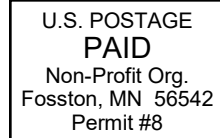


Looking ahead...

Hope Family Christmas Party & Potluck
Wednesday, December 15th at 6 p.m.



Tidings of Hope

Our purpose is to glorify God by worshipping, witnessing, teaching, loving and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ.

pastor's letter from pastor jane

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ,

One of the terms we often use at Christmas (*birth of Christ*) for Christ is *Emmanuel* which means "God with us." This year let us consider cultivating throughout the Advent Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas a deeper awareness of His blessings, especially the freedom to worship. We all know that in the midst of the joyful celebrations, many people are lacking in basic needs, are lonely, have lost loved ones, are forgotten, or are just plain sad, especially under the pressures of the past two years. **In fact many Christians throughout history have not enjoyed the freedom to worship that we have.**

For example, around December 13, Swedish and Norwegian Christians often celebrate the feast of **the young Christian Martyr "Lucy"**, who lived in Sicily, in the Fourth Century. Born about 283, she was killed in 304 AD under the persecutions of the Roman emperor Diocletian because she had decided to devote her life to God and give all her possessions to the poor (*in obedience to "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." In Mark 10:21-23*). Very little more is known about her. Her name means "light."

The oldest record of Santa Lucia's (*Lucy's*) story comes from the fifth-century book, *Acts of the Martyrs*. The only fact on which various accounts agree, is that a disappointed suitor accused Lucy of being a Christian. For this she was found guilty and executed. **I wonder what evidence was given.** Her generosity? Her refusal to marry an unbeliever? The oldest archaeological evidence comes from the Greek inscriptions from the Catacombs of St. John in Syracuse. In medieval accounts, Saint Lucy's eyes were gouged out prior to her execution. **I ask myself, if had been accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me? How about you?**

Traditionally **Lucy's feast is held on the shortest day of the year**, the Day of Santa Lucia when the family is awakened by the youngest girl in the family wearing a crown of candlelight and bringing warm freshly baked saffron rolls to each family member early in the morning. This "**Festival of light**" was important in the Lands of the Midnight Sun, near the Arctic Circle, where daylight is scarce in winter months.

In more recent times, the shortest day of the year many people still celebrate Santa Lucia, but a new tradition has started. "**The Longest Night, a service of Consolation and Comfort**" is when Christian churches have offered a worship service for those who are not looking forward to the holidays, are sad, lacking in basic needs, lonely, have lost loved ones, or are forgotten by them, especially under the pressures of the past year. My first two confirmation classes here in Fosston, conducted these services in 2018 & 2019.

When I worshipped and was a seminary student in Walker, Hope Lutheran Church conducted their first Service of Consolation. As expected, the gathering was very small. Among the few attendees was a young man, the father of six, who had recently lost his wife in a house fire. I asked what drew him to our service. "The name, "The Longest Night," he replied softly, "**My nights are so long now.** My friends ask me to go out for a beer, and I just can't, I feel the need to stay home with my kids". Each of his children came along with one of their friends and lit a candle in the service symbolizing the light for their mom, so dearly loved and missed. Each of his children and their friends sat and prayed together. They held hands and remembered not only their loss, but received the comfort that comes from the fellowship of **the Communion of Saints who surrounded them** with consolation.

Taking the time to grieve deeply, is healthy and strengthens us later. Only in darkness can we appreciate when we have light. Then can we rejoice in that which is good. In the darkness of troubles, we recognize the contrast and the goodness of light. **Jesus said** "I Am the Light of the World, in me there is no darkness (John 8: 12.) "Let your light so shine that others praise your heavenly Father because of you." (Matthew 5:16.)

**Keep On Shining My Friends,
Pastor Jane**

december

BIBLE READINGS

Lectionary Bible Verses for December

Malachi 3: 1-4	Hebrews 10:5-10	1Peter 3:13-16
Luke 1: 68-79	Luke 1: 39-45 & 46-55	Rev. 22:20-21
Philippians 1: 3-11	Isaiah 52 & 54	Compare Luke 1:46-55 with 1Saul 1:9-20 & 2:1-10.
Luke 3: 1-6	Psalms 130	Compare Numbers 6:1-8 & Samuel 1:11 & Luke 1:15
Zephaniah 3: 14-20	Compare Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2: 1-12	Compare Luke 1:13-17 with Luke 1:24-25
Isaiah 12: 2-6 & 25:9	Ephesians 2: 1-22	Psalms 9:1
Philippians 4:4-7	John 1: 1-5	Compare Isaiah 51:1-3 to Galatians 3: 7-8 & Romans 4:16
Luke 3: 7-18	Luke 2:22-35	Isaiah 53
Micah 5: 2-5	1 Corinthians 15:20-23	Luke 2:1-20
Luke 1: 46-55	Romans 8: 18-25	
Psalms 80:1-7	1Thess. 4:13-18	

