

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
**Voters' Assembly Minutes**

January 28, 2024

The regular January meeting of the voters' assembly of Hope Lutheran Church was called to order on January 28, 2024, at 10:32 a.m. by the president, Christopher Becker; the secretary was present. A quorum was established; a list of voting members present is attached.

Dave Van Haaften led the opening prayer.

The November 19, 2023, minutes were approved as emailed.

The appended Board reports were received.

It was moved by Myrtle Siefken and seconded that the "Scholarship Endowment" Fund name be changed to "1991 School Endowment." The motion carried.

Dave Van Haaften presented the following resolution: "Whereas Pastor Pay has served as Vacancy Pastor at Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Rigby since approximately May 2022, but Crown of Life plans to call Kory Walstad as Vicar in February 2024." Therefore, the Board of Elders recommends this motion: That the Congregation authorizes Pastor Pay to transition from Vacancy Pastor at Crown of Life Lutheran Church to Vicarage Supervisor and Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMP) Mentor for Kory Walstad and provide assistance to him at Crown of Life. This commitment will end with Kory Walstad's eventual Ordination and Installation at Crown of Life. The motion carried unanimously. Dave Van Haaften informed the voters that this will entail no monetary cost to Hope Lutheran Church; and that this will require some time commitments for Pastor Pay, but these commitments will be less than he has had as Vacancy Pastor.

Jim Oloff reported that the Day School Board needs to hire a full-time Early Childhood teacher and would like to call a synodically-trained individual. Myrtle Siefken moved and was seconded to direct the Day School Board to seek a synodically-trained Early Childhood teacher and that their information be brought back to the voters to call someone. Following a brief discussion, the motion carried.

Anita Taylor reported that the Outreach Board is currently raising funds to support the Evergreen Lutheran Church and School in Detroit, Michigan. Financial support will come from Hope Lutheran Church members as well as those from St. John Lutheran Church.

New Business: Transition of Pastor Pay from Vacancy Pastor at Crown of Life to a Vicarage Supervisor and SMP Mentor was taken up during the Elders Report earlier in the meeting.

There was discussion about how Hope could provide assistance to Pastor Pay with his ever-increasing workload. Dave Van Haaften reported that the Elders are aware of the need and have been discussing possible options.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

JoAnn Jepsen, secretary

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**Voter's Attendance  
January 28, 2024**

**Communicant Members Accepted into Voting Membership**

Please initial attendance		Date Accepted
	Ash, Margaret	May 16, 2021
CDB	Becker, Christopher	May 16, 2021
	Biermann, Charles	May 16, 2021
	Biermann, Sandra	May 16, 2021
	Bueno, Natasha	July 9, 2023
hmc	Carlson, Nancy	May 16, 2021
	Clayton, Connie	November 21, 2021
	Clayton, Ron	November 21, 2021
ARE	Eberle, Allen	May 16, 2021
PE	Eberle, Pamela	May 16, 2021
	Ferrer, Moira	November 20, 2022
	Ferrer, Rodolpho	November 20, 2022
JH	Gibson, Jamie	May 16, 2021
VF	Glick, Vivian	May 16, 2021
DS	Griffith, Cora	May 16, 2021
	Griffith, Taylor	May 16, 2021
JH	Helmkamp, Sophia	November 20, 2022
JH	Henry, Jane	May 16, 2021
RH	Henry, Roger	May 16, 2021
BT	Hentzen, Richard	November 21, 2021
	Holzworth, Robert	May 16, 2021
JJ	Jepsen, JoAnn	May 16, 2021
BJ	Jepsen, William "Bill"	May 16, 2021
	Miaullis, Maureen	January 22, 2023
BCO	Oloff, Betty	May 16, 2021
J.O.	Oloff, James	May 16, 2021
	Pavlat, Kurt	May 16, 2021

