

Herald of Hope August 2026



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	
Accompanists	Mike Kerrigan & Emily Turney	
Custodian	Vic Fields	

Caring for Creation from a Faith Perspective

Wednesday, August 26th

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Human impacts on creation have become public flashpoints for conflict in recent years. Pipelines, data centers, resource protection, and resource extraction all enter the daily public dialogue, often framed around ecological, political, and economic concerns. So what, if anything, do the people of God have to contribute from a perspective of faith?

**Join Pastor Matt and Pastor Dave on
Wednesday, August 26 at 5:30 pm**

for bratwurst and a discussion of this timely topic. We will review some key concepts from scripture, our denominational documents, and our shared life that can contribute to this important public discussion.



Bible and Brats

Free Event!



Chips, Cookie &
Beverage



Area Community Services

Music by



**Tuesday, August 4th
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.**

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



**Smokey will be
there!**

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

Holy Smoke 2026

The Board of Fellowship will hold their 5th Annual Holy Smoke Cook-off on Sunday September 13th. This event will be in conjunction with Hope Lutheran's Rally Sunday. 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 sides to the buffet in the Fellowship area at 10:15. Additional items are, chips and beans, pickles, buns and hot dogs for the kids, cake, lemonade, water and coffee. We had an excellent turnout last year and are looking for additional Smoke masters to join the challenge. This year's event will be held in honor of Dick Zuehlke, who passed this year. Dick was one of the original smokers and his family donated the wonderful Holy Smoke aprons to Fellowship. 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!

*Would you rather receive this newsletter via email
as a pdf? Send a request to hope-michelle@arvig.net*

From Pastor Matt

The Bible and Our Reading

While the Bible holds the title for the most sold book of all time (estimated 5-7 billion copies around the world) mystery still abounds for many who hear it and read it on a regular basis. Filled with history, poetry, and other genres of literature rooted in cultures quite different from our own, the living and inspired word of God still shares with us the story of God and God's people in ways that inspire hope, faith, and love. To be clear, we do not worship the Bible, but instead the God to whom the Bible bears witness. Through accounts of courageous faith, moments of deep despair, captivating love stories, and persistent teaching, the written word of God meets us and accompanies us wherever we might be.

Pastors often hear from folks how they wish they knew more of the Bible or how they'd like to be a part of a Bible study that worked for their schedule. This is true here at Hope even as many members already connect to study groups as a part of our women's circles, renewal groups, lectionary BS on Tuesdays at noon, youth ministry, or pop-up Adult Ed series. Others gladly study with sibling congregations in our community or one on one with the good book. People are often surprised by how much they actually do know of scripture simply from being in worship or having attended Sunday school as a child.

Our strategic plan completed a few years ago identified, "Adult Education opportunities at times more convenient for all" as one of our focused proposals. One of the main challenges for existing opportunities was that they are scheduled during the workday. In response to this we are launching a new initiative this fall with the hope of providing some more focused opportunities offered consistently and during more accessible times. Coupled with this will be a

year long emphasis in reading the bible together that we are calling, Reading the Bible Together, or RBT for short.

RBT (Reading the Bible Together)

This new study will begin in September and will meet on Monday evenings with Pastor Matt for an hour. Each week a reading guide with helpful insights, definitions, and questions will be provided as the group

reads different books of the bible a chapter or two at a time. Short on time? No problem! Each reading can be completed in 15 minutes or less and portions of the readings will be read as a whole group. We will begin by reading the gospel of Mark, moving on to a different book when completed. Come each week, or only when you can. The reading guide will be provided electronically to accommodate each person's availability to participate. I would recommend bringing a Study Bible with room in the margins for notes, though we have plenty to go around.



Read the Bible in a Year

Many have sparked a life-long love of scripture by reading the Bible, cover to cover, in one year. Multiple guides are available to do this but one of my favorites is produced by 1517 Media. The PDF of the reading plan is free, and so is the Log In to access accompanying videos from biblical scholar, Chad Bird. Keep posted for more information and sign on to Read the Bible in a Year!

Reading Regularly

In life we tend to follow through on things we make regular habits, and reading scripture is no different. Whether daily or weekly devotional practice, praying in the morning and evening, or brushing our teeth twice a day, rhythm and repetition help us remain on track. If these new opportunities don't work for you, but you have an idea or would like to gather a group at a different time, please let me know so our community can support you in making it happen.

MINISTERIAL ACTS

Friday, July 10

Marriage of

Eric & Natalie Cornatzer

Sunday, July 12

Baptism of

Waylon Allan Johnson

Thursday, July 23

Baptism of

Hallie Marie Jackson

Friday, July 24

Memorial Service for

Larry & Jan Cyr

Saturday, July 25

Graveside Committal of

Richard Hein

August Ushers

Aug 2: Phil Johnston

Aug 9: Joe Sherman

Aug 16: *Volunteer needed*

Aug 23: Marty Cook

Aug 30: Brian Hein

Lav Readers

Aug 2: Jeanne Mehlhop

Aug 9: Nancy Bruns

Aug 16: Martha Vetter

Aug 23: Zac Virnig

Aug 30: Jill Burggraf

Final Summer Potluck & Bible Study Wednesday, August 5th at noon in the Fellowship Hall

The last of our women's summer lunch and studies will be held on August 5th. Pat Paulsen will lead the study "I Am Because You Are". Ruth Circle will set up. Bring a dish to share, invite a friend and bring your "Gather" magazine if you have one.

Women's Triennial Convention

Last month Gloria Niswonger traveled to Des Moines, IA representing the Women of Hope (and the whole Living Waters Conference) at the National ELCA Women's Triennial Convention. Come and hear her report at our August 5th lunch!

