

Are you ready? Being ready for things is a goal of mine. I tend to carry way too much of, “what if this happens and I need something line\_\_\_\_\_” fill in the blank with everything from medication and bandages to flashlights and safety pins. In CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education Class), I learned that this urge to be ready probably comes from a childhood full of loss and trauma. We lost our house to a fire, my brother died, our business burned, we moved away from home and friends.... These and many other things happened in a few of my very formative years.

So, when someone asks me, “Are you ready?” They better be prepared for the many things I am ready for.

In the season of Advent, which begins Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, we are asked to make ourselves ready. Traditionally Advent was about readying ourselves for the return of Jesus Christ. Most often, in today’s world, it becomes about readying ourselves for Christmas. I think this year, we can do both.

The hymn, *Joy to The World*, has a verse that says, “*Let every heart, prepare him room*”. I think that’s a great place to start your Advent and Christmas season. Unclogging your heart and mind with the extra craziness that comes this time of year. Dusting out our old ignored corners and opening our whole selves for not just the birth but also the return of our Savior. It’s not, “Jesus is coming, look busy” instead it’s, “Jesus is coming, open and prepare your heart, your mind and your soul.”

But that can be HARD! There are the normal culprits that take our attention: decorating, money worries as we shop, the time crunch of baking or attending concerts or hosting people over or whatever it is that keeps you from preparing your heart.

This year’s Advent theme helps us prepare our hearts in a special way. This year we will hear how to, “Rejoice in a weary world”. We will learn to prepare our hearts in spite of war, worry, pain, busyness, loneliness, and all the other things that plague us today.

I offer you this prayer from our upcoming service to begin your Advent.

*Holy God, we know that you are near. We know that you are standing at the door, you are running down the driveway, you are inviting us in—into your Word, into relationship, and deeper into joy. So, as we approach your Word, O God, we pray: do not let us pass you by. Do not allow distraction or doubt to get the best of us. Do not let us walk down this Advent road without you. Instead, give us the wisdom to turn and run your way. Give us the wisdom to hear your wisdom, to let it sink into our bones and change us. With hope and gratitude, we pray, amen.*

Are You Ready?

Pastor Janet Miller

# SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023-2024

## NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday November 26, 2023  
THANKSGIVING WEEKEND  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

## DECEMBER 2023

Sunday December 3, 2023  
10:00 Sunday school- run through program  
11:00 Hope church service

Sunday December 10, 2023

### **\*\* CHRISTMAS PROGRAM \*\***

9:30 preparations start – If you can have your children at the church early that would be awesome!  
10:00 Sunday school- run through program  
11:00 Hope church service

Sunday December 17, 2023  
**FAMILY DAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
10:00 Sunday school  
11:00 Hope church service

Sunday December 24, 2023  
NO MORNING WORSHIP  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE-5:30

Sunday December 31, 2023  
NEW YEAR'S EVE  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:00 Hope church service

## JANUARY 2024

**\*NEW TIME FOR CHURCH!-SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN & STAYS AT 10!\*** Sunday January 7, 2024  
9:00 Hope church service  
10:00 Sunday school

Sunday January 14, 2024  
9:00 Hope church service  
10:00 Sunday school

Sunday January 21, 2024  
9:00 Hope church service  
10:00 Sunday school

Sunday January 28, 2024  
9:00 Hope church service  
10:00 Sunday school

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that has volunteered their time & skills to teach & assist with Sunday school this year! We could not do it without you all and we appreciate all that you have done for Hope's children.

We have all three teachers filled for November, December, and January. We have 1 teacher position open for February, 2 for March, 2 for April, and 2 for May. We are also looking for substitute teachers that are willing to be called possibly on short notice. Please contact Pastor Janet 237-8005 and/or Becky Pies 237-0539 if you are able to help.

We are currently working on getting ready for the Christmas program. Please send your kids as much as possible even if they are late. I have put a link on FB for the songs in case any children want to practice at home. If you would like the links texted to you let Becky know 237-0539. If your child has a speaking part and is unable to make it to any practices or the program please let Becky know as soon as possible so we can work around it.

We would love to have any piano students play their pieces at the beginning of the program! Please reach out to Janet or Becky to make sure that we get your child on the list.

