

The Voice of Hope



Welcoming, Worshipping, Serving
November 2020

Council President Al Overland

A current song playing on the radio has this chorus:

"If you can't do what you do, then do what you can."

This line, however true, plays out differently to every person reading this. Some are affected dramatically while others not much at all. It certainly applies to our Church as well. Worship, fellowship, visitation, education and all down the list have had to adjust.

Our stewardship has been forced to change as well:

- Our prison fellowship has not met since February.
- I have not been called to provide pulpit supply.
- Teaching, quilting, and bible studies all have been altered or stopped completely.

God calls us to give of ourselves. But how can we in this upside-down world?

There are ways!

Phone calls, visits from a distance, maybe a card or letter or even a text or email to someone who needs some encouragement.

At Hope, November is our month for reminding everyone of their role in the church: we call it **stewardship**. To me, giving is an essential part of who I am

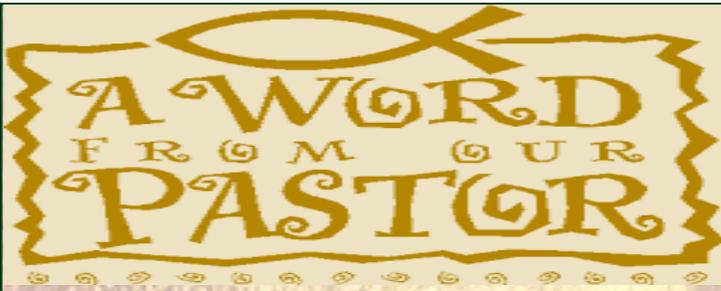
as God's child, not as a law, but as an expression of God's goodness to me. Even though we have lowered our mortgage payment, with the addition of an office staff person and a new pastor coming (not a reduced salary as Pastor Larry has graciously given!) the monetary gifts you share with the church are needed now, as much as ever.

Our activity at church has changed, but our financial obligations have not. When our lives return to normal (and they eventually will) we all want our church to be healthy in every way, including financially.

Sunday November 15th will be our stewardship Sunday. As we look forward to 2021, I thank you in advance for your generosity that the ministry of Hope Lutheran may continue in an even better way and God's grace be shared to all.

THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY





Dear Partner in Ministry,

I want to use this opportunity to keep you informed as to what has been happening since I last wrote to you.

After a couple of complications regarding refinancing, the papers were finally signed with First National Bank of Moose Lake on Sept. 29th. A special thanks to Ernie Muller for all his work in getting the job done. Thank you also to the Endowment Committee for shifting its' investments in stocks and bonds to a loan to the church. The monthly payments will total \$7,825.35 with \$5,293.27 going to the bank and \$2,532.08 to the endowment fund. This will enable the endowment committee to make gifts to community organizations as it has in the past. The refinancing will help significantly in moving the congregation toward a balanced budget proposal for 2021.

The 2020 budget was adopted with an approximate \$22,000 more of expenses than projected income which included a reduction in pastoral salary of \$36,000 because I offered to come to Hope for what the congregation could afford at that time. Income from unified giving was projected to be \$412,000 and expenses \$434,664. In 2020 we introduced a 5th Sunday of the month offering for debt retirement to pay down the principal on the mortgage but in 2021 it will be necessary to continue the 5th Sunday of the month debt retirement offerings to be used toward the monthly mortgage payments in order balance the budget (based on the current level of congregational giving).

With the departure of Pastor Reggie in 2019, Stephanie Rhodes was hired as a part time secretary in a budgeted amount

of \$18,000 (a significant portion of the \$22,000 deficit spending projected for 2020). She has been and continues to be a great asset to the congregation. Does a fantastic job and is worth every penny.

Deacon Wendy's salary has been about \$10,000 below guidelines but in 2021 her salary will begin to reflect the recommended guidelines. Wendy deserves to be compensated fairly for the wonderful ministry that she does. It has been a delight to work with her as a full ministry partner. Wendy has also admitted to herself, to me, and to the council that she can no longer do it all by herself. Therefore, the council authorized the extension of a contract to Sara Nichols on a part-time basis this fall. (This was possible due to some special financial gifts.) The council has authorized the hiring of Sara Nichols as a part-time employee of the congregation beginning in January at an annual cost of \$12,480. We have already seen what a wonderful addition Sara has been to the ministry of Hope Lutheran this fall. She is awesome!

