

News of Hope

Hope Lutheran Church December 2017

Advent Pot-Luck Supper & Candlelight Prayer Service December 21st

Everyone is invited to slow down during this busy holiday season, and enjoy a pot-luck meal together at 6:00pm and then worship at 6:45pm, using the Holden's Evening Prayer service. Our Prayer Team will be present to offer anointing with oil, and laying on of hands with prayer for healing of body, mind, and spirit. We all have wounds and brokenness in our lives. It is important to bring ourselves deliberately and expectantly to Jesus, the great physician. Everyone is encouraged to attend this evening as a family, this will



take the place of H2H Confirmation Class and 5th Youth Group this week. *Please sign-up (call 492-2099 or email office@hope-jordan.org) to bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided.*



More than 800 million people — that's 1 in 8 people in our world today —

are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. This year we are concentrating on purchasing animals and feeding refuge families. Look for the tree in the narthex with the following ornaments available:

⇒ Chicks	\$10
⇒ Rooster	\$15
⇒ Honeybees	\$20
⇒ Pig	\$30
⇒ Goat	\$50
⇒ Pair of Goats	\$100
⇒ Feed Refuge Family	\$25

Now through December 31, take the ornament(s) off the tree, bring it to the office along with your payment. If wanted, you can get a card to give to a person if you purchased the animals in honor of someone. Our goal is to raise \$2000 for ELCA Good Gifts. If the tree is fully undecorated by December 31, we have surpassed our goal.

Thank you for your generosity.

Children's Advent Service December 17th - 10:30 a.m.

Please come enjoy one of Hope Lutheran's highlights of the Christmas season! The youngest voices of our congregation have a special Christmas story to share with us all.

Desserts and good conversation will be shared immediately following the program.





Blessed Advent

Advent has always been my favorite season of the year. I like the fact that we can look confidently into the future knowing that Christmas will come, even though we have several weeks to get there. A well observed Advent can provide a deepening of our spiritual lives.

Waiting: Being able to wait, or perhaps we should say patience, is a virtue that most of us don't want. After all, we live in the age of the ATM machine, the Microwave oven, streaming, live casting and purchasing anything we want in the world and having it delivered to us in 2 days via Amazon Prime. Our desire to live in a world where our needs and wants are instantaneously satisfied is an illusion. In real life the test results don't come back within 30 minutes. In real life the traffic is slow and it takes longer to get where we are going than we expected. In real life the surgery and recovery is a matter of months. In real life it takes a long time to re-establish the trust that has been broken between friends or family.

Advent is the spoiler to delusions of instant gratification. The lesson to be learned is that within the waiting there are opportunities to grow, understand and mature as a human being. Tom Petty once sang that "the waiting is the hardest part" true that... but it seems that the hard parts of the journey tend to be the parts where we grow in our experience of our need to trust God.

Light shines in the darkness: As we enter into these Sundays of Advent, here in the northern hemisphere, we are encountering the darkest days of the year. The darkness grows slightly longer each day. And what do we do in the midst of the darkness?; we light a candle. As the darkness gets longer we light an additional candle and we keep it going until the darkness is in retreat and the days grow longer.

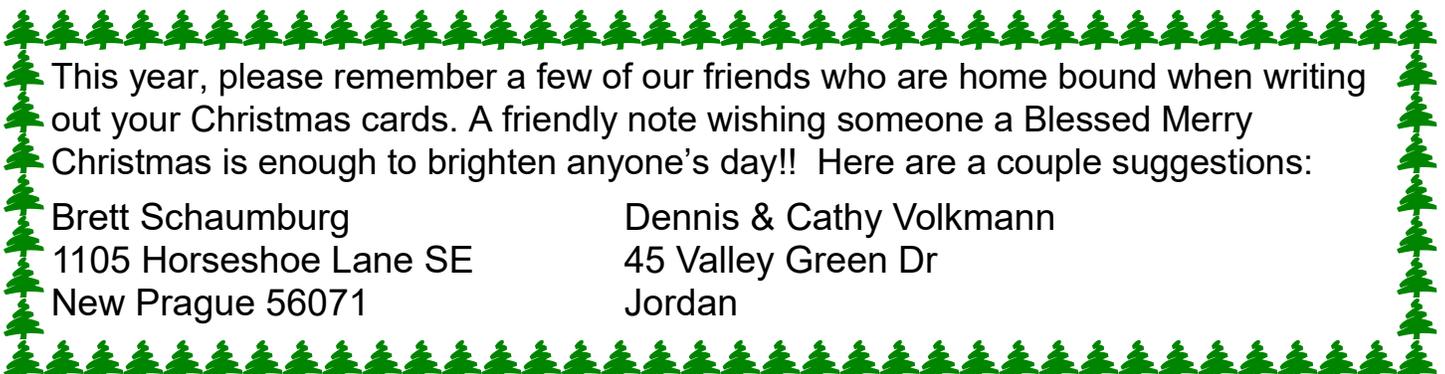
So it is with life. There are dark times in life that disorient even greatest of optimists. But in Advent we learn the universal truth that the light will not be denied! That the light shines precisely in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it! (John 1) In Advent we are reminded of a perpetual light that shines to remind us of the hope we have in Christ.

