

2024



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hope Scope

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. 26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

James 2:14, 18, 26 (NRSV)

There was some controversy in the very early church, and we see it in the writings of James and Paul. When it comes to what is most important—when it comes to "getting right with God," James wants to emphasize our works—the good things we do, while Paul wants to emphasize our faith—what we believe.

In any event, we know that we are saved by God's grace. Very often, we are tempted to believe that God will love us and save us if we have been good enough—if we have sufficient good works to our names. But the Reformed theology of the Presbyterian Church tells us that we are never going to have good enough works to earn salvation. Instead, we are saved by God's grace. We are saved from so much in this world, and then, in the end, we are saved from an eternity or damnation, or emptiness, or non-existence.

We have been given so much. The people around us, our community, and most of all, the reassurance that our God loves and cares for us, no matter what.

And so, in thankfulness to God for that salvation and those gifts, we live out the life to which we are called. In grateful thanks to God, we become better people—people with a longer list of good works. We do good things not because we feel we have to earn something from God, but in recognition of the fact that God has already blessed us beyond reason—beyond measure.

As we approach Thanksgiving this week, it is a good time to take stock of our blessings—our church, our faith, our families and friends—and renew our commitment to live grateful lives of love and mercy and service.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Blessings, Brian Jones

At its November 4th meeting the Session:

- * Received notice from the Presbytery that the 2025 per capita will be \$46 per member; and
- * Approved the following:
 - * WOW offering being used for the purchase of supplies for the Belize mission trip;
 - * The purchase of a new printer/scanner/copier, Kyocera Taskalfa 35554ci from Coordinated Business Systems, Ltd. in the approximate amount of \$5,988.07 out of the Technology Committee's 2025 budget and to enter into a service agreement at a cost of approximately \$120.05 per month.
 - * Holding a special congregational meeting on December 15, 2024 following worship to elect officers for 2025.

Communion Servers on December 1st will be: Steve Barney, Deb Ficek, Dee Schurman, Alisa Taatjes & Liz Windingstad.

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FINANCE REPORT

	OCT	Year to Date 10/31/2024	Year to Date Monthly Average
Income	\$19,853.63	\$223,349.34	\$22,334.93
Expenses	\$24,666.70	\$233,254.90	\$23,325.49
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$4813.07)	(\$9,905.56)	
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses			\$26,118.65
Per Capita Assessment for 2024			\$7,425.00
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 09/30/2024			\$3,468.48

Kristene Foreman, Treasurer

Per Capita amount is \$45 for each member of the congregation.
There are designated envelopes in the pews.



Deacon's Corner

The Deacon's use their funds to help folks both inside and outside of our congregation. There are times when one of our members has an unexpected expense that they are having difficulty covering. When this is brought to their attention, the Deacon's may decide to discreetly give some assistance. But they also reach out beyond the church to the community by supporting the CARE Pantry and The Link.

This work is made possible by donations that are specified for their use. All the generosity of the congregation is greatly appreciated!

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CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering: 50% provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need and 50% develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. This special offering will be taken on December 22nd with special offering envelopes in the pew racks.

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Retirement Announcement!

The Personnel Committee is announcing the retirement of Karen Bents, our Ministry & Staff Assistant, effective January 31, 2025. She has just completed her 12th year working in the office. We are taking applications for her position for 24-30 hours/week with flexibility. Computer skills are needed. A sheet of the Secretary's responsibilities is available. If interested in this position, please email Sandy at sandywersal@gmail.com

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Christian Education Youth and Families

“But the angel said to them, do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Luke 2:10-12

This is just a sampling of the many decorated trunks we had for our annual Trunk or Treat Community event. It was a wonderful turnout and a fun time! Check out our Face Book page for pictures of all the trunks.



Youth and families gathered in the River of Hope Youth Center after the Trunk or Treat event for pizza, a "Pumpkin Prayer" devotional, and crafts.



The TAG (Teens and God) group, directed by Liz and Jason Windingstad, went Trick or Treating for the CARE Pantry. Besides gathering donations, they gathered prayer requests and then had a time of prayer when they returned to church. They also left a very special gift at each house they visited.

