

Herald of Hope August 2025



Hope Lutheran Church, ELCA

305 10th St. S Walker, MN 56484 (PO Box 506)

218-547-1850

All are Welcome!

www.hopelutheranchurch-walker.com

Hope Lutheran's Staff

Senior Pastor	Matt McWaters	hopepastor@arvig.net
Pastor	Dave Smith	davidsmith@arvig.net
Youth Director	Michelle Anderson	hopeyouth@arvig.net
Office Manager	Michelle Dowson	hope-michelle@arvig.net
Bookkeeper	Kris Knowles	hopekris@gmail.com
Music/Worship	Jill Anderson	
Accompanist	Mike Kerrigan	
Custodian	Vic Fields	

Worship with us Sundays at 9:00

If you can't join us in person, you can view Hope's live Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m. by logging onto leechlaketv.org, or tuning your antenna TV to Channel 21.5. The service is also broadcast live on KQKK 101.9 FM radio. You can also find an archive of Hope's services on YouTube or the church website.

Free Event!

Food



Music

Area Community Services

Tuesday, August 5th
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**Celebrate our community and
get to know your neighbors on
National Night Out!**

Pulled Pork Sandwich,
Chips, Cookie & Beverage

*Bring the kids
for an up-close look at fire,
police & emergency vehicles!*

Free Event...rain or shine!

Hope Lutheran Church Parking Lot

305 Tenth St S Walker MN 218 547-1850



**Enjoy God's beautiful creation and
join us for Outdoor Worship on
Sunday, August 17 at 9:00 a.m.**

Bring your own lawn chair for outdoor worship, if you are able. Outdoor services will be moved indoors if weather necessitates.

From Pastor Matt

A Lifelong Lifestyle of Learning

"Keep doing the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you." Philipians 4:9, NRSV

As August dawns and families like mine are beginning preparations for another soon-to-begin school year, I recall the time in my life when I thought I knew pretty much everything I needed to learn. Parents, what did they know! Those of different opinions, ignorant! Perhaps you can recall a similar period of time in your life too.

What I didn't realize at the time was how much more there is to learn outside of the academic bubble, learning through new experiences in life related to changing social dynamics, moving to a new community, meeting new people, new cultures, emerging academic research, and more. I remember leaving the hospital after welcoming our first-born, looking at him in the car seat, and thinking, "I'm not sure I can do this! I don't know what I'm doing!" Turns out, those parents of mine who didn't know anything, knew a lot more than I thought.

Early Christians were learning too, as they explored what it meant to be a Jesus follower in their day and age. The world was a complex place then, just as it is now, and discovering how to live, work, worship, and play faithfully was a real challenge. Believers struggled to learn what worked and what didn't when it came to worship life, hospitality, the sometimes-blurred lines between civic duty and faithful living. Some thought they should continue with old patterns of worship and rigid pious lives separated from the mainstream, while others advocated for throwing the old ways right out the window and implementing current reforms that made a life of faith more accessible. The apostle Paul in his letter to the Christians in Philippi commended the community in their learning and encouraged them to apply it.

We are called to a lifelong lifestyle of learning as Jesus followers too, to keep from falling into the old trap of believing we've learned everything there is to learn. This doesn't mean you have to go to Seminary, enroll in a 20-week Bible study, or schedule sessions with the pastor (which your pastor would love to do by the way!) Much of what we have to learn is all around us every day, and we have opportunities at Hope to engage learning through Circle Bible Studies, Adult Education, and amidst all aspects of our life together. Below are four tips on how to more intentionally prepare our minds and our hearts to

learn more about our faith and this life we've been given in a dynamic and ever-changing world.

1. Prepare to listen to, read, and contemplate opinions counter to your own, with openness. This doesn't mean you have to agree but commit to an honest attempt to consider something new.
2. Evaluate new ideas, concepts, and learning against tradition - or what you already believe to be right/true. This could include looking to scripture, visiting with a pastor, or talking with the community about it.
3. Consider your source(s). With so much information available to us today, it can be hard to know what is dependable, true, or has passed rigor. Source information from various places, knowing the gifts and dangers of digital information. Google can find the Lutheran Confessions, look up bible verses by theme, and find summaries of the church's best Theologians. Google can also find the musings of hate-driven white-supremacists dressed up to sound like Biblical doctrine.
4. Be curious about the world and people around you. Wonder about the natural world, ask more questions than asserting your own answers, and spend time pondering what you've experienced.

