

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Hope
Palm Desert

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hopepd.org

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A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

"We have observed His star at its rising, and we have come to worship him." - Matthew 2:2.

The story of the wise men is one of the most familiar and beloved parts of the Christmas story. But for all of their popularity, the mysterious travelers from the East known as the Magi appear in only one short passage in the New Testament, following a star to the site of Jesus' birth and bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Their entire story is left in a shroud of mystery. All we are told is where they are from and where they are going, and in the end that is all that matters. The Magi followed the heavens and their hearts, and what they found was the love of God given to us in Jesus Christ.

At Hope Lutheran Church, we, like the Magi, continue to look to the heavens for guidance. However, we are not looking for the light of a star, rather the light of Christ that continues to shine upon us and guide our way. We were certainly guided by the light of Jesus through 2022, and as we enter into 2023, we know that God will be with us every step of the way.

The light of Jesus Christ continues to illuminate and guide our worship services. Both our in-person and online Traditional and Modern services continue to share the good news of God's love for all people in incredible ways. In addition, our High School, Middle School, and Hope Kid's services are being watched at record levels this year!

At Hope we also kicked off our Let's Do It! Campaign. Through the generosity of several members of Hope, we have \$400,000 in matching funds that will match dollar for dollar all donations towards our Building Fund. By reducing, and possibly eliminating, our mortgage, we will be able to focus even more of our focus and resources and sharing the love of Christ with our community. We are already off to an incredible start, but there is still an opportunity for you to get involved.

Our Bible studies: Men's Bible Study, Sisters in Christ, Esther Circle, and Online Bible Study continue to share the word of Christ. We are all learning more about Scripture and each other every week. It is amazing.

A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR (Continued)

We are continuing our Daily Devotionals on Facebook each week. It is a wonderful way to start the day with the light of Christ. It is such a delight to see friends and family connect each morning from across the world. This would not be possible without Gerald, Rick, Gesa, Nick and Doug each giving a different style of devotional each morning.

Our Legacy Committee is also working hard to ensure that, as people of Hope, we are able to make a lasting impact. Lynn Hendershot, the chair of our Legacy Committee, has brought a tremendous energy to our efforts growing our Endowment Fund which supports exciting ministry opportunities every year.

Our Stephen Ministry program continues to bring God's comfort and care to those who are hurting or feel alone. We brought in a new pair of Stephen Leaders, Linda Benson Spencer and Bob Bateman, to our already wonderful leadership team of Bob Kramer, Karen Anschell, Susan Sommerfeld, and Sandy McGinnis.

One of our Stephen Ministers, Tootie Killingsworth, continues to lead our Grief Share class. It's a way of helping people who have lost loved ones navigate the stages of grief and is a true blessing to so many.

Our Hope Children's Center is also a bright light in our ministry. Each child's face at HCC shines with the light of Jesus every day! Virginia Plavec has done a remarkable job of making sure the kids have fun and learn about Jesus.

Hope has also been deeply involved in Read With Me this year. Under the leadership of Horst Engel, we have many volunteers who dedicate a couple of hours each week to help children at Saul Martinez Elementary School learn to read. It has been a blessing to those children and to those who volunteer alike.

None of this could be possible without our amazing leadership. Our Hope Council has demonstrated incredible leadership this year. Mary Fay Pinnow, Jerry Beers, Reynold Worch, Rick Greaves, Eddy McLachlin, Martha Osborn, John Donnelly, and Kim Buchanan have been vital leaders in helping move Hope forward.

A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR (Continued)

God has also gifted Hope with an amazing staff: Pastor Carl, Manny, Dustin, Pastor Rick, Gesa, John, Christina, Pastor Gerald, Nick, Gabe, Doug, Virginia, Savannah, Barb, and Ginny have all been amazing. I am thankful for each one.

But the place I see the light of Jesus shining most is in each of you! Your support allows us to support struggling families as well as the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, Galilee Center, Read With Me Program, St. Margaret's Food Bank, and FIND Food Bank. The difference you made will have a lasting impact giving us all hope.

With the new year, I look forward to where God will lead us next. There is a possibility of bringing new people to our already blessed staff. While the generosity of the people of Hope remains remarkable, and I am more than thankful for all that we have received, there is still room for growth if we would like to expand our ministry staff in the future. I can't wait to see how the Holy Spirit decides to shape our future together.

Finally, I would like to thank all who volunteer to make Hope the amazing place of worship it is. From those who make Sunday morning possible, to those who work with our children and youth, and those who support our food bank, there are too many to even name. You truly have the guiding light of Christ leading us forward. I can't wait to see what's next.

In Christ, Pastor Derek Fossey

Hope
Palm Desert

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

2022 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Position

Council Member

President	Mary Fay Pinnow
Vice President	Jerry Beers
Treasurer	Rick Greaves
Secretary/Worship & Music	Reynold Worch
Youth	Eddy McLachlan
Human Resources	Kent Schulz
Stewardship	Kim Buchanan
Property Management	Martha Osborne

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

February 5, 2023 at 11:30am in the Hope Center

1. Call To Order
2. Opening Devotion
3. Opening Hymn: God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind
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 2023
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 2022.

• Average weekly online worship services attendance	504
• Average online daily devotional attendance	292
• Average weekly online kids attendance	214
• Average weekly online student attendance	39

ON CAMPUS MINISTRY

• Average weekly worship services attendance	365
• Average weekly kids attendance	25
• Average weekly student attendance	42

MEMBERSHIP

• Membership, December 31, 2022	1296
• Members received during 2022	
◦ By Baptism - children	9
◦ By Baptism - adults	6
◦ By Affirmation of Faith	25
◦ By transfer from ELCA Congregations	6
◦ From other sources	0
• Total members received 2022	46
• Members removed during 2022	
◦ By death	29
◦ By transfer	4
◦ For other reasons and statistical adjustment	0
• Total members removed 2022	33
• Membership, December 31, 2022	1309
• Total Confirmed Membership end of 2022	1309
• Number of Baptized youth who were confirmed in 2022	0
• Households with at least one member	1045
• Total weddings	9

INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR/ PASTOR EMERITUS

Last year, after reading Pastor Derek's Annual Report using "May the God of hope fill you all with joy and peace in believing, so that you abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13), I decided that I would live my life in 2022 using theme "Unshakable Hope." Things had to get better!

Now at the end of the year many things have gotten better. We have a better hand on COVID. It hasn't gone away, but we are learning how to live life dealing with it. Things around us have opened up; but careful we must be. Better medications have shortened the COVID recovery time.

In person worship has increased. The attendance at Sunday worship services continues to grow! We are still not at pre-pandemic levels, but more people are returning every Sunday. Thank God for "YouTube" and the internet so those of you who are not ready to return to the Worship Center can continue to hear the Word. I have enjoyed working with Pastor Derek and John, our production manager, in our weekly video tapings.

