




ANNUAL REPORT

2024

 (760) 346-1273

 hopepd.org

 45900 Portola Ave,
Palm Desert, CA 92260

A NOTE FROM OUR INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

*The Lord now sends us forth, with hands to serve and give,
And make of all the earth, a better place to live
the angels are not sent into our world of pain
to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me and all who are made free,
help us O Lord we pray, to do your will today."*

Lutheran Book of Worship #538 Anonymous from Central America

A healthy vibrant church is a welcoming, mission-focused, risk-taking community of faith! Hope Lutheran Church is this kind of church! Thank you.

It has been my joy and privilege to share in mission and ministry with you since June 1, 2024, as your Interim Senior Pastor. I love the purpose and Spirit-filled potential of God's Church, Hope Lutheran. When we come together, united by the Holy Spirit, the love of God is reflected inside and outside the walls of Hope, making an impact and changing lives.

I have served these past 7 months as both Pastor and Consultant. Whether it be Worship Leading, Teaching, Preaching, Staff Leading, and Pastoral Care, or providing support for ministries and the Senior Pastor Search Committee, my experience at Hope has been rich and rewarding. I am grateful to you. Hope has many strengths but what follows are the three areas of strength I wish to highlight, referenced in my opening paragraph. To build on these strengths will grow the kingdom of God and create great health and vibrancy!

WELCOMING

Every church "thinks" they are welcoming. I have found the environment of welcome for all regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual identity, background, etc. is experienced in a positive way on Hope's campus and in the ministry we do. From Hope's Children Center to Parents Night Out to Women of Hope ministries to Celebrate Recovery to diverse and inspiring Worship services to Bible Studies and Fellowship activities, Hope is reaching people with the message of Jesus' Love that all are welcome.

Hope
Palm Desert

A NOTE FROM OUR INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR (Continued)

MISSION-FOCUSED

The Lord now sends us forth! Dietrich Bonhoeffer says it best; “The church exists when it exists for others”. A self-serving church becomes a club. A mission-focused church is an Acts 2 church... the Church that God has designed and intended. The mission partnerships that Hope has in the Coachella Valley are impressive. The growing partnership with the Cantleberry’s in Thailand has exciting possibilities. The movement toward participation and education along with resourcing our mission partnerships is a positive development. The feeding ministry through our Food Pantry and sponsoring a local under-served community is responding to Jesus’ called to care for those in need. May Hope build on this mission-focused strength in exceptional ways!

RISK-TAKING

I have found that a risk-averse church is not a healthy, vibrant church but an insular community that only seeks to survive rather than thrive. Those churches will die which breaks God’s heart! Traditions in the church are helpful in how they help us to remember and keep us connected. As I heard on the radio, “all music was once new”, new traditions are given birth when there is an openness to the powerful work of the Holy Spirit. I have observed and appreciated the courage of Hope to be intentional about sharing the Good News through different expressions. The investment in people and tools to do ministry in a new way has taken great courage and perseverance! In this faith community’s next chapter, I pray for all people of Hope to create space for the Spirit to “dream dreams” and “see visions”. To do this will require your continued generosity as well as courage, commitment, and conviction “to run the race that is set before us”!

Thank you once again for our partnership in the Gospel! I look forward to what God will do through you, Hope Lutheran Church, in 2025!

vaya con dios (go with God)!

Pr. Tom



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MISSION STATEMENT

"Hope is here to help people know Jesus, and that's the heart behind everything we do."

2024 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Position

Council Member

President

Mary Fay Pinnow

Vice President

Toni Hafey

Treasurer

Rick Greaves

Secretary/Worship & Music Youth

Reynold Worch

Human Resources

Toni Hafey & John Donnelly

Stewardship

Kim Buchanan

Property Management

David Shelep

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

February 2, 2025 at 11:30am in the Sanctuary

1. Call To Order
2. Opening Devotion
3. Opening Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God
4. Approval Of The Congregational Meeting Agenda
5. Approval Of Minutes
6. Pastors' Report
7. Committee Reports
8. Approval Of Financial Report
9. Approval Of Budget For 2025
10. Nomination and Election of Council Members
11. Old Business
12. New Business
13. Adjournment
14. Closing Prayer

STATISTICAL REPORT

OUR ONLINE MINISTRY GREW RAPIDLY IN 2024.

- Average weekly online worship services attendance 275
- Average weekly online kids attendance 318
- Average weekly online student attendance 37

ON CAMPUS MINISTRY

- Average weekly worship services attendance 397
- Average weekly kids attendance 16
- Average weekly student attendance 24

MEMBERSHIP

- Membership, December 31, 2023 1330
- Members received during 2024
 - By Baptism - children 32
 - By Baptism - adults 4
 - By Affirmation of Faith 21
 - By transfer from ELCA Congregations 8
 - From other sources 0
- Total members received 2024 65
- Members removed during 2024
 - By death 24
 - By transfer 0
 - For other reasons and statistical adjustment 0
- Total members removed 2024 24
- Membership, December 31, 2024 1371
- Total Confirmed Membership end of 2024 1371
- Number of Baptized youth who were confirmed in 2024 11
- Households with at least one member 1274
- Total weddings 1

INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR/ PASTOR EMERITUS

Thank You - Thank You - Thank You

I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because you have proclaimed your faith to all the world.
Romans 1,8

This is my final Annual Report to you the congregation of Hope Lutheran Church, Palm Desert. Yes, I am finally retiring from the ministry with you, the people of Hope. I've tried to retire at least four times in the past; but didn't because of my love of ministry and you! (Pastor Derek had a part in it too) Over the years we have laughed, cried, hugged, prayed and sung hymns of praise together. We have been together for births, baptisms, confirmations, weddings, anniversaries and celebrations of life.
We are one big family!

I invite you to be at worship on Sunday, February 23, 2025 just one day after my 80th birthday when I will officially retire!

These past 30 plus years have gone by so fast. I remember when Cheryl and I came to be interviewed by the Call Committee. I stepped out of the car in the parking lot onto a wad of chewing gum, looked up at the chairman of the Call Committee and said "I guess you're stuck with me!"

It was June of 1994 that I started my ministry here at Hope in the "A Frame."

I had a lot of help over years, Retired Pastor Bob Collick stayed on as the Visitation Pastor, Pastor Cheryl Corneliussen was added as an associate pastor followed by Pastor Derek Fossey, Pastor Beth Brashear and Pastor Derek Fossey again. Pastors Bob Dew and Jay Egenes did their Internship's here at Hope while in seminary.

