



HOPE
PALM DESERT

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



(760) 346-1273



hopepd.org



45900 Portola Ave,
Palm Desert, CA 92260

A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

And Jesus came and said to his disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded to you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

I love the way Matthew ends his telling of the story of Jesus. Perhaps "ends" isn't the right word, because the story is clearly not finished. There is a command, a propulsion, a feeling of momentum that leads us to believe that the work of Jesus continues in a meaningful way. "Go therefore and make disciples", and "Remember, **I am with you** always." Matthew leaves us with a sense that this is simply the end of a chapter, not the end of the story.

The chapters of Jesus continue to be written each and every day. While the cast may change, the director stays the same - Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. And this Jesus is not working behind the scenes. He is right here, actively participating in the work of his disciples - you and me.

I am amazed at what Jesus accomplished through you in 2023. Because Jesus is at work, our Children's and Student Ministries continue to grow. Our Hope Children Center, which provides before and after care for the students of Washington Charter School, is at full capacity, with dozens of children hoping to be a part of what our Director, Virginia, has put together. Therefore, we have undergone a project to expand HCC by adding two additional classrooms. This means that we will have the opportunity to tell almost thirty more children about Jesus. It brings me such joy to see our HCC kids playing in our Sanctuary and even helping out with our Altar Guild.

There is one story that I would like to share that I think sums up what HCC means to our next generation. One day, three children were playing "wedding" in the Sanctuary when I walked in wearing my alb and stole. They asked if I would be the pastor for their wedding while another little one played the piano. I agreed and we all had a lot of fun. After the "ceremony", the little one playing the piano approached me and said, "I'm sad." "Oh no, why are you sad?" I replied. "Because I really want to be baptized here at Hope, but my dad said I can't until I'm 18", she told me while looking at the floor. I said, "How about this? We can both pray that your dad changes his mind and you can be baptized sooner. If not, you can be baptized right here the day you turn 18." The sadness from her face immediately disappeared and she exclaimed with a big smile, "Really! I would love that!" Then she skipped away with Mrs. Virginia and the other students. At that moment I could tangibly feel the Holy Spirit at work in our Hope Children Center, and with the addition of our Children's Ministry Director, Carlos Vega, I know Jesus is changing lives.

A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR (Continued)

You can feel that same Spirit at work in our Bible studies: Men's Bible Study, Sisters in Christ, Esther Circle, and our Online Bible study. With our Online Bible Study, people can join us from far and wide to dive deep into the Scripture, and have a little fun with my crazy theories.

Jesus is clearly at work in our Stephen Ministry Program. Tootie Killingsworth leads our Grief Share that is helping people cope with the grief left by a loved one's death. While Susan Sommerfeld, Linda Benson Spencer, Bob Bateman, Karen Anschell, Bob Kramer, and Sandy McGinnis have served as leaders for our group. Our Stephen Ministers are always available to walk with people through challenging times in their lives, reminding us all that Jesus is with us always.

Our Legacy Committee is also working under the leadership of Jesus 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.

Kim Buchanan has also put together a Long Term Planning Committee that is asking where Jesus wants us to focus our time, talent, and treasure in the future. This group of dedicated Jesus followers is doing wonderful work of discerning where God is leading Hope.

Hope has also been committed to Read With Me this year. Horst Engel has done a tremendous job of leading our 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.

And clearly, Jesus has been at work through your generosity. With our Let's Do It! Campaign, generous donors gave \$400,000 in matching funds with the challenge to Hope to match it. And we did it! Thanks to many gifts, we were able to pay off over \$800,000 from our mortgage. However, we still have a way to go to being entirely debt free and I know Jesus will be leading the way.

None of this could be possible without our amazing leadership. Our Hope Council has continued to follow Jesus and lead Hope where God wants us to be. Mary Fay Pinnow, Reynold Worch, Rick Greaves, Martha Osborn, John Donnelly, Kim Buchanan, and Toni Hafey are being led by the Spirit and our future is bright with their leadership.

A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR (Continued)

God has also gifted Hope with an amazing staff that I am extremely thankful for: Pastor Rick, Pastor Carl, Pastor Gerald, Gabe, Doug, Virginia, Michael, Manny, Angel, Gesa, John, Christina, Carlos, Terry, Nick, and Barb have all been amazing.

Yes, the story of Jesus continues. The story of Hope continues. Even amid the changes that life places before us. As you may know, my time serving as your Senior Pastor will come to a close this year. My wife has been offered a new position in Park City, Utah and after much prayer and careful discernment, we have decided to accept. Therefore, our family will be relocating to the Rocky Mountains.

Our Congregational Council is already in consultation with Bishop Dave Nagler and the Pacifica Synod to create a smooth transition and set up an organizational structure that will ensure Hope continues to share the grace, love, peace and joy that we find in Jesus Christ. While change can often create some anxiety, we know who leads the way – Jesus. Jesus has the next chapter for Hope already mapped out with limitless possibilities.

So I would like to take this time to thank Jesus and thank each of you. The compassion, kindness, generosity, love and support you have shown me and my family over the years could only come through the work of the Holy Spirit. Hope has been, and will continue to be, a special place where the joy and love of Christ is felt, and that has everything to do with you. I have said it many times before, and I will continue to say for the rest of my life, there is no place like Hope. God has richly blessed you with the Holy Spirit, and I can promise that God will continue to shower His grace upon the people of Hope Lutheran Church. I am excited to see where Jesus leads us next.

In Christ,

Pastor Derek

Hope
Palm Desert

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Agenda	6
Altar Guild	18
Annual Congregational Minutes	32
Balance Sheet	28
Baseshore Scholarship Fund	18
Budget	29
Celebrate Recovery	17
Columbarium	18-19
Congregational Council Members	6
Digital Ministry	11
Director of Music	15
Human Resources	19
Kids Ministry	13
Legacy Committee	20-21
Memorial Fund	22
Mission Statement	6
Pastor's Report	8-10
President's Report	15
Property Management	31
Quilters of Hope	23
Read with Me	24
Senior Pastor's Note	2-4
Statistical Report	7
Stephen Ministry	30
Student Ministry	12
Treasury Report	26-27
Worship & Music Committee	16

MISSION STATEMENT

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

2023 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

Toni Hafey & John Donnelly

Stewardship

Kim Buchanan

Property Management

Martha Osborne

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

February 4, 2024 at 11:30am in the Sanctuary

1. Call To Order
2. Opening Devotion
3. Opening Hymm: Son of God, Eternal Savior
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 2024
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 2023.