On Sunday, January 1, 2023 the serving of Holy Communion returned to worship with modified intinction form. You will receive the bread in your hand and will then pick up a wine/juice cup from a pastor or communion server.

The opportunities for visitation and hospital visits have improved and have returned to be somewhat normal again. We can't always get into the hospital or make an assisted living visit, so give me a call when you would like to set a time for a visit.

We have now been together twenty-seven years sharing our "Unshakable Hope." Thank you for allowing Cheryl and me to walk with you in these most interesting times. May God bless each of us as we continue to make a difference in the lives around us with hope, faith and love.

Pastor Carl R. Witt. Jr.

DIGITAL & TEACHING PASTOR

2022 has been full leading some of the best people here at Hope. From the Digital Team to Kids and Student Team we are always evaluating and changing things to better engage people to connect to Jesus.

During the week I'm working on either new teaching series, stage sets, or a myriad of things to enhance our Modern services to equip, instruct and inspire people as they follow Jesus. I also led the charge in a host of technical projects improving our Sanctuary and Hope Center.

Bring On 2023!

Pastor Rick

TEACHING PASTOR

Some of the most pastoral words from the New Testament were written by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the believers in Philippi. With a deep and abiding fondness in his heart for them, Paul pens the words, "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." (Philippians 1:3, NLT) There aren't words that could better describe my feelings for the people of Hope. Every time I think of you, I thank God for you. It has been a blessing to have journeyed another year with you sharing the grace of our Lord.

Our online daily devotionals that I launched on March 16, 2020 when we thought Covid-19 would only last for two weeks and then we'd all be back to life as normal (little did we know) have continued daily on Facebook at 7:00am Pacific time. Our 255 devotionals of 2022 brought the total number of devotionals done by our staff to 720 since we launched.

In January 2022 we held a Ministry Fair with 27 ministries of Hope sharing their opportunities to serve and to be served. The patio was full of bustling excitement and energy with balloons flying, music playing, and people exploring ways to move what was in their hearts to their hands. Each ministry represented was able to both recruit new volunteers and to help the people of Hope know what is available to them.

On the beautiful fall evening of October 1, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi Day on October 4, we held a Blessing of the Animals Service by the fountain. St. Francis is the patron saint of pets and animals. That evening it was a joy for us to offer a pastoral blessing over 16 dogs and 2 cats.

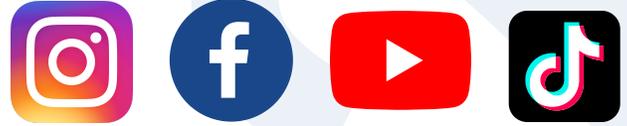
In December we launched a new ministry called Hope for All. It is specifically intended for LGBTQ+ and Allies to have opportunities for outreach and to receive ministry. We want LGBTQ+ individuals to know that not only are they loved by God, but they are also loved by our church. And, not only are they loved, they are truly welcome and wanted at Hope as part of the life and sacraments of the church.

Finally, as the Apostle Paul was mentoring Timothy he made this extremely clear statement to him, "Preach the Word." (2 Timothy 4:2, NIRV) It was my joy in 2022 to have the opportunity to preach in both our Traditional and Modern services and to periodically lead the liturgy in the Traditional service. Throughout my 43+ years of ministry, there's not one aspect of my pastoral role that I've approached with more intention and simultaneously with a greater sense of weightiness before God than to stand before God's people to open and declare the truths of God's written word. Each time I do so it is my hope that not only will what I say be helpful for your faith journey, but that it will also be pleasing in the sight of our Lord. Here's to an amazing 2022 and to what our God has in store for Hope in 2023.

Pastor Gerald

DIGITAL MINISTRY

Christina Jutovsky: Digital Creator
John Wilson: Video Creator
Rick Ballard: Team Leader



**REACHED
850,000**

SOCIAL MEDIA
Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok

REACHED PEOPLE
Adults: **350,000**
Kids & Students: **500,000**
Total: **850,000**

FOLLOWERS: 1432
Kids & Students increased followers **35%**

POSTS
Total Post: **2555**

DID YOU KNOW THAT WE DO:
7 posts every day 365 days

HOPE WEBSITE
20,000 visted

VIDEO PRODUCTION
(Filmed, edited, posted on You Tube)

312 - ONLINE SERVICES

40 - PROMOTIONAL MINISTRY EVENTS
.....
It takes an average of 30 minutes to produce
every 1 minute in a video.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

The Digital Ministry Team also created all the slides that are presented on the screens in services and all printed material.

STUDENT MINISTRY

TEAM:

Nick Orth: High School Minister

Savannah Ellis: Middle School Director

Our vision is to create a Student Ministry instead of a Youth Group. The difference is seen in the focus. A Youth Group is focused just on the teenagers that are at church while a Student Ministry is focused on those who are and aren't. This was Jesus' vision as he explains it in Matthew 18 when He says, "He would leave the 99 to go after the 1." Below is how we are accomplishing our vision.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Occurs every month
- 20 tons of food distributed
- 150 families served
- Once a month the Student Ministry partners with the Narrow Door to give food boxes to families that live a few blocks from Hope.

CAMPS

- Over 100 students
- 3 camp opportunities
- Raised \$45,000.00

HELPING HURTING STUDENTS

70% of students today are dealing with anxiety and depression. 50% are dealing with bullying and drug addiction. Students showed up on Thursdays to learn how God's Word gives insights and solutions to these and other issues with which they are dealing.

STUDENT SUNDAY SERVICES

We want students to love church. Every Sunday students have opportunities to volunteer and attend their worship services.



KIDS MINISTRY

TEAM:

Bobbi Acosta: Early Childhood
Cherise Williams: Early Childhood Assistant

Terry Voyles: Elementary
Genny Little: Data & Nursery Coordinator

EVERY SUNDAY

Exciting program for
kids during services

CAMP HOPE

165 kids & volunteers
\$3,000.00 raised for missionaries

PRE AMP CAMP

Teaching kids how to play ukulele

YOUTUBE KID'S SERVICES

Increased by 35% in last 6 months

HOPE CHILDREN CENTER

We had another productive and heartfelt year at Hope Children Center!

The enrollment increased from 76 in 2021 to 105 in 2022; 45 are kindergarten and the remaining 60 are 1-5th grade. We have five staff members who work approximately six hours per day. We follow the Core Essential Curriculum, which gives the staff a core value, animal and color of the month. This facilitates a good foundation for Christian value decision making skills for our children.

The extracurricular enrichment classes we were able to provide this fall were Pre Amp ukulele and yoga weekly classes. The Pre Amp ukulele skills accommodated the 2nd-5th graders. The majority had never held a musical instrument, and were filling the playground with "Hawaiian tranquility" in the afternoons after one successful month. Our yoga gal was able to accommodate all ages. The children learned breathing and stretching skills to eliminate stress which comes from studying for a spelling test or feeling pressure to succeed on the soccer field.

