

2025



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hope Scope

*But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation
say continually, "Great is the LORD!"*

Psalm 40 (NRSV)

It being very nearly 2025, lots of people will be thinking about resolutions for the new year. I have never been a big one for resolutions because I was never very good at keeping them for more than a few days. But as we look at this part of the 40th Psalm, we can see that it gives us some guidance for the coming year.

There will be lots of things that go wrong in 2025. That will be true for us and for just about everybody that we know. And we could just make that the story of 2025. But there will be blessings, too. And maybe not everybody will notice those. But our God has given us eyes to see the blessings.

As we notice these blessings, what if we not only remembered God's goodness to us, but also said—maybe out loud—even for people to hear, "Great is the Lord!" or something like that? It would probably be good for us, and certainly be good for others, if we were to notice, out loud, the goodness of God, and attribute that goodness to God. If we did that, people would begin to understand that, whatever they believe about good things happening, we believe that each of those good things is a gift to us from God.

It might help us to remember how good our God is to us. And it might help some others to understand the truth about our blessings.

What if you were to clip this verse from this page and tape it on your bathroom mirror, or some other prominent place where you would see it every day? If you were to read this every morning for a year, do you suppose your perspective would begin to change? And what do you suppose would happen to the perspective of those who encounter you on a regular basis?

It's an idea. I think I will try it.

Many blessings in the coming year!

Brian Jones

At its December 2nd meeting, the Session:

- * Approved the hiring of Stephanie Bents as the part-time Ministry & Staff Assistant for 15 hours per week;
- * Approved the 2025 budget and recommended approval of the Pastoral Ministry section by the congregation;
- * With appreciation, received an inventory and long-term maintenance plan from the Property Committee;
- * Approved the church attending the movie Drummer Boy Christmas Live by For King & Country at the Spicer Cinema on December 10 and the church paying for the tickets of the youth who attend;
- * Approved insurance coverage through Auto-Owners Insurance at an annual premium of \$10,967.84; and
- * Recommended approval of the following slate of candidates for a three-year term on the Session: Jerry Bents, Larry Bratsch and Howard Jones.

The following volunteered to serve communion on Tuesday, December 24th, at the 5:00 p.m. worship service: Steve Barney, Jody Leason, Bob Sampson and Alisa Taatjes.



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FINANCE REPORT

	NOV	Year to Date 11/30/2024	Year to Date Monthly Average
Income	\$19,747.80	\$243,097.14	\$22,099.74
Expenses	\$32,073.88	\$265,328.78	\$24,120.80
Net Profit (Loss)	(\$12,326.08)	(\$22,231.64)	
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses			\$26,118.65
Per Capita Assessment for 2024			\$7,425.00
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 11/30/2024			\$3,558.48

Kristene Foreman, Treasurer

Christian Education Youth and Families

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Matthew 2: 10-11

The Magi

Epiphany is celebrated on January 6. It is when we celebrate the wisemen visiting Jesus and the significance of their visit. They came from the east representing the Gentiles (non-Jewish people) worshiping Jesus too. This savior is for US too! The gifts have meaning also. Gold is for royalty-kings, frankincense represents God, and myrrh is an oil to anoint the bodies of the deceased, representing Jesus' humanity.

So, there is quite a lot to celebrate about Epiphany. However, it is easy to overlook this day because we have just finished with the huge celebration of Christmas. If January 6 comes and goes without much fanfare, it is never too late to read the story in Matthew 2 and maybe sing the chorus of “We Three Kings” and be grateful for the roles of the Magi in God’s great plan for us.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped with our November and December events!! There are many who make them happen and many who fly under the radar. Thank you for sharing your gifts and time, especially in this busy world we live in.

Fridge Bridge

Wednesday, January 8th Family meal and regular Wednesday classes resume

Sunday, January 19th Handbells rehearsal at 8:50am

Tuesday, January 21st CEYF committee meeting at 6:30pm

Sunday, January 26th Handbells rehearsal 8:50am

Sunday, February 2nd Handbells rehearsal and FUN Day at River of Hope
Youth Center 4:00-5:30 for ALL youth

Wednesday, February 5th Family meal at 5:45pm





On November 24, the kids made ornaments for our tree in our fellowship hall. I was too busy helping and missed pictures with the kids but these are the finished products.

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Christmas program on December 8 – “Beginning at the Manger”







Advent Fun Hour on December 15 – FUN TIME!



Galaxy S22



Galaxy S22

Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones



NOVEMBER 2024 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

THE FOOD PANTRY



In November, The Food Pantry reached another record of **223 households** served- including 371 adults, 237 children and 62 seniors-distributing a total of 13,416 pounds of food! The Link was also able to provide 100 families with Thanksgiving meals this year thanks to Thrivent Financial, The Open Door, Crossroads Community Church and individual community members!

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.

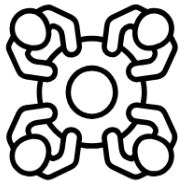
In November, your donations were able to support **129 families** by helping with medical bills and prescription cost, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic household needs including clothing, winter gear, dishes and furniture!

WILDCAT BACKPACK AND SNACK PANTRY



The Wildcat Backpack Program is again providing students from NLS for the weekend. Currently, there are **131 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:

SHOPPERS FOR CHRISTMAS JOY! 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!



Please come for cake and coffee during coffee hour on Sunday, January 5th to help Ruth Birkeland and her family celebrate Ruth's 95th birthday! (on the day!!)

**January
CARE Pantry Challenge
is.....
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes and
Mouthwash**



JANUARY COFFEE SERVERS

January 5: Deb & Myron Ficek

January 12: Alisa & Duane Taatjes

January 19: Sue & Tim Block

January 26: Kelli & Matt Haglund



Prayer Requests



Members with Health Issues:

Maggie Harp, Shayla Sampson, Elroy Jones, Darlene Thompson, Bob Hinderks

Family and Friends with Health Issues:

Isabelle McBride (Skylar King's cousin) Etta Holmgren (Charlotte DeLong's neighbor)

Lisa Swanson Brenda (Jonelle Foreman's sister-in-law)

Galen (Friend of Mike Carlson) Dick Bratsch (Larry's brother)

Grieving:

Family of Judy Heath, Family of Delroy Haverly, Family of Nancy Luker (Jennie (Jason) Bents' Grandmother), Family of Lee Rients (Neighbor of Steve Barney), Family of Kathy Jansen (Service in the spring), Family of Chuck Gratz (Julie Ehrlich's brother)

Care Facilities:

Jerry Gault (Prairie Senior Cottages, 1705 19th Ave. SW-Willmar), Shar Williams (Carris Health Care Center, 1801 Willmar Ave. SW), David Carlson (Bethesda North Pointe), Jeanette Gault (GlenOaks), Betty Harder (Bethesda North Pointe), 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

January Deacons of the Month: Julie & Bob Ehrlich

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WEBSITE: <http://hopechurchspicer.org>

RADIO: KGLH 96.9 FM



2025

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