Herald of Hope November 2026

HOPE is alive!

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	

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 Sunday worship for Coffee & Fellowship!

Wednesday Simple Supper & Worship

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

11/4 Chicken Nuggets/fries
11/11 Lasagna & garlic toast
11/18 Swedish meatballs & whipped potatoes
11/25. Mexican goulash

Followed by casual worship at 6:15

Reading the Bible Together- Mondays at 6:30

Pastor Matt & crew are reading through the book of Mark on Monday evenings. Join in any Monday you are available! If you'd like to participate via zoom, leave a message in the office to be sure to receive the email link.

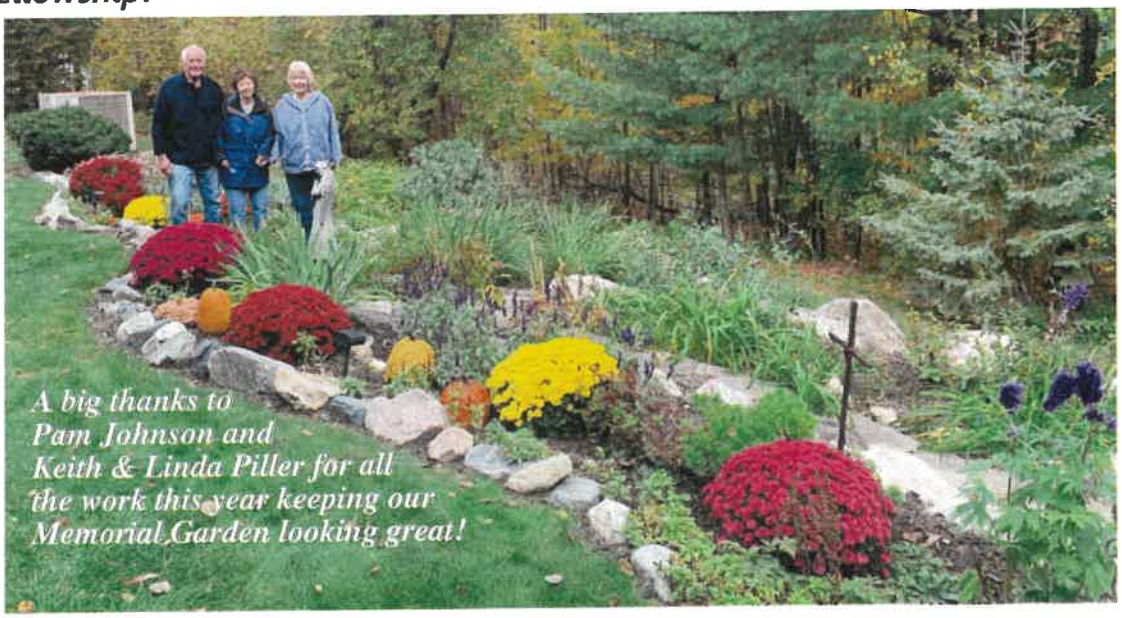
The final packets in our Stewardship Relay are coming in! If the packet never made it to your house, and you didn't receive an Estimate of Giving card in the mail, please contact the church office to make an estimate of your giving to Hope's ministry during the upcoming year. Your estimate helps Hope's leadership make a mission plan for next year. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Christmas Food Box Project

A little holiday help for our neighbors in need

Each year our church family has the Christmas food box outreach project. Records go back to the 1980s when the Women of Hope started this ministry, providing a Christmas meal for approximately 10 families. In 2025, food boxes and food certificates were provided for 231 families! In addition, Hope quilters started providing quilts in 1999, and last year they provided 110 adult quilts and 119 youth quilts. Fleece blankets for younger children were added in 2002 and last year 95 fleece blankets were donated.

The projected amount for the project this year is $20,000. The committee secures grants and the Women of Hope and Hope's Endowment Fund have also provided funds, however individual donations are key to this ministry. A display will be set up in the Narthex to show various ways one can contribute and of course a donation of any amount may be given at any time through the office. Also on Wednesday morning December 2 we will be packing food boxes and welcome anyone wanting to help. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to support the Christmas food box project.



From Pastor Matt

A timely reminder

Dear friends in Christ, as we near the end of having to endure the seemingly endless political ads, robo-calls, and reminders of how easily we can be triggered by rhetoric that oversimplifies the complex realities of daily life, I share this same letter I shared two years ago…

I write this letter to you amidst the tensions present in the leadup to our national election. This is not the first, nor will it be the last voting season characterized by high emotions, polarized convictions, and deep disagreements between neighbors. However things shake out after November 3, you will have fellow siblings in Christ, fellow citizens of our country who are deeply disappointed, while others celebrate the results. Some will be fearful of the future, some may breathe a breath of relief, and some may simply sit in shock. Wherever you find yourself today, and in the days to come, I call on you to remember.

