

2024



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Hope Scope

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

*"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

***John 3:16-17 (NRSV)***

There is not a lot a preacher has to say about this passage. It may be the most well-known passage in all of the Bible. But as we are in a season when we celebrate the gift that Jesus is, both in our personal lives, and in the world, it is good for us to remember what the gift was about.

The gift was—is—for us. It is for the world. God loves us and wants the best for us, and so God sent a Savior, because that is what we needed. It is what we still need. Sometimes we maybe get tired of thinking about all the things God wants from us, expects from us, hopes for from us. If that happens to you, just go back and read this passage. It is just about God's great love for you.

Our actions are always secondary. Our actions—our good works—always arise out of the goodness of God. They are always a response to God's goodness. The first act is always God's act. And God's first act in this whole transaction is love.

You are loved. You don't have to be good to be loved. You don't have to earn the love. In fact, you couldn't if you tried. You, me, the world—we are loved by none other than the God of the universe.

You would be hard pressed to find better news than that anywhere.

Blessings, *Brian Jones*

At its December 4th meeting, the Session approved the following:

- approved Pastor Jones taking vacation December 25, 2023 through January 2, 2024;
- was informed per capita for 2024 will be \$45 per active member for a total of \$7,425;
- approved participation in the January 27, 2024 Polar Plunge with a team and each participant paying their entry fee and collecting donations for Special Olympics;
- approved inviting Kay Levesque of Parent Life to give a presentation on human trafficking in January;
- approved the Christian Education, Youth and Families Committee holding a retreat on April 13 from 8:30-10:30 a.m.;
- recommended the slate of officers for approval by the congregation;
- approved holding a chili cookoff on Sunday, January 14, 2024, following worship and that a free-will donation be taken for the restroom remodeling projects;
- approve insurance coverage for buildings and contents, umbrella liability and workers' compensation through Lake Region Insurance with a \$10,000 deductible and to pay the annual premium of \$9,851.82 upfront;
- was informed that no one has been found to replace Darlene Bratberg as prayer chain coordinator—effective December 1, 2023. There will be no prayer chain until and unless a replacement is found;
- approved hiring Kristene Foreman as Treasurer for Hope Church beginning January 1, 2024;
- approved recommending to the congregation that Sandy Wersal complete the final year of Kristene Foreman's term on the Session;
- approved the 2024 budget and recommended the congregation approve the Pastor's salary package; rescheduled its January meeting to January 8, 2024.

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FINANCE REPORT

Jerry Bents, Treasurer

	November	Year to Date 11/30/2023	Year to Date Monthly Average
Income	\$20,696.17	\$249,730.38	\$22,702.76
Expenses	\$21,574.86	\$260,850.68	\$23,713.70
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$878.69)	(\$11,120.30)	
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses			\$24,895.98
Per Capita Assessment for 2023			\$8,494.08
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 11/30/2023			\$3,605.50

# WANTED!!

**Participants for the Hope Presbyterian Church Polar Plunge Team!**  
**The 2024 Polar Plunge is in Spicer, January 27, 2024. The Polar Plunge is a fundraiser for Special Olympics. The cost is \$75 per participant. The registration fee will be paid for by the participant, offset by any donations that are collected. Any money collected in excess of the \$75/participant will be donated directly to the local chapter of Special Olympics.**



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## Chili Cook-off Fundraiser

Proceeds go towards the restrooms (by the Jack Anderson Room) remodel project

**Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

**After Worship**

Free-will donation

**\*\*\*Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to bring a pot of chili!**



Amazing prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places will be awarded!

(We also need people to sign up to bring a pan of cornbread or a dessert)

## Christian Education Youth and Families

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Matthew 2:10-11

### The Magi

**Epiphany** is celebrated on January 6. It is when we celebrate the wisemen visiting Jesus and the significance of their visit. They came from the east representing the Gentiles (non-Jewish people) worshiping Jesus too. This Savior is for US too! The gifts have meaning also. Gold is for royalty-kings, frankincense represents God, and myrrh is an oil to anoint the bodies of the deceased, representing Jesus’ humanity.

