

Hope Lutheran Church

December 2022

From the Pastor,

“When push comes to shove” is a saying that fits for the Christmas and Advent Church Seasons. Commerce pushes Christmas and views advent as a time to spend, spend, spend and borrow if necessary. It works to have one’s house full of stuff to show your children and partner just how loved they really are by you.

There are no advertisements telling one to prepare their hearts for the remembrance of the birth of God’s only Son who came to earth to be our Savior. If anything, the thought is buy a manger and put an expensive doll or two in it.

Christians are challenged to fight the commercialism of Christmas in order to hold on to the spiritual meaning of the Advent and Christmas Seasons society pushes us to give lip service to our faith while buying into the “if you love me you will buy me lots of gifts” mentality. One confirmation student said years ago that she was glad her parents were divorced because now she gets lots of Christmas presents.

Christmas Day is about remembering and celebrating God’s entrance into the world so that God, the Son, could leave the world on a cross. Christmas Day without a Good Friday following it months later is just a “give me more presents day” because salvation is no longer a part of the true meaning of Christmas anymore.

Merry Christmas. Enjoy receiving and giving presents but be sure to receive Christmas Day as God’s gift to you. This is how much God loves you.

Merry Christmas.

Christmas Eve Worship Services Hope 5:00 p.m. and Grace 7:00 p.m. Christmas Day joint Worship service at Grace at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Jim

Church Seasons: There are two Church Seasons in December. The first is Advent. The color is blue or purple depending on how one is viewing the season of Advent . I prefer the color blue for Advent and reserve purple for Lent. Blue represents the joy of preparing for the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

The second Church Season is Christmas and it begins December 25th and runs to the Sixth of January which is the Day of Epiphany.

Church Festival Days: December 20th Katherine Von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552.

December 24th Christmas Eve

December 25th Nativity of Our Lord

December 26th Stephen, Deacon and martyr

December 27th John, Apostle and Evangelist

December 28th The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

U.S. Holidays: December 21st Winter begins

December 25th Christmas Day

December 31st New Year's Eve

Jewish Holidays: December 18th Hanukkah begins

Monthly Schedule: Confirmation December 7th, 14th, 21st, at 6:00 p.m.

Hope Secret Sisters Party December 8th 1:30 p.m. at Alberta's

Cook Family Christmas December 10th starting at 5:45 p.m.

Grace Bible Study December 12th at 1:30 p.m.

Kids for Christ December 14th 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Hope Church Council December 14th at 7:30 p.m.

Pastor leads Worship at Good Samaritan December 15th 10:30 a.m.

Grace Church Council December 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Hope Sunday School Christmas program December 18th 10:00 a.m.

Cantata December 18th 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service Hope 5:00 p.m., Grace 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship joint service 10:00 a.m. at Grace

Pastor leads Worship at Linden View December 28th 2:00 p.m.

Hope Lutheran Church Council Minutes November 16, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Jim Helgren, Dave Antholz, Janice Beethe, David Lubben, Keith Moss, Russel Moss, Mark Panko and Sharon Carman.

Pastor Helgren opened the meeting with prayer.

THE MINUTES from the October 12th meeting were reviewed and approved.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT by Mark Panko for October reports:

TOTAL INFLOWS	\$4,531.23
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	-\$8,053.66
NET TOTAL	- \$3,522.43

The treasurer's report was approved. Mark reported a CD for Luther League was nearing maturity. We decided to let it roll over for another year.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor will lead worship service at Good Samaritan November 17th.

Sunday, November 13th pastor baptized Jaxon Theodore Thompson here at Hope. They are members at Grace.

Thankoffering service will be Sunday, November 20th. Some of the ladies of the congregation will participate in the service.

Thanksgiving Eve Service will be Sunday, November 23rd at Grace at 7:00 p.m. Osage will host next year.

Since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year we will have a joint service at Grace at 10:00 a.m.

Kids for Christ has met three times with a good turnout of children and volunteers to assist.

Pastor will be baptizing two of his great grandchildren December 3rd at Grace.

Ruth Heitbrink inquired about having her grandson baptized in the near future.

The Grace youth plan to do a fun activity soon and will invite the Hope youth to join them. 2024 is a National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We hope to have our young people attend.

Pastor received notice of jury duty in January 2023. He may need to serve.

OLD BUSINESS: Dave Antholz and Mark Panko attended a joint meeting with Grace. A new budget with a 6% increase was approved for 2023. Following the adjournment of the meeting the council will do a performance review of Pastor Helgren and give our result to the Grace council.

