

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is a song I have been listening to today. It's from a group called Mercy Me. The song "Even If" has spoken to me a lot during the last year. The song is about faith that has stood through the worst and experienced pain but still chooses to believe. I wanted to share these lyrics with you:

"They say sometimes you win some. Sometimes you lose some. And right now, right now I'm losing bad. I've stood on this stage, night after night reminding the broken it'll be alright. But right now, oh right now I just can't. It's easy to sing when there's nothing to bring me down. But what will I say, when I'm held to the flame like I am right now? I know you're able and I know you can. Save through the fire with your mighty hand. But even if you don't, my hope is you alone."

The song has reminded me that although we live in a world full of uncertainty, we have a God who is always there. That understanding that our God is faithful, true and never leaves us is so important in troubled times. 2020 seemed to be full of some pretty troubled times. We were sure if we could just hang on until the new year things would be better. As I prayed for a woman who was gasping for breath from covid pneumonia today, as I listened to many of my colleagues' zoom reports on churches being torn apart over political views, as I worry about our nation's leadership, as we wrestle with when it is safe to worship inside, as I work to get my own health back from bronchitis, the year 2021 doesn't seem to be living up to the hope we put on it. All that is happening in our world and in our homes can lay heavy on our faith.

Again the song speaks to this place:

"They say it only takes a little faith to move a mountain. Good thing, a little faith is all I have right now. But God when you choose to leave mountains unmovable. Give me the strength to be able to sing, it is well with my soul. I know you're able and I know you can, save through the fire with your mighty hand. But even if you don't. My hope is you alone. I know the sorrow, I know the hurt would all go away if you'd just say the word. But even if you don't. My hope is you alone."

People of Hope Lutheran, whether we worship inside, outside or online, God is good and God is here. Whoever the president of the US is, God is good and God is here. As we struggle with issues or health or depression or loneliness, God is good and God is here. We do not pin our hopes on a year or a ruler or our doctors or our own bodies, we pin our faith and our hopes on the only one who is always here and never defeated.

"You've been faithful. You've been good all of my days. Jesus, I will cling to you come what may. 'Cause I know you're able. I know you can..."

Our Hope is Christ alone! Hang onto that hope today. God is good! God is here!

Pastor Janet Miller

(To listen to the song you can type "Even If" by Mercy Me into your internet search engine. I hope it brings comfort and some hope to your day.)

HOPES HAPPENINGS

*The Hope Lutheran council met last week and discussed worship options for the next few weeks. It was unanimously decided to continue with our online and car worships through the end of January. Our annual meeting will be held as a car worship with certain changes to make it safely possible to ask questions and receive reports. Annual reports should be done and distributed to congregation at car church Jan 22 and on our website for all who want to see it in advance. Members are encouraged to attend the meeting on Jan. 31st at our 10:30am car church.

***Sunday School- we are revamping our format for Sunday School beginning this week and going from 3 videos to one. We hope this will help families to participate in the lesson, songs and activities each week. check us out at our You tube channel "Hope's Children".**

*Thank you for my Christmas gift from the congregation. It was appreciated!-Pastor Janet

*Seeds of Hope- a thanks to those who participated in the Seeds for Nicaragua offerings during Advent and Christmas. We raised over 1,100.00 for it.

***A reminder to anyone who shops Amazon. Be sure to link your account to Amazon Smiles and choose Hope Lutheran. We receive a % of money from all purchases. ☺ Also, if you are a Thrivent member, Log on to your account and see if you qualify for Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you do, please consider designating them to Hope Lutheran. Thanks!!**

1/10/2021

Hope Lutheran Church
Current Assets
 As of December 31, 2020

	December 31, 2019	December 31, 2020
CURRENT ASSETS		
11102 · General Fund Checking	\$ 8,420.16	\$ 3,286.19
12001 · Undeposited Funds	\$ 3,852.00	\$ 8,292.00
11112 · MWBank MC -Dawn	\$ 404.29	\$ 363.82
11113 · MWBank MC - Pastor Janet	\$ 512.12	\$ 286.33
12110 · CD 27566	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
TOTAL Current Assets	\$ 28,188.57	\$ 27,228.34

