

Herald of Hope November 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	
Accompanists	Mike Kerrigan & Emily Turney	
Custodian	Vic Fields	

Lectionary Bible Study, Tuesdays at noon

Join Pastor Matt for discussion on the scripture being used in the week's upcoming worship services. No advanced prep or special materials required. Just join any Tuesday you are able!

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. BROADCAST SPONSORS ARE NEEDED. 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!

Wednesday Simple Supper & Worship

Join the family of Hope for a light meal at 5:30

November Menu

Nov 5: Swedish Meatballs & Whipped Potatoes

Nov 12: Macaroni & Cheese

Nov 19: Beef Stroganoff over Rice Blend

Nov 26: Ham & Cheese Egg Bake

Followed by casual worship at 6:15

Adult Ed Sundays November 9 & 16
following worship (around 10:10)

A Primer in Matthew's Gospel

Mathew's Gospel begins by connecting Jesus' lineage back to Abraham, and ends with the promise of connection with us, even unto the end of the age. Join Pastor Matt on **Sundays November 9th & 16th**, for an introduction to Matthew (the Gospel, not the Pastor). Marked by unique contributions to the story of Jesus including the Magi that visit the Christ-child (2:1-12), the family's escape to Egypt (2:13-23), and the parable of the laborers in the vineyard (20:1-16), Matthew's Gospel traces the life and ministry of the Lord from Galilee to Jerusalem, and back again. Grab a cup of coffee and meet with Matt (the Pastor, and the Gospel) in the music room after worship.

Add your voice to the Christmas Concert!

Attention singers & friends who sing:

You are invited to participate in the Community Choir for this year's Community Christmas Concert on Sat., Dec. 6, at Hope Lutheran Church.

5:30 pm Simple Supper (provided by Thrivent)

6:30 pm Concert (freewill offering for Walker Area Food Shelf)

Julie Bright will direct the Community Choir

with 3 Wed. rehearsals at 7pm: Nov. 12 & 19 + Dec. 3.

RSVP to Sherren Foss 763-350-0582.



Walker Community Christmas Concert

SATURDAY, DEC. 6, 2025
at Hope Lutheran Church
305 Tenth St. S.

5:30 PM SIMPLE SUPPER
Provided by Thrivent Action Team Grant
Served by Hope Lutheran's Fellowship Committee

6:30 PM CONCERT
By local musicians/singers
Concert Freewill Offering
to support
Walker Area Food Shelf

From Pastor Matt

Everyday Faith: Dying & Rising in Christ

What then is the significance of such a baptism with water?

It signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned through daily sorrow for sin and repentance, and that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

(from the contemporary translation of Luther's Small Catechism, by Timothy Wengert; Augsburg Fortress Press. 1996)

Daily Dying: If we are honest, many of our yesterday's bear witness to our hesitation or outright refusal to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are too tired. We have our own responsibilities and desires. Others haven't loved us, so why should we love them? Our Lutheran Christian understanding of a daily dying and rising in Christ is a beautiful lens through which we can confess, "I could've served you better yesterday, God," and to see the next day as a new opportunity to let our light shine- without the baggage of our yesterdays.

Daily Rising in Everyday Ways: Living into this way of understanding a life of faith, recognizes the prospect that each morning we might rise up in countless ways to "live before God in righteousness." Patience with children in morning tasks, a phone call or text message to a friend wishing them a blessed, joy-filled, or restful day, or engaging with coworkers, a spouse, or anyone who happens to be a neighbor with a Christ-like spirit, are all simple ways we might embody the faith we cling to in this life. These countless everyday encounters are not to be overlooked as our rising up to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Daily Rising in Planned Ways: There are other more public ways we might individually or collectively live into this baptismal calling. Some have chosen to advocate for the least of our neighbors by contacting legislators, accompanying them to appointments, or standing in solidarity with them, just as Jesus did. Some have offered their time to assist others in attending weekly worship or other community events. Some have decried the abuses of power that have always existed in this world through their writing, peaceful protest, or leadership in the church.

