

Herald of Hope March 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	hopekrisk@gmail.com
Music/Worship	Jill Anderson	
Accompanists	Mike Kerrigan & Emily Turney	
Custodian	Vic Fields	



On Sunday, February 22nd, Pastor Matt asked for a blessing of safety for Hope members and friends prior to their snowmobile ride from the church to Red River Event Center in Akeley for lunch. There have been very few opportunities to get out and ride locally in recent years. We hope to get some more rides in yet this season. Thank you to Craig Gries for organizing this event and Sherren Foss for contacting the Leech Lake Riders. Hope to see you on the trails soon!

Wednesdays during Lent
March 4, 11, 18, 25
Supper at 5:30, Lenten Worship at 6:15

Join the family of Hope for a light meal
Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

March Menu

- 3/4 Pork chop, whipped potatoes & vegetable
- 3/11 Taco Salad
- 3/18 Vegetable Beef Soup
- 3/25 Pulled Pork Sandwich & Chips

Followed by Wednesday Lenten Worship at 6:15



Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday, March 29th
worship at 9:00 a.m.

No Supper or Wednesday Worship April 1st
Maundy Thursday, April 2nd
Communion Worship at 6:15



Good Friday, April 3rd
Worship at 6:15

Easter Sunday, April 5th
Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast by the Youth of Hope

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!

Blood Drive, March 24th

Hope Lutheran will be hosting Walker's next Vitalant blood drive on Tuesday, March 24, from 12:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Vitalant is the primary supplier of blood donations to hospitals in our area; please consider donating at this time. You can schedule online through your Vitalant account, or contact Lynn Moen for help scheduling.

We are also in need of volunteers to work in the kitchen as we will be supplying treats as well. The morning of the blood drive we need help to clear the room for the workers and to assist with resetting the space afterward.

If you are able to help with this, please call Lynn Moen at 218-838-2803.

From Pastor Matt

A few pastoral notes...

Scam Emails from the Pastor

Many have reported this past month, receiving emails from me asking for gift cards or other urgent emergency needs. These FRAUDULENT emails have been a growing concern among other pastors in the area, and other non-profit organizations. Please know I will never request gift cards, money transfers, or other financial requests through email. Please do not share your personal financial information, or information from purchased gift cards with anyone through email. If you have any questions as to whether an email is genuine or not, always call the church office to confirm. This will also help us alert others to look out for these scam emails. There are often, though not always, signs that the email is a scam.

-Look at the email address of the sender. It will often not match my church email address, or the email address of others from an organization.

-Misspelling or poorly phrased wording is often a giveaway that an email is fraudulent.

-If the stated need is "URGENT" or has to be sent asap, your red flags should go up. Scammers will play off of people's emotions and tell convincing stories that are untrue.

Hope Lutheran Defibrillator

We have had first responders called to Hope a couple times this past month, which prompted some to ask, "Do we have a Defibrillator at Hope?" The answer is YES! Hope has a defibrillator located in the main hallway near the sacristy door under the coat rack, inside of a designated cabinet.

A defibrillator is a life saving device that delivers a high energy electric shock to the heart to stop dangerous irregular rhythms and "shock" the heart back into normal rhythms. Many have been trained in its use, and it gives clear verbal cues on how to use it. A defibrillator will not deliver a shock if it is unnecessary to do so.

Hospital & Home Visits

Your pastors would love to call on you in your home or the hospital for a pastoral visit when we are aware of your need. Making these visits is one of the great joys of pastoral ministry, giving us a glimpse into your space, and providing an escape from paperwork, books, and other administrative duties we'd sometimes rather knock off the end of our to-do list.

Here's the thing though. Sometimes we are the last to know of your needs and when it comes

to the medical facilities, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability laws, also known as HIPAA, prevents us from finding out what hospital or facility a person is in.



Here are some helpful tips to be sure we make it out for a visit:

Call or email the church office with a request for a visit.

