

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING

January 31, 2021



Hope Lutheran Church – Annual Congregational Meeting January 31, 2021

1) Reflection – What has God done through us at Hope Lutheran Church in 2020?

a. *Readings*

i. Reading and Approval of Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting

ii. Reports

1. 2020 Statistical Report/Pastors report

2. Cemetery Report

3. BackPACH Program

4. Sunday School

5. Youth Group

6. WELCA Reports

a. President

b. Treasurer

c. Kitchen Fund

7. Campership

8. Ministry Partner Reports

a. South Dakota Synod

b. *Hymn #870* – We Praise You, O God (verses 1 and 3)

2) Stewardship – How have we managed the gifts entrusted to us by God?

a. *Readings*

i. Treasurer's Report

ii. 2021 Budget and Approval

b. Offering

c. *Hymn #686* – We Give Thee But Thine Own (verses 1 and 2)

3) Visioning – Where is God leading us in 2021?

a. *Readings*

b. Elections

c. *Hymn #576* – We All Are One in Mission

3) New Business

4) Other Business

Close with Lord's Prayer

Annual meeting
February 2-2020

Call to order. Meeting led by President Billie Whempner. Quorum met. Meeting continued

Motion Jolene, 2nd Margie to accept Annual report minutes from 2019

Motion Beth, 2nd Anne to accept Pastor report and stats report

Motion Laurie, 2nd Stacey to accept other reports

Auditing recommendations were noted also.

WELCA report-Pastor Janet commented that we only have 3-4 active members and encouraged anyone who may be interested in helping or other groups who are willing to help with mission projects. Motion Anne, 2nd Val A to accept report

Campership report approved

Billi let us know a committee has been formed to update the church constitution and when it's ready for approval, she will let us know.

Motion to approve Ministry reports. Approved

Treasurer report- short fall required the council to decide to cash in a CD. Anne discussed Thrivent Choice dollars and encourage those who could to elect those dollars to our church. It was noted the cost under Prop/Management was for the AC unit and carpet cleaning. Anne took a moment to thank the members for their contributions to the church fund. Motion Diane K, 2nd Stacey A to accept report.

Motion Lori O, 2nd Michelle to approve the 2020 budget.

Elections for new council members. Billi thanked outgoing members for their work and commitment. Motion Laurie, 2nd Michele to accept the nominees: Dustin Holt, Nikki Pays, James Arten, Cody Sumner and Jorja Whempner (youth rep). Motion passed.

New Business: Pastor Janet informed us of the youth going skiing and adult drivers are needed.

Motion Michele, 2nd Gary to adjourn meeting. Closed with the Lord's prayer.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I must admit, I have struggled to write this annual report. Just listing the numbers and statistics cannot begin to describe the year we journeyed together in 2020. We could mount a list of things we could not do because of the pandemic. But, instead, I choose to report on the way the Spirit kept moving even when we couldn't always do things the "normal" way.

The people of Hope were still struggling financially and mentally with the after effects of 2019's year of no real harvest for many farmers when we welcomed in 2020. We began the year with hopes for so much better as a church and community. In February, word reached us of pandemic and possible closings of schools, churches and many businesses for a time to "flatten the curve" of infections. We were three weeks into the season of Lent in the month of March when local schools closed by order of the governor. We also closed our doors to inside worship and began the journey of worshiping in a new way.

Though our doors to the building closed, worship of our God and the work of the church did not end. Our spring months of March through May were spent learning how to do worship in new ways starting with online worships on Facebook live. I need to make a big thank you to my children, Greg Miller and Suzy Miller-McFeeley for helping this old pastor learn about Facebook live, video recording, and video editing along with providing help with worship music. Thrivent grants helped us to purchase a new iPad and better video equipment to do the online worships.

When it became obvious that things were not improving with the pandemic by early summer, we applied for more Thrivent grants and purchased speakers, an audio board and a FM transmitter to start our "car worship". This enabled us to gather together in the church parking lot. In the safety of our own cars we are physically present for worships.

In August, we took a survey about beginning worships inside following the CDC guidelines for masking, social distancing and other precautions. A third of those who answered said they would not come. A third of those who answered said they didn't know if they would but many of them sent notes asking us to continue with the car worship. A third of those answering the survey said they would come in to worship inside following CDC guidelines. But, we also received notes from the last group asking us to continue car worship as long as we could manage. The council decided to stay with car worship and online worship for the fall and we have worked month by month reviewing and affirming that decision since. I want to make a note that every time we voted on worshiping outside and online the council vote was unanimous. This was not a decision that was forced by your pastor. I want to make sure I take the time to thank the council for all those hard decisions and all your time and effort.