december 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 6:00 p.m.-Youth movie event at Fosston Theater	2	3 8:30 am Friday School Grades 1-8 9:30 am 9 th Grade	4
5 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS/ Fellowship/ Advent Discussion Group	6 10 am- Women of Hope Board	7	8 7:30 pm Council	9 7:40 am FCA Breakfast 1:30 Bible Study-Heritage Room	10 8:30 am Friday School Grades 1-8 9:30 am 9 th Grade Confirmation	11
12 9:30 am Worship- Holy Communion/ Choir Cantata 10:30 am S/S/ Advent Discussion Group/Fellowship	13	14	15 6 p.m. Hope Family Christmas Potluck	16 7:40 am FCA Breakfast 1:30 Bible Study-Heritage Room	17 No Friday School or Confirmation	18
19 9:30 am Worship with SS Program 10:30 am Fellowship	20	21	22 6:30 pm meet to caravan to Youth event at Humbleberry Farms	23	24 5 pm and 10 pm Christmas Eve services	25
26 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Hour <i>No Sunday school</i>	27	28	29	30	31	

Hope Family,

Merry Christmas to all and God's Blessings to you & yours! As we approach the Christmas season and the end of the year I want to say thank you to all who have served our Church and our ministry this past year. Whether you have served as a Teacher, an Usher, on a Board or Committee, or in an informal way behind the scenes...it is this willingness to serve, to share your time and talents that do so much for our Church and our ministry.

As we approach the new year, there continue to be many opportunities to serve. And I would call on you to prayerfully consider your talents and time and how you might serve. Whether it's out in front in a leadership role or behind the scenes there are so many important pieces that go into our Church being able to serve and minister and spread the message of God's love and salvation through His son Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Evan Fonder, Hope Council President

1 Peter 4:10 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."



Please remember the following in your prayers:

Drew Wahlstrom
Paisley Straub
Ilene & Dennis Sistas
Brad & Mary Sistas
Karen Bolme
Hilma Stadstad
Elizabeth Barrineau
Tubby Solsten
Kate Moore
Christine Johnson
Al & Carol Heide
Dean & Joe Lindberg
Dean Vikan
Tom Sedler
Hazel Trogstad
Marian Jenkins
Janet Olson
Bill Kuzmaul
Oskie & Mary Hanson
De'etta Heid
Herbert Preszler
Frances Preszler
Gwen & Michelle Johnson

Pastor Gerald White
Donald Gwynn & niece
Shirley
Craig Larsen
Greg Gubrud
Berniece Carlin
Charles Rose
Jeanne Rains
Carol Wold
Jeff Olson
Marian Farnworth
Lori Fletcher Schroeder
Bill & Phyllis Malwitz
Brian Larson
Christopher Hove
Heather Scott
Margaret Rustad
Carissa Sjole (ill) and family
The family of Rebecca Rud
The family of Helen Mae
Frethem
The family of Pr. Gordon
Syverson

Current Staff at Hope Church:

Pastor: Jane Ekholm
Office: 435-6765;
home: 435-1484;
Cell: 218-820-2017;
Email: hopezion268@gmail.com
Youth Leader: Michelle Levin
(mlevin@gvtel.com)
Custodian: Steve Sovick
Office: 435-6765;
home: 435-1754
Cell: 218-431-0692
Office: Joan Dufault (interim)
Office: 435-6765;
home: 435-6986
Cell: 218-230-4176
Email: hopezion268@gmail.com
A/V: Ryan Hanlon
cell: (612) 910-9436
Musician: Diane Boucher
(kingtown@gvtel.com)
Choir director: Charity Salmonson

The family of Lois Storey
The family of David Andree
The family of Glendine
Benson
The family of John
Handyside

MISSIONARIES:

Jennifer Albright returning
from Slovenia
The Schroeder's in the
Phillipines
Simon Hamer in Estonia
The Neller-moe's et. al. in
China Service Ventures
Tom & Eunice Olson of
Hawley, MN called to
mission work in the
Democratic Republic of
Congo

11-10-21 Hope Lutheran Church – Executive Council Meeting Minutes – Recorded by Tina Averill

Present: Evan Fonder, Tina Averill, Tim Manecke, Wayne Olson, Michelle Olson, Bonnie Albright, Cyndi Larson, Kim Kleinwachter, Tracy Ware, Travis Quam, and Pastor Jane

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Evan Fonder – President at 7:30 PM.

