

pastor's letter from Pastor Jane

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Once again, tragedy strikes someone in our community, and it seems like the evil one is in charge. Donna Campbell's cousin, Dawn Swenson in Bagley was murdered September 7 by a neighbor high on meth, while she was at her mother's home to help care for her.

The helplessness and despair we feel could lead us into hopelessness, if we do not turn our attention toward Jesus who gives us compassion for the guilty, hope in the midst of despair, peace in the midst of warring factions, endurance and gentleness when we are unjustly accused and self-control when we are angered (Galatians 5:22-23.) This is the **fruit of the Spirit** who dwells in us. Nevertheless, **we struggle** with the injustice and deep sadness of tragedies and **we grieve** over the circumstances that led up to them, wondering what we can do to prevent anything like this in other lives.

Our children grow, despite our school, sports and church curtailment. It is **our job** to give them the tools they will need **to not only survive, but to thrive**. For that reason, **thank you** for your cooperation as we strive to provide fun & interesting educational and growth opportunities for our congregation, we will obey those in authority by:

Wearing masks.

Maintaining 6-foot social distancing.

Staying home if we are not well.

Maintaining the 25% occupancy required by the State Fire Marshall.

In our church it is **one way of preventing the spread of disease, fulfilling our Mission Statement, and obeying God's Law** to "Love our neighbor as ourselves" (Leviticus 19:18 & Matthew 22: 39-40.)

Sunday **October 4** after church from 10:30-1:30 is **First Communion Camp** for all those preparing to take their first communion. We will be combining 3 sessions into one-time frame. Sign-up is required due to spacing. Masks required.

Session One: 10:30-12:30. We will review the **Passover Story** from Exodus 3, how it became the **Last Supper** for Jesus and the Disciples and ultimately became our **Sacrament of Holy Communion**. You will need your Bible, Luther's Small Catechism, and clean hands to bake unleavened bread (with Mary Steinbrenner) for the communion you will serve your family. **Please let us know** how many people you will be serving and if you would like to do this during the church service, or by private appointment after services (we need to ask you to serve privately to maintain social distancing.)

Session Two: Foot washing. 12:30-1:00 You will need to be ready to remove your shoes & socks. Bring your Bibles and be ready to walk on "Holy Ground".

Session 3: Lunch and a discussion 1:00-1:30 by Willow Christen on how our **Altar Guild** prepares the altar for the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the second Sunday of each month for our church.

Sunday **October 11** will be **your first Communion** where you will first receive communion and then serve your family, friends, & sponsors.

Please arrange for rides home.

Tenth Grade Confirmation Candidates will meet on 4 Wednesday evenings, Oct. 7, 14, 21, & 28 from 6-7 PM for Supper & to complete their training with **Confirmation on Sunday, November 1**. Sign-up is required due to spacing. Masks required. Please plan to attend the following sessions:

Oct 7: Completion of Luther's Small Catechism.

Oct. 14: Review of take-home exams.

Oct. 21: Life Skills, "Conflict Resolution", Matthew 18 BYOB (Bring your own Bibles.)

Oct. 28: Life Skills, "Biblical Money Management" (Bring your own Bibles.)

8th & 9th grade Confirmation students: Please use your school laptops to log into the church website for confirmation class with Pastor Jane and pick up your workbook for classes just like regular Friday School, starting Oct. 2. You will be able to make up any missed sessions, or work ahead with this system as your schedule allows. Please be sure to attend church in person, or online and complete 20 sermon notes. Please attend **Youth activities grades 7-12** on Wednesday nights.

7th Grade Confirmation will meet on Fridays at 8:30 AM with Kathy Carlson in the fellowship hall (observing 6-foot distancing, hand sanitizing & wearing masks.)

"Ten Women who made a Difference", (based on a book by the same name) will be recorded and placed on the church website soon. This was a request by young mothers of our church, who have little time and need to access the website when they are able.

"The Cost of Discipleship" Bible study at Rustads is moved to Thursday afternoons at 2:00 PM. Sign-up is required due to spacing. Masks required.

Men's Guided Discussion Group will be held 10:30-11:30 AM after church 4 Sundays in October. Sign-up is required due to spacing. Masks required.