The rough draft of the proposed budget for 2021 calls for raising the amount of dollars we send to the synod to the level of our 2019 commitment (\$18,000 as opposed to the \$12,000 this year) as well as giving an additional \$500 to Voyageur Lutheran Ministries. The rough draft of the 2021 working budget proposal for 2021 is not set in stone and will be affected by what the salary and benefits package of the new pastor will be. The rough draft proposal includes recommended compensation guidelines for a pastor with 15 years of experience.

The estimated offering income for 2021 was based on actual giving during the first 2 quarters of the year (\$197,439 unified giving and \$20,890 debt retirement). The third quarter level of

giving did not keep up this pace but we will have to see what happens in the fourth quarter. Anticipated offerings for 2021 are \$400,000 for unified giving (we received \$272,342 through the 3rd quarter) and \$40,000 debt retirement (we received \$25,695). If offerings during the 4th quarter equal the giving levels of the 1st quarter; we will be able to meet our 2020 ministry goals.

To meet our goals for 2021 we will need to increase our giving for the ministry of Hope Lutheran Church. I would encourage you to prayerfully consider doing so.

This is probably too much detail for some and not enough for others--please contact me with any questions you may have.

We will be sending out a stewardship letter from me along with a pledge card for 2021 and a debt retirement offering envelope for the 5th Sunday in November soon. Stewardship Sunday has been designated as November 15th which would be a good time to return your pledge card.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE--As of October 20th, the committee has interviewed 2 pastoral candidates and will be reviewing the profile of a third to determine whether or not they will interview that person.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS--The council has reviewed and updated the congregation's constitution and bylaws. The document will be available in a pdf file on the church website and will be sent to all members for whom we have an email address. Hard copies will be made available on request from the church office. This document will be voted upon by the congregation at the

same time as the congregation votes to extend a call to your next pastor.

I apologize for a letter that is more informational than pastoral but felt you needed to know.

Take care, stay safe, and may the peace of the Lord be with you all.

Your brother in Christ and partner in ministry,
Pastor Larry

“Senior version of Jesus Loves Me”

Here is a new version just for us who have white hair or no hair at all. For us over middle age (or even those almost there) and all you others, check out this newest version of Jesus Loves Me.

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me, this I know,

Though my hair is white as snow

Though my sight is growing dim,

Still He bids me trust in Him.

(CHORUS)

YES, JESUS LOVES ME.

YES, JESUS LOVES ME.

YES, JESUS LOVES ME,

FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,

With my hand in His I'll go

On through life, let come what may,

He'll be there to lead the way. (CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,

In my heart He puts a song..

Telling me in words so clear,

“Have no fear, for I am near.” (CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,

And life's victories have been won.

He will take me home above,

Then I'll understand His love. (CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?

Have I ever told Him so?

Jesus loves to hear me say,

That I love Him every day. (CHORUS)

In loving Memory



A Celebration of Life for Paul Elwood Jacobson

September 4, 2020 at 11:00 AM
Hope Lutheran Church
Moose Lake, Minnesota



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

M. IRENE MCTAGGART

OCTOBER 17, 2020
VISITATION AT 2:00 P.M. · SERVICE AT 3:00 P.M.
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MOOSE LAKE, MINNESOTA



There are 9 minutes during the day that have the greatest impact on a child:

- The first 3 minutes right after they wake up
- The 3 minutes after they come home from school.
- The last 3 minutes of the day before they go to bed.

Make those minutes special and help our children feel special, loved and accepted.

~Each day children need meaningful eye-to-eye conversations with a parent. It is especially important to slow down and look them in the eye. Listen and respond with love.

~Hug your child, straighten her hair, pat him on the back and tell them how proud you are of him/her every day. A simple touch makes them feel connected to a parent in ways that words never will. Remember actions speak louder than words!

Bloom where you are planted

You are invited to
The MIDDLE SCHOOL GATHERING!
Same great event; different look this year.
November 21st
10:30am - 4:00pm at Hope

Due to COVID-19, the in-person Middle School Gathering at Cragun's has been cancelled for the safety of our youth and adults.