Preparation: There is great wisdom in preparing for the journey ahead of us. How do we do that? We gather to hear the word of God gladly. We join in the fellowship of Christian community. We partake of the sacraments. We participate in the mutual consolation of the saints; we open our hearts to each other and share life's ups and downs in the presence of God.

And perhaps something we don't think about too much; but we look to mentors who witness to us how to navigate the realities of life. We are not just puppets on the end of God's cosmic string, but we have been given charge over many things and the freedom to make a variety of choices. The more prepared, or maybe I should use the word 'grounded' we are the better those choices and responsibilities will turn out.

Enjoy this Advent season and have an eye out for the lessons it might teach. Christmas will come; but until then we have much to learn, ponder and even work to do!

Pastor Steve

 This year, please remember a few of our friends who are home bound when writing out your Christmas cards. A friendly note wishing someone a Blessed Merry Christmas is enough to brighten anyone's day!! Here are a couple suggestions:

Brett Schaumburg	Dennis & Cathy Volkmann
1105 Horseshoe Lane SE	45 Valley Green Dr
New Prague 56071	Jordan



Families & Individuals Sharing Hope
A PARTNER NETWORK

December 14th **FISH** Meeting ~
"Winterize Your Soul"
9-10:30am at Lions Park-Youth
Building

1099 Adams Street South
Shakopee, MN 55379

Join us to learn how to stay warm and
"Hygge" this winter season. Also learn
about different activities to keep your
mind, body and soul active.

Hygge - pronounced "hue-guh", a
Danish lifestyle concept that loosely
translates to coziness.

RSVP: fish@fishpartnernetwork.org or
call 952-440-3600

Men of Hope

The men's group meets on the 1st
Saturday of each month at The Feedmill
Restaurant for breakfast. So, mark your
calendar for December 2nd @ 7:30 am,
and please feel free to invite anyone you
know that might be looking for a new
church home or just some good
Christian guys to hang out with.



**Need to activate the prayer chain? Contact Sarah
Gavert at 952.463.6149 or email:
slgavert@gmail.com**

Happy Birthday to You!

If an adult you know has a birthday in December, but is not
listed here, please call the church office at 492-2099.

1 Jennifer Schultz

5 Lisa Evenson

6 Joan Hafslund

7 Amy Bounds, Randy Mattson

9 Jamie Polley

10 Jason Pelowski

11 Dean Christiansen

15 Rod Lieske, Karis Blume, Kelly Lorenz,

Tanner Oakes

17 Monica Fremming

18 Harry Janssen

20 Kari Schmidt

21 Liz Thaves

27 Bob Templin



Parents Corner. . . .

Large family holiday gatherings can be tough for *lots* of reasons. Over-stimulated, over-sugared, over-excited and under-slept kids are simply *going* to struggle. But there may also be some relational dynamics that complicate things when you all get together. See if you relate to this pattern:

1. You feel anxious around the watchful, possibly critical eye of parents or other relatives.
2. You work harder to keep kids in line and are tougher on them than usual.
3. Your kids (who are already extra stressed) sense your angst and act up *more*.
4. Gramma or Grampa (or others) intervene to keep youngsters in line, with good intentions but unhelpful strategies.
5. You feel embarrassed, undermined, and maybe frustrated or resentful.
6. Kids watch the power struggle between the adults and are left feeling more stressed and insecure than ever.
7. Repeat.