Discussion Points:

Week 1, Oct. 4 "Who Do You Say That I Am? Proof of God?"

Week 2, Oct. 11 "What is Essential or Nonessential for Faith?"

Week 3, Oct. 18 "Faith in Action"

Week 4, Oct. 25 "How Does God Bless America?"

As you can see, in spite of pandemic, Hope Lutheran has a great deal of opportunity for you to grow in faith and with your neighbor.

As we prepare for the new year, the **Nominating Committee will be seeking people who are willing to serve and lead.** Please contact the church office if you are being called.

The Gideons are having a membership drive for any men interested. If you are interested in serving as a Gideon, please contact me so that I may recommend you for membership.

Thank you for your loving support, sincere care for each other, and upholding all our members in your prayers, especially our youth during this difficult time. May God continue to bless you and keep you safe!

Love & Prayers,

Pastor Jane

OCTOBER SERVANTS

ALTAR GUILD: Gina Gensberger and Anita Lucken

COMMUNION SERVERS October 13: Tom Sedler Sarah Manecke Dan Carlin Cynthia Larson

USHERS: Jim Haugstul Nathan Mahlen Mike Norland David Olson Duane Olson Travis Quam

HEAD USHERS / ACOLYTES:

October 4 Tom Kleinwachter Alex Johnson & Karly Peterson

October 11 Terry Halvorson Jaekub Larson & Chase Pierce

October 18 Rod Olson Abigail Snyder & Kyra Quam

October 25 David Skunes Ben Steinbrenner & Lukas Sannes

POWER of PRAYER

Please keep the following people in your prayers...

Drew Wahlstrom	Paul Curfman
Paisley Straub	Dean & Joe Lindberg
Malia Halvorson	Tom Sedler
Ilene Sistad	Bob Norland
Paul Nelson	Richard Miller
Lois Storey	Hazel Trogstad
Karen Bolme	Jody Nelson
Hilma Stadstad	Marian Jenkins
Denise Monson	Pr. Arlen Hermodson
Trina Rodgers	Janet Olson
Angie Olson	Michael Killian
Mike Knutson	Bill Kuzmaul
Elizabeth Barrineau	Keith Caskey
Tubby Solsten	Oskie & Mary Hanson
Christina Anderson	Cathy Albright
Kate Moore	Wally Olson
Christine Johnson	Michelle Johnson
Carol Heide	Keith Caskey
Christopher Vezner	Patty Nicko



SEPTEMBER MEMORIALS

Gifts were given to the Audio/Visual Fund in memory of Gary Carlin, Albert Graftaas, Marge Jeska, Karen Langseth, Edgar Olson, Joyce Forsberg Ronning, and Lydia Walstrom.

A gift was given to the Broadcast Fund in memory of Gary Carlin.

Gifts were given to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Gary Carlin and Elaine Stone.

October

BIBLE READINGS

KEY CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

1 Proverbs 3	9 Proverbs 31	17 Isaiah 55	25 Sunday Worship
2 Proverbs 4	10 Ecclesiastes 3	18 Sunday Worship	26 Ezekiel 37
3 Proverbs 5	11 Sunday Worship	19 Isaiah 61	27 Daniel 1
4 Sunday Worship	12 Ecclesiastes 12	20 Jeremiah 18	28 Daniel 2
5 Proverbs 6	13 Song of Solomon 1	21 Jeremiah 19	29 Daniel 3
6 Proverbs 7	14 Isaiah 6	22 Jeremiah 31	30 Daniel 4
7 Proverbs 8	15 Isaiah 40	23 Lamentations 3	31 Daniel 5
8 Proverbs 9	16 Isaiah 53	24 Ezekiel 1	

YOUTH NEWS



October Birthdays

Allison Carlin
Faith Larson
Jordan Larson
Will Christen
Sydney Walk

If you are a Hope student in grades 7-12 and we missed your birthday, please notify the church office so we can update our list.

Youth Notices from Pr. Jane:

10th Grade Confirmands:

Confirmation service will be November 1

Mandatory completion of your confirmation will be held 4 Wednesdays in October, 6-7pm, in person in the fellowship hall, 1 table per student, masks required, followed by Youth Group with Michelle Levin from 7-8pm.