Share where you'd like the visit. Some would like a prayer before going to the

hospital while others prefer a visit at the hospital. Be sure to share which hospital as I've been to 9 different ones and countless rehab/therapy facilities over the last 10 years.

Let us know what timeframe would be best. Would morning or afternoon work best, or any time of day? If you're going to only be in one day, we will do our best to work a visit into our schedules.

Follow up with a phone call or email. If you share a request on a Sunday morning at church or out in the community, know that between the request and us writing down the information we might be stopped 3 or more times. Things get busy and our memories are not as sharp as we'd always like them to be.

Please forgive us if it takes a day or longer to get there. Sometimes we have prior commitments or are

hundreds of miles away with family.

Have friends, family or a staff chaplain let us know. By far, the

most frequent way we come to know someone is in the hospital or wants a visit is when a friend or family member lets us know.

If you want communion, please ask. We will sometimes bring it with, but if it's requested we will be sure to have it.

MINISTERIAL ACTS

Wednesday, February 1

Baptism of

Lola Mae Krueckeberg

Wednesday, February 11

Baptisms of

Anneise Krueckeberg

Amari Krueckeberg

Aria Forseman

Friday, Wednesday, February 4

Memorial Service for

Vicki Bauer

Thursday, February 19

Memorial Service for

Dale Jones

Friday, March 20

Memorial Service for

Mary Fisher

News of Hope

Renewing Hope's Promise Update

By Wayne Osatiuk

The Capital Appeal Team and the Board of Property would like to provide the congregation with a brief overview of our Capital Appeal and the upcoming Kitchen Remodel project.

Did you realize that our 5 Year Capital Appeal is less than one year old and we have raised over \$233,000 to date? This represents almost 25% of the total \$1 Million requested to support our Capital Appeal. A Big THANK YOU, to each and every one of YOU for making this happen!



We were able to complete the parking lot last summer and as you may recall the Capital Appeal Plan for 2026 includes a Kitchen Remodel Project. The project team is deep into this kitchen planning and product selections!

Speaking of the KITCHEN! Did you realize how important the kitchen is to our church and our community? Our Kitchen serves 1) Sunday fellowship following service, 2) Early release school programs, 3) Wednesday night meals, 4) Preparation of meals for those in need, 5) Funerals, and 6) Along with many other functions such as Holy Smoke, National Night Out, and various Fund-Raising Events throughout the year.

As you can see, our Kitchen is important and vital to our continued mission and outreach ministry.

Our project team has collaborated with Pastor Matt and staff to plan this kitchen remodel so that we minimize the time that the kitchen is out of service.

Our plan is to take the kitchen out of service following the last Wednesday service in April with actual demolition of the kitchen starting on Monday, May 11th. We currently have approximately 2 weeks in the schedule to complete the work in the kitchen, and our goal is to have the kitchen back in service following the Memorial Day holiday.

Our kitchen remodel includes new flooring, cabinets, countertops, and lighting upgrades. Additionally, the kitchen will be completely repainted. We are also considering a new refrigerator and wire racking. Additionally, as you may recall, we installed a new gas stove about a year ago.

We also wanted to point out that Kitchen remodel team has requested the support of a select group of ladies from the Women of Hope as well as Scott Skalisky. They have been working hard and are assisting us with suggestions, improvements, product selections, and colors. We appreciate the assistance from this important group, as they are the ones that will utilize this refreshed, important, Hope Lutheran asset for many years to come.

We believe, with this investment, we are well on our way to restoring the kitchen, so that it will serve our church and our community for another 25 years!

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

In memory of **Mary Fisher**, gifts to the *General Fund* from Gary & Marcie DeVries; a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Larry & Meri Mengis; a gift to the *Endowment Fund* from Tim & Margie Richardson; a gift to the *Memorial Garden Fund* from Shirley Dowson

In memory of **Dale Jones**, a gift to the *General Fund* from Steve & Jane Ekholm; a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Alice Groth

In memory of **Vicki Bauer**, a gift to the *General Fund* from Shirley Dowson

In memory of **Otto Ringle**, a gift to the *Memorial Garden Fund* from Carroll Voight

In memory of Mark's mother, **Grace Burggraf**, a gift to the *General Fund* from Judy Anderson; a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Alice Groth

Add your voice to Hope's Chancel Choir

Hope's Chancel Choir will sing during worship on Sunday, March 8th, Maundy Thursday, April 2nd and Easter Sunday, April 5th. If you would like to join in, please come to the next rehearsals on Sundays, March 1 and 8 at 8:00 a.m. prior to worship.