Please initial attendance		Date Accepted
	Pavlat, Roseanne	April 16, 2023
BP	Pay, Brenda	May 16, 2021
NP	Peterlin, Nyla	May 16, 2021
	Phelan, Cherie	November 29, 2023
	Phelan, Philip	May 16, 2021
	Powers, LuAnne	April 24, 2022
	Powers, Rev. Jerry	April 24, 2022
	Reber, Edward	May 16, 2021
	Reber, Rebecca	November 20, 2022
	Ritter, John	May 16, 2021
	Ritter, Tara	May 16, 2021
	Rosenwinkel, Melody	April 24, 2022
	Ruiz, Grace	April 24, 2022
	St. Michel, Whitney	May 16, 2021
E Ros	Schroeder, Eugene	November 21, 2021
MMS	Siefken, Myrtle	May 16, 2021
Lsm	Smith, Lynette	November 21, 2021
	Stommel, Mary	May 16, 2021
AT	Taylor, Anita	July 24, 2022
CA	Thinnes, Carol	November 21, 2021
GA	Thinnes, Gary	November 21, 2021
	Tiffany, Ruth	January 23, 2022
Walt	Van Haaften, David	May 16, 2021
DK	Van Haaften, Dorothy	May 16, 2021
JM2	Zillinger, James	April 24, 2022

## Officer, Board, and Committee Reports

### Treasurer and Board of Finance

Financial Report-January Voter's Meeting

#### Cash Assets: Jan 09, 2024

<b>Church</b>		
Checking		\$ 87,268.74
Spending		\$ 6,023.64
LCEF Properties		\$ 19,838.25
Scholarship		\$ 6,069.71
<b>Wealth Management</b>		
Church Building - Properties		\$ 24,746.86
Church Checking		\$ 16,257.55
Steel Building		\$ 84,879.33
<b>Total Church</b>		<b>\$ 245,084.08</b>
<b>School</b>		
Checking		\$ 47,799.83
Spending		\$ 4,032.00
Savings		\$ 1,197.85
Booster		\$ 21,903.63
Scrip		\$ 2,954.61
<b>Wealth Management</b>		
School Savings		\$ 290,670.47
School Reserves		\$ 88,577.24
<b>Thrivent</b>		
Jennifer Anne Barrett Fund		\$ 32,803.63
Scholarship Endowment		\$ 76,541.81
Operations Endowment		\$ 34,301.53
Tuition Assistance CD		\$ 41,004.31
<b>Total School</b>		<b>\$ 641,786.91</b>

#### Hope Lutheran Church Chart of Account Balances: Jan 01, 2023 – Dec 31, 2023

Account	Balance as of 2023-01-01	Balance as of 2023-12-31	Change %
<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$ 203,267.64</b>	<b>\$ 238,776.21</b>	<b>17.47%</b>
<b>Checking Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 59,415.16</b>	<b>\$ 85,543.20</b>	<b>43.98%</b>
<b>Primary Checking (7528)</b>	<b>\$ 59,415.16</b>	<b>\$ 85,543.20</b>	<b>43.98%</b>
Unrestricted (Primary Check)	\$ 25,972.26	\$ 56,033.99	115.75%
Angel Tree	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%