• Average weekly online worship services attendance	233
• Average online daily devotional attendance (ended in September)	244
• Average weekly online kids attendance	230
• Average weekly online student attendance	37

ON CAMPUS MINISTRY

• Average weekly worship services attendance	436
• Average weekly kids attendance	25
• Average weekly student attendance	17

MEMBERSHIP

• Membership, December 31, 2022	1309
• Members received during 2023	
◦ By Baptism - children	9
◦ By Baptism - adults	10
◦ By Affirmation of Faith	18
◦ By transfer from ELCA Congregations	8
◦ From other sources	0
• Total members received 2023	45
• Members removed during 2023	
◦ By death	21
◦ By transfer	5
◦ For other reasons and statistical adjustment	0
• Total members removed 2023	24
• Membership, December 31, 2023	1330
• Total Confirmed Membership end of 2023	1330
• Number of Baptized youth who were confirmed in 2023	0
• Households with at least one member	1160
• Total weddings	2

INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR/ PASTOR EMERITUS

Here we find ourselves at the end of another year. It has been 28 years since I was called as Pastor to Hope Lutheran Church, Palm Desert, and I am still here!. Sure, I have a different title and have tried to retire at least 6 times!

Even from those early days, I knew that God had something great in store for the people of Hope and thanks to you; the people of Hope and Pastor Derek's leadership we continue to be a beacon of Hope to our community and throughout the world via the internet and streaming.

Our internet presence continues to grow, instead of it declining it continues to grow. We are reaching hundreds of people weekly. I loved the story when Pastor Derek told me he had received a letter from a woman in Rome who said she had been watching Hope Lutheran Church on her computer and included a picture of her having lunch with the Pope! Our outreach is worldwide. There are people watching weekly who have never stepped into our church, or any other church. I thank God that I am a part of that ministry!

COVID continues to be a problem, yet it is a manageable problem. People continue to come back to worship and join our activities. I continue to visit those who are homebound or ill, with Holy Communion, hope and a prayer. I am also thankful to the Stephen Ministers who are ministering to the needs of our congregation. They are a great help to our total ministry. God is good!

I look forward to continuing my ministry here at Hope into the new year; what will come after that is still to be determined. I enjoy what I am doing part time, the preaching, teaching and visitation. I enjoy being with you; you are a part of my life and family.

Let us work together as God has many new and wonderful plans for the Hope Lutheran family! Again, thank you for allowing Cheryl and I to be a part of your lives all these years! May God Bless all of us as we continue to make a difference within our families and the world around us!

Pastor Carl R. Witt. Jr.

TEACHING & COACHING PASTOR

Welcome to our 2023 Annual Report, a testament to a year dedicated to harnessing the unique strengths of our team and fostering a culture where every individual thrives. At the heart of our journey lies a core belief: understanding and leveraging the intrinsic strengths of our employees is not just a strategy, but a mission of mine.

This year, we've seen remarkable growth, not just in numbers, but in the confidence, creativity, and collaboration of our team. Guided by our 5 Values and commitment to our Mission of "Helping People Find and Follow Jesus" we've transformed challenges into opportunities, leveraging each member's unique skills to achieve collective success.

TEACHING & COACHING PASTOR (Continued)

Our journey is not just about reaching targets; it's about creating an environment where every individual feels valued and empowered. Throughout this year I have seen extraordinary outcomes, both personally and professionally. I love coaching our Kids, Hope Child Care Center, Students, Online, Social Media, and Facilities team leaders. I had the privilege leading the Modern services and teaching 28 weekend sermons.

I have seen an increase of Hope's reach online and on campus. Our breadth of ministry has enlarged to reaching not hundreds, but thousands and our work has just begun.

As we look back at the year gone by, we are filled with gratitude and pride. Gratitude for the dedication and passion of our team, and pride in what we have achieved together.

I believe in 2024 we are in a position to see even more people reach for the cause of Christ. Lost people matter to God, so they matter to us.

Pastor Rick

TEACHING PASTOR

The ministry of Hope is filled with vitality and life that was expressed throughout our church in 2023. Part of sustaining vitality includes often making challenging decisions regarding the launching of a new ministry and at times celebrating the success of a ministry while bringing it to a close.

During 2023 our Ministry Fair on January 22nd had 28 ministries represented. The courtyard was abuzz that morning with smiles and laughter, engaging conversations, people connecting with new friends and discovering ways to be involved in this exceptional church family.

Our online daily devotionals that began on March 16, 2020 continued well into 2023. As we watched the trends, we knew it was time to celebrate all the good they'd done, and how many lives had been touched, but to also bring them to a close. The last daily devotional was on September 29. That day we shared our 915th devotional!

This year also saw multiple opportunities for learning and growth. Dr. David E. Garland led us through a weekend in the parables. Dr. Paul Lange and Dr. Ted Peters took us on an insightful journey in our 3-week series on "Religion and Science."

TEACHING PASTOR (Continued)

2023 saw the development of a new ministry that was launched in December 2022 called Hope for All. It is specifically intended for LGBTQ+ and Allies to have opportunities for outreach and to receive ministry. Among several significant ministry events and opportunities by this ministry, the highlight of the year was that Hope had a booth for the first time at Palm Springs Pride. Nearly 30 people from Hope volunteered, and hundreds upon hundreds of individuals stopped by our booth to get a free photo and to register for the quilt we were giving away that had been so beautifully designed by our quilting ministry. This gave us an opportunity for wonderfully meaningful conversations letting people know they are deeply loved and cherished by God and they are welcome and wanted at Hope, a safe and inviting church for them.

Finally, 2023 was a year that led me to the most significant decision of my pastoral career. Through a processes of discernment I was led to the decision that I will be retiring on August 12, 2024 which will be my 45th anniversary of being a pastor.