Thank you to all who donated items for the TAG group, and to Wally and Amanda with the driving.



donated items for the TAG group, and to Titus for helping out

Advent

Advent starts Sunday, December 1st. "Advent" means "coming". It is a time when we think about the coming of Christ.

I wrote the following for our "Objects of Advent" congregational project in 2022-23:

My everyday "Object of Advent" is a matchstick.

I go through dozens and dozens of matches during Advent because I'm constantly lighting candles and bringing LIGHT into my surroundings.

This time of year has, for us, the most hours of darkness, the shortest days of the year. We are well into our day before it gets fully light outside and we are back in darkness well before evening.

And then, we have ADVENT, a time when we think about the birth of Jesus, the LIGHT of the world. Think about what Jesus' birth and life and death and resurrection have meant to this world!

WE can keep Jesus' LIGHT shining in our world by being the hands and feet of Jesus, by being a LIGHT for others. One of my favorite Sunday school songs is a sweet little song titled, "Jesus Bids Us Shine" by Susan Warner:

Verse 1 Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light,
 Like a little candle, burning in the night.
 In this world of darkness, we must shine.
 You in your small corner, and I in mine.

"In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it." John 1:45

Beginning at the Manger



The Christmas Program is Sunday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m.

Join us and experience the Christmas story through the experiences of an old, tattered Nativity scene that feels outdated and obsolete in our modern world. With the help of Grandma Sue, some children, and songs we discover why Jesus is still relevant today. Join us on December 8th as our youth and several adults help us remember that Jesus is the most important Christmas gift.

Dates to remember: aka FRIDGE BRIDGE

You can put this sheet on your refrigerator as a reminder of CEYF goings on.

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| Sunday, December 1 | Rehearsal after church for the Christmas Program. Pizza will be served for participants and families. |
| Wednesday, December 4 | Family supper-5:45
Program rehearsal for ALL evening classes-6:15 |
| Sunday, December 8 | Christmas program during church at 10:00 |
| Wednesday, December 25 | No Classes – Merry Christmas! |
| Wednesday, January 1 | No Classes – Happy New Year! |
| Wednesday, January 8 | Family meal at 5:45 p.m., classes resume |



Respectfully Submitted by Tyann Jones



OCTOBER 2024 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

THE FOOD PANTRY



In October, The Food Pantry reached a record of **211 households** served- including 365 adults, 215 children and 53 seniors- distributing a total of 13,554 pounds of food!

CLIENT OUTREACH and HOUSEHOLD EXCHANGE



Each month, The Link is able to provide support to a number of families facing hardships, such as (but not limited to): job loss, chronic illness, unexpected change in family dynamics and increase in the cost of living.

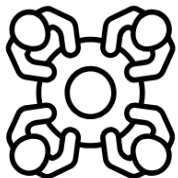
In October, your donations were able to support **131 families** by helping with medical bills and prescription cost, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic household needs including clothing, winter gear, dishes and furniture!

WILDCAT BACKPACK AND SNACK PANTRY

The Wildcat Backpack Program is again providing students from NLS for the weekend. Currently, there are **129 students** benefitting from this program! If you would like to sponsor a child for the year, please call Ashley at 320-354-5465



The Snack Pantry is currently providing snacks for over 30 teachers at NLS to distribute to their students throughout the school day.



TUESDAY'S TABLE

A free community meal the 1st Tuesday of the month: Our Lady of the Lakes (Spicer), 2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant (New London), 3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran (Spicer), 4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran (New London), 5th Tuesday: Crossroads Community Church (Spicer).

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Pray for the Link and the community; Help us spread awareness by talking about The Link to your friends and family and sharing on social media; Donate unexpired food items to the food pantry or organize a food drive; Volunteer at the thrift store or in the food pantry;



Donate your gently used clothing and household goods- (all proceeds kick back into The Link's programs; Donate financially-

Remember for every \$1 donated, The Link can purchase \$10 in food through Second Harvest.

CURRENT NEEDS:

Gently used clothing & winter gear and household essentials.

Food: Kid friendly food (corn dogs, chicken nuggets, french fries, pizza, snacks, etc. , Monetary donations.



