



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

## HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

# tidings

## pastor's letter

from pastor jane

VOLUME 17  
ISSUE 6  
DECEMBER 2018

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

What a joy to serve you as your Interim Pastor! I am in the process of setting up times to meet with each of our member families, hear your story and history with Hope Lutheran church, as well as review the direction you hope our church will go in the future. This is in addition to the Holy Cow survey your Transition Committee initiated, just in case there was something you wanted to say but didn't have the opportunity, or you thought of something new to add.



I hope each and every one of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration. However, we know that the holidays are not a time of celebration for all people. Members of our church have family in Paradise, California, who lost their homes and all that they had. One disabled young man was rescued but may not survive the year due to smoke inhalation. Other members have lost loved ones, some are not feeling well. At times like this, our faith community surrounds us with love, prayers and compassion. Yes, **God is good** to us here in Fosston, and especially at Hope Lutheran.

What can we do to show our **gratitude to God**? King Solomon would say we should simply enjoy God's many blessings, eat, drink and be merry. Which he certainly did! Then in the joy of his many wives, (and children) he was swayed away from the Giver of all his gifts and worshipped other gods to please his pagan wives. Let us not forget from Whom our many blessings come, our abilities, our skills, all good things. Let us enjoy all good things and give thanks to our God Who gives them.

He promises us the "abundant life" (John 10:10). **Abundant life** for one person is not abundance for another. Promising an abundant life, Jesus did not promise us a 'rose garden', only a path through the thorns. This path becomes the journey to sanctification and knowing Him better. Sanctification means becoming a better person, and that means different things to different people, depending on our God-given gifts, how we use them or misuse them. Let's claim His promises as our own and trust Him to keep His word in our lives.

As we approach the Advent of our Lord's birth and the celebrations that go with it, may we be ever mindful of those less fortunate than ourselves, or who have suffered loss that makes the Christmas season sad and mournful. Let us seek to be "kinder than necessary" to those around us, knowing that many carry burdens of which they do not speak. Let us seek to do no one harm and that we monitor our words to be a reflection of Jesus love for us.

# December 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
<b>2</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS Practice / Listening Session #1 / Fellowship Hour 11:15 am Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 3:30 pm Kids Time! 6:30 pm Listening Session #2 / Choir Practice	<b>6</b> 7:40 am FCA 11:00 am Women of Hope Mtg.	<b>7</b> 8:30 am Friday School Grades 1-8 9:30 am 9th Gr. Conf. Class	<b>8</b>  9:00 AM COOKIES BY THE POUND
<b>9</b> HOLY COMMUNION 9:30 am Worship/Cantata 10:30 am SS Practice / Fellowship Hour 11:15 am Worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:00 pm Hope Family Christmas Potluck Party 8:00 pm Hope Council Mtg.	<b>13</b> 7:40 AM FCA	<b>14</b> 8:30 am Friday School Grades 1-8 9:30 am 9th Gr. Conf. Class	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30 am Worship/ Sunday School Christmas Program 10:30 am Fellowship (No SS or 11:15 Worship) 6:30 pm Come & Laugh	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 3:30 pm Kids Time! 6:30 pm Choir Practice ? Community Youth Caroling	<b>20</b> 7:40 AM FCA	<b>21</b> 8:30 am Friday School Grades 1-8 9:30 am 9th Gr. Conf. Class	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:15 am Worship	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Worship Services at 5:00 pm & 10:00 pm	<b>25</b>  Merry Christmas	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:15 am Worship	<b>31</b>					

## DECEMBER SERVERS

### GROUP 5

**Chairpersons:** Norma Quam / Scott & Amy Riveland / Orlan & Eileen Solsten

<b>SERVERS:</b> Barb Carlin	Scott & Willow Christen	Kyle & Brittany Djernes
Jim & Rosie Goldsmith	Mike & Patti Halland	Jim & Ionne Haugstul
Sarah Johnson	Mike & Bridget Kroening	Peggy Larsen
Marion Larson	Bill & Phyllis Malwitz	Greg & Keri Mireault
John & Julie Nord	Darren & Lori Paulson	Travis & Emily Quam
Jake & Brittnei Radtke	John & Connie Radtke	Neil & Sandra Riveland
Jon & Renee Rustad	Leroy & Helen Sander	Richard & Marilyn Venem
James & Heather Webb		

**ALTAR GUILD:** Willow Christen / Gina Gensburger

**COMMUNION SERVERS:** Michelle Solsten / Ionne Haugstul / Gloria Osmonson / Dan Carlin

**USHERS:** Dan Carlin/Jeff Carlin/Fritz Frethem/Scott Riveland/Tom Steinbrenner/Matt Wickham

### HEAD USHERS / ACOLYTES:

<b>December 2</b>	Tom Kleinwachter	Avery Sannes / McKayla Hove
<b>December 9</b>	Terry Halvorson	Zoey Christen / Brandon Larson
<b>December 16</b>	David Skunes	Aireal Gensburger / Brecken Levin
<b>December 23:</b>	Rod Olson	Nikolai Jalowiec / Aaron Norland
<b>December 24:</b>		
<b>5:00 pm</b>	Sid Fjerstad	David Larson / Cullen Norland
<b>10:00 pm</b>	Tom Kleinwachter	Tegan Larson / Kyla Pederson
<b>December 31</b>	Terry Halvorson	Ryan Levin / Tucker Quam

The Hope Transition Committee wants your feedback in regards to our future pastor! We are in the process of putting a job description together and would like your input.

