

Herald of Hope October 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, 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

Oct. 7: Taco salad

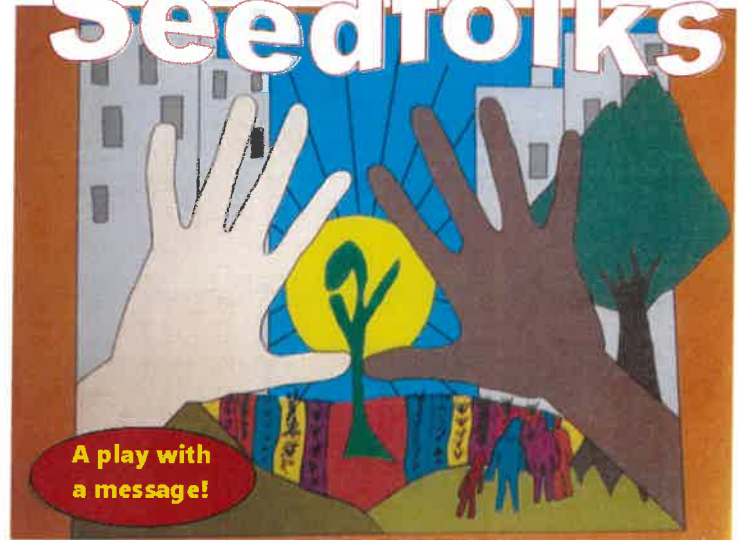
Oct 14: Mac & Cheese

Oct 21: Roast pork & Whipped potatoes

Oct 28: Tator Tot Hotdish

*Followed by casual worship
at 6:15*

Seedfolks



Sunday, October 11th at 10:30 a.m.

Ice Cream Social to follow!

Imagine a crowded ghetto, a vacant lot filled with garbage, a little girl planting a seed. Join the Hope players in the sanctuary **Sunday, October 11th at 10:30.** This is a fundraiser for the kids who will be going to the **ELCA National Youth Convention in Minneapolis and other mission trips.** Freewill offering.

Hope Lutheran Church is hosting



Which team will unseat our reigning champs, "The Masters of Useless Information"?

Thursday, October 22 at 6:00 p.m.

at Benson's Emporium

Gather a team of 2-6 people or just come and join in with another team at Benson's on Thursday, October 22nd, any time after 5:30 for fellowship, free pizza and pop with trivia starting at 6:00. Bring a pet food donation to help our four-legged friends at Paws & Claws Animal Rescue.

RSVP to Joe Sherman - joebarb@arvig.net. Hope to see you there!

From Pastor Matt

You Are a Steward, Like It or Not!

The church uses the word *stewardship* all the time, but I wonder if we really do a good job of understanding what we mean by it? Most of the time it is used to narrowly define financial offerings, pledge drives, and all things money related. Occasionally it will be used to help us understand our caregiving relationship with creation. Because of this our imagination for stewardship is limited. To better understand what scripture means by stewardship, and to free our imagination for what it can be, we might begin by diving into what an actual steward was in the first century.

Like a flight attendant, formerly known as a steward or stewardess, is entrusted with the well-being of passengers on an aircraft, a steward in a palace, city, or household, was entrusted with the full responsibility of the well-being of everything and everyone therein. When the master of the household was away, the steward managed everything including economic affairs, business decisions, care of the family, children, spouse, servants, animals, and so on. In some places there were multiple stewards, all with different responsibilities, who would answer to the chief steward. Remember the wedding in Cana? It was the chief steward who first tasted the water that had become wine. (John 2:8-9)

Stewardship, then, is the work entrusted to the steward, which is different depending on the who, what, where, when, whys of the particular place one is called to work. In the case of 1 Peter 4:10, we are called to be good stewards of the grace of God, by serving one another with the gifts you have received. What does this mean?

-We have been called to steward the grace of God. Grace being the unmerited favor God has for you, us, and the world. Grace comes from God, not the other way around. So, we care for the gift of God's grace by...