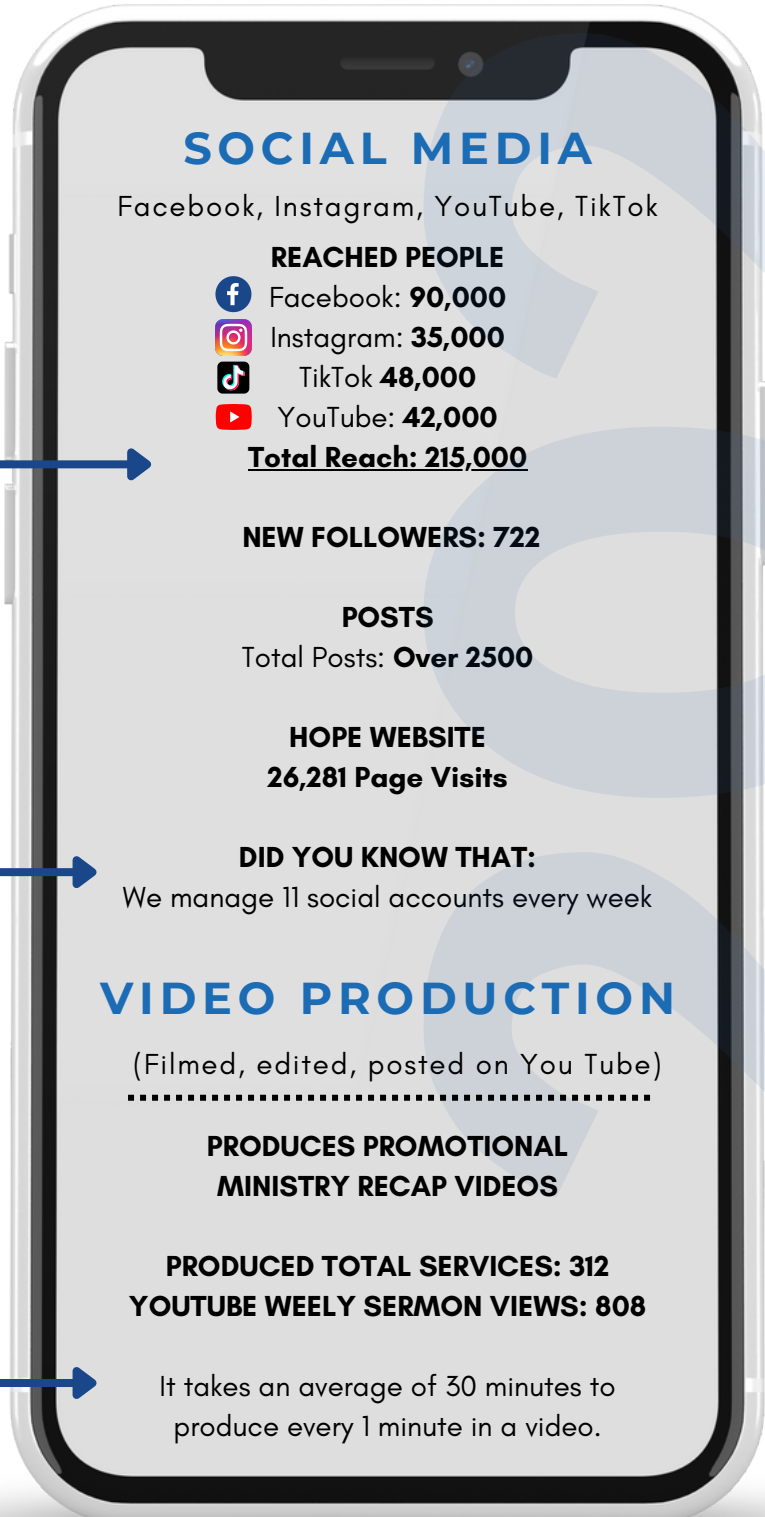
A little over 7 years ago, in order to follow a grand vision, the good and gracious people of Hope made the decision to take a chance on a pastor who had left the evangelical church tradition and was being drawn to the ELCA's expression of the Lutheran faith tradition. Over those 7 years this pastor's heart became so deeply connected to you and the church that I pursued a process of becoming ordained and rostered by the ELCA. During my years of pastoring I experienced a broad national and international platform, yet these 7 years have been the highlight of my ministry. I finally found my faith home. Because Hope is my home you'll still be seeing me around and involved, just not as a staff member.

THANK YOU. Thank you from the depths of my heart to those of you who were already at Hope when I arrived for welcoming me into the family and the grace-filled life of being a Lutheran pastor. Also a sincere and deeply felt "thank you" to those of you who were brave enough to be one of the founding pioneers of the Modern Service; it wouldn't have happened without you. And finally, to those of you who arrived during my tenure, thank you for joining us on this incredible adventure. Whichever of those groups you fall into, when I think of Hope my response is exactly and fully expressed in the words of the Apostle Paul in the introduction of his letter to the Philippians, "Every time I think of you, I thank my God." (Philippians 1:3 CEV)

Pastor Gerald

DIGITAL MINISTRY

Christina Jutovsky: Marketing & Social Media Director
John Wilson: Video Creator
Rick Ballard: Team Leader



TOTAL REACHED
215,000

DID YOU KNOW?

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: Student Minister

Terry Voyles: Middle School Director

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Occurs the third Saturday of every month.
- 13 tons of food distributed.
- Community of 150 families served.
- Every month students partner with the Narrow Door to hand out these food boxes to a community up the road. Students also pray with families in their times of need.

CAMPS

- 96 students in attendance
- 2 camp opportunities
- \$48,000 raised
- Camp Pondo and Manhood Camp

RAISING UP VOLUNTEERS AND LEADERS

The student ministry has been leading and empowering graduated students to give back at Hope. This last year we had 25 graduating students. These students now volunteer at Hope during large events like Easter and Christmas. There are a select few who feel called to serve in ministry or the community and are going through trainings to prepare and empower them to serve. In areas like Children's and Middle School Ministries here at Hope as well as in the community via teen centers and Boys and Girl clubs.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Student Ministries at Hope is looking forward to partnering with Rescue a Generation (RAG) to reach students on school campuses. Please be praying for this as the year continues in this direction of reaching youth and helping them succeed and find purpose.



