

VOL. 25 ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2025

WORDS OF HOPE



This Summer at Hope

This issue of Words of Hope is filled with articles about water, prayer, mission and summer ministry opportunities. Please take a moment to read through these articles and plan how you and your family will stay connected and growing in faith this summer.

Sermon Series

APRIL 23-JUNE 1 – HOLY SPIRIT-WIND AND FIRE

Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit have to do with my life? In this series we will take a deep dive and look at the work of the Holy Spirit.

JUNE 4 -JULY 20 – BOATS OF THE BIBLE

This summer we will experience God's grace from the water as we look at some of the stories in the Bible that include boats. From Noah and the ark to Jonah and the fish to Jesus and his disciples on the sea, we will discover together that when God is involved nobody leaves the boat the same as when they got on. As we dive into the stories, we know that with his powerful grace Jesus will change us too. Step aboard and join us for this 7-week sermon series.

JULY 23-AUGUST 31 – THE LORD'S PRAYER

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, the Lord's Prayer is what he taught them. This special prayer is how we tap into our Holy God, it reveals to us the very nature of God.

COMING SOON...

More summer ministry opportunities! Download the Fargo Hope app or visit our website to stay up to date.

- **Adult Ministry**
fargohope.org/adults
- **Youth Ministry**
fargohope.org/youth
- **Men's Ministry**
fargohope.org/men
- **Women's Ministry**
fargohope.org/women

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 4

LAST DAY OF PROGRAMMING

MAY 8

MAN TALK BREAKFAST
6:30am at South Campus

MAY 14

BACCALAUREATE
at 7:15pm at South Campus

MAY 18

CONFIRMATION*

*Students were sent their worship times. Questions?
Email youth@fargohope.org.

JUNE 1

OUTDOOR WORSHIP BEGINS
9:30am at South Campus, 9:45am at North Campus

JUNE 6-8

MEN IN BOATS BOATS AT LAKEWOOD BIBLE
CAMP IN DEVILS LAKE, ND
Details on pg. 6

JUNE 9-12

2025 VBX (VACATION BIBLE X-PERIENCE)
JOURNEY TO JELLYFISH JUNCTION AT ALL
CAMPUSES

JUNE 11

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP IS ON BREAK AT ALL
CAMPUSES DUE TO VBX.

JUNE 18-AUGUST 27

SUMMER YOUTH BONFIRES FOR
MSM & HSM
Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30pm at the South Campus
fire pit

JUNE 21

WOMEN ON WATER AT YMCA CAMP ON BIG
CORMORANT LAKE
Details on pg. 7

JULY 27-31

HSM FUEL RETREAT AT CAMP HOUSE IN
BRIMSON, MN. REGISTER AT
FARGOHOPE.ORG/HIGHSCHOOL.