Blessing Plumbing has finished the sewer clean out project.

The water in the parsonage has been turned off and faucets drained, the water heater has been drained also. Russel will put some RV antifreeze in the stools.

A man from Bats to Rats will be here this week to fly a drone over the church to see about possible entrance areas.

Hemje Plumbing and Heating installed a new thermostat in the church.

We will change the furnace filters following the meeting.

Sharon will check with Vanessa Sell and Nancy Gerking about a Christmas Program with the children.

Some of the ladies have volunteered to come midweek and decorate the tree and church for Christmas if the men will bring the boxes down on Sunday.

NEW BUSINESS: We will put the parsonage on the agenda for the annual meeting as to whether it should be sold or torn down. Please give this some thought and be prepared to discuss this at the annual meeting or talk with a council member before. The council would like to have this resolved next year.

Counting schedule: 11/20/22-Dave A., Communion Server, Nancy G., 11/27-Russel M., 12/4/22-David L., Communion Server, Sharon C., 12/11/22-Keith M.

The next meeting will be December 14th at 7:30 p.m.

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Carman

Friendship Home: We will be collecting gifts for the Friendship Home again this Christmas season. Suggested items are shown in this newsletter. A box in the church entry will be available for your gifts. **The DEADLINE** to bring gifts is SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH.

Secret Gals Christmas Party: The ladies will have their Christmas party on Thursday, December 8th at 1:30 p.m. Alberta has again offered her home for the party. Please bring:

1. A grab gift (\$5 or under) for the game.

2. Your gift to "reveal" the pal you have had this past year.
3. A snack to finish off the afternoon.
4. And your singing voice as we enjoy Christmas music!

Party hostesses are Char, Janice and Marilyn. Hope to see you there!



Friendship Home

2022 Holiday Wish List

Underlined items are things most requested.

Gift Certificates make great gifts!

- Walmart
- Grocery stores
- Target
- Kohl's
- Gas Stations
- LES
- Cost Cutters
- Old Navy
- Scheels
- Urban Air
- Gateway Mall
- Southpointe Mall
- Movie Theaters
- Bowling
- Pre-Historic Putt
- Best Buy
- Barnes & Noble
- Manicures/Pedicures
- Fast food restaurants
- Round 1
- Shoe Stores

Drop-off
Please schedule a drop off time for your unwrapped gifts

Gifts for Kids Please avoid any toys that imply violence (toy weapons, wrestling, war items, nerf guns, & G.I.Joes).

- Hot new toys for 2022
- Any infant or toddler toys
- Husker & other sports team items
- Electronic handheld games
- LEGO sets
- Cooking play sets
- Dress-up clothes for girls & boys
- Backpacks
- Barbie's (ethnically diverse)
- Baby dolls (ethnically diverse)
- Trucks & trains
- Remote control cars
- Motorcycle toys
- Sports gear (basketball, football)
- Super Heroes
- Closed-toed shoes
- Kids' jeans (any size)
- Picture Frames
- Perfume
- Lotions
- Mixing bowls
- Cookie sheets
- Bathroom sets
- Silverware sets
- Drinkware sets
- Coffeemakers
- Coffee mugs
- Dishcloths & dish towels
- Lamps
- Wall clocks
- Vacuums
- Luggage, duffel & tote bags
- Laundry hampers
- Baby monitors
- Sketchbooks & adult coloring
- Colored pencils and markers
- DVD Players
- Sound machines
- Kids' clothing (any size)
- Boys' underwear
- Vaporizers/Humidifiers



Hope Lutheran Church-Burr

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship	5	6	7 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	8 1:30 p.m. Secret Gals Christmas Party at Alberta's	9	10 5:45 p.m. Cook Family Christmas Community Building
11 10:00 a.m. Worship	12	13	14 4:00 p.m. Kids for Christ 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:30 p.m. Church Council	15 10:30 a.m. Pastor leads worship at Good Samaritan	16	17
18 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship S.S. Program 7:00 p.m. Cantata	19	20	21 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	22	23	24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
25 10:00 a.m. Joint Worship at Grace	26	27	28 2:00 p.m. Pastor leads worship @ Linden View	29	30	31

Cemetery

Bruce Riensche
Russel Moss
Dave Antholz

WELCA Meeting

Bible Study: Secret Gals
Devotions: Party
Hostess: Char, Janice, Marilyn

Altar Guild

Marilyn Moss

Visitation