

# Hope Lutheran Council – March 17, 2025

**Call to Order** – 5:03pm by Council President Clint Mack

**Present:** *Clint Mack, Kelly Lorenz, Matt Lorenz, Pastor Matt Cordes, Jess Felten, Steve McClellan, Paul Gaukstad, Sarah Gavert, Angie Newton, Molly Warmka.*

**Devotion:** Paul Gaukstad, various readings from KOK

**Agenda:** Agenda Adopted

**January 21, 2025 Minutes:** Approved with the change of “Sunny” to “Sammy”

## **Reports to Council:**

**Shared Ministry:** No written report, oral report provided by Sarah Gavert.

Mark Folkerts is interested in membership.

**Financial Reports:** Written and oral report presented by Paul Gaukstad and approved.

Interest bearing accounts have been created: \$50K – 9mo / \$20K – 5mo / \$10K – 5mo / \$10K – 5mo. They will auto renew. That leaves \$26K in General.

Short \$10K this month but income is still higher than expenses.

**Deacons:** Written and oral report provided by Matt Lorenz.

Ash Wednesday was baked potato with kid volunteers – TBD if that will be done again next year; \$296 raised for camp. 133 attendees even with the snow.

Soup and sandwiches for Lent: have food arrive earlier.

Celebrate Jordan is 1 – 4pm on Sunday, April 13.

**B.O.Y.E.M:** Written and oral report provided by Jess Felten.

Thinking of having a summer service at Lagoon Park. Work with the Deacons?  
Purpose needs to be determined: welcoming community at large like Welcome Table or a congregational celebration and day of fun. June?

Creating an alternative to camp, year-round and open to all kids; activities like theater trips, fishing, water parks, canoeing at Cedar Lake...

**Trustees:** Written and oral report provided by Steve McClellan.

Molly Warmka shared a general (draft) vision for the space update. Options to be discussed and funding sources must be identified.

Rod Lieske was approved to replace Steve Isles who was not able to complete his term.

Maggie and Brendon Butkiewicz will take over custodian duties on 3 17 25.

Unfinished business: the playground beam will be secured before the kids are out there and Angie will call Dual Air to fix the roof top unit.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Matt Cordes

Mentor program is off to a good start.

Golden Fellowship is paused and What About is complete.

**Old Business:**

1. Membership/Welcome Committee (*approved Why Membership Matters doc attached at end*)

Committee is looking at policies, process, and language. In the spirit of "All are Welcome" – the constitution offers an "or" to membership with the use of a statement of faith. Baptism and Confirmation is still the preferred way, but there is an additional route to adult membership. Council approved.

2. Values and Core Beliefs – Council Approved.

## Core Beliefs

We believe in God.

We Believe in the Holy Trinity.

We believe that everyone is created in the image of God and therein a child of God.

We believe that we find common ground on holy ground, where we put our differences aside and focus not on what makes us different, but on what we have in common.

We believe that the **“joy of the Lord is our strength” (Nehemiah 8:10).**

We believe that God has invited everyone to God’s table and we should do the same.

We believe in God’s Word, God’s Son and God’s Breath.

**We are all in on this Jesus stuff. Praise the Lord!**

## Values

Our highest value is connecting people with the Divine, which connects us with community which then connects us with meaning and purpose.

**<sup>18</sup>The Lord God said, “It is not good for the *human* to be alone...” Genesis 2:18**

3. Developing Strategic Plan for Hope Lutheran – Tabled, Matt will reach out to Synod for resources.
4. Employee Handbook Updates- Julia sent a draft to review. Clint will lead a small committee to review the handbook draft.

### New Business:

1. Bishop’s Disclosure: a special Council meeting was held on Monday, March 10 and a congregational disclosure was after Lenten service on Wednesday, March 12. She will share the information at the conference, Matt will attend.

**Adjourned:** at 6:23pm concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Molly Warmka

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Devotional Sign up for 2025:

April – Clint

May – Jess

June – Angie

July – Matt L.

August – Kelly

September – Molly

October – Steve

November – Sarah

December – Pastor Matt

## Why Membership Matters

*How is membership different from just attending service regularly?*

This community of faith provides common ground, where we put our differences aside and focus not on what makes us different, but focus on what we have in common as children of God.

Church membership builds community, accountability, and shared purpose, fostering spiritual growth and service in a safe, supportive faith environment.

By becoming a member, it allows us to better communicate with you. It allows us to better engage you in this community of faith. It allows us to better support you, and you us.

We need your gifts, your voice, your prayer, your influence, and your participation, and membership enhances all of that. We as a congregation, and we as its members, need to be held accountable; we are all in this together.

God is communal by nature. At the core of what God is, God is community—the Trinity—and the Church joins in that. We are the body of Christ, and we are profoundly connected, and membership deepens that bond.

### **What we require:**

- An affirmation of faith (see below).
- To live among God's faithful people – to do life with us.
- To hear the "Good News" of God in Christ and to share in the Lord's meal.
- To proclaim the "Good News" in both word and deed.
- To live a Christ-like life: to pray, to study, to serve, to speak truth in love, to welcome, to love like Christ does, to nurture faith and relationships, and to have an active relationship with God and this community.

**What Membership Means for You:** It deepens connection, enriches relationships, and creates a community that supports you—as you support us. You're invited to fully participate in the life of this congregation, just as we commit to walking alongside you.

**I publicly affirm my faith and commit to living into God's Covenant to the best of my ability, striving to walk in partnership with God and this faith community.**

**As part of this journey, you are invited to reflect on and share your faith story and practices below.**

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