In our growing garden, we successfully planted tomatoes, beans, bell peppers, basil, thyme and rosemary. We let 3,000 ladybugs into the garden to protect our produce from the giant horned caterpillars, that also love tomatoes! We made several healthy snacks from this bountiful harvest including bread and butter topped with tomato, peppers and basil.

Pizza, Popsicles and Praise Wednesdays had major impact with the children. Mr. Terry provided a weekly lesson corresponding to Hope Sunday Lessons. The children had the opportunity to assist and provide Mr. Terry with a tech team to operate the computer, lights and sound. The children also had the opportunity to provide "speaking parts" for the weekly Sunday Hope You Tube videos in front of the green screen. All in all Wednesday was a day of participation and knowledge of God's will for us.

Sincerely,
Virginia Plavec, Director
Hope Children Center

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



THANK YOU!

I know everyone else has told you about the wonderful things that have been going on at Hope Lutheran this past year so instead of reiterating what they have said, I just want to say THANK YOU!

THANK YOU - OUR AMAZING LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

Obviously without them nothing would happen. We've had some ups and downs over the year but throughout it all everyone stepped up and worked together to make transitions seamless.

THANK YOU - CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

I've said it before and it bears repeating - I can attest that this is the most dedicated group of people I've had the privilege to serve with. Whatever needs doing, gets done - no hesitation, no excuses; just hard work.

THANK YOU - CONGREGATION

We are so blessed to have such a generous congregation. You have supported our mission monetarily and with your time and just look at what we've accomplished!!

God bless everyone that has made a difference - that means YOU! THANK YOU!!

God Bless,
Mary Fay Pinnow

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

2022 was a good year for music programs at Hope Lutheran. The Hope Choir continued to lead worship at 9:30 services. The Hope Bells played on several Sundays. The church is also blessed with singers who share their gift with the congregation as soloists.

A concert series, "Music at Hope" began in fall of 2021 and continued into 2022. Several concerts were held with excellent attendance. The concert series continued in the fall of 2022, and more concerts are scheduled for the spring of 2023.

High School instrumentalists were included for Sunday services on Easter and for the Polka Mass on Reformation Sunday. A pianist provided added music on special Sundays. Microphones have been installed to amplify the sound of the voices throughout the sanctuary.

Douglas Wilson

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

We express our gratitude to Pastors Derek Fossey, Carl Witt, Gerald and Gesa Sharon, and Rick Bailard and our organist/choir director Doug Wilson for their expertise and leadership in planning and delivering God's word to us through our worship services. Their collaboration, innovation, and dedication to spread the Gospel afford us meaningful, vibrant, and reverent worship services on campus and online.

Our Worship and Music Committee members work to assist the worship service through our lay leaders who are all volunteers.

These volunteers are a vital resource in the church to support the various areas necessary to keep our worship services running effectively. Our ministry is composed of volunteer lay leaders who work "behind the scenes" and "in the scenes" before, during, and after the service. Some volunteers are more visible than others, but the work each does is extremely crucial to the purpose of a productive, God-based worship observance. On any given Sunday, there are anywhere from 30-50 volunteers working. We do not necessarily have the same volunteers each Sunday, so the total number of volunteers is well over 125 dedicated members, working to make our services successful.

Our volunteer coordinator Cindy Willenburg compiles the data from all the various groups (Traditional and Modern) and displays them on a monthly easy-to-read chart which is posted on a bulletin board for all participants to see.

There are too many volunteers to mention by name, so their areas of expertise and a brief description of the duties they perform will be given:

- Scripture readers—read the Biblical texts
- Acolytes—light and extinguish candles
- Greeters—greet worshippers at church entrances
- Ushers—ministers of hospitality who collect offerings, direct communicants, seat worshippers
- Altar Guild—prepare communion bread and wine, change liturgical colors
- Hope Chorale—heart of our music ministry
- Bell Choir—playing bells from time to time
- Audio/visual technicians—volunteers who are trained and regulate microphones and lighting, display service on big screen
- Communion assistants—help prepare and serve the bread and wine during communion
- Coffee and donut servers—hospitality providing refreshments before and after services
- Flower deliverers—rearrange and deliver flowers to shut-ins

We are so grateful for your efforts in providing and maintaining a positive effect in our service. Your dedication to the ministry of Hope Lutheran Church is greatly appreciated!

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 4th anniversary. CR continued to meet every Thursday night at 7:00pm in the Hope Center. Only 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 completed 2 and started 2 new Step Studies in 2022.

Due to the changes Covid brought to people's routines, the ministry saw a decline in in-person attendance just like we experienced in the church overall. There have also been a few leaders who stepped out of leadership, all of which have been adjustments, but we're hopeful for a rebuild of leadership and regrowth of the ministry. It has been important to not focus on numbers in the attendance, but on the life change that continues to happen, which is very encouraging.

To stay connected and encouraged, the leadership team had several gatherings including the annual "Summit" conference virtually at the Best Western in Palm Desert and leaders from all other CR's in the valley came to attend.

Celebration Place and The Landing ran parallel to the weekly Large Group and Open Share meetings for adults. Starting in October we closed down both programs to take time to rebuild the leadership for these parts of the ministry. Celebration place is scheduled to reopen in the New Year. When offering these programs the whole family is able to continue to participate.

The leadership team of Celebrate Recovery at Hope wants to express their gratitude for the ongoing support from the pastors and congregation. The team is encouraged by the continued 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 through the recovery principles, the 12 Steps and most of all the healing power of Jesus.

Gesa Sharon
Ministry Leader

ALTAR GUILD

Hope Altar Guild has been happily serving to support the pastors and worship services in person. We have had weekly communion in the Traditional services, and in the Modern service on the first Sunday of each month using safe pre-filled wine and bread cups. On November 30, 2022, the 1st Sunday in Advent, the pastors began serving communion by intinction at the 8:00 AM Traditional service.

A huge thank you to all of our pastors who continue to give us hope, love and inspiration each Sunday and during our Monday through Friday devotionals. We are all so happy that the daily devotionals have continued because they are an added blessing to all of us.

Cindy Tanner Willenburg
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 tuition. Hope Lutheran Church thanks the Baseshore Scholarship Fund for providing the scholarships to the following young people in 2022: Evan Doty, Breanna Freiberg, Grace Bjerke. Total Scholarships provided: \$1,300. 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.

Jerry Beers
Chairman

COLUMBARIUM

The Columbarium at 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 of the church who regularly attend and support our ministry.

Management of Columbarium: On behalf of the church Council, the Columbarium Committee administers and manages the Columbarium, keeps records regarding niche reservations and persons inurned in the Columbarium, including names, dates of birth and death, and inurnment dates.

