

# Herald of Hope July 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	

### 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](http://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!

Enjoy God's beautiful creation and

### Join us for Outdoor Worship Sundays, July 5th & 19th at 9:00 a.m.

Bring a chair if you are able. Some chairs are available for those who arrive by bike, or have difficulty carrying... or just forget! Worship will be held indoors if weather necessitates.

Adult Ed Opportunity  
**Caring for Creation from  
a Perspective of Faith**  
Sunday, July 12  
following worship



# SPARK of Hope COMMUNITY

## FUNDRAISER



Join us for an event & lunch to raise money for  
community organizations

**Tues., July 21**  
**10:30 - 1 p.m.**

**crafts - cards - quilt raffle -  
bake sale & silent auction**

Proceeds go to support the Walker-area  
Food Shelf, Food Boxes, W-H-A Youth  
Programs, Akeley Women's Shelter, Boys &  
Girls Club & more

\$15 cost for lunch

### Hope Lutheran Church

305 10th Street So.,  
Walker, MN

### July is Hope Lutheran's turn to staff the Walker Area Food Shelf

Hope is responsible for staffing the Walker Area Food Shelf every Tuesday during the month of July. Shifts are only 2<sup>1/2</sup> hours. Grab a friend or spouse and spend some time together making a difference in our community! Or sign up yourself and meet some new friends. Hope also provides volunteers during March and December, so especially if you are not here during the winter, please take a turn in July! Sign up on the bulletin board near the church office or online at [walkerareafoodshelf.com](http://walkerareafoodshelf.com)

### Helping hands & green thumbs wanted!

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to help tend Hope's Memorial Flower Garden. Come and pull weeds and freshen up the garden anytime you have some extra minutes that you'd like to spend in the peaceful fresh air. Due to health issues, our regular volunteers are unable to give the time they previously did keeping our garden looking great. Help us keep it flourishing!

*On Sunday mornings following worship, feel free to  
take your coffee onto the deck and enjoy the  
Memorial Flower Garden!*

# From Pastor Matt

## Summer Tidbits

Unbelievably, summer is upon us, and the halls of Hope Lutheran Church are buzzing with the activity of preschool VBS, service groups like quilting and memorial gardeners, and more. The month of July promises the same joyful energy as the Women of Hope host their annual **SPARK** event, a contingent of youth and adults heads to San Diego for mission work, and we continue to faithfully connect in worship, service, and outreach. Hope's leadership continues to use our strategic plan to guide us, especially as we prepare to launch a weekly evening Bible Study this fall. Read below for news and updates from our life together.

### Adult Ed Opportunity

#### ***Caring for Creation from a Perspective of Faith — Sunday, July 12***

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?

Our church has a summary statement, *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*, that can help shape the ways we think about these complex issues. Join us on Sunday, July 12, following worship for a brief presentation of key concepts

from scripture, our confessional documents, and our shared life that help guide our contributions to this important public discussion. We will also hold time for conversation — to offer and wrestle with varying perspectives, and to honor one another's concerns even when they differ from our own.

### Connecting Outside the Walls

Hope is a community called to life in this world, not just life inside our building. This is why we encourage relationships with our individual neighbors and with partner organizations, both public and private.

One example is our partnership with the **Walker Area Food Shelf**, and July happens to be one of our months to serve. Each Tuesday this month, there are shifts that need to be filled by servants from Hope to help with food distribution. Anyone is welcome to sign up on the bulletin board near the church office.

Another way we connect in our Leech Lake community is by hosting **National Night Out**. At this annual event, our Board of Outreach provides space, food, and a bit of organization as individuals, families, and community groups gather for a couple of hours. In the past, kids have sprayed firehoses while meeting our Walker Volunteer Firefighters. Paramedics with North Memorial Ambulance Service have offered tours of their vehicles, Cass County Emergency Response has demonstrated their capabilities, and Faith in Action has recruited volunteers for driving services.

### Financial Stewardship Update

Midsummer typically brings the first questions about how Hope's financial stewardship is going. I'm happy to report that as of the end of May, your generous support of our collective mission and ministry has been strong. Regular Sunday offerings are **up by \$23,500** from the same time last year. Our General Fund expenses exceed our income by about **\$5,000**, and we continue to see a strong response to our **Renewing Hope's Promise** five-year Capital Appeal.

### MINISTERIAL ACTS

Saturday, June 6  
*Memorial Service for*  
**Wally Pottenger**

Sunday, June 7  
*Baptism of*  
**Hudson Michael Wedde**

Sunday, June 28  
*Baptism of*  
**June Roxanne Bjorndahl**

*Memorial Service for*  
**Phyllis Sistik**

Free Event!

Food



Music

Area Community Services

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

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



Chips, Cookie & Beverage

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

**Free Event...rain or shine!**



## Youth of Hope



**Preschool VBS:** 20 3-5 year olds were here June 15-17 learning about these strong women of the bible; Ruth, Mary-mother of Jesus and The Woman at the Well. We enjoyed singing, dancing, Bible story, snack, craft and a game each day. Thank you to our volunteer leaders: Ava Brovold, Paislee Erickson, Everly Felton, Jayla Johnson, Ryla Johnson, Caiden Strosahl and Olivia Udem. Thank you to Pastor Matt for leading songs. And thank you to all the kids and their parents for such a wonderful Preschool VBS!