Benevolent Fund	\$ 37.74	\$ 725.00	1821.04%
Braille Fund	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Camp Perkins Scholarships	\$ 1,609.50	\$ 1,459.50	-9.32%
Church Choir and Music Fund	\$ 811.46	\$ 111.54	-86.25%
Day School Giving	\$ 14,491.94	\$ 6,575.00	-54.63%
Day School Scholarship	\$ 2,206.00	\$ 972.00	-55.94%
District Donations	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Expansion Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,509.31	250.93%
Fellowship Fund	\$ 133.37	\$ 271.58	103.63%
Golf Tournament	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Hopperdietzel Memorial	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	0.00%
LWML	\$ -	\$ 24.00	0.00%
LWML Mites	\$ -	\$ 15.00	0.00%
Landscape Fund	\$ 3,139.85	\$ 110.00	-96.50%
Lasagna Dinner & Desst Auct.	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Missions Fund	\$ 500.72	\$ 300.00	-40.09%
Oloff Seminary	\$ -	\$ 750.00	0.00%
Outreach	\$ 50.00	\$ 672.66	1245.32%
Piano and Organ Fund	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Praise Group	\$ 25.00	\$ -	-100.00%
Properties Fund	\$ 1,037.46	\$ 4,087.46	293.99%
Puerto Rico Missions Fund	\$ 25.00	\$ 125.00	400.00%
Rescue Mission	\$ 1,496.47	\$ 1,226.47	-18.04%
Schwartz Memorial	\$ -	\$ 600.00	0.00%
Security System	\$ 102.86	\$ 102.86	0.00%
Sunday School Fund	\$ 233.57	\$ 169.94	-27.24%
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 266.00	\$ 1,028.00	286.47%
Vacation Bible School	\$ 393.07	\$ -	-100.00%
Worship Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Youth Fund and Gathering	\$ 4,382.89	\$ 5,173.89	18.05%
<b>Savings Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 19,742.71</b>	<b>\$ 25,907.96</b>	<b>31.23%</b>
LCEF Properties*	\$ 19,725.14	\$ 19,838.25	0.57%
Scholarship (5275)	\$ 17.57	\$ 6,069.71	34445.87%
<b>Investment Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 124,109.77</b>	<b>\$ 27,325.05</b>	<b>2.59%</b>
Bank of Idaho Trust Depart**	\$ 124,109.77	\$ 27,325.05	2.59%
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 165,183.52</b>	<b>\$ 152,321.18</b>	<b>-7.79%</b>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 165,183.52</b>	<b>\$ 152,321.18</b>	<b>-7.79%</b>
LCEF Mortgage	\$ 165,183.52	\$ 152,321.18	-7.79%

\*Designated as building funds. November 12, 2017 voters minutes.

\*\*Includes \$80K from sale of modulars “to be used for purchasing a permanent steel building.” Voters minutes, May 15, 2016. (July 20, 2017 voters minutes: “Resolved, if it becomes necessary to make up a deficit in the school budget for the 2017–2018 school year, the money comes from the proceeds of the sale of the modulars.”)

### Hope Lutheran Church Income & Expense: Jan 01, 2023 – Dec 31, 2023

Account	Budgets 2023	Actuals 2023	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 266,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 441,507.79</b>	<b>165.89%</b>
<b>Tithes and Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 250,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 298,236.64</b>	<b>119.29%</b>
Weekly Offerings	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 298,236.64	119.29%
<b>Other Church income</b>	<b>\$ 16,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 51,735.18</b>	<b>320.34%</b>
Directed Offerings	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 50,729.05	338.19%
Interest Income	\$ 150.00	\$ 434.95	289.97%
Misc. Income	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 571.18	57.12%
<b>Giving to the School</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 91,535.97</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Pass Thru Giving	\$ -	\$ 91,535.97	0.00%
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$ 371,185.00</b>	<b>\$ 409,214.50</b>	<b>110.25%</b>
<b>Finance And Administration</b>	<b>\$ 74,125.00</b>	<b>\$ 62,138.79</b>	<b>83.83%</b>
Janitorial (5110)	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 10,500.00	100.00%
Utilities (5120)	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,632.00	105.27%
Insurance (5170)	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 10,450.00	122.94%
Telephone / Internet (5180)	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,236.61	100.87%
Postage (5130)	\$ 750.00	\$ 636.47	84.86%
Office Supplies (5140)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 403.06	40.31%
Administration (5190)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,609.29	160.93%
Day School Tuition Assistance	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 136.00	0.91%
Property Taxes Paid (5195)	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 1,560.00	132.77%
Mortgage Paid	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 12,862.34	135.39%
Mortgage Interest Paid (5196)	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 6,113.02	64.35%
Camp Perkins Assessment (5720)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	100.00%
<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Advertising (5220)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0.00%
BOD Misc (5230)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0.00%
Safety Committee (5240)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0.00%
<b>Properties</b>	<b>\$ 35,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,182.57</b>	<b>97.66%</b>
Maintenance & Improv. (5310)	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 34,182.57	97.66%
<b>Elders</b>	<b>\$ 13,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,912.86</b>	<b>71.57%</b>