South Campus | June 9-12
9:30-11:30am & 6:00-8:00pm

West Campus | June 9-12
9:30-11:30am

North Campus | June 9-12
6:00-8:00pm

Register online at fargohope.org/vbx

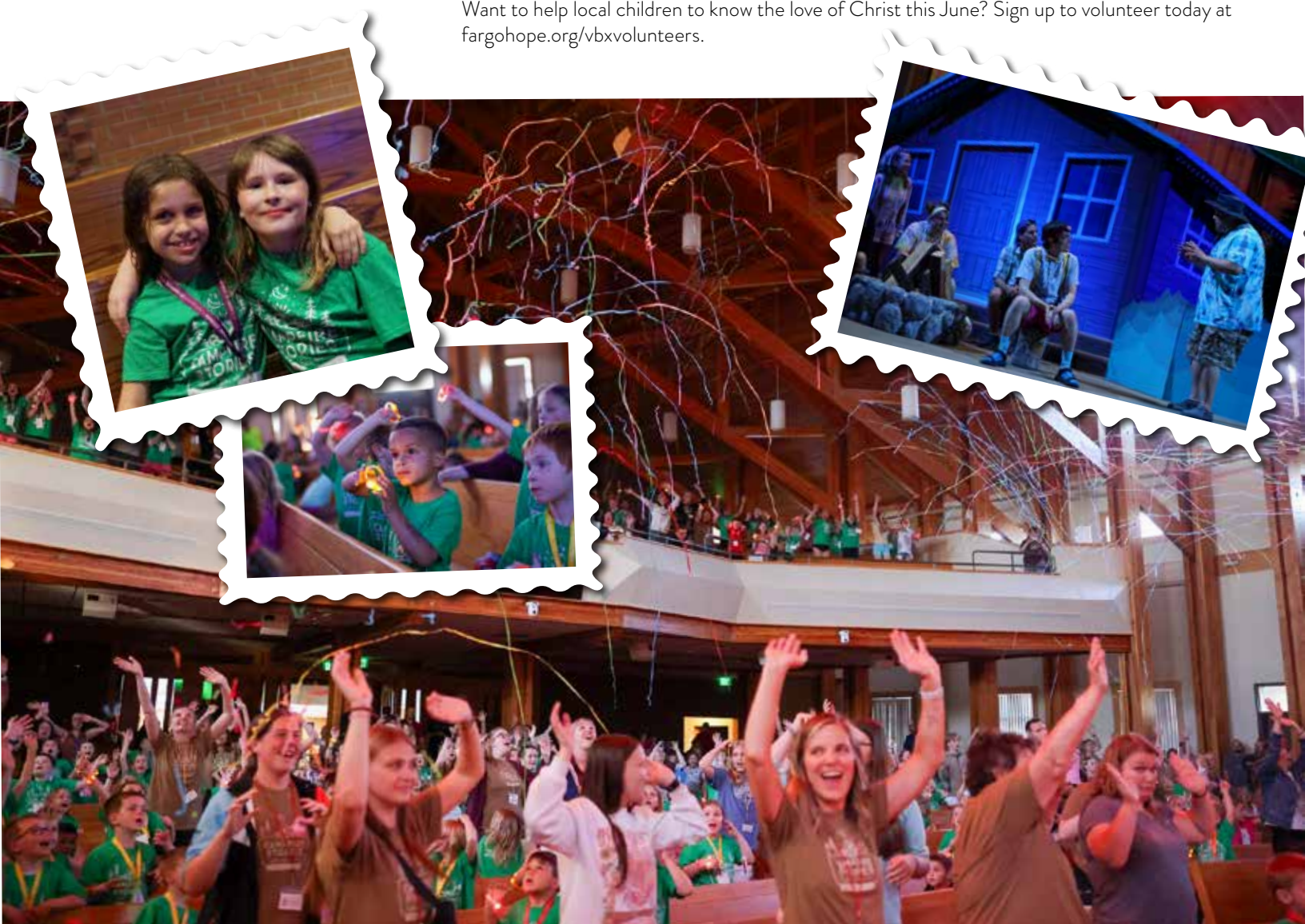
VACATION BIBLE X-PERIENCE 2025: JOURNEY TO JELLYFISH JUNCTION

Each summer vacation, the children of Hope “X-perience” an exciting new adventure in learning about the Bible and the love of Christ. In VBX 2025: Journey to Jellyfish Junction, our exploration goes deep underwater where we’ll meet new friends and teach our “divers” just how wide, long, high and deep is the love of Christ. (Ephesians 3:18) VBX is for youth ages three through 5th Grade to grow in their faith and build community with their peers. More than 1000 students participate each year, so be sure to register today to secure your preferred campus! Register at fargohope.org/vbx.

This 4 day adventure at all campuses is not just for kids – it is an incredible opportunity for adults and teens to volunteer in shaping the faith journey of the next generation! Volunteers are a vital part of VBX. By volunteering, you become a living example of the depth of the love of Christ for our youth. Whether you’re guiding a group of excited “divers,” assisting with crafts, serving snacks, or helping out behind the scenes, your presence makes a difference. It takes more than 300 volunteers to make VBX happen at Hope’s three campuses, volunteers like Loretta Baasch.