### Fargo Moorhead Service Trip

An eye opening and fun experience we had serving, learning and playing in Fargo Moorhead June 7-10. Thank you for all of your support Hope Lutheran!!! Really wish you could have all been at the table every evening as we debriefed our experiences at Churches United, Salvation Army, Eventide, Gigi's Playhouse and West Fargo Eats. God was there with these kids! Come hear a snippet of their experience at service on Rally Sunday. Fargo Moorhead Service Team: Ava Brovold, Easton Eckart, Trenton Kuechle, Buzzy McWaters, Olivia Udem, Dawson Weaver, Calen Zubke and Cooper Zubke, Michelle Anderson, Ben Brovold, Pastor Matt McWaters, Lily Cairns & Tori Pederson.

*A big thanks to everyone who stopped by the Meat Boutique for lunch on June 20th. The youth made another \$500+ to help defray the cost of summer camp and mission trips!*

### Save the Dates!

#### Yearly Programming Starts in September

**Wed. September 9<sup>th</sup>** Joyful Noise Starts 3:30-4:30  
& Wednesday Kids Starts, 4:30-5:30  
Confirmation Info Mtg 6:45-8pm  
for 6<sup>th</sup> Graders & New Students and parents

**Sun. September 13<sup>th</sup>** Rally Sunday Service, 9am  
**Wed. September 16<sup>th</sup>** 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Church Release,  
8:25am-2:45pm  
Confirmation Info Mtg- Returning Students 6:45-8pm  
**Sun. September 20<sup>th</sup>** Sunday School Starts,  
**Wed. September 23<sup>rd</sup>** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Church Release,  
8:25-2:45pm  
Confirmation Classes Start, 6:45-8pm



## '26 Leadership Camp

Last month a group of Hope High Schoolers—Vada Yeats, Layla Krueckeberg, Trevor Kuechle, Sophia Udem, Lola Krueckeberg, Isaias Jimenez McMurrin, Anja Turney and Madelyn Tews spent time with other youth from our synod at Leadership Camp. Following is a report from Sophia.

This was my second year at leadership camp and it was something I've looked forward to for so long! I've found that you not only learn more about yourself, but about so many others around you. God is working in so many wonderful ways through these people and experiences we get to learn about at leadership camp.



When we arrived you could just tell how much effort and love went into planning the week. The energy there is unmatched and such a cool experience. This year, we had lessons called "leadership labs" which were an amazing way to learn more about leadership. While there were many incredible ones, my favorite was the listen lab. This lab taught us how to use active listening which can be difficult as teenagers. It taught us that sometimes we get so wrapped up in ourselves and our own thoughts we forget to stop and listen to others. I learned that part of leading isn't just getting up on stage and speaking or teaching songs and dances but really listening to others and their stories.

Another lab we participated in was called invite. This lab was extremely eye opening for I think a lot of us at camp. It really taught us to think about times when we felt as though we were left behind and how it felt when someone came to pick us back up. There are so many people who are marginalized based on so many factors but the biggest thing I took away from this lesson was that God loves everyone and we are called to love everyone too which means inviting them even if they may be different.

While a huge part of camp is about learning, it's also about having fun with your peers. We had three amazing campfire worships during the week where different groups got to work together to lead and I loved getting to see everyone, including myself, become more confident in their leadership skills.

While all the new leadership skills and experiences were definitely amazing, my favorite part of camp had to be jumping into the lake after worship on the last night with all of our clothes on. That is definitely something I will never forget. Speaking on behalf of everyone who was at leadership camp, I can say that this experience is one of the best things that has ever come into our lives and we are beyond grateful for an amazing week.



Sophia Udem

**DAY CAMP VBS**

**MOUNTAIN MOVERS**  
Matthew 17:20

**JULY 6-9**  
COMPLETED GRADES  
Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
**9AM-3PM**

REGISTER HERE:

**Remember in your prayers this month the youth who are attending the San Diego Mission Trip & Bible Camp!**

San Diego Mission Trip, July 13-20:  
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, Josh Cairns & Madelyn Tews.

