January 2026

GoodNews

HOPE Lutheran Church

Hope Lutheran Church | 1700 S Cliff Avenue | Sioux Falls, SD | 605-332-2531

LOVE. SERVE. CONNECT.

INSIDE

Reflections..... 1
Announcements..... 2
Poem..... 3
HopeCare.....4
CYF & Book Club..... 5
Council Minutes.....6
Calendar of Events.....7
Staff.....8
Inserts - Poinsettias, New Members & Pastoral Transition

Follow Us Online

Website:

www.hopesiouxfalls.org

Facebook:

facebook.com/hopelutheransf

Services are 9 am Sundays at Hope and streamed live on Facebook!
ALL are welcome!

605-332-2531

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION:

Love others because God first loved us.

Serve one another.

Connect to our community.

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

As a new calendar year begins, you at Hope Lutheran will have many "new" adventures. I know you probably don't see them as "adventures" yet, but soon you will! These are very exciting things….surveying your mission and ministry, writing a church profile, opening up to interviews and meeting new people!

Hope – you are good at this! You are a welcoming and friendly church. You adapt to change and don't complain – too much. You accept new ideas and different plans. For heaven's sake – you let children stand on the chairs! You know how to involve everyone, children and the elderly. You know how to engage out of the box thinking and make bold decisions.

Hope – you shine as a place that includes people. You are some of the first to step in to walk with our Neighbors in Solidarity when times are tough. You adopt people and ideas that further the good news of Jesus Christ.

Get ready. That's right – get ready for all these new things and bright ideas. Steady leadership and firm theology. You can handle this. I know you can. You handled me!

With Hope,

Pastor Lynnae

Introducing Interim Pastor Tedd Rieke

Pastor Tedd Rieke will be our interim pastor starting January 12th. He and his wife Pastor Nancy Rieke moved recently from Wessington Springs to Sioux Falls. Please give him a warm welcome to Hope Lutheran Church!



Announcements & Events

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

December 7	Worship Attendance	78
	Facebook Views	262
December 14	Worship Attendance	113
	Facebook Views	283
December 21	Worship Attendance	93
	Facebook Views	251
December 24	Worship Attendance	132
	Facebook Views	283
December 28	Worship Attendance	67
	Facebook Views	241

Live Services will continue to be streamed and available on Facebook!

PASTORAL VISITS

If you, or a loved one, is hospitalized or homebound and would like a visit please call the office at 605-332-2531 or email us at office@hopesiouxfalls.org.

Community Crafting Day to begin

There will be a community crafting day on the 4th Saturday of the month from 10 am to 3 pm. Feel free to bring a favorite crafting project to work on for Saturday, Jan. 24th in the Fellowship Hall.

happy Birthdays

FOR JANUARY

First Name	Last Name	Birthdate
Deborah	Dockstader	January 02
Jesse	Rufener	January 04
Corrie	Olson	January 06
Colton	Monlux	January 09
Clark	Koob	January 10
Linda	Studer	January 15
Pam	Duncan	January 23
Donna	Ecker	January 24
Lynnae	Sorensen	January 24
Rosalyn	Dullerud	January 25
JoAnn	Backhaus	January 28

† Sunday, January 11, 2026. Pastor Lynnae's last preaching day.
† Tuesday, January 16, 2026: HopeCare closed.
† Sunday, January 25, 2026: Annual Meeting of Hope Lutheran Church after Worship.

Retirement Gift for Pastor Lynnae

With Pastor Lynnae retiring in January there have been several suggestions for a gift from the Hope Lutheran Church family. The Hope Council has decided to celebrate Pastor Lynnae's time at Hope Lutheran and her years in ministry by taking donations for a Water To Thrive well to be constructed in her name. This is a ministry that holds special meaning for her and her family. In the near future we will have envelopes available to place donations in. Help us in our quest to raise money to be directed for the construction of a Water To Thrive well in Pastor Lynnae's name. You may also donate in the Tithely app under Water to Thrive. We have raised $2990 so far.