Celebration Handbells welcome more ringers

The celebration Handbell choir can always use more ringers. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 4:30. Stop by or talk to director Sue Sessing—even if you just would be willing to occasionally sub!

March Ushers

Mar 1: Brian Bruns
Mar 8:
Mar 15: Marty Cook
Mar 22: Joe Sherman
Mar 29: Joe Sherman

Easter Memorial Garden

You can help us decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday by sponsoring an Easter plant in memory or honor of a loved one. Fill out this form and return it to the offering plate or church office with payment by March 29th. Your dedication will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday and you may take your plant with you following worship. Eternal lights will be used individually each week throughout the year.

___ Lily (\$20) ___ Mum (\$20) ___ Tulip (\$20)

___ Hydrangea (\$35) ___ Eternal Light (\$10)

___ in memory ___ in honor

of _____

Given by _____

Youth of Hope

Sunday School

March 1st: *Jesus & Nicodemus*
March 8: *Woman at the Well*
March 15: *Samuel Anoints David*
March 22: *Jesus Raises Lazarus*
March 29: *Matthew's Holy Week*

Joyful Noise & Wednesday Kids

All P3-5th graders join us on Wednesday's for Joyful Noise or Wednesday Kids, OR BOTH!
Joyful Noise is from 3:30-4:30pm followed by Wednesday Kids 4:30-5:30pm.
No Joyful Noise or Wednesday Kids on March 4th or 18th or April 1st.

Holy Communion Instruction

Hope's 5th graders—Richard, Adalyn, Logan, Aria, Hadley, Cora, Haley, Liam, Jacob, Levi, Will, Barrett & Everleigh are learning all about Holy Communion! Classes take place on March 4, 11 & 25 from 7-8pm. We will celebrate and recognize those who have completed the classes at 6:15pm on April 2nd at the Maundy Thursday worship.

Youth of Hope Easter Breakfast Fundraiser!

Help support the Youth of Hope and leave the Easter morning breakfast to us.
Serving from 8:00-10:30 on Easter Sunday.

6th-9th Grade Youth Group

Sunday March 1st from 6-8pm!
Come hang out, share about your week and play some games.



Jigsaw Puzzle Fundraiser
February 1, 2026



THE JIGSAW PUZZLE CHALLENGE on February 1st was a huge success. There were five adult teams and three youth teams. \$623.00 was raised which is designated to camper ships for our youth. Thank you to everyone who took part in this fun activity! Are you ready for another one???

10th-12th Grade Youth

EVERY TUESDAY! Start your day with Bible Study with friends, before school 7:15 a.m. at Walker Bay Coffee.

EVERY WEDNESDAY! Start in the youth room after worship around 7pm for a youth-led devotion. Michelle Anderson will join after confirmation to catch up and play games until 8:30pm...9pm...10pm-ish...

March Acolytes

March 1: Jayla J
March 8: Christian R
March 15: Trevor L
March 22: Cooper Z
March 29: Levi Z

High School Winter Retreat

Tori, Lily, Josie, Layla and Lola are headed to Camp Hiawatha March 6-8 for the NEMN Synod High School Winter Retreat. Keep them in prayer as they spend a fun weekend building relationships with other youth from across the synod.



Women of Hope

The Women of Hope are Marching on through winter....

The church kitchen upgrade is coming along nicely. We are working with the Board of Property and the flooring, cabinet design, stain and wall paint has been decided. Counter tops are in the works. Thank you, especially to Wayne & Angie who are tirelessly working to bring us samples to work with and on which to decide. Removal of all items in the current cabinets will be done by the Women of Hope prior to the new flooring. Watch *The Herald* or Sunday bulletins for specific dates.

