

Hope Lutheran Church Information for Voters

The regular January meeting of the Hope Lutheran Church voters will be held on January 23rd at approximately 11:45 a.m. Our bylaws specify that at this meeting we receive an update on the financial condition of the church and school. No other business is mandated by the bylaws but voters may introduce business. Officer, board, and committee reports of activities since the last voters meeting are included in this document after the agenda.

- Opening prayer.
- Vote on applications for voting membership.
- Approval of November 21, 2021, minutes.
- Treasurer's report on church and school finances, Whitney St. Michel (page 2)
- Board reports.
 - Board of Elders, Gary Thinnies (page 8)
 - Day School Board, Bob Holzworth (page 8)
 - Board of Outreach, Jamie Gibson (page 8)
 - Board of Youth Ministry, Betty Oloff (page 9)
 - Board of Property, Nancy Carlson (page 10)
- Committee reports.
 - Strategic Planning Committee, Kurt Pavlat (page 11)
 - Safety Committee, Christopher Becker (page 11)
- Pastor's Report (page 11)
- New business
- Closing prayer

Officer, Board, and Committee Reports

Treasurer and Board of Finance

2021 End-of-Year Financial Report

Church and School Finances

A summary of account balances for all Church and School bank accounts is given below. Not reflected are values of Hope Lutheran Church and School properties.

Cash Assets

Account	Amount	Date
Church Checking	\$ 43,575.14	12/31/2021
Church Spending	\$ 3,984.68	12/31/2021
School Checking	\$ 56,343.48	12/31/2021
School Savings ¹	\$ 55,716.23	12/31/2021
School Spending	\$ 5,686.94	12/31/2021
School Reserves	\$ 23,648.24	12/31/2021
School Scholarships	\$ 181.59	12/31/2021
Bank of Idaho-Church ²	\$ 120,167.60	7/9/2021
Bank of Idaho-School ²	\$ 388,590.62	7/9/2021
Thrivent Mutual Fund ³	\$ 110,070.67	12/31/2021
LCEF ⁴	\$ 19,663.38	12/31/2021

Total Cash Assets \$ 814,677.09

Liabilities

Account	Amount	Date
LCEF-Mortgage	\$ 178,232.02	12/31/2021

Total Liabilities \$ 178,232.02

1. Includes \$50,862 from the Phyllis Berry real estate contract
2. Bank of Idaho – Accounts set up with funds identified in following table
3. Thrivent Mutual Fund is 2 school endowment funds
4. LCEF – Account designated as building funds. November 12, 2017, voters minutes.

Bank of Idaho-Church	Initial Investment	Withdrawals
Church Building – Properties	\$23,365.40	
Church Checking	\$15,350.00	
Early Childhood Build*	\$80,141.07	
Bank of Idaho-School		
School Savings**	\$343,294.24	
School Reserves	\$83,632.55	\$45,000***

*From sale of modulars “to be used for purchasing a permanent steel building.” Voters minutes, May 15, 2016.

**Includes \$240,073 from the Phyllis Berry estate

***School purchases and van

Church Detail

Comments on 2021 budget and spending

- Thank you to everyone for their generous donations in 2021. General offerings exceeded budget which helped offset our 2021 shortfall. Designated donations were spent as identified in the table below.
- The 2021 budget vs. actuals and income vs expenses are summarized in the following pages.
- Misc. Income includes \$79,100 forgiveness of the first Payroll Protection Program loan. (The second PPP loan is tracked in school accounts.) Although the loan was obtained in August 2020, it was forgiven in February 2021 at which time the money was included as income.

Restricted Donations (Donations Expense in Income vs Expense Chart)

When donations are received that the donor restricts to be used for a particular purpose, e.g. Braille, it is included in the Income vs. Expense table as income under Directed Offerings and when it is used under Donations Expense. This table shows what restricted donations were used for.