Devotions and lunch: Devotion and lunch by Board of Deacons

3.0 Approval of Agenda - Motion by Tim second by Travis to approve agenda as presented. Approved Unanimously.

4.0 Benevolence Report – The Benevolence was not able to meet. Currently down.

5.0 Approval of Secretary’s Report – Motion by Tracy second by Tim to approve Secretary’s Report. Approved Unanimously.

6.0 Pastor Report-Items discussed in Pastor Jane’s report included LCMC News; Ten students confirmed on Reformation Day on October 31, 2021; Goals of Equip the Saints discussed; Church looking for new Youth Leader and new Office Manager as of January, 2022; Thank you for new roof on parsonage and church; Ministerial Association seeking innovative ways to enrich the faith of our community; Thanksgiving Eve Service at New Journey at 7:00 PM, Community Choir meet at 6:00 PM; Pastor Jane will be gone January 15-20; Thank you to Church and Council for the gift certificate to MJ Café for Pastor Appreciation Month.

7.0 President’s Report – Asking everyone if they knew anyone that could serve and to pass on to nominating committee. Looking forward to busy but good holiday season

Brief Committee Meetings –

8.1 Deacons – Tracy reported on communion following weekend; Need someone to fill in for Pastor Jane for Thanksgiving weekend; Christmas Eve services at 5 PM and possibly a later time the same evening.

8.2 Family/Youth Education – Michelle reported on Hope Family Christmas Potluck on December 15 at 6 PM; Caroling December 5 – ride around town on a trailer caroling; Operation Christmas Child monetary donations this year; Sent 3 names to the nominating committee.

8.3 Music & Worship – Trying to get a list going for song masters; Muff Magelssen doing the piano; Organ is financially beyond repair. Discussion if or how to go about getting a new one.

8.4 Trustees – Tim spoke on the financials down a bit but overall doing good; Roof repaired at church and parsonage; Tim reviewing to see why there was a higher expense in the maintenance account. Estimate on retaining wall was high. Suggestion that a few members come up with a design and not hire architect. Motion by Travis seconded by Michelle to approve financials report pending audit. Carried unanimously.

8.5 Women of Hope Report – No report.

9.0 Old Business – None

10. New Business –

10.1 Next Full Council Meeting is Wednesday, December 8, 2021 @ 7:30 PM. Devotions by Executive Board.

10.2 Proposed Amendment – Motion by Tim seconded by Michelle to approve Proposed Amendment to the bylaws as presented. Carried Unanimously.

10.3 Other - None

11.0 Closing Prayer of the Lord’s Prayer followed by adjournment.



Women of Hope Bakeless Bake Sale

Typically by this time of year we would hold our Christmas bake sale. In an abundance of caution, due to Covid, we feel it would be unwise to hold the sale. However, support is still needed for the Women of Hope projects, such as Bible Camp, shut-ins at Christmas, Quilting, etc.

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

So this year we are doing a bakeless bake sale. We encourage you to make a donation similar in value to what you have done in the past.

Please make checks out to “Women of Hope Cookie Sale” and put it in the collection plate, or drop it in the mail (508 N. Foss Ave., Fosston, MN 56542), or bring to the church office.

Thank you!



Thanks for Your Support!

Electronic giving offers convenience for individuals and provides much needed donation consistency for our congregation.

As you contemplate future contributions, think about giving electronically. Contact the church office with any questions or to sign up.

Remember to drop off your used devotionals in the hall outside the office for donation to prison ministry!



GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Gifts were given to the TV/Radio Fund in memory of:

- Dorothy Mae LePier
- Helen Mae Frethem
- Larry LePier
- Harvey Erie
- David Andree

Thank You

Gifts were given to the Cemetery Fund in memory of the Satran, Bratland & Sundrud families, and Helen Mae Frethem.