The Baasch family moved to West Fargo and joined Hope 21 years ago. Loretta volunteered as a group leader for Hopekids school, VBX and Confirmation as her children grew. “God’s love was kindled in me as a child attending vacation Bible school. After my own children graduated, I missed being involved with young people, so I now volunteer for VBX,” said Baasch. “When I volunteer at VBX, I get to tell a child that God loves them, and I see their eyes shine with that feeling. We don’t know how or when God’s message will ‘sink in’ for someone, so we don’t want to miss an opportunity like VBX to expose our children to learning about God’s love. When I share God’s love with these children, I know I’m doing what God wants me to do. My joy increases exponentially, and I feel like I get way more out of the experience of volunteering at VBX than I put in. I volunteer for a selfish reason - it makes me feel good!”

Want to help local children to know the love of Christ this June? Sign up to volunteer today at fargohope.org/vbxvolunteers.



BEGINNER'S GUIDE

by PASTOR BEN SULLIVAN

There are various aspects of our faith that we place all kinds of emphasis on. One of the most significant religious practices we have as followers of Jesus is prayer. What is prayer? How do we pray? What do we pray about? When should we pray?

If you have ever wrestled with these questions, you are not alone. Jesus' disciples approached Jesus in Luke 11:1 and said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught His disciples." And in a few brief phrases, Jesus gives them a masterclass on prayer.

LUKE 11:2-4 –

2 He said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come.


3 Give us each day our daily bread.

4 Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation."

► *What are we to learn from Jesus' prayer?*



Prayer is
Worship

"Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come." (Luke 11:2)

When we say these words at the beginning of the Lord's Prayer, what are we doing... we are worshiping! In short, prayer is worship. When we pray, we give honor to God.

ETO PRAYER

PRAYER IS GRATITUDE

“Give us each day our daily bread.” (Luke 11:3)

God gives us everything we need - food, water, shelter, clothing, friends, family, and above all else, His only Son on the Cross for our salvation (John 3:16). In prayer, we can thank God for all He has given us.

PRAYER IS CONFESSION

“Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.” (Luke 11:4)

In prayer, we confess the ways that we have sinned against God, asking that in His mercy He would forgive us and empower us to forgive others.

PRAYER IS REPENTANCE

“And lead us not into temptation.” (Luke 11:4)

“Jesus is the only one who was tempted and yet did not sin” (Hebrews 4:15). The rest of us have sinned and have fallen short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23). Therefore, when we pray, we repent and ask that God would deliver us from any temptation so that it does not lead us to sin and death.

How can you grow in your own prayer life? Each day, may we enter joyfully enter into a time of worshipping God for who He is, thanking God for what He has given us, confessing to God how we have sinned, and asking God to deliver us from evil. Amen!



MEN IN BOATS

Nearly 2000 years ago Jesus had a remarkable proclamation for his first disciples. “I will make you fishers of men,” he said to fishermen Simon (Peter) and Andrew. In this statement Jesus is foreshadowing both to his ability to transform these disciples’ lives and also of his intent to send them out into the world, not to catch fish, but to catch human hearts through the message God’s kingdom through salvation to all nations. Since 2001, Men in Boats has been an opportunity for men not only to catch fish, but also to join together with other men in fellowship, friendship, and faith.

