

Hope Lutheran Church Voters' Assembly Minutes

May 16, 2021

The regular meeting of the voters' assembly of Hope Lutheran Church was called to order on May 16, 2021, at 11:32 a.m. MDT by the president, Christopher Becker; the secretary was present. A quorum was established; a list of voting members present is attached.

Christopher read a devotion and led the opening prayer.

Due to Covid-19 we have not approved minutes for a year. The minutes of the May 31, 2020, August 2, 2020, November 22, 2020, February 7, 2021, March 7, 2021, and March 25, 2021, minutes were approved as emailed.

The treasurer's and board and committee reports were emailed ahead of the meeting and were available in hard copy. They are attached.

For the Board of Elders, Jim Oloff asked the voters' opinions on relaxing Hope's Covid-19 measures such as maintaining distance between congregants by roping off pews, serving communion to a procession rather than at the rail, and requiring masks to be worn at some events. He will relay the voters comments to the Elders.

For the Board of Property, Nancy reported that the signs to implement the policy on unscheduled use of the grounds are in production.

New Business

Election of Officers

Christopher introduced the candidates. Ballots were distributed and thirty ballots were cast.

To fill current vacancies:

Office	Votes Received
Treasurer Whitney St. Michel	29
Day School Committee Chairman Bob Holzworth	29
Fellowship Committee Chairman Peggy Ash	29
Director, Board of Properties Nancy Carlson	29

Regularly Scheduled Elections

Office	Votes Received
Vice President Kurt Pavlat	30
Treasurer Whitney St. Michel	30
Director, Board of Elders Gary Thinner	30
Director, Board of Education/Day School Chair Bob Holzworth	30
Fellowship Committee Chairman Peggy Ash	30
Day School Treasurer Ed Reber	30

Christopher declared the candidates elected to their respective offices.

Transition to Proposed Constitution and Bylaws

The following resolution, presented by direction of the board of directors, was adopted:

Whereas, the Northwest District Board of Directors may approve our proposed constitution and bylaws soon;

Resolved, That our proposed constitution and bylaws go into effect on September 1, 2021, or the first of the month following receipt of Northwest District approval, whichever comes later;

Resolved, That all applications for voting membership from communicant members over 18 years of age received by the close of the May 16, 2021, voters meeting be accepted and that those members be enrolled as voters under the new bylaws;

Resolved, That the secretary's term be extended one year, until July 31, 2023;

Resolved, That the day school treasurer be elected on May 16, 2021, to a one-year term and that service through July 31, 2022, not be count in the term limit;

Resolved, That Strategic Planning Committee Members-at-Large be elected in November 2021, with the Position A member's term extending to July 31, 2022, (and service to July 31, 2022, not counting in the term limit) and the Position B member's term extending to July 31, 2023;

Resolved, That Elders select approximately half of their members to be affirmed in odd years, half in even years, and that the "odd year" elders be presented for affirmation in November; and

Resolved, That Director of the Board of Elders elected on May 16, 2021, serve an approximately one-year term and be eligible for nomination and election under the new bylaws in 2022.

Thirty applications for voting membership were received; the list of communicant members accepted into voting membership by this resolution is attached.

Regional Council for Christian Ministry

It was moved by JoAnn Jepsen and seconded to withdraw from the Regional Council for Christian Ministry. (Her handout is attached.) The motion carried; the president, director of the board of elders, and pastor will inform the RCCM executive board of our decision.

Forum

Christopher asked for an expression of interest on holding a forum for congregation members to express their opinions. He will share the response with the new board of directors in July.

Committees Created by the Voters

The following resolution, presented by direction of the board of directors, was adopted:

Whereas, in August 2019 the voters formed four committees, Building and Expansion, Benefits, Church and School Staffing, and Church and School Security Committee, with the members' terms expiring in August 2021;

Whereas, the duties of the Building and Expansion and Church and School Staffing committees fall within those of the Strategic Planning Committee to be created under the new bylaws; and

Whereas, the Church and School Security Committee would more accurately be named the Safety Committee;

Resolved, that the Building and Expansion, Benefits, and Church and School Staffing committees be discharged; and

Resolved, that the Church and School Security Committee be renamed the Safety Committee and that on August 1 the terms of the existing members expire and thereafter members are appointed in accordance with the new bylaws.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. MDT with the Lord's Prayer.