Luther Crest Bible Camp Week of July 26:  
Brooklin Anderson, Michelle Anderson, Maddy Beard, Samantha Beard, Willa Snyder, Susanna Girtz, Asher Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Layla Forseman, Amari Krueckeberg, Riley Gilbert, Barret Rusch, Hadley Gilbert, Lucy Kuechle, Grace Zumwalt, Trenton Kuechle, Buzzy McWaters, Christian Ringle, Levi Zumwalt, Ava Brovold, Paislee Erickson, Everly Felton, Olivia Udem, Elizabeth Cairns, Lily Cairns, Sophia Udem, Logan Felton, Trevor Kuechle and Noah McWaters

## Women of Hope

### Reports from the NE MN Women's Synod Convention

What a wonderful Convention/Gathering Ardyce, Shirley and Alice experienced at our annual Northeast Women's conference June 15th & 16th. From the opening worship service and Tuesday morning Bible study led by Pastor Kim Sturtz (she was exceptional), to many inspiring and informative workshops, the 120 women who attended had a great time. One of the highlights of these conferences for me is re-connecting with so many ladies from all over northeast Minnesota. We enjoy "catching up" over delicious meals or during some "down time". We received greetings from Bishop Amy who will be retiring soon and is ready to become part of Hope Lutheran (her home church), and from Gwen Edwards from Omaha, Ne. bringing us information from our churchwide board in Chicago. Our ladies from Hope made 116 diapers for the newborn kits, which were assembled on Tuesday afternoon. I am always amazed at the number of in-kind gifts made by the women of our synod: 2138 quilts; 876 school kits; 241 personal care kits; 265 baby care kits; 149 fabric kits; 865 newborn kits; 109 aids/hospice kits; 8,374 pounds of rolled bandages; \$4,485.00 for shipping of the kits. \$3,585.99 in pennies collections for women & children in poverty. Ardyce was elected to serve on our N.E. Women's Synodical Board, Shirley, our Conference Coordinator came home with the traveling trophy for Living Waters - our Conference having the most voting delegates at the Convention by percentage of churches in the Conference. Think about attending this special women's gathering next year. It's a terrific way of observing the connection of our W/ELCA from our own Hope Lutheran, to our Living Waters Conference, to our Northeast Minnesota Synodical board to our Churchwide women throughout the United States and even some areas outside of the U.S. We are called to be "Bold Women"!! Come and join us next year - *Shirley Dowson*

My time as delegate to the NE MN Synodical Women's organization included looking at funding to help alleviate food insecurities in our synod. The 186 billion in SNAP benefits was cut over 10 years, reduces food security for seniors, working families, and children across Minnesota—and so on. We passed the resolution!

I also attended a break-out session called, "Understanding What Being Native American Has Meant Over Time". Rick Dunkley, current park manager at St. Croix State Park spoke of his mother's side being German, his father's side Ojibwe. The two families did many things together as he was growing up. His degrees are in forestry, and he has worked for MN DNR for 33 years.

Pastor Kim Sturtz's Bible study Monday morning was on "Love Thy Neighbor." Tuesday's was on Psalm 46 "Be still and know that I am God". She went very in-depth with both of those studies.

Our entertainment after a delicious dinner Monday evening was a group called, "Bells & More: A Musical Potpourri". It featured vocal, bells of various sizes, drumming, flute and French horn. Eight pieces were played by a group made up of participants from six different churches. It was magical! Their final piece was "Be Still My Soul, the Lord is on Your Side." - *Alice Groth*

## Spark of Hope Fundraiser

Tuesday, July 21

10:30 a.m. – 1p.m.

"Spark of Hope" is coming up quickly. Start warming up those ovens! Goodies are needed for desserts at the luncheon and for the bake sale. Dessert items should be bars or cookies - something that can be eaten without the need of a fork! Pies are especially good sellers at the bake sale. Jellies also sell well. Items can be dropped off at church on Monday, July 20th, or the day of the sale, July 21st. Items for the bake sale should be packaged/wrapped and ready for sale. Spread the word! This is our big fund raiser of the year. Invite your friends and relatives: a delicious luncheon, bake sale, greeting cards, silent auction and buy-it-now items, a quilt raffle on a beautiful quilt; and this year our youth will be selling used jigsaw puzzles - these proceeds will go to the youth fund to help support our young people attending camp. A perfect purchase for those rainy days at the cabin. Wow! You shouldn't miss it! July 21st, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



### Spark of Hope Quilt Raffle

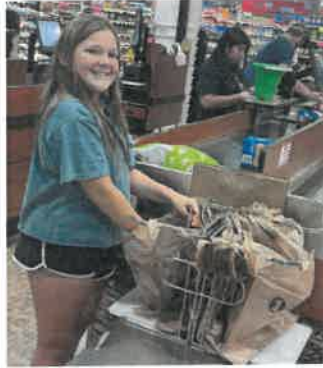
This beautiful 98X98" *Broken Star* quilt made by Ardyce Pederson will be raffled as part of our Spark fundraiser on July 21. Tickets are available for \$5 each.

### Up-Coming Events:

July 1 10:00 a.m. Women of Hope board meeting  
Noon Pot luck luncheon/Bible study  
July 20 9:00 a.m. Setup for "Spark of Hope"  
July 21 10:30 - 1:00 "Spark of Hope" event  
Aug. 5 10:00 a.m. Women of Hope board meeting  
Noon Pot luck luncheon/Bible study  
Aug. ?? Kitchen Cleaning - Miriam Circle



**A big thanks to Super One and everyone who tipped the Youth of Hope grocery baggers in June!**



## **HOPE'S MISSION**

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

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

Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Walker, MN

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PO Box 506  
Walker MN 56484  
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