KIDS MINISTRY

TEAM:

Bobbi Acosta: Early Childhood
Mia Wedeking: Kids Assistant

Carlos Vega: Elementary
Genny Little: Data & Nursery Coordinator

EVERY SUNDAY

Exciting program for
kids during services

CAMP HOPE

166 kids & volunteers
\$5,800 raised for missionaries

HOPE CHILDREN CENTER

Monday - Friday Child Care

TRUNK OR TREAT

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

Hello Hope family! We finished our year with healthy growth. As most of you know, I'm Carlos, your new Children's Director. My family and I came on board in September. We immediately got involved. My wife Karla volunteers in the Nursery and Elementary class. My mother in law Luisa serves in the Nursery and my daughter helps with events.

Sundays have been filled with Bible story teachings and fun memorable experiences. I mainly teach in the Elementary class but also I get to provide two Sunday bible lessons to Hope Children Center kids every Wednesday, including filming our weekly Hope Kids online YouTube videos with them. I see this as a rare and creative experience that the kids and I get to have sharing the Good News and love of God with others.

Our children's events throughout the year have all increased in attendance and in volunteer support. For example...

- Camp Hope has become the anticipated Kids summer event of the year.
- We have doubled our Trunk or Treat team to 40 trunks.
- Parents Night Out has doubled its attendance.
- We finished the year with our very own Nativity play.

Thank you Hope family for your continued encouragement and support.
Looking forward to an Explosive 2024.

Sincerely,
Carlos Vega,
Hope Children's Director

HOPE CHILDREN CENTER

Another successful and rewarding year of spreading the word of Jesus to our elementary school aged children - ages 4-10. Leading by example that we are never alone, Jesus is always with us!

I have witnessed several children sharing thoughts and statements with another child "Jesus is with you"! We read our Daily Reflections for Kids every morning. We follow the reading with meaningful conversations, shares, and funky original art!

You may have noticed that we have a new welcome entrance/exit for our families! We now sign in and out at the Hope Center. Our children, their families and our staff can experience added security with the well lit parking lot. Along with the lighting we now have a greeter, air conditioning, and parents who can get more acquainted with our Hope Center. On that note, we brought in twenty new families to our Christmas Eve service! Families who weren't sure about where to go on Christmas, and who were delighted to spend the holiday here at Hope as their children participated in our Candlelight Silent Night and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

Hope Children Center continues to hover around the 100 mark on our roster. Our hours are 6:30am-6:00pm. To better serve the community, we started a Kinder Program for children who are dismissed at 1pm. We provide child care until 3pm and offer a lower rate so they can be picked up at 3pm with their older siblings' dismissal time. We are open most non school days, and provide special fun days like Pancake Pajama Day and Friday Quesadillas.

Our growing garden continues to thrive! This year we have tomatoes, pumpkins and lettuce! The children have found lady bugs and monster caterpillars! We make our own salads and talk about where our healthy food comes from.

All in all we are providing quality child care for our Palm Desert Community with love, compassion and originality not found at any other child care center!

Sincerely,
Virginia Plavec
Child Care Director

Hope

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Pastor Derek explained to us in Bible Study why the early Christian church grew and thrived – because of what they DID, not just what they said. The non-believers saw how the Christians loved one another, supported one another, and continued to believe even when persecuted. That is also what makes Hope Lutheran Church so wonderful. We are a congregation that shows what it means to be a follower of Christ through the many ways we support one another:

1. Emotionally through Celebrate Recovery, GriefShare classes and Stephen Ministry.
2. By encouraging people less fortunate as our High School Students deliver boxes of food and offer prayers to those in a local trailer park.
3. Financially and with volunteers for Read With Me, a program in the east valley that assists children from low income, limited English speaking environments to improve their English language skills.
4. Offering a Christian based before/after school program on campus.
5. Having our very own food pantry to help those with food insecurity.
6. Funding our Needy Person's Fund which allows us to give money to those financially insecure.
7. Financially supporting many local charities through our monthly benevolence and Operation Hope.
8. Financially supporting ELCA Disaster Relief.
9. Fostering a welcoming attitude to everyone, regardless of color or sexual orientation.

These are just some of the examples of how the people of Hope Lutheran Church show their Christian attitudes. I know there are many more examples of how our congregation individually devotes their time and energy to a wide variety of causes. We are a congregation that DOES not just talk. This is why I am so proud to serve as your Congregational President. Thank you!!

Mary Fay Pinnow

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Hope Choir continues to add to the worship experience at the Traditional Services. Volunteers from the choir provide leadership at the 8:00am services and solos during the summer months. For special events, Easter Sunday, Cantatas, Polka Sunday, etc. brass and strings were added.

I retired as choir director at the end of May. Michael Cundari was hired as the new choir director and has led the choir since October. The separation of the roles of organist and choir director, enhances the music program.

Music at Hope, a concert series begun in 2021, continues to bring people to Hope Palm Desert. The series continues to grow with additional events each year.

Douglas Wilson

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

A congregation that is fully alive like ours seeks lay involvement, especially in its worship life. Many ELCA congregations involve lay people in worship, by encouraging them to work with the pastors and other staff through worship committees. We express our gratitude to Pastors Derek Fossey, Carl Witt, Gerald and Gesa Sharon, and Rick Bailard, our organist Doug Wilson, and our choir director Michael Cundari.

The worship committee works on the assumption that worship is a unifying event in the life of a congregation. It is the one time when all members come together for a common purpose—to worship and thank God for God's grace given to all in Word and Sacrament. Our members work to assist the worship service through our lay leaders who are all volunteers.