2022 Activity: There were eight inurnments and nine new reservations made in 2022. A brochure developed in 2016, "The Columbarium at Hope Lutheran Church" is available to the congregation via the church office and the Information Center. The brochure describes the Columbarium benefits as well as information about how to reserve and select a niche for you or your loved ones.

COLUMBARIUM (Continued)

Also, a series of articles were published in the Hope Light to generate awareness about the availability of the Columbarium, which is located at the east end of the church plaza across from the Hope Center Entrance.

Financials: The ending balance on December 31, 2022 was \$19,225.24.

Jerry Beers
Chairman

HUMAN RESOURCES

This past year was an amazing success in so many areas of our church life. Despite the continuing uncertainty regarding the Covid situation, Hope Lutheran Church continued to grow and flourish. We were able to return to in person attendance at both our Traditional and Modern services. It has been such a feeling of fulfillment and comfort as we returned to worshipping and socializing together. And, the icing on the cake will be the anticipated January return to our traditional Communion at the rail.

The backbone and anchor of our church organization continues to be our pastoral staff. We are incredibly blessed to have Pastor Derek guiding our church with his energetic leadership, humility and humor. Another reason to be thankful for our pastoral staff is the daily contribution made by Pastor Carl. We continue to benefit from his vast experience, enthusiasm and love for our church and congregation. Pastor Gerald continues to help us to grow and benefit from his experience, guidance and sage recommendations. And, what a year it has been for Gesa Sharon, our Ministry Leader. Throughout the year she has continued to expand the many Ministries here at Hope, especially the Women of Hope.

Without a doubt, one of the biggest benefits that came out of our Covid experience, has been the spectacular growth of our Online Ministry. Under the leadership of Pastor Rick, Online Ministry continues to grow in ways never thought about a few short years ago. On the creative side of the Online Ministry, Pastor Rick is supported by John Wilson, our Video Creator and Technical Director, and Christina Jutovsky, our Social Media Creator. Pastor Rick also leads the Family Ministry team of Nick Orth, High School Ministry Leader, Bobbi Acosta in charge of Early Childcare Development, and Terry Voyles, our Elementary Director. Together they are a team with unbelievable enthusiasm driven to continue growing all age groups in our Children's Ministry.

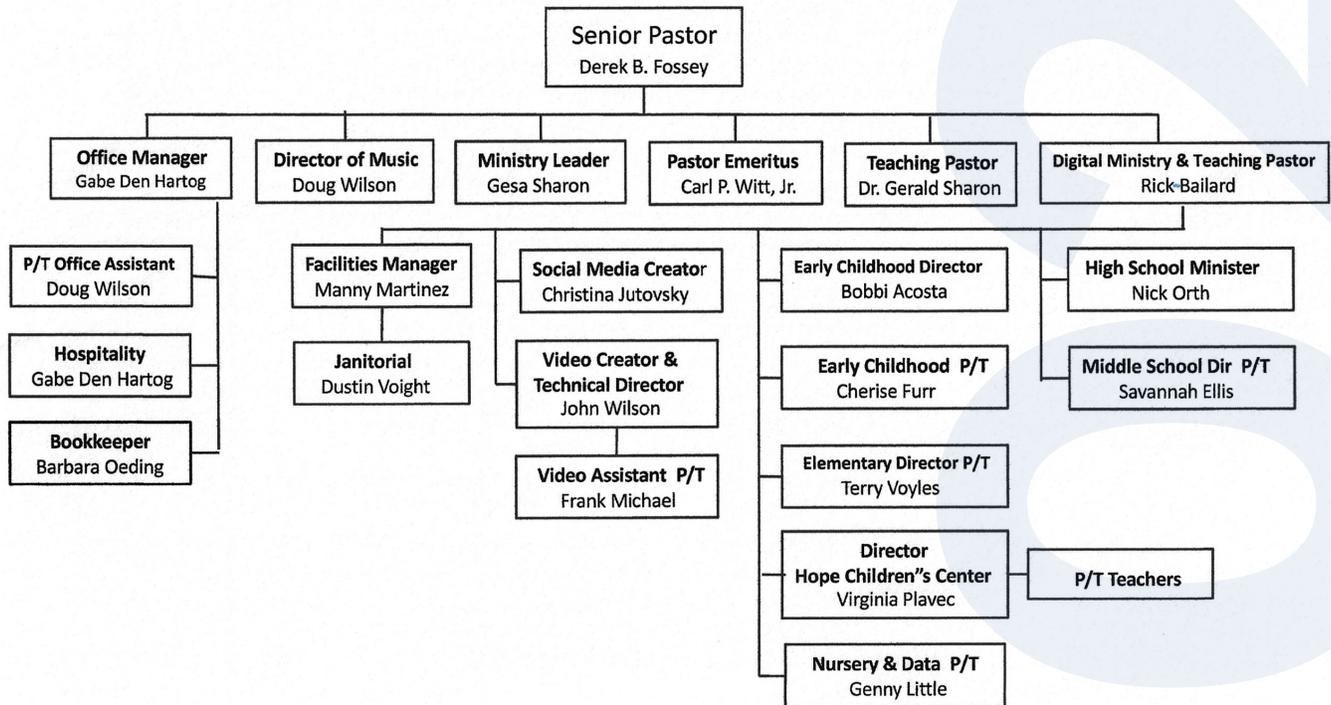
We continue to experience young family growth through the Hope Children's Center led by Director Virginia Plavec. For the third consecutive year, the Hope Children's Center is at full capacity. We have seen the added benefit of the Hope Children's Center in parents starting to attend church services here at Hope and their children participating in our many Youth Ministries.

HUMAN RESOURCES (Continued)

This past year was one of continued growth and return to normality at Hope Lutheran Church. It was an exciting year and we look forward to the new year with anticipation and enthusiasm.

Jerry Beers and John Donnelly

Hope Lutheran Church Organization



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.

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.

LEGACY COMMITTEE (Continued)

In 2022 we were pleased to announce the first Endowment Fund distribution of \$4400 to the Youth Trailer Park Project. Our church youth helped demolish the remains of homes that were uninhabitable due to a devastating fire. They gained an appreciation of what these families had lost and also learned some construction skills.

In April we received a generous gift of \$20,000 to the Endowment Fund which challenged all of us to match this gift. The result was that 18 families donated a total of \$56,510 to the Endowment Fund!

Because of generous gifts made to the Endowment Fund this year the value of the Endowment Fund increased to \$150,241.75 as of December 31, 2022. These funds are invested in Value Line Asset Allocation (VLAIX), held at TD Ameritrade. A grant of 4% of the year-end balance (\$6,009.67) will be available in 2023. As the Endowment Fund balance increases, the annual distribution back to the church will increase!