# Building Project & Fundraising Update

The **FROSTED GLASS PARTITION & DOOR TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AREA** are complete. Come check them out. The total cost for the doors was \$19,500.

We are on the calendar for **NEW SIDING** and **WINDOW UPGRADES** for January 2024.

The estimate for siding is \$55,000-60,000.

As of November 15<sup>th</sup>, we have raised over \$68,000. Thank you for your support. We are 85% of the way to our goal.

The appeal letter was mailed the end of July. Thank you to everyone who contributed. If you know of someone to add to our list, please contact us at [HLChurch@tnics.com](mailto:HLChurch@tnics.com)

**The church has a Venmo account. It can be used for regular offerings or special donations.**

If you donate your offering by Venmo, you will still receive a yearend offering summary for tax purposes.



\*\*\*\*\*

## HOPES HAPPENINGS

\*Christmas Eve Worship will be held on Sunday, December 24 at 5:30pm. There will be NO MORNING WORSHIP. If you would like to bring a poinsettia to adorn the altar, you are welcome to bring them beginning the Sunday before, so they don't dry out. 😊 NOTE-there is NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> OR 31<sup>ST</sup>. Sunday school will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Worship time will change on the 7<sup>th</sup> also to a 9:00am start time. 😊





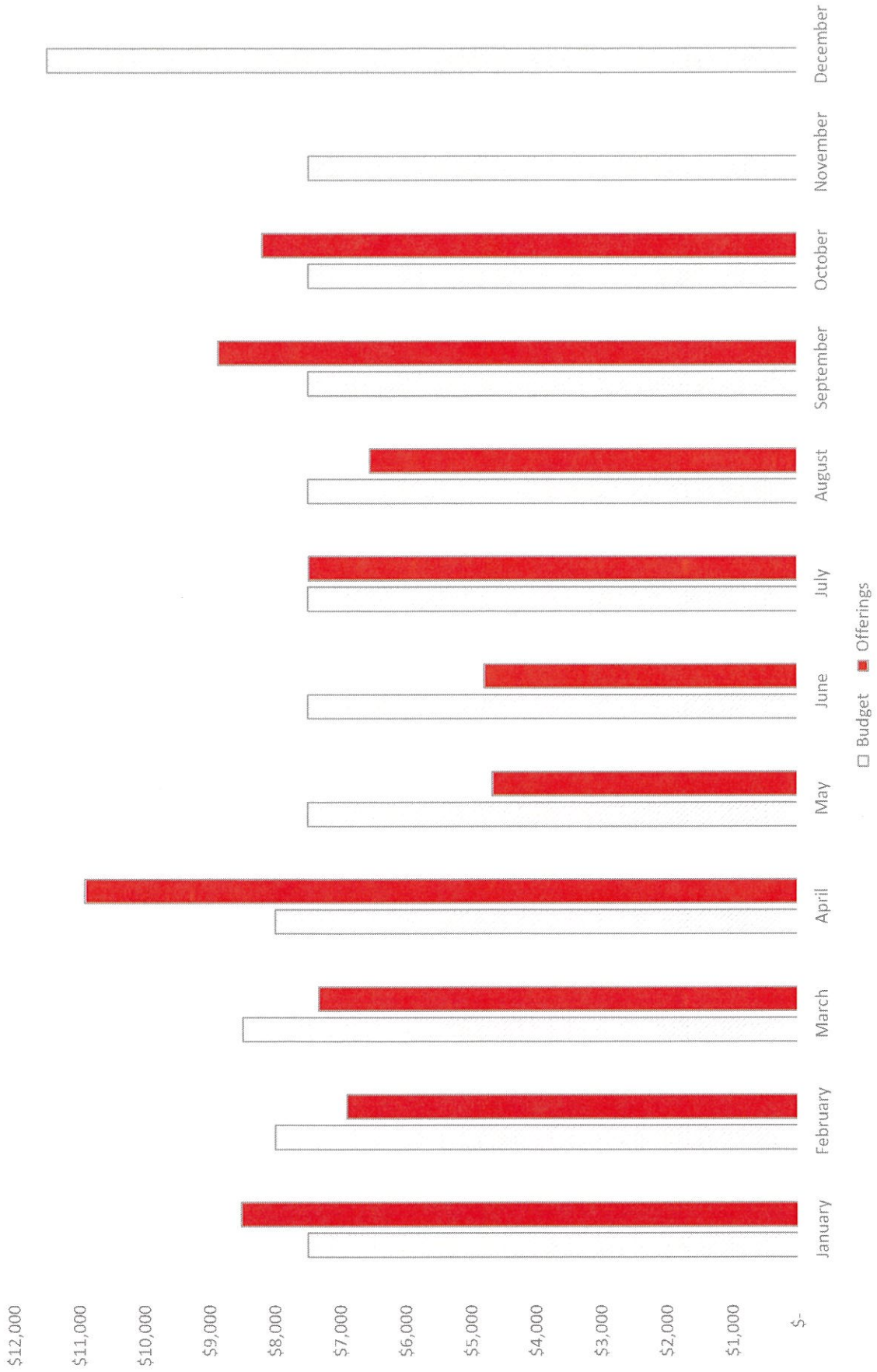
# Hope Lutheran Church

## Offerings and Expenses

### September and October 2023

	Sep 23	Oct 23	Jan - Oct 23	
41100 · Regular Offerings	\$ 8,884.00	\$ 8,205.09	\$ 72,566.10	budget = \$75,000
41200 · Special Services Offerings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,743.00	
42100 · Gifts & Memorials	\$ -	\$ 480.00	\$ 4,701.45	
43000 · Florence Parish Contribution	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 35,000.00	gift of propane
44100 · Interest Earned	\$ 8.09	\$ -	\$ 131.22	
44200 · Thrivent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,085.00	
44310 · Special Project - Siding	\$ 15,039.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 68,543.32	goal = \$80,000
44350 · Christmas Greens Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	
44440 · Special Offerings to Pass On	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	
44600 · Amazon Smile	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64.05	
44000 · Other Income - Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,776.37	
48100 · HSYG Greenery Income	\$ -	\$ 22.00	\$ 22.00	
<b>Total Offerings &amp; Income</b>	<b>\$ 27,431.09</b>	<b>\$ 13,707.09</b>	<b>\$ 185,932.51</b>	