SERVICE HELPERS FOR JANUARY 2026

DATE	MEDIA	GREETERS	READERS
Jan. 4	Matt Krohse	Jeremy South	Randy Bevers
Jan. 11	Jake Studer	Thomas Abrahamson	Carmen Stubbs
Jan. 18	Steve Anderson	Scott Denney	Randy Bevers
Jan. 25	Neil Krohse	Ryan Winklepleck	Carmen Stubbs

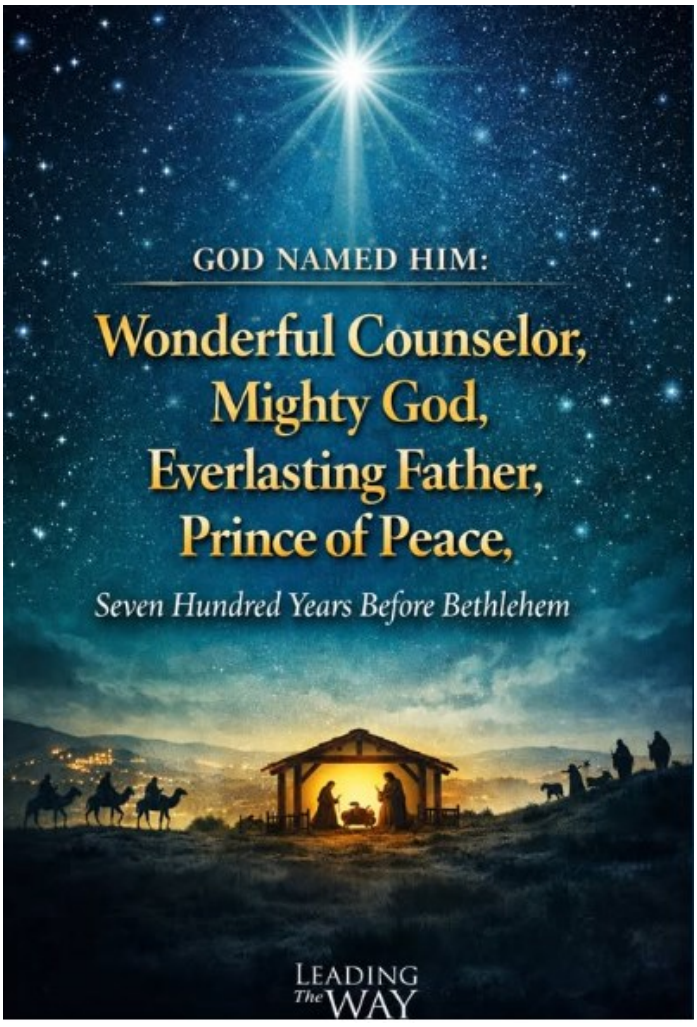


God spoke

Seven hundred years before Bethlehem, God spoke through Isaiah.
Before Bethlehem—and before creation itself—the Son already was.
And God the Father named Him in advance:
“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
This is not sentiment. This is revelation.
He is Wonderful Counselor because all wisdom is hidden in Him.

He does not give advice contaminated by bias, selfishness, or manipulation.
He needs no counselor Himself.
Before He saves, He counsels.
Before He heals, He exposes the truth.
No one else can do that.
He is Mighty God — EL.

The Child in the manger flung the galaxies into orbit.
The embryo in Mary’s womb governs the universe.
The Man on the cross is the Judge of the world.
This Jesus is not optional, tame, or symbolic.
He must be obeyed.
He is Everlasting Father — the Father of the age to come.
Founder of the new creation.



Founder of the new covenant.
Founder of a new family drawn from every nation.
Without Him there is no eternal life, no forgiveness, no heaven.
Isaiah 9:6 dismantles fuzzy Christianity.
This Child is not therapy, tolerance, or moral inspiration.
He is the Counselor who exposes sin.
God who demands surrender.

