

Herald of Hope October 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	
Accompanist	Mike Kerrigan	
Custodian	Vic Fields	

Adult Study

Changing the Narrative on Mental Health and Suicide

Sundays, October 5th & 12th

Mental health and suicide are often difficult topics to discuss, especially within faith communities. This session invites open and honest conversation grounded in compassion, care, and Christian hope. Together, we will explore how our words and attitudes can bring life, reduce stigma, and reflect God's love to those who are struggling.

We'll learn how to talk about mental health and suicide in a way that is safe, respectful, and life-giving. We'll discuss how certain language can unintentionally cause harm or discourage people from seeking help and how we can instead speak hope, resilience, and truth into challenging situations.



Who is this for?

This session is open to all ages (middle school to adult) who want to be part of creating a more understanding and life-affirming community.

Grab some coffee and a treat after worship and join the discussion in the Fellowship Hall.



Pastors' Appreciation Day, October 12

October 12, 2025 is Pastor Appreciation Day. It is a special occasion to pay tribute to our pastors and to acknowledge their teaching and spiritual support during life's significant moments. Pastor Appreciation Day was established in 1992. It was inspired by the biblical directive found in 1 Timothy 5:17, which encourages congregations to honor their spiritual leaders. Please join us following the 9:00 service in the Fellowship Hall. The Board of Fellowship will be hosting a celebration to honor Pastors Matt, Dave and retired clergy. Cake and coffee will be served.

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

October Menu

- Oct 1: Sloppy Joes
- Oct 8: Roast Pork & Whipped Potatoes
- Oct 15: Tator Tot Hotdish
- Oct 22: Taco Salad
- Oct 29: Chicken Nuggets & Tator Tots

Followed by casual worship at 6:15

Hope's Trivia Night: Thursday, October 16

The Board of Fellowship is announcing another trivia night to be held at Benson's on October 16th. Gather a team of up to 6 people/team, or come alone and join in with another team. Come anytime after 5:30 for fellowship, free pizza and pop with trivia starting at 6:00. We are again asking that everyone bring a cash or food donation to benefit the Walker Area Food Shelf. Plan on coming for free food, fellowship and fun with your neighbors. Hope to see you there. RSVP to Joe Sherman - joebarb@arvig.net

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!

From Pastor Matt

Stewardship, New Bible Study, and Adult Education Opportunities

Stewardship is...

"everything I do, after I say, 'I believe!'" This statement has been a guiding definition for me when it comes to how I understand a Christian's response to God's grace. As people of faith, we understand God as the source of all things, meaning everything we *have* (life, breath, goods, family, home, etc.) is graciously given from God, and everything we *do* (speech, actions, relationships, etc.) becomes our response. It can be hard to remember everything is a gift when our patience with family members runs thin, when finances are tight, and our concern turns inward toward our own sense of comfort or well-being.

This month, I invite you to consider your stewardship of God's gifts in your life. No, not simply your financial offerings to the church, but a more wholistic look to your response to all God has done and is doing in your life. Specifically, I'd invite you to dwell on these three questions:

What helps you recognize the God given gifts in your life?

What internal and external distractions hinder recognizing all that comes from God?

How can I live into an attitude of gratitude for all God has done for me?

Stewardship Update

While our Hope Stewardship Relay continues into the month of October, it is important to keep everyone apprised of our current General Fund Income vs. Expenses. As we move into the fall months it is common for our income to be lagging our expenses, and this year is no different. Hope's leadership desires to be transparent in communicating where we are at, while also recognizing your generosity as we've raised approximately \$184,000 for our Renewing Hope's Promise Capital Appeal. You can see below figures from our month end financial report from August:

Total Income:	347,499.18
Total Expense:	393,065.19
Net Surplus/Deficit	-45,566.01

New Lectionary Bible Study

Join me (Pastor Matt) every week on Tuesday at 12:00 Noon for an hour of Bible Study. Each week we will study a couple of the scripture lessons assigned for the upcoming Sunday. We will dive deep into the text to help understand the context of the narrative arc, what commands (law) and promises (gospel) each text might have for the people of God, and most importantly, what the text might have for us today. This is a study for any and all who have a desire to discuss and learn from each other, whether you are new to the practice or have studied the Bible for decades. There is no need to prepare ahead of time, but you are welcome to if you like! We will meet initially at Hope in the double classroom but may also seek space next door at May Creek to be able to include members there.