-serving one another with the gifts you have received. This is what stewardship looks like! It is our whole life response to what God has done, is doing, and continues to do for you. One past colleague put it this way, "Stewardship is everything I do after I say, 'I believe.'"

Our response will differ, not in *why* we serve (God's grace), but depending on our abilities and who or what is around us. Do you have the ability to teach and are good with young people? Then perhaps your response will include a classroom or confirmation group. Do you have the ability to sew, knit, or crochet? Perhaps you'll respond by serving among Hope's quilters, crafters, or be a part of the prayer shawl ministry. I invite us all in the coming month, to wonder about how you and we, will respond to the grace of God.

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 \$422,420 for our Renewing Hope's Promise Capital Appeal. You can see below figures from our month end

financial report from August:

Total Income:	343,675.63
Total Expense:	364,958.42
Net Surplus/Deficit	-21,282.79

New Monday Evening Bible Study: RBT (Reading the Bible Together)

Join Pastor Matt and the crew every Monday evening at 6:30 PM as we read and discuss our way through the Gospel of Mark. Each week a reading guide with helpful insights, definitions, and questions will be provided as we read a chapter or two at a time. Short on time? No problem — each reading can be completed in 15 minutes or less, and portions will be read together as a group. When we finish Mark, we will choose a new book of the Bible to study. Come each week or whenever you can. The reading guide will be provided electronically to accommodate everyone's availability. A Study Bible with room for notes is recommended.

First Sunday Forums

The people of Hope have stories to share, and we are providing an opportunity for us to hear them! Whether actively connected to ministry partners in our community, engaged in difference making work in professional pursuits, or simply disciples living out faith in daily living, God is at work amongst Hope in some incredible ways. October 4—Josh Cairns, Thrivent Financial Rep
November 1—Faith In Action



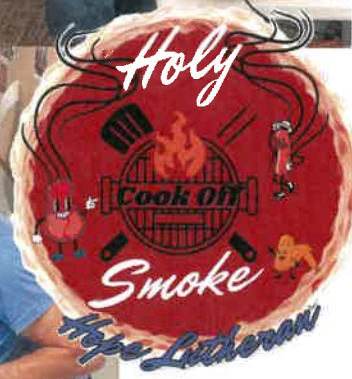


Holy Smoke!

Hope Lutheran Church came alive on Sunday, August 12, as the Youth of Hope shared highlights from their summer experiences with the congregation during Rally Sunday. Following the energetic service, nearly 90 guests gathered in the Fellowship Hall for the annual Holy Smoke Celebration. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed. We raised over \$1100 for the Youth of Hope's annual Christmas "Toys for Kids" project! The menu featured an impressive assortment of smoked and roasted specialties: baby back ribs prepared by Mark Bovee; roasted turkey by Al Sanford and also Ronnie Wendtland; smoked meatballs by Jesse Kuechle and served by Cookie Haas; smoked pork loin by Craig Greis and also Pastor Matt; and smoked salmon chowder and pork loin by Scott Skalisky. Guests also enjoyed baked beans, hot dogs on buns, pickles, cranberry sauce, and beverages. A variety of cakes prepared by Sherren Foss provided a sweet finish to the meal. Under the leadership of Scott Skalisky, the Fellowship and Outreach Committees once again organized this much-loved annual gathering. In addition to the chefs and baker, volunteers Beth Skalisky, Barb Sellevold, Rita Bovee, Carrie Raddatz, and Joe Sherman helped make the

event a success.

This year's Holy Smoke event was dedicated to the memory of Dick Zuehlke, he had been an integral part of the celebration since its beginning year. His generosity lives on in the aprons he donated for all Hope's chefs.



Youth of Hope

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 October 18).

Christmas Program practices will begin soon! Sign up info will be coming. The program will be held during worship on Sunday, December 13th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We could use more helping hands for elementary release time from 1:00-3:00 p.m. K-2nd grades meet Wednesdays, October 21 & 28, and 3rd-5th grades meet Thursdays, October 22 & 29. If you could lend help or would like to donate snacks, talk to Michelle A.

Joyful Noise Choir practices after school on Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. All kids are welcome! We can help with transportation from school if needed. The group usually sings during worship once a month.