Daily Rising in Times of Need: Among the myriads of daily occasions to serve our neighbors in love, there are often flashpoints that spark quickly and require a response from someone, lest the cries of neighbors go unanswered. One example of the way the people of Hope have responded to this urgent need has been our new partnership with Habitat for Humanity. In a period of two months, a couple dozen volunteers, spearheaded by Pastor Dave and the Board of Outreach, have finished exterior construction, painted, and cleaned inside and outside homes in Cass Lake. Two homes are now buttoned up thanks to all this ministry work, but more importantly, two families will soon move into a safe and secure house, making it their home.

Daily Dying and Rising in Times of Need:

Another flashpoint looms large as we tip into November, and I believe this will give us another opportunity to let go of the old and rise up anew to meet the cries of our neighbors with love. It was already expected that food insecurity would rise in our area entering this winter. Hope's meal ministry, frozen prepared meals anyone can deliver to neighbors who could use them, has seen a noticeable increase in activity. Hope has received notice from both Cass County Health and Human Services and the Walker Area Food Shelf, anticipating a big and potentially sudden increase in need because of the continuing federal government shutdown. Now, regardless of where we fall on the politics of this, the reality is that some of our neighbors who work for the Federal Government may not receive paychecks and many of our neighbors who rely on nutrition programs like SNAP may not receive assistance. In times like these we can join the politicians and argue about the same principles, philosophies, and policies we hold, or we can let that die for a moment and help feed hungry people. As a member of Hope just told me the other day, "when I'm putting away groceries and my pantry is full, it is time to give some it away."

What Can We Do?

†The first two weeks of November the Walker Area Food Shelf has invited us to do a Butter Drive. Bring it to the church and we'll deliver it.

†Consider supporting Hope's Christmas Food Box Ministry with your time or financial gifts.

†Hold your neighbors in prayer, and then be moved by the Spirit to donate non-perishables to the local food shelf.

†Signup to volunteer at the Walker Area Food Shelf in the upcoming months. It is a terrific way to serve and to witness the need in our area.

†Discuss with your household offering a special gift to your area food shelf around Thanksgiving as a way to offer your thanks to God. Remember, through the Second Harvest Food Bank area food shelves can leverage donations to purchase in bulk.

†Hold a food drive with your neighborhood, a service organization, or extracurricular team.

Pastor Matt

News of Hope

Food Shelf Volunteers Needed!

December is Hope's month to staff the Walker Area Food Shelf. Volunteers are needed each Tuesday during December—shifts are 10:00-12:30 and 12:30-3:00 (except Dec. 23 which is 2:00-4:30 & 4:30-7:00 pm). If you will take a shift, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office, or online at walkerareafoodshelf.com. Give back to your neighbors in need this Holiday season with a few hours of your time at the food shelf.

Christmas Food Boxes

As we give thanks around our own tables this month, please include in your prayers our neighbors who are not as fortunate to have a special meal. Each year, Hope Lutheran provides a holiday gift of groceries for households in our community who are struggling financially. We can all testify that it seems you get less and less for your dollar as the cost of living continues to increase. We need your support to be able to help as many people as possible. Any size donation will help!

We anticipate spending:

- ◆ \$50 for a household of 1-2 people
- ◆ \$75 for a household of 3-4 people
- ◆ \$90 for a household of 5-6 people
- ◆ \$120 for a household of 7-8 people
- ◆ \$150 for a household of 9+ people

Make your donation of any amount payable to Hope Lutheran, marked "Food Boxes".