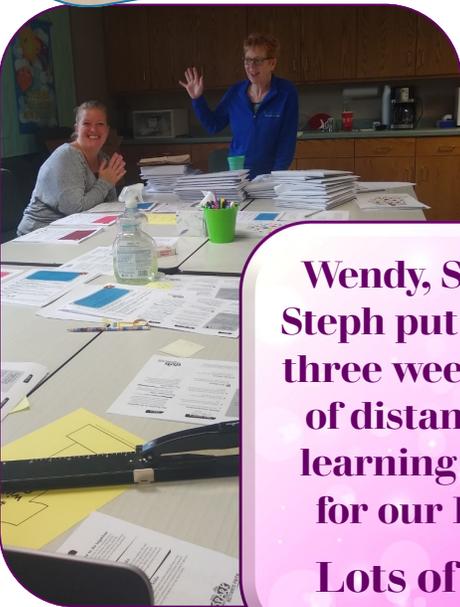
But there will still be a Middle School Gathering!

Churches around the synod will be gathered in community in their individual churches where they can be socially distant and safe.

We hope you will join us for this event!

Open to students in 6th-9th grade

Cost: \$20 (includes lunch and a t-shirt)



Wendy, Sara and Steph put together three weeks worth of distance faith learning packets for our Kiddos! Lots of them!

Basic Schedule:

9:30am	Arrival Activities
10:00am	Welcome, Safety Rules
10:15am	Relational Games 1
10:45am	Large Group
11:30	Family Time
Noon	Lunch
12:30pm	Relational Games 2
1:00pm	Learning Clusters #1
1:30pm	Learning Clusters #2
2:00pm	Learning Clusters #3
2:30pm	Break
2:45pm	Personal Time with God
3:15pm	Closing Worship
4:00pm	Depart



Wreaths and Christmas Greenery!
See the back page for more information.



Packet Land!

Faith for the Future School Schedule

The preliminary schedule is as follows:

- Nov. 3th (Tues):** Fifth Grade
- Nov.4th (Wed):** Fourth Grade
- Nov.10(Tues):** Third Grade
- Nov. 11(Wed)** Second Grade
- Nov. 17(Tues.)** First Grade
- Nov. 18(Wed.)** Kind.
- Nov. 24(Tues)** Pre-school
- Nov. 25 No Programing**

- 7th, 8th, 9th Schedule-Moved To Wednesdays
- Wednesday, Nov. 4th, 6:30-7:45**
- Wednesday, Nov. 11th, 6:30-7:45**
- Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6:30-7:45**
- Wednesday, Nov. 25, No Programming**

THANKOFFERING

We are so blessed!

Yes, we are living a much different life than normal since the Covid19 concern became a part of our lives, but we are still blessed even in these tough times. We are now in November and November is Thankoffering and because we don't know if and when we will be gathering back in church we need to do something different concerning Thankoffering. Please plan to give with a generous heart as we have been so blessed this past couple of months. Place your Thankoffering in an envelope and mark it Thankoffering and mail it into the church and Donna Arnold, our Treasurer, will deposit them and make a check out to the Women of the ELCA. Since we are not meeting as circles our giving to the Women of the ELCA has been nothing and so we pray that this Thankoffering will be put to good use in the workings of the Women of the ELCA. There will also be a Thankoffering envelope included with Pastor Larry's November mailing.