Fund	Amount	Information
2020-21 Scholarships	\$ 34,446.12	17 Scholarships
2021-22 Scholarships	\$ 10,450.00	11 Scholarships
Landscape	\$ 750.00	Lawn, fertilization, landscape
Missions	\$ 5,310.00	Puerto Rico Missionaries-Wilde, Neuendorf, Lehr, Lehman
IF Rescue Mission	\$ 1,271.06	Meals and Donation
Benevolence	\$ 750.00	Scrip cards for Pastor's discretion
Camp Perkins Scholarships	\$ 1,390.00	6 Camperships
Hope Lutheran Youth	\$ 29.00	Graduate
William Ash Memorial	\$ 900.00	Landscaping front beds
Piano & Organ	\$ 275.00	Tuning
VBS	\$ 1,248.77	Summer 2021 VBS
Choir & Music	\$ 171.50	Music and Copyright Permission
LCMS Northwest District	\$ 1,000.00	
Fellowship	\$ 25.51	
Properties	\$ 5,577.47	Photocells exterior lights, LED conversion, furnace repair, sewer work, pest control
Sarah Bingham Memorial	\$ 123.75	Chimes music

Chart of Account Balances

	Balance as of 2021-01-01	Balance as of 2021-12-31
Assets	\$ 178,702.02	\$ 180,617.70
Checking Accounts	\$ 34,521.96	\$ 40,607.22
Primary Checking	\$ 34,521.96	\$ 40,607.22
Unrestricted (Primary Checking)	\$ 10,315.64	\$ 11,697.19
Benevolent Fund	\$ 1,338.80	\$ 287.74
Braille Fund	\$ -	\$ 55.00
Camp Perkins Scholarships	\$ 2,815.00	\$ 3,019.50
Chuck Rosenwinkel Memorial Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Church Choir and Music Fund	\$ 1,397.01	\$ 1,259.69
Church Special Events	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Day School Scholarship	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 200.00
District Donations	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Fellowship Fund	\$ 142.70	\$ 117.19
Harry Peterlin Memorial Fund	\$ -	\$ 690.00
Landscape Fund	\$ 1,339.58	\$ 2,875.08
Missions Fund	\$ 920.00	\$ 360.00
Piano and Organ Fund	\$ 549.14	\$ 274.14
Praise Group	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Properties Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Puerto Rico Missions Fund	\$ -	\$ 75.00
Rescue Mission Dinner Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Sarah Bingham Memorial	\$ 119.40	\$ -
Security System	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 3,902.86
Sunday School Fund	\$ 345.19	\$ 268.57
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ -	\$ -
Vacation Bible School	\$ 1,603.81	\$ 1,343.80
William Ash Memorial Fund	\$ 1,820.00	\$ 930.00
Youth Fund and Gathering	\$ 3,905.69	\$ 3,951.46
Savings Accounts	\$ 24,012.46	\$ 19,842.88
LCEF Properties*	\$ 19,630.84	\$ 19,663.38
Scholarship	\$ 4,381.62	\$ 181.59
Investment Accounts	\$ 120,167.60	\$ 120,167.60
Bank of Idaho Trust Department**	\$ 120,167.60	\$ 120,167.60
Long Term Liabilities	\$ 190,210.16	\$ 178,232.02
LCEF Mortgage	\$ 190,210.16	\$ 178,232.02

* 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.