The fall and winter months brought new challenges. We learned how to set up and YouTube channel for Sunday School and further access to worship. Hope Lutheran's channel is called "Hope's Children". If you look for it, please make sure you use the apostrophe or you will not find the right address. The easiest way to find the new content each week is to subscribe to the channel. The channel contains Sunday school material with stories, lessons, songs and activities. Thanks to Dawn Wright for doing our stories each week with Suzy and I. We also always

upload the Sunday worship on our channel for those who do not have Facebook. We also have continued our "Car Worship" with pastor standing in the kitchen doorway for warmth.

With the vaccines for Covid-19 slowly starting to roll out, we hope to be able to resume inside worship. When that times comes, we will still require precautions from the CDC until the danger to those who cannot get the vaccine yet passes.

The year 2020 has taught me many things as your pastor. I am now much more tech savvy and will continue to lead online worship into the future. I have been shocked by how many people are watching our little town church online worships. We average 350 to 450 people each week. During the summer months we regularly had more than 450 watching us each week. Our most watched worship had 760 views! Think about that! Even though many of us have felt the loss of indoor worship so keenly, hundreds of people are worshipping with us online who didn't have a chance or did not take the opportunity to do so before. When we see darkness, God always finds a way to bring the Light.

During this year, we have continued to provide:

- preaching of the Word and bringing Holy Communion to our people
- 9 baptisms -7 for our congregation and 2 for others without pastors
- 4 weddings- 2 in the congregation with only a very small gathering and 2 outdoors for other congregations this summer
- 2 funerals/memorial services for Hope and 2 for other congregations- Though our hearts grieve that we could not gather to mourn those who passed as we should, we remembered them and gave them into God's eternal care.

Finding our way through the dark of a pandemic year has not been a perfect process. We trust that God has led us and He continues to journey with us into 2021. I encourage you to continue to support your congregation and your church council as we step into this year with God.

Hope Lutheran Church – Financial Audit – 1/21/2021

General Fund account #1110075253 - \$3,286.19 Ending Balance - Reconciled

HS Youth account #421450 - \$4,901.45 Ending Balance – Reconciled

Sunday School acct. #203703 - \$1,145.32 Ending Balance – Reconciled

Hope ELCW acct. #203653 – \$103.67 Ending Balance – Reconciled

Hope Kitchen acct. #1110073724 - \$1,342.18 Ending Balance – Reconciled

Hope and Leb. Cemetery acct. #203679 – \$13,702.32 Ending Balance – Reconciled balance \$13,590.38

Hope Youth Campership acct. #203695 – 1,601.92 – 1 transaction to Luther Out Door \$1,000 – Reconciled.

Hope Backpack acct. #609735 – \$7,881.07 Ending Balance – No statement of income and expense submitted.

CD Balances - #7623 \$5000 Due 6/19/23

#26980 \$2500 Due 6/3/21

#27566 \$15,000 Due 11/30/21

Findings:

- No statement of income and expenses were provided for backpack account.
- All other accounts were reconciled with bank statements.

Audit Committee

Tim Gapp

Lori O'Farrell

President-----Caroll Miller

In the past years, we usually met twice a month. However, 2020 has been anything but usual!! We met twice in January and February. The first Thursday for quilting in the morning and our meeting and Bible Study in the afternoon. The third Thursday for quilting in the morning. The first Thursday in February we met in the morning for quilting until 11:30 and then headed for home because of increasing wind and snow! Little did we know what was really heading our way!! By March 11th we were told to stay home if possible because of the "Coronavirius" or Covid 19. You know what all that is about! It was also the last of our meetings, Bible Study and quilting together at church. We even had to cancel our annual Soup/Sandwich/Pie & Bake Sale !!

Myla and Marge kept quilting at home and with the quilts that we had done already, we still had quite a few to send to Lutheran World Relief. We sent 157 quilts, and with everyones help, 123 school kits, 7 personal care kits and 2 Fabric kits. There was also a special offering taken to help with the cost of shipping the quilts and kits!

The HLCW gave financial gifts to: Heartland Ephpatha, Native American Ministries, Campus Ministries, Lutheran Social Services, Lutherans Outdoors, Global Missions St. Dysmas, World Hunger, L.A.M.P., Seeds of Hope for Nicaragua and Lutheran World Relief Peojects.