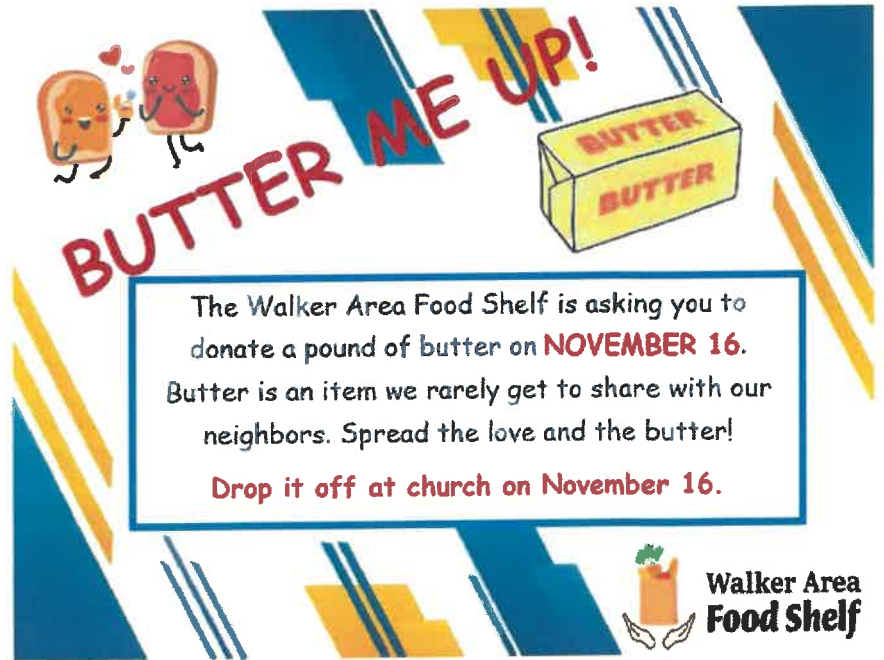
VOLUNTEERS are needed to help pack food boxes on Wednesday, December 3rd at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday Worship Ushers

Nov 2: **Volunteer Needed**
Nov 9: Wayne Osatiuk
Nov 16: Harlan Anderson
Nov 23: **Volunteer Needed**
Nov 30: Osatiuks

Readers

Nov 2: Jill Burggraf
Nov 9: Zac Virnig
Nov 16: Marty Cook
Nov 23: Sally Hiner
Nov 30: Ivan Paulsen



Suicide Prevention

Suicide can be prevented, and the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline has mental health professionals assisting people who are struggling or in a crisis. They can be reached by texting or calling 988 or 988chatlifeline.org.

Risk of suicide is greater if a behavior is **new or has increased**, and it seems related to a painful event, loss, or change.

According to Kelly Felton, State of Minnesota Suicide Crisis Coordinator.

*Talking about or making plans for suicide.

*Acting anxious or agitated, behaving recklessly

*Talking about being a burden to others.

*Talking of being trapped or in unbearable pain.

*Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs.

*Talking of feeling hopeless or having no reason to live.

*Sleeping too much or too little.

*Withdrawing or feeling isolated

*Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge.