Church Income versus Expense

Account	Budget, 2021	Actual, 2021	% of Budget
Income	\$342,500.00	\$511,766.94	149.42%
Tithes and Offerings	\$220,000.00	\$263,399.94	119.73%
Other Church income	\$22,500.00	\$136,313.06	605.84%
Directed Offerings	\$15,000.00	\$40,843.13	272.29%
Interest Income	\$2,500.00	\$243.20	9.73%
Misc. Income*	\$5,000.00	\$94,724.98	1894.50%
Investment Income	\$0.00	\$501.75	0.00%
Giving to the School	\$100,000.00	\$112,053.94	112.05%
Pass Thru Giving	\$100,000.00	\$112,053.94	112.05%
Expense	\$401,813.00	\$428,689.98	106.69%
Finance And Administration	\$38,650.00	\$46,491.32	120.29%
Janitorial (5110)	\$3,900.00	\$4,008.13	102.77%
Utilities (5120)	\$12,000.00	\$8,583.00	71.53%
Insurance (5170)	\$8,500.00	\$7,901.00	92.95%
Telephone / Internet (5180)	\$2,500.00	\$4,149.97	166.00%
Postage (5130)	\$500.00	\$605.11	121.02%
Office Supplies (5140)	\$1,750.00	\$661.54	37.80%
Miscellaneous (5190)	\$500.00	\$1,982.01	396.40%
Property Taxes Paid (5195)	\$0.00	\$1,206.48	0.00%
Mortgage	\$0.00	\$10,938.41	0.00%
Mortgage Interest Paid (5196)	\$9,000.00	\$6,455.67	71.73%
Board of Directors	\$3,600.00	\$5,261.46	146.15%
Pastors Discretion (5210)	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Advertising (5220)	\$1,500.00	\$2,172.96	144.86%
BOD Misc (5230)	\$100.00	\$2,154.75	2154.75%
Safety Committee (5240)	\$1,000.00	\$933.75	93.38%
Properties	\$40,000.00	\$36,661.80	91.65%
Maintenance and Improvements (5310)	\$35,000.00	\$29,597.57	84.56%
Street Assessments (5320)	\$5,000.00	\$7,064.23	141.28%
Elders	\$12,100.00	\$9,302.49	76.88%
Worship Supplies (5410)	\$4,000.00	\$2,430.16	60.75%
Confirmation (5420)	\$500.00	\$322.47	64.49%
Book Allowance (5430)	\$100.00	\$64.99	64.99%
Conferences and Conventions (5440)	\$3,000.00	\$251.04	8.37%
Worship Accompanist (5450)	\$3,000.00	\$5,900.00	196.67%
Elders Misc (5460)	\$500.00	\$333.83	66.77%
Evangelism	\$2,200.00	\$405.64	18.44%
Evangelism Supplies (5510)	\$700.00	\$374.40	53.49%
VBS (5530)	\$1,500.00	\$31.24	2.08%
Parish Education	\$750.00	\$337.46	44.99%
Parish Education Expenses (5610)	\$750.00	\$337.46	44.99%
Stewardship	\$750.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Youth	\$500.00	\$75.43	15.09%
Fellowship Committee	\$500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
School Giving	\$100,000.00	\$83,281.65	83.28%

Account	Budget, 2021	Actual, 2021	% of Budget
School Giving Pass Thru (6000)	\$100,000.00	\$83,281.65	83.28%
Donations Expense (7000)**	\$0.00	\$104,739.43	0.00%
Salaries and Benefits	\$202,763.00	\$142,133.30	70.10%
Pastor Salary and Fuel	\$62,820.00	\$57,672.55	91.81%
Church Secretary Salary	\$15,450.00	\$14,642.01	94.77%
Director of Outreach Salary	\$25,493.00	\$2,199.79	8.63%
Church Benefits	\$53,500.00	\$34,817.97	65.08%
School Benefits	\$45,500.00	\$32,800.98	72.09%
Income less Expense	-\$59,313.00	\$83,076.96	-140.07%

* 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 School, Calendar Year 2021

