

Greetings Announcements

Opening devotions and hymn #654 The Church's One Foundation

Hope Lutheran Church Annual Meeting January 30, 2022

I. Welcome and opening meeting from President Dustin Holt

II. Reading of Minutes from 2021 Annual meeting

III. Treasurer Annelies Seffrood's Reports & Financial Reports

A. Cemetery account report

B. Sunday School Account report

C. Youth Group Account report

D. Campership Account report

IV. Pastor Janet Miller's Report

V. Other Reports:

A. Statistical Reports

B. Church Council Report

C. Quilter's Group (former WELCA)

D. Kitchen Fund

E. Ministry Partners reports

1. South Dakota Synod

VI. Planning for 2022 - Budget and Challenges

VII. Election of 2022 Officers- Thanks to all who served in 2021

VIII. Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Janet to run meeting as she had the microphone. Motion to continue without a quorum. Motion passed.

Reading and approval of 2020 annual meeting minutes. No changes. Motion to approve, passed.

2020 Statistics and pastor report and all other reports-reviewed and approved. Pastor reviewed her report and added that with car worship, we average 35 people a Sunday and online viewership is averaging 385!

A new cemetery sexton is needed as Margie would like to step down. If you are interested, please let Pastor know.

Welca noted an error in their balance that was corrected after the annual report was printed. It was noted the correct balance was \$1,014. 56. It was also noted the backpack report was turned in but was not included in the report. Corrections to both have been made.

Welca also decided that they will no longer have regular monthly meetings as membership has decreased over the years. They will however continue to quilt.

Motion made and passed to accept all reports.

Treasurer report/2021 budget-Anne reviewed the budget. Motion made and passed to accept the 2021 budget.

Elections held for newly appointed council: Becky Pies, Tim Gapp, Sarah Smith, Kathy Brink, and Elsie Seffrood (youth rep). Motion passed to elect new council.

Pastor discussed the upcoming Prairie Coteau conference and Synod conference. Anyone interested in attending, let her know. Prairie Coteau is first Sunday in March and the Synod is first weekend in June. The Synod conference will be held via Zoom.

New business:

Michael had an amendment the Synod had sent out. It would allow a regular meeting to be held and if needed, to let people join via Zoom. Anne said the committee to update the constitution, will include this in it. It was proposed to allow this to be included. Motion passed.

Other business:

Pastor Janet discussed being approached about the possibility of combining with other congregations. This was not anything to be voted on, just something to think about for the future as our budget has seen shortfalls over the years. Pastor also thanked the council for all they did the past year with our exceptional year. She noted it would be brought to the council

Pastor Janet's report 2021

There's a winter storm warning right now. When I look at the forecast it tells me we are to receive 4 to 6 inches of snow in the next 24 to 48 hours. It's very hard to believe that looking outside my window right now. It's 34 degrees (the first time in a week it's been above zero), clear skies and almost no wind. However, the meteorologists all agree, a storm is coming.

When we have warnings like this storm warning, we have time to get our provisions and get our jobs done before heading home to wait out the storm. When the flakes start to fall and the wind picks up, it's not a surprise.

The rest of life doesn't give us as clear warnings. No one told us to get ready for a pandemic at the beginning of 2020. It came as a complete surprise to most of us. It hit us hard when we were unprepared. None of us really thought a pandemic could actually happen in our time and place. We had no warnings about how much of our lives would be changed by it.

2021 began our second year after the pandemic hit. Many of us got vaccinated and began to feel safe. We went back to indoor worship, we went back to singing, we quit requiring masks in worship. Yes, some people still got covid from time to time, but things seemed much better.

Attendance numbers in the beginning of 2021 had us worried. We feared for the congregation for a while, but most people came back when they felt safe enough.

Things have not completely returned to normal. Some people have decided to only worship online. We still do not pass the offering plates and still do communion in our seats. The newest wave of Covid-19 has hit the community hard with the school having to cancel some ball games and more than average people being sick.

Through the whole 2021 experience, the people of Hope have been faithful. We faithfully kept our members and our pastor safe. Sometimes, worship looked different being online or from our cars but we continued to worship. Sometimes we smiled behind our masks and passed the peace with waved hands instead of handshakes. Sometimes, members mailed in their offerings when they didn't feel right attending.

In the fall of 2021, we took the chance and decided to allow pastor Janet to help out the Florence Lutheran Parish. We have "rented" her time for 10 hours a week to their ministry. In return they help with our budget. Though it has been an adjustment, things have been working well.

Pastoral acts this year: 4 baptisms- 3 for Hope 1 for Florence Parish

3 weddings- 1 for Hope Lutheran 2 for Florence Parish

9 Funerals/burials – 8 for Hope Lutheran 1 for Florence Parish

President's Report

We came into 2021 hoping that the Covid Pandemic was coming to a close. We were wrong but as always Hope Lutheran made it work. I would personally like to thank Pastor Janet and the entire congregation for being so flexible and working with us, as we tried to slowly get back to a normal looking service. We started attending services back inside the church at the beginning of the year. Attendance has slowly started to come back up since the beginning of covid and we are looking forward to seeing more of you in church as we go throughout the upcoming year.