Bring your own Bible & catechism.

Session 1 - Oct. 7: Review of Catechetical Delights

Session 2 - Oct. 14: Review of your take home exam

Session 3 - Oct. 21: Life Skills on Conflict Management

Session 4 - Oct. 28: Life Skills study on Biblical Money Management

Hope 7th Graders:

Confirmation Classes will be held Fridays, beginning October 2nd, 8:30-9:30am in the fellowship hall. Masks are required; social distancing will be observed.

6th Grade First Communion Students:

First Communion Service will be October 11

First Communion Camp - October 4, 10:30-12:30

Bring your Bibles. Be prepared to remove your shoes & socks for a foot washing. We will be studying about the Passover tradition in Exodus 3, which was what Jesus celebrated as the Last Supper and became our Sacrament of Holy Communion. You will be making and baking unleavened bread with Mary Steinbrenner to serve to your family and sponsors at the First Communion service. Willow Christen will be teaching about how the Altar Guild prepares the altar for communion. Please have a good idea how many people from your group will commune so that we can arrange safety precautions.



Ignite

Youth Station

A safe, fun place where youth can hang out, play games, and build friendships.

Open Tuesdays & Thursdays to all 7th-12th Graders

Fall Hours: 3:00-7:00 pm

Masks and social distancing required.

Located on the west end of the Fosston City Hall building, across from the Civic Center.

9/9/2020 - Hope Lutheran Church Council - Meeting Minutes - Recorded by Sarah Manecke

Present: Evan Fonder, Sarah Manecke, Teresa Sannes, Chantel Wickham, Gloria Osmonson, Kim Kleinwachter, Travis Quam, Dean Vikan, Tim Manecke, Nathan Pederson, Pastor Jane Ekholm, Greg Mireault, Dan Carlin, Sylvia Munter & Wayne Olson

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Evan Fonder – President

Devotions: Executive Board – Sarah read “Letting Your Leaves Fall” – as you watch the leaves fall this season, you are reminded to let go of anything that would hinder a fresh relationship with God.

Approval of Agenda with Modifications: Motion to approve by Greg, second by Dan, Approved Unanimously

Approval of Secretary’s Report: Motion to approve by Tim, second by Chantel, Approved Unanimously

Benevolence Report: Pastor Jane reports that benevolence received \$1,703 in the month of August. LCMC - \$341; World Mission - \$400; Augustana District - \$84; National Mission - \$300; and Local Outreach (backpack program, emergency fund, Polk County Sheriff-Safety, Ignite, Northwest Mental Health) - \$578. Emergency fund expenditures for August - \$300

Pastor’s Report: See written report

President’s Report: Evan appreciates everyone’s willingness to adapt & continue our mission of discipleship & growth

Brief Committee Reports

Deacons: Wayne reports that communion is covered for Sunday & they will continue to be up at the altar; reviewed duties & responsibilities; men’s gatherings will begin Sundays in October

Family/Youth/Education: Chantel reports that Sunday School & Friday School are on hold due to lack of response, but packets will be made for the kids to bring home and can be picked up by families on Rally Sunday.

Music & Worship: Kim reported that they continue to cover readers. She inquired as to the possibility of singing in church with masks, but with it being a high-risk activity, it was decided to continue with recorded music.

Trustees: Tim reports that August was a good month financially (increase of \$4,000 from last year); purchased a 70” television for Fellowship Hall; received bid from Travis for window replacement - trustees will review and present to council next month; there is a \$25,000 endowment at Thrivent in Alabama so trustees will work with the Endowment Committee to discuss how to bring this back local.

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report pending audit by Greg, second by Gloria, Approved Unanimously

Women of Hope: No report

Old Business: None

New Business:

10.1 Next Meeting – Executive Council meeting Wednesday, October 14th at 7:30pm; Devotions and Lunch by the Family/Youth/Education Board.

10.2 Heritage Committee – Greg reported they are working on getting all items moved to one location to preserve them and they are also doing some landscaping around the church.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer, Meeting Adjourned.