Pastor Matt

MINISTERIAL ACTS

Sunday, July 6
Memorial Service for
Bob Higdem

Wednesday, July 16
Funeral Service for
Brendon Mankie

Friday, July 25th
Memorial Service for
Greg Proper

Tuesday, July 29th
Memorial Service for
Otto Ringle

Hope Lutheran Church gives thanks for recent gifts received...

In memory of **Otto Ringle**, gifts to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Larry & Meri Mengis, Judy Berg, John & Carol Fjelstul, Tim & Margie Richardson; a gift to the *General Fund* from Martha Vetter; gifts to the *Worship & Music Fund* from Chuck & Shirley Nelson, Sue & Dan Eikenberry; a gift to the *Food Box Fund* from Karen Kellogg; gifts to the *Memorial Garden/Arboretum Fund* from Roger & Kay Strandlie, Steve & Jane Ekholm

In memory of **Greg Proper**, gifts to the *General Fund* from Bruce & Ardyce Pederson, Shirley Dowson; gifts to the *Endowment Fund* from Brad Barker, Dave & Bonnie Smith; gifts to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Judy Berg, Larry & Meri Mengis; a gift to the *Worship & Music Fund* from Pete Opheim

In memory of **Brendon Mankie**, gifts to the *Youth of Hope* from Karen Kellogg, Shirley Dowson; a gift to the *General Fund* from Martha Vetter; a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Larry & Meri Mengis

In memory of **Bob Higdem**, gifts to the *Endowment Fund* from Ross Fischer, John & Jane Haas; gifts to the *General Fund* from Janet Arnold, Roger & Kay Strandlie, Cal & Sally Hiner, Bev Corr-Higdem; gifts to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from John & Carol Fjelstul, Bev Corr-Higdem

In memory of **Carl Berg**, a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Judy Berg

In memory of **LaWanna Johnson**, a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Jan Filkins, and a gift to the *General Fund* from Tim & Margie Richardson

In memory of **Steve Odgren**, a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Larry & Meri Mengis; a gift to the *General Fund* from Bruce & Ardyce Pederson

In memory of **Dick & Sharon Kiester**, a gift to the *General Fund* from Mark & Jill Burggraf

In honor of **Pastor Dave's 20th Anniversary of Ordination** a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Shirley Dowson



Holy Smoke—September 7th!

The Board of Fellowship is excited to announce our Fourth Annual Holy Smoke Cookoff! This event will be in conjunction with Hope Lutheran's **Rally Sunday on September 7th**. We are again looking for individuals who are interested in being part of this year's event. Holy Smoke is a fun competition for Hope Lutheran's smoke masters and even more fun for the tasters!

They donate their favorite smoked meat or side and the Board of Fellowship will set up a buffet for the Hope Congregation at 11:00. We had an excellent turnout last year and are looking for additional Smoke masters to join the challenge. Plans are to hold this event indoors with outdoor events for the youth. If you are interested in participating as a smoker, please contact Scott Skalisky at srskalisky@gmail.com, or text at 507-282-6717. Make sure to save the date on your calendar for this popular event!

HOPE'S CHANCEL CHOIR

welcomes all summer singers! Meet in the Music Room at 8:00 a.m. for rehearsal prior to worship on Sundays, August 10th & 24th. Leave a message in the church office to be added to the choir email notice list for date changes.

Dear friends in Christ,

During these past months, I have received beautiful cards, letters, emails, and messages from many of you. Your words of condolences and sympathy to me and my family at the death of my husband, Steve, have been moving and uplifting. I am grateful for your prayers and words of encouragement.