CY2021				
Revenue	1100 Registration	\$ 6,337	5100 Salaries/5200 Wages	\$ 296,049
	1200 Tuition (PS, PK)	\$ 72,741	5500 Benefits-Co. Contrib	\$ 13,351
	1220 Tuition (K-6th)	\$ 109,102	5550 Employer Taxes	\$ 21,393
	Scholarships-Tuition (K-6th)	\$ 46,696	5600 Continuing Education	\$ 1,953
	1300 Extended Care	\$ 7,265	5000 Total Payroll Expenses	\$ 332,746
	1400 Lunch/1420 Milk Fees	\$ 6,880	6100 Software Cost	\$ 7,519
	1500 Summer Program	\$ 11,124	6220 EC Supplies (PS,PK)	\$ 1,004
	Other	\$ (111)	6260 Elem. Supplies (1st-6th)	\$ 2,699
	1000 Tuition & Fee Revenue	\$ 260,032	6300 Curriculum	\$ 23,920
	2000 Donations	\$ 97,839	6400 Lunch Program	\$ 11,775
	* Donations (CY2020)	\$ 33,166	6600 Technology Equip.	\$ 4,465
	* Estate Donation	\$ 54,215	6910 EC Grant Expense	\$ 37,728
	* 3100 Early Childhood Grant	\$ 67,230	7000 Off/Gen Admin Expense	\$ 21,249
	3200 EC Wage Enh. Grant	\$ 4,620	** School Funded Scholarships	\$ 25,000
	3300 Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 1,117	7600 Janitorial Services	\$ 22,492
	* 3900 COVID PPP Loan	\$ 81,629	** Van Purchase	\$ 22,055
	4000 Spread Spectrum Lease	\$ 12,000	Other Expenditures	\$ 7,708
	4900 Pass Through (Church)	\$ 9,798	6000 Total Other Expense	\$ 187,613
	Everything else	\$ 1,466	Total Expense	\$ 520,359
	Total Other Revenue	\$ 363,081	Total Net Revenue	\$ 102,754
	Total Revenue	\$ 623,113		

One-Time Revenues	Amount
* PPP Loan	\$81,629
* Estate Donation	\$54,215
* Early Childhood Grant	\$67,230
* Donations (CY2020)	\$33,166
Total	\$236,240
One-Time Expenses	Amount
** Van Purchase	\$22,055
** School Funded Scholarships	\$25,000
Total	\$47,055
Net Revenue for 2021	\$102,754
One-Time Revenues	(\$236,240)
One-Time Expenses	\$47,055
Funds Needed without Non-Renewing Revenue/ Expenses	(\$86,431)
Dec 31, 2021 Checking/Savings Total Balance	\$141,395

* Donations (CY2020) - Offerings/Donations given to the church between July 2020-Dec 2020, but not transferred to the School Checking until Jan 2021

** School Scholarships - School gave \$25K of scholarships not covered by donations. The rest of the \$46,696 of scholarships were covered by donations.

4900 Pass Through (Church) - Money given to the school by the church to cover some expenses paid for by the church.

Board of Elders

- Transfers out of the congregation:
 - Lori Shotzman to Nebraska
 - Maddie Phelan to Salt Lake City
- Transfer into the congregation:
 - James Zillinger from Grace, Pocatello
- Board of Elders is considering a replacement for John Ritter who will be retiring from the board soon.
- Pastor Pay's Circuit pastoral duties of may require a change in Hope's Sunday services. Crown of Life in Rigby is vacant and may require his temporary preaching services—the situation is under discussion. Such a sharing situation would need to be approved in a voters meeting.

Day School Board

1. Enrollment is at 66 students and rising. More than \$41,000 was donated in December and early January. See the HLCA financial report.
2. Good communications exist with the faculty, staff, and parents.
3. Plans are to improve communications to the congregation with HLCA updates/successes at voter's meetings, Sunday services, and routine presentations.
4. Fundraising is continuing with a strong finish in 2021 and planning for 2022 activities. Soliciting continues with local commercial, industrial, institutional, and medical firms.
5. A contract has been signed with Elliot Color Box Media in Pocatello for marketing support, plans and services as determined to be cost-effective to improve HLCA market awareness.
6. Presentations and tours to regional churches have begun.
7. Outreach includes boots-on-the ground with the Hope Outreach Mission: "Inner Circles"; School Parents; Grandparents; Congregation members; all making one-on-one appeals.
8. Numerous ideas for fundraising are being considered, planned, and implemented.
9. The Properties Board has supported the school operations with a service of excellence. A superior Hot Lunch program is now being served.
10. The HLCA Administration Staff have also provided a service of excellence.
11. Coordination is being made with Hope's Strategic Planning Committee for school growth.
12. Maintaining a high level of security and safety is paramount and coordination with the Safety Committee is underway.
13. Impact to operations by the COVID-19 pandemic to staff and students is being addressed and minimized.