Father who grants eternal life.
Neutrality is not an option.
And yet—His final name is Prince of Peace.
Peace not through denial, but reconciliation.
Not sentiment, but submission.
Not escape, but redemption.

By Dr. Michael A. Youssef

From Leadingtheway.org

HopeCare News

HopeCare: Our Story — Past, Present, and Future

Christmas Past: Where We Have Come From

Over the past few years, HopeCare has journeyed through seasons of growth and challenge that helped shape who we are today. Like many early childhood programs, we experienced short staffing, operated out of two buildings, and worked to find our rhythm as a growing ministry. Throughout it all, we were supported by a caring congregation and a dedicated team of educators who show up with love and commitment for children and families.

This season also revealed areas where growth was needed—classroom space, lesson development, outdoor play environments, and operational sustainability. Necessary steps such as adjusting rates and wages were taken to better align with the true cost of providing quality care and valuing early educators. These moments were not setbacks, but stepping stones, guiding HopeCare toward renewal and strength.

Christmas Present: Where We Are Today

Today, HopeCare stands on a strong and hopeful foundation. We are blessed with a strong, unified staff and leadership team, grounded in collaboration, grace, and shared purpose. Our teachers are professional, compassionate, and committed to growth, with all educators actively engaged in Pathways.

HopeCare is fully housed under one roof, with expanded classroom space and a stronger sense of community. Our participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program allows us to prepare nourishing meals in-house while having the ability to be reimbursed for some of that expense. We have taken important steps toward sustainability—raising rates to be competitive while increasing staff wages gradually over time. HopeCare is proud to be recognized as the first program, to be actively working in Level 3 for Quality Care South Dakota. HopeCare recently received recognition as local best rated childcare through Google. HopeCare continues to put the largest focus on strengthening faith-based programming that reflects God's love in daily learning.

Christmas Future: Where We Are Going

Looking ahead, HopeCare's future is bright because it is built on faith, love, and community. We will continue nurturing strong connections between children, families, staff, the congregation, and God. HopeCare strives to be a place where teachers feel deeply supported and valued while seeking their own faith community! HopeCare children are known and loved as God's precious creations.

We remain committed to raising the bar for quality early childhood education in South Dakota—advocating for young children and families, practicing grace and compassion, and honoring the professionalism of early educators. HopeCare focuses on financial stability and finding ways to cut cost without cutting quality, staying humble and devoted to identifying opportunities to support the budget.

Through every season, HopeCare is mission-driven, community-supported, and rooted in our Christian identity. HopeCare is more than a child care center—HopeCare is family.

ABOUT HOPE

Founded in 1956, the church is located at Cliff and 24th street in central Sioux Falls, SD. We seek to be an inclusive, caring, and transforming community of faith and service that invites, welcomes, and connects people from all areas of faith and life. We are honored to welcome you and get to know you.

HOPE Lutheran Church
1956 - 2026

SAVE THE DATE:

MAY 17, 2026

Worship and meal

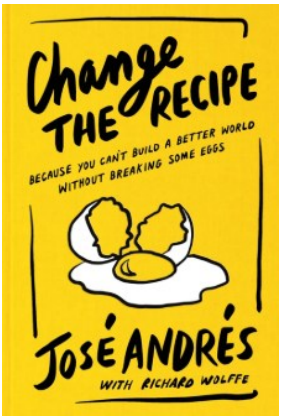
70th Anniversary Cookbooks are on sale for $5.00. T-shirts can be ordered soon!

Children, Youth & Family Ministries Update

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry at Hope Lutheran continues to grow and thrive as we love, serve, and connect with children and families from infancy through high school. This year, 42 children participated in JAM, JAM Too, and Luther League, with a renewed focus on engaging children ages 0–3 during worship.

Our ministry is rooted in relationships, hands-on learning, and meeting children where they are as they grow in faith. Through family nights, special events, intergenerational worship experiences, and expanding musical opportunities, we continue to love our families, serve their spiritual growth, and connect generations within our congregation. Together, we are building a strong foundation of faith grounded in God's Word—joyful, inclusive, and long lasting.