This year Hope Lutheran was approached by the Florence Parish wondering if we would be interested in sharing Pastor Janet with them. They had been without a full time Pastor for quite some time and had loved Pastor Janet's online services. After much conversation among the council and the congregation it was decided that we would share Pastor Janet with the Florence Parish on a 1/3 basis. Hope Lutheran is still Pastor Janet's church of call; we are just sharing her talents with Florence. The Florence Parish has been very happy with the way everything turned out and I personally think this will help our church in the long run. It would have been very easy for us to be in the same role as Florence, looking for a pastor. We have been very fortunate to have had consistent pastors over the years. This decision has and will continue to help Hope Lutheran reach its budget goals that are set every year.

In the upcoming year the council is hoping to reside the church, as it is in need of a facelift. We will be reaching out to ask for donations to help with this project. Our church has always been so generous with giving extra to help with projects needed for the church. I feel that this will be no different.

I would like to thank Pastor Janet, the council, and the congregation for an excellent year. I am honored to have had the pleasure to lead the congregation as Council President.

Thank you,

Dustin Holt

HOPE LUTHERAN KITCHEN

The Hope Lutheran Kitchen Group served at 5 funerals in 2021; Alan Steinocker, Tom Frankenhoff, Dianne Nielsen, Roger Wright and Jim Wohlleber.

We also purchased supplies for the kitchen.

Laurie Kneeland and Earline Holt were the co-chairman for the kitchen group and Kathy Brink has agreed to replace Earline as co-chairman. We want to thank all of the people that help us with serving the lunches and furnishing the food for the funerals. We so appreciate how willing everyone is to help.

Beginning balance 1-1-2021	1342.18
----------------------------	---------

Expenses:

Funeral Supplies	440.05
Supplies for Kitchen	178.88

Total Expenses:	618.93
-----------------	--------

Income:

Memorials from funerals	1150.00
-------------------------	---------

Balance 12-31-2021	1873.26
--------------------	---------

"In the beginning was THE WORD, and THE WORD was with God, and THE WORD was God. ... THE WORD became flesh and made his dwelling among us."



Dear partners in ministry of the South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! – **Thank you** for your generosity to the ministry of the South Dakota Synod as we *journey together in Christ*. Because of your generosity and our ministry partners, hope and new life in Christ is cultivated in people and communities.

You have made a difference in Susanne's life. Susanne faces daily challenges as she roams the streets of Sioux Falls as a person who is housing insecure. But because she connected with "Church on the Street" she now has a monthly worship to look forward to and a community to connect with as she hears the good news of Christ's love for her. On behalf of Susanne, **THANK YOU!**

You have made a difference in Dillon's life. Dillon grew up on the farm and a caring church family. After his high school graduation, he set out to attend college. While the first few days were new and exciting, the excitement soon wore off, and Dillon fell in a hole of anxiety and depression, wondering if he would make it. Then he remembered the speaker from Lutheran Campus Ministry that had visited his home church one Sunday and decided to look them up on campus. Dillon still goes to college, and while life at times can still be overwhelming, he now has a community which supports him and cares for him when he is away from home. On behalf of Dillon, **THANK YOU!**

You have made a difference in Pedro's life. Pedro lives in Nicaragua with his family. His family doesn't have much, but they survived by farming a small plot and sharing a small space they call home. All that changed when first a drought and then hurricanes devastated the little the family had. His parents would prepare the little food the family had for their children, but the family would go to bed hungry each night. But because of the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua's partnership with the South Dakota Synod and 'Helping Kids' Round First', Pedro and his family received meal kits that provided much-needed nourishment for the family. On behalf of Pedro, **THANK YOU!**

You have made a difference in Tony's life. Tony admits that he has made some bad choices and deserves to be incarcerated. But because of St Dymas' weekly worship services at the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, Tony has found new life in Christ. He hears weekly that his choices are not what defines him, but instead Christ's mercy is for him. On behalf of Tony, **THANK YOU!**

You have made a difference in the life of the synod staff. As we travel the state and work with you, we see the impact your generosity makes in people's lives. Every time THE WORD of THRUTH is proclaimed in the pulpit, washed over a person in the waters of baptism, and celebrated at the Lord's Table we give thanks for your faithfulness. Our gathering makes a difference, because when we gather God shows up. Your witness, you showing up, and your generosity make a difference in your neighbor's life as the community of Christ bears witness to the defeat of sin and death. On behalf of your synod staff, **THANK YOU!**

It is my sincere hope that your synod staff has made a difference in the life of your congregation as we strive to live our shared vision of journeying together in Christ. Please know that your synod staff is always happy to be in conversation with you. We are committed to show up -- just let us know where, when, and why.