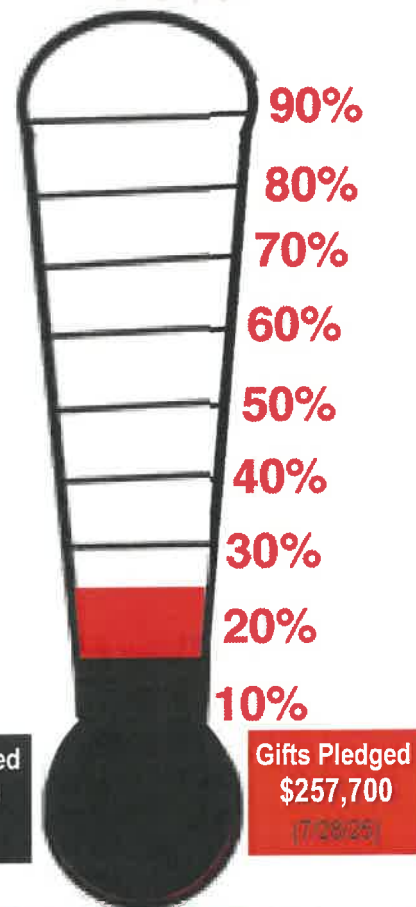
My family and I have felt your love and support during this time when we had no words. Although the sting of death will be with us for some time, I live with the hope of Christ's promises of the resurrection. The church is a beautiful expression of the body of Christ. All of us with our separate gifts, talents and abilities... yet joined together in Christ through our baptisms, we are a community of love, support and forgiveness, called to encourage and nurture our faith with one another.

Thank you for comforting me and my family with the nearness of your prayers. May we all feel the presence of God with us as we continue the walk of our faith with one another.

With love and gratitude,
Bishop Amy Odgren

RENEWING HOPE'S PROMISE 5-YEAR GOAL: \$1,000,000

100%



Dear Hope Lutheran,
Thank you for the graduate scholarship. It will help a ton. You have done so much for me and I am super grateful. Thanks.
Cooper Brovold

They came, they shopped, and they ate!

The Christmas in July event was held on Tuesday, July 15th. It was a lot of fun and a great success! Thank you to the committee members for all their hard work in planning this event and for making it happen. Thanks to everyone who donated to the bake sale and brought dessert goodies to serve at the luncheon. There were numerous home-made crafts donated by members of the congregation. Thank you for sharing your talents and donating your items. We appreciate everyone who joined us for lunch in fellowship hall, who purchased bake goodies to take home, bought a home-made craft from the silent auction/buy it now tables or purchased homemade cards.

The winner of the Christmas quilt was Lynn Moen! She is going to love snuggling up with her new quilt this winter.

Thanks again for supporting this event! The proceeds made from this event allow the Women of Hope to continue to support programs at WHA school, Akeley Woman's Shelter, Faith in Action, Walker Food Shelf and other programs in our community and globally.

All ladies are invited to...

Women's Potluck & Bible Study Wednesday, August 6th at noon

Bring something to share and your *Gather* magazine if you have one, and join the Women of Hope for our summer lunch and Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall. Kim Dickey of Global Health Ministries will be our Guest Speaker and will share with us where the diapers we made are going, as well as several other programs. Invite a friend... summer visitors warmly welcomed!

HOPE CARD MAKERS meet on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall to make cards as a fundraiser for the Women of Hope. Anyone is welcome to help! All materials and instructions provided. Greeting cards for all occasions are available near the church office for \$2 each.

Sunday Worship Ushers

Aug 3: Malard Family
Aug 10: Bovees
Aug 17: Osatiuks
Aug 24: **Volunteer Needed**
Aug 31: **Volunteer Needed**

Readers

Aug 3: Jill Burggraf
Aug 10: Sally Hiner
Aug 17: Margie Richardson
Aug 24: John Haas
Aug 31: Al Sanford



Christmas in July 2025



Women of Hope

Our second and final **Summer Bible study/potluck luncheon** will be held on August 6th beginning at noon. Lydia Circle is our hostess; Shirley Nelson will be leading the study on Session Two in our *Gather* magazine. Please bring your copy if you have one. There are some insights on this study from Pastor Dave in the July *Herald of Hope*. Bring a potluck item to share for the luncheon. If you are a summer visitor, please join us. If you have summer company, bring them with you!