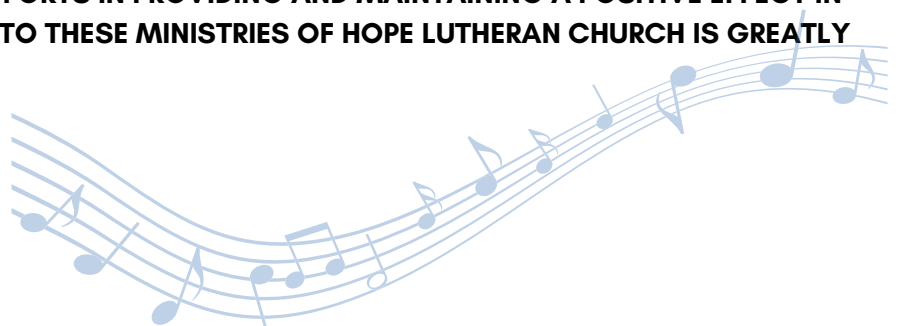
These volunteers are a vital resource in the church to support the various areas necessary to keep our worship services running smoothly and effectively. Our ministry is composed of volunteer lay leaders who work "behind the scenes" and "in the scenes" before, during, and after the services. Some volunteers 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.

Our volunteer coordinator, Cindy Willenberg, compiles the data from all the various groups and displays them on a monthly easy-to-read chart posted on a bulletin board for all participants to view. 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
- Greeters—greet worshippers at church entrances
- Ushers—ministers of hospitality who collect offerings, direct communicants, seat worshippers
- Altar Guild—prepare communion bread and wine
- 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 SERVICES. YOUR DEDICATION TO THESE MINISTRIES 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 5th anniversary. CR continues to meet every Thursday night at 7:00pm in the Hope Center. It is important to understand that 3 out of 10 people attend CR for alcohol or other chemical addictions. Here are some examples of other areas of recovery that CR addresses:

Some examples are:

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

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

Midweek small groups called Step Studies, work through a Celebrate Recovery 4-workbook curriculum. CR started 3 and completed 2 Step Studies in 2023. Most of these are being held on Zoom.

It's been an exciting year of rebuilding leadership and regrowth of the ministry. It has been encouraging to see new leaders being raised up plus an increase in attendance on a regular basis.

Blessed to be able to hire a teacher to lead the weekly program for children age 3 through 5th grade, Celebration Place was able to reopen early on in the year. When offering this program, the whole family is able to participate.

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

To stay connected and encouraged the team had leaders' meetings throughout the year, but also several fellowship events. Ten leaders attended the annual "Summit" conference at Saddleback Church in Orange County, we held our annual corn hole event for all leaders, volunteers and their families, plus a fun Christmas luncheon at church.

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

Gesa Sharon
Ministry Leader

ALTAR GUILD

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

We added several new members to our ministry in 2023, but we have lost several of our members. It is hopeful that the Ministry Fair will attract new volunteers. Additionally, Miss Virginia, head of the Hope Children Center, has been bringing some of her 4th and 5th graders over to help fill our communion trays with the cups every Thursday. This is such a big help to the Altar Guild, who on a weekly basis, fill about 20 trays with wine and juice. The kids are so happy to do it and enjoy feeling a part of the church.

A huge thank you to all of our pastors who continue to give us hope, love and inspiration each Sunday, I will personally say that I still miss the morning devotionals, but totally understand the amount of work it takes to provide them on a daily basis.

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. No scholarships were awarded in 2023 as no applications were received. 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 of Hope Lutheran Church provides a special place for inurnment of cremated remains of deceased church members, former members and their spouses and children. Also included are friends of the church who regularly attended and supported our ministry.

Management of the 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.

COLUMBARIUM (Continued)

2023 activity: There were four inurnments and 13 reservations made in 2023. A brochure developed in 2016 states, "The Columbarium at Hope Lutheran Church is available to the congregation. Information is available at the church office and the Information Center". The brochure describes the Columbarium benefits as well as information about the procedure required to reserve and select a niche for you and/or your loved ones.

Jerry Beers
Chairman

HUMAN RESOURCES

What a joy the past year has been in so many areas of our church life. Hope Lutheran Church continued to grow and flourish. We returned to in-person attendance at both our Traditional and Modern services. Worshiping and socializing together were highlighted by our return to a traditional Communion service, following COVID protocols that had been in place.

Key to our church organization is our talented team of pastoral staff. Pastor Derek continues to guide our church with his energetic leadership, humility and humor. Church outreach in the community and online has blossomed. Pastor Emeritus Carl Witt shares his wealth of experience and love for our church and congregation. Pastor Gerald helps us grow and benefit from his vast experience, guidance and sage recommendations. Gesa Sharon, our Ministry Leader, has enthusiastically expanded the many ministries here at Hope, including Women of Hope, Celebrate Recovery and coordinated and partnered to provide opportunities for women to gather and highlight the work of the Lord.

Under the leadership of Pastor Rick, our Modern service and online ministry continue to grow by leaps and bounds. He has a creative team supported by John Wilson, Video Content Creator and Technical Director, and Christina Jutovsky, Marketing and Social Media Director, along with Frank Michael, Video Assistant. Pastor Rick has also expanded and enhanced our family ministry team with the inclusion of Carlos Vega as our new Hope Children's Ministries Director who joins Nick Orth, Student Minister; Terry Voyles, Middle School Director; and Bobbi Acosta, Early Childhood Director.

Growth continues with young families through the Hope Children Center (HCC) ably led by Director Virginia Plavec. For the fourth consecutive year, the HCC is at full capacity. Added benefits are more parents attending church services and children participating in youth ministries, activities, and camps.

