Herald of Hope September 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
Pastor
Pastor
Pouth Director
Office Manager
Bookkeeper
Music/Worship

Matt McWaters
Dave Smith
Michelle Anderson hopeyouth@arvig.net
hope-michelle@arvig.net
hope-michelle@arvig.net
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hopekrisk@gmail.com

Accompanist Mike Kerrigan Vic Fields

Hope Builds!

There are currently four Habitat builds in various stages of construction in our neighboring community of Cass Lake and they need help. Currently the bulk of the work is being done by the



construction supervisor and his sons. Securing enough volunteers to move the houses forward in a timely manner has been a challenge at best. But, hope is still alive.

The Outreach committee of Hope Lutheran is sponsoring a workday for Habitat on Monday, Sept 15. The day will begin at 9:00 am and run until about 3:00 pm. However, you can come for all or part of the day. Lunch will be provided. Bring a pair of work gloves. Tools are provided onsite, however if you are scheduled for cleaning that day, bringing a few of your favorite cleaning supplies would be appreciated.

All are invited...all are needed. Tasks will range from cleaning to construction. There are tasks for every age (over 16) and every skill level or lack thereof. This will be a great opportunity to come together as a faith community and make a difference in our larger community. As we get closer to the date further information concerning jobs for the day, possible carpooling, addresses of the work sites, etc. will be made available. There is a sign-up sheet on a table in the Narthex so we can have an idea, for planning purposes, of how many will participate in this special event. If you have any questions contact Pastor Dave 218-507-0190 or the church office.



Sunday, September 7th following worship around 11:00

Featuring a variety of smoked meats and treats by Hope's Smoke Masters, and a delicious lunch for the family of Hope!

Hope's Board of Fellowship is hosting the 4th annual Holy Smoke on Sept. 7 (Rally Sunday) at 11:00 AM. This event has been a favorite with the congregation over the past 3 years. Hope's Smoke Masters will be busy smoking their favorite item for this meal. Some of the selections include Turkey, Ring Bologna, Brisket, Chuck Roast, Pulled Pork and Corn Souffle. The meal includes samples of each smoked item, chips, baked beans, pickles, sauces, cookies and beverages. Cost is \$12 per person or \$30 per family with the proceeds being directed to the Toys for Kids this Christmas. We will also have fun activities for the youth. We hope to see you at Holy Smoke. PS, Vikings play Monday Night and Packers play at 3:15.

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 <u>leechlaketv.org</u>, or tune your antenna TV to Channel 21.5. The service is also broadcast live on KQKK 101.9 FM radio. You can also find an archive of Hope's services on YouTube or the church website.

Stay for Coffee & Fellowship!

Wednesday Simple Supper & Worship begins September 10th!

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

Menu

Sept 10: Pulled Pork Sandwich & Chips Sept 17: Scalloped Potatoes & Ham Sept 24: Chicken ala King on a biscuit

Followed by casual worship at 6:15

From Pastor Matt

A Time For...

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

The Teacher, Ecclesiastes 3:1

September sits at a crossroads of seasons. Summer transitions to Fall and a new school year for most families. I've been reminded that the seasons come and go even with our children, as some are off to

Preschool for the first time, and yet others are moving on to new homes to pursue jobs or higher education. Many in our community have noted the season of funerals we are emerging from these past few months, looking ahead and praying in hope for this season to change. We celebrate what God has been up to at Bible Camps and Mission

Trips, local events like Christmas in July and National Night Out – while also anticipating familiar rhythms of Wednesday evening ministry and meals, fellowship together during Holy Smokes, fall football games and volleyball matches. Seasons of healing, of illness, heading south for the winter, and some, saying their goodbyes as their season of living among us in person, comes to an end.

Amidst all the seasons we encounter, we welcome, or that are thrust upon us, our faith reminds us that God is faithful. God does not take vacations in the promise to be with us always. God does not check caller id when we pray choosing not to answer. God does not waver or weary in offering love, mercy, and forgiveness, AND God is still at work among us making all things new.

It's this last one, 'making all things new', that I'd call our attention to this month. a reminder that we are being made new each day, as we daily die and rise in Christ as the baptized children of God. The same is true of the ministry we are called to, along with the ways we engage our mission, to invite all to connect with God and each other through

worship, community, and service. This fall we celebrate an emerging relationship with Habitat for Humanity, plump with possibility. We embrace new opportunities to connect in community through a new program you will hear about soon called, "Hope in the Stands," along with the revitalization of our Befrienders ministry. In worship

we'll continue to innovate, introducing a new liturgy called, the Mass of Creation. A new parking lot, new members, and new seasons of discovering what God has prepared for us here and now.