Worship Supplies (5410)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,562.65	85.42%
Parish Education Expenses (5610)	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,514.56	86.55%
Book Allowance (5430)	\$ 100.00	\$ 69.03	69.03%
Conferences & Convent. (5440)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,179.36	39.31%
Worship Accompanist (5450)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,750.00	91.67%
Synod and District Support (5465)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	100.00%
Elders Discretionary (5470)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 337.26	22.48%
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>\$ 2,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,668.10</b>	<b>61.78%</b>
Evangelism Supplies (5510)	\$ 700.00	\$ 612.28	87.47%
Missionary Support (5520)	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.01	100.00%
VBS (5530)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 555.81	37.05%
<b>Youth</b>	<b>\$ 3,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,083.90</b>	<b>34.41%</b>
Youth (5810)	\$ 3,150.00	\$ 1,083.90	34.41%
<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Fellowship Expenses (5910)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0.00%
<b>Strategic Planning</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,065.00</b>	<b>20.65%</b>
Preliminary Design (5950)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,065.00	20.65%
<b>School Giving</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 95,031.94</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
School Giving Pass Thru (6000)	\$ -	\$ 95,031.94	0.00%
Donations Expense*	\$ -	\$ 43,278.45	0.00%
<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 228,360.00</b>	<b>\$ 159,852.89</b>	<b>70.00%</b>
Pastor Salary and Fuel	\$ 67,910.00	\$ 67,909.92	100.00%
Church Secretary Salary	\$ 15,450.00	\$ 15,797.98	102.25%
Church Benefits	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 36,613.01	73.23%
School Benefits	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 39,531.98	41.61%
<b>Income less Expense</b>	<b>\$ (105,035.00)</b>	<b>\$ 32,293.29</b>	<b>-30.75%</b>

\* Nov 05 – Dec 31, 2023 Donations Expenses:

Angel Tree: \$ 100

Crown of Life Lutheran Church: Kory Walstad Seminary - \$1,749.25

Day School Donations: \$2,550

Emmanuel Lutheran Church: Maui Disaster Relief - \$1,749.25

Landscape Fund: Mow Lot – \$20

Missions: Lehman, Lehr, Maita, Neuendorf each \$262.50 – \$1,050

Oloff Seminary: \$3,979.25

Outreach: Rescue Mission Scrip Cards - \$750

Tuition Assistance: 2 months for 7 students – \$3,670

**Hope Lutheran School Income & Expense: July 01, 2022 – Dec 31, 2023**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Full Year Budget</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
1100 Registration	\$ 31,350.00	\$ 13,473.30	42.98%
1200 Tuition	\$ 273,379.00	\$ 146,898.24	53.73%
1300 Extended Care	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 2,865.00	33.71%
1400 Lunch/Milk	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 5,870.25	122.30%
1480 Late Fee	\$ -	\$ 400.00	
1500 Summer Program	\$ -	\$ 1,580.00	-
2000 Donations	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 83,546.40	92.83%
4000 Spread Spectrum Lease	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	41.67%
4000+ Other Income	\$ -	\$ 403.84	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 420,029.00</b>	<b>\$ 259,633.19</b>	<b>61.81%</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
5100 Salaries	\$ 246,518.00	\$ 126,863.57	51.46%
5200 Wages	\$ 56,196.00	\$ 9,243.87	16.45%
5500 Benefits	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 9,786.02	29.65%
5550 Payroll Taxes	\$ 23,127.00	\$ 10,779.63	46.61%
5600 Continuing Education	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,178.81	278.59%
5700 Workers Comp	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 2,495.00	29.35%
6120 TADS	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 5,128.56	70.25%
6130 Gradelink	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,069.74	53.49%
6140 Application Licenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	
6220 Early Childhood Supplies	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 236.79	9.47%
6240/6260/6270 K/Elem/Friday Supplies	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,536.44	176.82%
6280 Summer Program Supplies	\$ -	\$ 65.23	
6300 Curriculum	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,485.39	24.85%
6400 Milk/Lunch/Snacks	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,009.48	93.46%
6610 Technology Equipment Service	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,309.10	65.97%
6620 IT Service Contract	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 8,740.80	60.70%
7100 Business	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 8,178.11	174.00%
7200 Business Equipment	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,792.65	111.71%
7300 Postage	\$ 950.00	\$ 134.30	14.14%
7400 Office Supplies	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 931.84	46.59%
7500 Advertising	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,324.65	53.25%
7600 Janitorial Services	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 15,750.00	50.00%
7650 Janitorial Supplies	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 2,306.65	41.94%
7700 Maintenance Contracts	\$ 480.00	\$ 435.00	90.63%
7800 Transportation	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,703.05	85.15%
8000 Contingency	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 503,671.00</b>	<b>\$ 231,484.67</b>	<b>48.36%</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>\$ (83,642.00)</b>	<b>\$ 28,148.52</b>	