Donations made easy

Monthly giving at the the Link is convenient . You can set up online giving directly through your bank or by visiting The Link's website at www.youarethelink.org by scanning the QR code. You can also mail your donation to P.O. Box 823 , New London, MN 56273, drop off your donation in person or leave your check in the drop box outside of The Link's door at 20 Central Ave E, New London. Questions? Contact Ashley at 320-354-5555.

Thank you for your support! YOU are The Link!



Coffee and Conversation Monday & Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.

Come and Join us!!!!

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Sunday, December 15th **Congregational Meeting** after Worship
For the election of Officers

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Advent Fun Hour: 20" of Games, 20" of Singing
and 20" of eating!

Sunday, December 15th 3-4 pm

**Please bring something to share for snacks!!





**At Pastor & Tyann's home in
Spicer: 306 Miller Street**

**Sunday, December 8th
3-5 pm**

**December
CARE Pantry Challenge
is.....
TOILET PAPER**



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! We would like to thank you all for supporting us as we raise funds to go to Belize in March. We took in just shy of \$3500 during the pie auction and chili feed! Without your generosity, we could not have taken in that much! If you would like to continue supporting our efforts, we still have the Beanie Baby fundraiser going on. Please see Steph or Tyann if you are interested in adopting/sponsoring Beanie Babies. You are also welcome to drop a check into the offering at any time. We truly can't thank you enough for supporting our efforts in bringing the love of God to Belize!

The Belize Mission Trip Team

Stephanie Bents, Sue Block, Lauren Bratberg, Devory & Danny Fischer, Zach Fischer, Rylin Altermatt, Jill & Grace Gau, Matt & Anakin Haglund, Allison Johnson, Brian & Tyann Jones, Joni Lamphere; Alisa, Duane, Carter & Issac Taatjes



Prayer Requests



Members with Health Issues:

Daryl Taatjes, Kathy Jansen, Darlene Thompson, Bob Hinderks, Judy Heath, Sandy Wersal

Family and Friends with Health Issues:

Lisa Swanson	Brenda (Jonelle Foreman's sister-in-law)
Galen (Friend of Mike Carlson)	Kim (Friend of Jeff Lamphere)
Barb (Friend of Karen Hagemeyer)	Kaisa Robinson (Jonelle Foreman's niece)
Jackie (Friend of Eileen Helmstetter)	Blake Hinderks (Grandson of Bob & Pat)
Jerry Wall (Virginia McKean's son)	Pastor Randy Knuth
Paul Raynio (Jesse Appleby's Dad)	Dick Bratsch (Larry's brother)

Grieving:

Family of Kevin Anderson (Karen Hagemeyer's son-in-law), Family of George (Pastor Candace & Doug's son-in-law), The Poe Family of Jerome Skluzacek, Family of Joann Gehrke

Care Facilities:

Jerry Gault (Prairie Senior Cottages, 1705 19th Ave. SW-Willmar), Shar Williams (Carris Health Care Center, 1801 Willmar Ave. SW), Kathy Jansen (Bethesda Grand, 901 Willmar Ave. SE, Room 103), David Carlson (Bethesda North Pointe), Jeanette Gault (GlenOaks), Betty Harder (Bethesda North Pointe), Arlos Jones (GlenOaks Apts.), Barb Morris (Copperleaf in Willmar), Mary Lou Swart (Bethesda North Pointe)

Other Concerns:

For those dealing with mental health issues and who struggle with addiction
 For those deeply wounded by domestic violence
 For those grieving the death and injury of a loved one due to violence and war
 For those affected by natural disasters, COVID-19

December Deacons of the Month: Kathy Taatjes & Mary O'Malley

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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PHONE: 320-796-2650

E-MAIL: hopepres@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <http://hopechurchspicer.org>

RADIO: KGLH 96.9 FM



2024

SUNDAYS

Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday

8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

9:15 A.M. Coffee

10:00 A.M. Worship in Sanctuary

Also Facebook Live & on Radio 96.9 FM

Also on TV - Channel 18 or Channel 181

Sundays 2:30 pm, Tuesdays

11:30 am & 8:30 pm and

Thursdays 8:00 am & 5:00 pm