Adult Education Opportunities

There has been a growing interest among the people of Hope for more Adult Education. In response we are in the beginning steps of imagining how we can more effectively provide opportunities that are substantive and meaningful. If you have a topic you would like to learn more about or have an area of expertise or experience you are willing to share in an adult forum setting, please let us know.

Pastor Matt

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

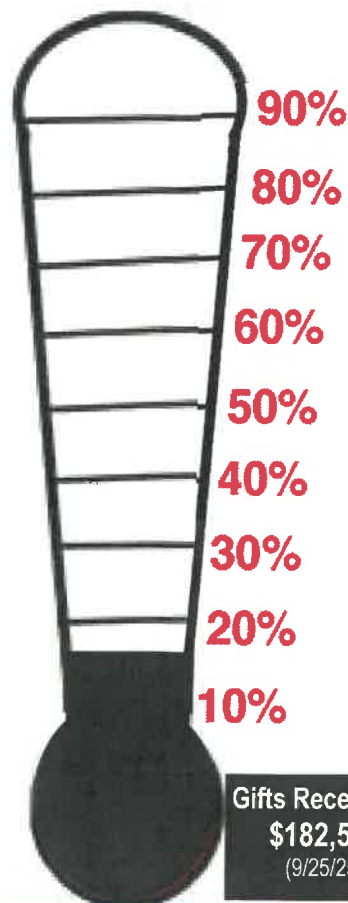
In memory of **Dee Jensen**, gifts to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Carol Wunderlich, Harry & Jane Kram, Larry & Meri Mengis

In memory of **Otto Ringle**, a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Brian & Nancy Bruns

In memory of **Greg Proper**, a gift to the *Endowment Fund* from Roger & Kay Strandlie; a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Brian & Nancy Bruns

In memory of **Brendon Mankie**, a gift to the *Youth of Hope* from Roger & Kay Strandlie; a gift to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Brian & Nancy Bruns

**RENEWING HOPE'S PROMISE
5-YEAR GOAL: \$1,000,000
100%**



Holy Smoke 2025

The fourth annual Holy Smoke Cook-off was a huge success! The good Lord blessed us with another gorgeous day to enjoy this event. The Rally Sunday service was once again led by our youth. Approximately 110 members stayed after service, the 10 smokers got their items ready to serve. Promptly at 10:45 the line began to form to enjoy smoked meats, smoked corn, baked beans, chips, buns, and cookies.

This is what our smoke masters served to the delight of all:

Brisket: Dick Zuehlke
Smoked Pulled Ham: Darrin Strosahl
Ring Bologna: Ronney Wendlandt
Pulled Pork: Jesse Kuechle
Pork Chops: Matt McWaters
Turkey: Al Sanford & John Felton
Burnt Ends: Paul Raddatz
Pork Loin: Craig Gries
Beef Chuck Roast
& Corn souffle: Scott Skalisky

The Board of Fellowship would like to thank the smoke masters for the donation of their products as well as their time preparing and serving the smoked items. This event wouldn't happen without them! Thank you to Dick Zuehlke and his daughter for the 10 new Holy Smoke aprons that they donated. Thank you to Thrivent for the grant to provide the additional food and beverages served. Thank you to everyone who came to support this event. Over \$1,000 was raised for our youth to shop for Christmas gifts for Walker's Toys for Kids Program. It was discussed that next year's event will start shortly after the 9:00 service. See you next year for Holy Smoke 5.



A big thank you to **Ryan Pels** and **the Walker American Legion** for bringing in a lift and replacing the worn flag and rope in the church's parking lot and trimming the high branches around it!

Thank you so much to WHA football players **Samuel Pfeiffer, Clayton Burns, Bryce Zubke and Hayden Rettke** for shoveling a huge pile of black dirt into the Memorial Garden to replace that which has washed away over the years!



Holy Smoke!
September 7, 2025

Women of Hope

It's time to get back into our fall/winter schedules. **Individual circles** will be meeting again soon. If you are not involved in a circle, please know that you are welcome to join whichever circle will best work with your schedule:

Each circle meets at 9:30 a.m., usually at the church, however locations may vary

- ♦ Ruth: second Wednesday, October 8th
 - ♦ Lydia: second Thursday, October 9th
 - ♦ Miriam: second Monday, October 13th
- We will, again, be using the Bible study from our W/ELCA "Gather" magazine.