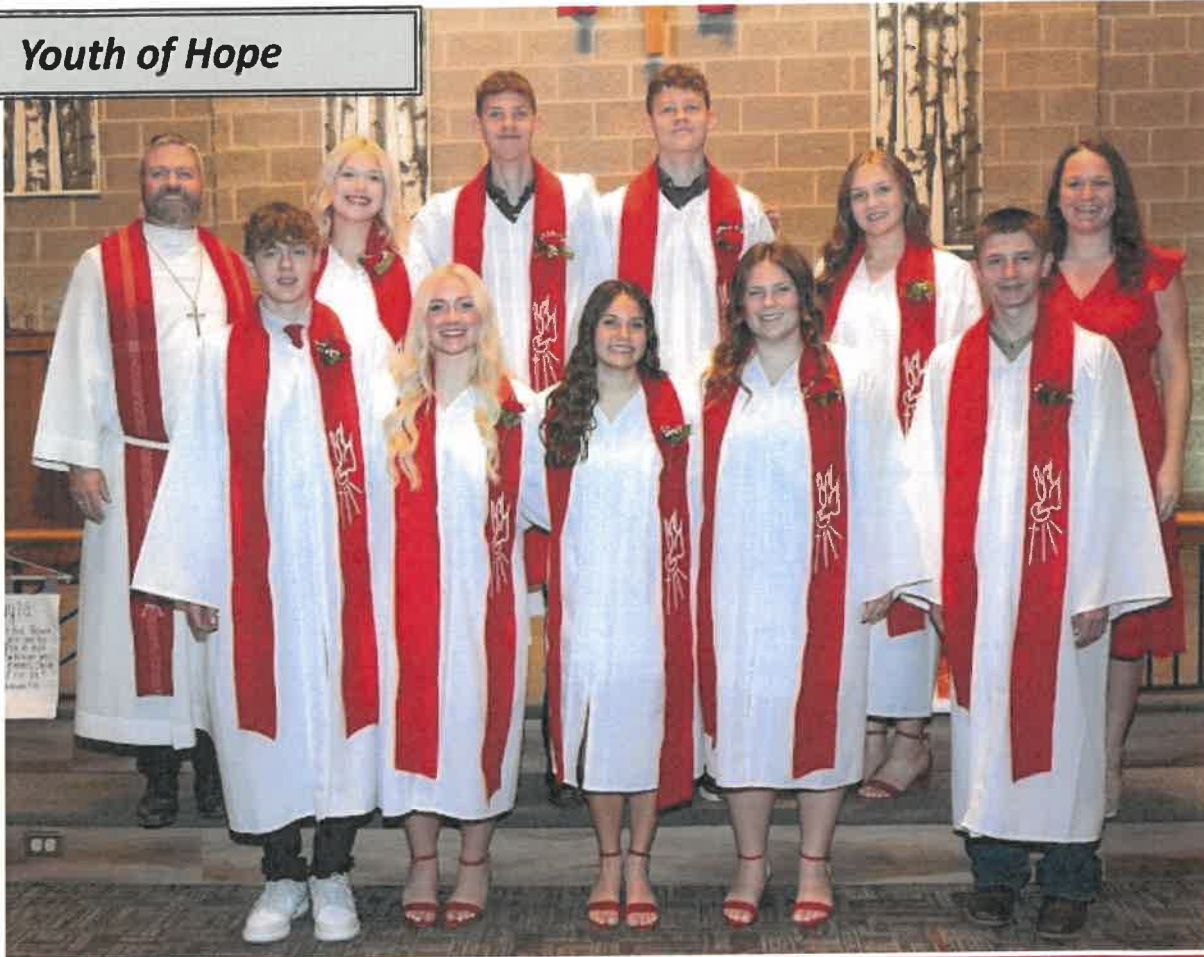
*Displaying extreme mood swings.

Felton gave two one-hour programs to those interested in after church services at Hope Lutheran Church, Walker recently. The program was enlightening as to the affect and effect each one of us can have on any individual who displays one or more of these new or increased activities.

Felton said, "You can truly help make a difference in someone's life. Just remember to call or text 988 or 988chatlifeline.org."



Youth of Hope



2025 CONFIRMANDS: Back row: Pastor Matt McWaters, Layla Krueckeberg, Oliver McKenna, Gus McKenna, Mia Jackson, Youth Director Michelle Anderson. Front: Noah McWaters, Charli Flesch, Sophia Udem, Payton Lange, Caleb Dubbe

Miracle on Main Street Christmas Musical 2025

Olivia Murphy and team have been working hard to prepare for this years Children's Christmas Program. Join us on **Sunday December 14th at 9am** for the production of "Miracle on Main Street."

Kids- join us in rehearsals on Wednesday's to learn the songs! November 12, November 19, November 26 & December 10 from 3:30-4:30pm.

Then of course, stick around for Wednesday Kids from 4:30-5:30pm.

All Youth Gathering at Craguns!

