

Hope Lutheran Church
Voters' Assembly Minutes

January 22, 2023

The regular meeting of the voters' assembly of Hope Lutheran Church was called to order on January 22, 2023, at 10:31 a.m. by the president, Christopher Becker; the secretary was present. A quorum was established; a list of voting members present is attached.

Pr. Pay read from Is. 25 and led the opening prayer.

It was moved by Kurt Pavlat and seconded to receive Maureen Miaullis into voting membership; motion carried.

The November 20, 2022, minutes were approved as emailed.

The attached Board reports were received.

Kurt Pavlat reported that the Strategic Planning Committee met this past Tuesday and a motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to present to the Board of Directors in February as follows:

"The SPC requests permission to hire a qualified consultant to draw up tentative plans for a new classroom building along with renovations to our existing building to include, but not limited to, HVAC, plumbing, a new fellowship hall and parking lot improvements."

He was asked by the members of the Committee to attempt to schedule a meeting of the Committee with Mike Poffenroth, a Christian builder in town responsible for building most of Watersprings and other churches in town as well as many commercial and residential projects. He has expressed an interest in helping us achieve success in our endeavors here at Hope.

Also, the Committee would like to hold another Q&A forum prior to the next Voters Meeting, hopefully with both Pastor Dinger from Grace Lutheran in Pocatello and Mike Poffenroth present to answer questions. With Lent being a very busy time and to allow time for scheduling, the Committee was looking at the March time frame after a worship service for this additional Q&A forum.

New Business

Christopher announced that Grace Ruiz and Melody Rosenwinkel have agreed to review the church and school financial records.

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Myrtle Siefken, Secretary

Approved _____

DRAFT

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Officer, Board, and Committee Reports

Treasurer and Board of Finance

The status of the Church and School bank accounts is summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Cash Assets December 31, 2022

Church Checking	\$40,371
Church Spending	\$6011
School Checking	\$50,549
School Savings	\$15,850
School Reserve-EC Grant	\$22,820
School Spending	\$5,014
Booster	\$32,649
Scrip	\$6,630
Thrivent Investment - School Scholarships*	\$92,715
Scholarship	\$417
LCEF Properties**	\$19,714
Wealth Management – Church***	\$123,896
Wealth Management – School***	\$398,508

*Thrivent Investment is 2 school endowment funds

**Account designated as building funds. November 12, 2017, voters minutes.

***Accounts set up with funds identified in the following table.

	Initial Investment
Wealth Management - Church	
Church Building – Properties	\$ 23,365.40
Church Checking	\$ 15,350.00
Permanent Steel Building†	\$ 80,141.07
Wealth Management - School	
School Savings††	\$ 343,294.24
School Reserves	\$ 83,632.55 (\$45,000 withdrawn in 2021)

†From sale of modulares. Voters minutes, May 15, 2016.

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

End of Fiscal Year Summary for the Church

- The church Chart of Accounts – Table 2 – documents the general funds offering and the directed offerings. Church budgeted expenses are paid out of the general funds. Directed offerings are spent as requested by the donor and are documented in the expense line item “Donations Expenses”.
- The Income vs Expense – Table 3 – documents budgeted spending.
- Your directed offerings (the Donations Expenses) were distributed as follows in 2022:
 - Security Fund: \$4,950 – 5-camera system around church and school
 - Landscape Fund: \$4,040
 - Vacation Bible School: \$2,807
 - Golf Tournament: \$3,100 – day school scholarships
 - Properties Fund: \$2,425 – rewiring sanctuary and classrooms
 - LCMS Northwest District Fund: \$1,000

- Scholarship Fund: \$9,730 – day school scholarships
- Piano and Organ Fund: \$325 Organ repair
- IF Rescue Mission Fund: \$853
- Hunter Chamberlain (Peterlin grandson) Fundraiser: \$5,370
- Harry Peterlin Memorial Fund: \$790 – new paraments
- Braille Fund: \$55
- Sunday School: \$50 CRU donation
- Camp Perkins Scholarships: 4 scholarships awarded - \$1320
- Thrivent Choice Dollars: Electrical upgrades completed in the kitchen: \$1053
- Benevolent Fund: \$250
- Music and Choir Fund: \$282 Music and Copyright for music
- Missions Donations: \$6,651
- Pastor Appreciation
- Youth: \$1,203 Higher Things Youth Conference, Christmas goody bags, National Youth Gathering

