

WORDS OF HOPE



This Winter at Hope

This issue of Words of Hope is filled with articles about connecting, serving, and opportunities to grow in your faith. Please take a moment to read through these articles and plan how you and your family will stay connected and growing in faith this Winter.

SERMON SERIES

All Saints' Week

October 29 & November 2

Gather at the Table

September 17-November 23

Life and relationships happen around tables. Holy Scripture is full of table stories. These stories teach us about our relationships with each other and invite us deeper into relationship with God. In this series we will examine "table stories" from the Bible and discover what they mean for our lives together.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

November 26

A Weary World Rejoices

November 30-December 21

The beloved songs of Christmas and the texts behind them. Let's explore the Christmas story through the gift of music and Holy Scripture.

A Thrill of Hope

December 23 & 24, Christmas Eve
(see Christmas worship schedule, page 3)

A New & Glorious Morn

December 25, Christmas Day
(see Christmas worship schedule, page 3)

Worship is on break

December 31

Belong, Believe, Be Light

January 4, 7 & 11
(January 7 & 11: Baptism Week)

You belong to Christ. You belong to the body of Christ the church. For many, the first step in finding a church home is to know that they belong. To have faith is to believe the good news of Jesus. We confess in the creed, "I believe." Belief is an act of trust that God's way is the best way for our lives. When we are baptized the preacher marks the cross of Christ on our forehead and quotes Mathew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven." We are called to shine God's light in us brightly for the glory of God!

Foundations

January 14-February 15

This series is based on the five solas ("sola" meaning alone). The five solas are a compilation of Latin phrases that provide a concise summary of Reformed Protestant Christianity. They are a foundation and a guide for our faith today. What do they mean and why are they still important?

Important Dates:

November 2-30—Great Plains Food Bank Food Drive | All Campuses

November 2, December 7 & January 11
Young Adult Dinner & Worship Night
6:30-8:30pm | South Campus

November 13, December 11 & January 8
Man Talk Men's Breakfast | 6:30am
South Campus

November 14-December 24—Ring the Bell for Hope for Salvation Army | Locations throughout Fargo/Moorhead, visit fargohope.org/adults for details

November 17—Surviving the Holidays GriefShare | 6:30pm | North Campus
DivorceCare | 6:00pm | South Campus

November 21—Salvation Army Food Box Distribution | South Campus | Volunteers needed visit fargohope.org/adults.

December 6—Women's Christmas Brunch
South Campus | Registration opens
November 10

December 7, 14, 21—Deeply Rooted
10:45am | All Campuses

December 10, 14, 17 & 21—Hopekids Sing in Worship | Check fargohope.org/children for exact dates by ages & campus

December 14, 15, 16—Salvation Army Toy Shop | South Campus | Volunteers needed visit fargohope.org/adults

December 24-January 4—Youth Programming on break

December 31—Office drop off deadline for year-end giving is December 31 by 4:00pm or postmarked by December 31, 2025. (See page 11 for more details.)

January 7 & 11—Baptism Week & Youth Programming resumes

January 25—Annual Meeting | Noon
North Campus

January 28-February 15—Pajama Drive
All Campuses

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT HOPE 2025

Join us for Christmas worship this year!

All Early Christmas and Christmas Eve services will be candlelight services.

Early Christmas Eve | Tuesday, Dec 23

North & South Campus | 6:00pm

Christmas Eve | Wednesday, Dec 24

North Campus | 11:00am* (Traditional), 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm

South Campus Sanctuary (Contemporary) | 11:00am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm*, 7:00pm, 9:00pm

South Campus Discovery (Traditional) | 3:00pm, 5:00pm

West Campus | 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm

Christmas Day | Thursday, Dec 25

All Campuses | 10:00am (Communion)

North Campus (Traditional)

South* & West Campuses (Contemporary)

*Livestreamed at fargohope.org/watch.



Ministry Highlight

Prayer Cross Ministry



Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands! Psalm 90:17

It began in a place of death. A dear friend, Ron Messelt, was dying. In his hand was a small wooden cross—that cross a promise of the life and salvation that comes to us in Jesus. A few men, Ron's friends, decided that such a profound promise, such a tangible reminder of the God who brings life even in death, such comfort and peace, needs to be shared. And so, they began to cut and sand, to router and brand. Crosses began to pass from their hands and into the world.