Myrtle Siefken, Secretary

Approved _____, 2021

DRAFT

May 16, 2021 Meeting Attendance

Print Name	Sign
1. Christopher Becker	Christopher Becker
2. Allen Eberle	Allen Eberle
3. Pamela Eberle	Pamela Eberle
4. Bill Jepsen	Bill Jepsen
5. JoAnn Jepsen	JoAnn Jepsen
6. Vivian Glick	Vivian Glick
7. Myrtle Stiefke	Myrtle Stiefke
8. Rich Hentzen	Rich Hentzen
9. Whitney St. Michel	Whitney St. Michel
10. JOHN RITTER	John Ritter
11. Taylor Griffith	Taylor Griffith
12. Bob Holzworth	Bob Holzworth
13. James Oloff	James Oloff
14. Jamie Gibson	Jamie Gibson
15. Sandra Biermann	Sandra Biermann
16. Nyia Peterlin	Nyia Peterlin
17. CHARLE BIERMANN	Charles Biermann
18. Philip Phelan	Philip Phelan
19. Peggy Ash	Peggy Ash
20. David Van Haften	David Van Haften
21. Brenda Pay	Brenda M Pay
22. TARA RITTER	Tara Ritter
23. Roger Henry	Roger Henry

Print Name	Sign
24. Nancy Carlson	Nancy Carlson
25. Rust Paulsen	Rust Paulsen
26. Edward Reber	Edward Reber
27. Cole Griffin	Cole Griffin
28.	
29.	
30.	

Print Name	Sign
49. Mary Stommel	Mary Stommel
50. Dorothy Van Haaften	Dorothy Van Haaften
51. Betty C. Oloff	Betty C. Oloff
52. Jane Henry	Jane Henry
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Treasurer's Report—Whitney St. Michel

Hope Lutheran Church and School* Income & Expense

Jan 01, 2021 through May 5, 2021

Account	Budgets	Actuals	% of Budget	Remaining
Income	\$342,500.00	\$250,447.02	73.12%	\$92,052.98
Tithes and Offerings	\$220,000.00	\$109,063.00	49.57%	\$110,937.00
Weekly Offerings	\$220,000.00	\$109,063.00	49.57%	\$110,937.00
Special Service Offerings	\$-	\$-	0.00%	\$-
Other Church income	\$22,500.00	\$101,247.08	449.99%	\$(78,747.08)
Directed Offerings	\$15,000.00	\$11,814.13	78.76%	\$3,185.87
Interest Income	\$2,500.00	\$11.73	0.47%	\$2,488.27
Misc. Income**	\$5,000.00	\$89,370.34	1787.41%	\$(84,370.34)
Investment Income	\$-	\$50.88	0.00%	\$(50.88)
Giving to the School	\$100,000.00	\$40,136.94	40.14%	\$59,863.06
Pass Thru Giving	\$100,000.00	\$40,136.94	40.14%	\$59,863.06
Employee Copays	\$-	\$-	0.00%	\$-
Expense	\$402,393.00	\$156,216.77	38.82%	\$246,176.23
Finance and Administration	\$38,650.00	\$10,781.27	27.89%	\$27,868.73
Janitorial (5110)	\$3,900.00	\$750.00	19.23%	\$3,150.00
Utilities (5120)	\$12,000.00	\$3,464.00	28.87%	\$8,536.00
Insurance (5170)	\$8,500.00	\$-	0.00%	\$8,500.00
Telephone / Internet (5180)	\$2,500.00	\$1,351.09	54.04%	\$1,148.91
Postage (5130)	\$500.00	\$61.85	12.37%	\$438.15
Office Supplies (5140)	\$1,750.00	\$84.85	4.85%	\$1,665.15
Miscellaneous (5190)	\$500.00	\$917.26	183.45%	\$(417.26)
Property Taxes Paid (5195)	\$-	\$322.48	0.00%	\$(322.48)
Mortgage Interest Paid (5196)	\$9,000.00	\$3,829.74	42.55%	\$5,170.26
Board of Directors	\$3,600.00	\$1,892.02	52.56%	\$1,707.98
Pastors Discretion (5210)	\$1,000.00	\$250.00	25.00%	\$750.00
Advertising (5220)	\$1,500.00	\$179.88	11.99%	\$1,320.12
BOD Misc (5230)	\$100.00	\$800.00	800.00%	\$(700.00)
Safety Committee (5240)	\$1,000.00	\$662.14	66.21%	\$337.86
Properties	\$40,000.00	\$13,484.87	33.71%	\$26,515.13
Maintenance and Improvements (5310)	\$35,000.00	\$6,420.64	18.34%	\$28,579.36
Street Assessments (5320)	\$5,000.00	\$7,064.23	141.28%	\$(2,064.23)