This year we added ten new members to the Legacy Circle of Hope, which 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:

Elizabeth Chambers
Vicki & Larry Graves
Cheryl Hart & Tom Becker
Toni Hafey
Lynn & Alan Hendershot
Jeanne & Lou Mace
Vicki & Kurt Mortenson
James Parry
Mary Fay Pinnow
Ethlyn Sabin

Sandy & Glenn Sapa
Richard Schroeckenstein
Linda, Dale & Kent Schulz
Gesa & Pastor Gerald Sharon
Linda & Ralph Spencer
Cheryl & Pastor Carl Witt
Jack W. Wolter
Susie & Joe Young
Anonymous

In November we approved our new brochure, Planned Giving: Legacy of Faith. The brochures were distributed in the pews as an educational guide and to promote gifts to the Endowment Fund.

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.

Committee members are Lynn Hendershot, Chair, Kurt Mortenson, Recorder, Pastor Derek Fossey, Pastor Carl Witt, Rick Greaves, Church Treasurer, Kim Buchanan, Church Council, Liz Chambers, Gary Eilefson, and Jim Parry.

MEMORIAL FUND

MEMORIAL FUND		BEGINNING	RECEIPTS	Utilized	ENDING
		BALANCE	2022	2022	BALANCE
		1/01/2022			12/31/2022
ALL THOSE LOST TO COVID			\$ 1,050		\$ 1,050
AMELON, JESSIE		\$ 50		\$ 50	\$ -
ATHERTON, JUNE			\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ -
BARRETT, JOHN		\$ 50		\$ 50	\$ -
BERQUAM, ESTHER		\$ 472		\$ 472	\$ -
BOHNING, ANITA			\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -
BUNTROCK, CLAYTON		\$ 200			\$ 200
COLLINS, WILLIAM		\$ 1,960	\$ 500		\$ 2,460
DEW, REV. ROBERT		\$ 3,695			\$ 3,695
DEW, REV. ROBERT	Flowers	\$ 500			\$ 500
FARRELL, CHRISTY		\$ 100		\$ 100	\$ -
FEIGHT, BERNICE			\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ -
FOSSEY, BRUCE			\$ 2,135	\$ 2,135	\$ -
FROST, ROGER		\$ 315		\$ 315	\$ -
GARTIN, TOM			\$ 300		\$ 300
GATES, BILL		\$ 100			\$ 100
GEORGE, EDITH		\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	\$ -
GINTHER, HELEN			\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -
GOETTELMAN, VIRGINIA			\$ 200	\$ 149	\$ 51
GRIFFIN, BARBARA		\$ 75	\$ 25		\$ 100
HAECKEL, MM			\$ 200	\$ 157	\$ 43
HAGEN, BRUCE			\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 100
HEPTINSTALL, CALVIN		\$ 50			\$ 50
HOUGNON, GRETA & JIM		\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	\$ -
JONES, DONNA		\$ 1,057		\$ 1,057	\$ -
KILLINGSWORTH, ARMOR		\$ 336		\$ 336	\$ -
MANOR, ELLA		\$ 9,525		\$ 9,525	\$ -
MCGINNIS, PATRICK			\$ 30		\$ 30
MILLER, JAMES			\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -
ROGERS, BRITA			\$ 20		\$ 20
RUUD, LEE			\$ 200		\$ 200
SCHMITT, FRANK		\$ 175		\$ 175	\$ -
WHINERY, JOYCE		\$ 1,440		\$ 1,440	\$ -
MEMORIAL FUND TOTAL		\$ 22,100	\$ 6,360	\$ 19,561	\$ 8,899

QUILTERS OF HOPE

We were back to meeting twice a month in 2022 and it felt good to be back to our normal schedule. However, as summer approached, we had fewer members, and I was going to be gone with no one to take over so for the first time we didn't meet June through September.

We completed 82 quilts. Of these, 73 quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief and 8 quilts, labeled with a patch including a picture of the Hope sanctuary, their name and bible verse to remind them that God loves them and so do we, were presented to graduating high school seniors. We have 17 quilts completed to start the New Year.

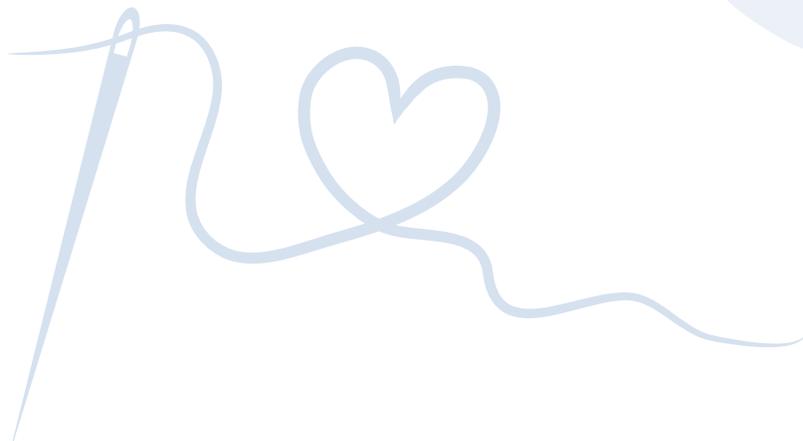
Quilting at Hope Lutheran is a combination of fellowship and ministry around the world as well as here in our own congregation and community. Those participating this year are Hope members, non-members, winter visitors, and those who can just drop-in. We are truly blessed to have all this help.

2022 Quilters were Carol Beers, Anita Bohning, Susan Dellinger, Marilyn Devalon, Eileen Donnelly, Jane Dreiske, Patt Englander, Julie Fremstad, Tina Gates, Bonnie Harkinson, Shirley Hess, Marlene Isbell, Emily Johns, Ann Krull, Eileen MacFarlane, Bonnie Madonna, Colleen Palmer, Mary Ellen Peterson, Vickie Raines, Joanne Risius, Marge Ruffolo, Peggy Schauer, Carol Simpson, Susan Sommerfeld, Charlene Such, Sharon Zuiderveld. Thank you ladies for a job well done!

Thank you to everyone who donated fabric, supplies and sponsored a quilt or quilts. Thank you, Susan Sommerfeld, for ironing sheets used for backing. Thank you, Manny and Dustin, for delivering our quilts to the LWR drop off site in Moreno Valley and for faithfully setting up the tables for us. A special thank you to my husband, Rick, for his encouragement and for patience for all the quilt related "stuff" that lives at our house.

It has been good to be able to regularly gather again. As I complete my 13th year as leader of this group I continue to be blessed through this ministry as I hope those who participate in it and those who receive our quilts are also blessed. I thank God for this wonderful group of ladies and all who support us. We have experienced changes this past year which are part of life and I pray that everyone stays safe and healthy as we look forward to what God has planned for us in 2023.

In His Love and Service,
Anita Holden



READ WITH ME

We are now in our 9th year sponsoring the Read with Me volunteer program at Saul Martinez Elementary school in Mecca. We have 35 volunteers, many of whom are members of our church, who volunteer with various grade level students.