The school age group is still looking for mentors for various projects such as embroidery, knitting, crafts, etc. Let the office know if you can help with mentoring children.

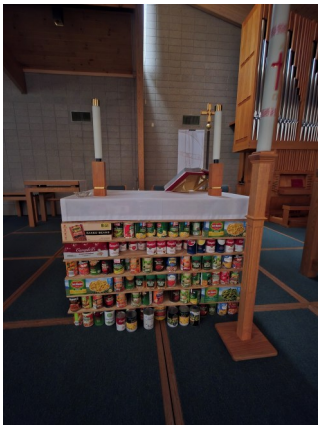


BOOK CLUB NEWS

The book club book for January is *Change the Recipe* by Jose Andres. It's a short book, but very Interesting. The Michelin-starred and World Central Kitchen founder writes about feeding hungry people in disaster situations i.e. after hurricanes in Haiti or in war-torn Ukraine. One chapter is titled "Build Longer Tables, Not Higher Walls." The January Book Club meeting will be held on the first Tuesday of January, January 6th at 2 p.m. **Note change of time!**

MISSION WORK CONTINUES

The November project was building the "Food Pantry Altar" . Here is a recent picture of our canned goods altar for Feeding South Dakota. We donated 687 lbs. of food from that altar! Good job everyone! We usually donate about 60-70 lbs. every month of canned goods from Pantry Sunday, the fourth Sunday of the month.



Our December project was the giving tree which helped many families with a gift card to purchase gifts.

Hope Lutheran Church Council Meeting & Staff Christmas Party
Tuesday, December 18, 2025 at 6:15 pm
Attended by: Neil Krohse, Randy Bevers, Lydell Larson, Linda Studer, Carmen Stubbs, Greg Wasberg, & Pastor Lynnae I Sorensen.
Unapproved Minutes

The Hope Council and Staff gathered at 6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall for the Potluck Christmas Party. Opening prayer and song led by Pastor Lynnae. Council moved to the Library for the meeting at 7:05 pm. Motion for approval of December Meeting Agenda with the addition of an Interim Pastor Update made by Lydell: seconded by Randy. Motion carried.

Motion for approval of November Minutes made by Carmen; seconded by Greg. Motion carried.
Motion for acceptance of Reports – reviewed on-line review made by Linda; seconded by Roy. Motion carried.

Old Business
In an effort to update and clean up our active membership roll at Hope Lutheran, the following names of inactive members were previously submitted for review, and were contacted in recent months. Motion by Pastor Lynnae to remove the following names: Audrey Christensen, Albert Deelstra, Kieran Denney, Logan Denny, Scott and Nicolle Dierks, Emma, Joshua and Mattie Hoffman, Jack, Adam and Kristen Huff, Brecksten, Sam Koob, Brett and Kathleen Martin, Sophia and Olivia, Pat Nelson, Patti and Jayden Petit, Michael and Bobby, David Peyton, Todd and Karen Rensch, DeWayne and Constance Campbell, Cal and Julie Chritianson and Emma, Alex Koob, Maggie Smither, Jacob Smither, and Barb Taing.
Motion seconded by Lydell. Motion Carried.

New Business
Interim Pastor update by Neil: Assoc. to the Bishop Rev. Renee Splichal Larson contacted Neil today with an interested Interim Candidate's name. Pastor Tedd Rieke was in worship at Hope on 12/14 and visited with Pastor Lynnae on 12/16. Our next step Is for Neil to contact him and for Council to meet with him – date TBD. Pastor Renee will send Interim documents to Neil that will be forwarded to Council. This info will be added to the Town Hall on December 21st.

There was discussion about further separating HopeCare and Hope finances. With the need to replace the church credit card, plans were underway to get separate cards for the office, HopeCare, Pastor and education. Through email, a motion was made by Lydell to have separate checking accounts for HopeCare and Hope; Seconded by Randy. Motion was approved by email vote.