We received results from the Holy Cow Survey and the Congressional Survey but also wanted to provide a couple of Listening Sessions.

#### Two sessions will be available:

1. Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, following the 9:30 service, in the Fireside Room.
2. Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-6:30 pm, in the Fireside Room

Thank you!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Gabriel Berry

Ella Carlin

Callie Theis

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 Stewardship

Christmas is coming! Have you made a list of what you'd like to receive? Have you thought about what you're giving to others? Some joke that that's what December 24<sup>th</sup> is for. We may not even make any **PLANS** at all about what to give our family members and friends. We may find when we're ready to go shopping that we have neglected to put aside enough money to buy the gifts we want to give. We may give inappropriate gifts.

It's good to think back to that first Christmas, over a thousand years ago, when the world received its greatest gift. That, of course, is when God gave His Son to be born in a manger to fulfill the **PLAN** for our salvation.

There's that word again: **PLAN**. You see, God's gift to us was **PLANNED** centuries before it was given. In Genesis when Adam and Eve sinned, God told us about the **PLAN** (Gen. 3:15), and the prophets continued to proclaim the **PLAN** (Isaiah 9:6).

God didn't give His leftovers, either. What is the greatest, best gift He could give? Himself! And so, He did in the Person of His Son, Jesus. It wasn't as if Jesus protested, saying, "Ah, Dad, do I really have to go?" He was in on the **PLAN** from the beginning, and with joy He came to earth to be our Savior.



God wasn't caught short of funds; He gave His Son Who gave

His life. What gift could be more appropriate? Christ is exactly what each of us needs!

Christ is the gift we've received. Now what gift do we give? The answer can be found in the words of a poem:

*What can I give Him  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man,  
I would do my part.  
Yet what I can, I give Him  
Give my heart.*

Christina Rossetti

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son for me, for fulfilling the **PLAN** You had from eternity. Help me to be completely committed to You—to give You my heart. In Jesus' name I ask it. Amen.

# In Loving Memory

## NOVEMBER MEMORIALS

Gifts were given to the Broadcast Fund in memory of:

- Edith Campbell
- I. Engebretson
- Lynda Halberg
- Dagmar Larson
- Russell & Harris Lee
- Lorraine Svedahl

### ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT



Hope Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individuals and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving.

Following is a list of the information that is needed to get started:

- ⇒ Name and Address
- ⇒ Date of First Donation
- ⇒ Frequency of Donation (Weekly, Monthly, etc.)
- ⇒ Amount of Donation
- ⇒ Checking or Savings Account Routing and Account Numbers

Donations amounts may be changed or discontinued any time simply by calling the church office.

If you would like to sign up for electronic giving, or want more information, please call the church office at 218-435-6765, or email [hopezion@gvtel.com](mailto:hopezion@gvtel.com)

### Broadcast/Telecast Ministry

Our worship service is broadcast on KKCQ FM and telecast on local channel 7 and Garden Valley channel 31 every Sunday at 9:30 am.

**FOSSTON DAC** is collecting candles of all types: tapers, votives, jars, and even crayons to make fire starters. Donations may be dropped off at the church office.

**MCINTOSH SENIOR LIVING CENTER** is asking for donations of stuffed animals to be used for bingo prizes. For those who receive them it is quite a treasure. Donations may be dropped off in the church office.

### 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.

**We are currently in need of donations of wheel chairs, walkers, canes with prongs, shower chairs, raised toilet seats, and commodes. Donations of all types of home health equipment are welcome.**

### HOPE HANKIES

Do you know someone who is in need of healing of mind, body or spirit? A Hope Hankie is a reminder that you are never alone, that God is always with you and that your friends are aware of your needs and are praying for you. Hope Hankies are available in the church office, or you can call Marge Bolme at 435-1825. Although there is no charge for the Hope Hankie, donations are welcome.

## 11/14/18 – Hope Lutheran Church Council - Meeting Minutes – Recorded by Tracy Ware

**Present:** Joan Dufault, Greg Mireault, Evan Fonder, Sue Skunes, Nancy Andree, Michelle & Wayne Olson, Pastor Jane Ekholm, Sylvia Munter, Gloria Osmonson, Bonnie Albright, Tracy Ware

**Call to order:** Meeting Called to order by Joan Dufault – President

**Devotions** – Gloria read a message from Pastor Jeff Scherve on Thanksgiving

### **Agenda Review**

Motion to approve by Evan, Second by Greg, Approved Unanimously

### **Secretary's Report**

Motion to approve by Nancy, Second by Greg, Approved unanimously

### **Women of Hope – No report**

### **Benevolence Report – Pr. Jane**

Met earlier this week and sent money to help the Quilts of Valor, Ignite, Local Benefits Mission to India was discussed, more to come.