The mission of Read with Me is to help students with English language reading and comprehension. Our volunteers sign up for one or two days each week for about 2 hours each day. Some of our volunteers spend most of the school year tutoring, and most spend about 2-3 months during the winter at the school.

We continue to provide complimentary bus service for our volunteers on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from Palm Desert to Saul Martinez from November until April. Most volunteers prefer to drive themselves.

Hope members are also volunteering at Peter Pendleton Elementary School in Coachella. Kristi Ricker is the volunteer coordinator for that school. Both Kristi and I are available to talk to you about tutoring opportunities.

Read with Me is a local non-profit volunteer organization. Including Saul Martinez, and Peter Pendleton, our volunteers are in 17 elementary schools. Most of them are in the Coachella VUSD. In addition to volunteering, we have distributed more than 2400 age appropriate books to the students at Saul Martinez. These books are given to the students to own and take home for their personal use.

We at Hope appreciate the opportunity to help these underserved children through Read with Me. We thank the many volunteers who spend their time tutoring at Saul Martinez and Peter Pendleton. We also thank those who support Read with Me with financial contributions.

You can find out more at www/ReadWithMeVolunteers.com

Contact me at readwithmehorst@gmail.com, or Kristi Ricker at kristi_ricker@yahoo.com .

Horst Engel
Volunteer Coordinator for Saul Martinez Elementary School



WOMEN OF HOPE MINISTRY

The Women Of Hope continue to follow God's leading as we make and 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.

The leadership committee in 2022 included Gesa Sharon (Ministry Leader), Bernice Mullern (Treasurer), Carole Olson (Secretary) and Barbara Savery, Ginny Gilman, Julie Fremstad, Monika Hoover and Sandy McGinnis as committee members. It has been exciting for Peggy Grabow, co-founder of "The Bridges 2 Hope", a local homeless outreach organization, to join the team. We're blessed to have such a wonderful team with a beautiful variety of gifting who love serving together and support one another in their calling.

It has been a blessing to finally go back in person with all our studies and events. We thank Barbara Savery for leading the "Esther Circle", Julie Fremstad the "Sisters in Christ", and Gesa Sharon the "Monday Night Gather Study". We also had three Saturday morning Summer Studies hosted by different presenters.

We achieved our goal of actively engaging in action by continuing to support a multitude of congregants in need, and local nonprofit organizations financially, handing out hand knit hats, collecting hygiene items and assembling "Hope Bags" for the homeless in the valley starting in June and all throughout the summer, plus our annual "Angels of Hope" gift outreach at Christmas. This year we were able to provide Christmas gifts to over 300 children of 6 different elementary schools in the valley. We're thankful for the generosity of the congregation and the volunteers who came along side us and helped make these projects possible.

In February we had our Women of Hope winter gathering called "Girlfriend Factor Brunch." We had two speakers from the local non-profit "Girlfriend Factor" come and share about the heart of this organization supporting women and education. We enjoyed brunch catered by the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, music by Shaela and did our annual Prayer Partner Reveal and Exchange. Mornings like these are always encouraging seeing women spend time together creating community.

In May and in October we held a fun "Girl's Night Out" with a great group of women age 8 to 80 years old. Our hostess Stephanie did a wonderful job guiding us through creating a piece of art so everyone walked away with a smile and a sense of accomplishment. Thank you to Brenda Devlin for her help and support in making these evenings a big success.

WOMEN OF HOPE MINISTRY (Continued)

In November we hosted our Fall Gathering "Welcome Home Coffee", enjoying brunch together and introducing the local non-profit "The Bridges 2 Hope." Shaela led us in worship, we had two excellent speakers and the ladies in attendance brought their favorite breakfast breads or muffins to share. It was a heart filled morning, learning and sharing information and personal experiences in regard to homelessness in our valley, enjoying music and food in fellowship.

With each year we grow more and more thankful in the many ways the women at Hope and the whole congregation supports our mission and offers community amongst the women in our church and community. This is a huge encouragement to the Women Of Hope leadership committee as we look back at this year and as we plan for the one ahead.

Gesa Sharon, Ministry Leader

WOMEN OF THE ELCA FINANCIAL REPORT

	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET
<u>Account Balance as of January 1, 2022</u>	<u>\$ 5,786.29</u>	
<u>Income</u>		
Circle and Gathering Offerings	\$ 466.00	
Ministry and General Donations	4,735.40	
Tour de Palm Springs Fundraiser	2,000.00	
Total Income	<u>\$ 7,201.40</u>	<u>\$8,000.00</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Ministry Projects		
ELCA Disaster Response	\$ 500.00	
Angel Tree, Hygiene Kits and Families Needs	1,994.48	
Safe House of the Desert	500.00	
The Bridges2Hope Ministry	1,100.00	
DA International Ministry	500.00	
Youth Camp and Hope Children's Center	800.00	
Total Ministry Projects	<u>\$ 5,394.48</u>	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
Administrative Expense	\$ 712.00	\$ 800.00
Pacifica Synod Offering	80.00	
Quilters of Hope	200.00	200.00
Gathering Expenses	1,962.37	2,000.00
Total Expense	<u>\$ 8,348.85</u>	<u>\$ 8,000.00</u>
<u>Ending Balance as of December 31, 2022</u>	<u>\$ 4,638.83</u>	

TREASURER'S REPORT

The year ending December 31st, 2022, was a positive financial year for Hope Lutheran, Palm Desert.

Revenue or gifts to the church were up by 26.2%. However, this requires some explaining. We received an "employment retention credit" in the amount of \$120,383. This was a tax credit offered by the IRS for maintaining employment during the pandemic. In addition, our revenue from tuition from the Children's Center contributed \$259,798.95. Our members' offering envelopes remained about equal to the prior year at \$1,365,771. Total expenses were also up in the amount of \$259,432, of which \$186,132 was for the operation of the Children's Center. The balance was spread across many categories as inflation took its toll. We continued to maintain and add to the outreach to our community and the world with our online ministries as well as several new ministries locally.

The other sizable increase in our revenue came from the newly launched debt relief matching campaign that kicked off in November. We received \$438,471.41 in a combination of matching funds and building funds throughout the year. This will be utilized to retire debt as the matching campaign continues through the 2023 season.

This left a net positive result for the church of \$443,484 against a prior year surplus of \$75,842. This year's results stated above include debt service and principal reduction expenses.

A few comments to explain some of the expense numbers:

Our benevolence payments to the Synod amounted to 5% (\$52,659) of our member offering envelopes, of which \$2500 per month of this was categorized to assist in the mission startup of River of Hope, Palm Springs. An additional \$16,484.01 was given to local charities that support the community as well as restocking our new food pantry.

The category "Campus Support" decreased over the prior year, however, we continued to fund reserves that we can count on in the future as economic conditions change and our campus requires additional repairs. Our rainy-day reserve is funded to just above \$220,000. There are again many maintenance projects that were accomplished during the year.

