

Herald of Hope September 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 worship for Coffee & Fellowship!

Resuming Wednesday, September 9th...

Simple Supper at 5:30

Wednesday Worship at 6:15

September Menu

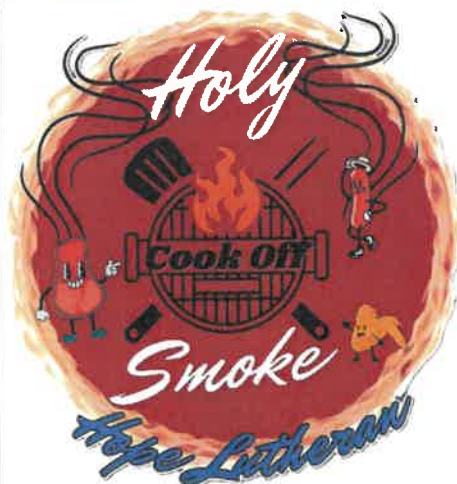
September 9: Grilled burger & fries

September 16: Sloppy Joe & Chips

September 23: Pulled Pork Sandwich & Chips

September 30: Scalloped Potatoes & Ham

Wednesday worship is back on track! Everyone is invited to worship with our confirmation families at a casual guitar-led service on Wednesdays from 6:15-6:45. Come early for Simple Supper!



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

Sunday, September 13th following worship around 10:15

The Board of Fellowship will hold their 5th Annual Holy Smoke Cook-off on Sunday September 13th. This event will be in conjunction with Hope Lutheran's Rally Sunday. Holy Smoke is a fun competition for Hope Lutheran's

Menu

- ♦ Assorted smoked foods
- ♦ Hot Dogs for Kids
- ♦ Chips & baked Beans
- ♦ Pickles, Buns & BBQ sauce
- ♦ Lemonade, water & coffee
- ♦ Birthday Cake & Cookies

\$12/person; \$30/family
Proceeds to Toys for Kids



smoke masters and even more fun for the tasters! We had an excellent turnout last year and are looking for additional Smoke masters to join the challenge. This year's event will be held in memory of Dick Zuehlke, one of our original smokers and donor of the wonderful Holy Smoke aprons. If you are interested in participating as a smoker, please contact Scott Skalsky at srskalisky@gmail.com or 507-282-6717.

Lectionary Bible Study Tuesdays at noon

Join Pastor Matt for discussion on the scripture being used in the week's upcoming worship services.

RBT Reading the Bible Together

Mondays at 6:30

Beginning September 28

Join Pastor Matt & crew on Monday evenings as we read and discuss the Bible a book at a time.

WE HAVE
THIS hope AS AN
ANCHOR
for the soul



HEBREWS 6:19

From Pastor Matt

Hope is... contagious, alive, growing, and our thanks to Jesus Christ.

Hope is our namesake, and throughout this month I invite each of us to reflect on what *Hope* is... for you. As we share with one another what Hope means, I am eager to see how we will live into the hope that is ours as another year of mission and ministry begins. With fall programming underway, our building and ministries will soon be bursting with activity. It is fitting to recognize the leadership of our staff, as well as the many brothers and sisters who serve on ministry boards, as teachers, mentors, and coordinators. Without their faithful leadership, much of our mission and ministry simply could not happen.

In the coming weeks, you are invited to engage in special ministry events, participate in intentional conversations about your household's and our congregation's stewardship, and join in the many worship, fellowship, and service opportunities that shape our life together. If you have any questions about how to get involved or connected, please reach out to me or the church office. Below are a few highlights for the month ahead.

Wednesday, September 9 — Wednesday Evening Worship Begins

Hope will host worship most Wednesday evenings from 6:15–6:45 PM, with communion. Gather beforehand at 5:15ish for a simple meal served in the Fellowship Hall. These services are marked by a relaxed atmosphere, engaging music, and brief, life-applicable meditations that bring people together across generations. If you have musical gifts to share, time to help set up, or interest in assisting in any way, please let me or Emily Turney know. To make Wednesday worship sustainable long-term, we invite you to share your gifts!

Sunday, September 13 — Rally Sunday & Holy Smoke

Rally Sunday worship will be led by our young people who participated in Vacation Bible School, Pre-K VBS, Bible Camp, Mission Trips to San Diego and Fargo/Moorhead, LYO Leadership Camp, and more. We will hear what they learned, how they served faithfully, and how much fun they had along the way. We will also commission our LYO youth, fulfill our congregational pledge to place the holy scriptures in the hands of our children, and more. Following worship, we gather for our 5th Annual **Holy Smoke** event, as Hope's smoke masters prepare a feast you will not want to miss!