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

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

John Donnelly and Toni Hafey

HOPE STAFF

<p><u>KIDS</u> Director Carlos Vega</p> <p>H.C.C. Virginia Plavec 5-Teachers P/T</p> <p>Early Childhood P/T Bobbi Acosta</p> <p>KIDS Assistant P/T Mia Wedeking</p> <p>Nursery & Data P/T Genny Little</p>	<p><u>STUDENTS</u> High School Nick Orth</p> <p>Middle School P/T Terry Voyes</p>	<p><u>OFFICE</u> Manager Gabe Den Hartog</p> <p>Office Assistant P/T Michael Cundari</p> <p>Office Bookkeeping P/T Barbara Oeding</p>	<p><u>TRADITIONAL MUSIC</u> Director P/T Doug Wilson</p> <p>Choir Director P/T Michael Cundari</p>
<p><u>TEACHING PASTOR P/T</u> Gerald Sharon</p>	<p><u>DIGITAL COMMUNICATION</u></p> <p>Pastor/Teacher Rick Bailard</p> <p>Video Creator John Wilson</p> <p>Marketing/Social P/T Christina Jutovsky</p>	<p><u>LEAD PASTOR</u> Derek Fossey</p>	<p><u>MODERN MUSIC</u> Worship Leader P/T Heather Stanley</p> <p>Audio Tech P/T Frank Michel</p>
		<p><u>FACILITES</u> Manager Manny Marinez</p> <p>Janitorial Angel Mendez</p>	<p><u>PASTOR EMERITUS P/T</u> Carl P. Witt, Jr.</p>
			<p><u>WOMEN/CR MINISTRY</u> LEADER P/T Gesa Sharon</p>

LEGACY COMMITTEE



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

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

Because of generous gifts made to the Endowment Fund and a positive stock market this year, the value of the Endowment Fund increased from \$150,241.75 to \$218,568.95 as of December 31, 2023. These funds are invested in Value Line Asset Allocation (VLAIX), held at Schwab. As the Endowment Fund balance increases, the annual distribution back to the church increases!

LEGACY COMMITTEE (Continued)

In 2023, a total of \$6,000 was awarded for the following to provide community outreach work beyond the operational budget, including spiritual and mission growth, and for improvements to the physical facilities:

- Bark replacement to keep the children safe on the playground of the Hope Children Center
- A professional camera lens to enhance the Online Ministry
- A contribution to the Needy Family Fund for the Saul Martinez and Peter Pendleton Schools
- Hope for All for their first presence at Palm Springs Pride to spread Jesus' love to all
- A computer for the Kids & Students Ministries for planning, communicating & creating program

This year the Legacy Circle of Hope grew to 37 members. This Circle was created to honor those who have advised the church that they have chosen to leave a legacy that reflects their faith, values, and commitment to Hope Lutheran Church's mission to future generations. These gifts include, but are not limited to, a bequest, charitable trust, charitable gift annuity, IRA or life insurance beneficiary designation, or other planned gift to the Endowment Fund.

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

Marlys* & Dick Botz
Elizabeth Chambers
Jo & Horst Engel
Julie & Peter Fremstad
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
*Deceased

Much appreciation to committee members Bonnie Pridonoff, Recorder; Pastor Derek Fossey, Pastor Carl Witt, Rick Greaves, Church Treasurer, Kim Buchanan, Church Council, Liz Chambers, Gary Eilefson, Kurt Mortenson, Jim Parry and Dick Schroeckenstein.

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

Lynn Hendershot, Chairperson

MEMORIAL FUND



MEMORIAL FUND	BEGINNING	RECEIPTS	Utilized	ENDING
	BALANCE	2023	2023	BALANCE
	<u>1/1/2023</u>			<u>12/31/2023</u>
ALL THOSE LOST TO COVID	\$ 1,050			\$ 1,050
BOTZ, MARYLS	\$ -	\$ 375		\$ 375
BUNTROCK, CLAYTON	\$ 200			\$ 200
COLLINS, WILLIAM	\$ 2,460	\$ 540	\$ 2,980	\$ 20
DEVELON, MARILYN	\$ -	\$ 1,445		\$ 1,445
DEW, REV. ROBERT	\$ 3,695		\$ 569	\$ 3,126
DEW, REV. ROBERT	Flowers \$ 500			\$ 500
DOLL, RONALD	\$ -	\$ 100		\$ 100
FAIR, LORRAINE	\$ -	\$ 500		\$ 500
FOSSEY, BRUCE	\$ -	\$ 750		\$ 750
GARTIN, TOM	\$ 300	\$ 75		\$ 375
GATES, BILL	\$ 100			\$ 100
GOETTELMAN, VIRGINIA	\$ 51			\$ 51
GRIFFIN, BARBARA	\$ 100			\$ 100
HAECKEL, MM	\$ 43			\$ 43
HAGEN, BRUCE	\$ 100			\$ 100
HEPSTINSTALL, CALVIN	\$ 50			\$ 50
KILLINGSWORTH, ARMOR	\$ -	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ -
MacFARLANE, EILEEN	\$ -	\$ 525		\$ 525
McGINNIS, PATRICK	\$ 30			\$ 30
MILNER, ANNA	\$ -	\$ 50		\$ 50
MUCKENFUSS, JOYCE	\$ -	\$ 250		\$ 250
MUELLER, LEZLIE	\$ -	\$ 1,060		\$ 1,060
MULLER, RONALD	\$ -	\$ 1,350		\$ 1,350
OEDING, MARK	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -
QUISITO, MARSHA	\$ -	\$ 50		\$ 50
ROGERS, BRITA	\$ 20			\$ 20
RUUD, LEE	\$ 200			\$ 200
SEEFURTH, TOM	\$ -	\$ 271		\$ 271
MEMORIAL FUND TOTAL	\$ 8,899	\$ 7,651	\$ 3,859	\$ 12,691

QUILTERS OF HOPE

2023 was a year of transition for the Quilters of Hope. We said farewell to many experienced quilters including Anita Holden (who had led the Quilters for 14 years), Tina Gates, Marilyn Devalon, and Eileen MacFarlane. Ruth Fikes stepped into the leadership role in May and we were excited to welcome in new members over the summer and fall.

We continued to meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month through April and were able to meet a few times during the summer. Beginning in September we returned to our twice monthly schedule.

Our 2023 Quilters were: Alice Daby, Anita Holden, Ann Krull, Bonnie Harkinson, Bonnie Madonna, Carol Beers, Carol Simpson, Charlene Such, Eileen Donnelly, Emily Johns, Jane Dreiske, Jody Risius, Julie Fremstad, Karen Planavsky, Kathleen Herring, Lenor Jones, Linda Spencer, Marge Ruffolo, Margie Link, Mary Ellen Peterson, Peggy Schauer, Ruth Fikes, Shirley Hess, and Susan Dellinger.