Looking forward to the continued journey,

C. Heggmaier

2021 MINISTRY CELEBRATION



One of the hymns we have found meaningful in our work on Synod staff is “The Canticle of the Turning.” The refrain throughout the song is that “the world is about to turn” through God’s work and presence. For many of us, it certainly felt like the world was turning quickly this year. Yet we have held fast to our vision of Journeying Together in Christ throughout it all.

Here is a celebration of some of the ministry we shared together in 2021. Together, we:

- A new start congregation, **Spirit of Hope, in Scotland, SD**, was formed and is quickly overflowing the house church used to startup.
- Partnered with the **McLaughlin Community Alliance Group**, a non-profit utilizing the building of Redeemer Lutheran Church for the empowerment of the community.
- Walked with the **27** people in various stages of **Candidacy** and 2 new entrance interviews scheduled in January 2022!
- Received **9 new first call candidates**.
- Completed **34 Ministry Site Studies**.
- **Filled 32 calls** as of November 2021!
- Ensured that nearly every congregation has a called pastor, interim pastor, Synod Authorized Minister, or lay leader to care for God’s people (thank you to all of you who are helping out with area congregations and filling in!)
- Distributed **\$107,838** through the **Seminary Debt Reduction Program**.
- Granted **\$80,500** in **scholarship funds** to seminary students.
- Received **\$78,000** in grants from ELCA Christian Community & Leadership.
- **10, \$1000 technology grants** were awarded to congregations in need of expanding the use of technology in ministry.
- Held a **virtual Synod Assembly**, where we found creative ways to conduct the business of the synod.
- Hosted **Spring** and **Fall Theological Conferences**, where we continued to support the continuing education of our Rostered Ministers either online or in-person.
- Invested in **FaithX**, a community mapping tool for congregations to see hard data about their neighborhoods and learn more about their neighbors.
- Supported many congregations and ministries through visits by synod staff, both digitally and in-person.
- Hosted Bishop Megan Rohrer from our sister synod, Sierra Pacific.
- Completed construction and began the use of the Wambli Ska Center, formerly planned as the Woyatan Retreat Center.
- Created **new synod staff** positions including a **Rural Ministry Liaison** to journey with our rural ministry sites.

NEIGHBORS IN SOLIDARITY SUPPORT CHALLENGE



The apostle Paul had many ministries; he started churches in new places, wrote letters and gave speeches, and asked churches to financially support other ministries to do their work. The Corinthians and Philippians are among those Paul specifically thanked for sharing gifts as a testimony to the genuineness of their love (2 Corinthians 8:8).

At the Synod Assembly this spring, I shared a challenge with each congregation. We have a network of support for several ministries in the Synod, called Neighbors in Solidarity. These are ministries with a specific goal or focus, and we invite each congregation to be in partnership with these ministries.

The challenge was that EACH congregation in the South Dakota Synod make it part of their budget to support the Neighbors in Solidarity network, AND at least one particular ministry in the network. The amount is not part of the request, as even a gift of a dollar can begin to build a relationship and support between a congregation and a Neighbors in Solidarity ministry. It is our hope that each congregation can share a gift as a testimony to the genuineness of your love for one another, following Paul's example.

The Neighbors in Solidarity network includes:

- **Woyatan Lutheran Church, Rapid City**
- **Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center, Pine Ridge**
- **Church on the Street, Sioux Falls**
- **Pueblo de Dios, Sioux Falls**
- **First Lutheran African Ministry, Sioux Falls**
- **LuMin campus ministries, Spearfish, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Brookings, & Vermillion**
- **McLaughlin Community Alliance Group, McLaughlin**
- **Spirit of Hope, Scotland**

You can visit sdsynod.org/neighbors to learn more about each of these sites, where the Gospel is proclaimed through word and deed, and our neighbors are loved and served.

Thank you for all of the support you have already shared with ministries, and for considering adding the network and a specific ministry to your budget.

2022 Church Council Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Elsie Seffrood	Youth	January 2023	949-2009
Becky Pies	Member	January 2023	237-0539
Kathy Brink	Member	January 2023	520-2548
Tim Gapp	Member	January 2023	949-2761
Sarah Smith	Member	January 2023	520-0198
Carrie Rauen	Member	January 2024	695-8301
Traci Ellingson	Member	January 2024	695-8446
Laura Frankenhoff	Member	January 2024	880-1499
Michelle Urban	Member	January 2024	321-1428
Brianna Lindholm	Youth	January 2024	880-4190

Anne Seffrood	Church Treasurer		949-5658
Dawn Wright	Church Secretary		881-4377

- The following have been nominated for 2-year Council Positions:
 - Carrie Rauen
 - Traci Ellingson
 - Laura Frankenhoff
 - Michelle Urban
 - Brianna Lindholm-Youth

- (We are allowed 2 layperson delegates and 1 youth (16-21) delegate to attend the following meetings.)
 - Prairie Coteau Conference Assembly –
 - South Dakota Synod Assembly –
- The 2022 Nomination Committee will be: Jacky Adolph, Stacey Amdahl, Billi Whempner and two council members.
- The 2022 Auditing Committee will be: Lori O'Farrell, Tim Gapp, (1 vacancy to be filled)