Wednesdays Kids is fun fellowship for kids P4-5th grade on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Stay for Simple Supper and Wednesday worship following!

2027 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING minneapolis
with hope lutheran, walker

June 27-July 2
Current 9th-12th Graders
Registration opens October 1st
closes oct. 15th

\$950/Youth
Scholarship Application's available upon request

cost breakdown:
\$450 Gathering Registration
\$400 Hotel
\$100 Transportation+

The Gathering housing policy:
The Gathering requires congregations to stay at their assigned hotel for many reasons, including risk management, logistics and agreements with the host city and local law enforcement

2027 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING
IMAGINE more



October Confirmation Schedule

October 7—all classes at 6:45
October 14—no classes—fall break
October 21—Confirmand/Mentor Night at 6:45
October 28—all classes at 6:45

Confirmation Service

Sunday, October 25th

We will be celebrating with 9 of Hope's youth as they affirm their faith during worship on Sunday, October 25th.

*Thanks to all the
kids who
participated in
Rally Sunday
Worship!
It was great!!*

Acolyte Schedule

Oct 4: Bauer Brovold
Oct 11: Everly Felton
Oct 18: Adelveiss Burns
Oct 25: Emery Hanson

9-12 Grade Morning Bible Study

9th-12th graders are invited to start your Tuesday mornings at Walker Bay Coffee with a Bible Study from 7:15-8:00am.

10th-12th Grade Youth Group

Starting October 7th, 10th-12th graders are invited to hang out in the youth room for youth group from 7:45-9pm! We will start with a Bible Study, followed by catching up through high-low-Jesus and finish the evening with games.

Women of Hope

FALL IS HERE—a wonderful and beautiful time of the year in Walker!

On Saturday, October 3rd, the WOH will travel to Jessie Lake Lutheran Church in Talmoon for the **Living Waters Conference Women's Fall Gathering**. The theme for the day is *Safe in the Arms of Jesus*. Shirley and Ardyce will be attending and would love some other gals from Hope to go along. There is more info on the Women of Hope bulletin board near the restrooms. Come and enjoy the day and meet some of the gals from the churches in our conference.

Join the discussion on this month's Circle Bible Study! **"God's Name, God's Promise"**

Monthly circle meetings resume in October.

Contact chair for location.

Miriam—Monday, Oct 12—Jane Ekholm, Chair

Ruth—Wednesday, Oct 14—Ardyce Pederson, Chair

Lydia—Thursday, Oct 15—Pat Paulsen, Chair

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

KITCHEN CLEANING will be done by Ruth Circle—date to be determined. Help is always needed.

HOPE 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.

AS WE PREPARE FOR A NEW YEAR, please consider how you can serve through the Women of Hope. We are still in need of co-chairs to lead during 2027. Talk to Shirley or Ardyce for more info.

Gloria Niswonger is producing our Women of Hope brochure for 2027. Please submit circle rosters and any other info changes.

Looking forward to upcoming events. Angie O is planning another **"Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge"** on February 7th. This is a fun event—watch for further information.

MINISTERIAL ACTS

Friday, September 18
Memorial Service for
Gary DeVries

Thursday, September 24
Memorial Service for
Bob Horn

October Ushers

Oct 4: Phil Johnston

Oct 11: Wayne Osatiuk

Oct 18: *Volunteer Needed*

Oct 24: *Volunteers needed*

Lay Readers

Oct 4: Alice Groth

Oct 11: Marty Cook

Oct 18: Zac Virnig

Oct 25: Trevor Kuechle

Women of Hope Gather Study

Notes from Pastor Dave

Bold Faith on an Unexpected Journey

Session Two

Love & Loyalty:

A story of connection and courage

The story of Ruth is one of the great stories of the Bible. Because it is a great story, one can return to it again and again finding new riches on each visit. It is also a story where God is present just off stage rather than being front and center. Life as a journey is a well-worn metaphor, but also a very good way of describing our time between the cradle and the grave. In Ruth's story we have an actual journey as well as a metaphorical life journey. Ruth and Naomi move geographically; but they also move from being wives to widowhood. From being cared for to being on their own, at the mercy of others, and back again. Sticking with the journey metaphor, Naomi and Ruth's story becomes one of accompaniment.