No, this does not mean everything in our life together is going to be new, far from it! However, as the world around us changes and the needs of our neighbors evolve, our life together will too. Trust me, as a dad of an almost 16-year-old, and two boys not far behind, how I wish we could freeze time and keep them little forever. It'd be simpler to keep doing what we've always done for a world that stays the same. Only it doesn't, and the dynamic nature of God's creation will invite us to reply. Let's respond in the joy and celebration of God's making all things new, trusting that the faithfulness of God endures through it all.

Pastor Matt



HOPE'S CELEBRATION HANDBELL CHOIR will begin Wednesday rehearsals on September 10th at 4:30 p.m. We could use more ringers! Anyone interested is encouraged to stop by.

HOPE'S CHANCEL CHOIR usually sings during Sunday worship once or twice each month. A brief practice is held around 8:00 a.m. prior to worship on the day we sing. Leave a message in the church office to be added to the email list to receive schedule notices if you'd like to add your voice.

A/V VOLUNTEERS- We could use more volunteers to help with running sound and projection during worship services. Stop by the sound booth during any worship service to observe and learn!

MINISTERIAL

ACTS

Saturday, August 9
Marriage of
Abigail Amundson
& Jason Blum

Friday, August 16th Funeral Service for Pat Wagner

Saturday, August 17th Memorial Service for Dee Jensen

Financial Stewardship

The Hope Relay Returns!

Get ready to carry the baton for your neighborhood team! The Hope Relay, our 2025 Pledge Drive, will kick off on Sunday, September 21st. Our congregation has been divided into relay teams of member households, largely neighbors or folks who live in the same general area. On September 21st the relay will begin and the Stewardship Packet will make its rounds from house to house on your relay team. When the packet gets to your door, you will have the opportunity to fill out an Estimate of Giving card to let the church know your intention of financial support for 2026. It's certainly not a requirement to do so, but it helps our leadership better plan for a new year of ministry.



If you plan to be away the last part of September, or if the packet doesn't make it to your door, please contact the church office and we'll be sure to find a way for you to participate in this year's Relay!

Included on this year's version of the Estimate of Giving card will be a spot to share your intended giving to the *Renewing Hope's Promise* Capital Campaign for 2026. Please include this whether you've already pledged to this 5-year campaign or haven't had a chance to yet. For more information regarding *Renewing Hope's Promise*, please contact Pastor Matt or the church office.

Budget Update

2025 Year To Date Income/Expense Update

This time of year Hope's leadership typically begins to notice trends in both the support and cost of our collective mission and ministry. As we move into the fall months it is common for our income to be lagging our expenses, and this year is no different. You can see below figures from our month end financial report from July:

Total Income: 315,554.91 Total Expense: 350,526.62 Net Surplus/Deficit -34,971.71

Your leadership team believes it is important to be transparent and open in our communication with you while we focus on responsibly and faithfully stewarding the gifts of our congregation. While not a reason to be alarmed (as noted before, it is common to carry a deficit through the summer months) we do believe it is prudent to keep you apprised of where we are. One important thing of note: It is not uncommon to see a dip in regular offerings while a Capital Fund Campaign is active, like our *Renewing Hope's Promise* campaign. When we consider the \$160,000+ gifts already received through the campaign, it is clear, Hope continues to be extremely generous! Thank You for your generosity! We trust that as in past years, the people of Hope will respond to fully fund our approved 2025 Mission Plan.

Pastor Matt & Dean Deck, Treasurer

Women of Hope



Welcome to Fall—a beautiful season in our communities!

The Christmas in July follow-up committee continues to meet. This year's

event had some new leadership and was a success, with income improved a bit over last year. Thanks to our new leaders and all who helped in any way to make it a fun and successful event. This included many women and men.

A new season of activities kicks off with our Fall General Meeting, **Brunch and Bible Study** on Saturday, September 6th at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Circles will be providing brunch. The last of the *Gather* series on "Relationships" features the story of Esther. Come to <u>see</u> the drama of the "star" in the biblical book of Esther. Perhaps you'll be asked:) to play a part in the skit! All ladies are welcome!

