

AUGUST 2026

Hope is the Anchor of the Soul – Hebrews 6:19

■ Interim Pastor: Rev. Bryan Schmidt

■ Administrative Assistant: Regina Matz

CONTACT US

Summer Hours

Mon – Tues 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Weds - Friday Closed

Telephone: 920-787-3920

E-mail:

office@hopelutheranwautoma.com

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Mary Kunasch

Vice President: Chris Hawlish

Treasurer: Julie Berger

Secretary: Jan Grenier

Members:

Chris Hawlish | Bill Elliott |

Char Stratton | Carol King |

Jon Kuehl | Mary Kunasch | Sue

Grimm | Sophie Klimke (Youth)

MISSION STATEMENT

*We of Hope Lutheran Church,
Share God's Word,
Show God's Love, and
Serve God's World.*

Prayer † Requests

In order to maintain privacy, the list will not be electronically published. Please pick up the Prayer/Birthday lists from the church.

Please seek the Spirit's help in your commitment to intercede for parishioners, family, and friends in need of prayer. Thank you.

COME WORSHIP WITH US

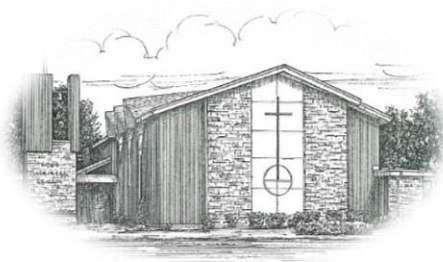
Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion:

1st & 3rd Sunday

2nd Sunday Praise Team

Fellowship Coffee Hour



301 E. Mt. Morris Avenue
PO Box 57
Wautoma, WI 54982



FOLLOW US

Website:

www.hopelutheranwautoma.com

Facebook:

Hope Lutheran

A congregation of



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

EVENTS

SEE CALENDAR FOR MORE

August

30th Polka Service

September

7th Labor Day

11th Patriot Day

13th Grandparents Day

Please remember to notify the office of any change of address, email or phone number. Thank you.

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† PASTOR'S PAGE †

"Seeds and Gardens"

From the Desk of Pastor Bryan

August 2026

"The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail." Isaiah 58:11

Dear people of Hope Lutheran Church,

I don't know about you, but for me, I have a hard time deciding whether I like or dislike the month of August. On the plus side, it is still summer, the weather is warm (perhaps a bit *too* warm for my liking) and summer activities are still in full swing. The flip side of that coin is that summer is nearly over and the fall season will be here before we know it. While the summer is drawing to a close (whether we like it or not), we can be assured that God's garden will continue to grow. The seeds that have been planted this summer will continue to grow. And new seeds will continue to be planted in this garden, and just as we are called to care for and nurture those seeds, we do so knowing confidently that God helps to tend our garden as well as empower us to plant other gardens in our surrounding communities to share the love and grace of Jesus. To imagine God's love being confined to one garden is, quite frankly, unimaginable.

A few years ago, these were the words of the benediction spoken at the end of worship, and I invite you to take a moment to reflect on them now:

*The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
+I bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.
Amen.*

May these words guide and sustain all that you do, and may they be a constant reminder of the seed of unconditional love that Jesus has planted in you forever.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bryan

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CHURCH COUNCIL

July 14, 2026, Church Council Minutes

President Mary Kunasch called meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Council Members present: Charlene Stratton, Janice Grenier, Chris Hawlish, Bill Elliott, Carol King, Mary Kunasch, Sue Grimm, Julie Berger, Pastor Bryan Schmidt.

Excused Members: Jon Kuehl, Sophie Klimke

Approval of agenda

June 15, 2026, minutes were approved.

Reviewed Committees each council member will serve on. Updated email and phone numbers given to all.

Call committee members Mary Kunasch, chair, Janice Thrasher, Chris Hawlish, Bob Bergen, Dave Magnus, Abby Weiland and Sally Roberts met with Pastor Nate on July 6. They are meeting every Tuesday, preparing questions for Mock Interviews. This is a great process to get the committee ready for the interviews when we receive candidate(s) from the synod. The process is totally confidential and once the committee believes a candidate is a good fit for Hope they will present the name to the council and upon approval it will be presented to the congregation. The process will take a couple of months. The call committee will keep members informed.