When Pastor Derek started the Modern Service, Pastors Gerald Sharon and Pastor Rick Bailard came on board. Pastor Tom Grevlos became our Interim Pastor after Pastor Derek accepted a call to Park City, Utah. Pastor Gesa Sharon joined the staff and Nick Orth will become an Intern from Luther Seminary in February. I thank God for each of these Pastors who have made a difference in my life here at Hope.

The congregation grew, we purchased several homes on Fairway Drive and added a new parking lot in 2000 and began the construction of a new Worship Center in 2001. The columbarium was added in 2010 and the building of the Hope Center followed in 2015. Hope continues by the grace of God to be one of the leading churches in the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We give heartfelt thanks for allowing us to be a part of your growth and history. I thank the entire staff over the years for the difference you have made in the lives of the people of Hope. It has been a pleasure for Cheryl and me throughout all these years to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ with you here at Hope! P.S. We are not leaving the Coachella Valley and look forward to the time we will be with you in the future.

The peace of the Lord be with you.
In the Love of Christ, Pastor Carl & Cheryl Witt

TEACHING & COACHING PASTOR

Wow, 2024 went by in the blink of an eye! It was a year filled with memorable and life-changing moments. Here are some of the many highlights I had the privilege of being a part of.

Modern Service Ministry

Pastoring the Modern Service has been an incredible joy. Our band members are wonderful and love Jesus. They are led by Heather Stanley, our talented Worship Leader. While I serve as the primary speaker in the Modern Services, we value the importance of hearing from different voices. I want to thank my fellow pastors on staff for their contributions to these services—you are all appreciated.

Digital Communication Team

Leading and directing this exceptional team has been such a rewarding experience. John Wilson, our Video Production specialist, is unmatched in his filming and editing skills. He manages our online services, on campus recap videos, and so much more with excellence. Christina Jutovsky, our Digital Content Creator, handles our graphics, website, and social media platforms with a level of creativity and professionalism that is second to none. Hope is incredibly blessed to have such talented and dedicated individuals on our team.

Coaching Young Leaders

I'm also honored to coach Carlos Vega, our Children's Minister, and Nick Orth, our Student Ministry Pastor. These two men have a deep love for God and an unwavering passion for reaching kids and students. It's been heartwarming to witness their growth and maturity in leadership this year.

Supporting Hope's Directors

It's been an honor to coach Virginia Plavec, our Children Center Director, and Manny Marinez, our Facilities Director. Both are incredibly committed to their work and take great pride in their responsibilities. Their dedication and excellence bring so much value to Hope, and I'm grateful for their hard work and leadership.

Partnering with Our Interim Pastor

Later this year, Hope welcomed Interim Pastor Tom Grevlos. Tom has been a joy to work with and I've loved supporting him as he seeks to follow God's direction for Hope. He is yet another exceptional leader who has helped our church live out its mission of helping people Find and Follow Jesus.

Finally, I am beyond blessed to have my wife, Bobbi, by my side in this journey. Her support means the world to me. It's also been a special blessing to see my son, Dillan, playing drums and using his gifts in the band this year. God has been so good to Hope in 2024, and I know you'd agree.

Here's to all God has in store for us in the year ahead!

Your servant,
Pastor Rick

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION TEAM

Christina Jutovsky: Digital Content Creator

John Wilson: Video Production

Rick Ballard: Team Leader

ONLINE MINISTRY

Producing 6 Services Weekly

On YouTube & Rumble










(Kids, Students & Adults)

PRODUCED TOTAL SERVICES: 312

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok

REACHED PEOPLE

-  Facebook: **156,000** **73.3% increase** 
-  Instagram: **55,000** **57.1% increase** 
-  TikTok **75,000** **56.3% increase** 
-  YouTube: **79,000** **88.1% increase** 
- Total Reach: 365,000** **69.8% increase** 

NEW FOLLOWERS: 586

POSTS

Total Posts: **Over 2500**

MARKETING & ADVERTISING

(all on campus & online)

(Filmed, edited, posted on YouTube)

HOPE WEBSITE

33,627 Page Visits **28.0% increase** 

Recap Videos (event highlight reels)

Street Advertisement Banners

Slides, Thumbnails & Graphics

TOTAL REACHED
365,000

STUDENT MINISTRY

TEAM:

Nick Orth: Student Minister

Terry Voyles: Middle School Director

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Occurs the third Saturday of every month
- 15 tons of food distributed
- Community of 150 families served
- Every month students partner with the Narrow Door hand out food boxes of a community up the road. Students also pray with families in their struggles and in their blessings. Two of these weeks the congregation partnered with students to provide food for Thanksgiving!!

CAMPS

- 102 students in attendance
- 3 camp opportunities
- \$57,000 dollars raised
- ELCA youth Gathering, Camp Pondo, Manhood camp

RAISING UP VOLUNTEERS AND LEADERS

The student ministry has continued to pour into students who feel called to ministry, from middle schoolers through young adults. Some have gone to work for Camp Pondo as camp leaders and others have chosen to remain at Hope as young adults who wish to pour into our students year around! Middle school and high school students continue to serve at large events at Hope like Spooktacular, Christmas, and Easter! We had 12 students who were confirmed this year as well as 10 students who graduated High School.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Student Ministries at Hope is still looking forward to our partnership with RAG (Rescue a Generation) to reach students on campuses. We are also looking forward to having graduates join us as interns who feel called to student ministry. Please pray for the development of these future Christian leaders while they discern God's call on their life as well as our partnership with RAG to reach students outside our four walls



CAMP PONDO



STUDENT IMPACT



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

KIDS MINISTRY

TEAM:

Karla Vega: Nursery Coordinator
Bobbi Acosta: Early Childhood
Mia Wedeking: Kids Assistant

Carlos Vega: Elementary
Valeria Jimenez: Check-in & Data

EVERY SUNDAY

Exciting program for
kids during services

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

85 kids having a blast in the Hope Center

HOPE CHILDREN CENTER

Monday - Friday Child Care

CAMP HOPE

175 Kids & Volunteers
\$6,800 Raised for missionaries

SPOOKTACULAR

Over 70 volunteers
30,000 pieces of candy given out to thousands of people

Hi Hope family. We finished another year with healthy growth. I wanted to thank all of you for all your support and kindness as I, your Children Director, have completed my first full calendar year with Hope. My family continues to serve with Hope Kids and have enjoyed working together for our kids' outreach events.

Sundays have been filled with Bible story teachings and fun memorable experiences. Hope Kids provides childcare and curriculum from our Nursery to Early Childhood ages 3 to 5 and our Elementary class grades 1-5.