Hope's Prayer Cross Ministry began in a garage with a few saws and whole heap of hope. In nine years, the ministry has grown and prospered, providing a promise for people to hold onto in the uncertainty and chaos of life. The crosses, now a simple design in aromatic cedar, each branded with a star and a manger, and the words "Faith, Hope, and Love," have gone all over the world to people in every kind of life situation.

Last month the team of dedicated cross makers, men and women who have spent countless hours at the Hope Garage with tools in hand, gathered together to celebrate a milestone. 100,000 crosses have been made! Each of these will rest in the hands of a person who needs to know that Jesus is with them, the soft grain and smell of cedar a reminder of what began in a place of death so long ago.

Each cross speaks the promise that Jesus died on a cross and rose to life to offer forgiveness and eternity to a world of sin and death. The psalmist prayed long ago for God to "prosper the work of our hands." Certainly, God has prospered the hands of those who have come to cut and sand crosses at Hope. Their work has blessed the lives of so many and will continue for years to come. Their words are words of gratitude to God and invitation to you.

100,000 is a milestone, one that calls for rejoicing and celebration, but there are more slabs of wood to be cut down, to be sanded smooth, and to be branded with the message of faith, hope, and love. You can be a part of this ministry. No experience is needed. Come, join, and be blessed.





HISTORY OF PRAYER CROSS MINISTRY TIMELINE

Early 2016: The very first prayer cross was handmade by Daniel C. Skanson of Fertile, Minnesota and given to his long-time friend and Hope member, Ron Messelt.

February 22, 2016: Ron Messelt passed away holding that very cross in his hand.

March 19, 2016: A handful of Hope members, who were inspired by the story of Ron and the prayer cross, held their first meeting and cut another 15-20 prayer crosses.

April 2016: A design for the prayer crosses was finalized and branding irons of FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, the Star of Bethlehem, and The Manger were made to mark the crosses. The Prayer Cross Ministry ended up branding over 1,600 crosses by the end of 2016.

January 2020: Prayer Cross Ministry moves into the garage at Hope's South Campus, which is a wonderful shop built to provide space for making crosses.

December 31, 2022: 50,000th prayer cross was cut.

September 9, 2025: 100,000th prayer cross was cut.

Prayer crosses have been distributed for free to Hope members, the community, hospitals, homeless shelters, to people on trips locally and mission trips world-wide on 6 continents. The Prayer Cross Ministry hopes to eventually get a prayer cross on Antarctica to have shared the love of Christ world-wide. As you can imagine, the stories of how 100,000 prayer crosses have touched people's lives are numerous, wonderful, and inspiring.

ABOUT PRAYER CROSS MINISTRY

If you love the smell of sawdust, working with your hands and enjoying good conversation and fellowship, this would be the group for you!

It doesn't matter if you come once, or every time, nor does it matter if you cut one cross or five thousand. Each and every cross makes a world of difference to whoever it finds a new home with. This is a very special ministry. We get to hand out faith, hope, and love one cross at a time.



More than 150 men, women and youth from Hope and other churches have been involved in making the prayer crosses. If you would like to be one of them, the Prayer Cross Ministry meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:30pm at the garage at South Campus. If you have questions, please email adults@fargohope.org.



FOR THE ONE

For the ONE Prayer Challenge

During the For the ONE sermon series, January 22–March 2, 2025, our pastors challenged members to not only consider making a financial commitment to building a permanent location for our West Campus and updating youth spaces at North and South Campuses, but also to commit to praying for one person who you wanted to grow closer to God. We know that prayer is powerful, and we believe that God answers prayer.

Below are two stories of lives impacted because of prayers offered during For the ONE.

Jeremiah's Story

During For the ONE, I committed to praying for my father. I maybe wasn't consistent enough to do it daily, but I did pray for him every time I thought of it.

One day, as he was dropping me off, we had a conversation in his truck that gave me an opportunity to share my personal testimony with him and answer questions he had of me. That conversation lasted for about an hour, and it opened a dialogue with him about attending church.