Sunday, September 27 — Hope Relay Kickoff

You are invited again this year to participate in Hope's Stewardship Relay. Each year we encourage you and your household to reflect on why our life together in Christ matters, and how you plan to support our mission with your time, talents, and treasures. This year we will again have "neighborhood" relay teams passing Hope relay

packets from one household to the next.

This gives us the chance to connect with neighbors and discuss planned giving in the comfort of our own homes. Which team will return their packet first? Ready, set...

Monday, September 28 — RBT (*Reading the Bible Together*) Weekly Bible Study

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, though we have plenty available.



Opportunities to Serve

With fall programs kicking off, this is a wonderful time to connect with the worship, fellowship, and service ministries of our congregation. We welcome adults to assist with daytime Elementary and Secondary Release Time programs, as well as Wednesday evening activities. Fall is also a natural time to join the Chancel Choir or try your hand with the Bell Choir. Women's Bible Study circles welcome new members, and we are always looking for volunteers to assist in worship — behind the sound booth, preparing slide presentations, contributing to Wednesday worship music, or serving as Communion Assistants.

This is only the beginning. There are abundant opportunities for us to engage our community, enrich one another's lives through care and concern, and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. Remember, the church — you and me — exists not for ourselves, but for the sake of the world. I pray that God will equip us this year to continue being a beacon of light for our neighbors here and around the globe.

Women of Hope

Women of Hope

General Meeting & Potluck Lunch

Wednesday, September 2nd at noon

in the Fellowship Hall

Bring your favorite potluck item and your Gather magazine if you have one!

Where did the summer go?? We are looking at our fall general meeting to be held on September 2nd, with a potluck lunch at noon followed by our "Gather" Bible study. Lydia Circle is our kitchen hostess and Pastor Matt will be leading the study. A brief meeting will follow the study. The Women of Hope are in need of co-chairs and a secretary for 2027. Neither are difficult jobs and there is a great group of supportive women to help! Let Shirley or Ardyce know if you are interested or would like more info.

Living Waters Conference Fall Gathering

Our conference of the NEMN Synod will hold a Fall Women's Gathering on Saturday, October 3rd at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church. A planning session was held on August 11th for this event—further information will be coming as we continue to work on the plans for the day. Donations of Silent Auction or Buy-It-Now items are needed. Talk to Shirley or Ardyce about what/how to donate. Women of Hope have not been asked to take on any added responsibilities—just come and enjoy the day and meet some of the gals from the churches in our conference. We will pool rides. Sign up on the Women of Hope bulletin board near the restrooms.

Tissue & Wipes for WHA

The Women of Hope will be supplying Walker-Hackensack-Akeley Elementary/Special Ed school rooms with a case of Kleenex's and a case of wipes for the upcoming school year. These items are especially requested by the faculty as they are not in the school budget for each classroom and the teachers and classroom parents end up buying these items plus many other out of pocket expenses throughout the year.

Start practicing your jigsaw puzzle skills! We are planning another "Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge" on February 7th. Angie O has checked ahead and there is no football game that day. Further information will be coming on this fund, family event!

Beginning in October we will be gathering in our individual **Circles for monthly Bible studies**. Gloria Niswonger will be producing our Women of Hope brochure for 2027 needs a roster of circle members; also members from the quilters and altar guild.

Women of Hope Upcoming Events:

Sept. 2—10:00 am—Women of Hope Board Meeting
Sept. 2—Noon—Potluck Lunch/Bible Study
Sept ? - Kitchen cleaning—Miriam Circle
Oct. 3—8:30 am—Fall Gathering at Jesse Lake
Oct 7—10:00 am—Women of Hope Board Meeting
Oct. 12—9:30 am—Miriam Circle
Oct 14—9:30 am—Ruth Circle
Oct 15— 9:30 am— Lydia Circle



Walker Area Food Shelf

Serving Our Neighbors at the Walker Area Food Shelf

Volunteers are welcome on Mondays and Tuesdays

The Walker Area Food Shelf is a meaningful way for our congregation and community members to serve neighbors in need. Each Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., individuals and families are welcome to shop for groceries, and volunteers help make that possible.

Monday volunteer opportunity: Volunteers help replenish shelves by moving food and supplies from the garage and warehouse areas into the shopping space. Some lifting may be involved, but others are usually available to help.

Tuesday volunteer opportunities: Volunteers serve in several ways while Neighbors shop. Some help sort and inspect produce donated by Super One, making sure fruits and vegetables are fresh and ready to be distributed.