<b>**Total without Building Project Donations</b>	<b>\$ 12,392.09</b>	<b>\$ 12,207.09</b>	<b>\$ 117,389.19</b>	
<b>Expense</b>				
Total 66100 · Pastoral Payroll	\$ 8,738.66	\$ 5,834.62	\$ 84,482.60	
Total 66190 · Relief Pastor Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 340.00	
66310 · Secretary Salary	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 3,750.00	
66320 · Janitor Salary	\$ 230.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 2,300.00	
66330 · Organist Salary	\$ -	\$ 480.00	\$ 1,640.00	
60200 · Auto/Mileage Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 369.42	
61800 · Continuing Ed & Conferences	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125.00	
63300 · Insurance Expense	\$ 318.86	\$ 318.86	\$ 2,869.74	
63130 · Confirmation / Adult Ed	\$ 396.31	\$ -	\$ 444.86	
63120 · Sunday School Materials	\$ 184.72	\$ -	\$ 653.53	
63110 · Worship Materials	\$ 199.88	\$ 160.00	\$ 1,566.20	
63200 · Fellowship Expenses	\$ 7.97	\$ -	\$ 251.73	
62800 · Website Fees	\$ 52.80	\$ 52.80	\$ 350.37	
62200 · Office Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,532.83	
62300 · Printing and Reproduction	\$ 129.00	\$ 238.82	\$ 1,600.50	
62500 · Dues and Subscriptions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 174.89	
62600 · Postage and Delivery	\$ 107.69	\$ -	\$ 687.64	
62000 · Office Expenses - Other	\$ 16.66	\$ 16.66	\$ 163.80	
67100 · Landscaping Expenses	\$ 1,539.90	\$ 934.56	\$ 4,311.59	
67200 · Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 130.00	\$ 1,303.83	\$ 4,520.95	
67210 · Siding & Glass Partition 2023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,500.00	
67300 · Small Tools and Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 268.50	
67410 · Propane/Heat	\$ 308.24	\$ -	\$ 5,789.92	gift of propane
67420 · Electricity	\$ 51.76	\$ 176.68	\$ 1,606.07	
67430 · Water/Sewer	\$ 78.00	\$ 78.00	\$ 772.00	
67440 · Telephone & Internet Expenses	\$ 95.72	\$ 95.72	\$ 957.26	
61410 · Synod Mission Support	\$ -	\$ 1,834.56	\$ 5,148.88	
61450 · Special Offerings Sent On	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	
61400 · Charitable Contributions - Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	
69000 · Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 4.95	\$ 19.80	\$ 183.55	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 12,966.12</b>	<b>\$ 12,149.91</b>	<b>\$ 146,711.83</b>	
<b>Net Offerings less Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 14,464.97</b>	<b>\$ 1,557.18</b>	<b>\$ 39,220.68</b>	
<b>**Net without Building Project Donations &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>-\$574.03</b>	<b>\$57.18</b>	<b>-\$9,822.64</b>	