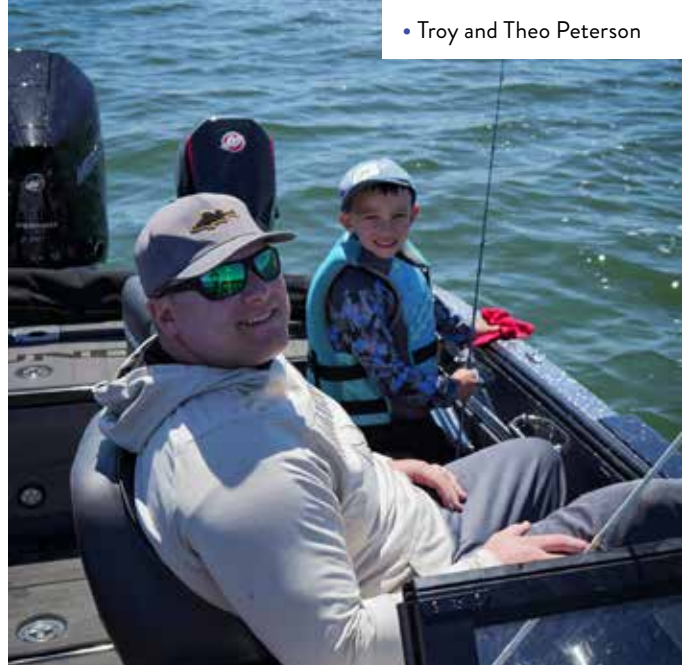
“It is a really great event. I’ve made new friends each year and had incredible fishing experiences. I’m an introvert and Men in Boats is one of the things that has helped me overcome that. It has deepened my faith spending time around other men of faith. You kind of soak it all in and realize there are groups of other faith-filled people that you might not have otherwise known,” said Leonard Cook, who has attended for the past 7 years and now comes with his son, son-in-law and two grandsons.

“The men are all very welcoming,” states Cook. “Anyone can come fish and learn, even if they don’t have experience or equipment. There is no shortage of men there willing to teach and to share. All you really need to participate is a North Dakota fishing license and appropriate clothing for the weather. It is a great experience, learning, fishing, and growing in faith. The cabins are also clean and comfortable, and the food is incredible.”

For the past 3 years Men in Boats has been partnering with the Genesis program to bring even more men into fellowship, faith, friendship and fishing. This mix of men from different backgrounds and life experiences has created an incredible opportunity for fellowship, faith growth, and new friendships.

“I fished when I was a kid, but seldom as an adult and never in an event like this one before,” said Michael Gourneau of Genesis. “It was such a great environment and so much fun. The men were so willing to teach and show me how to fish. The fellowship was amazing to hear and share stories. It was incredible to experience the joy, worship, and share stories with other men of faith. Men from all walks of life coming together. It was mind blowing how it has helped me to realize just how much you can enjoy events without substances. It’s so wonderful how we can come together to experience God’s love on Earth.”

Men in Boats takes place June 6-8 at Lakewood Bible Camp in Devils Lake, ND. Registration is open to men and boys of all ages, and no fishing experience or equipment are required. Be sure to register today at fargohope.org/men.



• Kyle Agre with his Walleye



“IT IS A REALLY GREAT EVENT. I’VE MADE NEW FRIENDS EACH YEAR AND HAD INCREDIBLE FISHING EXPERIENCES.

I’M AN INTROVERT AND MEN IN BOATS IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAS HELPED ME OVERCOME THAT.”

-LEONARD COOK



"Many women who signed up were those who used to fish, but no longer had the opportunity, including daughters who once fished with their fathers and widows who no longer had access to a boat or equipment. The memories that were shared and the hope that we had together in Christ was heartwarming and beautiful to behold for all."

- Carla St Germain



• Deb Wald with her Bass

WOMEN ON WATER 2025

Since its first event in the summer of 2024, Women on Water has had the goal of giving women an opportunity to step out of their comfort zone and give fishing a try.

"My original thought was that this would be for women who wanted to try fishing but were intimidated or never had the opportunity. Sometimes women want to go, but perhaps not at 5:00am or all day with no bathroom breaks," said Women on Water founder and Hope member Carla St Germain. "I wanted to create a welcoming opportunity for them to learn, that would hopefully encourage them to get out there for side-by-side time with their husbands later. It was always my intention that this would be a women's ministry event at Hope, and that we'd tie in Christian fellowship and a devotional. So that's what we do. We go out in the morning, then come back to share a nice lunch. In the afternoon we go back out on the lake for more fishing, then, about mid-afternoon, we come back in for a devotional and fellowship."

The event offers an opportunity for women with any level of fishing experience to participate, including those who have never fished and do not own equipment. This aspect of the event is possible due to Men of Hope who generously volunteer their time, and often their boats and fishing equipment, to help give women an opportunity to get out on the lake and fish.