In addition I get to teach our Sunday bible lesson to Hope Children Center kids every Wednesday, including filming our weekly Hope Kids online YouTube videos with them. I see this as a rare and creative experience that the kids and I get to have sharing the Good News and love of God with others.

Our children's events throughout the year have continued to increase in attendance and in volunteer support. For example...

- Camp Hope has become the anticipated kid's summer event of the year.
- We have transitioned our Trunk or Treat to Spooktacular, where we saw an amazing turnout and connection with family and community.
- Parents Night Out has become our gem for parents from our community.

Thank you Hope family for your continued encouragement and support.
Looking forward to an explosive 2025.

Sincerely,
Carlos Vega,
Hope Children Director

HOPE CHILDREN CENTER

2024 has come to a successful and rewarding end! We have accomplished naming and defining ten core values, including generosity, responsibility, resilience, determination and gratitude. These elementary students, ages 4-10, are thoughtful and genuine with their thoughts and actions every day here on the Hope Children Center Campus. They are eager to run their own circle time which includes the core values, daily reflections and prayer.

Good news! We are overflowing with children! We have applied for an expansion in capacity from the State of California Department of Social Services. Our capacity will increase from 60 to 120 children on a daily basis. We are in the process of getting our expansion paperwork approved. Where are we going with all these kids? To the Hope Center multipurpose classrooms! We have had the pleasure of using the Hope Center for physical education during the hot months, and will continue to use this expansive space as a gym for basketball, hockey and dance. This space also serves as our check in/out area affording parents an air conditioned area to wait for their kids.

Where do our children come from and go to? Our children are all Washington Charter School (WCS) students. We are able to walk them to and from the WCS at various times of the morning and afternoon because we are neighbors. On that note several of this year's HCC staff are also AM Resource Teachers at WCS. We are privileged to have such esteemed staff here on our campus, it is truly a blessing. What do we do when WCS is pupil free? This year we bought a donut maker and made the most creative donuts. Of course we were in our pajamas all day too! Some of our other crafts include melting crayons with a hair dryer onto a pumpkin. And for Christmas we melted the crayon shavings into a clear ornament making the most beautiful art.

Our growing garden had over 20 six foot sunflowers! We also have two orange trees and our usual tomatoes, basil and mint. The children maintain the garden, watering and pruning as necessary. They are quite accomplished gardeners.

Be the reason someone smiles today. 😊

Virginia Plavec

Child Care Director

Hope

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: TRANSITION/GOOD NEWS

Transition: the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another.

That explains what Hope has been going through this last year. It is always difficult when a Senior Pastor leaves a congregation, especially when they are loved and admired – then to have a second pastor retire and a third retiring soon!! It's hard. But the GOOD NEWS is that Hope is all of you! Together we will continue the mission of the church – inspiring people to find and follow Jesus.

Within these transitions there are always difficulties: giving decreases and people are worried what the future will look like. Again, the GOOD NEWS – when a need arises, YOU the people of Hope step up. In just one short month we raised \$325,654.93 to help stave off a deficit, support local and global missions, support our staff and start the new year on a fiscally positive note.

The Council has full confidence in the Search Team, the GOOD NEWS – knowing that they love Hope and only want the best person possible to become our Senior Pastor. It can be a grueling process but with your prayers and encouragement they will succeed.

This year also will be a year of transition but GOOD NEWS – you will all still be here to support and hold Hope in your hearts. God Bless you all!

Mary Fay Pinnow
President

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The music program at Hope continues to add to the worship and life experiences within the church community. The Hope Choir, directed by Michael Cundari, sings at services from October – May. They perform special “Choir Sundays” for Christmas and Easter. Soloists add to the worship services during the months the choir is on hiatus.

A group of brass and percussion players has been added to performances on Easter Sunday, Christmas Eve, and for the Polka Mass. Guest instrumentalists played on other occasions.

The handbells ring as often as possible. The goal for 2025 is to enlarge the bell choir and include them in more services throughout the church year.

The “Music at Hope” Concert series begun in 2021, continues to grow. For the 2024-2025 season, 11 concerts will be presented by 9 different ensembles. These concerts bring as many as 300 people to our church.

As organist, I play for the Sunday traditional services, special services during Lent and other events. I also play for memorial services. I am starting my 7th year as Director of Music/Organist at Hope.

Douglas Wilson

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

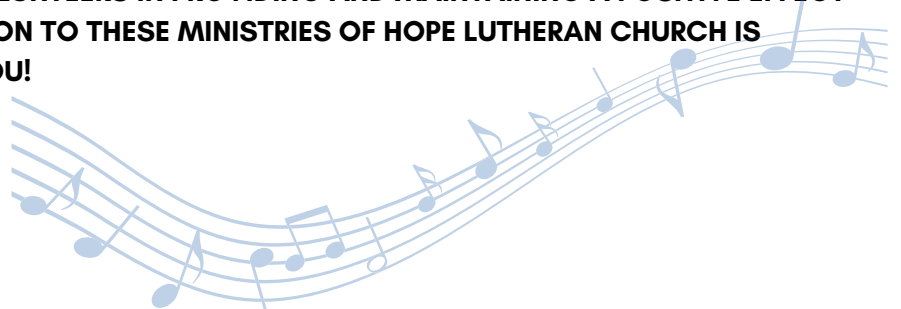
As Christians WE are called to ministry—not just the clergy. Each of us has a responsibility to proclaim the Good News and reach out to others. Our volunteers are a vital resource in the church to support the various areas necessary to keep our services running effectively. Praise, applause, and heartfelt gratitude go out to these seen and unseen volunteers and their teams who give their time and talents. They work BEFORE, DURING and AFTER the service to ensure a productive, God-based worship observance.

We have gone through some major changes this year in terms of our Pastoral leadership and in our technical services.

