

Hope Lutheran Church

December 2025

From the Pastor,

On my farewell tour I played one of my greatest hits on Christ the King Sunday. Every few years I bring out Simba from the movies and series, "The Lion King." He sings his song, "I Can't Wait to be King." I compare the difference between how he becomes king and how Jesus becomes king. I then close with Simba singing "Hakuna Ratata", (No Worries) and state with Jesus we have no worries.

We end the church year with the reminder that Jesus the Christ is our king ruling with God the Father. Advent begins the church year with me playing another of my hits by loudly celebrating the New Year and explaining that it is the church's new year. Advent is the time to prepare for Christmas and not celebrate the birth of Christ. It can sometimes be a fine line between the two Church Seasons of Advent and Christmas. So fine that once Christmas happens people do not desire to keep celebrating Christmas for twelve more days, which is actually the Christmas Season. I have even had members in my forty years complain that we were singing Christmas hymns after the Day of Christmas.

The Pastor's job of juggling these two Church Seasons can be tiring and stressful. But it is also joyful to celebrate the birth of Christ with my church family and I get to do it twice on Christmas Eve. We celebrate Christ's birth and His presence in the bread and wine. It has been a pleasure to be in the Advent struggle and Christmas celebration with Grace and Hope. Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jim

Festival Days: December 1st, Andrew, Apostle

December 20th, Katharine Von Boro Luther, renewed the church, died 1552

December 21st, Thomas, Apostle

December 24th, The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve

December 25th, The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day

December 26th, Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

December 27th, John, Apostle and Evangelist

December 28th, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (transferred)

Jewish Holiday: December 14th, Hanukkah begins

U.S. Holidays: December 21st, Winter begins

December 24th, Christmas Eve

December 25th, Christmas Day

December 31st, New Year's Eve

Annual Meetings: January 18th is a joint Worship service at Grace Lutheran 10:00 a.m. The meeting will follow at 11:00 a.m.

Hope Annual meeting will be January 25th following the 10:00 a.m. Worship service.

Church Season: The new Church year began November 30th with the first Sunday in Advent. The Advent Season continues through December 24th. The Christmas Church season begins December 25th and ends January 5th.

Monthly Schedule: Dec. 3rd, 10th, 17th, 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6th, 7th, & 8th

December 7th, Sunday School program during 10:00 a.m. worship

December 8th, 2:00 p.m. Grace Bible Study

December 10th 4:00 p.m. Kids for Christ

December 10th, 7:30 p.m. Hope Council

December 17th, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Cook Family Christmas at Cook Middle School

December 21st, 7:00 p.m Christmas Cantata at Grace

December 24th, 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Hope, 7:00 p.m. at Grace

Hope Lutheran Church Council Minutes November 12, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Helgren, Dave Antholz, Janice Beethe, Mark Rumery and Sharon Carman. Dave Lubben, Mark Panko, and Trevor Pope were absent.

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

THE MINUTES from the October meeting were reviewed and a correction made. Trevor Pope was absent.

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

TOTAL INFLOWS	\$14,109.04
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	-\$10,796.27
NET TOTAL	-\$3,312.77

Balance October 31st was \$6,529.30. \$10,000 was transferred to the general fund.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor visited and communed Judy Lubben, Dee Stoner and Carol Speth.

**Pastor stated that he could arrange a speaker for the October 20, 2025 Mission Fest if we want.

**Thanksgiving Eve Service is at 7:00 p.m. at Grace.

**Thankoffering service will be Sunday 23rd.

**November 16th will be a joint service at Grace at 10:00 a.m. followed by a freewill offering creamed chicken lunch.

**Advent begins Sunday, November 30th, we will decorate the church following worship.

**Pastor will lead worship at Orchard Park November 20th at 10:30 a.m.

**Pastor officiated at an inurnment service November 8th for Ivan Hansen.

OLD BUSINESS: The south entry door needs some repairs. We will contact Bob Stanberry to do this.

NEW BUSINESS: **Dave Antholz will meet with Grace council Friday at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the pastor's salary.

**The Sunday School program will be Sunday, December 7th, during worship.

**Christmas Eve Worship will be December 24th at 5:00 p.m.

**We discussed doing the usual gifts for our employees.

**Next month we will resume the Workbook committee following the council meeting.

Counting Schedule: 11/23/25 Sharon, 11/30/25 Mark R., 12/7/25 Dave A., Comm. Ser. Nancy.

The next meeting will be on December 10th 7:30 p.m. We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Minutes submitted by Sharon Carman.

Hope Lutheran WELCA: Hope WELCA met on 11/20/25 for the Bible Study and General Meeting. Those present were Marilyn Moss, Sharon Carman, Alberta Block and Pastor Jim Helgren. The minutes from the last meeting were approved as well as the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$933.81.

Mission Education report mentioned the Thankoffeing service which will be on November 23rd.

Mission Community mentioned the Friendship Home gifts as well as Food Pantry donations. It was noted that 38 Personal Care Kits and 40 School Kits were packed for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to Dave Smith who delivered ours along with Grace's kits to Omaha.

Treasurer Cathy Steinkuhler sent our annual offering donation to the National Synod.

Thanksgiving Eve service will be at Grace on November 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Hope Christmas decorating will be on November 30th following worship.

Friendship Home gifts will be loaded on December 14th and delivered by Megan and Trevor Pope the following week.

Let's remember our shut-ins with cards and visits.

WELCA Christmas gifts were discussed.

Sharon made a motion and Alberta seconded it to send \$100 to Good Samaritan for resident gifts.

The meeting adjourned. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully, Alberta Block

We thank all of you who brought gifts for the Friendship Home! They will all be a big blessing to the women and children this Christmas. Many thanks again!

Have a safe and blessed Holiday Season!

Hope Lutheran Church-Burr December 2025

Pastor

Jim Helgren

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship Service

*unless noted otherwise

Church Council

Chairman: Dave Antholz

Fin. Sec. Janice Beethe

Treas. Mark Panko

Sec. Sharon Carman

Deacons: David Lubben

Trevor Pope

Mark Rumery

Worship & Music

Alberta Block

Sharon Carman

Sherri Moss

Organists

Alberta Block

Sheri Moss

Ruth Neeman

WELCA President

Marilyn Moss

Bulletin/Newsletter

Sharon Carman

Cemetery

Dave Antholz

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	4	5	6
7 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship with Sunday School program	8 2:00 Grace Bible Study	9	10 4:00 p.m. Kids for Christ 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:30 p.m. Hope Council	11	12	13
14 10:00 a.m. Worship Hanukkah begins	15	16	17 4:00 Kids for Christ 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	18	19	20
21 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Cook family Christmas @ Cook middle sch.	22	23	24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship, 7:00 p.m. Worship at Grace	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28 10:00 a.m. Worship	29 7:00 p.m. Grace Council	30	31 New Year's Eve			

WELCA Meeting

Bible Study:

Altar Guild

Vanessa & Cathy

Visitation

All