This summer, my dad had an opportunity to bring the children he cares for to VBX. He thought that it would be a positive experience for them, and he was even convinced to be a co-guide of a small group because of his background in working with children. I was quite surprised when he agreed to being a co-guide. Yet I know that he was also exposed to all the positive messaging and music shared at VBX, and I am sure was lifted up by it.

After VBX, the children he cares for were not only open to prayer, they asked my father to pray for them and he committed to doing so more often. I have yet to attend a worship service with my dad, but I am hopeful that there will be opportunities in the future.

Kelly's Story

During the sermon series, I committed to praying that the Lord would give my brother and I more opportunities to be together and strengthen our relationship. I also prayed that He would give me an opportunity to talk to him about Jesus and my testimony.

Much to my surprise and delight, that prayer was answered in April when my brother unexpectedly decided to accompany my mother on her trip to visit us in May. He hadn't been to my house in nearly 10 years before that.

My kids were super excited for their uncle to visit, and my daughter was especially eager to get him to attend worship with us. So much so that she (age 12) asked if she could be the scripture reader in worship that Sunday. She told me that I might not be able to convince my brother to attend worship with us, but she was sure she could—especially if she was reading the scripture to the whole congregation. Not only did he attend worship with us, but after worship we made a shopping run alone together and I had an opportunity to talk to him about my faith and my testimony.

Approximately one month after their visit to Fargo, we traveled to my hometown for our typical yearly vacation. That week my brother took several days off work to spend as much time as he could with us. He has never done that before. My brother and I didn't have any other super notable conversations about God or faith that week, but I am more optimistic than ever that the Lord will provide those opportunities and grow the seeds that were planted in His time.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

For the ONE Giving

It is not too late to participate in the For the ONE generosity initiative! Our vision is to build a permanent location for our West Campus worship community and to update youth spaces at both North and South Campuses. If you have not already made a commitment to For the ONE, an easy and impactful way to get involved would be to participate in our 1,000/1,000 challenge (see details below.)

1,000/1,000 Challenge

1,000 households that haven't yet made a commitment to For the ONE make a \$1,000 commitment over the next three years.

For less than \$28/month, you can help make the For the ONE vision a reality! Every gift matters!

For details, visit fargohope.org/fortheone

FOR THE
ONE



YOUTH WORSHIP

At the Heart of Youth Worship

by Katie Van Dame, Youth Director of Youth Worship

Last winter, we launched a new opportunity for all 6-12th graders to partake in a special weekend retreat focused on the heart of worship. We dove into Psalms and reflected on what scripture has to say about worship. Students were given the opportunity to develop their musical gifts, too, with workshops led by 'coaches.' Meanwhile, additional stations were open through the weekend for students to engage in worship through other creative practices like art and journaling.

The highlight for many was the song writing session where the group collectively wrote an original song. Micah, an emerging middle school drummer, agreed and added - "It was a lot of fun to meet new people and there were fun indoor and outdoor activities like ice skating and Octoball. I enjoyed the worship time playing instruments."

Evening messages and morning devotions were also encompassed by worship. The weekend culminated with a special service led by the students including worship and scripture readings for their families.

This retreat was inspired by the growing development of our Youth Worship Ministry, which begun in 2022 and has had steadily increasing engagement across our campuses. Youth Worship aims to create a worshipful atmosphere of praise, gratitude and prayer in our youth services, as led by peers who have intentionally worked to develop their hearts and gifts to glorify God through music. The ministry is open to all 6-12th graders despite their current musical abilities. Coaches, worship leaders and staff work together to develop the group through weekly rehearsals and support on Wednesday evenings as they lead MSM and HSM worship.

Our "Amplified Worship: A Youth Worship Retreat" for 2026 will be held at Camp Castaway on Pelican Lake in Detroit Lakes, MN, on February 6-8. Registration for the retreat is open to all middle and high school students (including non-Hope members) despite their involvement with our youth worship teams. It will be a fun and impactful weekend as we AMPLIFY our Praise! In the words of one of our young worship leaders, Faith, "Everyone should come and experience the deep connection with the Holy Spirit through worship."

For more information about Youth Worship and/or to get registered for our "Amplified Worship: A Youth Worship Retreat" please visit fargohope.org/youthworship. Registration opens in November.