What ended up happening at Women on Water was even more heartwarming than what St Germain ever expected, "Many women who signed up were those who used to fish, but no longer had the opportunity, including daughters who once fished with their fathers and widows who no longer had access to a boat or equipment. The memories that were shared and the hope that we had together in Christ was heartwarming and beautiful to behold for all – including the men who were so generous as to be our guides."

• If you are interested in participating, Women on Water 2025 will take place Saturday, June 21 from 8:00am-5:30pm at YMCA Camp on Big Lake Cormorant. Cost is \$15 plus a single day MN fishing license. Registration opens May 1 at fargohope.org/women. If you have any questions, email adults@fargohope.org.

Rooted Experience Small Groups Guide Participants Into
Rhythms of Faith by *Pastor Ben Jacobson*



It is just a table that sits in the lounge at Hope's North Campus, long and flanked by padded chairs, but once a week it becomes a holy place. Those soft empty chairs fill as 8 men and women pass through the doorway and take their seat at the table. The silence of the empty room quickly fills with smiles and laughter as we begin to talk.

Over 11 weeks this small group, that I was blessed to be a part of, sat at the table and spent time together in a series called "Rooted." **"Rooted" large and small group community experience that is designed to return God's people to the rhythms of faith that the first Christians lived out together in community as they sought to know and follow the Risen Jesus.** Focusing on practices like Daily Reading, Prayer, Generosity, Service, Repentance, Sharing our

Stories, and Worship, our group journeyed deeper together in our faith. We live in a world that is increasingly isolated and lonely, a world where so many people do not believe that tomorrow could be better than today. In that kind of world, we need to cling to God, to his resurrection hope, and to one another. We cannot do that by ourselves. Small groups are a place where we can know the transformative power of Christian community and where we can place Christ at the center of our lives.

Over our 11 weeks, we got the chance to learn from one another, to pray for one another, to serve together, and to be reminded of how God is present in our lives. If you have not experienced that kind of community, now is the time. There is a place for you - a group for you. I thank God for the weeks with my small group

and I thank him that it was not just us. There were more tables across our three campuses and in the homes of some of our group leaders. Many people who gathered together each week. Each of these places became a holy space where Jesus sat with us and showed us how to live according to his rhythm.

That is the promise that Jesus makes, that where two or three are gathered in his name, he is there with them. I got to know that truth once again as I stood in worship, knelt in prayer, served in the community, and sat around the table with 7 other men and women. You can know it too, and I pray you will.

Our next "Rooted" session begins on May 5 with a large group launch at the South Campus. This will be an abbreviated 9-week series that will end on June 30. For more information and to sign up visit fargohope.org/adults. Come experience "Rooted." There is a place at the table for you.



ADULT MISSION JAMAICA 2025

by Joanne Steidl

Our January Mission Jamaica trip this year was awesome as usual. There were 40 people from Hope at Montego Bay this year January 18-25 and 19 stayed over for Kingston the following week January 25-February 1. Including other groups, there were a total of 79 people at Montego Bay and 53 at Kingston. There were 2 Jabode houses built in Montego Bay and 2 in Kingston. Along with other groups that week, we held Medical Clinics both weeks, worked at Westhaven the first week, Hope Valley Experimental School and Callaloo Mews Basic School the second week.

Westhaven Childrens' Home is a home for physically and/or mentally disabled children. The children range in age from young children to some over 40 years old. When you first visit Westhaven it's hard to see beyond the disabilities. Due to their conditions most families are unable to offer the care that they would need. Thanks to organizations like Mission Jamaica the home is able to offer this care with staff that truly

loves these kids. The home is about a 40 minute drive up into the mountains outside of Montego Bay. The children love music and know most of the songs we sing. The simple act of reaching out and spending time with them with music or dancing and seeing them laughing and singing fills our hearts with such happiness.