Correspondence: Thank you from ELCA for gift given. Thank you from Honor Flight for donation from Mission of the month. Note from Martz Insurance inviting us to their open house/ new location.

Financial Report: The balance sheet and Profit & loss overview was presented by Julie Berger. We continue to receive Thrivent Choice dollars. Offerings appear to be on budget. Motion made, seconded and approved by vote to accept.

Pastor's Report: July has been busy with three funerals and one wedding. The call committee will be officially installed during 8/2/26 church service. Pastor Marlin will be covering on Aug 16, 2026. Reminder that this fall would be the best time to update constitution as suggested by synod office. Then it

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can be presented at the annual meeting for approval. Administrative secretary, Regina is having shoulder surgery in September and will need some time off. She is working on things to be done ahead of time. Pastor's interim contract is up at the end of August. Synod office and Pastor Nate are reviewing this for a possible extension.

Personnel Committee: No new report

Property Committee: Checking on company to maintain the furnace since current service had a change of employees. Second of the season lawn care service was completed. Asked committee continue to look into prices for 10-15 new, lighter weight tables for fellowship hall. We had agreed to update these tables last fall.

Music & Worship committee: Microphones seem to be working well, except for one-time during the praise team service. The committee is putting together future needs and priorities for upcoming budgeting in the months and years ahead. Included in this is Video projection equipment, AV desktop and additional AV operators. August services are scheduled with polka service on Aug. 30.

Stewardship Committee: No report

Old/New Business/ Input from council Members: Our name has been removed from the Adopt- a -Highway cleanup service through Dept. of Transportation.

Motion made and approved to move members Karen Simolon and Howard Johnson to Church Triumphant.

Discussion on creating a Finance plan for a three-to-five-year Capital Improvement projects. This will help with budgeting and preparing ahead. Each committee is to evaluate potential future needs and report back to help create this. Question was brought up on how church donations get spent. General donations go to the general church funds. If a designation is made it goes to the designated request.

Approved motion to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: August 11, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Grenier, Council Secretary

HLCW

Thank everyone who helped with the country fair, it was a great success.

We are proud that we made \$5308 this year.



We are starting to collect items for our School kits. We still are far behind in our layette kits.

Our goal is 50 layettes and 70 school kits.

Thank you for helping us reach our goals

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BABY CARE KITS

- 2 light weight cotton t-shirts (no onesies)
- 2 long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (no feet)
- 2 receiving blankets 36" and 52" square medium weight cotton, flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn.
- 1 jacket, seater or sweatshirt with hood or with baby cap
- 2 pair socks
- 1 dark hand towel
- 2-3 8 or 9 oz. Bath-size bars of gentle soap

The HLCW will provide the diaper pins and diapers

SCHOOL KITS

- 4 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled no loose leaf paper
- 1 30 centimeter ruler, or a ruler with inches on one side and centimeters on the other – put inside the notebooks
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 pair of blunt scissors
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers – rubber banded
- 5 black or blue ballpoint pens, (no gel ink) – rubber banded
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 2 1/2" eraser

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MUSIC MINISTRY

How can it possibly be August already?? Even in retirement, summer still goes too fast! However, I am excited for the upcoming "church year"!

Now is the time to consider how to use your gifts in the life of Hope's music ministry. I loved how the missions committee had us think outside the box in January when they asked us to give of ourselves and not just of our money. As you can see from the September calendar that is enclosed, choir, bell choir and praise team will be in high gear. We are also in need of audio/visual volunteers. Don't worry if you can't make it all the time, many "workers" make light work. Come check us out...come when you can.

Also, please communicate with me when you have ideas, suggestions, and yes, even concerns, as we continue to improve our worship experience to the glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Musically His,

May McKinney

July 12, 2026 Music & Worship Meeting Minutes

A. Old Business

1. Mics are working well with minor issues this week which we could not pinpoint the specific issue.
2. Desktop repairs were made by our computer pro, Jason. May will check on the invoice for this repair. Discussion was held to reaffirm that any time something is being repaired to inform the committee of what is happening.
3. Manuals, etc. have been placed in a drawer in the balcony. Discussion of having a folder of invoices to be included.
4. August services: August 2-May & Linda playing piano/organ duet; August 9-Anne Dorwaldt & Amanda Stacy vocal duet; August 16-Praise team with special guest; August 23-Summer Bells; August 30-Polka Sunday. May will check with Julie on payment for that service.