Table 2: 2022 Chart of Accounts

Account	Balance as of 2022-01-01	Balance as of 2022-12-31
Assets	\$ 41,149.45	\$ 54,465.16
Checking Accounts	\$ 41,149.45	\$ 54,465.16
Primary Checking (7528)	\$ 41,149.45	\$ 54,465.16
Unrestricted (Primary Checking)	\$ 12,555.14	\$ 25,972.26
Benevolent Fund	\$ 287.74	\$ 37.74
Braille Fund	\$ 55.00	\$ -
Camp Perkins Scholarships	\$ 3,019.50	\$ 1,609.50
Charlotte Schorzman Memorial Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Church Choir and Music Fund	\$ 1,259.69	\$ 811.46
Church Special Events	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Day School Giving	\$ 9,265.00	\$ 9,541.94
Day School Scholarship	\$ (800.00)	\$ 2,206.00
District Donations	\$ -	\$ -
Expansion Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Fellowship Fund	\$ 142.70	\$ 133.37
Golf Tournament	\$ -	\$ -
Hopperdietzel Memorial	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
LWML	\$ 10.00	\$ -
LWML Mites	\$ -	\$ -
Landscape Fund	\$ 2,875.08	\$ 3,139.85
Lasagna Dinner and Dessert Auction	\$ -	\$ -
Missions Fund	\$ 360.00	\$ 500.72
Outreach	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Peterlin Fundraiser	\$ -	\$ -
Piano and Organ Fund	\$ 274.14	\$ -
Praise Group	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00

Properties Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,037.46
Puerto Rico Missions Fund	\$ 75.00	\$ 25.00
Rescue Mission	\$ -	\$ 1,496.47
Security System	\$ 3,902.86	\$ 102.86
Sunday School Fund	\$ 268.57	\$ 233.57
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ -	\$ 266.00
Vacation Bible School	\$ 2,592.57	\$ 393.07
William Ash Memorial Fund	\$ 930.00	\$ -
Youth Fund and Gathering	\$ 3,951.46	\$ 4,382.89
Savings Accounts	\$ 19,844.97	\$ 20,132.09
LCEF Properties	\$ 19,663.38	\$ 19,714.68
Scholarship (5275)	\$ 181.59	\$ 417.41
Investment Accounts	\$ 121,738.09	\$ 123,896.60
Liabilities	\$ 178,232.02	\$ 165,229.34
Long Term Liabilities	\$ 178,232.02	\$ 165,229.34
LCEF Mortgage	\$ 178,232.02	\$ 165,229.34

Table 3: 2022 Income vs Expense

Account	Budgets 2022	Actuals 2022	% of Budget
Income	\$ 240,250.00	\$ 423,793.64	176.40%
Tithes and Offerings	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 299,035.36	135.93%
Weekly Offerings	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 299,035.36	135.93%
Other Church income	\$ 20,250.00	\$ 55,348.51	273.33%
Directed Offerings	15,000.00	53,275.72	355.17%
Interest Income	250.00	92.84	37.14%
Misc. Income	5,000.00	327.45	6.55%
Scholarship Investment Income	0.00	1,652.50	0.00%
Giving to the School	\$ -	\$ 69,409.77	0.00%
Expense	\$ 344,955.00	\$ 397,188.13	115.14%
Finance And Administration	\$ 49,125.00	\$ 46,769.95	95.21%
Janitorial (5110)	10,500.00	10,500.00	100.00%
Utilities (5120)	12,000.00	10,388.00	86.57%
Insurance (5170)	8,500.00	10,152.00	119.44%
Telephone / Internet (5180)	4,200.00	4,226.94	100.64%
Postage (5130)	500.00	1,007.92	201.58%
Office Supplies (5140)	1,750.00	1,401.79	80.10%
Administration (5190)	1,000.00	1,153.98	115.40%
Property Taxes Paid (5195)	1,175.00	1,466.64	124.82%
Mortgage Interest Paid (5196)	9,000.00	5,972.68	66.36%
Camp Perkins Assessment (5720)	500.00	500.00	100.00%