The work that Mission Jamaica does in Jamaica changes lives and gives hope to people who may not see any hope. We bring happiness, love and caring to people and children asking nothing in return. By opening our hearts and using whatever abilities we have we put into action Jesus' teaching of loving one another.

One of the best parts of building the Jabode houses is that you get a chance to get to know the homeowners and their families and neighbors. We have built quite a few houses in one area outside Montego Bay, so as a result we have created a community within the community, and people from this

area come and work side by side with us to provide these homes for their neighbors.

If you have any questions about Mission Jamaica, please feel free to visit with any of the many people from Hope that have participated. If you are interested, please feel free to contact the church and they will get the message to me. We go the 3rd week of January to Montego Bay and the 4th week to Kingston. We have a fantastic group of people that go on the trips, and we all would love to have you come with us to Jamaica.



MILESTONES

January 4-April 7



Baptisms

Penn Michael, son of Logan & Chelsea Midthun
Sophie Grace Hasbrouck, daughter of Jay Hasbrouck & Ashley Goebel
Maxton Lee, son of Nathan & Lindsey Friesen
Sulo Linnerud Hager, son of Hunter Hager & Ellie Fowler
Beau Curtis, son of Broc & Kendra Beyers
Camille Jean, daughter of Dylan & Kaylee Carlisle
Stella Kay, daughter of Laif & Amanda Rognlin
Callum John, son of Ethan & Kiana Parmer
Davyd, son of Vadym & Olya Prokopenko
Everli Jaydn, daughter of Bailey & Karissa Endres
Ryker James, son of Connor & Christa Erickson
Sylvia Anne, daughter of Michael & Kelsey Hilker
Annika Jade, daughter of Scott & Samantha Larrabee
Bo Carter, son of Nathan & Shanda Aamold
Lucille Judith Rose, daughter of Zach & Samantha Zimmerman
Cruz Wayne, son of Curtis & Kaitlin Rolle
Paisley Jo Koski, daughter of Logan Koski & Caitlyn Wolf
Hadley Mae and Lucy Jo, daughters of Trevor & Ellie Magnuson
Bryer Beck, son of Myles & Rebecca Sorensen
Roman Daniel, son of Jacob & Laura John
Scarlett Kathleen and Kaiden Jerome, daughter and son of Kramer & Melissa Stuth
Maxx Leonard, son of Spencer & Kelsey Davis
Bea Elaine, daughter of Jesse & Claire Vetsch
Kasen Daniel and Leah Caroline, son and daughter of Craig & Morgan Needham
Ella Jane, daughter of Jamison & Alexis Boyer
Bryn Marie, daughter of Ryan & Nicole Peters
Sawyer John, son of Alex & Rachel Iverson
Brynlee Johnson Gorden, daughter of Hunter Gorden & Carly Vraa
Asher Travis, son of Travis & Carissa Swartz

Marriages

Olivia Shockman & Zachary Suda 1/11/2025
Kasidy Hollands & Dylan Sloten 1/16/2025
Emily Schwengler & Chase Lietz 3/15/2025

Deaths

Jean Grinde 1/7/2025
Roger Magnusson 1/8/2025
Julie Amundson 1/30/2025
Marlys Giermann 2/6/2025
Eldon Olson 2/12/2025
Myrtis Clark 2/13/2025
Loris Hilde 2/13/2025
Susan Hoffmann 3/7/2025
Leatrice Johnson 3/17/2025
Glenda Fobes-Ziemer 3/18/2025
Janice Nelson 3/19/2025
Ruth Boland 3/20/2025