Please keep the youth of Hope, LYO Leaders and the adults in your prayers as they head to the Synod's All Youth Gathering at Cragun's Resort November 22-23. Adelveiss Burns, Elizabeth Cairns, Paislee Erickson, Everly Felton, Josie Holly, Ayla Jacobson, Briella Jacobson, Isabella Jacobson, Layla Krueckeberg, Trevor Kuechle, Payton Lange, Addi Lissick, Keeton Malard, Isaias Jimenez McMurrin, Noah McWaters, Garret Turney, Jenna Udean, Olivia Udem & Brittan Young. Lily Cairns, Tori Pederson, Anja Turney, Sophia Udem & Vada Yeats. Andrew Anderson, Michelle Anderson & Cristin Udem

Sunday Acolyte Schedule

Nov. 2—Brody K
Nov. 9—**Volunteers Needed!**
Nov. 16—Trevor L.
Nov. 23—Cooper Z.
Nov. 30—**Volunteer Needed!**

Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge

Do you like doing jigsaw puzzles? If so, the Women of Hope will be hosting a jigsaw puzzle challenge fundraiser on **Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 10:30** in fellowship hall. This will be a fun event to do with your friends and neighbors on a cold February day in Minnesota. Brunch will be served at 10:30 followed by the jigsaw puzzle challenge. Each team will receive the same puzzle at the same time. The first team to complete the puzzle, wins a prize. **All proceeds from this fundraiser will be donated to the youth for camp.**

What do you need to do to participate in this fun event?

1. Create your team (max of 4 people)
2. Contact Angie Osatiuk at 612-310-6860 by 1/12/26 to register your team. Cost is \$20.00 per person (youth play free). All proceeds will be donated to the youth for camp.

Women of Hope

This is just a reminder that our Circle Bible studies from our "Gather" magazine are being done as follows: The October study will be done in November; the November study in December. All three studies are in the fall "Gather" magazine so don't discard your issue until after your December Circle meeting. If you haven't gotten your up-dated Circle rosters to Tanis yet, please do so this month. She needs them by December 1st.

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.

*The Youth of Hope extend a big **THANK YOU** to the Circle members who have volunteered to make lunch during middle school and high school release time, and to everyone who has donated snacks!*



HOPE QUILTERS enjoy coffee with guests each Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone is welcome to stop by and chat with the gals about this great ministry! More helping hands are always welcome.

Women of Hope November Gather Bible Study

Notes from Pastor Dave

Money, Stewardship and Generosity

Session Two

Stewardship: How Do We Tend Our Treasure?

Our study begins with a question, "What does 'stewardship' mean to you?". Think about this question before you consider the author's definition.

Before you read Genesis 2:15, read Genesis 2:5. We humans have a crucial role to play in the flourishing of creation: a role not just for our own benefit but for the benefit of all creatures. The author makes a point worth repeating often: "dominion" is not to be confused with domination. Biblically "dominion" means to treat something or someone with the same love and care as God does. This is a tall order indeed.

Join the discussion on this month's Circle Bible Study!

Miriam—Monday, Nov 10

Ruth—Wednesday, Nov 12

Lydia—Thursday, Nov 13

*Anyone is welcome! Pick the date
that works best and join us at 9:30*

Question 3 may make you think about our human interactions differently. Almost daily, each of us is in a position to add to another's well-being, even if it is just with a kind or supportive word. In the church, perhaps especially in the church, each of us has the opportunity, and the duty, to pass along our

ministry to those who will come after us. We also are to be constantly on the watch for the chance to help someone discover their gifts and to encourage them.

And now the tithe. I saw a cartoon once where a small boy is sitting in a restaurant booth with his father as the father is looking over the bill for their meal. The boy questions his father, "How come the waitress gets 15% and God only gets 10%?" Kids say the darndest things.

I'll leave you with this often repeated story about John Wesley, one of the leading founders of the Methodist denomination. In 1731

Wesley began to limit his expenses so he would have more money to give to the poor. He records that one year his income was £30, and his living expenses £28, so he had £2 to give away. The next year, his income doubled, but he still lived on £28 and gave £32 away. In the third year, his income jumped to £90; again he lived on £28, giving £62 away. The fourth year, he made £120, lived again on £28, and gave £92 to the poor. He was more concerned with his standard of giving than with his standard of living.

Finally read Luke 12:42-48 if you dare.