### **Pastor's Report – Pastor Jane**

A lot of NH visits, 2 nursing home services, Bible studies, FCA, etc  
Provided re-training for confirmands on Acolyting, protocol written for future use. Alternative ways to get sermon notes was discussed.  
Confirmation will be held /7/19.  
Five new members were installed  
Youth – discussed joining

existing programs, hosting movie nights, camp opportunities.

Children's Sermons –  
Confirmands were asked to lead these occasionally.

### **President's Report – Joan**

Reminded us to Stay Positive & Strong and to Pray during our transition period.

### **Brief Committee Reports**

#### **Deacons - Wayne**

Come & Laugh scheduled for this Sunday  
Communion schedule is complete

#### **Family/Youth/Education - Michelle**

Family Christmas Party will be Wednesday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. 6-8 pm

"I Can Only Imagine" will be playing at the Theater as a benefit on 11/28. Kids are encouraged to attend.

Youth Christmas Caroling will be 12/19.

Youth Leader position is still needed

Sunday School

Superintendent is still needed.

Operation Christmas Child completed. 16 boxes were given which is down from 24 last year.

#### **Music & Worship – Sue**

There are youth interested in joining choir!

Men's quartet was great!

Readers are scheduled  
Choir will sing on Sunday  
Cantata scheduled for 12/19

Ionne will be going off the board – need a new leader

### **Trustees – Greg**

Financial reports were reviewed, income is down compared to this time last year. A substantial re-payment back to the designated funds will be made.

Sewer line from the bathrooms was fixed.  
Waiting on bill.

Budget is complete, will review at next meeting.

Money needed for cemetery maintenance.

Trustees plan to send out letter for donation request

Wayne Larson's term is up.

Treasurer's Report reviewed for approval pending audit.

Motion to approve by Evan, Second by Sue. Motion carried unanimously

### **Old Business:**

#### **Transition Team Report**

Will be meeting this Sunday

#### **Memorial Policy**

Sylvia will send out copies.  
Will vote on approval at next meeting.

### **New Business:**

Next Council Meeting is Wed. Dec 12<sup>th</sup> at 8pm following the family Christmas party.  
Devotions will be provided by the Deacons, no lunch needed.

Closed with Lord's Prayer, Meeting Adjourned.



# Cookies by the Pound

Dear Hope Lutheran Church members:

The Cookie Committee wishes to express its appreciation for your fantastic enthusiasm and support in the past for our annual Cookies-by-the-Pound Sale.



The reason this has been such a successful project is ***because all of you have spent hours making such beautiful Christmas goodies!***

Hope Lutheran Church is holding this year's Cookies-by-the-Pound Christmas Bake Sale on **Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00-10:30 am.**

This will be our twenty-eighth annual Cookies-by-the-Pound event!

Proceeds will go to a Hope Church project.

We are asking you to review the following list for suggestions of what you would like to make for the sale ~

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| * Christmas cookies or bars                       | * Christmas breads (fruitcake, fruit & nut quick breads, decorated tea rings, etc.) |
| * Candy (fudge, toffee, caramels, divinity, etc.) | * Sand bakkels  |
| * Rosettes  | * Lefse (3 to a package)  |
| * Krum kake                                       | * Flatbread   |
| * Pizzelles                                       |   |
| * Cakes (Almond, Popcorn, Pound, etc.)            |   |

It is best if your baked items are brought to the Hope kitchen on **Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, before 6 pm, if possible.** It is important that your item is brought in on Friday, as our set-up committee is setting up for the sale on that same night! The set-up committee consists of one person from each serving group and anyone else who would like to help. These members should be at the church between 3 to 4 pm on Friday.

On **Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>,** we would like 1 worker from each serving group to be at the church by 8:00 am, Saturday morning. Workers are asked to wear a Christmas apron. Coffee, hot cider and cookies will be available during the bake sale hours.

Again, thanks so much for your wonderful goodies!

# December

## BIBLE READINGS

### KEY CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

1 Hebrews 4	8 James 1	15 1 Peter 2	22 2 Peter 3	29 2 John
2 Worship	9 Worship	16 Worship	23 Worship	30 Worship
3 Hebrews 8	10 James 2	17 1 Peter 3	24 1 John 1	31 3 John
4 Hebrews 9	11 James 3	18 1 Peter 4	25 1 John 2	
5 Hebrews 11	12 James 4	19 1 Peter 5	26 1 John 3	
6 Hebrews 12	13 James 5	20 2 Peter 1	27 1 John 4	
7 Hebrews 13	14 1 Peter 1	21 2 Peter 2	28 1 John 5	

Christmas Eve Worship Services will be held at 5:00 and 10:00 pm on Monday, December 24.