September 3rd is our **Fall General meeting/potluck** and intro to our Fall/Winter Bible study from our "Gather" magazine. Join us at noon.

Shirley & Ardyce stepped up last year to serve as your co-chairs when we had no other volunteers; if this is a position you would be interested in, please talk to us. New leadership would be great for 2026-27.

Please mark your calendars for September 27th. We will be hosting the **Women's Living Waters Fall Gathering** here at Hope. This is an opportunity to meet and greet our sisters from our Conference plus some of the ladies who serve on our Synodical board. More information will be coming on this event.

A huge thank you is extended to Angie O. who did a terrific job as our Christmas in July chair. Angie has endless energy and great ideas! And, to Martha V. who made our dining room so beautiful and fun with special favors and table decorations to bring Christmas to Walker in July. From the Women of Hope Board members

Coming Up...

- ▶ August 6 10:00 a.m. Women of Hope Board meeting
- ▶ August 6 Noon All Ladies potluck/Bible Study
- ▶ August ? Kitchen Cleaning - *Miriam*
- ▶ September 3 10:00 a.m. Women of Hope Board meeting
- ▶ September 3 Noon Women's Fall General mtg/potluck (*Miriam Circle- host*)
- ▶ September ? Kitchen Cleaning - *Miriam*
- ▶ September 27 ?? Living Waters Women's Fall Gathering



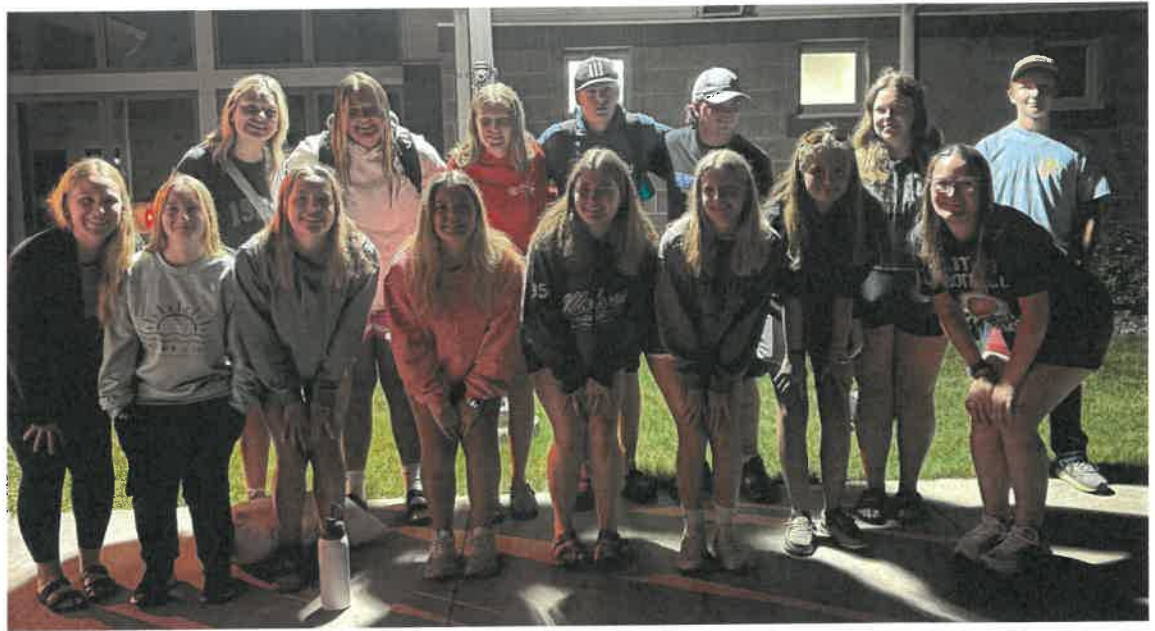
Thank You to the hundreds of people who prayed for me and my family during my double by-pass surgery and GI surgery as well as the recovery time following. It was also quite an experience seeing an entire operation team pray when I told them I had over 300 people praying for me back home. The power of prayer was everywhere and brought such peace and calm to my soul! The Sanford staff starting with our local clinic to Bemidji Hospital and then to Fargo Hospital were amazing and so caring. There were staff from all over the world who worked at Sanford and were Christians serving in the medical field. Our Amazing Pastor Matt arrived at Fargo Hospital with a beautiful, comforting Women of Hope prayer shawl (so assuring that it came with prayers and oh so warm). He prayed immediately with Duane and me – what a glorious extended church family we have! Beautiful flowers and a cross from the Landts were waiting in my room (Kayla is my confirmation mentee from last year). The cards & letters & texts of hope and love brought tears of joy to our eyes! Thanks, too, for all of you who filled the tasks left behind, like paraments --Thanks, Meri Mengis for all your help in organizing—it was good to see when watching our church services on live TV.