Diaper Day on February 5th went very well. 15 ladies participated with 81 diapers being prepared for inclusion in the Newborn kits for Global Health Ministries. This year, four diapers are required in each kit rather than two, which were done last year, so we need to work double time to get diapers completed. Kits will be assembled at our summer conference.

Our main fundraising event in July (we are looking to rename it from Christmas in July) will be coming up quickly. The event is July 21st with setup on July 20th. Our first planning meeting will be on April 16th at 11:00 a.m. Mark your calendars to attend this meeting if you are in charge of one of the areas for this event.

Coming up on April 11th is our Living Waters **Spring Gathering** to be held at St. Andrew's in Grand Rapids. Silent Auction or Buy-it-Now items are needed for this event. Talk to Shirley or Ardyce if you have something to donate. A sign-up sheet will be posted shortly so that we can pool rides.

Up-coming Events:

March 4 10:00 a.m. Women's Board Meeting
June 15/16 N.E. Women's Convention/Gathering - Zion, Grand Rapids
July 16-19 W/ELCA Triennial Gathering - Des Moines, Iowa



**Creating
Pin-less Diapers
for Global Health
February 5, 2026**



Women of Hope March Gather Study

Notes from Pastor Dave

God's Name, God's Promise

Session One

God who abides; Bread, light and vine

This month we begin a three part Bible study centered on God's name as found in scripture. The study opens with a burning bush that entices a shepherd to come closer. It's here that Moses hears for the first time the name of God, "I AM WHO I AM". *What does this name say to you about God?*

Because of our English translations we often miss the places where Jesus responds using God's name, the great "I AM". The author invites us into the Gospel of John where Jesus introduces himself using "I AM" statements. Each of these statements tell us something important about the Son of God. Reading the summary of the "I AM" statements answer question 1. The author invites us to take a

moment to think about our own names. *Does your name fit you? Have you ever imagined having a different name? If so, why? What would it be?*

Review the story of the provision of manna in Exodus 16:1-36. Then read John 6:30-59. *How does one reading help to interpret or add meaning to the other? Are there similarities between manna and Jesus?*

Read John 8:12-20. *How do you understand Jesus' statement, "I am the light of the world." Question 8 is worth spending a bit of time considering. Rather than choosing one over the other, how do light and dark complement each other?*

Read John 15:1-17. Most cultivated varieties of apples are grown by grafting a desired shoot onto a root stock adapted to particular conditions. It is quite common for someone to graft several varieties of apples onto a single root stock, thereby having a tree that bears multiple kinds of fruit. In Romans 11, Paul describes the Gentiles' (us) coming to faith with the image of a wild olive branch being grafted into a cultivated olive tree. *Do these examples help in drawing meaning from Jesus', "I am the true vine" statement?*

The course of this study will help us to see how various names and images of God help us understand who God is for us. Next month we will look at two more well-known images of God.

Pastor Dave

“Fire/No Parking” & Handicap Parking Reminder

The area in front of the church is reserved as a “Fire / No Parking” lane, where parking is not allowed. A fire lane is a designated area reserved for emergency vehicles, ensuring they have unobstructed access to buildings during crises. Its purpose is to prevent delays for fire trucks, ambulances, and police, as any blockage can have serious consequences. These lanes are established to protect property and lives by guaranteeing a clear path for first responders.

Delays in emergencies are not just inconvenient; they can also be **deadly**. A National Fire Protective Association (NFPA) report found that response times exceeding five minutes significantly increase damage and the risk of fatalities. Fire lane requirements are carefully crafted rules to clear emergency access when seconds could mean life or death. Think of fire lanes as lifelines painted on the pavement to ensure fire trucks, ambulances, and first responders can do their jobs without roadblocks.

We recognize the need for handicapped parking and as such we currently have 6 handicapped parking spaces available and will be adding two more spaces next spring. Please be mindful and allow those that have a need for these handicapped parking spaces, especially in the winter when the parking lot spaces are not easily visible due to snow conditions in the parking lot.