- We wished God's speed to Pastor Derek Fossey after 11 years, who left us in June and took a call in Park City, Utah.
- We welcomed Pastor Tom Grevlos from Austin, Texas to be our Interim Pastor until a new Senior Pastor is called.
- We formed a Search Team to call a Senior Pastor, and we pray for God's guidance in our search to fill this position.
- We thank God for Nick Orth, our student ministry leader during his education to become an ELCA pastor.
- We congratulated Pastor Gerald Sharon on his retirement after 45 years in the ministry.
- We finally got our new air conditioners as our sweltering summer was waning.
- We said good-bye to our volunteer, Cheryl Witt, for her tireless 23 year dedication to ably operating the screen, mics, lighting and sound system over all these years. She will be missed. We hired a team of volunteers to continue her work, as she can never be replaced. Thank you, Cheryl!
- We wish to thank those 30-50 weekly volunteers who keep our church services running smoothly every Sunday. They include scripture readers, greeters, ushers, altar guild, Hope Choir, Bell Choir, audio/visual technicians, communion assistants, coffee, donuts and healthy food servers, and those that deliver flowers.
- We continue to thank God for Pastor Carl Witt, Jr., Pastor Rick Bailard, and Pastor Gesa Sharon for their leaderships.
- We give a huge thank you to Doug Wilson and Michael Cundari for their outstanding and awesome musical and choral offerings to our services. The new organ and choir layouts are more functional, and they look great!
- We had our video, lighting and sound system over-hauled and updated and are training personnel to use these new technologies.
- We welcomed our Thai Missionaries, the Cantleberry family, who came stateside to visit family and friends.

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS IN PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING A POSITIVE EFFECT IN OUR SERVICES. YOUR DEDICATION TO THESE MINISTRIES OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH IS GREATLY APPRECIATED! THANK YOU!

Reynold Worch
Worship and Music Committee



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain, or addiction of any kind and is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our lives.

In February, CR celebrated its 7th anniversary. CR continued to meet every Thursday night at 7:00pm in the Hope Center. It is important to understand that 3 out of 10 people attend CR for alcohol or other chemical addictions. Here are some examples of other areas of recovery that CR addresses:

Some examples are:

- Anger
- Codependency
- Eating Disorder
- Financial Recovery
- Food Addiction
- Gambling Addiction
- Love & Relationship Addiction
- Physical- Sexual- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Addiction
- Grief
- Anxiety
- Low Self Worth

The weekly Thursday night program includes a Large Group meeting, with live worship and either a recovery specific lesson or a testimony by someone who has experienced healing through Celebrate Recovery. Gender specific Open Share Groups and a time of fellowship called Hope Café follow the Large Group.

Midweek small groups called Step Studies, work through a Celebrate Recovery 4-workbook curriculum. CR started 4 and completed 2 Step Studies in 2024. Some of these meet in person and some on Zoom.

It's been encouraging as we continue to see new leaders being raised up plus an increase in attendance on a regular basis.

We're proud to continue to be able to offer Celebration Place, Celebrate Recovery's children's programming every Thursday. In the summer we had two leaders come forward and share their calling to open up The Landing, which is CR's middle and high school program. Since September The Landing for middle school students has been meeting regularly as part of our Thursday night CR event. When offering these parts of the program, the whole family can participate.

Some on the leadership team are involved in community outreach events sharing about CR, educating people about the danger of fentanyl poisoning and the use of Narcan to save people from overdose.

To stay connected and encouraged the team had leaders' meetings and several fellowship events throughout the year plus 15 leaders attended the annual "Summit" conference at Saddleback Church in Orange County.

Thank you to the staff and congregation of Hope for their tireless support. The team is encouraged by the continuous life-change that occurs in people's lives due to the tools of CR and the grace of God, and is excited to continue to serve our church community and beyond to provide a safe place to heal from life's struggles and challenges. We hope you will come check it out one Thursday night.

Gesa Sharon
Ministry Leader

ALTAR GUILD

The Hope Altar Guild has been happily serving to support our wonderful pastors at our worship services. We continue to provide communion at both the 8:00 and 9:30am traditional services every Sunday. The Modern service offers communion at its 10:30am service on the first Sunday of each month, using the pre-filled cups with wine or juice and the bread.

We have had a few people retire from service this year, and we have some snowbirds that are out of town during the hot summer months. Therefore, I would love to hear from you if you are willing and able to help prepare the communion elements once or twice a month. We especially need help at the traditional services. It entails the volunteers coming to the church either on a Friday or Saturday, before your Sunday to serve, to fill the communion cups with wine or juice and fill the chalices with the wafers. There are usually three people to help, so it doesn't take very long and you would coordinate the day and time to set up. I hope to hear from you.

I thank all of you who continue to serve on the Altar Guild. Your service helps our Pastors and the Congregation in the worshiping of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Blessings to You all.

Barbara Oeding
Chairperson

BASESHORE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Baseshore Scholarship Fund, established in the memory of Ira Baseshore, is for the youth of Hope Lutheran Church attending college or seminary. The Baseshore Scholarship is to be used for books, supplies, etc., but not to be used to pay for tuition. In 2024 Hope Lutheran Church awarded two scholarships for a total of \$2,000.00. Total value of assets: \$50,000.00.

For information about participating in the Baseshore Scholarship Fund, please contact the church office. The scholarships are given out of the fund's yearly income. Scholarship Fund donations are greatly appreciated.

Gabe Den Hartog
Office Manager

COLUMBARIUM

The columbarium of Hope Lutheran Church provides a special place for inurnment of cremated remains of deceased church members, former members and their spouses and children. Also included are friends from the church who regularly attended and supported our ministry.

Management of the Columbarium: on behalf of the church council, the Office Manager manages the Columbarium working with the Chairman to approve all applications as well as keeping records regarding niche reservations and persons inurned in the Columbarium, including names, dates of birth and death, and inurnment dates.

COLUMBARIUM (Continued)

2024 activity: There were five inurnments, and eight reservations made in 2024. A brochure developed in 2016 states, "The Columbarium at Hope Lutheran Church" is available to the congregation. Information is available at the church office and the Information Center. The brochure describes the Columbarium benefits and information about reserving and selecting a niche for you and your loved ones.

Financials: The ending balance on December 31, 2024 was \$6,193.24

Jerry Beers
Chairman

HUMAN RESOURCES

This past year has been one of change and transition in the life of our church. Pastor Derek bade us farewell in May to take a pastorship in Park City, Utah, and to enjoy the benefits and opportunities that await his family in this beautiful mountain environment. What an honor it was to have him as our Senior Pastor. He blessed all of us through his care, love, faithfulness, exuberance, and humor while leading us through energetic growth and prosperity at Hope. Pastor Gerald fully implemented his retirement plan that he announced over two years ago by first moving from full to part-time and then culminating in retirement in August after 45 years in ministry.

Particular focus over the year has been on Human Resources' infrastructure - e.g., a comprehensive review and update of the Employee Handbook, assistance to the Search Committee (for the Senior Pastor) by updating job descriptions for the Interim Senior Pastor and Senior Pastor positions, plus organizational charts. Additionally, job descriptions for new staff have been developed while those for existing full and part-time staff have been updated. Regularly HR meets with leadership to address and hone current and future needs.