Because we did not meet for Bible study in July but we wanted to include all three of the summer studies on Relationships, we did the July study in August and the August study in September. To continue to include the three fall studies on Stewardship, please consider using the September study in October, the October study in November & the November study in December. All three studies are in the latest "Gather" magazine so make sure you hang onto your magazine through the fall months.

Circle Chairs: Please get up-dated information on your circle members to Tanis Beadle who will be producing our "Women of Hope" brochure for 2026. December 1st is the deadline for updates.

Our **rolled bandage project** is finally moving forward. Ardyce met with the activity directors and several residents at May Creek and they are ready to start "ripping, stripping & rolling" bed sheets into bandages for Global Health. **All cotton, white bedsheets are needed** for this project if you have any to donate.

The **quilters also need bedsheets** to use for backing on quilts. These can be any size, color or fabric (our quilters have magic in their fingers to make them work!!)

The Women of Hope are always looking for new ideas for fund raisers or activities that might be of interest to our ladies here at Hope. If you are a new member here (all women, whether in a circle or not, are members of the Women of the ELCA) and did a project or fund raiser in your former church, talk to Shirley Dowson or Ardyce Pederson, our Co-Chairs. It might be something that we would like to try here.



Women of Hope October Gather Bible Study

Notes from Pastor Dave

Money, Stewardship and Generosity

Session One

Money: What Do We Treasure?

As uncomfortable as it may seem, Jesus talked more about money than any other topic; and not usually in a positive way. Most often Jesus' pronouncements about money were not about how to have more of it, but rather, warnings about money's lure and pitfalls. To seek to live a Christian life in a fallen world can lead us to an uneasy relationship with money and wealth. Let's see where our study leads.

Question three invites us to examine our own relationship to money. If we answer honestly we find that we have a rather intimate and ongoing relationship with money. Because of the world we live in, this is not necessarily good or bad, just inescapable.

Be sure to read Genesis 2:10-12. I hadn't really paid attention to this verse until now. If gold is part God's original intention for creation then it is meant for right use and as susceptible to abuse as any other part of creation. Why do you think gold figures so prominently in the first three readings of the study?

Read Amos 2:6-8 and 1 Timothy 6:9-10 What do you think of these verses? Where do you see the "love of money" affecting our communal life together?

Read the selected proverbs: What are they suggesting? What do you think of this? If one has great wealth, then what?

Read Matthew 6:19-21: Reflect on question 8. It's worth examining where our most deeply held attitudes about money come from. Are they formed by experience? Do they come from the Bible? We'll continue to come back to this question as our study continues next month.

Pastor Dave

PRAYER SHAWLS

Are you looking for something to keep your hands busy in the long, winter months? **We can always use prayer shawls.** Yarn is provided. Check with Ardyce Pederson. Prayer shawls are a very special ministry here at Hope. They are not just for members of Hope - if you have a friend or relative going through a crisis where a prayer shawl would bring them comfort, you are welcome to take one. The only thing we ask is that you sign out who will be receiving the shawl so that one person doesn't end up with two or three of them.



September Kitchen Cleaning

Thanks ladies!

HOPE BUILDS: On Monday Sept. 15 Hope Lutheran sent a group of Hope members and their friends to Cass Lake to help with the Habitat for Humanity homes that are currently being constructed in the community. There are four homes in various stages of completion that have families waiting for them to be completed. Projects for the day included soffit and fascia on one home and interior painting in another. A hardy group of workers also did yard clean-up and some interior cleaning. Hope's efforts were greatly appreciated by the Habitat for Humanity folks who have had a difficult time getting enough volunteers to move the work along in a timely manner. Plans are being made for another workday so stay tuned.



Hope's Habitat for Humanity Crew working in Cass Lake September 15, 2025



Youth of Hope

Sunday School

Sunday School has begun and will be held every Sunday through May 17th, with the exception of December 14th because all the kids will be in worship performing the 2025 Christmas Program!

Sunday School takes place during worship. Kids will be invited to head to the choir room following the Kids Minute for a video & Bible story mirroring the message the adults are hearing in the sanctuary. Kids will return to worship shortly following the sermon.

Interested in leading? Talk to Michelle Anderson.

Joyful Noise & Wednesday Kids

All P3-5th Graders are invited to join us on Wednesdays! Joyful Noise starts at 3:30pm, Wednesday Kids starts at 4:30pm. Kids are welcome to attend one or the other or both!