"It was great! We got to learn lots about music and the Word of God. Plus, there was plenty of time to hang out with friends. And we even got to write our own song!"
- Hank



The launch of our first Rhythms of Hope study groups at all campuses has been a remarkable success! We are excited to tell you that more than 330 people are participating, with a total of 40 groups meeting at all three campuses, and some meeting virtually and off-site. Rhythms of Hope is an 8-week, small group study written by Hope's pastors for adults at every stage of their faith journey. Current groups are now closed, and will run through November 23, but new groups will be forming again in January.

If you missed your chance to participate in the first round of Rhythms of Hope, please keep your eye out for details on the January groups, coming soon! God wants you to know Him and to know His Word—it will change your life! Here at Hope, we have seen how God uses small groups to connect us to other people and help us grow in faith. God has a place for you in a small group! Our invitation and challenge to you is to join a group in January and grow together.

“ I think Rhythms of Hope is a fantastic way to stay in God's Word every day. Many of us do what we want all week long and then come asking for forgiveness on Sunday, not thinking much about God during the week. So I really appreciate that the study does not take a ton of time to complete each day and gives me a great way to stay in the Word daily.
— Dan Levin ”

“ Small group has given me a consistent community that I can rely on. I love meeting with my group and being able to grow deeper in my relationship with God and have community with other Christians.
— Colleen Vought ”

“ Someone joined our group who has never participated in a Bible study before, and that is very exciting! The members of our group have all been very thankful that we are doing this study and are grateful for the opportunity. Sometimes a Bible study can feel like a lot of work, but the format of Rhythms of Hope is great. The shorter overall time commitment and the brief but detailed daily studies really help people commit to participating, and I can tell that they are engaged and excited about the lessons.
— Peggy Monsebroten ”

“ The Rhythms of Hope Bible study gives our small group structure, a starting point for deep conversation and an opportunity to grow closer to God together. It's such a great time for me to connect to a great group of ladies to talk to about and grow our relationship with God. —Elizabeth Werchau ”



“ I worship at our West Campus with my family, and it was so fun to see almost 20 people spending time together after worship the first Sunday, digging into the Word and taking in the study together as the body of Christ. We had lots of engagement from the whole room, with people sharing insights, personal stories, and reflections on what the Trinity means to them and what they have learned. I look forward to growing with this group each week, gaining new friends, and having the opportunity to help guide this great group of believers in this study. Thanks to Hope's pastors for putting together such a wonderful book and study for our congregation!
— John Messelt ”

MILESTONES

July 12-October 6



Baptisms

Theo Atlas, son of Walker & Milagros Charboneau
Isla Dorothy, daughter of Matthew & Courtney Sizer
Laura Mae, daughter of Dylan & Samantha Timmerman
Margot Lou, daughter of Grant & Madalyn Willert
Ellie Mae, daughter of Christopher & Lexy Byzewski
Jagger Lee Corneliusen, son of Kevin Corneliusen & Crystal Swanson
Lilian Rose, daughter of Matthew & Madison Sanchez
Baker James, son of Ian & Marissa Bullis
Kendall Jae, daughter of Christian & Alyssa Triplett
Lillian Grace, daughter of Jonas & Amber Matzen
Jack David, son of Jordan & Kasie Carlson
Cooper Alexander, son of Alexander & Jenna Tschider
Quinn Brady, daughter of Cole & Lindsay Honl
Sienna Rae Feeney, daughter of Kellen Feeney & Natalie Matthews
Colette Faye, daughter of Grant & Haley Lind
Leo Lance, son of Lucas & Melissa Lyngaas
Ryder Joe, son of Jobert & Caitlyn Olofernes
Zachary Christopher Sternberger
Kinsley Ann and Ashlynn Rae Castleman, daughters of Vincent Castleman & Heather Nelson
Maverick Steven, son of Matthew & Morgan Hartman
Gretta James, daughter of Marcus & Mari Beedle
Willa Grace Meier, daughter of Nathan Meier & Cassie Peterson
Cillian Ronald Hacker, son of Chris Hacker & Lauren Tupa
Mayes Jay Lee, son of Tim & Lane Kuhn
Jonah Ronald, son of Samuel & Ashley Johnson
Phoenix James, son of Adam & Lana Barone
Atlas Dean Meyer, son of Isaac Meyer & Jada Storo
Myles Jay Taylor, son of Robert Taylor & Abby Senger
Carmella Jean, daughter of Cole & Morgan Provinzino
Montgomery Brent, son of Evan & Ruth Johnson
Maverick William, son of Gavin & Amber Rook
Eloise Paige, daughter of Tyler & Emily Ottinger
Elijah Alexander, son of Benjamin & Kylee Klimpke
Emerie Lauren, daughter of Tyler & Hannah Bell