B. New Business

1. (& 2.) The A/V desktop and more A/V help is a top priority. This would also mean changing the desk set up. As we create a tiered approach, knowing the life expectancy of certain equipment would be helpful. May will check into that.
2. 3. Pastor Bryan is going to check with some churches he is aware of that has updated its video projection equipment

C. Next meeting date: We will not meet in August. Next date will be Tuesday, September 8 at 5:30 pm. May ended the meeting in prayer.

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HOPE BOOK CLUB

Book club meets every third Tuesday of the month at 1 PM in the Hope library. Come and join us!

August 18th “Waltraud” by Tammy Borden

September 15th “Nineteen Minutes” by Jodi Picoult

October 20th “The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife” by Anna Johnston



HOPE LIBRARY NEWS: Inventory of the fiction books has been completed and the following list shows the books still checked out or are missing from the shelves. For those of you who use the library, please check at home. If you are done reading one of these books, please return to the basket in the library. The return of these books will help keep our inventory accurate. Also, some books have been withdrawn and you can locate them in the entryway for you to take and enjoy.

Homecoming Reunion, by Aarsen (large print)

City of Thieves, by Benioff

Broken Things, by Boeshaar

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Our Last Goodbye, by Dickson

The Improper Life of Bezellia Grove, by Gilmore (large print)

Rancher's Refuge, by Goodnight (large print)

The Brethren, by Grisham

Calico Joe, by Grisham

Between Sisters, by Hannah

Firefly Lane, by Hannah

Fame, by Kingsbury

Left Behind, by LaHaye

The Confession, by Lewis

The Reckoning, by Lewis

The Shunning, by Lewis

Coming Home, by Lewis

Fall on Your Knees, by McDonald

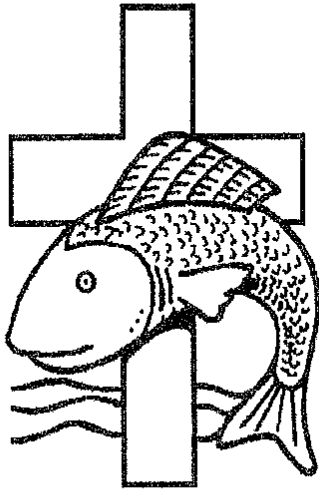
Finally a Bride, by McDonough

A Love to Last Forever, by Peterson

West with Giraffes, by Rutledge

I thank you very much for aiding me in keeping our Hope library a welcoming place for all.

Sandy



31st ANNUAL FISH BOIL

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
210 S. Charles Street
Westfield, Wisconsin

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026
Serving 4:30-7:00 pm



Proceeds to go to the Orphan Grain Train
(Wisconsin Branch) to help people in need

Menu: Fish (Cod), Potatoes, Onions, Cole Slaw, Beans,
Bread, Beverage, Dessert

Ticket Prices: Adults \$12 — Child (6-10) \$5 — Under 6 Free

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW! Call (608) 296-2088 for tickets.
Tickets also available at the door and Carry Outs Available

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Volunteers - August 2026 Calendar

Greeters Organized by Mary Kunasch

Volunteer Positions		Volunteer Names
August	Altar Guild >>	Eunice Stevens Mary Luebben
2	Greeters	Steve & Donna Norlin Roger & Mary Charette
	Scripture Reader	Helen France
	Assistant Ministers	Helen France
	Communion Assistants	Helen France Juanita Zernia Jan Grenier Bridgette Tschurwald Karen Tschurwald Sally Roberts
	Coffee Hosts	Judi & Dick Fjellman
9	Greeters	Helen Reed Marlin Carlson Donna Schimelpfenig Mary McKay
	Scripture Reader	Anne Dorwaldt
	Assistant Ministers	Anne Dorwaldt
	Coffee Hosts	Penny & Paul Hendrickson
16	Greeters	Richard & Eileen Burow Steve & Donna Norlin
	Scripture Reader	Mary McKay
	Assistant Ministers	Mary McKay
	Communion Assistants	Mary McKay Trudy Mattice Sandy Bartels Jay Klemann Need 1 more
	Coffee Hosts	Regina Matz & Cheryl Olsen
23	Greeters	Dave & Coralie Magnus
	Scripture Reader	Jay Klemann
	Assistant Ministers	Jay Klemann
	Coffee Hosts	Pam & Dick Donelson
30	Greeters	Rick & Carol King Mary Luebben & Janice Thrasher
	Scripture Reader	Mary Kunasch
	Assistant Ministers	Mary Kunasch
	Coffee Hosts	Diane & Dick Reini

Thank you for your service to the Lord.