Elders	\$12,100.00	\$3,527.61	29.15%	\$8,572.39
Worship Supplies (5410)	\$4,000.00	\$801.57	20.04%	\$3,198.43
Confirmation (5420)	\$500.00	\$-	0.00%	\$500.00
Book Allowance (5430)	\$100.00	\$-	0.00%	\$100.00
Conferences and Conventions (5440)	\$3,000.00	\$176.04	5.87%	\$2,823.96
Worship Accompanist (5450)	\$3,000.00	\$2,550.00	85.00%	\$450.00
District and Assessments (5460)	\$1,000.00	\$-	0.00%	\$1,000.00
Synod and District Support (5465)	\$-	\$-	0.00%	\$-
Elders Misc (5460)	\$500.00	\$-	0.00%	\$500.00
Evangelism	\$2,200.00	\$80.23	3.65%	\$2,119.77
Evangelism Supplies (5510)	\$700.00	\$80.23	11.46%	\$619.77
Missionary Support (5520)	\$-	\$-	0.00%	\$-
VBS (5530)	\$1,500.00	\$-	0.00%	\$1,500.00
Parish Education	\$750.00	\$159.93	21.32%	\$590.07
Parish Education Expenses (5610)	\$750.00	\$159.93	21.32%	\$590.07
Stewardship	\$750.00	\$-	0.00%	\$750.00
Stewardship Expenses (5710)	\$250.00	\$-	0.00%	\$250.00
Camp Perkins Assessment (5720)	\$500.00	\$-	0.00%	\$500.00
Youth	\$500.00	\$1,971.20	394.24%	\$(1,471.20)
Youth Expenses (5810)	\$500.00	\$1,971.20	394.24%	\$(1,471.20)
Fellowship Committee	\$500.00	\$-	0.00%	\$500.00
Fellowship Expenses (5910)	\$500.00	\$-	0.00%	\$500.00
School Giving	\$100,000.00	\$17,204.61	17.20%	\$82,795.39
School Giving Pass Thru (6000)	\$100,000.00	\$17,204.61	17.20%	\$82,795.39
Donations Expense (7000)***	\$-	\$58,008.07	0.00%	\$(58,008.07)
Salaries and Benefits	\$203,343.00	\$49,106.96	24.15%	\$154,236.04
Pastor Salary and Travel	\$61,000.00	\$15,392.55	25.23%	\$45,607.45
Church Secretary Salary	\$15,450.00	\$4,241.76	27.45%	\$11,208.24
Director of Outreach Salary	\$25,493.00	\$2,199.79	8.63%	\$23,293.21
Fuel Allowance	\$2,400.00	\$400.00	16.67%	\$2,000.00
Church Benefits	\$53,500.00	\$18,805.56	35.15%	\$34,694.44
School Benefits	\$45,500.00	\$8,067.30	17.73%	\$37,432.70
Income less Expense	\$(59,893.00)	\$94,230.25	-157.33%	\$(154,123.25)

* Legal name is Hope Lutheran Church and School but this income and expense report is for church accounts. School accounts are kept in different software.