Board of Directors	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 485.65	9.71%
Advertising (5220)	3,000.00	485.65	16.19%
BOD Misc (5230)	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Safety Committee (5240)	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Properties	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 33,471.79	95.63%
Elders	\$ 16,600.00	\$ 13,762.36	82.91%
Worship Supplies (5410)	4,000.00	2,344.72	58.62%
Parish Education Expenses (5610)	500.00	1,114.18	222.84%
Confirmation (5420)	500.00	727.25	145.45%
Book Allowance (5430)	100.00	85.98	85.98%
Conferences and Conventions (5440)	3,000.00	3,000.00	100.00%
Worship Accompanist (5450)	5,500.00	4,465.23	81.19%
District (5460)	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.00%
Synod and District Support (5465)	500.00	500.00	100.00%
Elders Discretionary (5470)	1,500.00	525.00	35.00%
Outreach	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,020.11	74.82%
Evangelism Supplies (5510)	700.00	1,545.11	220.73%
Missionary Support (5520)	500.00	475.00	95.00%
VBS (5530)	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
Youth	\$ 500.00	\$ 792.25	158.45%
Fellowship	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0.00%
School Giving Pass Thru (6000)	\$ -	\$ 76,709.83	0.00%
Donations Expense	\$ -	\$ 51,637.52	0.00%
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 235,030.00	\$ 171,538.67	72.99%
Pastor Salary and Fuel	64,580.00	73,944.92	114.50%
Church Secretary Salary	15,450.00	18,299.27	118.44%
Church Benefits	50,000.00	35,235.58	70.47%
School Benefits	105,000.00	44,058.90	41.96%
Income less Expense	\$ (104,705.00)	\$ 26,605.51	(25.41%)

Mid-Year Financial Report for School

Table 4 provides a mid-year status of the school financials. Adjustments to income and expenses are noted below.

- Early Childhood (EC) Grant income was raised from \$8,500 to \$10,000 per month
- Designated Donations (Line 2200) Expenditures
 - Catalyst Grant - \$5,067 from Grant plus \$650 from Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) offsets Line 7200 Business Equipment
 - Continuing Education - \$1,195.78 offsets Line 5600 Continuing Education – Meridian Conference
 - INVEST: Headmaster Mentoring - \$300 offsets Line 7140 and \$80 offsets Line 5600
 - Veritas - \$797.02 offsets Line 6300 Curriculum – books for library and classroom

Table 4: Budget vs Actuals, School, July 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2022

	Total Year Budget	Actual Thru 12/31/22	% of Budget
Revenue			
1000 School Tuition & Fee Revenue			
1100 Registration	9,150.00	2,550.00	27.87%
1200 Tuition (EC)	90,450.00	31,206.30	34.50%
1210 Tuition (K)	53,100.00	13,167.47	24.80%
1220 Tuition (1st-6th)	93,850.00	62,136.06	66.21%
1300 Extended Care	7,500.00	3,170.00	42.27%
1400 Lunch Fees	8,450.00	4,218.85	49.93%
1420 Milk Fees	1,200.00	35.00	2.92%
1460 Book Order		(100.00)	
1480 Late Fee		-180.00	
1500 Summer Program Tuition & Fees	14,290.00	8,238.73	57.65%
Total 1000 School Tuition & Fee Revenue	\$ 277,990.00	\$ 124,442.41	44.77%
2000 Donations			
2100 Undesignated-Don.	78,000.00	33,084.18	42.42%
2200 Designated-Don.	12,000.00	18,587.27	154.89%
Total 2000 Donations	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 51,671.45	57.41%
3000 Grant Income			
3100 EC Grant Income	93,500.00	62,000.00	66.31%
3200 EC Wage Enhancement Grant		3,960.00	
Total 3000 Grant Income	\$ 93,500.00	\$ 65,960.00	70.55%
4000 Spread Spectrum Lease	12,000.00	6,000.00	50.00%
4100 Interest Income Earned		38.99	
4200 Sales of Product Revenue		178.93	
Miscellaneous Income		285.00	
Total Revenue	\$ 473,490.00	\$ 248,576.78	52.50%
Expenditures			
5000 Payroll Expenses		5,337.64	
5100 Salaries	160,000.00	87,802.73	54.88%
5200 Wages	178,000.00	65,707.18	36.91%
5500 Benefits-School Contribution	33,000.00	9,589.94	15.31%
5550 Employer Taxes	30,000.00	13,344.48	44.48%
5600 Continuing Education	1,500.00	3,105.94	207.06%
5700 Workmans Comp	7,700.00	3,466.00	45.01%
Total 5000 Payroll Expenses	\$ 410,200.00	\$ 188,353.91	44.81%
6000 School Expenses			