### **Report from President**

- A committee has been appointed to research alternative options for the money that is currently invested with Thrivent. The committee appointees are: Jim Oloff (Chair), Mitch Meyer, and Brenda Pay. They have started to research alternative options.
- The Financial Review Committee has been appointed, as required by the bylaws, to ensure that a financial review takes place for the church and school financial records. The committee appointees are Myrtle Siefken and Melody Rosenwinkel. They will be reaching out to an external CPA to have the review conducted.

### **Board of Elders**

- Average Sunday Attendance: 102.9 (October-December)  
95.6 (2023)
- Average December Midweek Attendance: 52
- Christmas Eve PM Service Attendance 163
- Membership Losses: Frank C., Lyle S., Cheryl W., Dennis K. (deceased)
- Membership Gains: Patti S. (transfer)
- Pending or in Progress:
  - Jim O. is coordinating update of the Church Directory.
  - We are discussing an Outreach campaign in the spring. (Last year was Inreach).
  - Pastor has suggested the need to re-do the Church Library in the Fireside Room.
  - Pastor is in line to be Vicarage Supervisor for Kory W. at Crown of Life.

### **Day School Board**

1. Hope Lutheran Classical Academy recognizes the need for a full-time Early Childhood teacher and will be making inquiries into calling a Synodically trained individual, either a new graduate or from the field.
2. Mr. Northcutt did teacher evaluations in December following the Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education (CCLE) guidelines for teachers.
3. Texas Roadhouse fundraiser was December 7, 2023, 4:00-10:00 pm.
4. Christmas Program "Christmas in Narnia," December 14, 6:30 pm, Hope Lutheran Church.
5. Approved a 4% increase in school tuition for 2024-2025 school year.
6. Approved the Safety Committee's recommendation regarding Concealed Carry in the school.
7. Completed and approved (CCLE) recommendations #4 and #6 for recertification.

### **Board of Outreach**

A report was not submitted.

## **Board of Youth Ministry**

The Next Chapter youth group of Hope, St. John, and Crown of Life has been meeting on Monday evenings unless there is a school vacation for holidays or vacation days for Morgan and Jacob Pralle, the leaders of the group.

Many youth took part in the Advent and Christmas services by serving as acolytes, singing and speaking in the Cantata, filling and handing out Christmas bags on Christmas Eve.

Arch Books have been ordered to give out on Christmas Eve and on Easter Saturday to children who come for Easter bags.

The South Idaho Youth Leaders met on a zoom chat January 11. There were eight of us from Grace in Pocatello, Hope, Camp Perkins, Friendship Celebration in Meridian, and one other church near Boise. Around fifty kids are planning to go to the junior high retreat at Camp Perkins January 26-28.