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BIRTHDAYS &
OFFERINGS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

To ensure your information is not compromised by cyber threats, the birthday list will not be electronically published.

Please pick up the Birthday /Prayer Request Lists from the church.

May the Lord Bless and
Keep you through another
year.



6.21.2026	\$2,605.
6.28.2026	\$843.
7.5.2026	\$4,946.
7.12.2026	\$2,597.
7.19.2026	\$7,690.
7.26.2026	\$1,142.

Food Pantry Donation



77 Pounds

Thank You.

Mission of the Month

JUNE	Norwegian Fair	
JULY	Project Back Pack	\$469
AUG	The A + After School Program	

World Hunger

2026 total for year \$3416

CONSIDER VANCO SIMPLY GIVING

The Lutheran Church invites you to consider electronic giving, as a way to automate your regular weekly offerings from a checking or savings account. Electronic giving is convenient for you and provides much-needed consistency for our church. There is no cost for you to participate. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. To get started, complete the authorization form from the church office or homelutheranwautoma.com website Stewardship Electronic Giving (download form), and return it to the church office. All information is confidential.

2026 AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
02 9:00 AM Worship Communion Special Music 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 2:00 PM AA	03 10:00 AM CHEWS	04	05	06 10:00 AM - AA 7:30 PM - AA	07 6:30 AM - AA	08
09 9:00 AM Worship Special Music 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:15 AM HLCW 2:00 PM AA	10 10:00 AM CHEWS	11 6:30 PM Church Council	12 6:30 PM Praise Team	13 10:00 AM - AA 7:30 PM - AA	14 6:30 AM - AA	15
16 9:00 AM Worship Praise Team 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 2:00 PM AA	17 10:00 AM CHEWS 10:00 AM We Are In Christ 1:00 PM Pieces of Hope Shawl Ministry	18 1:00 pm Book Club ★Deadline for September VOH Newsletter Articles★	19 6:30 PM Summer Bells	20 10:00 AM - AA 7:30 PM - AA	21 6:30 AM - AA	22
23 9:00 AM Worship Communion Summer Bells 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 2:00 PM AA	24 10:00 AM CHEWS	25 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM Dept of Aging Foot Clinic	26	27 10:00 AM - AA 7:30 PM - AA	28 6:30 AM - AA	29
30 9:00 AM Worship Polka Service 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 2:00 PM AA	31 10:00 AM CHEWS	01	02	03	04	05

2026

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Worship Communion Hope Choir 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship	31 Labor Day Office Closed	01 5:30 PM Music & Worship Committee 6:30 PM Church Council	02 6:30 PM Hope Choir	03 10:00 AM - AA 7:30 PM - AA	04 6:30 AM - AA	05
06 9:00 AM Worship Communion Hope Choir 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship	07 Labor Day Office Closed	08 5:30 PM Music & Worship Committee 6:30 PM Church Council	09 7:00 AM Mens Breakfast Lakeshore 9:00 AM Knitting 1:00 PM Quilting 6:30 PM Hope Praise	10 10:00 AM - AA 1:00 PM - Grace Circle 7:30 PM - AA	11 6:30 AM - AA	12
13 9:00 AM Worship Praise Team 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:15 AM HLCW	14 10:00 AM CHEWS	15 1:00 pm Book Club	16 1:00 PM Quilting 6:30 PM Hope Bells ★Deadline for September VOH Newsletter Articles★	17 10:00 AM - AA 7:30 PM - AA	18 6:30 AM - AA	19
20 9:00 AM Worship Communion Hope Bells 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 2:00 PM AA	21 9:00 AM Knitting 10:00 AM CHEWS 10:00 AM We Are In Christ 1:00 PM Pieces of Hope Shawl Ministry	22 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM Dept of Aging Foot Clinic	23 1:00 PM Quilting 6:30 PM Hope Choir	24 10:00 AM - AA 7:30 PM - AA	25 6:30 AM - AA	26
27 9:00 AM Worship Hope Choir 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 2:00 PM AA	28 10:00 AM CHEWS	29	30 1:00 PM Quilting 6:30 PM Hope Choir	01	02	03