Key to our church organization is our talented pastoral staff. We were able to maintain continuity at Hope during this transitional time with the hiring of our multi-talented, veteran Interim Senior Pastor Tom Grevlos. He has worked with your leadership team, HR, and the Search Committee to lay important groundwork as a bridge to hire a new Senior Pastor. We built on the fine work of Pastors Derek and Gerald prior to their departure and incorporated this with the insights and talents of Pastors Tom, Rick, Gesa, and Carl to map out ministry plans to strengthen church ministries and build a solid foundation for the future. Church outreach in the community and online continue to blossom.

Pastor Gesa Sharon, our Ministry Leader, has enthusiastically and tirelessly expanded the many ministries here at Hope, including Women of Hope, Celebrate Recovery and coordinated and partnered to provide opportunities for women to gather and highlight the work of the Lord.

HUMAN RESOURCES (Continued)

Under the leadership of Pastor Rick, our Modern service and online ministry continue to grow by leaps and bounds. He has a creative team supported by John Wilson, Video Creator and Technical Director, and Christina Jutovsky, Marketing and Social Media Director, along with Production Director Frank Michel. Pastor Rick has also expanded and enhanced programs in the following key areas: a) production and media operations through a production internship program; b) a student ministry intern program; and c) development of an expansion plan for 2025 of the Hope Children Center (HCC) ably led by Director Virginia Plavec with the assistance of Bobbi Acosta, Early Childhood Director, and Carlos Vega who serves as the HCC Children Ministries Director while assisting with middle school.

For the fifth consecutive year, the HCC is at full capacity. Added benefits include more families attending church services, children baptized and participating in youth ministries, plus other activities and camps. Growth continues with young families through the Hope Children Center (HCC). Given the growth of HCC, we look forward to its expansion in 2025.

During his last full year at Hope, part-time Pastor Emeritus Carl Witt continued to assist in many areas, including with Traditional services, preaching thought-provoking sermons, providing timely visitation to those in need, coordinating book club, and hosting with his wife Cheryl more Prime Timers' Christmas parties.

On the Student Ministry front, Nick Orth, our Student Minister, began seminary study to become an ordained pastor. With mentoring by pastoral staff and retired pastors, he also assists at the Traditional service, and will commence a formal pastoral internship at Hope in 2025. Nick also continues to lead the many Student Ministry programs plus supervises Student Ministry Interns.

Doug Wilson, Director of Music, and Michael Cundari, Director of Hope Choir, are our dynamic musical duo. They work closely with our talented Hope Choir, Children's and Bell Choirs, provide the Music at Hope Concert series, host numerous musical programs, and perform and coordinate programs including those at Christmas and Easter.

What an exciting year at Hope. We look forward to the new year and the many paths ahead for our church made possible by our Lord.

Toni Hafey and John Donnelly

Hope

HOPE STAFF

<p>KIDS Director Carlos Vega</p> <p>H.C.C. Director Virginia Plavec 5-Teachers P/T</p> <p>Early Childhood P/T Bobbi Acosta</p> <p>KIDS Assistant P/T Mia Wedeking</p> <p>Check-In P/T Valeria Jimenez</p> <p>Nursery Coordinator Karla Vega</p>	<p>STUDENTS High School Pastor Nick Orth</p> <p>Middle School P/T Terry Voyes</p>	<p>OFFICE Manager Gabe Den Hartog</p> <p>Office Assistant P/T Michael Cundari</p> <p>Office Bookkeeping P/T Barbara Oeding</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL MUSIC Director P/T Doug Wilson</p> <p>Choir Director P/T Michael Cundari</p>
	<p>DIGITAL COMMUNICATION</p> <p>Pastor/Teacher Rick Bailard</p> <p>Video Creator John Wilson</p> <p>Marketing/Social P/T Christina Jutovsky</p>	<p>INTERIM PASTOR Tom Grevlos</p>	<p>MODERN MUSIC Worship Leader P/T Heather Stanley</p> <p>Production Coordinator P/T Frank Michel</p>
		<p>FACILITIES Manager Manny Marinez</p> <p>Janitorial Angel Mendez</p>	<p>PASTOR EMERITUS P/T Carl P. Witt, Jr.</p> <p>WOMENS/MINISTRY PASTOR P/T Gesa Sharon</p>

LEGACY COMMITTEE



"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree today."
 Martin Luther

The Legacy Committee of Hope Lutheran Church Palm Desert is chartered to promote and encourage gifts and bequests to the Endowment Fund and to serve as trustees of the Fund. The principal of the fund is held in perpetuity; only its distributions are used to support the Church's mission and ministry activities that would not otherwise be possible within the church's operating budget.

Because of a generous gift of a home and a bequest made to the Endowment Fund this year the value of the Endowment Fund increased from \$218,568.95 to \$353,834.24 as of December 31, 2024. These funds are invested in Value Line Asset Allocation (VLAIX), held at Schwab. As the Endowment Fund balance increases, the annual distribution back to the church increases!

In 2024, a total of \$8,000 was awarded for the following to provide community outreach work beyond the operational budget, including spiritual and mission growth, and for improvements to the physical facilities:

- A play kitchen for the Hope Children Center
- A teleprompter upgrade to enhance the Online Ministry
- The African Immigration Initiative
- Hope for All for their presence at Palm Springs Pride
- Celebrate Recovery
- Fabric partitions for the Hope Center

LEGACY COMMITTEE (Continued)

This year the Legacy Circle of Hope grew to 40 members. This Circle was created to honor those who have advised the church that they have chosen to leave a legacy that reflects their faith, values, and commitment to Hope Lutheran Church's mission to future generations. These gifts include, but are not limited to, a bequest, charitable trust, charitable gift annuity, IRA or life insurance beneficiary designation, or other planned gift to the Endowment Fund.

We recognize the following faithful stewards in the Legacy Circle of Hope:

Marlys* & Dick Botz	Dan Brumett*
Elizabeth Chambers	Jo & Horst Engel
Julie & Peter Fremstad	Vick & Larry Graves
Marge Guentzler	Cheryl Hart & Tom Becker
Toni Hafey	Lynn & Alan Hendershot
Jeanne & Lou Mace	Vicki & Kurt Mortenson
Ione Ochsner*	James Parry
Mary Fay Pinnow	Ethlyn Sabin
Sandy & Glenn Sapa	Richard Schroeckenstein
Linda, Dale & Kent Schulz	Pastors Gesa & Gerald Sharon
Linda & Ralph Spencer	Cheryl & Pastor Carl Witt
Jack W. Wolter	Susie & Joe Young
Anonymous	*Deceased

Much appreciation to committee members Bonnie Pridonoff, Recorder, Pastor Derek Fossey, Pastor Carl Witt, Kim Buchanan, Church Council, Gary Eilefson, Jim Parry, Dick Schroeckenstein, Vicki Graves and Marie Olsen.