Hope Lutheran Church Offerings and Expenses

December 2020

	<u>Dec 20</u>	<u>Nov 20</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 20</u>
Offering, Gifts, Other Income			
41100 · Regular Offerings	6,675.00	8,155.00	81,931.30
41200 · Special Services Offerings	992.00		3,395.00
42100 · Gifts & Memorials	6,075.00	120.00	9,806.00
44440 · Special Offerings to Pass On	1,100.00 *1		1,200.00
44100 · Interest Earned	189.28	0.10	243.05
44200 · Thrivent			1,098.00
44000 · Other Income - Other			1,338.59
Total Income	<u>15,031.28</u>	<u>8,275.10</u>	<u>99,011.94</u>
Expense			
Total 66100 · Pastoral Payroll	7,328.83	7,328.83	88,155.06
Total 66190 · Relief Pastor Expenses	0.00	0.00	189.00
66310 · Secretary Salary	350.00	350.00	4,200.00
66320 · Janitor Salary	200.00	200.00	2,400.00
61800 · Continuing Ed & Conferencs	0.00	0.00	68.00
63300 · Insurance Expense	258.26 *2	0.00	258.26
63130 · Confirmation / Adult Ed	25.22	5.21	335.66
63110 · Worship Materials	309.84	9.39	1,524.84
63100 · Worship & Education - Other	0.00	0.00	58.49
62200 · Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	99.57
62300 · Printing and Reproduction	99.69	0.00	641.75
62600 · Postage and Delivery	199.99	0.00	769.50
62000 · Office Expenses - Other	15.66	15.66	140.94
67100 · Landscaping Expenses	-1,800.00 *3	300.00	0.00
67200 · Repairs and Maintenance	85.20	0.00	173.00
67410 · Propane/Heat	0.00	0.00	2,967.54
67420 · Electricity	187.29	96.03	2,009.72
67430 · Water/Sewer	62.00	62.00	744.00
67440 · Telephone & Internet Expenses	92.13	92.13	1,123.44
61410 · Synod Mission Support	1,747.04	1,526.24	6,554.50
61450 · Special Offerings Sent On	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
61470 · Thrivent Share	0.00	0.00	700.00
69000 · Miscellaneous Expenses	259.90	9.90	358.90
Total Expense	<u>10,621.05</u>	<u>9,995.39</u>	<u>114,672.17</u>
Net Income	<u><u>\$ 4,410.23</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (1,720.29)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (15,660.23)</u></u>

*1 Seeds of Hope for Nicaragua

*2 The property insurance will be paid monthly instead of annual in December

*3 The cost of mowing the cemetery was reimbursed by the Cemetery Account

Council minutes
January 10, 2021

Present: Pastor Janet, Jorja Whempner, Bruce Kneeland, Nikki Pays, Dustin Holt, Jolene Johnston, Mike Schmidt, Cody Sumner.

Absent: Jonathon Johnston, Beth Hills, Jim Arten

Others: Anne Seffrood, Dawn Wright

Opened with prayer.

Secretary report read. Motion by Dustin, 2nd by Bruce. Motion passed to accept report.

Treasurer report-monthly budget reviewed. Jolene motion, Mike 2nd to approve report. Motion passed.

Pastor report- 2 baptisms, short report on SD Justice Advocacy group that Pastor is a member of, wrote article for the Wilmot paper, attending Zoom meetings, continuing with online Worship and car church. Discussed revamping online Sunday school to one video a week, rather than 3 separate. Pastor brought up something for the council to consider while looking to the future. We are one of a few smaller churches with a pastor of our own. With the budget shortfalls, we may need to consider joining with another church in our area. It is just something to think about as we go towards the future. Anne then showed a yearly comparison from 2016-now. It will also be brought up at the annual meeting. Motion by Bruce, 2nd by Dustin to accept Pastor report. Motion passed.

2021 budget-Motion Jolene, 2nd Cody to accept. Motion passed. Final approval will be given by congregation at annual meeting.

Annual meeting will be held on January 31 after car worship. The new council will meet at time TBA. It was decided to continue with car worship until then and will revisit with new council. Motion Bruce, 2nd Jolene to accept. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with Lord's prayer.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO BOX 886
SUMMIT, SD 57266

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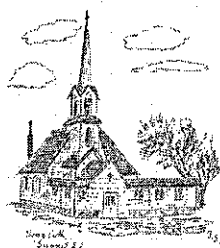
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Find us on Facebook: Hope Lutheran Church and www.seesummitsd.com



January 2021

“It is the mission of Hope Lutheran Church to help people grow in their faith; to be a leader in the community; to serve the needs of all people; and to teach/educate all people.

January birthdays/anniversaries

1-Gage Conners

2- Elsie Seffrood

6-Sophia Seffrood

6-Nathalies Fida Lassang

10-Jennifer Brus

11-Mark Larson

11-Morgan Lewandowski

12-Randy Holt

18-Val Amdahl

19-Preslee Zubke

20- Pete Eccles

21-Gene Olson

22-Ethan Lewandowski

23-Tamijo Bronson

25-Diane Kneeland

28- Montanna Crandall

30-Becki Steinocker

30-Roshanna Bourassa

30-David and Penny Cardwell