Pastor Dave



The winning team, *Masters of Useless Information*
Left to right, Elaine Bettelman, Don Moen,
Paul Raddatz, Jon Bohn & Stephanie Roy



HOPE'S TRIVIA NIGHT had more than fifty trivia enthusiasts enjoying a night out of fellowship, fun and games. There were eleven teams vying for the title of champion team and ultimately having their team and individual names emblazoned on the coveted Hope's Trivial Trophy. There were 30 questions posed to the different teams so there were ample opportunities for a variety of subject matters. The event was sponsored by the Hope Fellowship Committee, with Thrivent contributing pizza and beverages at Benson's in downtown Walker. Members planning the event for a great way to get together, enjoying and sharing in the camaraderie and challenging the attendee's common sense and knowledge were Sherren and Duane Foss, Carrie Raddatz, Angie Osatiuk, Lynn Moen and Joe Sherman. OH yeah, and everyone enjoyed free pizza.

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

Help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve by sponsoring a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one. Fill out this form and return it with your payment to the offering plate or church office by December 10. Your dedication will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin and you may take your poinsettia following worship.

____ in memory or ____ in honor

of _____

Given by _____



_____ poinsettias X \$15 =

\$ _____



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

In memory of **Jan Cyr**, gifts to *Hope Quilters* from Steve & Connie Kaylor, Julianne Proper, Keith & Linda Piller

In memory of **Arlene Bly**, a gift to the *General Fund* from Mary Spendruf

In honor of **Grannie Annie**, who never hid her light under a bushel, a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Laurie Moe-Greer

To Hope Endowment

Thank you for your recent grant of \$1500. Your generous donation has allowed us to purchase much-needed dairy, eggs and a variety of proteins which ensure our children are strengthened as they grow, our seniors are bolstered as they age, and the working poor adults of this community are sustained in their efforts to press forward. Your continued support of the Walker Area Food Shelf is crucial to our endeavors.

Thank you, Andrew Soleta,
Executive Director, Walker Area Food Shelf

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 6:00 pm 6 th -9 th Youth Group	3 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 5:30 pm Board of Property	4 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	5 10:00 am Women of Hope Board Mtg 1:00 pm Bone Builders 1:30 pm Christmas lines practice No Joyful Noise or Wednesday Kids 4:30 pm Celebration Handbells 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 pm Confirmation classes 6:45 pm Sr High Bible Dive 7:00 pm Community Choir practice 7:30 pm Sr High Youth Group	6 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 5:00 pm PEO	7	1
9 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 10:10 Matthew Bible Study	10 9:30 am Miriam Circle 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	11 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 8:30 am WHA/Northland 8 th Grade Courage Retreat No Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	12 8:30 am Board of Outreach 8:30 am WHA Kindness Retreat 9:30 am Ruth Circle 11:00 & 12:30 Worship -May Creek 1:30 pm K-2 nd grade Release Time 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise/Program practice 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 pm Community Choir practice	13 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 am Lydia Circle 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 1:00 pm 3 rd -5 th grade Release Time	14	15
16 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 Christmas lines practice 10:10 Matthew Bible Study	17 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	18 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	19 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise/Program practice 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	20 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 5:00 pm Girl Scouts	21	22 10:00 am Wreath Processing 5:00 pm Youth to AYG at Cragun's
23 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	24 9:00 am Northwoods Quilters 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	25 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	26 8:30 am 9 th -12 th Release Time 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise/Program practice 4:15 pm Wednesday Kids 4:30 pm Celebration Handbells 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday worship No Confirmation Classes	27 Thanksgiving OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship						

Youth of Hope Wreath Sales are underway!



Look for an order form inside this newsletter, or on Hope's website hopelutheranchurch-walker.org, or see the kids in the narthex at worship on Sundays and Wednesdays in November. Order for yourself, or send a bit of the Minnesota northwoods to your family and friends this Christmas, while supporting the Youth of Hope! All

orders must be placed by November 26th.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A SCRIPTURE READER, USHER or COMMUNION ASSISTANT during Sunday worship? Leave a message in the church office to be added to the next schedule, or email hope-michelle@arvig.net.



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