Any member of the Legacy Committee would be pleased to speak with you about our work and how you might invest in the future of Hope Lutheran Church Palm Desert.

Lynn Hendershot, Chairperson

A BIG THANK YOU TO LYNN HENDERSHOT

It is with our regret that Lynn recently announced her decision to leave the Legacy Committee. She helped found the Planned Giving Fund here at Hope in 2018 and has served as committee chair since the inception of the Legacy Committee. She was instrumental in guiding the legacy fund to where it is today having a balance of approximately \$350,000.

We were fortunate to have Lynn the past six years. She has assisted four churches since 2005 in establishing planned giving programs. This is not surprising given her credentials as a Certified Specialist in planned giving as well as her abundance of energy.

Lynn and Alan will be relocating to the Newport Beach area upon the sale of their home in Desert Horizons. We wish them well in the next chapter of their lives.

Gary Eilefson
Legacy Committee Interim Chair

MEMORIAL FUND

MEMORIAL FUND		BEGINNING	RECEIPTS	Utilized	ENDING
		BALANCE	2024	2024	BALANCE
		<u>1/1/2024</u>			<u>12/31/2024</u>
ALL THOSE LOST TO COVID		\$ 1,050			\$ 1,050
BOTZ, MARYLS		\$ 375			\$ 375
BUNTROCK, CLAYTON		\$ 200			\$ 200
COLLINS, WILLIAM		\$ 1,510			\$ 1,510
DEVELON, MARILYN		\$ 1,445			\$ 1,445
DEW, REV. ROBERT		\$ 3,126			\$ 3,126
DEW, REV. ROBERT	Flowers	\$ 500			\$ 500
DOLL, RONALD		\$ 100			\$ 100
FAIR, LORRAINE		\$ 500			\$ 500
FOSSEY, BRUCE		\$ 750			\$ 750
GARTIN, TOM		\$ 375			\$ 375
GATES, BILL		\$ 100			\$ 100
GOETTELMAN, VIRGINIA		\$ 51			\$ 51
GRIFFIN, BARBARA		\$ 100			\$ 100
HAECKEL, MM		\$ 43			\$ 43
HAGEN, BRUCE		\$ 100			\$ 100
HARUM, BOB			\$ 100		\$ 100
HEPSTINSTALL, CALVIN		\$ 50			\$ 50
HERMAND, DEBBIE			\$ 100		\$ 100
KEERAN, HEIDI			\$ 1,250		\$ 1,250
KILLINGSWORTH, ARMOR		\$ -	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ (0)
MacFARLANE, EILEEN		\$ 525			\$ 525
McGINNIS, PATRICK		\$ 30			\$ 30
MARION, GREG			\$ 50		\$ 50
MILNER, ANNA		\$ 50			\$ 50
MINER, ROBIN			\$ 20		\$ 20
MUCKENFUSS, JOYCE		\$ 250	\$ 25		\$ 275
MUELLER, LEZLIE		\$ 1,060			\$ 1,060
MULLER, RONALD		\$ 1,350			\$ 1,350
QUISITO, MARSHA		\$ 50			\$ 50
REIFSCHNEIDER, ROBERT			\$ 5,100		\$ 5,100
ROGERS, BRITA		\$ 20			\$ 20
RUUD, LEE		\$ 200			\$ 200
SEEFURTH, TOM		\$ 271			\$ 271
VICK, ROGER			\$ 500		\$ 500
MEMORIAL FUND TOTAL		\$ 14,181	\$ 7,195	\$ 50	\$ 21,326

QUILTERS OF HOPE

2024 was a productive year for Quilters of Hope. We added a few members and exceeded our goals for the year.

We continued to meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month through June, took the month of July as a summer break and returned to quilting in August.

We were blessed with several donations of fabric from friends of Hope.

Our 2024 Quilters were Alice Daby, Bonnie Harkinson, Carol Beers, Carol Simpson, Charlene Such, Eileen Donnelly, Emily Johns, Jane Dreiske, Jody Risius, Juanita Cours, Julie Fremstad, Kathleen Herring, Linda Spencer, Luella Grangaard, Marge Ruffolo, Marggie Link, Mary Ellen Peterson, Peggy Schauer, Ruth Fikes, Susan Dellinger, Susan Sommerfeld, and Vickie Raines.

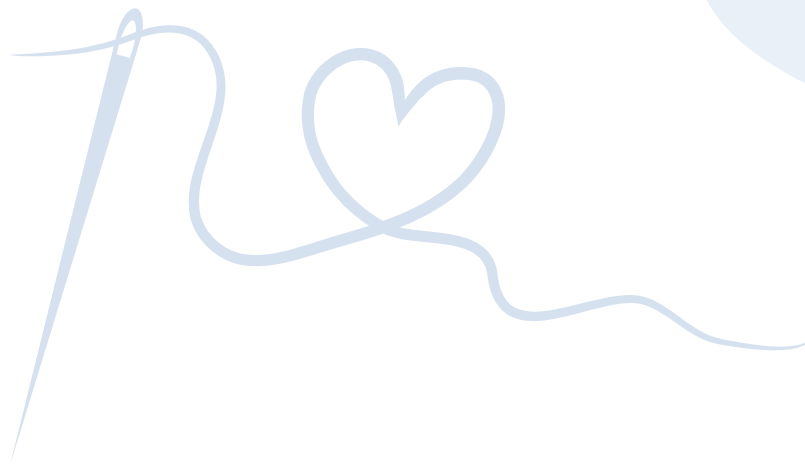
Together we completed a total of 119 quilts. Of these, 7 were given to graduating high school seniors, 2 were raffled during the Palm Springs Pride Event, 10 were given to Bridges2Hope, and 100 were sent to Lutheran World Relief on October 21st after our Quilt Blessing on October 13th.

In August we received a Thrivent Action Team Grant of \$250 to help with the cost of materials. We had two special "Tie-In" events prior to Quilt Sunday and our pastors joined in.

Quilters of Hope give thanks for everyone who supports this ministry through donations of materials, time, money, and/or talents. Each quilt represents approximately \$30-\$40 of materials and 5-6 hours of labor to complete.

We look forward to a productive 2025 and sharing quilts around the community and world.

