

Hope Lutheran Church Information for Voters

The regular April meeting of the Hope Lutheran Church voters will be held on April 16th at approximately 10:45 a.m. Our bylaws specify that at this meeting we receive board and committee annual reports and that the president announce who has been appointed to the nominating committee. No other business is mandated by the bylaws, but voters may introduce business. Officer, board, and committee reports are included in this document after the agenda.

- Opening prayer
- Vote on applications for voting membership
- Approval of January 22, 2023, minutes
- Treasurer's report on church and school finances, Whitney St. Michel (page 2)
- Board reports
 - Board of Elders, Jim Oloff (page 7)
 - Day School Board, Bryan Northcutt (page 8)
 - Board of Outreach, Anita Taylor (page 9)
 - 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 12)
- Pastor's Report (page 12)
- New business
 - Nominating Committee
 - Day School budget for 2023-2024 (page 7)
 - Call of 5th & 6th grade teacher
 - Employee Retention Credit. In accordance with advice received from the Northwest District, the Day School Board recommends that Hope pursue the Employee Retention Credit through Ron Sharp of Sharp Consultancy, Inc.

According to the IRS website: The Employee Retention Credit (ERC) is a refundable tax credit for businesses that continued to pay employees while shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic or had significant declines in gross receipts from March 13, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2021. Eligible employers can claim the ERC on an original or adjusted employment tax return for a period within those dates.
- Closing prayer

Officer, Board, and Committee Reports

Treasurer and Board of Finance

Concordia Plan Services, our benefits provider, changed from billing before the month for which benefits are provided to after the month. Consequently, we did not have to pay in January; the budgeted amount was \$4,538.74. In addition, for one staff member we budgeted to pay benefits for a family with children, but the person selected employee-only coverage. This gives us an extra \$1,000/month. In February the Board of Directors approved redirecting the excess benefits funds to allow the Strategic Planning Committee to hire a qualified consultant, at a cost not to exceed \$10,000, to draw up tentative plans for a new classroom building as well as renovations to the existing building including but not limited to HVAC, plumbing, a fellowship hall and parking lot improvement.

Financial Reports

Hope Lutheran Church Income & Expense: January 1, 2023 – April 1, 2023

| Account | Budgets 2023 | Actuals 2023 | % of Budget |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Income | \$ 266,150.00 | \$ 119,940.81 | 45.07% |
| Tithes and Offerings | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ 95,902.03 | 38.36% |
| Weekly Offerings | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ 95,902.03 | 38.36% |
| Other Church income | \$ 16,150.00 | \$ 11,640.78 | 72.08% |
| Directed Offerings | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 11,575.52 | 77.17% |
| Interest Income | \$ 150.00 | \$ 65.26 | 43.51% |
| Misc. Income | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Giving to the School | \$ - | \$ 12,398.00 | 0.00% |
| Expense | \$ 346,685.00 | \$ 80,672.22 | 23.27% |
| Finance And Administration | \$ 49,625.00 | \$ 8,527.55 | 17.18% |
| Janitorial (5110) | \$ 10,500.00 | \$ 2,625.00 | 25.00% |
| Utilities (5120) | \$ 12,000.00 | \$ 3,042.00 | 25.35% |
| Insurance (5170) | \$ 8,500.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Telephone / Internet (5180) | \$ 4,200.00 | \$ 1,056.06 | 25.14% |
| Postage (5130) | \$ 750.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Office Supplies (5140) | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Administration (5190) | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 253.68 | 25.37% |
| Property Taxes Paid (5195) | \$ 1,175.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Mortgage Interest Pd (5196) | \$ 9,500.00 | \$ 1,550.81 | 16.32% |
| Camp Perkins Assess. (5720) | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Board of Directors | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Advertising (5220) | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| BOD Misc (5230) | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Safety Committee (5240) | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Properties | \$ 35,000.00 | \$ 4,398.22 | 12.57% |
| Maintenance & Improve. (5310) | \$ 35,000.00 | \$ 4,398.22 | 12.57% |
| Elders | \$ 13,850.00 | \$ 2,879.25 | 20.79% |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Worship Supplies (5410) | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 613.85 | 20.46% |
| Parish Education (5610) | \$ 1,750.00 | \$ 315.40 | 18.02% |
| Book Allowance (5430) | \$ 100.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Conferences&Conventions(5440) | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Worship Accompanist (5450) | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 450.00 | 15.00% |
| Synod & District Support (5465) | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 1,500.00 | 100.00% |
| Elders Discretionary (5470) | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Outreach | \$ 2,700.00 | \$ 112.28 | 4.16% |
| Evangelism Supplies (5510) | \$ 700.00 | \$ 112.28 | 16.04% |
| Missionary Support (5520) | \$ 500.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| VBS (5530) | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Youth | \$ 3,150.00 | \$ 495.92 | 15.74% |
| Youth (5810) | \$ 3,150.00 | \$ 495.92 | 15.74% |
| Fellowship | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Fellowship Expenses (5910) | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ - | 0.00% |
| School Giving | \$ - | \$ 21,559.35 | 0.00% |
| School Giving Pass Thru (6000) | \$ - | \$ 26,759.35 | 0.00% |
| Donations Expense* | \$ - | \$ 3,896.41 | 0.00% |
| Salaries and Benefits | \$ 238,360.00 | \$ 33,603.24 | 14.10% |
| Pastor Salary and Fuel | \$ 67,910.00 | \$ 16,977.48 | 25.00% |
| Church Secretary Salary | \$ 15,450.00 | \$ 4,044.80 | 26.18% |
| Church Benefits | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ 5,659.68 | 11.32% |
| School Benefits | \$ 105,000.00 | \$ 6,921.28 | 6.59% |
| Income less Expense | \$ (80,535.00) | \$ 39,268.59 | -48.76% |