Other volunteers restock shelves, distribute dairy items such as milk, eggs and yogurt, or keep the bread and bakery area filled. Volunteers may also assist shoppers who need extra help with choosing food, guiding a cart or moving through the shopping area.

There are also seated tasks available, including packaging diapers and hygiene products, so everyone can find a way to help.

Hope Lutheran's assigned volunteer times include the first two weeks in March, the month of July and the month of December. However, volunteers are welcome at the food shelf throughout the year, not only during our assigned months.

If you are looking for a practical way to serve, consider signing up for a shift, or stopping in to see more of how things are run.

To volunteer: Visit walkerareafoodshelf.com, open the menu and select "Volunteer" to view available sign-up opportunities.

The Walker Area Food Shelf is especially in need of cleaning supplies of all types! Grab something extra when you are shopping and help a family in need keep a tidy home. Anything is appreciated... if you use it to clean, then someone else will also love to have it! There are bins in the narthex and Fellowship Hall for your Food Shelf donations. All non-perishable groceries and household items are needed!

Youth of Hope

Rally Sunday

Come hear about everything the youth did this past summer at Rally Sunday Worship on September 13th at 9am. Hear songs, skits and summaries from Preschool VBS, Elementary Day Camp VBS, Luther Crest Campers, Fargo Moorhead Service Team & San Diego Mission Team!

Rally Sunday Bible Milestones:

3 Year Olds: Makenna Clark, Anastazia Dewey, Haevyn Stein

3rd Graders: Brody Bednarski, Charleigh Freeman, Arlo Krueckeberg, Ove Krueckeberg, Taytum Murphy

6th Graders: Deacon Deck, Richard Ehlenfeldt, Adalyn Flesch, Aria Forsman, Logan Freeman, Hadley Gilbert, Sawyer Hanson, Cora Hart, Hallie Jackson, Liam McCollough, Jacob McWaters, William Rogosheske, Barrett Rusch, Everleigh Young



9-12 Grade Morning Bible Study

Starting September 15, 9th-12th graders are invited to start the morning at Walker Bay Coffee with a Bible Study every Tuesday Morning, 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.

Yearly Programming Kick Offs!

Wed. September 9th

Joyful Noise Starts 3:30-4:30 &

Wednesday Kids Starts, 4:30-5:30

Confirmation- 6th Grade & New Student Info Mtg 6:45-8pm

Sun. September 13th Rally Sunday Service, 9am

Wed. September 16th

9th-12th Grade Church Release, 8:25am-2:45pm

Confirmation- Returning Student Info Meeting 6:45-8pm

Sun. September 20th

Sunday School Starts, During Worship

Wed. September 23rd

6th-8th Grade Church Release, 8:25-2:45pm

Confirmation Classes Start, 6:45-8pm

Church Release

Register your K-12th Grader Here: →
Release time begins in September for Middle & High School and in October for Elementary. Kids will not be released from school if they are not registered!



2026-2027 Church Release Dates:

Kindergarten-2nd Graders, Wednesdays 1:00-2:45pm

October 21 & 28, November 11 & 25, December 9, January 13 & 27, February 10 & 24, March 10

3rd-5th Graders, Thursdays 1:00-2:45pm

October 22 & 29, November 12 & 19, December 10, January 14 & 28, February 11 & 25, March 11

6th-8th Graders, Wednesdays 8:25am-2:45pm

September 23, December 16, February 17 & May 12

9th-12th Graders, Wednesdays 8:25am-2:45pm

September 16, November 18, February 3 & April 28

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We have SO many kids registered for Church Release- which is awesome- but we need more adults!!!! If you could lend a hand on any of the dates listed above, or would like to donate snacks, talk to Michelle A.



We had a great time at Luther Crest Bible Camp this Summer!





HOPE BUILDS

Caleb Dubbe and Sophia Udem, representing Hope's youth, helped get the final shed for Habitat for Humanity off to a fast start. They joined with our adult volunteers to finish the fourth shed in record time. The final Cass Lake family will soon have their shed delivered and a winter home for bikes, lawn mower and other tools. Thanks to all the Hope volunteers who made this project possible and a special thanks to Curt Geiger for delivering the sheds to their new owners.