In His Love and Service
Ruth Fikes



WOMEN OF HOPE MINISTRY

The Women of Hope continue to follow God's leading as we pursue our ministry goals to "grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our calling, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world" each year.

This year's leadership team included Gesa Sharon, Carole Olson, Barbara Savery, Ginny Gillman, Julie Fremstad, Monika Hoover, Sandy McGinnis, Ruth Fikes and Peggy Grabow. We're blessed to have such a wonderful team with a beautiful variety of gifts who love serving together and support one another in their calling.

We thank Barbara Savery for leading the "Esther Circle" Bible study, Julie Fremstad the "Sisters in Christ" book study, and Gesa Sharon the "Monday Night" Bible study. We also had three Saturday morning Summer Studies hosted by different presenters.

We achieved our goal of engaging in action by continuing to support a multitude of local nonprofit organizations, missionaries, women in leadership and ELCA Disaster Relief financially. We handed out hand knit hats, collected hygiene items and assembled "Hope Bags" for the homeless in the valley. With the annual "Angels of Hope" Christmas gift outreach we were able to provide Christmas gifts for 300 children of 6 different elementary schools in the valley. We're thankful for the generosity of the congregation and the volunteers who came alongside us and helped make these projects possible.

In February we had our two annual fundraisers, ThankOffering Sunday and the Tour de Palm Springs where people participated by walking, running or riding their bike while all their registration fees come back to support our ministry here at Hope.

Throughout the year we held two Gatherings with guest speakers, live music, food and our annual prayer partner reveal and exchange, plus we had two fun "Girl's Nights Out". Our hostess for the "Girl's Night Out", Stephanie Chambers did a wonderful job guiding us through a paint night in April and creating Christmas ornaments in November. Thank you to Brenda Devlin for your ongoing commitment to help make these evenings a big success.

All our gatherings and events are meant to bring together the women at Hope and from our surrounding communities. It is always encouraging to see women of all ages spend time together, laughing, learning, listening, sharing and crafting in community.

With each year we grow more thankful in the many ways the women at Hope and the whole congregation support our mission to offer community amongst the women in our church and community. This is a huge encouragement to the Women of Hope leadership team as we look back at this year and as we look toward 2025.

Gesa Sharon, Ministry Leader

TREASURER'S REPORT

The year ending December 31st, 2024, was an interesting year. I would describe it as a bit of a roller coaster ride.

Revenue or gifts to the church were up yielding \$2.4 million for operating purposes and another \$173,000 to reduce debt. However, this requires an explanation. Our revenue from members' envelopes which we refer to as ordinary giving were down relative to our budget by approximately \$40,000. Our revenue was bolstered by the campaigns that were run throughout the year. The campaigns and special gifts yielded \$488,573. In addition, we received a bequest gift that added \$311,000 to the totals, a portion of this going into the Legacy Funds.

Total expenses were up significantly this year. Expenses exceeded the budget by approximately \$375,000 or 18%. Of this approximately \$280,000 was utilized for the sound and lighting upgrades on campus.

Another \$170,000 was received during the Lent Dent campaign to reduce our debt. This brings our debt down to just over \$400,000 at year end. Our interest rate will be reset in 2025 to the current rate charged by Mission Investment Fund, our loan/mortgage holder. We have been able to reduce our debt by over \$1.4 million since 2020. This is quite an amazing 4-year accomplishment.

As we enter 2025, we have constructed a budget recognizing the needs of the various missions of the church. Each leadership position was asked to prepare a budget for their areas of responsibility. We did anticipate that our membership gifts, including bequests and special gifts, will reduce to \$1.378 million for the new year. Our ordinary expenses are reduced by approximately \$125,000. This amount recognizes that the leaders and staff of the church do not anticipate a large expenditure such as the one we have embarked on this year for sound and lighting upgrades.

I would like to thank the finance committee for their guidance. (Paul Meinhold, Toni Hafey, Bernice Muller, Dave Vickers, and Kent Shultz). Each receives detailed financial reports monthly for their review and comments as well as the budget detail. We meet on an as needed basis.

In addition, we have an ongoing operating process review headed by Kent Shultz and Dave Vickers. They independently choose areas of the church processes that can have an impact on the financial condition of the church or an operating process that can be streamlined or made more efficient. They examine the process with the input of the process owners and make recommendations for improvement.

Lastly, as this will be my last official report to the membership, it has been my privilege to serve you, the members of Hope, in this role. I am excited about my replacement Marge Guentzler who will take the reins effective January 21st, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,
Your Treasurer Rick Greaves

Summary Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2024

<u>Assets</u>	
Current Assets	
Legacy Funds	\$ 363,125
Building and Reserves	\$ 244,916
Operating Accounts	\$ 175,171
Women of Hope	\$ 5,349
Chidrens Center	\$ 14,104
Basehore Fund	\$ 50,000
Other	\$ -
 Total Current Assets	 <u>\$852,665</u>
 Fixed Assets	 \$ 5,577,419
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 6,430,084</u>

<u>Liabilities and Equity</u>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	\$ 501,661
 Long Term Liabilities	 \$ 407,782
 Total Liabilities	 <u>\$ 909,443</u>
 Equity	 <u>\$ 5,520,640</u>
 Total Liabilities and Equity	 <u>\$ 6,430,084</u>



Hope Debt Activity Through Dec 31 2024	Activity 2024
Balance of loan 12-31-2023	\$ 671,511
Debt reduction through payments and contributions to reduce debt	\$ 263,729
Total Principal Reduction	\$ 263,729
Debt Balance 12-31-2024	\$ 407,782
Debt Service Expense	\$ 22,544
Growing Hope donations / Debt Relief Funds	\$ 195,609
Balance in Account for Debt Service 12-31-2024	<u>\$ 26,194</u>
Monthly payments	\$ 4,204

Hope's mortgage agreement with the Mission Investment fund has a five year fixed term. The interest rate will reset June 1, 2025.