A gift was given to the Friday School in memory of Helen Mae Frethem.

Gifts were given to the Grounds/Cement replacement fund in memory of Helen Mae Frethem and David Andree.

Gifts were given to the FCA in memory of Pastor Paul Magelssen.

Gifts were also given to the Window Fund in memory of Helen Mae Frethem, Larry LePier, David Andree, and in honor of Norma Quam.

Gifts were also given to the Choir Fund in memory of Larry LePier and David Andree.

Gifts were given to the Women of Hope in memory of Helen Mae Frethem.

Gifts were also given to the Hope Youth Fund.

DECEMBER SERVERS

ALTAR GUILD: Willow Christen & Alisa Halvorson

COMMUNION SERVERS: Tracy Ware Bonnie Albright
Sarah Manecke Matt Wickham

USHERS: Jeff Carlin, Michael Gensburger, Nathan Mahlen, Rod Olson, Scott Riveland, Tom Steinbrenner and Matt Wickham

HEAD USHERS / ACOLYTES:

December 5	Tom Kleinwachter	Allison Carlin and Will Christen
December 12	Terry Halvorson	Alex Johnson and Aiden Pederson
December 19	Rod Olson	Ben Steinbrenner and Ethan Larson
December 26	Darin Larson	Peyton Radtke and Jake Wickham

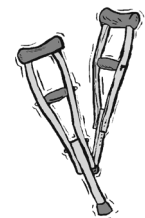
SERVING GROUP 7: Chairs: Gary & Sylvia Munter (218)230-4157; 435-1761; email: sdmunter@gmail.com

Tina Averill	Jon & Sheyanne Dufault	Joan & Roy Dufault
David Olson	Terry & Alisa Halvorson	Tricia Hove
Marty & Michelle Levin	Jim Offerdahl	Wayne & Michelle Olson
Matt & Chantel Wickham	Carol Wold	Donna Campbell

Broadcast Ministry

Our worship service is broadcast on KKCQ FM and telecast on local channel 7 and Garden Valley TV every Sunday at 9:30 am. A live broadcast of the worship service is also available on the internet.

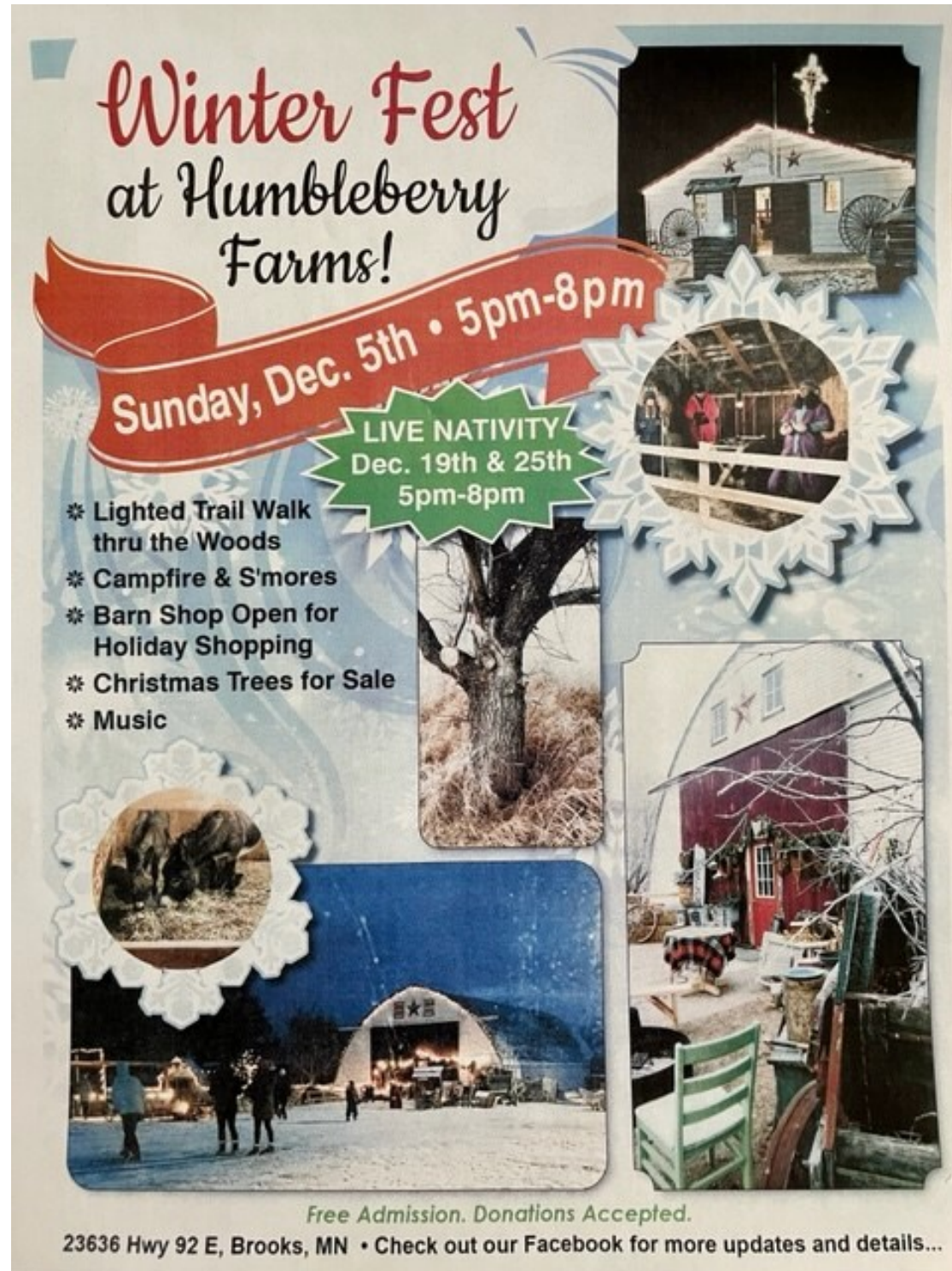
Just search: “Hope Lutheran Fosston” to reach our website. You can view or print the bulletin, and then click on the Youtube link to join the service live. You can also find us on Facebook at *hopelutheran-churchfosston!* (Note: we are still waiting for parts to fix our connection to the Fosston Cable TV).