Betty Oloff, Board of Youth Ministry

## **Board of Property**

### **Winter preparations:**

- Ice melt was added to snow shovel boot trays throughout the building during Thanksgiving school break due to snow threat.
- Four additional boot trays were purchased so all shovels and ice melt are on a boot tray. Trays by two sets of red doors in the school are red in color. A grey tray will be placed in the gym by the doors to the Early Childhood play area. The final grey tray will be placed by the east sanctuary doors. There is one extra tray in case any of the trays need to be replaced.
- Top Notch Lawn and Landscaping cost for mid-day snow removal from sidewalks around church and school during day-time snow events will cost \$100 per event. If snow exceeds 2", the cost will increase. The headmaster must call Top Notch by no later than noon and all cars must be moved away from the sidewalks during **entire** time the sidewalk snow removal occurs. A maximum budget of \$800 dollars will be allotted for daytime removal. If that budget is expended before spring arrives, staff and volunteers will need to do daytime snow removal for the balance of the winter.
- Working closely with the Day School Board on the sidewalk issue above and the need for the school to keep **all** doorways to the fenced grounds on the east and north sides of the building clear of snow so doors will open in the event of a safety or security evacuation. The east doors in the gym are a big concern as the doors must open outward and the walkway to the man-gate kept clear of snow. Note, contracted snow removal company does the unfenced areas – parking lots and south and west sidewalks.

### **Building maintenance:**

- Holden Electric serviced all 10 furnaces, changed filters that were dirty, installed low profile LED tube fixture in large storage area off north-side of gym.
- First Street Plumbing checked ease of operation of entire building water shutoff plus all sink, toilet, and water heater shutoffs in the building, cleared kindergarten sink drain of obstruction beyond the trap (no idea what it was but it is gone now), and cleaned drains in kitchen sinks to the junction with the parking lot branch of sewer line. Do this each year as

preventive maintenance. In early January First Street Plumbing rebuilt the urinal in the boys' bathroom as it started to leak.

- A-1 Pest Control completed insect spraying in all school classrooms, bathrooms, exterior door thresholds, gym, and kitchen.
- Sacristy doorstop replaced to stop damage to vinyl flooring.
- Hope Lutheran Church and School (HLCS) building and school van insurance policy reviewed with our insurance agent to ensure coverage is adequate. Issues discussed will be presented to the Board of Directors for their insights and guidance.

#### Sanctuary Audio-Visual upgrade:

Christopher and Nancy met with DbTronix at the church in later December to discuss the current state of our system. Engagement letter signed with DbTronix to evaluate current audio-visual equipment in sanctuary with goal of updating wiring and replacing outdated components to provide system stability and reliability and then determine equipment needs for quality livestreaming of services.

#### Policy Manual:

Proposed additions and updates to Policy Manual for HLCS in Section 5.1, HLCS Property and Facility Use, presented to the Board of Directors for their review and guidance.

#### Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) is still somewhat in a holding pattern awaiting deliverables. However, a draft two-year (July 2021 - June 2022, July 2022 - June 2023 for the school and January 2021 - December 2022, January 2023 - December 2023 for the church) revenue stream document was forwarded to Mike Madison of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) towards the end of December. Upon finalization of the accounting books for fiscal year 2023, a more refined revenue/expense document will be forwarded to Mike. Both revenue and expense information are required for LCEF to provide a reasonable estimate for projected construction (short term) and mortgage (long term) financing should the voters approve implementation of a building project.

Towards the end of this month (January), artist's 3-D renderings of the proposed concept should be delivered to Marla Morgan (architect). With financing information from LCEF and the artist's 3-D renderings in hand, the SPC will be ready to move forward with an informational Q&A session for the congregation.

#### Fellowship Committee

A report was not submitted.

#### Safety Committee

The Safety Committee has not met since the last voters' meeting.

## **Pastor's Report**

Dear Members of Hope Lutheran,

Our readings in this latter half of Epiphany have been geared towards Jesus' calling of the disciples. Why would the Good and Perfect Shepherd do this? He doesn't NEED us, yet it is clearly his will to call and to send out sinful people to make his saving work known among the world.