BUDGET

Hope Lutheran Church Palm Desert

Final Results 2024

REVENUE	Jan - Dec Actuals 2024	Budget 2024	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2023	Percentage Change 2024 to 2023	Proposed 2025 Budget
Member Giving / Total Income	\$2,403,501	\$2,080,071	\$1,990,031	20.8%	\$2,378,485

EXPENSES	Jan - Dec Actuals 2024	Budget 2024	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2023	Percentage Change 2024 to 2023	Proposed 2025 Budget
Benevolence	\$74,384	\$56,969	\$79,235		\$83,600
School Age Ministries	\$536,420	\$505,615			\$581,202
Administration	\$125,128	\$97,088	\$113,841		\$125,850
Campus Support	\$533,584	\$358,528	\$212,969		\$354,485
Ministry Programs	\$268,649	\$197,022	\$716,729		\$237,699
Non-Pastoral Staff	\$466,418	\$417,998	\$387,837		\$496,125
Pastoral Staff	\$449,498	\$446,506	\$457,188		\$465,603
Total Expenses	\$2,454,081	\$2,079,726	\$1,967,799	24.7%	\$2,344,565

Surplus / Loss	(\$50,580)	\$345	\$22,232	NA	\$33,920
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Building Revenue	Jan - Dec Actuals 2024	Budget 2024	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2023	Percentage Change 2024 to 2023	Proposed 2025 Budget
Member Giving Growing Hope / Debt Relief	\$195,609	\$27,600	\$379,669	-48.5%	\$25,742

DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES	Jan - Dec Actuals 2024	Budget 2024	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2023	Percentage Change 2024 to 2023	Proposed 2025 Budget
Reduction in Debt	\$263,729	\$0	\$683,510		\$32,400.00
Debt Service	\$22,544	\$27,600	\$39,641	-43.1%	\$18,000

*Total Outcome below includes ordinary income and Debt relief matching funds.

Total Outcome	\$122,845	\$345	\$435,059	-71.8%	\$ 9,262
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STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is based on a story in the Book of Acts about a group of apostles who were appointed to look after or care for the needs of the poor and needy.

There are many ways we can fulfill this appointment. One is to train to become a Stephen Minister. This is a ministry of loving, caring and listening to another person who is going through a particularly tough time. The difficulties that might lead someone to want a Stephen Minister is varied. It can be grief. It can be a health crisis. It can be any situation that could lead a person to extreme sadness or despair. It could be that your child, even adult children, are in trouble and you don't know how to help.

Stephen Ministers are called to provide a time for listening, praying, providing encouragement and support each week with a care receiver.

People are often reluctant to ask for a Stephen Minister because they underestimate the toll their situation is taking on themselves and their families.

Stephen Ministers are people who have a natural God-given gift of caring for others to help them solve their situations with grace and love.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

Contact Pastor Tom if you would like a Stephen Minister at tom@hopepd.org.

If you think you might have the gift of caring and would like to explore that, please contact Linda Benson-Spencer or Bob Bateman by contacting gabe@hopepd.org.

God just might be calling you to join this ministry.

Bob Bateman
Stephen Minister



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

I began my service at the Church Council in February of 2024. My deepest appreciation goes to my fellow council members, our staff and all those members at Hope supporting me. I appreciate the personal support of Martha Osborne. Martha had enabled many projects that were completed after her years of service. This has been a learning experience to understand Hope more and the needs regarding our property and the church.

After considerable waiting for delivery due to supply chain issues, our HVAC system was replaced in early 2024. The parking lot was resurfaced in May 2024 and shows much better as well. The upgrading of the sound and light systems in both the sanctuary and the Hope Center were completed at year's end. The response has been extremely positive as the changes are very noticeable.

Manny and his team are constantly on top of issues with our facilities not just in the sanctuary and Hope Center, but with the play yard, courtyard and the Children Center, etc. We are fortunate to have staff that are hard-working and committed to making our church experiences positive.

Please feel free to bring to me any questions or ideas you may have regarding our property. May God bless this amazing church of loving people and help us to all continue to share and show the love of Jesus inside and outside of Hope. I'm grateful to be a part of this community.

David Shelep
Property Management

STEWARDSHIP PUTTING A DENT IN OUR MORTGAGE

In 2024 we accomplished a mortgage reduction campaign. We began it during the Lent season, so we named it Lent Dent. We were able to reduce the church mortgage by \$170,000, down from \$1,825,516 in April of 2020. Look at what He has done through you! What a blessing. This year our mortgage balance is close to \$400,000 and the interest payment is set to be adjusted on June 1. It is my prayer that instead of an adjustment in interest, we have a mortgage burning party. It is time for mortgage payments to be used in the Spirit led ministries of His Church.

With Hope,
Kim Buchanan
Stewardship

2023 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

02 February 2024

Call to order by Council president Mary Fay Pinnow at 11:40am, followed by the opening Litany and prayer led by Pastor Derek Fossey.

Congregational Agenda: Linda Griffith moved that we "**accept the agenda as presented,**" seconded by Jim Parry. **Motion approved.**

Approval of Minutes: Toni Hafey moved that we "**accept the Minutes of the 02 February 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting,**" seconded by Jim Parry. **Motion approved.**

Pastor's Reports: Pastor Derek showed a video that shows all the wonderful things that were happening at Hope Lutheran Church in 2023. Pastor Derek offered a prayer for the ministries at Hope Lutheran Church to continue to shine in 2024.

Committee Reports: Members were asked to refer to the 2023 Annual Report for the various committee reports.

Financial Report: Rick Greaves presented a slide presentation from the Finance Committee of our final financial results of 2023.

Jim Parry moved that we "**accept the Financial Report,**" seconded by John Donnelly. **Motion approved.**

Barbara Oeding moved that we "**accept the 2024 budget report,**" seconded by Susie Young. **Motion approved.**

Election of Congregational Council Members: Paul Meinhold moved that we "**elect Reynold Worch, John Stevko and David Shelep to our Congregational Council,**" seconded by Toni Hafey. **Motion approved.**

There was no old or new business.

Adjournment: Joe Young moved that we "**adjourn the meeting,**" seconded by Barbara Oeding. **Motion approved.** Meeting adjourned at 12:05.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Derek Fossey

Respectfully submitted,

Reynold Worch, Council Secretary

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Confident in God's generosity and gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us praise God and give thanks ...

God, we praise you and give you thanks.

You are good, and your mercy endures forever.

You gave us a garden with good food to eat.

We praise you for food that nourishes us.

You rescued your people from slavery.

We praise you for freedom.

You gave us prophets to correct, rebuke and encourage us.

We bless you for your justice and mercy.

You gave us your Son, Jesus, to love, redeem and save us.

We praise you for his death and resurrection.

You gave us your Holy Spirit to be our Advocate and Comforter.

We bless you for the gifts of every tribe and nation.

Strengthen your church with every spiritual gift

and commission us again to be your servant people.

Multiply in us the fruit of the spirit:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Send us in your love and mercy,

that the world may know you and praise you.

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice - es,
2 Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 840

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Cathering Winkworth, 1827-1878

Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you are the giver of every good gift. Bless us with all that we need for ministry in your name, that we might be a blessing to others. In the name of the one who broke bread and fed the multitudes, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.