** Misc. Income includes \$79,100 forgiveness of 1st Payroll Protection Program loan. (2nd PPP loan is tracked in school accounts.)

*** Donations expenses include scholarships for Hope School students, missionary support, meals for Rescue Mission, etc.

Hope Lutheran Church and School Chart of Account Balances
Jan 01, 2021 through May 05, 2021

Account (*=Inactive)	Balance as of 2021-01-01	Balance as of 2021-5-5	Debits	Credits
Assets	\$178,702.02	\$190,856.89	\$331,537.02	\$319,382.15
Checking Accounts	\$34,521.96	\$49,249.55	\$305,326.12	\$290,598.53
Primary Checking	\$34,521.96	\$49,249.55	\$305,326.12	\$290,598.53
Unrestricted (Primary Checking)	\$(9,184.36)	\$25,328.88	\$276,846.99	\$242,333.75
Benevolent Fund	\$1,338.80	\$787.74	\$50.00	\$601.06
Bethesda Funds	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Braille Fund	\$-	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$-
Camp Perkins Scholarships	\$2,815.00	\$1,015.00	\$150.00	\$1,950.00
Chuck Rosenwinkel Memorial Fund	\$-	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$-
Church Choir and Music Fund	\$1,397.01	\$1,375.54	\$-	\$21.47
Church Special Events	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$-	\$-
Day School Giving	\$(615.00)	\$1,580.00	\$16,870.82	\$14,675.82
Day School Scholarship	\$5,850.00	\$430.00	\$3,205.00	\$8,625.00
District Donations	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$-	\$-
Fellowship Fund	\$142.70	\$142.70	\$-	\$-
Golf Tournament	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Harry Peterlin Memorial Fund	\$-	\$690.00	\$690.00	\$-
Hylton Eagle Project	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
LWML	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
LWML Holiday Fair	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
LWML Mites	\$-	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$-
Landscape Fund	\$1,339.58	\$1,519.58	\$180.00	\$-
Lasagna Dinner and Dessert Auction	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Missions Fund	\$920.00	\$1,975.00	\$2,880.00	\$1,825.00
Music	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Piano and Organ Fund	\$549.14	\$549.14	\$-	\$-
Praise Group	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$-	\$-
Properties Fund	\$-	\$(619.97)	\$40.00	\$659.97

Puerta Rico Missions Fund	\$-	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$-
Rescue Mission Dinner Fund	\$-	\$821.61	\$970.00	\$148.39
Retirement Celebration	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Sarah Bingham Memorial	\$119.40	\$119.40	\$-	\$-
School Sustainability Fund	\$19,500.00	\$-	\$-	\$19,500.00
Security System	\$1,950.00	\$3,902.86	\$2,115.00	\$162.14
Sound System Funds	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Special Service Flowers	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Sunday School Fund	\$345.19	\$259.57	\$10.31	\$95.93
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$-	\$628.00	\$628.00	\$-
Vacation Bible School	\$1,603.81	\$2,103.81	\$500.00	\$-
William Ash Memorial Fund	\$1,820.00	\$1,820.00	\$-	\$-
Youth Fund and Gathering	\$3,905.69	\$3,905.69	\$-	\$-
Savings Accounts	\$24,012.46	\$21,439.74	\$26,210.90	\$28,783.62
LCEF Properties*	\$19,630.84	\$19,640.86	\$10.02	\$-
Scholarship	\$4,381.62	\$1,798.88	\$26,200.88	\$28,783.62
Investment Accounts	\$120,167.60	\$120,167.60	\$-	\$-
Bank of Idaho Trust Department**	\$120,167.60	\$120,167.60	\$-	\$-
Liabilities	\$269,310.16	\$187,714.78	\$160,695.38	\$79,100.00
Long Term Liabilities	\$190,210.16	\$187,714.78	\$2,495.38	\$-
LCEF Mortgage	\$190,210.16	\$187,714.78	\$2,495.38	\$-
Short Term Liabilities	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
First PPP Loan	\$79,100.00	\$-	\$158,200.00	\$79,100.00
Assets less Liabilities	\$(90,608.14)	\$3,142.11		

*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 come from the proceeds of the sale of the modulars.")