Is the holiday stew smelling rotten yet? If so, this post is for you.

Consider how confusing and frustrating it is for *you* when you don't know what to expect in chaotic situations. Then, add "who's-in-charge confusion" to the sugar, over-stimulation, etc., that is stressing your kids, it's clear - they need you to deal with as many of those stressors as possible, so you all can enjoy the holiday.

Related to the "Who's in charge" question - You can communicate ahead of time to your parents or other relatives:



- You don't have to ignore kids' misbehavior. You have an important role here in a peaceful connected holiday. But especially since we don't see you everyday, I want my kids to really *enjoy* their time with you.
- If one of my kids is struggling or misbehaving, all that is needed from you is, **"It seems like you're having a hard time. Do you need a hug, or do you need some help from your mom or dad?"**

This communicates to the child, "We notice a problem that needs to be dealt with, and we want to help you through it," but it supports both your authority as the parent and a connected relationship with grandparents and other relatives.

Clarifying with your parents or other relatives, and empowering them with this specific helpful strategy might be all you need to refresh the joy in your Christmas!

What is needed:

Kitchen table and chairs

What Created the need:

Formerly homeless youth and new single mom moved into her first apartment this fall. She needs a kitchen table and chairs to finish off her new apartment. She starts school and work next week, so it would be great if they could be delivered this week. *Please contact the church office if you're able to help!*



~ **Prayer Concerns of Our Family and Friends** ~

Mary Joyce - recovering from surgery

Rich - pain relief

Brett Schaumburg - hemophilia

Trenton - paralysis due to FB injury

Paul - cancer

David - heart problems

Peggy - colon cancer/gall bladder surgery

Sharon - lung cancer

Clarence - failing health

Linda - broken knee cap

Gary - muscle disease

John - Heart surgery

Dillon - bruised radial nerve

Claire Olivia Lindell - multiple health issues

Mary - lung cancer

Kevin - pain relief

Deb - back surgery

Jody - ovarian Cancer

Jerry - failing health

Kathy - heart condition

Carol - pancreatic cancer

Connie - cervical cancer

Sue - breast cancer

~ **Pray for the following ministries & fellowship groups** ~

⇒ Pastor Steve and his ministry, F.I.S.H., Grief Support Group, Knitters,

⇒ All of our Choir's ~ Joy, Praise, 5-8 and Worship

⇒ Kids of the Kingdom, 5th Grade Youth Group, H2H, High School Youth Group, Mission Trip Group

⇒ The Families of Families Moving Forward



Our December Family of the Month ~ Joseph and Mary

You may have heard of them.....Joseph and Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem to register because of a census being taken of the entire Roman world. While there, Mary went into labor and the only place they could find to shelter in was a stable. So Mary gave birth to Jesus, the King of Kings, in a stable. Shepherds, who had been sent by Angels, came to visit them. Magi, following a star, brought them gifts to honor the birth of a king. Joseph, Mary and Jesus moved to Jerusalem to present Jesus to the Lord as part of purification rites required by the Law of Moses. They were also visited by Simeon, a devout man and a prophet named Anna. Mary and Joseph did everything required by the Law of the Lord and then returned to Nazareth.

Jesus grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom and the grace of God. Of course, there is more to this story! You can read all about it in the New Testament of the Bible. There are four Gospel Books; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and they all tell about Jesus' life as an adult and how He came to save the world! As for Hope Lutheran Church...Jesus has been around from the beginning! Between Jesus, His Father and the Holy Spirit they have pretty much every aspect of our church covered. Nothing makes them happier than to see the members of Hope embracing the stranger, feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. And don't worry, they plan on sticking around!



Advent & Christmas at Hope Lutheran

Sunday Worship

Sunday, Dec 3rd

Regular Worship

Sunday, Dec 10th

6th, 7th & 8th grade students will help Hans Peterson lead Worship at 9:00 am

Sunday, Dec 17th

In addition to our Love Light 9:00 am service our talented Kids of the Kingdom will present a wonderful Advent Celebration at 10:30 am.