Together we completed a total of 90 quilts. Of these, 15 were given to graduating high school seniors, one was raffled during the Palm Springs Pride Event, 4 were set aside to give to local charities, and 70 were sent to Lutheran World Relief after our Quilt Blessing on October 15th.

In August we received a Thrivent Action Team Grant of \$250 to help with the cost of batting and we were able to improve the quilt assembly process with some new table risers and table clips.

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

A personal note of thanks for all the support I've received during my first quilting year, especially for all the sewing and quilting tips I have received.

We look forward to a productive 2024 and hope to reach that 100 target.

In His Love and Service
Ruth Fikes



READ WITH ME

Our 10th year as sponsors of Saul Martinez Elementary School in Mecca was another great success. We had 29 dedicated volunteers who spent over 900 hours. volunteering at various grade levels.

Read with Me in conjunction with the Riverside Office of Education continues to provide complimentary bus service for our volunteers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from Palm Desert to Saul Martinez from November until April. However, most volunteers prefer to drive themselves.

Hope also sponsors Peter Pendleton Elementary School in Coachella, where Kristi Ricker is the volunteer coordinator. A total of 13 volunteers spent more than 400 hours. volunteering at Peter Pendleton.

The mission of Read with Me is to help students with the 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, but most spend about 2-3 months during the winter at the school.

Read with Me is a local non-profit volunteer organization. Including Saul Martinez, and Peter Pendleton, our volunteers are in 22 elementary schools in the Coachella Valley. In addition to volunteering, we have distributed more than 4,000 age-appropriate books to the students at Saul Martinez and Peter Pendleton. 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 ReadWithMeVolunteers.com. If you want to join us as volunteers, please contact me at readwithmehorst@gmail.com, or Kristi Ricker at kristi_rickere@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.

This year's leadership team included Gesa Sharon, Bernice Muller, Carole Olson, Barbara Savery, Ginny Gilman, Julie Fremstad, Monika Hoover, Sandy McGinnis, and Peggy Grabow. As the year went on, Bernice, due to personal reasons decided to step down from leadership. We'll be forever grateful for her devoted involvement with this ministry, particularly keeping the finances organized.

Later in the year Ruth Fikes, also the leader of the Quilters of Hope ministry joined our team. She has added joy, wisdom and creativity to our meetings and decision-making. 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.

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

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

In February we had our two annual fundraisers, Thankoffering Sunday, and registration for active participation in the Tour de Palm Springs. We also held our Women of Hope Winter Gathering with a guest speaker sharing about her experience of growing up as a farmer's daughter in the Coachella Valley. We had live music, food and our annual prayer partner reveal and exchange.

We had three fun "Girl's Night Out" throughout the year. Our hostess Stephanie did a wonderful job guiding us through creating a mosaic in May, a painting in August and Christmas ornaments in November. Thank you to Brenda Devlin for your ongoing commitment to help make these evenings a big success.

In November we hosted our Fall Gathering and Boutique with 10 local vendors, enjoying some shopping, brunch and introducing the no-profit "Team Rubicon." All these types of events are always encouraging seeing women spend time together in community.

With each year we grow more thankful in the many ways the women at Hope and the whole congregation support our mission to offer community amongst the women in our church and community. This is a huge encouragement to the Women Of Hope leadership team as we look back and as we plan ahead for 2024.

Gesa Sharon, Ministry Leader

TREASURER'S REPORT

The year ending December 31st, 2023, was another positive financial year for Hope Lutheran, Palm Desert.

Revenue or gifts to the church were up by 20.4%. However, this requires some explaining. Our revenue from tuition from the Children's Center contributed \$298,871. Our members offering envelopes remained about equal to the prior year at \$1,349,347. Total expenses were up in the amount of \$143,579 year over year. 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 debt relief matching campaign that kicked off in November of 2022. We received \$379,669 in a combination of matching funds and building funds throughout the year. This was utilized to retire debt. This left a net positive result for the church of \$435,059 against a prior year surplus of \$361,262. This year's results stated above include debt service expense.

A few comments to explain some of the expense numbers:

Our Benevolence payments to the Synod amounted to 5% (\$79,235) of our member offering envelopes. An additional \$5636, 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, within that result 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 \$90,000. There are again many maintenance projects that were accomplished during the year.

The Category Pastoral staff, and non-pastoral staff increased 2.1% 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. As of note 42.9% of our total expense is our people.

Another highlight is the continued reduction of debt. We began the year with a debt of \$1,355,021 and ended the year with a debt balance of \$671,511, a reduction of \$683,510. We have a reset of our interest rate on 4/30/2025 and it is our hope and our goal to extinguish the debt prior to the reset date. By reducing our debt in the last two years by over \$800,000 we have been able to reduce our monthly payment from \$10,264 to \$4,204.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Continued)

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 \$208,569 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 funds balance each year to fund special or unanticipated/unbudgeted projects or missions.

As we enter 2024, 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 increase by 6%. Our ordinary expenses increased by 3%. We will adjust wages by the COLA published by the bureau of statistics for Riverside County and anticipate that it will be around 3%. We have included rebuilding of the rainy-day fund to replenish it to the prior year's balance of \$220,000. This fund sustains the church's ordinary operating costs through the summer months.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Your Treasurer,
Rick Greaves

Summary Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2023

<u>Assets</u>	
Current Assets	
Legacy Funds	\$ 208,569
Building and Reserves	\$ 367,271
Operating Accounts	\$ 193,601
Women of Hope	\$ 9,986
Chidrens Center	\$ 26,035
Bayshore and Future of Hope	\$ 101,377
Other	\$ 4
 Total Current Assets	 <u>\$906,843</u>
 Off Balance sheet	
Columbarium Funds	\$ 25,191
 Fixed Assets	 \$ 5,564,255
 Total Assets	 <u>\$ 6,471,099</u>
 <u>Liabilities and Equity</u>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	\$ 699,014
Long Term Liabilities	\$ 671,511
 Total Liabilities	 <u>\$ 1,370,525</u>
 Equity	 <u>\$ 5,100,574</u>
 Total Liabilities and Equity	 <u>\$ 6,471,099</u>