2023 Monthly Offerings vs Budget  
(does not include memorials, special gifts, other income)  
January - October Offerings are \$3,396 below budget (10 months)



# Hope Lutheran Church

## All Ages Activity Day

### Lefse & Krumkake

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

After church

12:00 – 1:30 (ish)



Come learn to roll and fry lefse. Experienced lefse makers will teach the young and old alike. We will have all the equipment needed and dough ready to roll. All you need is a desire to learn and to eat some tasty lefse.

Eat some lefse “Hot off the griddle” and take some home.

There will be a Gluten-free station so no one is left out.

NEW this year – **krumkake**! (if we can find people to share their knowledge)

In addition, we will have fun activities and crafts for children (young & old).

***There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the church entry.***





# December 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
WORSHIP TIME CHANGE BEGINS ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 <sup>TH</sup> -WORSHIP WILL BEGIN AT 9:00AM AND SUNDAY SCHOOL/COFFEE FELLOWSHIP WILL REMAIN AT 10:00AM.					1 <i>Ps. Out of town</i>	2
3blue-Advent Advent begins ☺ Piano recital-3:00 6:30-Council meets	4	5	6 Office day Ps. In Florence in afternoon	7 9-noon-quilting Ps. Conference dean call/office day	8	9
10 blue-Advent Sunday school program during worship	11	12 2:00-Ladies tea at Ps. Janet house.	13 3:30-Gr.1 confirmation, 6:00-Gr 2, 7:00-Youth group	14	15 <b>Office day</b> <b>NEWSLETTER ITEMS Due</b>	16
17 blue-Advent Family fun day during Sunday school. Lefse making following Worship	18	19	20 3:30-Gr.1 confirmation, 6:00-Gr 2	21 9-noon-quilting Ps. Conference dean call/office day	22 <b>Office Day</b>	23
24 blue-Advent NO MORNING WORSHIP/SUNDAY SCHOOL 5:30-Candlelight service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31white-Christmas NO SUNDAY SCHOOL		All the ladies of the churches are invited to Pastor Janet's house on Tuesday Dec. 12th at 2:00pm for a fun Christmas tea (or coffee or apple cider) Come and join in Christmas fellowship and meet with the ladies from both churches.				

WORSHIP (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)-11:00AM, Sunday school/coffee-10:00am-NO WORSHIP HELPERS AS OF PRINTING.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PO BOX 886  
SUMMIT, SD 57266

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
PERMIT NUMBER 2

"WORDS OF HOPE FROM HOPE"

Volume 50, Issue 12

December 2023

Printed monthly at Hope Lutheran Church

Church: [hlchurch@tnics.com](mailto:hlchurch@tnics.com)/Phone-(605)-398-6150

Pastor Janet Miller-cell #605-237-8005/home #605-947-4482

Secretary Dawn Wright -cell #605-881-4377

Find us on Facebook: Hope Lutheran Church and [www.seesummitsd.com](http://www.seesummitsd.com)

Follow us on YouTube: Hope's Children



December 2023

"It is the mission of Hope Lutheran Church to help people grow in their faith; to be a leader in the community; to serve the needs of all people; and to teach/educate all people.