Advent Pot-luck Supper & Worship Wednesday, December 20th

See the article on the first page of this newsletter for the details of this meaningful evening at Hope.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Come and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior! On Christmas Eve our worship will be candlelit and will include special music and encouragement as we worship together.

Christmas Eve Worship 9:00 am and 4:30 pm (No Adult Education or KOK Sunday School)

New Year's Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 31st

Worship at 9:00 am (no Adult Education or KOK Sunday School)

Church Office Hours ~ The office will be closed on December 25th and January 1st.
In case of emergency, call Pastor Steve at: 952-210-6180.



The Gift of Generosity

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported Hope Lutheran this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions. We look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Contact the church office for more information.

Who's Coming To Dinner? Saturday, Dec. 9 @ 6:30pm

"Who's Coming to Dinner" is a great way to enjoy food and fellowship while getting to know fellow congregation members. If you talk to past participants, you will find out that these dinners are just plain fun, and that EVERYONE should participate. This is a great way to make connections with people you may not get to know otherwise.

WHO'S
coming
to Dinner

How does it work? The host provides the main dish and dinner attendees are asked to bring a dish to share. The host does not know who's coming to dinner. The dinner attendees know where they are going but don't know who's joining them. Sounds like fun, doesn't it? Please e-mail Darlene at darlenemarte@hotmail.com or call her at 492-6428 to sign up and let her know whether or not you are willing to host. *Adults only please.*

We all have to walk through some bewildering hard times in this life of constant change. Are you struggling with the pain of any kind of grief or loss? We don't have to walk alone in our grief. If you feel that sharing your experience with other sisters and brothers who are struggling would be helpful you are invited to attend a grief support group that will meet from 7 to 8 pm on the second Monday of each month. Pastor Steve will facilitate the group and give helpful resources and processes to work through the pain of loss.



Grief Support

Hope's Women's Group meets on Thurs. Dec. 7th at Brentwood Apartments in their Club Room at 6:00pm. Please bring a dish to pass, and a \$5.00 wrapped gift. RSVP to Kari Schmidt if you are coming at 612-554-8192 or email at kari2lynn@yahoo.com.



Are you a Thrivent member? If so, you may have "Choice Dollars" available for donation to a qualified organization of your choosing. In 2016 over 335,000 Thrivent members chose to direct Choice Dollars to more than 32,000 churches, schools, and other non-profits, including Hope Lutheran Church. Hope received \$2,112 through Thrivent Choice Dollars in 2016. Thank you to those Thrivent members who have chosen Hope for their "Choice Dollars".

Go to thrivent.com/choice and follow the instructions, or call 800-THRIVENT (847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice." "Choice Dollars" need to be renewed every year. Call today to designate Hope as your choice for "Choice Dollars."

 **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®**
Let's thrive!

**Don't forget to direct
Choice Dollars®**

Youth & Family Stuff

In this season of gratitude, please join us in giving a huge **THANK YOU** to ALL of the individuals who donate their time and talents toward the fabulous Kids of the Kingdom teaching team!

Leah Holmberg - Music Leader, Advent Program Coordinator
Kristi Narum - Pianist

Jen Pasek & Angie Wood - Curriculum Coordinators

Nancy Christensen & Lindsey Kulics - Materials Coordinators

Jen Pasek - Pre-K Teacher

Ashley Kempf, Grace Kinkeade, Lydia Cook - Kindergarten Teachers

Bethany & Brian Nissen - 1st and 2nd Grade Teachers

Jamie Lower - 3rd Grade Teacher

Jess Felten & Lanae McLellan - 4th Grade Teachers

With sincere gratitude for each one of you,
 Sheunna Jabs & Hope Mack



6th, 7th & 8th Grade Students Lead Worship Sunday, December 10th

Hans Peterson will be leading our Middle School students in a special Advent worship service. All Middle School students are expected to participate, and you can contact Hans Peterson with questions at 492-5314.

KOK Advent Program Rehearsal, December 16th

We will meet on Saturday, December 17th from 9:30-11:00 to prepare for our special service on the 17th. ALL kids who are participating are expected to be there.

KOK Advent Presentation Sunday, December 17th 10:30am

All Kids of the Kingdom children are invited to participate in our annual Children's Advent Service. Our kids will teach our congregation about Advent and about Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace. Wear your Sunday best and invite your family to attend. Everyone is invited to enjoy cookies and juice in the fellowship hall following the program. We ask KOK families to provide a plate of cookies or treats for our reception.