NEW MEMBERS

January 4-April 7



Brianna & Tyler Bussmann
Trevor Christensen
Cassidy Bjerke
Jacob Kroke
Heather Arnold
Jade & Jordan Elliott
Jensen Bloom
Ethan Roeder
Hannah & Tyler Kogler
Harper, Paxton
Macy & Dominik Kraemer
Ronald & Marilee Hosman
Mike & Amy Summers
Kinsley, Emery
Kalissa Marcella
Maddie & Jack Osborne
Terry & Sue Anderson
Alec Voss
Sandi Kessler
Philip & Rachelle Jystad
Josh Peterson
Rachael Otto
Hunter Sall
Christina Ostreim
Kyla & Dustin Lerfald
Parker
Sydney Kurtzweg
Alex Hasbargen
Amanda & Alex Althoff
Sophia, Dutton
Karen & Jeffry Anderson
Shay Weber
Bryn Donaldson
Brittany & Chris Krabbenhoft
Lacy & Robert Vallie
Alexis & Jamison Boyer
Jill & Kurt Ross
Lisa & Curtis Heiser
Brandon Miller
Casey Hoffarth
Richard Martin
Megan Wobbema
Addison, Rylee
Brandon Hanna

THE FARGO HOPE APP IS HERE!



Download our app for access directly from your phone to:

- Livestreams
- Past sermons
- Study Guides
- Giving
- Deeply Rooted podcast
- Event details and registration
- Ministry content
- Volunteering and scheduling
- And more!

Download the Fargo Hope app using the QR code below, or by going to the App Store on your phone and searching for Fargo Hope.



FARGO HOPE APP

WORSHIP TIMES



SOUTH CAMPUS

Wednesday:

6:00pm Contemporary

Sunday: 8:30am Traditional (South Campus in Chapel)

9:30am Contemporary

10:45am Contemporary

NORTH CAMPUS

Wednesday:

6:00pm Contemporary

Sunday: 8:30am Traditional

9:45am Contemporary

10:45am Contemporary

WEST CAMPUS

Wednesday: 6:00pm Contemporary

Sunday: 9:30am Contemporary

10:45am Contemporary



WORSHIP ONLINE

If you are unable to attend in-person, we invite you to worship with us online!

You can watch live on our website at fargohope.org/watch. You can also watch on the Fargo Hope app and on YouTube: search for Fargo Hope.

FARGO HOPE APP & YOUTUBE

Wednesday 6:00pm

Sunday 8:30am Traditional, 10:45am Contemporary

A sermon highlight video is available each Tuesday following worship at fargohope.org/watch, in the Sermon Series playlist on youtube.com/fargohope, or on the Fargo Hope app.



LOCATIONS

SOUTH CAMPUS

3636 25th St. S, Fargo

NORTH CAMPUS

2900 Broadway N, Fargo

WEST CAMPUS

2633 55th St S, Fargo

FARGOHOPE.ORG

CHURCH OFFICE 701.235.6629

HOPE LUTHERAN PASTORS



Paul Nynas
Senior Pastor



Michael Toomey
Executive Pastor



Steven Dunkel
Executive Pastor



Sarah Seibold



Ben Jacobson



Ben Sullivan



Stefanie Jordheim



Andria Messelt
Pastoral Intern



Bill Ahlfeldt
Visitation Pastor



STAFF

For full list of Hope's staff please visit fargohope.org/whoweare



Membership that Matters

Sign up at fargohope.org and a pastor will contact you to visit and welcome you to Hope's family. It's that easy. Questions? Email welcome@fargohope.org.

Words of Hope
Hope Lutheran Church
2900 Broadway N
Fargo, ND 58102

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FOR THE ONE VISION

The For the ONE vision is to build a permanent house of worship for our West Campus and to update our youth spaces at both North and South Campuses. As of the day this is written, we have received 456 commitments totaling \$13.9 million. The goal of the initiative is to fully engage our congregation in this mission. There is still great opportunity for growth as we work towards our goal of accomplishing our first phase. (The goal of phase one currently stands at \$28 million.) Every gift matters! We will continue to ask all church members to make a financial commitment and join God in His work in our community. To move forward with this mission, we need to hear from you! If you have already made your commitment, thank you for your act of generosity. If you have yet to make a commitment, we would ask that you pray and commit to a gift above and beyond your regular giving for three years. How do I give and join Hope in its mission to reach those that Jesus loves in our community? **Visit fargohope.org and click on the For the ONE Generosity Initiative button to make your commitment!**

FOR THE ONE