Remember, rhetoric, along with government policies and priorities will always impact your neighbors. Some for the better. Some for the worse. While politicians might promise a grand future of peace, prosperity, and abundant life for all, we remember the kingdom of God does not depend on our elections.

Remember, elected leaders are not the Messiah, Jesus is, and the political process in our country has little to do with God saving the world. Our hope for the future is in the promises of the Lord, not the promises of candidates.

Remember, our primary response to the gospel of Jesus Christ can be summarized from our Lord's own words, 'Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself.' (Matthew 22:36-40) Or as Paul reminds us, if we have all abilities, wisdom, and knowledge – but do not have love, we are nothing. (see 1 Corinthians 13) We are called to bear things like joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control (see Galatians 5:22-24) – while recognizing our human tendencies toward deceit, slander, and pride. (see Mark 7:21-23) Remember, you are free to vote your Christian conscience, knowing others will too and come to different conclusions. If political perspectives and ideologies get in the way of you loving your neighbor as yourself, it is time to check yourself.

Remember, like the mountains and hills that will pass away, so will this season. In time we will do it all over again, and again, and again. Amidst this, the steadfast love of God remains. Our work being church for the sake of the world will remain. Our common faith in God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, will continue to bind us together as one in the body of Christ. I commend to you these words from Paul's first letter to the churches in Rome, chapter 12, verse 18,

"If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

Peace be with you, Pastor Matt

MINISTERIAL ACTS

Saturday, October 17
Memorial Service for
Darleen Johnson

Saturday, October 24
Marriage of
Lauren Larson & Ryley Rettke

Hope Lutheran Church gives thanks for recent gifts

In memory of **Darleen Johnson**, gifts to the *General Fund* from Gloria Niswonger, Ivan & Pat Paulsen, Roger & Sharon Hardy, Mikkel & Carol Gardner, Steve & Jane Ekholm, Roger & Kay Strandlie, Larry & Meri Mengis, Dave & Carol Ulring, Norman & Ruth Will; gifts to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Judy Berg, John & Carol Fjelstul

In memory of **Bob Horn**, gifts to the *General Fund* from Tim & Margie Richardson, Lynn Reiten, Cal & Sue Marjamaa, Ivan & Pat Paulsen, Keith & Linda Piller, Bob & Joan Alley, Steve & Jane Ekholm, Grace Halling, Ann Harris, Mike & Evon Miller, Harris & Diane Hostager; a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Cal & Sally Hiner; a gift to the *Worship & Music Fund* from Tom & Andrea Girtz

In memory of **Gary DeVries** gifts to the *General Fund* from Mike & Julie Ann Kerrigan, Steve & Jane Ekholm; a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Cal & Sally Hiner; a gift to the *Food Box Fund* from Kyle & Jill Duclos

November Ushers
Nov 1 – Barb Sellevold
Nov 8 – Wayne Osatiuk
Nov 15 – Marty Cook
Nov 22 – Bovees
Nov 29 – Joe Sherman

Lay Readers
Nov 1 – Al Sanford
Nov 8 – Sally Hiner
Nov 15 – Ivan Paulsen
Nov 22 – Nancy Bruns
Nov 29 – Phil Johnston

Women of Hope

A brief re-cap of our **Living Waters Fall Gathering** at Jesse Lake Lutheran on October 3rd: 26 women were in attendance representing 9 churches within our Conference. Grace Lutheran, Bigfork, hosted the morning coffee. Pr. Lori Gordon presided at our opening worship service focusing on our theme for the day "*Safe in the Arms of Jesus*". Colleen, from "Advocates for Family Peace" spoke on their services, which advocate for those experiencing domestic violence. Very timely, as October is Domestic Awareness month. This is always a good day and opportunity to re-connect with our Living Waters sisters. Thank you if you donated items for the silent auction tables.

It is great to be joining our sisters in our individual **Circle meetings** after a wonderful summer of meeting jointly. Our Circles meet as follows: Lydia - the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 am; Miriam - the second Monday of each month at 9:30 am; Ruth - the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am. Circles are basically Bible studies using the study in our Gather" magazine, our W/ELCA publication from Chicago. We would love to have you join one of the circles if you are not presently attending one. All women are included. Check the kiosks in the narthex for a yellow brochure which gives detailed information about the Women of Hope.

YES!!! We have a new co-chair to serve with Shirley next year on our Women of Hope board. Deb Bernin has responded to our search - thank you, Deb! And a huge thank you to Ardyce for her leadership over these past years. I know we can count on you to be a good resource as we carry on our work.

