

Arms Wide Open

Hope's Happenings

Sunday's in January

January 4th: This is the second Sunday of Christmas. Thank you to Pastor Janelle Harrison for preaching for us today. *Please stay for the special meeting following worship today.*

January 11: We celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord, recognizing all who have been baptized during the past year. Thank you Grace Lenhart for sharing the message with us.

January 18: Welcome Pastor Janelle Harrison as our Preacher this Sunday.

January 25: Our annual meeting will follow our morning worship service. Details to follow in the related article.

Special Meeting- January 4th

The Call Committee has done its due diligence and has a Pastoral Candidate of Choice for Hope Lutheran Church. Hope Lutheran's Council has approved the compensation packet for the candidate. A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 4 immediately following the church service in the sanctuary to vote on extending a Letter of Call to the Pastoral Candidate. A brief biography of the Pastoral Candidate, the Letter of Call and the compensation details will be shared with the congregation at that time. Please plan to be a part of the calling of our next pastor at Hope on January 4th.



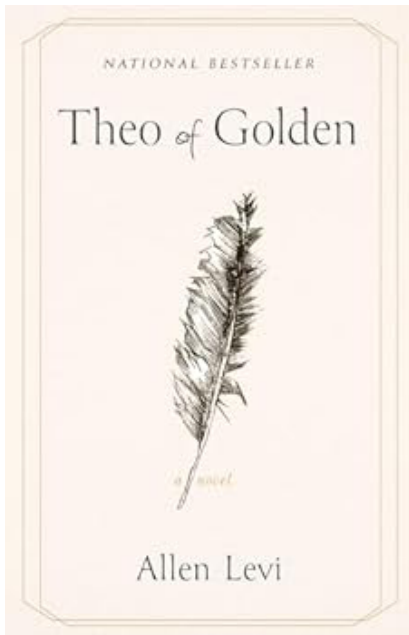
Annual Meeting - January 25

Please plan to attend our annual congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 25. Following worship, we will first get goodies in Olson Hall provided by the church council. The meeting will begin at approximately 10:30 am. (Annual reports will be available for your review when you come to church on Sunday, January 18th.)

Women's Book Club

The next gathering of the **Hope Women's Book Club** will be January 19th at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room. We will be discussing *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi.

All are invited to join.



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Thrivent Choice Dollars

Don't forget to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2025. Additional Thrivent Choice Dollars build in your account each quarter and you have until March of 2026 to donate everything that accumulated during the 2024 calendar year. By directing your Choice Dollars, Thrivent members can recommend where Thrivent distributes part of its charitable funds each year. Hope Lutheran Church is one of the many places that can receive your donation.

Just a reminder that the money you designate is Thrivent's money and you are telling Thrivent where you would like them to put those dollars.

If you have any questions, you can call Jason Miloszewicz at 715-461-0540.



Snow Policy

If the Eau Claire schools close due to snowy/bad weather, activities scheduled that day at Hope Lutheran will also be cancelled.

This is the policy for Hope activities and does not include Rachel's Place.



More Lunch Debt Paid

We have mailed another check to help with Sam Davey lunch debt. With the noisy offering and a coffee connection we have sent a second check to Sam Davey lunch debt for \$216.00. Let's try to do ONE more in January and make it even bigger.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of this great ministry to help our neighbors.



Collecting Plastic Film

Our Confirmation youth will continue collecting flimsy plastic. This is a service project to help our environment. After 1000 pounds of plastic film have been collected, the plastic will be converted into a neat park bench which the congregation will receive.

Continue to bring your plastic materials and deposit them in the recycling containers in the welcome area. Thanks for your help on this project and for helping us make the world a little cleaner place. The plan is to place the bench in the area of one of our pollinator gardens.



A Resolution of Wonder

Many of us think about making resolutions at the beginning of each year. One of the things we can resolve to do is lessen the amount of light pollution in our neighborhoods and communities.

A simple first step would be to only use the exterior lights on our homes when absolutely necessary, possibly even to add motion sensitive lights if the feeling of security is a concern.

Having darker skies benefits birds, especially during migration and the insects our birds rely on for food. Less light pollution means the ability to marvel at a night sky full of stars and appreciate the wonder of God's creation.