Thank you for your understanding with the above information and should you have any questions, please contact Wayne Osatiuk of the Board of Property.

All proceeds benefit the Walker Area Food Shelf!



Bring your appetite to this amazing fundraising event (hosted by the Walker Pilot-Independent) where the heat is on, the flavor is fierce, and every spoonful is a taste of victory! Trophies will be awarded for the top vote-getting chili and top fundraiser!

Date: Saturday, March 7th from 11am-1pm

Location: Walker Area Community Center

Cost: \$1 per small cup of each chili with combread and desserts

◆ We are seeking donations for a silent auction. If you have items to donate, please contact Jean Ruzicka at 218-209-9029 or Dean Morrill at 218-821-8330.



Walker Area Food Shelf

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

March 1st to April 6th is the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. The March campaign stands as the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state. Its purpose is to unite organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals in a collective effort to support food shelves throughout Minnesota.

Each year, the campaign mobilizes nearly 300 food shelves including the Walker Area Food Shelf.

Donations made to Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign are directed entirely to the Food Fund. A Hope Lutheran couple has generously offered to match the first \$1500 raised by the congregation. Please consider donating during this time so that no one needs to struggle to meet their nutritional needs.

Donations can be paid electronically through the food shelf website walkerareafoodshelf.com, by PayPal or Venmo, or you can make your gift payable to Hope Lutheran, marked “food shelf”.

DURING MARCH the Walker Area Food Shelf is especially collecting **cleaning supplies, toothpaste, and bar soap**. Donations can be brought to the Food Shelf on Tuesdays, or left anytime at Hope Lutheran.

Cancer Benefit for Eric Turney

Food * Silent Auction Items *

Music provided by: Katelin DeLorenzo

Save the date!
MARCH 15TH

12:00 - 3:00 PM
@ Portage Brewing

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 Chancel Choir Practice 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 6:00 pm 6 th -9 th Youth Group	2 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 5:30 pm Board of Property	3 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	4 10:00 am Women of Hope Board Mtg 1:00 pm Bone Builders No Joyful Noise or Wednesday Kids 4:30 pm Celebration Handbells 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday Lenten worship 6:45 pm Confirmation classes 7:00 Holy Communion Class 7:00 pm Sr High Youth Group	5 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	6 Sr High Youth Retreat at Camp Hiawatha	7
8 8:00 Chancel Choir Practice 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	9 9:30 am Miriam Circle 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	10 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:30 am Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	11 8:30 am Board of Outreach 9:30 am Ruth Circle 11:00 & 12:30 Worship - May Creek 1:00 pm Bone Builders 1:30 pm K-2nd grade Release Time 3:30 Joyful Noise 4:15 pm Wednesday Kids 4:30 pm Celebration Handbells 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Classes 7:00 Holy Communion Class 7:00 pm Sr High Youth Group	12 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Lydia Circle 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 1:30 pm 3 rd -5 th grade Release Time	13	14
15 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	16 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	17 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	18 1:00 pm Bone Builders No Joyful Noise or Wednesday Kids 4:30 pm Celebration Handbells 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday Lenten worship No Confirmation or Youth Group	19 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	20	21
22 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	23 9:00 am Northwoods Quilters 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 6:00 pm Church council	24 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study 12:30 Blood Drive	25 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise 4:15 pm Wednesday Kids 4:30 pm Celebration Handbells 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday Lenten worship No Confirmation or Youth Group	26 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 5:00 pm Girl Scouts	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 1 st Communion Brunch	30 9:00 am Northwoods Quilters 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	31 7:15 am HS Bible Study 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study				

MARCH

2026

LENT

†
*...And what does the Lord
require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness
and to walk humbly
with your God?
~ Micah 6:8*



HOPE
is alive!

HOPE'S MISSION
*Hope invites all to connect with
God and each other through*
... *Worship*
... *Community*
... *Service*