* Donations expenses include scholarships for Hope School students, missionary support, meals for Rescue Mission, etc. Anything that was spent from a designated donation fund.

* Jan 01 – Apr 01, 2023 donation expenses:

Choir and Music Fund: Chimes repair and music - \$304.49

Sunday School Fund: \$38 to Mercy Medical Teams & \$58 to mail care package and snacks

IF Rescue Mission: Scrip cards to purchase food - \$500.

Landscape Fund: Tree removal - \$2,995

Cash Assets: April 1, 2023

| Church | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Checking | \$ 98,357.97 |
| Spending | \$ 5,788.43 |
| LCEF Properties | \$ 19,745.07 |
| Scholarship | \$ 17.57 |
| Wealth Management | |
| Church Building - Properties | \$ 24,358.30 |
| Church Checking | \$ 16,002.29 |
| Steel Building | \$ 83,546.63 |
| Total Church | \$ 247,816.26 |

| School | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Checking | \$ 40,195.72 |
| Spending | \$ 2,112.88 |
| Savings | \$ 39,963.43 |
| Savings | \$ 9,107.89 |
| Booster | \$ 77,077.47 |
| Scrip | \$ 6,742.62 |
| Wealth Management | |
| School Savings | \$ 286,106.63 |
| School Reserves | \$ 87,186.48 |
| Thrivent | |
| Jennifer Anne Barrett Fund | \$ 29,103.92 |
| Scholarship Endowment | \$ 67,909.16 |
| Operations Endowment | \$ 30,432.88 |
| Total School | \$ 675,939.08 |

