Mission Committee is looking for Bibles to give away to the CARE Pantry clients. If you have extra Bibles sitting at home that you don't use and aren't sentimental to you, please bring them to the church and put in the CARE Pantry box by the mailboxes or give to Karen Bents. Thank you!

The Technology Committee is also looking for working flat screen televisions to put up in the Youth Center for the kids to use for playing gaming consoles (Nintendo, Wii, etc.) We currently have 2 of the old, clunky television sets, but we would like to switch those out for thinner televisions to save on space. If you have some you want to donate, whether used or new, please talk to Steph. Thank you!

Blessings Box

The Blessings Box is closed for the season. We will open it again when the weather gets warmer in the spring. Thank you all for your continued support and donations towards the Blessings Box! The community thanks you!

November Coffee Servers

November 2nd: Sherry & Larry Bratsch

November 9th: Kathy & Dave Terpstra

November 16th: Tyann & Brian Jones

November 23rd: Lisa Thorson

November 30th: Jody & Jerry Leason, Joni Lamphere