The Women of Hope Circles are providing lunch for Middle School Release time on December 16; February 17 (Miriam Circle) and May 12. Lydia and Ruth, please choose which month you will serve and let Michelle A. know.

November dates to remember:
November 4. 10:00 am. Women of Hope board meeting
November ??? Kitchen cleaning. - Lydia Circle

There are two **funeral receptions** this month where we could use your help. If you could help in the kitchen on either **Saturday, November 14th or 21st,** or would be willing to donate a cake or bars, please leave a message in the church office.

HOPE QUILTERS are looking for donations of **bed sheets**. All types, sizes, colors and patterns of sheets including flannel are wanted! The quilters are making a big push to finish as many quilts as possible for the Christmas Food Boxes. Your helping hands are welcome any Thursday morning in the Fellowship Hall. If you can cut, tie or sew, we have a job for you!



Women of Hope *Gather* Study

Notes from Pastor Dave

Bold Faith on an Unexpected Journey

Session Three

Proclaiming resurrection in hope

In the final installment in this study we meet Mary Magdalene. Although not one of the twelve, Mary Magdalene and other women were deeply involved with Jesus' ministry. Notice in Mark 8:3 that Mary is named as one of the women who provided for Jesus and the twelve "out of their resources". Were they wealthy women with money and food to spare? Or were they early models of sacrificial giving? Unfortunately, we'll probably never know, but we can tell their stories; at least what little we know of them. But, of the women named in Mark 8:1-3, we know the most about Mary Magdalene and so we consider her story of bold faith.

Think about question 1. What kind of experiences might Mary have had along her journey with Jesus that prepared her for her time at the tomb?

Reflect on question 3. Think about someone you know well? How did that relationship develop? Did they reveal themselves to you a bit at a time? How long did it take for you to feel really comfortable with them? Now think about your relationship with God.

Read John 20:1-10. All four gospel writers report that Mary Magdalene was one of the first on the scene Easter morning. Indeed, the male disciples come to the tomb only after the women report Jesus' resurrection. Has it ever occurred to you how bold Mary Magdalene was to go to the tomb that morning? The twelve were in hiding and probably rightly so. To be associated with a convicted insurrectionist who had just been publicly executed was to invite suspicion and possibly charges against any perceived followers who might continue his cause. Mary's relationship with Jesus, however, was so deep that she stayed near him, in her own way, even at the risk of her personal safety. Questions 4-6 invite reflection on our own staying power.

The section "Seeing Through the Lens of Expectations" reminds us that so often we see only what we expect to see. Past experiences, prejudices, and ignorance can often blind us to something new, even when it is standing right in front of us. Consider especially questions 9 and 10.

The author writes, "bold faith is not about having all the answers. It is about being willing to walk with God, one step at a time." Amen

Pastor Dave

Youth of Hope

Acolyte Schedule
Nov 1:
Nov 8: Calie D
Nov 15: Olivia U
Nov 22: Emily T
Nov 29: ***Volunteer Needed!***

Sunday School—All kids age 3 through 5th grade are invited to come to 9:00 worship and sit with parents until the "Kid's Message". After a brief chat with the pastor, kids will be dismissed to Sunday School and will return to the sanctuary shortly after the sermon. (No Sunday School November 29).

We are practicing music for the **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, *"Cooking Up Christmas"*** on **Wednesdays after school**. The program will be held during worship on Sunday, December 13. All kids are welcome to participate!



HOPE LUTHERAN 2026 CONFIRMANDS: front– Mack Holly, Trevor Kuechle, Brody Kurtz, Isais Jiminez McMurrin, Josie Holly Back– Pr Matt McWaters, Maverick Young, Lola Krueckeberg, Tristan Yeats, Youth Director Michelle Anderson



Volunteers Needed!

DECEMBER is Hope's month to staff the Walker Area Food Shelf. Volunteers are needed each Tuesday with shifts from 10:00-12:30 and 12:30-3:00. Volunteers help sort and inspect produce, restock shelves, distribute dairy items, or keep the bread and bakery area filled. Volunteers may also assist shoppers who need extra help. There are also seated tasks available, including packaging and sorting personal care items, so everyone can find a way to help. You can sign up online at walkerareafoodshelf.com, or on the bulletin board near the church office.



As we give thanks this November, please give thought to the importance of having a clean space to live. Cleaning might not be your favorite chore, but consider how much more difficult it would be if you didn't have the supplies you use every day. Imagine having to make the choice to purchase food and other household essentials, and forego the cleaning supplies and just use water. **Cleaning supplies are one of the most frequent requests that the Walker Area Food Shelf cannot fill**. This November, give thanks for the clean home you have and donate a cleaning supply item to the Walker Area Food Shelf. Anything is helpful—if you use it to clean, then someone else will also love to have it!