THANKOFFERING
20__ Women of the ELCA

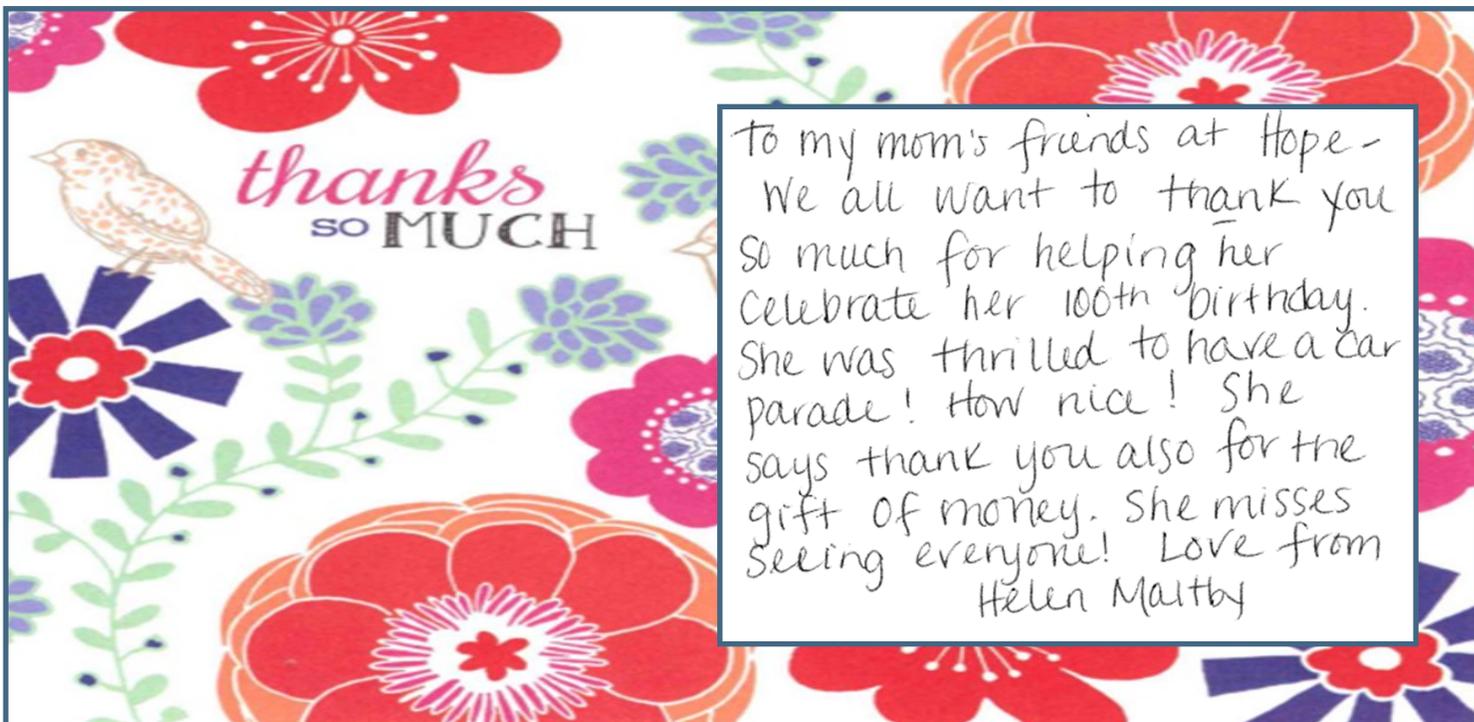
Name: _____
Gift of \$ _____ Congregation envelope # _____



Hope Lutheran Church
Women of Hope
PO Box 422
Moose Lake, MN 55767

The church office will notify the Altar Guild if they will be needed.

No communion bread needs to be made and the elements will not be set up at this time.



My Faith Walk

At the age of 77+, doing a “life review” (as we called it my years working at the local Health Care Center) would cover a lot of territory!! But here it goes:

Having been born into a Christian home, there was no question that I would attend Sunday School, church services, and Youth Events in the Ashland Presbyterian Church. But my experience at a teen of 16 attending Bible Camp was a turning point in my Christian walk. At a Consecration Service around a campfire, I gave my life to the Lord. That is why I am a real advocate for sending our young people to camp~~ it is more than playing games, swimming, and meeting new friends. Life decisions are made there that change a person’s life FOREVER!

I went on to nurse’s training after high school. Many times, my faith was tested but the Lord never let go of my hand. He promised that He would keep me in His care, and He has not failed me yet! I have perhaps disappointed Him at times, but he loves me unconditionally~ I KNOW THAT!

I went on the marry Jim (56 years ago) and we raised a family of 3 daughters, following God’s direction in their lives as well. That happed 2 generations ago as we now have grandchildren and great-grandchildren! Praise God for all of this!!!!

Once more event in my life happened as I neared retirement~~ I was called to join a group of Christians on a medical mission to Nicaragua in 2002. My eyes were opened to a whole new world of poverty and REAL need. I realized that I have SO MUCH, and they have SO LITTLE. Yet THEY are so happy. I went to “Nica” again in 2004 with a renewed sense of gratitude and love for these wonderful souls. They are always in my prayers.