Remember, all the ladies of Hope Lutheran belong to the General Serving Group that provides food and workers for funerals, pot lucks or any other special occasions that may occur. All general committees and serving groups are listed in last years program booklets, so hang on to them!!

Due to lack of interest in our HLCW and being there are only 3 of us left, we are closing our HLCW . We will still be quilting at our homes and when it is safe to do so, we will be quilting at the church. If anyone would like to join us at the church and help us put quilts together, you are certainly welcome! You don't even have to know how to sew, just help us lay out the quilt and tie knots and put some pins around the edges!

So, if we are all careful, wash our hands (a lot), practice social distancing, WEAR A MASK when we go out, get our shots and stay home if we are sick, we will get through this together. Especially if we remember to Trust in the Lord and ask him to help us!!



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Dear Siblings in Christ 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!

"But we had hoped" – is probably the most used phrase of 2020. However, this is also the phrase of the two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus after Christ's death and resurrection. While on the road wrestling with things that they cannot understand, Jesus joins them on the road, sharing with them how all of these things rested in God all along. It is not until the breaking of the bread that the holy heartburn the two disciples felt all along propels them to run back to their friends to share that Christ truly is alive and not dead, and that therefore his followers need to live into the promise that they too are alive and that death has lost its power.

I cannot help but come to understand that this story is our story. It has always been our story, but 2020 has brought this story alive for me in new and profound ways. We too have found ourselves saying countless times this year, "but we had hoped." We too wrestled with the hard questions about what to make of the events of this past year as they unfolded in our life. We have wished many times to go "back to normal." As I heard from people, I invited them to expound on what going back to normal means to them. Creating this space allowed for a deeper reflection on who we are as people of God in South Dakota. Jesus accompanied the disciples on the road and shared scripture with them to open their eyes to God's continued provision and presence in the world. Even in the midst of these life-altering and events of Christ's death and resurrection God is alive and at work. My staff and I have accompanied your community of faith during this life-altering pandemic assuring you that God's Holy Spirit is inspiring and sustaining.

Early on, we hosted weekly Zoom meetings for rostered and lay leaders. We continue these meetings on a monthly basis. Task forces were created to provide resources and training for congregations to continue ministry, such as "Canvas" an online resource platform and network for everything educational. Two worship documents and guidance were created: "Extending the Table, Expanding Participation" and "Come Let us Worship in a New Way." I can say that the pandemic and the challenges of living into a new way of being church has created some heartburn. Many may not call it a holy heartburn, but remember neither did the disciples until they sat at the table with Jesus and ate. Only when bread was broken, and wine was poured, did they remember the promises that God's got them and that they have nothing to fear. I pray that you too will come to recognize and interpret your heartburn as *holy heartburn* that empowers you to be church in a new and different way for the sake of the Gospel.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Now, as we move forward, let's commit ourselves to journey together in Christ, and in Christ alone.

C. Hagmaier

Journeying with you in Christ,
Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA



**South Dakota Synod
Mission Plan
02/01/2020 - 01/31/2021**

	Adopted 2020	Revised 2020	Proposed 2021
INCOME			
MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS	1,823,305	1,733,093	1,733,093
Program Ministry Income			
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	45,000	45,000	45,000
Other Income Streams			
SD Synod Mission Support	37,000	29,927	29,927
DEM Support Staff	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	7,500	8,000	8,000
SDS Transportation LLC Income	12,472	5,000	5,000
SDS Transportation/Plane Income	25,000	-	-
Misc Income	503	1,000	1,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,960,780	1,832,020	1,832,020
EXPENSES			
	Adopted 2020	Revised 2020	Proposed 2021
CHURCHWIDE MISSION			
Mission Support to ELCA	820,487	779,892	779,892
% of Mission Support	45.0%	45.0%	45.0%
Region III	8,702	7,626	7,626
SHARED MINISTRIES			
South Dakota Sustained Ministries			
Campus Ministry	128,919	122,177	122,177
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030	1,030	1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	58,300	58,300	58,300
Heartland Ephphatha	6,325	5,994	5,994
Lutheran Youth Organization	3,605	3,605	3,605
South Dakota Supported Ministries			
SD Ministries Support	16,650	13,467	13,467
Luther Seminary	73,110	69,287	69,287
Lutheran Social Services	73,110	69,287	69,287
Lutherans Outdoors	36,462	34,555	34,555
Church Colleges	6,325	5,994	5,994
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
Total Shared Ministries	403,838	383,698	383,698
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES			
Staff Leadership			
Bishop	107,500	90,605	90,605
Associate Director of Evangelical Mission	10,606	6,528	6,528
Associate Mobility/Candidacy	89,017	74,394	74,394