6100 Software Cost	7,998.00	2,230.56	27.89%
6200 Classroom Supplies	6,500.00	3,179.95	48.92%
6300 Curriculum	7,000.00	6,630.45	94.72%
6400 Lunch Program	13,650.00	7,391.05	54.15%
6600 Technology Equipment	17,400.00	9,054.05	52.03%
Total 6000 School Expenses	\$ 52,548.00	\$ 28,486.06	54.21%
7000 Office/General Admin Expenditures			
7100 Business	4,700.00	3,773.90	80.30%
7200 Business Equipment	2,500.00	6,531.06	261.24%
7300 Postage	950.00	261.45	27.52%
7400 Office Supplies	2,000.00	476.26	23.81%
7500 Advertising	13,200.00	10,582.55	80.17%
7600 Janitorial Services	31,500.00	15,750.00	50.00%
7650 Janitorial Supplies	4,000.00	3,235.40	80.89%
7700 Maintenance Contracts	480.00	240.00	50.00%
7800 Transportation	2,000.00	1,072.78	53.64%
Total 7000 Office/Gen Admin Expenditures	\$ 61,330.00	\$ 41,923.40	68.36%
8000 Contingency	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 0.00	0.00%
Total Expenditures	\$ 574,078.00	\$ 258,893.93	44.31%
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (100,588.00)	\$ (10,317.15)	5.74%

Board of Elders

Membership changes: Gain: Judy Thomas by profession of faith

Lent will begin soon with Ash Wednesday being on February 22. It was agreed that we should, again, have soup suppers begin at 6:00 p.m. and the Lenten Service begin at 7:00 p.m. with St. John's members invited to join us.

James Zillinger will be recruiting more worship assistants in the coming weeks to help with video slides during the Divine Service. Thus, Jamie will have some time during the month to worship as a regular congregant.

Day School Board

Hope Lutheran School is continuing full-speed ahead as we begin a decisive marketing campaign over the Enrollment period of February-April. Our ability to grow is tied directly to our capacity to communicate our value to the community. We will begin by expressing our distinction as the premier academic Christian school in the community. We are also seeing a realization of our middle school development. The plans are manifesting that will allow the school to begin this process where we can enhance our elementary with a much-desired 7th & 8th grade that families can feel secure in embracing. This expansion will generate confidence in our elementary enrollment for these families who want their children to remain in the same school until high school and experience a higher level of learning through the logic phase of education that will exist in our academy.

Families and staff continue to see tremendous value and results with our classical curriculum and movement toward a classical philosophy of education. This philosophy unites the ability to learn and think critically with the essential gospel of Jesus Christ. We are preparing for a few fundraisers, including the auction in February, and for an Expedition Yellowstone trip in April. Our staff is working hard to expand our development and unity to further add quality to our student families concerning the education and atmosphere they value. We will not cease our efforts to reach out to this community to better develop the mind and the heart toward God. Only through this wonderful congregation's support can we supply our faculty and student body with the essential tools they need for education. We are grateful for the assistance you give us all in making this ministry a reality.

Board of Outreach

The Outreach Board—Anita & John Taylor, Jane Henry, Bob Holzworth, and Gary Thinnies—has discussed mission areas and areas of local outreach. Mission Funds were dispersed as follows:

- LWML Holiday Fair for its mission grant recipients—\$1000
- Lutheran Hour Ministries—\$825
- Camp Perkins—\$825
- Puerto Rico missionaries—\$941.

Board of Youth Ministry

About seven families with children participated in the Christmas Cantata, December 11, 2022, speaking and singing and dressing in costumes.

Christmas Eve, about 22 gift bags were handed out to children here at Hope and at Crown of Life.

There are six youth volunteering as acolytes. Schedules are planned for three months at a time.

Parents have met to plan the Fundraising Brunch and Dessert Auction set for January 15, 2023.

Youth Group on Monday evenings with Jacob and Morgan Pralle met December 5 and 12, and January 2. Other Mondays meetings were cancelled due to holidays and poor weather.

Board of Property

The following activities were completed since the November meeting:

- Matt Rose cut down a dying tree on the north property. The tree was adjacent to power lines and very close to two homeowners' property lines. The tree was removed to reduce liability potential if the tree fell in high winds.
- Sign Pro installed a new Rules of Conduct sign by the west gate to the fenced grounds. The original sign was vandalized and pulled from the fence. The vandalized sign was repaired and modified so it can be used in the future. Additionally, the sign on the south fence by the gym was drilled and four additional fasteners added to reduce the temptation to pull on that sign.
- Holden Electric checked why the south gutter heat tape was not working correctly. The plugs were not fully inserted into the weather-proof exterior outlet. Tape is now working perfectly. The heat tape is on a dedicated circuit breaker so one only needs to throw the breaker in the future to turn off/on this heat tape.
- Holden Electric replaced all burned out older light bulbs and older LED bulbs in the sanctuary pendant fixtures as the lighting was dim. Last year's bulb replacement was limited to only non-functioning, non-LED light bulbs. We should be good for several years.

