

Hope Lutheran Church

December 14, 2025

Pastor

Jim Helgren

Organist

Ruth Neeman

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude, Welcome, Announcements

**Lighting of the Advent Candle, Vrs. 1,2,3 O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel** FOG # 169

Opening Hymn "My Lord, What a Morning" WOV # 627

Call to Worship

P: Right from the beginning God's love has reached, and from the beginning man has refused to understand. But love went on reaching, offering itself. Love offered joy...we wanted thrills.

C: Love offered freedom...we wanted license. Love offered communion with God Himself...we wanted to worship at the shrine of our own minds.

P: Love offered peace... we wanted approval for our wars. Even yet, love went on reaching. And still today after all these years, Christ is reaching out to us today.

All: Right through the chaos of our world, through the confusion of our minds. He is reaching...longing to share with us...the very being of God. Amen —Gloria Gaither FOG # 200

Hymn of Praise "How Great Our Joy" FOG # 182

Prayer of the Day: Stir up the wills of those who look up to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lessons

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10

LBW pg. 287

James 5:7-10

Alleluia, sing Alleluia eight times

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Redeeming Love"

FOG # 199

The Apostles' Creed

FOG pg. 137

Prayers of the Church-----The Lord's Prayer

Offering/Offertory: We give Thee but Thine own, What e'er the
gift may be. All that we have is thine alone. A trust, O Lord, from
Thee.

Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" FOG # 190

In Our Prayers: Carol Speth, Ruth Heitbrink, Gerry Brezenski &
the Workbook Committee

We welcome you to worship with us today. If you are a guest
please sign the guest book.

Wednesday, Dec. 17th: 4:00 p.m. Kids for Christ, 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation

Sunday, Dec. 21st: 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship,

3:00-6:00 p.m. Cook Family Christmas at the Cook Middle
School

**Pastor Helgren's phone #'s (402-848-2391 Hope), (402-864-4201
Grace), (402-826-0613 Cell), or (402-864-2113 Home). For
bulletin/newsletter i

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;

the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus "it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

"Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.

"Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!"

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; "then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness

and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return

and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalm 146:5-10

or Luke 1:46b-55

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁹You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ¹⁰Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25.

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ITEM015002 ELCA-V

Hope Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes January 26, 2025

Pastor Helgren opened the meeting with prayer.

President Dave Antholz called the business meeting to order. He asked if everyone had a chance to review the reports in the annual reports. He asked if there were any questions on the reports. None arose so he asked for a motion to accept the reports as printed. Marilyn Moss made the motion and Janice Beethe seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: The parsonage and garage were moved. Dave Antholz filled in the hole and smoothed off the grounds. Bill Volkmer has volunteered to do the seeding for us. We will need to supply the seed. We will also need to replace some of the sidewalk which was broken up by the heavy machinery. Some of the trees were removed also and a few of the stumps need to be ground off yet.

Dave Antholz and Duane Wilken put the trim up on the church this past year.

New Business: Outgoing offices for church council are Chairman, Dave Antholz, Financial Secretary, Janice Beethe, and Deacon, Keith Moss. No nominations were made for chairman or financial secretary. Dave and Janice agreed to stay on in those positions. Mark Rumery volunteered to serve as deacon. Chairman Antholz asked for a vote of acclamation to accept these people in the positions; it passed. A round of applause was given for them.

Nebraska Synod Assembly will be May 30th and June 1st. Two delegates are needed to attend with Pastor Helgren. No volunteers at this time.

The 2025 budget was increased nearly \$5000 due mostly to a large increase for the insurance on the church building. Pastor was given a 4% increase in salary. No questions or concerns arose over the budget. Trevor Pope made a motion to accept the budget as printed. Becky Rumery seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Antholz reported that for 2024 \$16,000 was moved from savings to keep the church running.

Keith and Deb Moss have agreed to mow the grass again for 2025.

Pastor spoke about his retirement in 2026 his last official day will be the first of September but he will plan to take vacation in August. His last day in the pulpit will be the last Sunday in May. We cannot have a call committee until pastor actually leaves but we can have a "Homework Committee" which comes with a book to follow. This group will plan to meet once a month for seven months to complete the book. Then we would meet with the Homework Committee from Grace to mesh together the needs and desires we have for a new pastor to serve both churches. Pastor mentioned that Grace has begun using their cranberry hymnals this past year. This could be an issue for a new pastor coming in needing to use the two hymnals.

Alberta Block asked for a round of applause for the church council.

As there was no other business Trevor Pope motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Janice Beethe. Motion carried.

Pastor Helgren installed the officers.

Secretary, Sharon Carman