All ladies are invited to ...

Women of Hope Fall Meeting, Brunch & Bible Story Saturday, September 6th at 11:00 Brunch provided by Hope's circles.

Circles will begin meeting again in October and the monthly studies will be "Money, Stewardship and Generosity" by Rev. Christa von Zychlin. If you are not currently attending a circle, we encourage you to select one that works for your schedule and attend. All include good fellowship and discussion.

The **rolled bandage program** for Global Health is soon to start and will be taking place at May Creek Edgewood.

On Saturday, September 27th, Hope Lutheran will be the host site for the Fall Women's Gathering for the Living Waters Conference of our synod. The theme for the day is "Readiness, Stewardship, Compassion." Morning coffee and registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$10, which includes lunch. Our program will be a presentation on world hunger by Jane Grundmeier of the Northeastern MN Synodical Women's Organization. We encourage all ladies to attend and are hoping for a good turn out from our Hope gals! It is a good opportunity to meet other women from our conference and learn about what is happening in our churches, conference and synod.

This year's in-kind project for our synod will again be newborn kits. Planning for how we, as a congregation, will respond will be done at our October board meeting. Any recommendations you may have are appreciated. Last year, we responded by hosting a diaper workday that was successful and fun.

Youth of Hope Summer Wrap-Up

It was a wonderful summer of youth programming at Hope! Early June, 4 high schoolers with Emily Turney headed up North to attend the NEMN Synod Leadership Camp! A week later, 14 preschoolers came to learn about David with 4 of our amazing middle & high school leaders. We had 50 elementary kids come to Hope in July to sing, dance & celebrate how "We are the Church" with Luther Crest Bible Camp counselors and a couple of our high school & college leaders. While Luther Crest was here leading VBS, we had 3 high schoolers at Camp serving as "Blazers" which is a leadership program at Luther Crest. The day after VBS, thirteen 9th-12th graders took off to Tennessee with leaders Michelle, Madelyn Tews and our friends from Brainerd (collectively we call ourselves BLAW- Brainerd Lakes Area Walker). They spent a week serving, learning and laughing in Knoxville.





At the end of July, sixteen headed off to learn, grow and play at Luther Crest Bible Camp! All of this, with a few fundraisers in between! THANK YOU, HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT! Your prayers and financial contributions help make these things happen! THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!

Come hear from the youth about their summer ministry experiences on Rally Sunday, September 7th at 9am worship!



Vacation Bible School Day Camp



Luther Crest Bible Campers



Rally Sunday. September 7th!

Youth of Hope

Bible Milestone

Join us in celebrating faith milestones for our 3 year olds, 3rd graders & 6th graders as they receive new Bibles during worship on Rally Sunday September 7th!

- 3 Year Olds will be receiving a new *Spark* Story Book Bible as they begin Sunday School: Allison Anderson, Blake Hopen, Addison Fevold, Reese Ringle
- 3rd Graders will be receiving an Adventure Bible and learning how to find the table of contents, chapters, versus, maps and more on Sunday September 14th at 6pm: Hank Ehlenfeldt, Layla Forseman, Riley Gilbert, Amari Krueckeberg, Avarie LaRose, Leia McCollough, Adaline McGill
- 6th Graders will be receiving the *Lutheran* Study Bible as they begin confirmation classes: Ava Brovold, Adelveiss Burns, Paislee Erickson, Ryla Johnson, Keeton Malard, Benjamin McWaters, Elaine Townsdin



Joyful Noise & Wednesday Kids
All P3-5th Graders are invited to
join us on Wednesday's starting
September 10th, 2025! For those
who want to participate in Joyful
Noise Choir, the Turtle Bus will

↑Register Here for Joyful Noise & Wednesday Kids

shuttle kids from WHA to Hope Lutheran- please indicate this is your child's transportation plan with the

school. Otherwise, youth are welcome to arrive between 4:15-4:30pm for Wednesday Kids!

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

Wednesday Confirmation

September 10th 6:45-8:00pm: Information Meeting for 6th-9th graders and parent/guardians September 17th 6:45-8:00pm: 9th Grade (only) September 24th 6:45-8:00pm: 6th-9th Grade October 1st 6:45-8:00pm: 6th-9th Grade

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 Undem.