- Advantage Tree Care removed the two west-most blue spruce trees by 12th Street as one was dead and the other was in poor health. Trees were removed, stumps ground, and Advantage removed all trimming and chips.
- Kindergarten sink faucet was replaced as the old faucet was loose and a leaking hazard waiting to happen. The kindergarten in-room drinking fountain was also adjusted to a good drinking height. Those little people give plumbing a good workout.
- Over the school Christmas break, A-1 Pest Control sprayed our church-school office and the perimeter of all school classrooms, hallways, gym, library, and kitchen to address 6- and 8-legged creatures. Teachers assisted by moving light items off the floor around the classroom perimeters.

The Board of Directors designated the money recently donated as a memorial for Paul Hopperdietzel to be used to obtain equipment for live-streaming worship services.

No major Property activities are currently planned for 2023. Maintenance activities are ongoing and reported below. Property will work closely with the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) to coordinate major 2023 building and grounds maintenance to align with HLCS strategic plan guidance from the congregation.

Strategic Planning Committee

The comments received for the four options are being compiled for the Committee's review. Upon review of the comments by the Committee, a recommendation will be made to the BOD for a path forward.

Safety Committee

Funds from the Safety Committee budget will be used to cover costs of members of Hope taking the upcoming CPR course. Non-members will be responsible for covering their own costs.

Philip Phelan will start working on a draft emergency procedures quick reference that can be used by the ushers.

A discussion about the recent boil advisory for water in Idaho Falls took place. The question of who should be responsible for monitoring for alerts and disseminating information that is pertinent to the safety of the school came up. It was recommended that the church/school secretaries should be responsible for monitoring for alerts and relaying the information to others as necessary.

Pastor's Report

Dear Members of Hope,

What a year! (I think I say this every year)

Looking back, I cannot ignore the great debt I owe to my family, the elders, and the staff at Hope Lutheran. The year began with me working the School and the Church, with, to be perfectly honest, most of my time going towards the school, since I was learning "on the go." Which meant I was doing a whole lot of "treading water" in the Pastor department. So that brings me to another thank you: Thank you, members of Hope, for bearing with me through that time. Thank you to my family for putting up with the long work weeks and many nights away from home.

I am so thankful to say that I no longer am in an administrative role with the school. Thanks abound once more: to the staff, secretaries, and teachers who put up with me during the last school year (and helped me immensely along the way). And thanks specifically must go to Kurt

Pavlat for his gracious and brave decision to help me run the school last year – I could not have done it without him. Thanks to Bryan Northcutt for stepping in this year to relieve me of my duties. I am continually convinced that he will do far, far better than I (and I say that with nothing but joy in my heart). He has shown faithfulness to God's Word, a desire for excellence, and supreme competence.

Not a month after I stepped away from the school, it became apparent that our brothers and sisters at Crown of Life (Crown) were in need of some help. Once again, thank you for being willing to change your schedule to be a blessing to the people at Crown. They have an Elder taking classes and considering a path to the ministry. I am certainly praying he and his family are able to make it work. If so, I would likely be his supervisor and go to Crown monthly to administer communion.

How can I sum up what YOU, as members of Hope and the Body of Christ have done in a year? Fellowship Events, Youth events, Food Bank contributions (Thanks Dave Nell!), monthly Rescue Mission meals, membership gains, school support, LWML support, funerals where we mourned together, new members we welcomed with open arms, Easter drive-thrus, Bible classes and Sunday school, a craft fair, a new directory, one or two meetings here and there (ha!), and so much more! Thank you for your support as we seek to share the certain Hope of Jesus with each other and the world!

And, while it can't be measured, the most important thing we have done this year: we shared and received Hope in the Savior, Jesus. May that be the constant at Hope Lutheran: Free grace for sinners, from a strong Savior. And that, of course, is the last thank you: to a very gracious Savior who has given me and us all, much more than we deserve, including forgiveness and life.

I pray the Lord would continue to bless Hope Lutheran Church and School. My main focus for the upcoming year, other than normal work such as shut-in calls and prepping for Lent, will be with the Strategic Planning Committee. I am convinced that now is the time to act to cement a legacy in this town and lay a foundation (literally?) for future opportunities for our Church and school. And I am convinced it can be done in a way that, should things change, the Church is more than capable of utilizing any extra space and covering any losses. We have been blessed with so much, and you all have been so faithful in supporting the work at Hope, let us not, now, lapse into fear. Please be mindful of how you think we could best be a beacon of Hope in the community for years to come.

Only the Lord knows what is in store for us in the coming year, but let's approach it with hopeful confidence that he will neither leave or forsake his people and will see us through all things to his side. God's richest blessings to you all in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Pay