Board of Outreach

We are planning the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Vacation Bible School. Support for missionaries in Puerto Rico continues.

You are encouraged to take advantage of the “Missions Unpacked” LCMS Zoom presentations.
<https://calendar.lcms.org/event/missions-unpacked-jan2022/>

NO LUGGAGE IS NEEDED! For four weeks, without leaving your home, you can travel, explore the world, and learn how God is working through LCMS International Missions. “Missions Unpacked” is a free, online mission education experience offered by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Office of International Mission. Beginning January 24, 2022, opportunities to learn about the mission work happening in one region of the world will be available each week. Experience the local culture of a specific region through language, food, and dance, and meet missionaries in live Zoom presentations.

The four regions you will learn more about are:

- ASIA (His work: sharing the Gospel, showing mercy, providing education, and planting churches) Jan. 24–30
- AFRICA (His work: participating in God’s mission, while respecting the culture and worship) Jan. 31–Feb. 6
- EURASIA (His work: spreading God’s life-saving Word where Christianity has almost disappeared) Feb. 7–13
- LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (His work: spreading the Gospel, assisting 43 church plants in 14 countries) Feb. 14–2

Each week links to the various sessions will be delivered by email to each registered participant. Monday through Friday sessions can be viewed as the participant’s schedule allows. The general weekly “Mission Unpacked” schedule includes:

Monday: Watch a video about LCMS International Mission’s work in one of four global regions (30 minutes).

Tuesday–Friday: Select from a list of short 2–10 minute YouTube videos and other sessions. Art projects or recipe sessions could last an hour if you choose to shop for supplies/ingredients and follow along. You can attend all of the sessions or pick and choose as time allows. Scheduled activities include:

- Tour a historic plaza;
- Try out a traditional dance step;
- Learn a prayer in a local language;
- Prepare a typical dish;

And more!

Saturday: Live missionary presentation via Zoom (1 hour).

Register online at <https://form.jotform.com/203175626437962>

Board of Youth Ministry

Four youth and eight adults wrapped the Angel Tree presents to send to children of incarcerated parents and stuffed gift bags for the children who attend Christmas Eve services. We filled 40 bags and had about 30 left. We had 13 students read and/or sing in the Cantata, December 12. Brenda put in a lot of time to teach her children the words to the songs the children sang. Children who attended the Christmas Day service rang jingle bells for “Joy to the World” as in years past.

One sixth grader attended the youth retreat at Camp Perkins in January. We partnered with St. John in registration and transportation.

Four families agreed to have their child’s name sent to Synod to receive mailings from the Concordias to see if a synodical college is for them.

Board of Property

The Property Board members are:

- Nancy Carlson – Director & Secretary
- Dave Van Haaften – tree & shrub care and knowledge of plumbing
- Kurt Pavlat – general fixing & Day School needs
- Blake Cook – licensed electrician
- Noel Duckwitz – sprinkler & grounds guru and knowledge expert on building systems
- Dave Nell – working knowledge of building and general fixing skills
- Rosie Pavlat – kitchen

Property Board members, volunteers, and responsive vendors completed the following major activities since the November 21, 2021, voters meeting:

- Over the school's Christmas vacation Commercial Cleaning, our new janitorial service, stripped and rewaxed the gym floor, school hallways, and vinyl floor in the grade 3-4 classroom. Also, they cleaned classroom carpets, spot-cleaned church hallway carpets, and cleaned all traffic areas in the sanctuary.
- HLS senior administrator and Property Board member, Kurt Pavlat, contacted Jared Stucki for his assistance in replacing the flagpole rope. Due to age the rope failed and needed to be restrung. Jared handled the lift rental and rope and hardware replacement.
- Holden Electric removed old Kitchen Aide ovens and installed the new ovens in the kitchen. They discovered that the old ovens likely failed as they were not wired correctly—wrong size circuit breaker and neutral and ground wired together (a big No No).
- Contract signed with Peak Alarm to install fob reader on one of south classroom doors aligned with guidance from the Safety Committee. Peak is ordering the needed components and will do installation on a Friday hopefully in January.
- Dave Nell installed door sweeps on several exterior doors with missing sweeps and wide gaps. The plan is to wait until spring to repair thresholds as they are also contributing to the gap.
- Replacement of furnace filters is under way starting with the numerous filters in the church and school hallway ceilings. It appears that changing the filters every 3 months when furnaces are in use should work for our planned maintenance approach to keeping on top of the furnace system's needs. Property will be evaluating the efficacy of the last Property Director's approach to having numerous filters in all cold air returns rather than simply replacing filters at each furnace.
- First Street Plumbing cleared the church sewer line the entire way to the street as we had a huge blockage (again).
- All-Star RV Repair has been busy moving snow in the parking lot. Volunteers have cleared church and school sidewalks and pulled down snow and ice from the roof to prevent ice dams and water damage.
- Property is working over the winter to document our various building and grounds systems. The goal is to develop user-friendly system building maps detailing the location of critical components, planned maintenance (PM) schedules, and checklists to keep systems fully operational. Systems we are addressing are:

- ✓ **Heating System:** Furnace locations, fuel source (gas or electric), which thermostat controls which furnace, and locations of furnace filters as they are not at the furnace but in the cold air returns. Develop a checklist for filter inspection and replacement & a checklist for battery replacement in all digital thermostats.
- ✓ **Power panels:** Locations of the three power panels, what areas of the building each panel controls, verify breakers are correctly labeled and prepare an orderly listing of breakers (typed and then laminated) to place on the back of the power panel door replacing the numerous paper tabs on breakers.
- ✓ **Safety lighting system:** Blake has prepared the PM checklist and schedule for this system. Just need a map of locations of safety lighting system as several emergency lights are in locations that are not obvious.
- ✓ **Life Safety including AED, first aid kits, fire extinguishers:** Locations of these items, PM schedule for each, formal checklist to verify all items are operational and supplies are current (not expired) completed on a regular interval by Safety Committee with assistance from Property Board.
- ✓ **Fire alarm system:** Location of annunciator panels, health monitor panel and CO sensors. PM schedule for testing that CO sensors are operational. Not sure if we need location of all pull stations but that would be helpful.
- ✓ **Water system (building):** Location of main shutoff, all three water heaters plus heater power source (gas or electric) & heater size, and all isolation valves. PM schedule for how often we need to exercise the isolation valves and checklist for the checker to use.
- ✓ **Sewer cleanouts:** Locations and areas they cover plus sewer cleanout access in the kitchen.
- ✓ **Kitchen:** *Discussed kitchen with Rosie in advance of the meeting. She stated only the dish washer requires regular maintenance.* Currently Jon Peirsol of JBP Enterprises, Inc. keeps water softener filled, changes dish washer chemicals as needed, and does all dish washer maintenance. His company also handles all the bathroom consumable items as well—he does our needs inventory and delivers consumables each week.
- ✓ **Grounds sprinkler system:** Location of control panels in building and outside zones they control plus winterizing process.

Strategic Planning Committee

The strategic planning committee's first formal meeting will be conducted later this month when everyone is healthy.

Safety Committee

The Safety Committee is currently working with the Board of Properties to update the facility key policy.

Pastor's Report

Christ, the King of Hope

Matthew 2:1-2: Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

It is still Epiphany as I sit down to write my January report. In Chapel we talked about how Jesus is the greatest King. Kings have authority, they have riches, they have military might. Evil and wicked kings use these gifts to oppress their subjects and advance themselves. Good kings use

these for the good of their subjects. Great kings will even sacrifice for their subjects—we might think of great kings riding into battle along with their troops.