Marriages

Mandy Naumann & Joseph Meinert 7/25/2025
Sophie Weisz & Caden Jastram 7/26/2025
Kati Lee & Nich Sanger 8/2/2025
Destinee Petsinger & Wyatt Schempp 8/2/2025
Megan Roller & Tyrell Schneider 8/9/2025
Rachel Blasczyk & Tanner Jose 8/9/2025
Amber Sickler & Jacob Levin 8/15/2025
Amanda Hintz & Jay Kohls 8/23/2025
Sydney Kutzweg & Alex Hasbargen 8/29/2025
Abby Sklebar & Tyler Lindemann 8/29/2025
Megan Houfek & Cole Haller 8/30/2025
Mallory Donlin & Ryan Maier 8/30/2025
Shay Weber & Hunter Sall 9/5/2025
Ashlei Parker & Aaron Zietz 9/6/2025
Carly Kottsick & Royce Verkuehlen 9/6/2025
Ashley Peterson & Cole Lundeen 9/12/2025
Mandi Wahl & Ross Knoll 9/13/2025
Kennedi Sand & Noah Poss 9/19/2025
Brooklyn Klein & Quinn Johnson 9/20/2025
Bridget Bendickson & Dustin Buchholtz 9/27/2025
Whitney Hofstad & Brandon Delorme 10/5/2025

Deaths

Robert Edlund 7/22/2025
Dory Burkhart 8/9/2025
Ann Martin 8/10/2025
Donald Dronen 8/17/2025
Lowell Regstad 8/27/2025
Craig Heupel 9/2/2025
Leona Paulsrud 9/3/2025
Doris Wiger 9/4/2025
Mark Lembke 9/23/2025
Lois Northrop 9/26/2025
Virginia Mason 10/5/2025

NEW MEMBERS

July 12-October 6



New Members

Tanya Jackson
Cindy Bondy
Jadene Lyste
Whitney Hofstad
Brandon Delorme
LaDawn & Brian Lindenberg
Josie Schaefer
Bailey Evenson
Anna Trudeau
Jenna Weinhandl
Derek McLister
Daniel & Michelle Currier
Sally Simonson
Alexander Fischer
Jacob Lindbo
Noah Haglund
Randolph & Linda Johnson
Sharon & Larry Strande
Jonathan Eggers
Brooke Froelich
Tyler Vossler
Grant & Madalyn Willert
Lindsay & Cole Honl

YEAR END GIVING

REMINDER

▶ As we approach the end of the year, we invite you to prayerfully consider supporting the ministries of Hope Lutheran. Your generosity helps us share the love of Christ in our community and beyond.

Ways To Give:

- Check/cash
- Bill pay at your bank
- Stock transfer
- IRA transfer
- Online at Fargohope.org/giving

Office drop off deadline for year-end giving is December 31 by 4:00pm or postmarked by December 31, 2025.

Let's Finish the Year Strong! Together, we can make a lasting impact. Thank you for being part of the Hope Lutheran family and for your faithful support.

Questions? Please contact the church office at 701.235.6629 or email giving@fargohope.org

SAVE THE DATE:

Annual Meeting
January 25 | Noon
North Campus

WORSHIP TIMES



SOUTH CAMPUS

Wednesday:

6:00pm Contemporary

Sunday: 8:30am Traditional (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, on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/fargohope, or by downloading the Fargo Hope app on your phone.

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



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
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Fargo, ND 58102

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SAVE THE DATE:
BAPTISM WEEK

JANUARY 7 & 11, 2026

ALL CAMPUSES