Investment Account

(Holds both church and school funds to reach threshold for higher interest rate)

Hope Lutheran Church and School Income & Expense

Jan 01, 2021 through Mar 31, 2021

Account	Budgets Q1 2021	Actuals Q1 2021	% of Budget	Remaining
Income	\$-	\$3,161.45	0.00%	\$(3,161.45)
Investment Income	\$-	\$3,161.45	0.00%	\$(3,161.45)
Additional Investment	\$-	\$-	0.00%	\$-
Expense	\$-	\$25,774.33	0.00%	\$(25,774.33)
Investment Expenses	\$-	\$774.33	0.00%	\$(774.33)
Withdrawals	\$-	\$25,000.00	0.00%	\$(25,000.00)
Income less Expense	\$-	\$(22,612.88)	0.00%	\$22,612.88

Hope Lutheran Church and School Balance Sheet

Jan 01, 2021 through Mar 31, 2021

Account (*=Inactive)	Balance as of 2021-01-01	Balance as of 2021-03-31	Debits	Credits
Assets	\$531,264.51	\$508,651.63	\$3,161.45	\$25,774.33
Bank of Idaho Trust Department	\$531,264.51	\$508,651.63	\$3,161.45	\$25,774.33
Unrestricted (Bank of Idaho Trust Department)	\$(5.86)	\$(5.86)	\$-	\$-
Church Funds*	\$120,167.60	\$120,740.51	\$758.75	\$185.84
School Funds**	\$411,102.77	\$387,916.98	\$2,402.70	\$25,588.49
Liabilities	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Assets less Liabilities	\$531,264.51	\$508,651.63		

* Includes \$80K from sale of modulares "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 come from the proceeds of the sale of the modulares.")

**Includes \$240,073 Phyllis Berry bequest.

Reports of Administrative Boards

Board of Elders—Jim Oloff

2020

- Average church attendance: 73, Christmas Eve Services: 65, 68, Christmas Day: 52
- Membership Gains: 9
 - Adult baptism/confirmation: Blake Cook
 - Junior confirmation: Rostin Cook, Elizabeth Neff, Rachel Ruiz
 - Profession of faith: Susan Melvin
 - Transfer: Kurt & Roseanne Pavlat, Joyce Schoonover, Mary & Trevor Stommel
- Membership Losses: 4
 - Deceased: Thelma Petersen, Jim Frisbie
 - Transfer: Noah Oloff, Seth Siefken

Covid 19 Pandemic

- March 18: The elders voted to suspend the Wednesday Lenten services and soup suppers. Pastor will record a modified version of the service in keeping with the theme of the chief parts of the catechism.
- March 22 and 29 worship services will be by appointment. Pastor will do a 20-minute service with communion every thirty minutes from 9:00 to 12:00. Each service will be limited to 10 people. Worshipers are asked to call the office or email to reserve a time. Sunday morning Bible class was suspended.
- On March 28, 2020, the Elders suspended the March 29 public worship service by appointment in response to the stay-at-home order issued by the Governor of Idaho. The service will be recorded and posted to the website and Facebook.
- Worship Services: April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, recorded and posted online. Included Holy Week Services, and Easter Sunday.
- Sunday services for May 10 will be by appointment. Pastor will do a 20-minute service with communion every thirty minutes from 9:00-12:00. Each service will be limited to 10 people. Worshipers are asked to call the office or email to reserve a time.
- Sunday, May 17, there will be two worship services, 8:30 and 10:30, with Bible class at 9:30.
- A Monday evening service at 6:30 was started on June 29. The service requires all participants to wear a mask. The service is a simplified version of Sunday morning (same readings), no communion.
- Hope Lutheran will continue with two Sunday morning services, 8:30 and 10:30; Bible Class at 9:30.