We have heard this saving work, we have received it and been united with it in the waters of baptism and in, with, and under the bread and wine. We have heard the Law and Gospel of God's Word.

And so we, sinful and wrought with failure, do what? We gather in the Divine Service where He serves us from his bountiful goodness. And then we go...

We go to make his saving work known among the world. We make it known in our classes, in our servant opportunities, in our outreach and inreach, in our school, in our homes.

And we will stick our foot in our mouths, we will fail, we will wonder why we even bother since we only seem to push people away at times, rather than draw them closer. Why didn't you pick better people to do this? Why us?

Have you ever thought like this? I have.

Is there encouragement in such times? Yes, from the very same saving work of Jesus. Who died to wash away our sins, who rose to open eternal life for all, which includes sinners like us. And grateful again for the saving work of Jesus we might hear again the Lord's continual expressed desire that his people should go forth. So may we, cleansed by his grace and confident in the Spirit's work, not ours, to change hearts, go forth according to the Word of the Lord confident of his promise to work all things for good and to make all things new.

Thank you so much for your generous support and involvement in the work the Lord has given us to do at Hope Lutheran Church. We know we ask a lot, especially in regard to financial support for various ministries that seek to serve the neighbor or spread the Gospel. Please never feel obligated, please feel welcome to come and receive God's gifts for free. And please receive our thanks for the generous support you give freely and joyfully.

There are likely some big decisions on the horizon for Hope, that may include more requests for money and time, and, of course, prayer. Please be praying now that the Lord would establish the work of our hands and that His will would be done. And please know that the same truths apply as we approach these big possibilities: please do not feel obligated to give, please feel welcome to receive God's gifts among us for free, even as we thank you all for your generous support in whatever ways those may be. We are hopeful that upcoming news on a building project and staffing would be a blessing to the congregation, the school, and the community, and we are excited to tell you more about them shortly, so *you* can make an informed decision.

If you are new, or haven't yet found a place to plug-in, please consider if any of our weekly or monthly Bible Classes or servant events might be a blessing to you. As well as other various ways to serve the Lord: Choir, Acolyting, Slide Show Runners, Braille, Men for the readings, Altar Guild... These are all ways to get to know some of your brothers and sisters in the congregation, to grow, or serve. All of which are blessings.

My family and I are surviving on the hill-top for another winter and I thank God daily for “wife and child, house and home, land and animals (Well, except for the cats...)” and of course, for you, our Church family. It is a blessing to serve in your midst. Thank you for all the love and support you show us, and, of course, if you have criticisms for this sinful Pastor, please feel free to express them to me or you can let your elder know and they can bring it before the board in confidence. We want to hear from you. We want to bear with one another in the body, and we want any “root of bitterness” to be rooted out by God’s Word, His grace, and reconciliation.

And it is to Him, “the only wise God,” Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that all final thanks and praise go to. He has made us, he has redeemed us, and he alone will watch over his Church around the world and see us faithful to the end. God bless,

#### Pastor Pay

Also, here is a portion of my monthly report I submit to the Board of Directors and Elders. If you are interested in what I am up to on the day to day:

- Saw all shut-ins (23), most received communion, some, due to time constraints in Christmas Season, got a visit and a card.
- Miscellaneous Calls / Pastoral Emails / Counseling: 25
- Odds and Ends:
- Worship Committee
- Chapel
- SMP stuff
- Youth Apologetics
- Sign Changes
- Staff Party
- Keiser funeral
- Confirmation
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Idaho Falls Rescue Mission organization
- Young Adult Email
- Crown of Life – Leadership and Worship / Hymn selection / visits x4 / calls x1 / supervising /
- Used 0 days vacation time
- School Outreach: 3 Families regularly in Chapel, 1 teacher colloquy session, Christmas Program, 3 family cards
- Benevolence Distribution: 75 – nonmembers
- Haven’t got nearly as much writing or languages done this winter as I had planned... the Lord had other plans. His are better than ours anyway. God be praised. Thank you all for your care and service and forgive the fragmented report.

Proverbs 3:5-7: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. <sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.