Hope Lutheran Church Chart of Account Balances: January 1, 2023 – April 1, 2023

| Account | Balance as of 2023-01-01 | Balance as of 2023-04-01 | Change % |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Assets | \$203,054.47 | \$239,986.22 | 18.19% |
| Checking Accounts | \$ 59,415.16 | \$ 95,470.79 | 60.68% |
| Primary Checking (7528) | \$ 59,415.16 | \$ 95,470.79 | 60.68% |
| Unrestricted (Primary Checking) | \$ 25,972.26 | \$ 68,660.13 | 164.36% |
| Benevolent Fund | \$ 37.74 | \$ 37.74 | 0.00% |
| Camp Perkins Scholarships | \$ 1,609.50 | \$ 1,609.50 | 0.00% |
| Church Choir and Music Fund | \$ 811.46 | \$ 556.97 | -31.36% |
| Day School Giving | \$ 14,491.94 | \$ 130.30 | -99.10% |
| Day School Scholarship | \$ 2,206.00 | \$ 6,329.35 | 186.92% |
| District Donations | \$ - | \$ - | 0.00% |
| Expansion Fund | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 1,000.00 | 0.00% |
| Fellowship Fund | \$ 133.37 | \$ 133.37 | 0.00% |
| Hopperdietzel Memorial | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 1,500.00 | 0.00% |
| LWML | \$ - | \$ - | 0.00% |
| LWML Mites | \$ - | \$ 25.00 | 0.00% |
| Landscape Fund | \$ 3,139.85 | \$ 274.85 | -91.25% |
| Missions Fund | \$ 500.72 | \$ 2,819.89 | 463.17% |
| Outreach | \$ 50.00 | \$ 200.00 | 300.00% |
| Praise Group | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 | 0.00% |
| Properties Fund | \$ 1,037.46 | \$ 3,537.46 | 240.97% |
| Puerto Rico Missions Fund | \$ 25.00 | \$ 275.00 | 1000.0% |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Rescue Mission | \$ 1,496.47 | \$ 1,166.47 | -22.05% |
| Security System | \$ 102.86 | \$ 102.86 | 0.00% |
| Sunday School Fund | \$ 233.57 | \$ 159.94 | -31.52% |
| Thrivent Choice Dollars | \$ 266.00 | \$ 950.00 | 257.14% |
| Vacation Bible School | \$ 393.07 | \$ 893.07 | 127.20% |
| Youth Fund and Gathering | \$ 4,382.89 | \$ 5,083.89 | 15.99% |
| Savings Accounts | \$ 19,742.71 | \$ 19,762.64 | 0.10% |
| LCEF Properties* | \$ 19,725.14 | \$ 19,745.07 | 0.10% |
| Scholarship (5275) | \$ 17.57 | \$ 17.57 | 0.00% |
| Investment Accounts | \$ 123,896.60 | \$ 124,752.79 | 0.69% |
| Bank of Idaho Trust Department** | \$ 123,896.60 | \$ 124,752.79 | 0.69% |

*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.")