Women of Hope

Women of Hope

General Meeting & Potluck Lunch Wednesday, September 2nd at noon in the Fellowship Hall

All ladies are invited as we head into a new season of Circle Bible Studies and continue the great ministry of the Women of Hope! We are seeking new leaders and secretary—please talk to any of the current board members—Shirley Dowson, Ardyce Pederson, Meri Mengis to learn more. Bring a dish to share and join us on September 2nd!



Spark of Hope Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone who donated to the bake sale, brought dessert items to be served at the luncheon or who shared their many talents by donating homemade crafts for the Spark of Hope event. It was great to see tables in the narthex filled with various crafts. Many thanks to Coordinator Angie Osatiuk and the committee members who put lots of time and effort into planning this event.

The winner of this year's quilt was Erin and Steve Adams. Thank you, Ardyce, for all the hours you sat at your machine sewing creating a beautiful quilt!

The Spark of Hope event was a great success and lots of fun! We appreciate the support from the congregation who joined us for lunch, purchased cards, baked goods and homemade crafts. The proceeds 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.



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

In memory of **Phyllis Sistek**, gifts to the *General Fund* from Jerry Wolfe, Jim & Bev Worcester, Ann McLarty, Jan Filkins; gifts to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Bill & MaryLou DeVries, Gloria Niswonger, Dave & Bonnie Smith, Steve & Connie Kaylor, Gary & Marcie DeVries and friends & family; a gift to the *Women of Hope* from Julianne Proper; a gift to the *Worship & Music Fund* from Mary Johnson

In memory of **Wally Pottenger** a gift to the *General Fund* from Martha Vetter

In memory of **Larry & Jan Cvr**, a gift to the *General Fund* from Larry & Meri Mengis; a gift to the *Endowment Fund* from Gary & Joyce Schuette; a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Steve & Connie Kaylor; a gift to the *Food Box Fund* from Karen Kellogg; a gift to the *Turtle Lake Cemetery* from Richard & Jackie Knowles; a gift to the *Memorial Garden Fund* from Gary & Darlene Bakker

In memory of **Dick Zuechkle**, a gift to the *Memorial Garden Fund* from Gary & Darlene Bakker

In memory of John & Barb Sellevold's brother-in-law, **Gary Kreuteer**, a gift to the *General Fund* from Keith & Linda Piller

Youth of Hope



Day Camp VBS 2026

50 kids spent the week at Hope worshipping, playing games, digging into the Bible, making crafts, enjoying snacks & growing in community. Centered around Matthew 17:20, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'MOVE!' and it will move from here to there and nothing will be impossible for you," they explored themes of community, courage, faith & love.

Save the Dates!

Yearly Programming Starts in September

Wed. September 9th Joyful Noise Starts 3:30-4:30

& Wednesday Kids Starts, 4:30-5:30

Confirmation Info Mtg 6:45-8pm

for 6th Graders & New Students and parents

Sun. September 13th Rally Sunday Service, 9am

Wed. September 16th 9th-12th Grade Church Release,
8:25am-2:45pm

Confirmation Info Mtg- Returning Students 6:45-8pm

Sun. September 20th Sunday School Starts,

Wed. September 23rd 6th-8th Grade Church Release,
8:25-2:45pm

Confirmation Classes Start, 6:45-8pm

Thank you to Luther Crest Bible Camp counselors for leading the program and Martha Vetter for hosting them all week at her home. Thank you to all the families who provided lunch and dinners for our counselors; Andersons, Ehlenfeldts, Freemans, Johnsons, Krueckebergs, Lissicks, Murphys and Zubkes. And finally, a HUGE thank you to our volunteers who were here throughout the week jumping in skits, leading Bible study, sharing their faith and creating relationships with the kids; Everly Felton, Karly Johnson, Caiden Strosahl & Sophia Udem- these four were AMAZING all week!!!!!!



San Diego Mission Trip 23 youth and adults spent the week finding Holy Ground in San Diego, California. With Service Learning Camps, it was a week of exploring, helping and growing. Community was built, minds were challenged and stretched and memories were made. Thank you for keeping these youth and adults in your prayers; Konnor Ball, Elizabeth Cairns, Lily Cairns, Caleb Dubbe, Logan Felton, Josie Holly, Layla Krueckeberg, Lola Krueckeberg, Trevor Kuechle, Payton Lange, Noah McWaters, Tori Pederson, Anja Turney, Garret Turney, Jenna Udean, Sophia Udem, Vada Yeats, Michelle Anderson and Josh Cairns



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	3 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	4 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study 5:30-7:00 National Night Out	5 10:00 am Women of Hope Board Mtg Noon: Women's Potluck & Study 1:00 pm Bone Builders	6 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	7	1
9 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	10 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	11 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	12 9:00 am Board of Outreach 11:00 & 12:30 Worship -May Creek 1:00 pm Bone Builders	13 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	14	15
16 9:00 Outdoor Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	17 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	18 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	19 1:00 pm Bone Builders	20 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	21	22
23 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	24 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	25 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	26 1:00 pm Bone Builders 5:30 Bible & Brats w/Pr Matt & Dave <i>Caring for Creation</i>	27 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	28	29 10:00-3:00 Al-Anon gathering
30 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	31 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	 AUGUST  2026				

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. at leechlaketv.org, or tune your antenna TV to Channel 21.5. The service is also broadcast live on KQKK 101.9 FM radio. You can sponsor a Sunday broadcast in memory or honor of a loved one or special occasion for \$75. Sign up for the date of your choice on the bulletin board near the church office, or just call in.

Stay after worship for Coffee & Fellowship!

Resuming Wednesday, September 9th...

Simple Supper at 5:30

Wednesday Worship at 6:15



HOPE'S MISSION

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

... Worship

...Community

...Service