Just as important as a clean home is a clean body. The Food Shelf is also in need of personal care items such as shampoo & conditioner, bar soap, toothpaste, deodorant , feminine hygiene products (*these are in such demand that they actually split up the packages and each gal just gets a few!!* ✯) The Food Shelf currently has a supply of body wash & toilet paper.

Donations can be left at the food shelf on Tuesdays, or at the church any time in the donation bins in the narthex and Fellowship Hall. As always, monetary gifts are very important. You can make your gift payable to Hope Lutheran, marked "food shelf" and leave it in the church office or offering plate.



The Board of Fellowship recently held another Trivia night at Benson's Emporium. There were 10 teams that participated in answering some pretty tough questions, but all participants were able to eat free pizza thanks to a Thrivent grant. Nine of the teams were members of Hope with the other being from Calvary Free. How did Calvary Free manage to pull off the win with their team name being Sherlock Homies!

Pet food was collected to help our furry, four-legged friends at Paws and Claws. Over 100 pounds of food was donated along with $300 in cash. It was a fun filled night and our animal friends benefitted from this also.















Give thanks and Give Back this November

Thankful for a Clean Home!

Cleaning supplies are one of the most frequent requests that the Walker Area Food Shelf cannot fill.

This November, give thanks for the clean home you have and donate a cleaning supply item to the Walker Area Food Shelf. Anything is helpful—if you use it to clean, then someone else will also love to have it!



Just as important as a clean home is a clean body. The Food Shelf is also in need of personal care items such as

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Bar Soap
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products

The Food Shelf currently has a supply of body wash & toilet paper.

Donate items such as...

Kitchen Cleaner	Dish Soap
Bathroom Cleaner	Laundry Soap
Spray Cleaner	Bleach
Window Cleaner	Scrub pads
Disposable wipes	

(regular sizes preferred)

Donations can be left at the food shelf on Tuesdays, or at Hope Lutheran Church any time.
As always, monetary gifts are very appreciated!

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	**2** 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 5:30 pm Board of Property 6:30 Reading the Bible	**3** 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	**4** 10:00 am Women of Hope Board Mtg 1:00 pm Bone Builders 1:30 Christmas Program Practice 4:30 Celebration Handbell practice 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Classes 7:45 pm Sr High Youth Group	**5** 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:00 WOH fundraiser committee 11:30 Women's AA 5:30 pm PEO	**6**	**7**
8 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	**9** 9:30 am Miriam Circle 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 6:30 Reading the Bible	**10** 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 8:25 am 7th Grade Retreat 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	**11** 8:25 am Kindness Retreat 9:00 am Board of Outreach 9:30 am Ruth Circle 11:00 & 12:30 Worship -May Creek 1:00 pm K-2nd grade Release Time 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 pm Joyful Noise Choir practice 4:15 pm Wednesday Kids 4:30 Celebration Handbell practice 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Classes 7:45 pm Sr High Youth Group	**12** 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 am Lydia Circle 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 1:00 pm 3rd-5th grade Release Time	**13**	**14** 11:00 visitation Noon: Memorial service for Harley Melin
15 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 church council	**16** 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 6:30 Reading the Bible	**17** 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	**18** 8:25 am 9th-12th grade Release Time 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise 4:15 Wednesday Kids 4:30 Celebration Handbell practice 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 Confirmation Classes 6-8th 7:00 Christmas Concert practice 7:45 Sr High Youth Group	**19** 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 1:00 pm 3rd-5th grade Release Time	**20**	**21** 11:00 visitation Noon: Memorial service for Melissa Tibbetts 3:00 wreath processing
22 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 Advent decorating	**23** 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 6:30 Reading the Bible	**24** 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	**25** 1:00 pm K-2nd grade Release Time 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise 4:15 Wednesday Kids 4:30 Celebration Handbell practice 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday worship No Confirmation or Youth Group	**26** OFFICE CLOSED 11:30 Women's AA	**27** OFFICE CLOSED	**28**
29 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	**30** 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 6:30 Reading the Bible					



Walker Area Community Christmas Concert

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026
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

HOPE is alive!

HOPE'S MISSION

Hope invites all to connect with God and each other through
… Worship
…Community
…Service

SINGERS WANTED to be part of the Community Choir for our Holiday Concert here at Hope on Saturday, December 5. First rehearsal will be Wednesday, November 18th at 7pm. Come and add your voice!

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

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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