As many of you know, I love to go for walks~~for my head, as well as my heart. And as I walk, I sing, I pray out loud, and I thank God for saving me those many years ago around a campfire.

AMEN



Donna Eckman

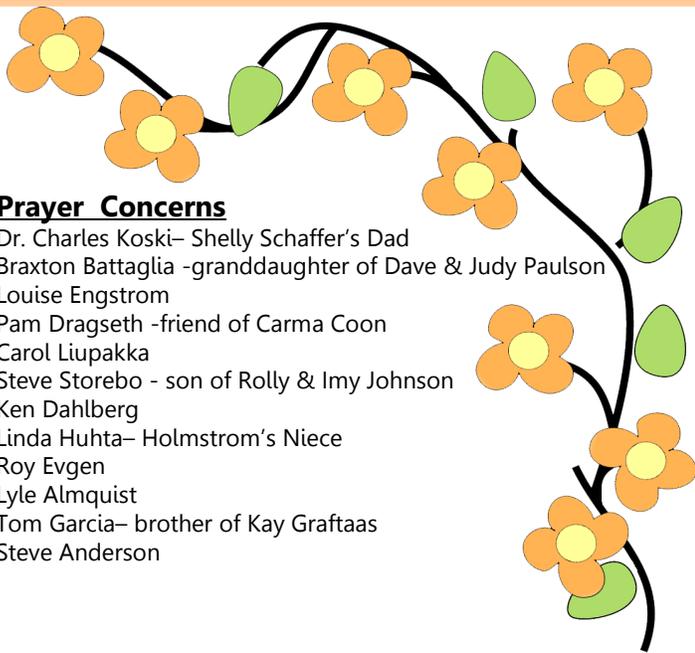
Our Faith for the Future Program started the beginning of October.



The kids love the small groups!

Sara has been singing and playing games with the kids and helping Wendy put everything together.



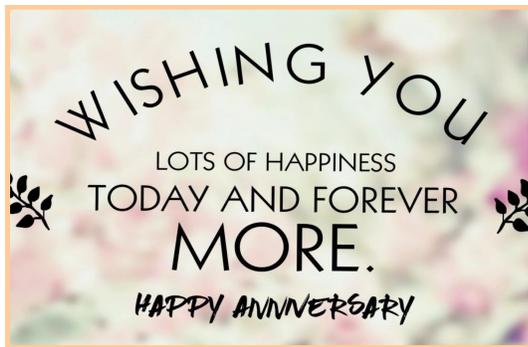


Prayer Concerns

Dr. Charles Koski– Shelly Schaffer’s Dad
 Braxton Battaglia -granddaughter of Dave & Judy Paulson
 Louise Engstrom
 Pam Dragseth -friend of Carma Coon
 Carol Liupakka
 Steve Storebo - son of Rolly & Imy Johnson
 Ken Dahlberg
 Linda Huhta– Holmstrom’s Niece
 Roy Evgen
 Lyle Almquist
 Tom Garcia– brother of Kay Graftaas
 Steve Anderson

Military Service

Brian Erola	Joey Whited
Robert Dedrowski	Jeremy Hill
Daniel Conley	Jeremy Johnson
Anthony Mandt	Scott Eckman
Jason Johnson	Gage Mohelsky
Mike Tolerico	Maddie Shatz
John Kachinske	Danny Whited
Alexis Babcock	



Ernie & Norma Holmstrom	1
Ken & Carleen Halverson	4
Floyd & Betty Weske	17
Michael & Lisa Rose	23
Randy & Debbie Skog	25

Besides those named on this page, please remember those not named suffering from chronic pain, or any other physical or mental issues. Especially remember those from our church family in assisted living or nursing homes, though not listed above unless health conditions deteriorate. They are: Lyle Almquist, Jan Ecklund, Carol Carlson, Helen Maltby, Annette Dahlmeier, Ardella Pingeon, Andi Carlson, Mary Lu Carlson, Irene McTaggart and Punky and Bette Weske. Pray for those that are homebound: Gordy Paulson. There are also many who prefer not to be listed individually, but have requested private prayers.