Randy provided a working version of the 2026 Budget. Discussion centered on HopeCare revenue proposed and the accuracy of the 2025 numbers to base them on. As we terminated our previous accountant in September and our new firm continues to find inaccuracies, relying on our year-to-date numbers is a problem. An outside audit will be performed in 2026, but to home in on this year's numbers Randy and Lydell will attempt to review and refine the statements in an effort to find what the deficits of HopeCare may actually be. Updated budget will be emailed to Council at a layer date. Council discussed and will hold a budget review meeting on January 13, 2026. It was settled that ahead of that we would do an email review with everyone replying to all with comments and suggestions. There was discussion about holding a Town Hall meeting on Sunday January 18 for the purpose of answering congregational questions on the budget. Also – reminder that Annual meeting announcement notice must be done on 1/11 and 1/18/26.

Pastor Lynnae had inquired about the possibility of keeping her laptop when she leaves. Council discussed gifting her the laptop. Motion by Randy to gift her the laptop; seconded by Greg. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Linda; Seconded by Greg. Motion carried and closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Next Meetings: **January 13, 2026 & January 20, 2026 * 7:00 pm**

Treasurer's Report: As we close out 2025, we look forward to an even better 2026! One of the main events of the year was switching accounting firms to one which has already provided us with faster, more accurate service. As we enter 2026, our focus will be on increasing efficiencies and processes to better serve the congregation.



JANUARY 2026

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30 **7 pm Council Meeting**	**31**	**1** **New Year's Day - Office and HopeCare Closed**	**2**	**3**
4 9 am Worship - 10 Fellowship	**5** 10:15 am Chapel 3:15 pm Chapel 6 pm Education Comm.	**6** 12:15 PM Staff 2 pm Book Club	**7** 6 pm Bells 7 pm Choir	**8** 10 am Caring Conversations .	**9**	**10**
11 9 am Worship 10 Fellowship Pastor Lynnae's last service Annual reports ready Bread Sunday	**12** 10:15 am Chapel	**13** 12:15 Staff 1:15 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Worship Comm. 7 pm Council	**14** 12:30 pm HC Parents 6 pm Anniversary Committee 6 pm Bells 7 pm Choir	**15** 10 am Caring Conversations Council reports due	**16** **HopeCare Closed**	**17**
18 9 am Worship - 10 Fellowship	**19** 10:15 am Chapel 12 noon HC Comm.	**20** 12:15 Staff 1:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm Council Good News articles due	**21** 6 pm Bells 7 pm Choir	**22** 10 am Caring Conversations	**23** 1 pm Adult Activities	**24** 10-3 Community Craft Day
25 9 am Worship 10 Fellowship Food Pantry **Annual Meeting for Members**	**26** 10:15 am Chapel 3 pm Chapel	**27** 12:15 pm Staff 7 pm Mission Comm.	**28** 6 pm Bells 7 pm Choir	**29** 10 am Caring Conversations	**30** 6 pm Family Night - Glow party	

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1700 S. Cliff Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105-2193

Good News is Printed
Monthly by Hope
Lutheran Church

Hope Lutheran Staff

Telephone: 605-332-2531 **Website:** www.hopesiouxfalls.org **Facebook:** facebook.com/hopelutheransf

Pastor	**Pastor Lynnae Sorensen**	lsorensen@hopesiouxfalls.org
Interim Pastor	**Pastor Tedd Rieke**	
Music Coordinator	**Andrew Robinette**	music@hopesiouxfalls.org
Assistant Music Coordinator	**Barb Wasberg**	
Sanctuary/Bell Choir Director	**Andrew Robinette**	music@hopesiouxfalls.org
Office Administrator	**Wendy Stubbs**	office@hopesiouxfalls.org
HopeCare Director	**Brandi McCuen 605-367-1108**	hopecaredirector@hopesiouxfalls.org
JAM Coordinator	**Jamie Winklepleck**	