Hope Lutheran School Income & Expense: January 1, 2023 – April 1, 2023

| | Budget | Actual | % of Budget |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Income | | | |
| 1000 School Tuition & Fee Revenue | | | |
| 1100 Registration | \$ 9,150.00 | \$ 5,055.00 | 55.25% |
| 1200 Tuition (EC) | \$ 90,450.00 | \$ 50.00 | 0.06% |
| 1210 Tuition (K) | \$ 53,100.00 | \$ 19,708.47 | 37.12% |
| 1220 Tuition (1st-6th) | \$ 93,850.00 | \$ 82,982.62 | 88.42% |
| 1300 Extended Care | \$ 7,500.00 | \$ 5,630.00 | 75.07% |
| 1400 Lunch Fees | \$ 8,450.00 | \$ 6,876.00 | 81.37% |
| 1420 Milk Fees | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 35.00 | 2.92% |
| 1460 Book Order | | \$ (100.00) | |
| 1480 Late Fee | | \$ (230.00) | |
| 1500 Summer Program Tuition & Fees | \$ 14,290.00 | \$ 8,238.73 | 57.65% |
| 2000 Donations | \$ 90,000.00 | \$ 84,570.74 | 93.97% |
| 2100 Undesignated-Don. | \$ 78,000.00 | \$ 62,123.47 | 79.65% |
| 2200 Designated-Don. | \$ 12,000.00 | \$ 22,447.27 | 187.06% |
| 3000 Grant Income | \$ 93,500.00 | \$ 92,500.00 | 98.93% |
| 4000 Spread Spectrum Lease | \$ 12,000.00 | \$ 9,000.00 | 75.00% |
| Miscellaneous Income | | \$ 845.45 | |
| Total Income | \$ 473,490.00 | \$ 315,162.01 | 66.56% |
| Expense | | | |
| 5000 Payroll Expenses | | | |
| 5100 Salaries | \$ 160,000.00 | \$ 128,319.07 | 80.20% |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 5200 Wages | \$ 178,000.00 | \$ 87,052.78 | 48.91% |
| 5500 Benefits-School Contribution | \$ 33,000.00 | \$ 12,150.60 | 36.82% |
| 5550 Employer Taxes | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 18,829.45 | 62.76% |
| 5600 Continuing Education | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 3,975.94 | 265.06% |
| 5700 Workmans Comp | \$ 7,700.00 | \$ 4,461.00 | 57.94% |
| 6000 School Expenses | | | |
| 6120 Billing (TADS) | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 2,694.18 | 53.88% |
| 6130 Student Info System (Gradelink) | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 1,858.38 | 92.92% |
| 6140 Application License | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 240.63 | 24.06% |
| 6200 Classroom Supplies | | \$ 1,322.53 | |
| 6220 Early Childhood Supplies (PS,PK) | \$ 3,500.00 | \$ 1,553.60 | 44.39% |
| 6240/60/70 K/Elem/Friday Supplies | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 990.22 | 49.51% |
| 6280 Summer Program Supplies | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 54.47 | 5.45% |
| 6300 Curriculum | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ 7,403.07 | 105.76% |
| 6400 Lunch Program | \$ 13,650.00 | \$ 11,492.38 | 84.19% |
| 6600 Technology Equipment | | \$ 79.96 | |
| 6610 Technology Equipment Service | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 8,490.72 | 283.02% |
| 6620 IT Service Contracts | \$ 14,400.00 | \$ 9,632.00 | 66.89% |
| 7000 Office/General Administrative Expenditures | | | |
| 7100 Business | \$ 4,700.00 | \$ 4,687.31 | 99.73% |
| 7200 Business Equipment | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 7,539.75 | 301.59% |
| 7300 Postage | \$ 950.00 | \$ 401.35 | 42.25% |
| 7400 Office Supplies | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 1,243.53 | 62.18% |
| 7500 Advertising | \$ 13,200.00 | \$ 15,237.80 | 115.44% |
| 7600 Janitorial Services | \$ 31,500.00 | \$ 23,625.00 | 75.00% |
| 7650 Janitorial Supplies | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ 4,701.45 | 117.54% |
| 7700 Maintenance Contracts | \$ 480.00 | \$ 320.00 | 66.67% |
| 7800 Transportation | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,055.25 | 102.76% |
| 8000 Contingency | \$ 50,000.00 | | |
| Total Expenses | \$ 574,080.00 | \$ 360,412.42 | 62.78% |
| Net Operating Revenue | - \$100,590.00 | -\$ 45,250.41 | 44.98% |

Proposed 2023-2024 School Budget

| School Budget Income | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2023-2024 School Year | |
| 1100 Registration | \$ 31,350 |
| 1200 Tuition | \$ 273,379 |
| 1300 Extended Care | \$ 8,500 |
| 1400 Lunch/Milk | \$ 4,800 |
| 2000 Donations | \$ 90,000 |
| 4000 Spread Spectrum Lease | \$ 12,000 |
| Total Income | \$ 420,029 |

| Summary | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2023-2024 School Year | |
| Total Income | \$ 420,029 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 515,544 |
| Net | \$ (95,515) |
| | |
| Current Tuition | \$ 5,000 |
| Salary Base | \$ 27,000 |