Sunday School

Sunday School starts on September 14th 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.



We currently have a group of 10 youth & 3 adults ready to lead on Sunday mornings! If this is something you are interested in, scan the QR code & fill out the form for Michelle Anderson!

↑Register Here to be a Sunday School leader.

Church Release

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

Kindergarten-2nd Grade, 1:00-2:50pm: October 10, October 23, November 14, November 20, December 12, January 15, January 30, February 12, February 27, March 12



↑K-12th graders: Register Here for Release Time

3rd-5th Grade, 1:00-2:50pm: October 9, October 24. November 13, November 21, December 11, January 16, January 29, February 13, February 26, March 13

6th-8th Grade Dates, 8:20am-3:00pm: September 18, December 18, February 19, May 14

9th-12th Grade Dates, 8:20am-3:00pm: September 11, November 27, January 22, April 30

The Youth of Hope appreciate treats for release time! We anticipate approximately 40 kids attending each session. If you would like to donate treats—can be anything like cookies, granola bars, fruit snacks, snack cakes, crackers, etc. —leave them in the church office. If you'd like to donate something on a specific date or for a specific group, talk to Youth Director Michelle Anderson.

High School Bible Study & Youth Group

9th-12th graders, join us on the first day of school and on all Tuesdays to follow, before school at Walker Bay Coffee at 7:15am for Bible Study!



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

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

In memory of **Dee Jenson**, gifts to *Renewing* Hope's Promise from Bill & Mary DeVries. Lynn Reiten, Steve Jenson & family; a gift to Hope Quilters from Dave & Bonnie Smith

In memory of Otto Ringle, a gift to Renewing Hope's Promise from Gary & Marcie DeVries; a gift to the General Fund from Steve & Mar Kuha; a gift to the Worship & Music Fund from Tom & Andrea Girtz; a gift to the Endowment Fund from Phyllis Sistek; gifts to the Memorial Garden/Arboretum Fund from Lynn Reiten, Pete & Ane Rogers, Jon & Amy Knowles, Ivan & Pat Paulsen, Alice Groth family, Jan Henrikson, Tom & Helen Hankins, Juliane Proper, Jim Bottrell, Paul & Denise Koring, Bill & Mary DeVries, Bob & Nancy Horn, Brad Barker & JoAnn Moats, Pete & Jeanne Kelley, Chris & Dorothy Opheim, Scott & Jackie Bruns. Carol Schreurs Family, Lorne & Talya Hein, Jim & Bev Worcester, Rick & Leslie James, Mike & JulieAnn Kerrigan, Mike & Melanie Rice family, Keith & Linda Piller, Ken & Ronda Hopen, Mark & Jill Burggraf, Jan Filkins, Mike & Cristin Undem Family, Jesse Kuechle Teah, Rob Family, Dan & Kris Knowles, Ron & Renay Berry, Ken Clyde & Becky Secore, Kyle & Jill Duclos

In memory of **Greg Proper**, gifts to the Endowment Fund from Pat Leek, Sue Tennyson, Gary & Marcie DeVries, Mike & Noralee Siems, Glenda Thompson, Karen Kezele, Ken & Ronda Hopen, Steve & Connie Kaylor, Chris & Dorothy Opheim, Mike & JulieAnn Kerrigan, Keith & Linda Piller, Tom & Helen Hankins and Lisa Olson, Bill & MaryLou DeVries, Juliane Proper and friends & family; a gift to the General Fund from Lynn Reiten

In memory of **Bob Higdem**, a gift to the *General* Fund from Keith & Linda Piller; a gift to the Food Box Fund from Karen Kellogg

In memory of **Christine Opheim**, gifts to the General Fund from Bob & Helen Merchant, James & Lynn Schall, Wayne & Holly Koop, Ann Swanson, Rick & Leslie James, Brad Barker

In memory of Al Maas, a gift to the General Fund Dianne Maas

In memory of **Duane Ommen**, a gift to the General Fund from Gene & Linda Smith

In celebration of Audrey Chelberg's 95th birthday a gift to the Memorial Garkden/ Arboretum from Audrey!

Renewing Hope's Promise Update

Our new parking lot is nearing completion. The new asphalt is curing very well, and we have added support along with edges with new compacted class V fill. We plan to complete the

remaining work with black dirt and seed in early September just in time to allow for germination prior to winter freeze up.