H.E.L.P. is Here!

Our Health Equipment Lending Project room has a selection of home health equipment. If you are in need of a loan of this kind of equipment, please call the church office. The intent is that this ministry would be the hands and feet of Jesus to anyone in need of this kind of assistance. **Donations of all types of home health equipment are welcome.**

Family/Youth/Education



**Winter Fest
at Humbleberry
Farms!**

Sunday, Dec. 5th • 5pm-8pm

**LIVE NATIVITY
Dec. 19th & 25th
5pm-8pm**

- * Lighted Trail Walk thru the Woods
- * Campfire & S'mores
- * Barn Shop Open for Holiday Shopping
- * Christmas Trees for Sale
- * Music

Free Admission. Donations Accepted.
23636 Hwy 92 E, Brooks, MN • Check out our Facebook for more updates and details...

The Fosston Ministerium is sponsoring a trip to the Winterfest near Brooks for all youth in the community, grades 7-12. We will meet on **Wednesday, December 22 at 6:30** at the Hope Church parking lot to caravan to the farm for the Living Nativity, Torch Walk, caroling and s'mores. Volunteers will be needed to drive and chaperon the students. Please contact Pastor Jane at (218)820-2017 if you can help!



Hope Family,

We have received some questions regarding our Organ, and why we don't hear it as often as we used to. With that, The Music & Worship committee would like to update you on the status of our organ.

It has come to our attention that there are cracks that have developed on some of the stops. This is the reason for the crackling sound that can be heard when it's played. While it still can be played by avoiding these stops at this point, it will become increasingly difficult to do so as time goes on. We have had a technician look at the organ and the cost of repair is not cost-efficient due to the age & condition of the organ overall.

The cost of a replacement is estimated to be around \$25,000. This isn't something we are prepared to ask for donations for, but more so our goal is to keep everyone up-to-date with it's status. Please ask any questions and we certainly invite your feedback.

The Worship & Music Board

CONFIRMATION OCTOBER 31, 2021



Back row: Brynlea Mahlen, Kyra Quam, Lukas Sannes, Chase Pierce, Karly Peterson
Front row: Piper Larson, Alexis Bailie, Pastor Jane Ekholm, Tia Wickham, Breanna Larson, Vanessa Johnson