Question two invites us to think about those times of transition that we all face. *Were you alone or did others walk through those times with you? Did the presence or absence of others make a difference?*

Ruth could have stayed in her home country where things would be familiar and perhaps more predictable and secure. *What stands out for you about Ruth's decision to stay with Naomi?*

The section "A Glimmer of Hope" is worth spending some time with. When I read it I immediately thought of Emily Dickinson's poem "*Hope is the Thing With Feathers*."

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -

That perches in the soul -

And sings the tune without the words -

And never stops - at all -

Hope is what sustains us while we wait for the darkness to lift and the day to break. *Who or what helps you to pay notice the hope that surrounds us?*

Think about and discuss question 8. Individually we can make a difference but if we act collectively as a church or as a society our actions are multiplied many times over. Questions 12 and 13 are worth some discussion. *What does accompaniment look like? And then one final question, Where or did you see God at work in the story of Ruth and Naomi?*

Pastor Dave

News of Hope

THE STEWARDSHIP RELAY IS UNDERWAY!

Sometime in the next couple weeks a neighbor may deliver a packet to your home with an opportunity for you to make an estimate of your planned giving to Hope's ministry during the upcoming year. Follow the instructions on the packet and deliver it to the next household.

Your Estimate of Giving helps Hope's leadership plan ministry and activities for the upcoming year with mindful consideration to Hope's mission plan.

Due to geographical logistics or health considerations, not every household was assigned to a relay route. You may receive your estimate of giving in the mail if we've determined it likely made more sense than adding you to a route. Please return your Estimate as soon as possible.



Leech Lake Culture Alliance

Invites **YOU,**

Akeley, Hackensack, Onigum & Walker Communities to the 7th Annual Autumn



UNITY DAY POTLUCK

CELEBRATING
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

At Onigum Community Center

8826 Onigum Road NW

Monday, October 12, 2026

6:00pm, Round Dance 7:30-8pm

The Leech Lake Culture Alliance supports causes and promotes events that celebrate both the cultural differences and the human commonalities among people of the native and non-native communities in order to build and become bridges with our neighbors.

* For more info, click on this link:
lcculturealliance.org

Or, point your smartphone at this QR Code & follow the link...



All are welcome!
Feel free to bring your favorite dish to share



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

In memory of **Gary DeVries** gifts to the *General Fund* from Brad Barker, Shirley Dowson, Larry & Meri Mengis, Tom & Helen Hankins; gifts to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Juliane Proper, Wayne & Pat Roush, Scott & Beth Skalisky, Steve & Rita Berry, Bill & MaryLou DeVries, Michael & Laura Zdychnec, Gene & Linda Smith and family & friends; gifts to the *Food Box Fund* from Lynn Reiten, Tim & Margie Richardson, Suzanne Frambers, Jeff & Kay Arnold, Dave & Karen Bjerga, Dave & Donna Strandlie and family & friends; gifts to *Hope's Christmas Program* from Gary & Darlene Bakker, Scot Graff, Doug & Kim Fagerman, Deb Fischer, Jodi Kurtz, Marlee Morrison, Gloria Niswonger, Carol Schreurs, the Murphy family and friends & family; a gift to the *Endowment Fund* from Rollie Haugen; gifts to *Toys for Kids* from Kirk & Lori Baumbach, Jon & Amy Knowles and family & friends

In memory of **Bob Horn**, gifts to the *General Fund* from Monte & Carolyn Lienau, Shirley Dowson, Larry & Meri Mengis; gifts to *Renewing Hope's Promise* from Dave & Pam Johnson, Tim & Linda Gilsrud, Wayne & Pat Roush, Gene & Linda Smith; gifts to the *Food Box Fund* from Karen Kellogg, Steve & Connie Kaylor; gifts to the *Endowment Fund* from Dave & Bonnie Smith, Gary & Joyce Schuette