When arriving back home in Walker, the healing messages kept pouring in and food arrived from church and neighborhood friends. Jane Ekholm came over with flowers & a prayer shawl from a church she served at and prayed with me. Pat Roush organized a group of Hope friends to come to our home to help with our gardens – see pictures to see acts of kindness from Pat & Wayne Roush, Deb Fischer, Angie Ostatuik, Jane Haas, & Jennifer O'Neill. Jennifer even found a sparrow nest amid our tall sedum, another reminder of caring for God's wonderful creations!

The recovery process is under way...your thoughtfulness, encouraging words and loving hugs and prayers are beyond measure...and SO appreciated by Duane (my wonderful caretaker husband) and our immediate family and me. Looking forward to more opportunities to serve with you! Thank You Family of Hope! With sincere gratitude & God's unending love,
How can I keep from singing & praying?,
Sherren Foss

The Youth of Hope have been busy this summer! Youth Director Michelle Anderson was away at Luther Crest at the time of publication, so here's a little snapshot of what's been happening!



This group of teens snuck off to Knoxville, TN (yes, it was while you were sleeping) for a week+ of service!



This group spent a week at Luther Crest Bible Camp near Alexandria during July, after raising money selling brats & dogs at Meat Boutique and serving as grocery baggers at Super One!

We also hosted an awesome Vacation Bible School Day Camp at Hope for over 50 kids during July!

See more in your next Herald of Hope!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
  <h1>AUGUST</h1>						
3 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	4 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	5 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders 5:30-7:00 National Night Out	6 10:30 Women of Hope Board Mtg Noon – Women's Potluck & Study 1:00 pm Bone Builders	7 8:30 am Quilters 9:00 Gardeners 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	8	9 1:30 pm Amundson wedding back-up
10 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	11 9:30 AA 10:00 Women's Living Waters Conf. Board Mtg 1:00 pm Bone Builders	12 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders	13 9:00 am – Board of Outreach 11:00 Worship -May Creek Cottages 12:30 Worship at May Creek Lodge 1:00 pm Bone Builders	14 8:30 am Quilters 9:00 Gardeners 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	15	16
17 9:00 Outdoor Worship <i>Moved indoors if bad weather</i>	18 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	19 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders	20 1:00 pm Bone Builders	21 8:30 am Quilters 9:00 Gardeners 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	22	23
24 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 10:10 Freedom & Faith Study	25 9:00 am Northwoods Quilters 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	26 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders	27 1:00 pm Bone Builders	28 8:30 am Quilters 9:00 Gardeners 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	29	30
31 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	<i>Hope Lutheran Church</i>					2025

Discussion on Freedom & Faith – Sunday, August 24th

Freedom is kind of a big deal in our nation's history. We are the "home of the FREE" and pursue LIBERTY for all. So what does freedom look like when we view it through the lens of faith? Join Pastor Matt after worship on Sunday, August 24 for a one session discussion around Freedom & Faith, guided by scripture, excerpts from Martin Luther's treatise *Freedom of a Christian*, and the collective wisdom of the people of Hope.



HOPE'S MISSION

*Hope invites all to connect with
God and each other through*

- ... Worship
- ... Community
- ... Service

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
#4
Walker, MN

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO Box 506
Walker MN 56484
218 547-1850