Dana Olson	1	Emily Waseen	12
Isabelle Walker	1	Karley Rentz	14
Nickolas Peterson	2	Lindsay Braman	15
Robin Peterson	2	Ronnie Thompson	15
Ryleigh Sickler	2	Ethan Meyer	16
Char Francoeur	3	Ardella Pingeon	16
Bruce Lang	4	Lucas Probst	16
Spencer Lower	4	Greta Barrett	17
Rick Nelson	4	Jennifer Collier	17
Maya McDowell	5	Audrey Cyrus	17
Doris Schienbein	5	Brennan Olson	17
Pam Vargas	5	Kim Davidson	18
Sheenagh Caroline	6	Ronald Goetzinger	19
Weston Davidson	6	Olaf Larson	19
Janice Brudevold	6	Bruce Manty	19
Caleb Jeffers	6	Mary Helfmann	20
Zoey Karulak	6	Lee Mogen	20
Julie Agurkis	7	Patti Almquist	22
Steve Blondo	7	Hannah Erwin	23
Shawn Bode	7	Gunnar Rhoades	23
Dale Heaton	7	Khloey Schmidt	24
Becky Olson	7	John Engstrom	25
Tracy Belanger	8	Carter Johnson	25
Shanette Juscak	8	Amanda Goetzinger	26
Barb Lang	8	Rodney Grimm	26
Erika Kosloski	9	Carol Liupakka	26
Gary Benoit	11	Justin Olson	26
Jonathan Grimm	11	Johnathan Rhodes	27
Jackie Kirk	11	Aila Oswald	27
Treyton Rudebeck	11	Amber Lenz	28
Scott Benoit	12	Randy Skog	28
Eleanor Eskuri	12	Dorothy Collette	29
Jaxson Halverson	12	David Holm	30

From the Office

Have I mentioned that I love my Job! Well.... I LOVE MY JOB! It is so wonderful to be able to look forward to Mondays and to have found my place in the world.

I come to church and Ernie comes in most mornings, he is so positive about everything with me. He makes it a joyful morning full of laughter.

Wendy comes in next, she lights up whenever she sees me (and everyone!), just making me feel great!

Sylvia is my partner in crime....ok not crime, but we do get very spontaneous together. We went and took down all of my cornstalks from my house and made fall decorations last week... just because!

Sara has been a wonderful addition to our office. She is so happy and full of love and laughter, you can't help but feel the same.

I love to see Larry when he comes in. He makes my day! He has been such a blessing to us.

I have many other visitors throughout my week Natalie Frohrip, Barb Lang, Dale Heaton, Gloria Johnson, Jan Erickson, Sue Juszak, Wayne and Sharen Peterson, the counters of the month, and so many more. I love all of you! Thank you for making my days wonderful.

We have a loving office full of laughter and smiles, along with some



**My cornstalks are
all out of my garden!
Happy dance!!**

tears and prayers. It is what I have been longing for and looking for without knowing it! Thank you Hope Lutheran Church for the people you are and the church you have made!



Hope Lutheran Church
204 Elm Avenue
PO Box 422
Moose Lake, MN 55767



NON—PROFIT
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Moose Lake, MN

Address Service requested

Worship Schedule

- *Sundays 9:00 am
- * Sundays 10:30 am Drive-in

www.hopeofmooselake.com
hopelutheran204@msn.com
218-485-4673



Evangelical Lutheran
Church of America

November 2020

**DO NOT BE DAUNTED
BY THE ENORMITY
OF THE WORLD'S GRIEF.
DO JUSTLY, NOW.
LOVE MERCY, NOW.
WALK HUMBLY, NOW.
YOU ARE NOT OBLIGATED
TO COMPLETE THE WORK,
BUT NEITHER
ARE YOU FREE TO
ABANDON IT.**

~RABBI TARFON



Christmas Greenery



The Youth are selling Christmas greenery again! If you would like one just send Wendy or the office an email. You can also give us call, or stop in the office with your order.

Wreaths and Garland

Traditional Round Wreath	16.00
Classic Door Swag	16.00
Festive Door Arch	16.00
25' Festive Balsam Garland	30.00
50' Festive Balsam Garland	50.00
Traditional Cross Wreath	22.00
Small Kissing Ball	24.00
Large Kissing Ball	30.00



The wreaths are made with hand-picked balsam boughs and decorated with a cluster of white-tipped pinecones, red berries and a water-resistant red velvet bow.