	Hope Debt Activity Through Dec 31 2023	Activity 2023
Balance of loan 12-31-2022		\$ 1,355,021
Debt Reduction through Payments and contributions to reduce debt		\$ 683,510
Total Principal Reduction		\$ 683,510
Debt Balance 12-31-2023		\$ 671,511
Debt Service Expense		\$ 39,641
Growing Hope Donations / Debt Relief Funds		\$ 379,669
Balance in Account for Debt Service 12-31-2023		<u>\$ 77,979</u>
Monthly Payments		\$ 4,204

BUDGET

Hope Lutheran Church Palm Desert

Final Results 2023

REVENUE	Jan - Dec Actuals 2023	Budget 2023	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2022	Percentage Change 2023 to 2022	Proposed 2024 Budget
Member Giving / Total Income	\$1,990,031	\$1,741,722	\$1,895,278	5.0%	\$2,080,371

EXPENSES	Jan - Dec Actuals 2023	Budget 2023	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2022	Percentage Change 2023 to 2022	Proposed 2024 Budget
Benevolence	\$79,235	\$86,225	\$69,393	14.2%	\$56,989
Administration	\$114,841	\$93,270	\$114,505	0.3%	\$97,088
Campus Support	\$212,969	\$158,876	\$222,703	-4.4%	\$358,528
Ministry Programs	\$716,729	\$500,792	\$591,189	21.2%	\$702,919
Non-Pastoral Staff	\$387,837	\$391,296	\$361,941	7.2%	\$417,998
Pastoral Staff	\$457,188	\$496,276	\$465,488	-1.8%	\$446,505
Total Expenses	\$1,968,798	\$1,726,735	\$1,825,219	7.9%	\$2,080,026

Surplus / Loss	\$21,233	\$14,987	\$70,059	NA	\$345
----------------	----------	----------	----------	----	-------

Building Revenue	Jan - Dec Actuals 2023	Budget 2023	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2022	Percentage Change 2023 to 2022	Proposed 2024 Budget
Member Giving Growing Hope / Debt Relief	\$379,669	\$0	\$437,397	-13.2%	\$27,600

DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES	Jan - Dec Actuals 2023	Budget 2023	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2022	Percentage Change 2023 to 2022	Proposed 2024 Budget
Reduction in Debt	\$683,510	\$0	\$158,123		\$21,000.00
Debt Service	\$39,641	\$60,000	\$65,045	-39.1%	\$60,000

*Total Outcome below includes ordinary income of \$21,233 and Debt relief matching funds.

Total Outcome	\$435,059	\$14,987	\$361,262	20.4%	\$ 345
----------------------	------------------	-----------------	------------------	--------------	---------------

Hope

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry continues to serve our community with "One 2 One Care" to people who are experiencing difficulties in life and seek someone who will confidentially walk with them.

Stephen Leader Training was completed by Linda Spencer and Bob Bateman. They were commissioned and assigned a care receiver! The newly commissioned are doing great work! Our newest Ministers are Laurie Marvin, Monika Hoover, and Corrine Murphy. Please welcome them to our ministry.

To our parishioners, we meet twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 9:00 A.M. Please pray and consider becoming a Stephen Minister. There is an increasing need for care givers. Also if you or someone you knows needs care, please communicate this to Pastor Derek.

Bob Bateman
Stephen Minister



Hope

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

As my service commitment on the Church Council comes to an end, I would like to express my appreciation to the staff, Pastors, Council Members and the many volunteers who put in countless hours into making Hope Lutheran Church a welcoming place to find and follow Jesus.

We are approaching a period in time where several major components such as HVAC units, asphalt, sound systems, lighting, etc. need to be replaced. Planning for the replacement or repair of these larger components often takes a bit of juggling when it comes to funding. Thankfully, God always provides us with a path.

In 2023, several improvements were made at the Children's Center. The shade cloth over the play area was replaced, new bark was put down in both play areas, picnic benches were purchased, and synthetic turf was installed as well as new lighting along the walkway.

Due to supply chain issues, we continue to wait for the large HVAC unit to be replaced in the sanctuary. Hopefully, it will be here and installed very soon. The parking lot asphalt will be repaired and cracks filled the beginning of April with a complete seal coat and striping applied a couple weeks later. We are hoping to replace the sound system and lighting (stage lighting) in the sanctuary this year. It's a costly venture, but greatly needed. The Council continues to look into the feasibility of installing a solar energy system.

All this is in addition to maintaining the campus (including the Children's Center) on a regular basis. The maintenance not only includes cleaning, but also setting up and tearing down for events and services, overseeing vendors for maintenance and repairs, handyman work and many other miscellaneous chores. Our Facilities team lead by Manny Martinez does a terrific job at maintaining the campus.

Martha Osborne
January 5, 2024

2022 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

05 February 2023

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Martha Osborne moved that we "**accept the minutes of the 06 February 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting,**" seconded by Jim Parry. **Motion approved.**

Pastor's Reports: Pastor Derek showed a video that shows all the wonderful things that are happening at Hope Lutheran Church.

Committee Reports: Members were asked to refer to this 2022 Annual Report for the various committee reports.

Financial Report: Rick Greaves presented charted financial report referring to the 2022 Actual and Budgeted figures, and presented the 2023 Budget report.

Linda Griffith moved that we "**accept the financial report,**" seconded by Jim Parry. **Motion approved.**

Horst Engel moved that we "**accept the 2023 budget report,**" seconded by Barbara Oeding. **Motion approved.**

Election of Congregational Council Members: John Donnelly moved that we "**elect Rick Greaves and Toni Hafey to our Congregational Council,**" seconded by Jim Parry. **Motion approved.**

There was no old or new business.

Adjournment: Jim Parry moved that we "**adjourn the meeting,**" seconded by Toni Hafey. **Motion approved.** Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Derek Fossey.

Respectfully submitted,

Reynold Worch, Council Secretary

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655
 Text: Somerset C. Lowry
 Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;
 arr. Julius Röntgen
 Text and music are in the public domain. May be reproduced without restriction.