2021 –January-April

- Attendance: Average: 80, Easter: 120 (total for 3 services)
- Membership Gains: 4
 - Profession of faith: Kent Whitehead
 - Transfer: Allen & Pam Eberle, Lynette Smith
- Membership Losses: 2
 - Deceased: Harry Peterlin, Chuck Rosenwinkel
- April: Members of the congregation will be assigned an elder based on the alphabetical listing of their last name.

Board of Evangelism—Jamie Gibson

- Many of the events that Evangelism sponsors were cancelled in 2020 due to Covid.

- Hosted a drive thru/online VBS for summer 2020, around 60 children participated.
- Hosted a drive thru Easter Egg hunt in April 2021, gave out 150 bags with booklets from The Lutheran Hour, candy, and toys to the community.

Board of Education—Vacant

Parish Education—Brenda Pay

- Letters were sent in the fall to families with children from toddler to high school graduate (and beyond) in August, informing them of parish educational opportunities and activities.
- Attendance Averages from Sept. 2020 – April 2021:
 - Sunday morning Bible class: 25
 - Sunday School: was 4, now 5 (since Easter)
 - Tuesday morning Bible class: 11

Day School—Vacant

Committee Update

- We have had two meetings without a chairman
- We have a candidate to fill the vacant chairman position
- Pastor is serving as Secretary
- The Administrative Team has attended committee meetings

Staff Update

- Rather than one person as school administrator we have an Administrative Team:
 - Pastor Pay: Staffing, Team Building, Enrollment, Congregational Liaison, Day-to-Day
 - Shawnee McKinnon: Parent interaction, Child behavior, Early Childhood Lead, Summer program lead, Tours, Day-to-Day
 - Bryan Northcutt: Enrollment, Curriculum, Elementary Teacher Lead, Day-to-Day
- Becky Reber will not be returning next year.
 - We thank her for her service in a very complex first year and look forward to her possibly working in a part-time capacity with the children
 - We have an applicant for the 3-4th grade job but are doing a bit more searching before extending a contract
- All other staff are returning and we hope to get contracts out with a revised pay scale by the end of this month
- Documents for Bryan's colloquy were submitted
- We are looking to add part-time aides (4 hours a week) to help with multigrade teaching – anyone interested?

Financials

- Ed Reber, our newly elected day school treasurer, is working on reconciling finances. Ron Clayton, the immediate past day school treasurer, is working on reconciling last year's accounts—he is up through August.
- As of May 4, 2021, there was \$23K in the school's checking account, \$74K in school savings, and \$18K in school reserves. (Does not include assets from Phyllis Berry's estate or PTO accounts.)

Enrollment

- Current enrollment: 60 students, 38 in K-6 and 22 in early childhood

- Enrollment Projections
 - Pastor took TADS training and opened enrollment for next year. We had three applications last year in April, we had 11 this year. We gained the most applications (by far) in August of last year, we are hoping for a similar increase. However, we may get fewer in August this year, as Covid may have sent some families our way because of public school responses to Covid.
 - We have a total of 22 students enrolled for next year; as usual there are smaller numbers in the upper grades.
 - We project a FULL early childhood program (Modular anyone?) and kindergarten already has 9 students enrolled.