Assumptions Income:
 8 full-time students added
 22% increase in tuition
 330% increase registration
 Lunches 2 days/wk, outsource 2 days/wk
 Extended care no change
 No EC Grant
 1 Full time Headmaster

| School Budget Expense | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2023-2024 School Year | |
| 5100 Salaries | \$ 246,518 |
| 5200 Wages | \$ 56,196 |
| 5500 Benefits | \$ 33,000 |
| 5550 Payroll Taxes | \$ 35,000 |
| 5600 Continuing Education | \$ 1,500 |
| 5700 Workers Comp | \$ 8,500 |
| 6120 TADS | \$ 7,300 |
| 6130 Gradelink | \$ 2,000 |
| 6140 Application Licenses | \$ 1,000 |
| 6220 Early Childhood Supplies/Snacks | \$ 2,500 |
| 6240/60/70 K/Elem/Friday Supplies | \$ 2,000 |
| 6300 Curriculum | \$ 10,000 |
| 6400 Milk/Lunch | \$ 7,500 |
| 6610 Tech Equipment service | \$ 3,500 |
| 6620 IT Service Contract | \$ 14,400 |
| 7100 Business | \$ 4,700 |
| 7200 Business Equipment | \$ 2,500 |
| 7300 Postage | \$ 950 |
| 7400 Office Supplies | \$ 2,000 |
| 7500 Advertising | \$ 10,000 |
| 7600 Janitorial Services | \$ 31,500 |
| 7650 Janitorial Supplies | \$ 5,500 |
| 7700 Maintenance Contracts | \$ 480 |
| 7800 Transportation | \$ 2,000 |
| 8000 Contingency | \$ 25,000 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 515,544 |

Board of Elders

1. Average Church attendance: 87 per Sunday, one service at 9:30 a.m.
2. Average Church attendance for Lent 2023: 63
3. May 2022: Pastor Pay was called to be the vacancy pastor for Crown of Life, Rigby, ID. To help our neighboring congregation, on May 15 Hope went to one Church service at 9:30 a.m. with Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. and service at Crown of Life at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Pay will be their vacancy Pastor until Easter 2023.
4. James Zillinger became an Elder, replacing John Ritter
5. Gains and changes in membership
 - Confirmed: Michael Neff, Macy Cook, David Robinson

- Transfer: Susan Sampson, Hannah Howard and sons Bruce and Luke, Sophia Helmkamp, Virginia Obenchain, Kenneth and Pamela Myers
- Profession of faith, adult confirmation: Aaron and Maureen Miaullis and daughter Helena, Judy Thomas, Tasha Bueno
- Baptisms: Autumn Taylor, Colton Bird, Abigail Mary Rose

6. Loss in Membership

- Transfer: Daniel Oloff
- Death: Susan Melvin, Kenneth Myers
- Requested membership removal: 9 individuals
- Self-exclusion: 10 families

7. A new church directory was issued in January 2023. Thank you to all that made that happen.

Day School Board

The Spring of 2023 is energizing our staff and our outlook due to the exciting news of enrollment and future development. We have recaptured some of our lost enrollment numbers for this year and now stand at fifty-three students enrolled. We currently have thirty-eight enrolled for the Fall of 2023, with four additional EC students as of April 1 who intend on enrolling for the Fall as well. We also have several current students whose parents have expressed intent to register for next Fall but have yet to do so. Tours are being given weekly, with parents communicating they will wait until later in the season to enroll. Additionally, we have begun Luther's Short Catechism for morning recitation in varying degrees for all age groups and completed an exciting and successful fundraising season.

Next year we will commence our middle school program with the 7th grade, we already have three signed up for this program, and we still have over five months to go. We continue improving our Classical Education curriculum and teaching as we gently move forward with teacher training and transitional improvements to our policies, curriculum, and procedures. The middle school curriculum will express the core outcome of the elementary progression in Classical Education. It will consist of History, Math, Science, Latin, Literature, Anglo-Saxon Studies, Logic, and Religion. Next year I, Bryan Northcutt, will transition to teaching part of the middle school course work while serving the complete administrative duties as Headmaster. In this vacancy of a 5th & 6th-grade teacher, we desire to call a rostered LCMS teacher who will fulfill those duties to the utmost, upholding our Lutheran ideals and preparing the students for our middle school curriculum.