So, there is quite a lot to celebrate about Epiphany. However, it is easy to overlook this day because we have just finished with the huge celebration of Christmas. If January 6 came and went without much fanfare, it is never too late to read the story in Matthew 2 and maybe sing the chorus of “We Three Kings” and be grateful for the roles of the Magi in God’s great plan for us.

**THANK YOU!      THANK YOU!      THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who helped with our December events!! There are many who make them happen and many who fly under the radar. You are all appreciated for your dogged determination to provide fun and meaningful events for our church family!!

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### Fridge Bridge

(Please tear this off and hang it on your fridge)

Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>      5:45 PM Family meal and regular  
Wednesday classes

Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:15 PM - Human Trafficking presentation by  
Kay Levesque from Parent Life in Willmar. All adults and  
students over 12 years old are invited to attend.

Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>      3:00-5:30 PM – Fun Day at River of Hope Youth  
Center—for all youth and families.

Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> 5:45 PM Family meal  
Regular Wednesday classes











### Christmas program

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The TAG (Teens And God) class, under the leadership of Jason and Liz Windingstad, studied the sacrament of Communion. The students got to experience the kinds of food Jesus might have eaten at the Last Supper, which we remember about during Communion.

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**On Wednesday, January 17th, 2024, from 6:00-7:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall there will be an informational program on Human Trafficking presented by Kay Levesque, Director of Parent Life of Willmar. All adults and students 12 years/older are welcome to attend.**

**Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones**







**Members with Health Concerns:**

Daryl Taatjes, Harold Foreman, Sandy Ardoff, Jo Holm, Sharon Jones, Darlene Thompson, Dick Lindahl, Conny Williamson, Bob Hinderks

**Family and Friends with Health Concerns:**

Barb Knittel (Tyann's friend's Mom)

Joel Jergenson (Jonelle Foreman's Dad)

Ruth (Friend of Carol Sampson)

Kevin Taatjes

Vicky Mattson (Friend of Sharon Jones)

**Grieving:**

Family of Pastor Kari Jutila, Family of Sandy Aalderks, Family of Pastor Jeff DeYoe, Family of Sheila (Alisa Taatjes' Aunt), Family of Sheila Henneman (Amanda Titus' Mom)

**Care Facilities:**

Jerry Gault (Prairie Senior Cottages, 1705 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW-Willmar), Shar Williams (Carris Health Care Center, 1801 Willmar Ave. SW), Kathy Jansen \*\*(Bethesda Grand, 901 Willmar Ave. SE, Room 103), 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

## NOVEMBER 2023 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

The Link's Open House Fundraiser was a great success! We are grateful to each and every one of you that came to support The Link and to all of you that have supported The Link's mission so far in 2023!!!!

**The Food Pantry** continues to see an increase in need. In November, The Link welcomed **27 new families** and served **165 households** - distributing a total of **10,067 pounds of food**.

**Wildcat Backpack and Snack Pantry.** The Link is currently serving **93 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 **29 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 November, your donations were able to support **7 families** by helping with medical bills, gas, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic needs. **Household Exchange.** The Household Exchange Program was able to provide **27 families** with much needed winter gear, furniture and other household necessities in November.

**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 -- or Donate financially.

**CURRENT NEEDS:** Gently used winter gear and kids clothing. 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) by scanning the QR code. 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.

Thank you for your support! YOU are The Link!

## Thankful For The Day

by Catherine Pulsifer

Once a year, every year it comes  
Marching in drum by drum.  
One year ends and another begins  
Often time it brings a grin.

Some people are glad to see the old year go  
But others feel time has gone to slow.  
Some people wish time would stand still  
But a thought like that gives me a chill.

You see an opportunity exists each year  
To help others and bring good cheer.  
Our attitude towards our time  
Can be worth a dollar or just a dime.

This coming year live each day  
Keep negative thoughts at bay.  
Life is too short to live with regrets  
Life is too short to live with big debts.

Appreciate and be content  
Do not spend your time in lament.  
Awake each day and always pray  
Be thankful for another day.





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2024

### 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**

**January 21st Annual Meeting after Worship**

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