The annual Operation Christmas Child shoe box packing event was a success! We packed 100 boxes and donated \$1,565 because of your generosity. These gifts are sure to brighten many children's faces this holiday season. Thank you to all who donated and participated in this event! We are looking forward to next year!

Holiday Schedule



Wed. December 20	NO Children's Choir, Youth Groups or H2H (Family Advent Meal & Worship Service)
Sun. December 24	NO Kids of the Kingdom
Wed. December 27	NO Children's Choir, 5th Youth Group or H2H
Sun. December 31	NO Kids of the Kingdom
Wed. January 3	NO 5th Youth Group or H2H, Children's Choirs resume
Sun. January 7	Kids of the Kingdom resumes

December Service Team Schedule

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24 9:00am	December 24 4:30pm	December 31
Greeter	Tammy Schleifer	Connie Crimi	Connie Crimi	Connie Crimi	Franck's	Franck's
Ushers	Nissen's Paul Engfer	H2H Students Paul Engfer	John Engfer _____	John Engfer _____	Paul Engfer _____	John Engfer McClellan's
Communion Prep	Ginny Engfer	_____	Ginny Engfer	Tammy Schleifer	_____	_____
Communion Serve	Cindy Lind Lanae McClellan	H2H Students H2H Students	Val and Mike Franck	_____	Mary and Paul Engfer	Lanae McClellan _____
Communion Clean-up	Ginny Engfer	Georgette Kearin	Ginny Engfer	Tammy Schleifer	_____	_____
Read & Prayers	Nissen's	H2H Students	_____	_____	Nissen's	_____
Provide Treats	Jamie Lower Tammy Schleifer	Connie Crimi Jamie Lower	Connie Crimi Franck's	_____		McClellan's _____
Coffee Clean-up	Larry Warden	Larry Warden	Larry Warden	Larry Warden		Larry Warden
Media Specialist	_____	H2H	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acolyte	Charlie Valle	Lily Williams	Kay Arntson	Jenna Kluxdal	Ashley Larson	Dylan Lorenz

News of our Members & Community

~ **Congratulations and God's Blessings** to Connor Brecken Petersen who was welcomed into God's family through the sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 5th. Connor is the son of Alissa & Christopher Petersen and the grandson of Carlonna & Denny Lindell. His sponsors are Jessica & Cory Petersen.

~ **THANK YOU** to all of those who volunteered to drive for Meals on Wheels last month! A meal and your smile has a huge impact on those in need!!

~ **THANK YOU** to all who bought rice krispie bars and brownies from the High School Youth. We brought in over \$160 to go towards the 2018 Kansas City Mission Trip!

~ **THANK YOU** to the generosity of those who gave financially at the Thanksgiving Community Service on Nov. 21st! Over \$385 went to the Jordan Police Department supporting the Jordan Community Fund.

~ **Breakfast with Santa!** Sunday, December 10th at St. John's Church in Jordan. Pancakes, ham, eggs, OJ, coffee, and milk will be served. Family. . \$20, Adults. . \$7, 12 & under. . \$4, Under 3. . Free. Proceeds go to the food basket program sponsored by the Lions and the Jordan Fire Department.

~ **A special thank you** to Kevin and Cindy Lind for donating the beautiful sanctuary Christmas tree!



Council Minutes November 20, 2017

Meeting called to order by Curt Wicklund at 6:33pm.

Present: Curt Wicklund, Michelle Holicky, Dean Christiansen, Leah Holmberg, Pastor Steve Thompson, Kyle Narum, Tammy Schleifer, Sarah Gavert

Devotions: Pastor Steve Thompson

Agenda: Approved

October Minutes: Approved

Shared Ministry Report: Written report. Pastor Steve wanted the record to show that Sarah is doing a good job in the Shared Ministry position.

Deacon Report: Written report. Thanksgiving Service treats and coffee planned. Decorating the church set for November 27 with the Deacons providing the food-Barbecues this year! Tree is ready!