Looking Back and School Happenings

- The COVID response was not easy, but well done. Thanks to our staff and previous administrator—lots of resiliency, tough decisions, and tech support!
- Teacher in-service with presentations by Pastor, Shawnee, and Melanie
- Boise trip!
- Spelling Bee – Thanks, Mr. Oloff!
- Academic Fair
- Spring Carnival
- Yearbooks
- Weekly Chapel and Books of the Bible Challenge

Looking Ahead

- Fundraising
 - Will send out end-of-year letter this month
 - Look for scrip sales again!
 - We will have a presentation to bring to our Circuit Congregations
 - Who wants to get beat by Pastor in Golf this summer!? Golf Tournament supports the Scholarship Fund
- Grants and the Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) for at-risk families have been helping, and will continue to help, fund our early childhood program
- Advertising: Look for us around town as we are exploring some affordable advertising and look for us online as we updated the website and are boosting google ratings and Facebook ads.
- Every day hot lunch is coming next year – this makes us money. We may need some kitchen adjustments
- Summer Program is a go and enrollment looks good
 - Thanks, Betty for sharing Jesus with the summer program students
 - Van will be put to good use!
- Can we get an IdahoSTARS approved playground? I think it is an exciting challenge. Look for proposals / quotes soon.
- Elementary program: We got new computers last year, look for new curriculum, new teacher aides, and maybe some new play equipment for them too!

Summary: The Challenges are real, but I think we are rising to meet them. We certainly did this year! We are hopeful and excited for another year of Christian Lutheran Education in Idaho Falls. We could not do it without your support and hope to keep you updated on the ups and downs, blessings and challenges of school ministry here in Idaho Falls.

Board of Stewardship—Roger Henry

Various announcements and emails were made throughout the year. Focus has been on encouraging members to be Eph 2:10 Christians by putting their faith into action/service with an emphasis the process of “head to heart to hands” and being more outreach- and service-oriented to our members and neighbors. Copies of Max Lucado’s book *Anxious for Nothing* were distributed to the congregation to help address the anxiety many were experiencing from the concerns of the pandemic. The 40 Day Challenge book was also made available to the congregation. At Easter, a booklet called *The Case for Easter* by Lee Strobel were made available for members to share with friends and family who may not know Christ. Another booklet called *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel was also distributed to the congregation. These booklets were intended to be resources for those doing the 40-day challenge, which included the challenge to share the message of Christ with five people (Day 38).

Board of Church Property—Lindy Roth

- Minor repairs to the exterior of the church included fixing fascia trim, door stop repair, leveling doors, etc.
- Replaced the 4 ft fence with a 6 ft fence at the south side of the west parking lot to close off the play yard and soccer field.
- Replaced concrete on the west side of the building.
- Seal coated the parking lot areas with cracks to extend the life of the asphalt.
- Updated building locks giving us the ability to issue keys to people to access unique areas of the building based on need.
- Started the conversion of lighting to LED as old fixtures fail.
- Sound system issues resolved with the assistance of Phase 4.
- Idaho Falls Water has installed water meters so we need to start planning on water conservation measures to reduce our bill which will be hefty in the summer months.
- Started furnace project in late 2020 to provide easy access to filters so they can be replaced per a planned maintenance schedule to extend the life of our furnaces. Project completed in April 2021 as the COVID caused a supply chain disruption in needed materials.

Board of Youth Ministry—Betty Oloff

We began 2020-2021 with about eleven youth, newly confirmed through high school students. Pastor sent a letter to each of the families with children going into ninth grade through twelfth grade describing activities planned for the school year and a calendar of tentative dates for activities. These included monthly *Campfire with Pastor* chats as well as social and service activities. The youth

- Had a picnic and hike at the rest area on I-15 south of Idaho Falls
- Raked Dennis and Becky Keiser's yard. (The girls divided the money Becky paid.)
- Filled the bags given out to children at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. We had enough to bring 35 bags to The Haven after Christmas for those children.
- Went sledding at Freeman Park.
- Filled Easter bags with booklets from The Lutheran Hour and candy and toys.

Around 17 students will or may attend Camp Perkins this summer; scholarship money will be paid to Camp for most of those families. A church/school garage sale is planned for Saturday, May 8. Proceeds will be used for scholarships to Camp Perkins in 2022.