Our focus, or our WHY we exist, is demonstrated in three distinct but congruent principles—Christianity, Classical Education, and the Cultivation of virtue. In Christianity, we have reality and the Gospel—the catalyst in the change of one from wickedness to righteousness, from confusion to clarity. With Classical Education, we have an educational philosophy and curriculum that enhances the child's ability to learn and analyze. In Cultivating virtue, we incorporate the values and ethics from people in the past that have developed the Western civilization into the most successful and just society that this fallen world has ever seen: this consists of the Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans. Can these be done separately, possibly, but as Luther states, "I would advise no one to send his child where the Holy Scriptures are not supreme. Every institution that does not unceasingly pursue the study of God's word becomes corrupt... I greatly fear that the universities, unless they teach the Holy Scriptures diligently and impress them on the young students, are wide gates to hell." So, to that end, we identify the thread that weaves this all together is Christ, our foundation, existence, and identity.

Calling a Teacher

The Day School Board strongly desires to have called teachers because we want committed instructors who are well informed in Lutheran doctrine and able to communicate that to the children while being called as one who seeks to serve their spiritual needs. In accordance with Hope's bylaws, we contacted Jim Scriven at the Northwest District office. He sent us information on four teachers seeking a call:

- Marissa Englehard, 4th Grade Teacher, The King's Academy, Lake Ozark, MO, who is willing to consider a call.
- Mandy Hall, 3rd Grade Teacher, Grace Lutheran School, Pocatello, ID, who is seeking a call.
- Wayne Nelson, Middle School Teacher, First Immanuel Lutheran School, Cedarsburg, WI, who is willing to consider a call.
- Jeff Salefski, Teacher, Dean of Students, Lutheran School Association, Decatur, IL, who is seeking a call.

The DSB discussed the information about these teachers and recommends that you call Mandy Hall. She lives in Idaho Falls and is a member at St. John. She has taught at Grace in Pocatello for 26 years for a total of 28 years experience and wants to serve here at Hope due to the excruciatingly long commute through bad winters that makes it difficult to continue the position there. She comes highly recommended by Anne Bopp, the principal at Grace and Bryan Northcutt has served with her at St. John and finds her to be of dedicated and exemplary character. She also lives in Idaho Falls, resulting in zero moving expenses. She is established with her husband here and will provide a stable and consistent faculty member for the benefit of the students, staff, and administration for years to come.

Board of Outreach

Community service projects

- October and November: Idaho Falls food drive.
- Holiday Fair
- December–January: Idaho Falls Rescue Mission, Hats, Gloves etc.
- February–March–April: Working with Sandy on the Shepherds Inn and Birthright
- Easter Egg Drive April 8th. Giving 300 bags that include Arch book, Gospel tract, and filled eggs.

More projects will be coming in the future.

Board of Youth Ministry

The Next Generation, the youth group with Crown of Life and St. John students, led by Jacob and Morgan Pralle of St. John, has been meeting most Monday nights for the past year. There have been cancellations for bad weather and school vacations. Some meetings are planned to be mostly Bible Study, and some are activities like visiting a corn maze or I Hop or carving pumpkins...

The youth have served meals throughout the year, Easter breakfasts, a fund raiser meal in January, and soup suppers during Lent. In 2022, there was a graduation celebration for Lydia. There are no graduates in 2023.

Scholarships are available for the youth who go to Camp Perkins in the summer. There are no kids wanting to go to Higher Things this year. In 2022, Elizabeth went to Higher Things in Bozeman and Lydia went to the National Youth Gathering in Houston. The next National Youth

Gathering is in 2025. In May Betty attended the Youth and Family Conference sponsored by the Northwest District.

In August 2022, Pastor and parents and Morgan Pralle got together to plan events for the school year. Participation in the Christmas Cantata, filling Christmas gift bags and Easter bags for children, and the six students serving as acolytes all are ways the youth use their talents at Hope.

Connie Clayton has been sending birthday and baptism birthday cards to those from birth to graduation from high school. There are 41 on her list.

Board of Property

Major Tasks Completed Since May 1, 2022

Members of the Board of Property have been busy. We would love to have you join us so let Nancy know if you are willing to serve on the Property Board.