BOYEM Report: Written report. Just under \$200.00 raised from Lady A's pie sales. Youth Group Bake Sale fundraiser made @\$160.00. The bake night was a huge success with lots of energy! Shoebox money raise \$1500, should cover what we spent plus shipping. Mission Trip Meeting went well, standing room only. Anyone wanting to go will have to put down a \$50 non-refundable deposit in December.

Trustee Report: Written report. Roger and Rod have not yet met with Lucinda Meyer about storm water usage. A meeting is being set-up. Air mattresses for FMF-need to get a liner or put blanket so they can be warm. Air mattresses are cold!

Pastor Report: The Stewardship Appeal has been remarkable!! We will have a party Dec 3 to celebrate.

Old Business: The Food Shelf has declined our downstairs space.

New Business: The Council voted to have the Trustees write up and agreement for the Latino Community Church to rent our downstairs space at \$50 a week on a month to month basis.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.

Next Meeting December 18, 2017 at 7:00pm.



Like 'Hope Lutheran Church' on Facebook to receive updated information on activities and other exciting things happening at Hope!!

Date	Description	Expense	Income	Balance
12/8/2016	Barnd Electric-outdoor lighting	\$5,970		\$1,006
6/11/2017	Donation in Honor of William Tieben's		\$100	\$1,106
6/21/2017	Amazon.com-Baptism books	\$102		\$1,004
7/2/2017	Donation in Memory of Nicholas Hunstad		\$500	\$1,504
11/5/2017	Donation in Memory of Rod Boyd		\$100	\$1,604
11/5/2017	Donation in Memory of Howard Senske		\$25	\$1,629



December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:30am Men's Breakfast-Feedmill
3 8:30am Coffee Fellowship 9:00am Worship 10:15am Education Hour	4 6:30pm Knitters	5 5:00pm CoDA 7:00pm AA	6 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Yth. Pizza 7:00pm 5-8 Yth. Group 7:30pm Worship Choir 8:15pm HS Yth. Group	7 6:00pm Women's Fellowship 8:00pm AA	8	9 H2H Sunday Worship Rehearsal 1:00pm Peterson Piano Recital 6:30pm Who's Coming to Dinner?
10 8:00am Trustee Mtg. 8:30am Coffee Fellowship 9:00am Youth Led Worship w/Hans Peterson 10:15am Education Hour & Deacon Mtg.	11 7:00pm Grief Support Group	12 5:00pm CoDA 7:00pm AA	13 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Yth. Pizza & Boyem Mtg. 7:00pm 5-8 Yth. Group 7:30pm Worship Choir 8:15pm HS Yth. Group	14 8:00pm AA	15	16 Advent Program Rehearsal
17 8:30am Coffee Fellowship 9:00am Love Light Worship 10:30am KoK Advent Program	18 6:30pm Knitters 7:00pm Council	19 5:00pm CoDA 7:00pm AA	20 No Youth Events 6:00pm Advent Pot- Luck Supper 6:45pm Advent Prayer Service 7:30pm Worship Choir	21 8:00pm AA	22	23
24 9:00am Christmas Eve Worship 4:30pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 <i>Merry Christmas Office Closed</i>	26 5:00pm CoDA 7:00pm AA	27 Christmas Break-No Activities	28 8:00pm AA	29	30
31 8:30am Coffee Fellowship 9:00am Worship						

**Hope Lutheran Church
Jordan, Minnesota**

Address Service Requested

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Jordan, Minnesota 55352

News of Hope is published monthly by Hope Lutheran Church,
201 Hope Avenue, Jordan MN.

You can reach Hope Lutheran Church at (952) 492-2099,
FAX (952) 492-6884. Check us out on the web at: www.hope-jordan.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9-12, 1-4 Fri 9-12

Pastor Steve Thompson (952-210-6180)

Shared Ministry Coordinator: Sarah Gavert

Office Manager: Angie Newton

Standard

Non-profit Organization Permit # 9

Jordan MN 55352

Poinsettia Order Form



*If you would like to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, please fill out this form, and return it to the church office, or place it in the offering plate by **December 17th**, with your check made out to "Hope Lutheran Church." (colors are while they last, and may change based on availability)*



----- Pink poinsettia \$10.00

----- White poinsettia \$10.00

----- Red poinsettia \$10.00

I/We would like to place the plant in memory of _____

Or in honor of _____

By (your name) _____