We plan to start our kitchen upgrades project later this fall. This project represents the second initiative under Renewing Hope's Promise fiveyear capital campaign. The board of property plans on meeting with various people later this fall to get input in developing the detailed scope of the project. Our initial plans are to replace the kitchen cabinets, countertops and flooring. The implementation schedule for this work is tentatively set for May 2026. We will finalize the installation schedule in the spring once we have a defined scope, bids and lead time on materials. We, of course, want to minimize downtime in the kitchen due to its importance within the church.

We would like to thank the congregation for its continued support in

Renewing Hope's Promise.

5-YEAR GOAL: \$1,000,000 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% Gifts Received Gifts Pledged \$316,800 \$163,000

RENEWING HOPE'S PROMISE

Thank you, Pastor Matt and the whole Hope Lutheran Church, from sound people, choir, Jill, Mike, the Women of the kitchen, Julie, Steve & Murray—you made Otto's service so special and the family is most appreciative. The number of people attending the service showed just what a special man Otto was. The Color Guard Honors and the internment service also made the whole event so very special. Thank you all. Trees are planted in his name. God blessed us richly! -Suzanne Ringle Pfau

(8/25/25)

A BIG THANK YOU to Al Sanford, Pam Johnson, Kevin & Karon McDonough, Keith & Linda Piller, the Ringle family, the Board of Property and anyone else who helped with mowing, trimming, pulling weeds, planting and keeping the church grounds looking sharp this summer!

Sunday Worship Ushers

Sept 7: Marty Cook Sept 14: Wayne Osatiuk Sept 21: Volunteer Needed

Sept 28: Volunteer Needed

Readers

Sept 7: Trevor Kuechle

Sept 14: Zac Virnig Sept 21: Nancy Bruns

Sept 28: Joe Sherman

Leech Lake Culture Alliance

Invites YOU, Akeley, Hackensack, Onigum & Walker Communities to the 6th Annual Autumn Equinox

NITY DAY POTLUCK CELEBRATION

At Onigum Community Center

8826 Onigum Road NW

Location provided by Onigum Local Indian Council

Sunday, September 21, 2025 4-6pm, Round Dance 6-6:30pm

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: llculturealliance.org

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







Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025

Time: 5:00-9:00 PM

Location: Red River Bar and Grill, Akeley MN

\$20.00 per ticket



to purchase tickets through Eventbrite

Come join us for a night of dancing, music, and fun!

- Put on your poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and slicked-back hair it's time to rock around the clock!
- Elvis Tribute Artist Sean Wallin performing
- · A DI spinning all your favorite hits
- · Bar and Grill open for purchases

Hosted by: GFWC Nevis Area Women's Club



Hope Lutheran again hosted Walker's National Night Out event in our parking lot. We fed 134 people pulled pork sandwiches, chips and a cookie. There were about 200 attendees with 12 displays by local groups/ organizations making the evening fun and informative. Kids especially enjoyed dousing the imaginary flames of the Walker Fire Department target house with a real fire

hose. Other fire department tools were also on display. If you would like to help plan or participate in next year's National Night Out contact the church office. Barb Sellevold, or Pastor Dave.



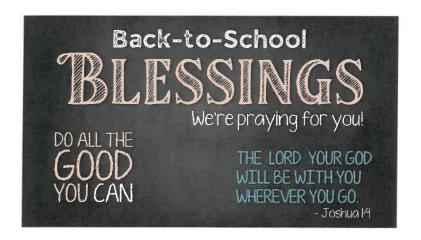




3 4 I nursday I nursday 1:00 pm Bone Builders 9:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders
8:30 am High School Release Time 11:00 Worship -May Creek Cottages 12:30 Worship at May Creek Lodge 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 pm Joyful Noise practice 4:15 pm Wednesday Kids 4:30 pm Celebration Handbells 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Parents Mtg
138 8:30 am Middle School Release Time 8:30 am Quilters 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 9th gr . Confirmation class
1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 pm Joyful Noise practice 3:30 pm Simple Supper 5:30 pm Simple Supper 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 pm Confirmation classes
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SAVE THE DATE - Hope's Trivia Night, October 16

The Board of Fellowship will be having another trivia contest on Thursday, October 16th starting at 6:00 at Benson's. Gather a team of 2-6 people. or come by yourself and join in with another team. We are 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.





HOPE'S MISSION

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