The category Pastoral staff, and non-pastoral staff increased 9.2%, recognizing the human capital requirements to support the online ministries and the Children's Center as well as the ongoing growth of our on-campus ministries. Of note, 55.5% of our total expenses are allocated to our staff.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Continued)

Another highlight is the continued reduction of debt. We began the year with a debt of \$1,513,144 and ended the year with a debt balance of \$1,335,021, a reduction of \$158,123. We have a reset of our interest rate on April 30th, 2025, and it is our goal to extinguish the debt prior to that reset date.

Our mortgage debt remains the elephant in the room, so to speak, from a financial perspective. Retiring this debt would create a sustainable mission environment for Hope for many years to come. This is of the highest priority financially.

Another significant accomplishment of your church was the continued support of our Legacy/Endowment fund. Through gifts of our parishioners we were able to invest and accrue a balance of \$144,741.75 in this fund. The committee continues reaching out to our parishioners to consider leaving a portion of their estate to the church. In turn the fund will contribute a percentage of the fund's balance each year to fund special or unanticipated projects or missions.

As we enter 2023, we have constructed a budget approved by the church council to manage the church in a similar fashion to which we have this prior year. We did anticipate that our member giving would reduce by 5% as our membership encounters inflationary impacts and potentially a recession in our economy. The budget reflects an increase of 4% in ordinary expenses. We will adjust wages by the Cost-of-Living Adjustment published by the Bureau of Statistics for Riverside County and anticipate that it will be approximately 8%. We have chosen to discontinue funding the rainy day reserves, considering that we have a cushion to use if necessary.

It is worth noting that the church did receive significant unanticipated gifts in the year that supported many individual missions and the general operating costs of the church. We did budget that these unexpected events of gratitude will continue.

I would like to thank the Finance Committee for their guidance: Lynn Hendershot, Paul Meinhold, Bernice Muller, Dave Vickers, and Kent Shultz. Each committee member receives detailed financial reports monthly for their review and comment as well as the budget detail. We meet on an as needed basis.

Lastly, we have begun an operating process review headed by Kent Shultz and Dave Vickers. Independently, they choose and examine areas of the church financial processes, with the input of the process owners, and make recommendations for improvements in efficiency.

Respectfully submitted,
Your Treasurer,
Rick Greaves

Summary Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2022

<u>Assets</u>	
Current Assets	
Legacy Funds	\$ 144,742
Building and Reserves	\$ 499,282
Operating Accounts	\$ 266,969
Other	\$ 14,626
Total Current Assets	<u>\$925,618</u>
Fixed Assets	\$ 5,557,255
Total Assets	<u>\$ 6,138,151</u>
<u>Liabilities and Equity</u>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	\$ 462,347
Long Term Liabilities	\$ 1,355,021
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 1,817,368</u>
Equity	<u>\$ 4,665,505</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$ 6,482,873</u>

Hope Debt Activity Through Dec 31 2022

Activity 2022

Balance of loan Dec 31, 2021	1,513,144
Debt Reduction through Payments and contributions to reduce debt	158,123
Total Principal Reduction	158,123
Debt Balance Dec 31, 2022	1,355,021
Debt Service Expense	65,045
Growing Hope Donations / Debt Relief Funds	437,397
Balance in Account for Debt Service Dec 31, 2020	<u>173,254</u>
Monthly Payments	10,264

BUDGET

Hope Lutheran Church Palm Desert

Final Results 2022

REVENUE	Jan - Dec Actuals 2022	Budget 2022	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2021	Percentage Change 2021 to 2022	Proposed 2023 Budget
Member Giving / Total Income	\$1,895,278	\$1,782,683	\$1,502,297	26.2%	\$1,741,722

EXPENSES	Jan - Dec Actuals 2022	Budget 2022	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2021	Percentage Change 2021 to 2022	Proposed 2023 Budget
Benevolence	\$69,393	\$105,699	\$93,021	-25.4%	\$86,225
Administration	\$114,505	\$109,160	\$96,758	18.3%	\$93,270
Campus Support	\$222,703	\$162,476	\$251,010	-11.3%	\$162,476
Ministry Programs	\$591,189	\$479,071	\$367,210	61.0%	\$497,192
Non-Pastoral Staff	\$361,941	\$370,265	\$294,686	22.8%	\$391,296
Pastoral Staff	\$465,488	\$533,723	\$463,101	0.5%	\$495,062
Total Expenses	\$1,825,220	\$1,760,394	\$1,565,787	16.6%	\$1,725,520

Surplus / Loss	\$70,058	\$22,288	(\$63,490)	NA	\$16,202
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Building Revenue	Jan - Dec Actuals 2022	Budget 2022	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2021	Percentage Change 2021 to 2022	Proposed 2023 Budget
Member Giving Growing Hope / Debt Relief	\$437,397	\$123,168	\$195,564	123.7%	\$123,168

DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES	Jan - Dec Actuals 2022	Budget 2022	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2021	Percentage Change 2021 to 2022	Proposed 2022 Budget
Reduction in Debt	\$158,123	\$42,423	\$118,838		\$57,168.00
Debt Service	\$65,045	\$66,000	\$74,329	-12.5%	\$60,000

*Total Outcome below includes ordinary income of \$70,058 and Debt relief matching funds.

Total Outcome	\$442,409	\$335	\$75,843		\$ 16,202
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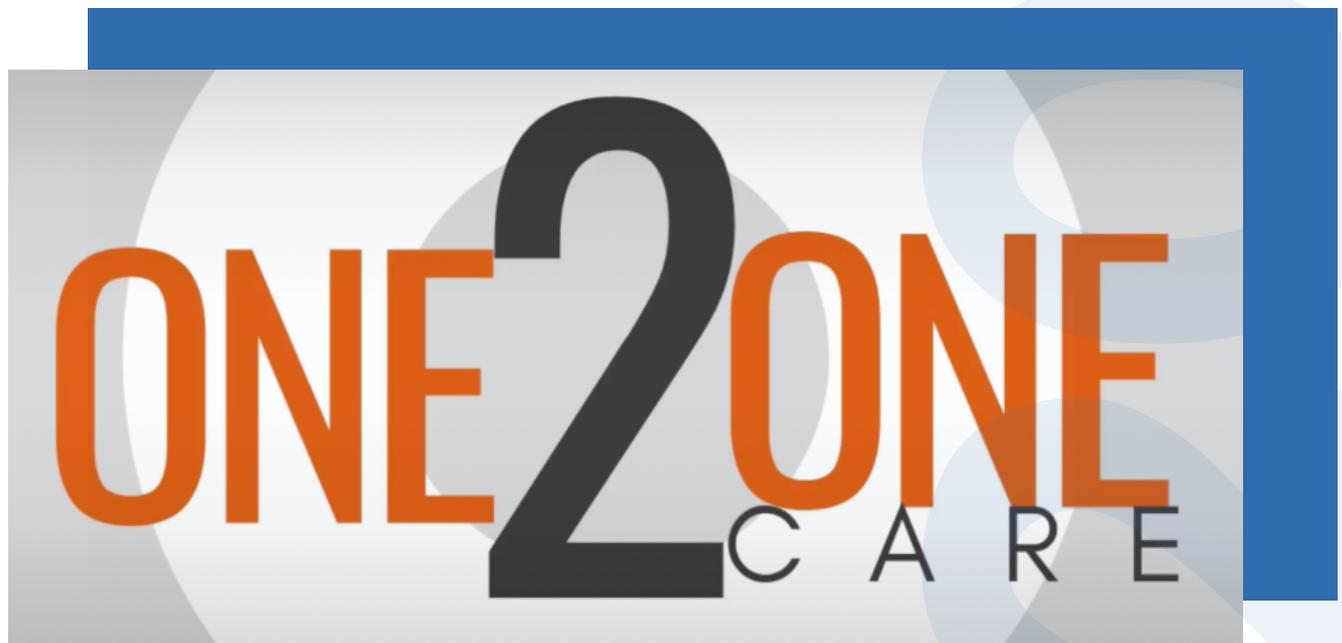
Hope

