



November 29, 2018

**Informational Meeting  
Topic Future Facilities  
Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
11:00 in the Fellowship Hall**

Text of President Reno's November 18<sup>th</sup>  
Temple Talk:

*On the behalf of the Church Council, I want to thank you for your patience in matters surrounding the un-solicited offer that we have in hand to purchase this property.*

*As you may recall, it was a month ago that another Christian Congregation, which currently meets in a rented space, asked through a local realtor if they could view our property. This realtor had shown them multiple other sites, which they did not feel fit their needs for a church building. We gave them permission to walk through the building, and that walk through culminated in a written offer of \$250,000, which is \$50,000 more than what we paid for the property 7 years ago.*

*At that time, the Council did inform our membership that the offer was made, and that we would proceed in seeking the best offer from this congregation, with all contingencies in place, because only the membership of Hope Lutheran can enter into any agreement to sell or buy real property.*

*At the same time, there was made public that another local congregation was looking to sell their facilities and move to another location. So, the Church Council, did visit that facility and found that it has some structural and mechanical issues that concern us.*

*In that same week, with continued offers and counter offers, the Church Council did authorize me to sign a purchase agreement for \$275,000. This offer is contingent upon our congregation's approval, on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2019. If we were to build or relocate, in order to take advantage of this offer, we would have until the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2020, to vacate this property.*

*So, on this past Wednesday night, the Church Council has set Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> to be an Informational Meeting of the congregation. We will convene the meeting at 11:00 in the fellowship hall. I say again this is an informational meeting only....for presentation and questions. No vote on anything is being planned, nor could be done without prior congregational notification.*

*During the meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will present information on options concerning our facilities. These options include the current offer of \$275,000 on our existing building, rough cost estimates for a new building, options on purchasing an existing church facility in Huron, additions or improvements to our current building or no changes at all.*

*As a side note, please know that the Building Fund balance is currently just over \$159,000.*

*Again, please plan to join us on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> for a time to share information and field questions. This meeting is for informational purposes only and we will allow time for questions.*

*I encourage all of us, to prayerfully consider the options we may have before voting on our path at a later date to be announced in January.*

*Feel free to contact any of our Council member with questions or concerns. Thank you!*

**Hope Lutheran Church Council**

*President—Jared Reno*

*Vice President/Staff Relations—Matt Zomer*

*Secretary/Stewardship—Mary Moe*

*Treasurer/Finance—Holly Bouvette*

*Education—Shari Lord*

*Evangelism, Missions—Marc Fenske*

*Fellowship/Family Life—Barb Bublitz*

*Properties—Bill Campbell*

*Worship—Danette Peterson*

Each year there are 4-5 openings on the Council, as council members serve two-year terms.

Please prayerfully consider how you can serve your church family on the council or a committee, teaching, helping during worship or in the kitchen.

**Lifetouch will take pictures for the updated directory at Hope on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**There are still a few time slots available. Please contact Barb Bublitz or Pastor Tom if you have any questions about the photo sessions.**



Thanks to those who contributed toward Operation Christmas Child. The Sunday School children were able to pack 45 boxes this year.

## Family Christmas Program



This annual program, featuring Hope Lutheran's children and youth, will be held **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

**A baked potato feed will be held beginning at 5:30 pm on December 19th.** Please invite your family and friends to join us for both the program and the meal!

**Children from Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will practice for the Christmas program during the Sunday School Hour during December**

Recent gifts authorized by the Mission & Evangelism Committee to our mission partners:

Salvation Army:	\$500
<i>(plus the items collected during Worship in September)</i>	
Plus One Guidance Center:	\$500
Abbott House:	\$500
LCMC:	\$500
Augustana District/LCMC:	\$750
Luther House of Studies Endowment	\$500

**Check out the Mission Board in the Narthex!**



### The 2018 Annual Meeting of Hope Lutheran Church

will be Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am.  
Watch for more information in January.

All Committee Annual Reports are due to President Jared Reno **no later than Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.**



### Brief Financial Update

Questions? Please contact Treasurer Holly Bouvette.

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
Balance Sheet  
As of October 31, 2018

#### ASSETS

##### CURRENT ASSETS

General Fund	\$22,360.44
Building Fund	\$159,901.48
Contingency Fund	\$51,493.23
Memorial Fund	\$21,930.78
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$255,685.93</b>

##### FIXED ASSETS

Equipment/Furnishings	\$41,784.18
Land and Buildings	\$294,972.08
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>\$336,756.26</b>

##### TOTAL ASSETS

**\$592,442.19**

#### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities (Payroll taxes)	\$302.36
Equity	\$592,139.83
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$592,442.19</b>

#### Hope Lutheran Church

General Fund Budget vs. Actuals  
January 1 – October 31, 2018

	2018 Annual Budget	Actual thru 10/31/2018
<b>INCOME</b>		
General Fund Offering	\$171,398.00	\$133,478.01
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$150.00	\$60.89
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$171,548.00</b>	<b>\$133,538.90</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Operating Expenses	\$147,548.00	\$120,794.05
Transfers to Building Fund	\$24,000.00	\$18,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$171,548.00</b>	<b>\$138,794.05</b>

As of October 31st, our Expenses have exceeded Income by \$5,255.16 for 2018

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The Church Council thanks the members and friends who have been faithful in your support of the mission and ministry of our congregation.