**South Dakota Synod
Mission Plan
02/01/2020 - 01/31/2021**

Bishop/Associate Benefits	69,991	78,897	78,897
SDS Travel	35,734	20,500	20,000
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	18,800	16,300	16,299
Program Ministries			
Native American Ministry	74,265	79,248	77,748
Synod Youth Gathering Coordinator	15,814	6,959	6,959
Companion Synod Coordinator	11,993	12,315	12,065
Support Staff and Office			
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	148,859	152,501	152,501
Resource Center Supplies	150	300	300
Synod Office Expenses	66,222	68,164	65,559
Augustana University	20,949	20,949	20,949
Synod Leadership			
Synod Council	7,000	7,000	5,500
Support to Ministries Committee	2,600	2,600	2,100
Candidacy Committee	4,500	4,500	3,750
Electronic Communications	1,750	1,750	1,750
Multicultural Ministry Committee	1,700	1,700	1,550
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	500	250	200
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500	1,500	1,350
Mission Strategy Committee	2,000	2,000	1,850
Ministry Projects			
Stewardship Project	500	500	-
Continuing Education Projects	250	-	-
Outreach Ministries			
Multicultural Center/Woyatan	15,000	16,500	16,000
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000	4,000	3,950
Companion Synods	500	500	-
Contingency			
	16,053	674	-
Subtotal SD Synod Ministries	727,753	671,134	660,804
Total Expense	1,960,780	1,842,350	1,832,020
Net Total	0	-10,330	0

The 2021 mission plan for the synod was discussed and proposed by the Synod Council in the absence of the Synod Assembly being able to convene and pass a mission plan during 2021. The mission plan is reflective of the Synod Council's hopes for how we, as the church, will be able to support and engage in ministry together, while recognizing the unusual uncertainty which began in 2020 and may continue in 2021. Accordingly, the Synod Council proposed a flat budget based upon the congregational statements of intended mission support for the 2020 mission plan year. No significant changes from the 2020 mission plan were proposed other than prudently planning to reduce meeting and leadership related expenses in order to propose a balanced 2021 mission plan.

In 2019, we listened to you and learned from you in order for us to care for you as the body of Christ in South Dakota. As we live into the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, many things that were said in 2019 are ever more present.

Here's what we found out:

What gives you joy?

- Music
- Multi-generational ministry opportunities
- Purposeful gatherings
- Purposeful volunteering
- The Gospel

What keeps you up at night?

- Economic hardships
- Polarization in our society
- Mental Health
- Fear for the future of "the Church"

How do you envision your relationship with the synod staff?

- Resources
- Relationships
- Programs
- Communication
- Faith Formation



Why even be "synod"?

- We are synod, because we are called to journey together in Christ. – Luke 24:13-35

How will we journey together in Christ?

- Relating with intentionality
 - Networking across the church
 - Equipping leaders for ministry
 - Sharing Leadership
- With confidence in Christ's Love for All.

"Fitting who we are into pews made for who we were."

- Participant from 2019 Listen, Learn and Care Event"

What we plan to do:

- Intentionality in our presence (site visits, accompaniment, West River presence, Disaster response through grants and presence)
- Community building opportunities (peer ministry, coaching, zoom groups, task forces, Synod Day)
- Resources (Red River Leadership partnership, Canvas platform faith formation curriculum, network of intentional interim pastors, Justice Table, worship resources, task forces, synod staff sermons, constitutional resources)
- Educational Opportunities (Region 3 Lay School, Psychological First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Facebook Live Dwelling in the Word, Boundary workshops)

We are no longer the people we were when we left our buildings in March 2020, nor is the world around us – and it won't ever be. New life and possibilities have emerged. Let's embrace our current situation and reimagine it as a classroom. How would that reshape our experience today?