But Jesus is the greatest King. His riches are not in gold or silver, no, the wise men found him poor and lowly, not in a palace. His riches are his ownership of all things and a throne in heaven. Yet he sets it aside to join us in a fallen world. His authority is the greatest. Winds, waves, the sick, the dead, the demons—they all obey the word of the King. But he does not use this absolute authority to serve himself, he uses it in works of compassion towards others. And finally, Jesus is a King with great might. Legions of angels are at his command and he can speak a word of judgment that no one could possibly refute. Yet, he sets his might aside for a while, and lets wicked men and the forces of evil and darkness overcome him on the cross. He dies. But not even death—unmatched by any king—can contain his might. So he rises victorious, winning for all his subjects eternal victory.

Let us join the wise men in, so wisely, worshiping this King! Why would we worship any other!?

In a world with so many distractions and temptations, let us hold fast to the King and his words of law and gospel that are for us. In a world with budgets and spreadsheets, and a roller-coaster of concerning trends and positive growth let us take courage—the King still reigns! And he has promised that his Church will not be overcome, nor his people.

As we, people of Hope, gather to worship the King and take part in the King's command to baptize and teach all nations, let us remember that this is no small thing! This is a privilege and honor. It is a privilege to receive the undeserved gifts of God in worship, it's an honor to be a "doorkeeper" and servant for the King of Glory. And it is a blessing to do both together with you all. We have different interests, incomes, backgrounds, gifts, and skills but we have one King, a King that gives us Hope!

Pastor's Report

As we look at the dollars and cents and our financial state, please note that it is our desire to be good stewards with the gifts we have been given. And, while there is always room for questions and conversation, please be aware of the many ways we use this money to advance the gospel.

There is, obviously, our school ministry. I am pleased to report that we have at least one school family in Sunday services monthly. We had 5 school families present Christmas Eve. I have done one school family hospital call. And we daily are sharing the Hope of Jesus with the students in class.

We share the Word with our community via Easter Egg Drive-Thru, Vacation Bible School, Idaho Falls Rescue Mission support, our Braille partnership with St. John, and more. And let us also not forget the mercy ministries we support through the LWML, Food Drives (Thanks Dave Nell!), and benevolence gifts.

We share the Word with the world with our support of the Puerto Rico Missionaries and Synodical Support.

And finally, let us not forget our desire to share the gospel with YOU. Have you found a way to be fed spiritually at Hope? Sunday Services, Bible Class, Youth Group, Reading and Online resources, counseling, prayer chains, LWML, ushering, offices are all ways to hear the good news and/or serve.

My heart is warmed by all the prayers and support for the mission and work here at Hope. It has been the busiest year of my life, but what a pleasure to work and serve with those who are eager to share the Gospel!

Things look to stay busy for me. I have taken on responsibilities as Circuit Visitor and am keeping an eye on Crown of Life Lutheran in Rigby as they are vacant. I am still active in school as an advisor to the administration team and leader of staff devotions in the mornings. But I really owe a great debt to Kurt Pavlat who has taken the more hands-on admin job, talking with parents, calling for substitutes at 6 in the morning, and putting out fires every day. Our Board, Day School Board, and all our volunteers and office staff have been a great support, I am thankful for them all.

We are greatly encouraged by the growth of the school this year, which leads us to the question put forward to our Strategic Planning Committee: Is it time to grow? Please give them (Kurt, Nancy, Philip, Christopher, and Myself) your thoughts! We want to be faithful to your passions in ministry.

But my specialty and passion still remains being a plain-ol' parish Pastor. I want to be able to apply law and gospel faithfully to your lives as I have been called to do, and don't want "busy-ness" to get in the way of that. I thank the Board of Elders for keeping me on task.

My family is well (as long as I don't take anymore additional nights away from bed-time for work). My health seems to be holding up under the extra hours, for the time being. We had a great Christmas and New Year, a safe trip to North Dakota and back, but I must report that Connor and I are devastated my Colts didn't make the playoffs (is this what I get for making fun of the Vikings!?). Annabeth enjoys poking fun at me when my teams lose, and the little boys are too rambunctious to take notice. The extended family is well and I will be heading to California after Easter, Lord willing, to baptize a new nephew.

I've gone on long enough (typical Pastor, I know). God bless you all!

In Christ,

Pastor Pay