STEPHEN MINISTRY

This was an active year for Stephen Ministry. Stephen Leader training was completed for two ministers, Bob Bateman and Linda Spencer. They will be commissioned soon and are preparing to teach a new Stephen Minister's class this year. If you are interested in learning more about our ministry, contact Pastor Derek or any of the Stephen Ministers.

There are 10 current ministers and 5 leaders, who facilitate continuing education and monthly supervision to the ministers. Our mission is to provide support on behalf of our pastoral staff in support of parishioners in need of temporary support due to a recent crisis such as the passing of a spouse, severe health issue or other family or individual impact. We meet twice monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Friday mornings.

Bob Kramer
Stephen Minister



Hope

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

It is surprising how much maintenance takes place on a campus the size of Hope Lutheran Church. I suppose it is like any property, just when you think this is the last project that needs to be completed, another repair, replacement or improvement project pops up. We are blessed to have staff that takes such good care of the campus, and pastors and council members with creative maintenance ideas. We are especially blessed to have a congregation that gives generously to help us maintain the campus.

In 2022, our vendors and maintenance crew addressed several areas of maintenance. In the beginning of the year, we had water damage in one of the recording studios that caused quite a bit of damage to the room. Luckily the audio video equipment fared well. We've repaired some problems with the large video screen in the sanctuary this year with good results. With twenty-four HVAC systems, we continually deal with repairs and replacements, which is to be expected. We keep a close eye on each system and consider the life of a system vs. cost of repairs before proceeding forward with either. This year, we replaced only one unit, that being in one of the recording studios. The sound board was replaced in the Hope Center earlier this year and hand railings were installed on the stairs in the sanctuary balcony.

We are keeping a close eye on the lighting system in the sanctuary. This system is very old and we have been able to keep it limping along. However, it needs to be replaced before it goes down completely and can no longer be repaired. The estimated cost to replace the lighting system is \$90,000. We pray that we will be able to complete this project in 2023.

The shade structure over the sandbox at the Children's Center blew over earlier in the year, and the shade fabric on the structure over the play equipment came apart during a wind storm in October. Cost to replace both is estimated at \$30,000. Council is currently reviewing other possibilities for shade covers.

Lastly, with the continually rising cost of electricity, we are developing a plan and looking into the cost of installing a solar energy system. We are not sure where this will end up going, but it is prudent to look at possible ways to conserve operating costs so more funds can go towards spreading the love of Jesus.

I continue to look forward to working with my fellow Council members, staff and our vendors over the next year as we maintain our beautiful campus.

Martha Osborne

2021 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2022

Call to order by Council president Mary Fay Pinnow at 11:30am, followed by opening devotion, hymn and prayer, led by Pastor Derek Fossey and music director Doug Wilson.

Congregational Agenda: Jim Parry moved that we "approve the congregational agenda", seconded by Linda Griffith. Motion approved.

Approval of January 31, 2021 Minutes: Reynold Worch moved that we "approve the Minutes of the 31 January 2021 meeting", seconded by Rick Greaves. Motion approved.

Pastor's Reports:

- A video was presented that showed all the wonderful things happening at Hope Lutheran Church in the past year.
- The entire staff was introduced, one by one, and each explained his or her role at Hope.

Committee Reports: Members were asked to refer to the 2021 Annual Report for committee reports.

Financial Report: Rick Greaves presented the financial report. Jim Parry moved that we "accept the financial report", seconded by Carl Geddes. Motion approved.

2021 Budget: Rick Greaves presented the budget report for 2022. Toni Hafey moved that we "accept the budget report", seconded by Gudrun Farr. Motion approved.

Election of Congregational Council Members: The following slate of delegates (Mary Fay Pinnow, Eddy McLachlan, Martha Osborne, Kim Buchanan, and John Donnelly) was unanimously elected by viva voce (voice vote).

Old Business: Pastor Tim Edmonson reported the progress of River of Hope church in Palm Springs.

New Business: Formation of a pickleball league was discussed and approved.

Adjournment: Jim Parry moved that we "adjourn the meeting", seconded by Carl Geddes. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Derek Fossey

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Litany

- L. Gathering together as God's people in this place, may we always be aware of your presence in our midst.
- C. Lord, may we always be aware of your presence.
- L. Knowing that the Word is our light, may we continue to grow in our scriptural and confessional understandings.
- C. Lord, may our minds continue to grow in your word.
- L. Recognizing that stepping out in faith is not easy, we ask that you give us strength, O Lord, to listen and be bold and daring.
- C. Lord, give us the patience to listen and the strength to be bold and daring.
- L. While we strive to know ourselves and your will for us, may we build our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- C. Lord, help us to build faith-filled and healthy relationships with others.
- L. Recognizing that we are often the ones asking, "And who is my neighbor?" may we open our eyes, ears and hearts to all those in the community in which we live.
- C. Lord, may we always be open to those in the community in which we live.
- L. Recognizing the importance of Moses, the prophets and disciples, may we work together to accompany and raise up leaders for your church.
- C. Lord, may we have the insight, encouragement and skills to raise up courageous leaders.
- L. Recognizing the many gifts you have entrusted to us, may we use these gifts to do your work in the world today.
- C. Lord, may we use the gifts entrusted to us to do your work.

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl-wind, as on Pen - te -
 2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your
 3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from
 4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's

cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;
 pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,
 leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,
 rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,

past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,
 let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,
 for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;
 may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;

there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!
 kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!
 make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!
 claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle
 Music: John Hughes
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- L. Let us pray. As we strive to be your church of the present and the future, may we nurture a spirit of collaboration and solidarity. May we all be partners in sharing the gospel and believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.
- C. Amen.