Come on the road with us. The journey awaits. Let's journey together in Christ

[journeywithfaith.org](https://www.journeywithfaith.org)



Hope Lutheran Church
Budget vs. Actual
January - December 2020

	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET
Income: Offerings, Gifts, Other					
41100 · Regular Offerings	85,813	82,315	104,000	\$ 81,931.30	\$ 103,200.00
41200 · Special Services Offerings	4,761	6,418	7,000	\$ 3,395.00	\$ 7,000.00
42100 · Gifts & Memorials	11,070	12,467	20,000	\$ 9,806.00	\$ 20,000.00
44450 · Facility Rental	100	-	-		
44440 · Special Offerings to Pass On	199	1,740	200	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 450.00
44300 · Special Event Donations	135	1,535	135		\$ -
44100 · Interest Earned	296	510	296	\$ 243.05	\$ 340.70
44200 · Thrivent	232	2,193	1,500	\$ 1,098.00	\$ 1,500.00
44000 · Other Income - Other	181	1,041	181	\$ 1,338.59	\$ -
Total Offerings & Gifts	102,787	108,219	133,312	\$ 99,011.94	\$ 132,490.70
EXPENSES					
66110 · Pastor Salary	23,920	38,063	43,500	\$ 43,500.00	\$ 44,700.00
66120 · Pastor Housing Allowance	6,900	10,000	12,000	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
66150 · Pastor Social Security	2,348	3,677	4,246	\$ 4,245.96	\$ 4,340.28
66160 · Pastor Benefits	14,444	23,958	28,618	\$ 28,409.10	\$ 29,622.00
66191 · Relief Pastor Salary	3,850	1,400	875	\$ 175.00	\$ 525.00
66192 · Relief Pastor Mileage/Housing	2,754	1,240	120	\$ 14.00	\$ 50.00
66310 · Secretary Salary	3,840	4,200	3,840	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00
66320 · Janitor Salary	2,400	2,400	2,400	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
66330 · Organist Salary	1,160	1,140	1,160	\$ -	\$ 1,120.00
60200 · Auto/Mileage Expenses	978	455	1,400	\$ -	\$ 400.00
61800 · Continuing Ed & Conferencs	-	626	600	\$ 68.00	\$ 625.00
63300 · Insurance Expense	2,607	2,723	2,700	\$ 258.26	\$ 2,852.74
63130 · Confirmation / Adult Ed	-	917	300	\$ 335.66	\$ 300.00
63120 · Sunday School Materials	207	79	-	\$ -	\$ -
63110 · Worship Materials	1,688	1,711	1,400	\$ 1,524.84	\$ 1,500.00
63100 · Worship & Education - Other	-	119	-	\$ 58.49	\$ -
63200 · Fellowship Expenses	441	969	500	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Total 62000 · Office Expenses	2,275	2,279	2,330	\$ 1,651.76	\$ 1,720.00
67500 · Church Decorations	-	-	200	\$ -	\$ -
67100 · Landscaping Expenses	4,000	3,600	3,400	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00
67200 · Repairs and Maintenance	8,584	8,567	6,300	\$ 173.00	\$ 6,000.00
67300 · Small Tools and Equipment	-	1,281	-		\$ 300.00
67410 · Propane/Heat	4,668	5,218	3,000	\$ 2,967.54	\$ 3,000.00
67420 · Electricity	1,648	1,363	1,775	\$ 2,009.72	\$ 2,050.00
67430 · Water/Sewer	612	684	744	\$ 744.00	\$ 744.00
67440 · Telephone & Internet	1,121	1,152	1,140	\$ 1,123.44	\$ 1,140.00
61410 · Synod Mission Support	6,957	6,585	7,680	\$ 6,554.50	\$ 8,160.00
61420 · Good Samaritan Fund	-	121	-		\$ 200.00
61450 · Special Offerings Sent On	1,420	2,011	200	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 450.00
61470 · Thrivent Share	275	232	700	\$ 700.00	\$ 375.00
69000 · Miscellaneous Expenses	1,291	374	300	\$ 358.90	\$ 400.00
Total Expenses	100,662	127,142	131,428	\$ 114,672.17	\$ 131,274.02
NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES	2,124	(18,923)	1,884	\$ (15,660.23)	\$ 1,216.68

10,609
CD 27604

\$ 14,700.00
SBA PPP Loan

2021 Church Council Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Nicole Pays	Member	January 2022	467-0213
James Arten	Member	January 2022	949-2924
Cody Sumner	Member	January 2022	881-6912
Dustin Holt	Member	January 2022	949-2370
Jorja Whempner	Youth	January 2022	467-3207
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
Elsie Seffrood	Member	January 2023	949-2009

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

- The following have been nominated for 2-year Council Positions:
 - Becky Pies
 - Kathy Brink
 - Tim Gapp
 - Sarah Smith
 - Elsie Seffrood-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 2020 Nomination Committee will be: Jacky Adolph, Stacey Amdahl, Billi Whempner and two council members.
- The 2020 Auditing Committee will be: Lori O’Farrell, Tim Gapp, (1 vacancy to be filled)