In memory of **Darleen Johnson**, gifts to the *General Fund* from Myron & Arlis Werley, Martha Vetter

In memory of **Phyllis Sistik**, a gift to the *General Fund* from Deb Zwickey

In celebration of **Bonnie Smith's 80th birthday**, a gift to the *General Fund* from Kelly Flaig

*Thank you to everyone who has continued to give toward pledges for our **Renewing Hope's Promise Campaign**, as well as those who have designated memorials and other donations. Your gifts enabled us to complete an awesome kitchen upgrade this year, and continue to grow the fund for other building upkeep—both anticipated projects and those that come up unexpectedly. The fund also received a significant boost this year from the estate of Tanis Beadle. We are most grateful to our sister Tanis for making Hope a part of her estate planning.*



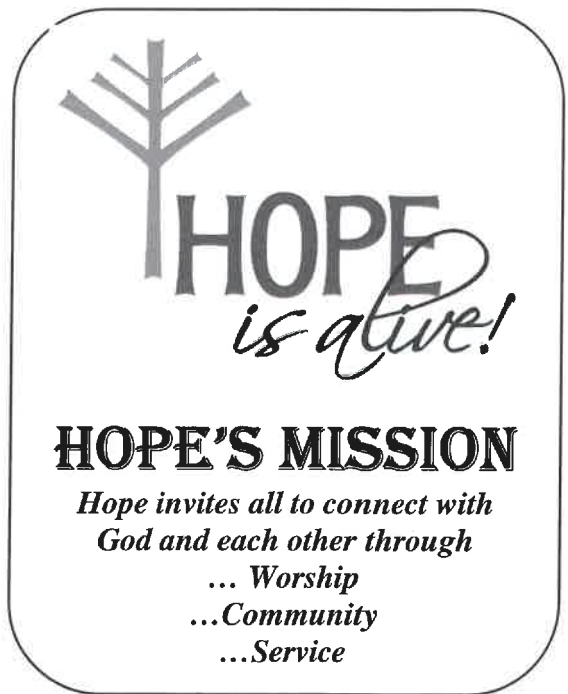
October

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	2	3
4 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 Seedfolks Practice	5 9:30 AA 11:00 pm Bone Builders 7:00 pm Reading the Bible Together	6 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:30 am Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	7 9:00 am Board of Outreach 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	8 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 am Lydia Circle 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	9	10 9:00 Seedfolks Practice
11 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship w/Pastors' Appreciation 10:30 "Seedfolks" Play with Ice Cream Social	12 9:30 am Miriam Circle 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 6:30 pm Reading the Bible Together	13 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study 4:00 Food Box Committee	14 9:30 am Ruth Circle 11:00 & 12:30 Worship -May Creek 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 No Confirm. Classes or Youth Group	15 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 5:30 pm Board of Property	16	17 10:00 am visitation 11:00 Memorial service for Darleen Johnson
18 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 6:00 pm Confirmation Dinner	19 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 6:30 pm Reading the Bible Together	20 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	21 1:00 pm K-2 nd 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 pm Confirmation/Mentor Night 7:45 pm Sr High Youth Group	22 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 1:00 pm 3-5th grade Release Time 6:00 Hope Trivia Night at Benson's	23 6:00 pm Rehearsal	24 4:00 pm Rettke wedding
25 9:00 Communion Worship w/Confirmation service 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	26 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 6:30 pm Reading the Bible Together	27 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	28 1:00 pm K-2 nd grade Release Time 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise 4:15 Wednesday Kids 4:30 Celebration Handbell practice 5:30 Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Classes 7:45 pm Sr High Youth Group	29 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA 1:00 pm 3-5th grade Release Time	30	31

October 11 is Pastors Appreciation Day!

The entire month of October is recognized as National Clergy Appreciation month. It is a special occasion to pay tribute to our pastors and to acknowledge their teaching and spiritual support during life's significant moments. Pastors 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 worship to honor Pastors Matt, Dave and retired clergy. Cake and coffee will be served.



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Walker, MN

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO Box 506
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