For more information, the full schedule & to register, scan this QR code!

**Register Here ↑
for Joyful Noise &
Wednesday Kids**



Church Release

Looking for adult leaders for ALL age groups! Talk to Michelle A if you are interested.

**←K-12th graders:
Register Here for Release Time**

Kindergarten-2nd Grade, 1:30-2:50pm:
October 10, October 23, November 14...
3rd-5th Grade, 1:00-2:50pm:
October 9, October 24, November 13...
6th-8th Grade 8:20am-3:00pm: December 18
9th-12th Grade 8:20am-3:00pm: November 27

Christmas Program 2025

The Kids of Hope are putting on the musical, "Miracle on Main Street" on Sunday December 14th at 9am! Kids will be learning songs in Joyful Noise Choir & Wednesday Kids. Come enjoy the show & see if the kids can convince the mayor to let them tell the important Christmas story on Main Street!

High School Bible Study & Youth Group

☞9th-12th graders, join us on Tuesdays before school at Walker Bay Coffee at 7:15am for Bible Study!

☞10th-12th graders are invited to come on the first Wednesday of every month for Bible Dive Journaling at 6:45pm and youth group from 7:30-8:30pm!

Fall Break at Luther Crest, October 16th

No School? Let's go to camp!!! K-5th graders are invited to head to Luther Crest Bible Camp on Thursday October 16th! Games, crafts, learning, singing & fun centered around the theme "Love in Action!" We will meet at Hope at 6:50am and be on the road by 7am. After a full day of fun, we will leave camp at 5pm & stop at Pizza Ranch in Wadena on the way home (cost extra- pay Michelle for this).

\$33/camper- register at LutherCrest.org. Michelle Anderson can fit 5-6 kids in her car. Looking for adult to help carpool & join the fun or spend the day in Alex. Let Michelle know if you are interested.

All Youth Gathering at Cragun's

6th-12th graders join us for a fun overnight retreat Saturday November 22-Sunday November 23rd at Cragun's! \$110/ youth includes hotel, breakfast, programming & late night pizza snack. We will meet at Hope on Saturday at 5:00pm & on the road by 5:15pm. We will return Sunday around 2pm. Registration is through the Synod's website. Reach out to Michelle A. to register.

Confirmation

October 1st 6:45-8:00pm

October 8th 6:45-8:00pm

October 15th No Class

October 22nd MENTOR NIGHT, 6:45-8:00pm

October 29, 6:45-8:00pm

*9th Graders & parent/guardians are expected to serve the Celebration Dinner for 10th graders on Sunday October 19th. Please arrive at 5:15pm!



Affirmation of Baptism

Come celebrate the 10th graders on Sunday October 26th at 9am as they affirm their baptisms in the Rite of Confirmation. **Caleb Dubbe, Charli Flesch, Mia Jackson, Layla Krueckeberg, Payton Lange, Gus McKenna, Oliver McKenna, Noah McWaters, and Sophia Udem.**

Celebration Dinner for 10th graders and family on Sunday October 19th at 6pm.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 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 worship 6:45 pm Confirmation classes 6:45 pm Sr High Bible Dive 7:30 pm Sr High Youth Group	2 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	3	4
5 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 10:10 Discussion on Mental Health 6:00 pm 6 th -9 th Youth Group	6 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 5:30 pm Board of Property	7 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	8 8:30 am Board of Outreach 9:30 am Ruth Circle 11:00 & 12:30 Worship -May Creek 1:00 pm K-2 nd grade Release Time 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 pm Joyful Noise 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	9 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	10	11
12 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship w/Pastors Appreciation 10:10 Discussion on Mental Health	13 9:30 am Miriam Circle 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	14 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	15 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 worship No Confirmation classes	16 7:00 am K-5 th grade Fall Fun at Luther Crest 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 6:00 Trivia at Benson's	17	18
19 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 6:00 pm Confirmand Dinner	20 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	21 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	22 1:00 pm 3 rd -5 th grade Release Time 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 pm Joyful Noise 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 Mentor Night	23 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 1:00 pm K-2 nd grade Release Time 5:00 pm Girl Scouts	24	25
26 9:00 Communion Worship w/Confirmation service 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	27 9:00 am Northwoods Quilters 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	28 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	29 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 pm Joyful Noise 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	30 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	31	

Upcoming Adult Ed: A Primer in Matthew's Gospel

Matthew'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.

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