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

All the members of the Property board thank the congregation for your volunteer hours on workdays, landscaping and property donations, and your prayers.

Thanks to Rosie Pavlat who led the kitchen for the past two years and welcome to Tasha who has agreed to serve in Rosie's place.

Over the past 12 months, the Property team, along with your help and reliable vendors, has completed the following:

Grounds upkeep: We worked with A-1 Pest Control to continue our yearly approach to maintaining the fenced grounds with fertilizing and weed control.

Heated gutter and roof edge: All American Gutter installed heated gutter along the south face of the building adjacent to the school parking lot and heat tape was installed on the east facing roof edge. The goal was to keep the sidewalk clear of ice, prevent icicles, and potential water damage. Worked great! Holden Electric installed an exterior outlet and a dedicated circuit for the heat tape runs.

LED conversion complete: Holden Electric completed the final phase of LED conversion. It involved replacing all non-LED and old LED light bulbs in church pendant fixtures with updated LED bulbs of the same color.

Kitchen upgrades and inspection: We passed our annual Health Department inspection. Old faucets were leaking and at the end of life so First Street Plumbing replaced those faucets with commercial Moen faucets that have a life-time warranty. Wiring upgrades by Holden Electric were needed to bring J-boxes and a breaker panel "hidden" behind drawers below stove top ranges into code compliance.

KNOX box installed: Idaho Falls Fire Department can now access all the critical building keys via the KNOX box and only IFFD has the keys to the KNOX box.

Church and school safety: Working with Peak Alarm, school administrators, and the Safety committee, we added a five-camera security system to monitor the school east-west hallway and the exterior of all exterior doors with fobs. Prevent Fire installed seven additional fire extinguishers in the classrooms and school library. Playground swings were upgraded with new swing seats, chains, and attachment hardware as the old swings were reaching the end of life.

Window wrapping: To save the wood holding in our building windows, windows on the south and west sides of the building were wrapped and caulked by Arrow Fence and Siding. The remaining windows are slated for wrapping this summer.

Classroom upgrades: The electrical systems in grades 5 & 6 and grades 3 & 4 classrooms were upgraded to accommodate technology improvements and provide additional outlets. Walls were patched and retextured, walls and ceilings painted, and new magnetic white boards and smart TVs installed. A ceiling outlet was installed in the grade 1 & 2 classroom for the PC projector, eliminating use of extension cords. The school library was transformed into a nonfiction volume collection and the room was reconfigured to allow use for both library and academic classes. The library's electrical system was upgraded to accommodate technology and easy access. Holden Electric handled all electrical work and Thomas Cleaning and Restoration handled patch, texture, and painting tasks.

Final phase of church landscaping refresh completed: A team of volunteers removed remaining lava rock and installed new landscaping fabric. Top Notch Landscaping installed river rock in July 2022. Thanks to all who volunteered hours to bring this project to completion.

Snow removal: Parking lot snow removal by All-Star RV Repair Center is ongoing with every two inches of the white stuff. From November 2022 to March 15, 2023, we needed 13 plowings and one ice melt application.

Two blue spruces removed: Advantage Tree Care removed two blue spruces between Christmas and New Years. The dying trees presented aesthetic and safety issues. Advantage removed the stumps and all tree debris and cut tree wood into 18" lengths. A third tree is now dying, so the end of life is being reached by all our spruce trees.

Plumbing: First Street Plumbing has addressed our plumbing issues from sewer blockages to water leaks. Many thanks to church members who have taken the "do not flush wipes" campaign seriously as we have had no major blockage since October 17, 2022—that is six months!!

West Parking Lot

Property knows the west parking lot has potholes. The Voters were presented with the detailed estimate of \$100K for total replacement for west parking lot by the Property Director at April 2022 voters meeting. The only option is to totally replace the west lot as the surface has reached its end of life. The voters directed Property to turn the parking lot issues over to Strategic Planning to include in overall planning.

Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) determined that the congregation and school both have needs for additional and/or reconfigured space and thus crafted four options for the congregation to review and comment on. These four options were provided to the congregation via an open forum on October 23rd after worship. Prior to the forum, the options were emailed to all congregational members with hard copies also available. The four options consisted of the following:

- Option #1, Multi-purpose Building

- Option #2, Classroom Building
- Option #3, Pavilion
- Option #4, Upgrade and Remodel Current Building

Upon review of written and verbal comments received from congregational members, the SPC determined that a combination of Option #2 and #4 were the most favored options. This information was conveyed to the Board of Directors with authorization requested to pursue conceptual drawings. The Board approved the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$10,000 for conceptual drawings of a new classroom building with targeted renovations of the existing building to include (but not limited to) a new fellowship hall, improved HVAC, improved plumbing (i.e., restroom improvements) and parking lot repairs/replacement.

Two architectural firms (Resin Architecture and Morgan Architecture) have been contacted as recommended by Mike Poffenroth of Roth Properties, the Christian builder of Watersprings and other Christian churches in the area. The SPC will select one of these two firms to prepare the conceptual drawings with cost estimates for the congregation to review. The voters will ultimately approve for implementation or not.

Safety Committee

In the past year, the Safety Committee has undergone structural changes. Progress has been made in reviewing the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for the school as well as drafting an EOP for the church.

Pastor's Report

Dear Members of Hope,

By the time of the Voter's meeting we will have celebrated the resurrection of our Lord! I pray the services were a blessing to you all. We have a Certain Hope in our Savior, and how that changes things!

I know things get busy here, but, as I have said before – it is a joy to be a part of the Body of Christ that serves and grows. The best way to do this, and to show support and appreciation for the work at Hope, is to show up! Attendance is the single most affirming metric for pastors and servants in the Church. People don't show up if they don't care. So, thanks for being with us.

If you have questions, or comments on how we do things at Hope, please let me or an elder know. Or better yet – get involved beyond the Sunday routine. Find a place to plug in, meet other members, and let your voice be heard. A Nominating Committee will be formed looking for people like you, willing to serve in maturity and with passion. Please let me or an elder know if you are interested in serving more.

There are, of course, opportunities to serve in our school as well. I am continually impressed by Mr. Northcutt's leadership, along with Kurt Pavlat's help. The auction was a blast (Thanks PTO!). And it has been a great year, not without challenges, of course, but the leadership has been steady and, I think, transparent and faithful.

Crown of Life, Lord willing, is having their first full service led by their Head Elder, Kory Walstad, today. He has taken several theological classes and, assuming he is able to balance the workload with his full-time job and family life, he will be pursuing ordination via the Synod's Specific Ministry Program. Please pray for Kory. If he is able to pursue ministry he will be Called as a Vicar and serve in that capacity for several years under my, or the circuit's, supervision. But that would mean I would only have to go up north to Rigby one Sunday a month (and for emergencies when Kory is at work). My hope is, by as early as summer, we will have much more flexibility in our Church times, should you want to alter them. Thank you for your sacrifices

to help a neighboring Church. It was great seeing them join us during Lent, in our youth group, and I hope we will be able to continue to share blessings with one another in the future.

I thank the Elders for their support of me and my family and for their diligent IN-reach projects during the last year which led to the formation of our updated directory (of course, with the help of many others – thank you!). This summer the Elders will focus on continuing education, before turning an eye toward more outreach opportunities in the community.

Long term, it is no secret, I have a dream of a new classroom building, a fellowship hall (so you can all see my bad handwriting on a whiteboard), and general expansion and renovation of the facilities. You, of course, don't have to share that dream with me. But I think we should be asking, "what is the legacy that we want to leave in this community as Hope Lutheran?" And how we can be faithful with what the Lord has given us – not wasting, not paralyzed by fear.

If you are curious of my thoughts on this or any other matter – Church related or not, please stop by the office, send me an email, or, better yet, stop by my place on a Saturday afternoon and we can talk it over while we dig fenceposts on my acreage (ha!).

God's blessings to you all. Thanks for all the grace you show a simple Pastor – we need it. And how thankful I am to have it from you all and from a Risen Lord! God's peace.

Pastor Pay