Thank you to our “retiring” board members who have served so faithfully this past year. Your dedication to Hope and your hard work is greatly appreciated. Another thank you goes out to those who have stepped forward to serve on church boards this coming year. Want your voice heard? Want to be on the team making changes? The boards will have vacancies for 2026 Please call the church office 715-832-1414, if you no longer wish to sit on the bleachers and watch – **GET INVOLVED!**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES. BOARD OF OUTREACH. BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD OF RACHEL’S PLACE. EXECUTIVE TEAM

Youth & Family Ministry January 2026 Schedule:



- January 4th - Worship 9:00am, JAM 10:00am,
- Congregational Special Meeting 10:00am
- January 7th - Afterschool Hours 3:00pm, Youth Group 4:30pm, Soup & Song 5:15pm
- Confirmation 6:00pm, JAM 6:00pm, HS Bible Study 7:00pm
- January 11th - Worship 9:00am, JAM 10:00am
- January 14th - Afterschool Hours 3:00pm , Youth Group 4:30pm, Dinner 5:30pm
- Confirmation 6:00pm, JAM 6:00pm, HS Bible Study 7:00pm
- January 18th - Worship 9:00am, JAM 10:00am
- January 21st - Afterschool Hours 3:00pm , Youth Group 4:30pm, Dinner 5:30pm
- Confirmation 6:00pm, JAM 6:00pm, HS Bible Study 7:00pm
- January 25th - Worship 9:00am, JAM 10:00am
- January 28th Afterschool Hours 3:00pm , Youth Group 4:30pm, Dinner 5:30pm
- Confirmation 6:00pm, JAM 6:00pm, HS Bible Study 7:00pm



Hello Hope Family, and welcome to 2026!

I'm incredibly proud of our Hope community for navigating 2025 with such flexibility, grace, and joy. Even in our months without a pastor this Hope community has stepped up, and continued sharing in deep faith, great service, and abounding hope!

Each year we have a theme as a congregation. This year's theme is ***"Arms Wide Open"***! This is pertinent as we will be transitioning both our pastoral and music leadership this Spring. Arms wide open is an intention and reminder for us to continue embracing one-another inside and outside these walls. May we continue carrying this welcoming spirit in the mission we share.

Looking to the month ahead, our normal education programming starts back up on January 4th. JAM, After School Hours, Youth Group, and Confirmation will continue as scheduled. Excitingly we'll meet for a special congregational meeting on the 4th to vote on a new pastor! Please plan to join us in person that day.

In numerology the year 2026 is a powerful "1" year, signaling resets, fresh starts, new leadership, and new beginnings. This seems to align with our journey here at hope as we anticipate the arrival of new leadership.

My prayer for our community in the year ahead is that we abound in Hope, empowered by the Holy Spirit to open our arms wide to welcome the changes and joys of the year.

Peace be with you all.

In Love,

Grace



Streaming Sunday Worship

We continue to stream our Sunday worship services over Facebook or through our website for those that can't make it in-person with us. It is amazing how many people we can reach with our streaming worship services. Hope's worship is streamed live on Sunday's via our Facebook page or through our website, hopechurchec.com.

Volunteer Schedules are Available

If you volunteer in one of our worship areas your schedules are available in the Narthex. Please pick up your schedule and make sure you will be here on the dates you have been scheduled. If you can't make that date, please try to find a replacement and let the church office know of the change.

We are always looking for more volunteers in all places. Please let Lauren know where you would like to help.

THANK YOU
volunteers

A horizontal line composed of many small, green, leaf-like or sprig-like shapes.

Ways to Give

Our congregation offers a variety of means by which you may make a offering. Besides bringing your offering in person or mailing it, Hope has several ways you can give electronically:

Through our Website- Hope's website address is www.hopechurchec.com. Once there, click on the "Give" tab. Then click on the icon "Fast and Easy Giving." That will take you to our Subsplash site.

Hope Phone App - Hope has a free phone app which will give you access to Subsplash where you can access information. From here you can click on the "Give" tab.

Text Your Gift - Text the message "give2hope" to the phone number 206-859-9409. Follow the steps to set up an account and you're on your way.

Simple Giving - You can set up an automatic pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. Forms are available in the church office and also on the church website. If you're looking on the App Store for our phone app, the icon looks like this:





Lutheran Church

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Office Hours Mon—Thur: 8:30 am–3:00pm Fri: 8:30 am–12:00 pm	Leanne O'Bryan	Dir. of Rachel's Place	2200	rachelsplacelc@gmail.com
	Korena and Stephen Covill	Custodians		
	Brian Petersen	Buildings and Grounds		
	Carol Mohr	Church President		



Hope Lutheran is a handicapped accessible congregation providing barrier-free and elevator access, marked parking spaces, large-print materials and accessible restrooms.



Download the Hope Church App on the
Apple "App Store" or Android "Google Play" platforms!