Report on Facility Use Motion—Myrtle Siefken, secretary

The February 2021 the voters meeting was asked “Is it the sense of the voters that we should allow the gates to be open during non-school daylight hours for unrestricted use with no Hope member present. Shall the Board of Directors be instructed to insert a section into the Facility Use Policy allowing such use?” The motion carried. In response, Nancy Carlson, Dave Van Haaften, and Kurt Pavlat were appointed to work with Myrtle Siefken to draft a policy and implementing steps (signs, administrative procedures, etc.).

The committee drafted proposed policy amendments and signs to post on the fence, had the language reviewed by an attorney, and presented the results to the Board along with a suggested procedure and forms for carrying out the policy. The policy was adopted by the Board; a minor change was made to the sign wording. Sign vendors have been contacted and that information is scheduled to be presented to the Board on May 11.

Communicant Members Accepted into Voting Membership

Ash, Margaret	Griffith, Taylor	Peterlin, Nyla
Becker, Christopher	Henry, Jane	Phelan, Philip
Biermann, Charles	Henry, Roger	Reber, Edward
Biermann, Sandra	Holzworth, Robert	Ritter, John
Carlson, Nancy	Jepsen, JoAnn	Ritter, Tara
Eberle, Allen	Jepsen, William “Bill”	St. Michel, Whitney
Eberle, Pamela	Oloff, Betty	Siefken, Myrtle
Gibson, Jamie	Oloff, James	Stommel, Mary
Glick, Vivian	Pavlat, Kurt	Van Haaften, David
Griffith, Cora	Pay, Brenda	Van Haaften, Dorothy

Regional Council for Christian Ministry (RCCM)

Hope Lutheran is a member church of the Regional Council for Christian Ministry (RCCM) and it is being proposed that we withdraw our membership.

BACKGROUND:

Hope Lutheran Church is currently a member church of The Regional Council for Christian Ministry, Inc. (RCCM). RCCM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, religious corporation that was organized in 1967 by local churches in the greater Idaho Falls area. **Its purpose is to coordinate programs in Christian education, service, and outreach in the greater Idaho Falls area.** RCCM houses three standing committees that operate outreach: Island Park Ministry, Community Food Basket—Idaho Falls, and Friends in Service Here (FISH).

REASONS TO WITHDRAW FROM RCCM:

RCCM is fundamentally a good organization and does much for the community. However, it appears that it is becoming less faithful to the Scriptures. There is increasing involvement of non-Christian individuals and organizations who are becoming very influential and partnering with RCCM to participate in joint-led activities (even though some of the activities are worthwhile).

We are not to become unequally yoked with unbelievers . . . (2 Corinthians 6:14). Examples:

- RCCM is partnering in functions, activities, and worship with the “Idaho Falls Interfaith Community” which is open to all area churches, including ones that are non-Christian. While this group supports some worthwhile local efforts, it also is host of the Interfaith Thanksgiving worship services and has been supportive of some liberal political events.
- Currently, 50 percent of the RCCM member churches are pastored by women, which is certainly not “faithful to the Scriptures.” 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 tell us that the qualifications of a pastor (elder, overseer, pastor) are only fulfilled by men.
- A couple from the LDS church have been added as ex-officio members. That couple is becoming increasingly influential within the RCCM and they have recently been placed on the Community Food Basket board.
- An objection has been raised as to RCCM’s involvement with the Island Park Ministry because of Bylaw 3.9.5.4.1 of the LCMS Handbook. It states, “Pastors and congregations must avoid membership or participation in any organization that in its objectives, ceremonies, or practices is inimical* to the Gospel of Jesus Christ or the faith and life of the Christian church.”
[*inimical: adverse in tendency or effect, unfavorable, harmful.]
- Also recently, the Seventh Day Adventist Church was added as a member church even though some question whether that organization is truly Christian or not.

Therefore, it is proposed that Hope Lutheran withdraw its membership from the RCCM. This is being brought before the voters of the congregation because, according to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Regional Council for Christian Ministry, Inc., “The membership in RCCM may be withdrawn by the governing body of the congregation at any time.”