*thanks & giving*

**End of the Year Giving must be in on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> to be considered 2018 income and reflected on the 2018 giving statements.**



### Christmas Poinsettias

We are taking orders for poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary Christmas Eve. **Cost of the flowers is \$8.00.** You

may take the poinsettias to beautify your home following Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship. **The order envelopes are in the pew pads and at the Welcome Center.**

**STILL NEEDED:** A couple more Confirmed Youth or Adults to serve as **Substitute Sunday School Teachers.** Contact Shari Lord (350-0063) if you are willing to serve in this capacity.

## DECEMBER

### BIG dates to remember!

Sun 12/2	9:30 AM	Advent Worship w/Communion
	10:30 AM	Coffee Fellowship
	10:45 AM	Sunday School - CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE
	11:00 AM	Question & Answer Session in Fellowship Hall
	11:45 AM	Senior High Youth at Zomer's
Mon 12/3	2 - 8 PM	Lifetouch Photos
Wed 12/5	5:30 PM	Confirmation Supper
	6:00 PM	Confirmation
	7:00 PM	Bible Survey Study – Session 6
	8:00 PM	Mission/Evangelism Committee
Sun 12/9	9:30 AM	Advent Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship
	10:45 AM	Sunday School - CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE
Wed 12/12	5:30 PM	Confirmation Supper
	6:00 PM	Confirmation
	7:00 PM	Bible Survey Study – Session 7
	8:00 PM	Church Council
Sun 12/16	9:30 AM	Advent Worship w/Communion followed by Coffee Fellowship
	10:45 AM	Sunday School/CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE
	7:00 PM	Our Home Center Christmas
Wed 12/19	5:30 PM	Baked Potato Supper
	7:00 PM	Family Christmas Program
Sun 12/23	9:30 AM	Advent Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship
		NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
Mon 12/24	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship w/Holy Communion
Sun 12/30	9:30 AM	Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship – BRING GOODIES TO SHARE!
		NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

A printable calendar can also be downloaded from our church website: [www.hopelutheranhuron.com](http://www.hopelutheranhuron.com)

### Ethiopia News and Prayer Requests:

Through the Augustana District, of which Dr. Mike Fuchs is the Vice President, we have learned of some exciting news in Ethiopia.

In 2013, with a grant of \$25,000 from the District, Pastor Gemechis Buba began Leadstar Academy. This was begun as a distributive learning center for training pastors as well as a master's level program geared at raising up leaders for the nation. In five years, this has grown to serving over 5,000 students each year, as well as hosting three tv stations which broadcast Christian news and programing across the nation and beyond.

Of second note, Ethiopia has elected a new Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed. The prime minister, a graduate of Leadstar, is a Christian man who is finding ways to unite the Oromo and Amharic people (two largest tribes) in his new administration. His work has not been embraced by all, as his security detail has had to be strengthened due to three assassination attempts on his life.

So....please pray.

- First a prayer of thanksgiving for the ministry we helped to start through the Augustana District.
- Second, please pray for Prime Minister Ahmed as he brings his faith and vision to his nation, that God may bless him, and empower him to God's glory!

Thrivent **Choice Dollars** – don't forget to designate them!



Have you used your **Action Team Dollars**?

#### Recent Families using Thrivent Action Teams:

- Rich & Pat Reimer – \$250 toward the meal for the Family Christmas Program Night
- Tony & Barb Lorenz - \$250 toward the Christmas Outreach to Our Home
- Mark Christenson - \$250 toward promo and equip. for Augie Worship Night Ministry
- Pastor Tom & Janet - \$250 toward Advent Care Packages for University/Vo-Tech Students

## ***The Preacher's Ponderings***

*"I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

**Jeremiah 29:11**

"7" – The Lucky Number!

In October, my family was blessed with a recognition of our seven years among you. And, of course, "7" was meaningful for the whole of the congregation, since it had been seven years, this past May, from the initial plans to give birth to this congregation in which we all serve, and which serves us.

From a strong, yet still humble start, we have now cemented our place in this community as a congregation that is faithful to God's call to be a witness to the saving faith that we declare in Christ alone! Oh, there are other faithful congregations in Huron, but our family of faith has defied the odds. I say, defy the odds, because according to recent studies just over 50% of new mission start churches are still in kingdom work past the first five years. And now that we are at seven years of ministry together, we ought to be thankful for what has been, but also eager to see what God has in store for us.

The scripture above, from the prophet Jeremiah, has been a sustaining scripture for me...and for others. So much so, that two of our recent confirmands chose that passage as their confirmation verse. Its power is both in its promise as well as in the faith of those who claim it as their own.

But people who say that living in faith is easy.....well, that's not always the case.

Seven years ago, I had no idea where God was going to lead my family. I had resigned from a denomination that no longer embraced the Word of God as formative for Christian life. And this left me adrift in not knowing what God might have in store for me. But, as someone wiser than me once said.....*"when God closes a door, He opens a window"*. And that window of hope and restoration was a newly forming congregation that had just taken on the name of Hope Lutheran!

At one time or another, many of us have experienced such a time of being adrift; whether in church home, vocation or relationships. But, the promise of God still remains..... *"He has plans for us... plans for welfare and not for evil, to give us a future and a hope."*

At this time in the life of our congregation, we need to be open to hear and accept what plans God has for us. Not just in matters of where we come together for worship, study and fellowship....but also plans for what God has in store for us in more deeply fulfilling our calling to *Make Disciples of Jesus Christ*.

Change is never easy, but the fruits of change often bring about something more vibrant and more beautiful, if they are done according to God's plan.

So, let us listen for God's call to us....let us use collective talents, wisdom and gifts to let the only one who is ever faithful, work His work in our lives.

*To give us a future and a hope!*



*In His Exciting Service,  
Pastor Tom*

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