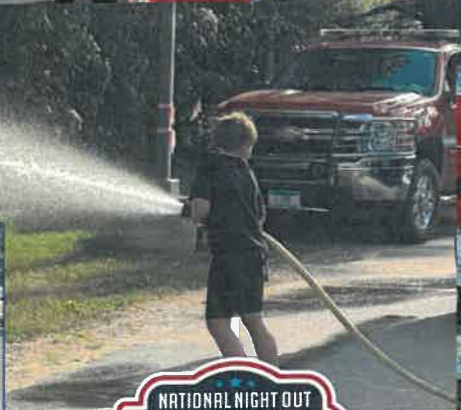


September Ushers

Sept 6: Phil Johnston
 Sept 13: Wayne Osatiuk
 Sept 20: Joe Sherman
 Sept 27: *Volunteer needed*

Lav Readers

Sept 6: Al Sanford
 Sept 13: Sally Hiner
 Sept 20: Jane Ekholm
 Sept 27: Phil Johnston



National Night Out

Approximately 200 people attended National Night Out held in the parking lot at Hope Lutheran Church in August. Law enforcement, first responders, and other local service agencies as well as the DNR and forestry service took part in an evening of fun, music, and free food. Hope Lutheran provided sloppy joe sandwiches, chips and cookies to exhibitors and neighbors alike. A special thanks to Thrivent for an action grant to help cover the cost of the meal. This annual event, coordinated by Hope's Outreach Committee, continues to grow in participation and in fostering community connection.

Immanuel Lutheran School Trap Shoot Fundraiser

Support Immanuel Lutheran School while enjoying a fun day of fellowship and trap shooting!

Date: Saturday, September 12

Registration: 10:00 AM

Shooting Begins: 11:00 AM

Location: Northstar Shooting Sports Club—10215 Rifle Range Drive NW, Walker, MN 56484

Cost: \$50 per shooter or \$250 per team (5 shooters) Clays and ammunition are provided. Raffle prizes, concessions, and additional donation opportunities will be available throughout the day.

Whether you're an experienced shooter or simply want to support Christian education, we'd love to have you join us! Gather your family, friends, coworkers, or church members and come enjoy a great day while supporting Immanuel Lutheran School. To register or learn more, please contact Dean Deck at (218) 760-1405 or ddeck0613@gmail.com

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 am Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	2 10:00 am Women of Hope Board Mtg Noon Women's Potluck & Study 1:00 pm Bone Builders	3 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	4	5
6 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	7 LABOR DAY <i>Office closed</i> 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	8 9:30 am Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study 5:30 pm Board of Property	9 9:00 am Board of Outreach 11:00 & 12:30 Worship - May Creek 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 pm Joyful Noise Choir practice 4:30 pm Wednesday Kids 5:30 pm Simple Supper - Burgers 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 pm Conf. Info mtg (6 th gr & new)	10 8:30 am Quilters 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	11	12
13 RALLY SUNDAY 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 HOLY SMOKE! lunch	14 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	15 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	16 8:25 am HS Release Time (off site) 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise 4:30 Wednesday Kids 5:30 pm Simple Supper – Sloppy Joe 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 pm Conf. Info mtg (7 th -9 th gr.)	17 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	18	19
20 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship	21 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders	22 7:15 am HS Bible Study at Walker Bay Coffee 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study 5:45 pm Third Grade Bible class	23 8:25 am Middle School Release Time 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise 4:30 Wednesday Kids 5:30 pm Simple Supper – Pulled Pork 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 pm 9 th gr Confirmation Class	24 9:30 Bone Builders 11:30 Women's AA	25	26
27 9:00 Communion Worship 10:00 Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 Church council	28 9:30 AA 1:00 pm Bone Builders 6:30 pm Reading the Bible Together	29 9:00 Card Makers 9:30 Bone Builders Noon: Lectionary Bible Study	30 1:00 pm Bone Builders 3:30 Joyful Noise 4:30 Wednesday Kids 5:30 Simple Supper- Scalloped/Ham 6:15 pm Wednesday worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Classes			

Save the date—Back by popular demand!

HOPE TRIVIA—Thursday, October 22

Get your teams together! Hope's Board of Fellowship is hosting another trivia event at Benson's Emporium on Thursday, October 22nd.

Who will unseat our reigning champs, "The Masters of Useless Information"? You are welcome to come by yourself and we will add you to a group of really smart people, or a group who could definitely use your expertise! Or find some friends who know-it-all and form your own team of up to 6 people.

Pizza and soda will be offered for FREE starting at 5:30 with trivia beginning at 6:00.

We will be using this event to help our animal friends at Paws and Claws. Please consider bringing along some dog or cat food to help some of God's 4 legged friends.

We hope that you can join us for fellowship and fun.



HOPE'S MISSION

*Hope invites all to connect with
God and each other through*

*... Worship
... Community
... Service*