

Hope Lutheran Church

Information for Voters

The regular November meeting of the Hope Lutheran Church voters will be held on November 19, 2023, at approximately 10:45 a.m. Our bylaws specify that at this meeting a yearly plan of activity for the entire congregation, including a budget, as well as long-range plans for the development and expansion of Christ's work in our midst. 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 July 9, 2023, minutes
- Treasurer's report on church and school finances, Whitney St. Michel (page 2)
 - Cash assets and liabilities
 - Church finances
 - School finances
- Board reports
 - Board of Elders, David Van Haaften (page 8)
 - Day School Board, James Oloff (page 9)
 - 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 12)
 - Fellowship Committee, Tasha Bueno (page 13)
 - Safety Committee, Christopher Becker (page 13)
- Pastor's Report (page 13)
- Old business
 - Thrivent issue. The Board of Finance investigated options for investing the school endowment funds and will provide their report – Whitney St. Michel
- New business
 - Adoption of the 2024 church budget (on the next page). Background on church and school finances is found in the Treasurer's report beginning on page 2.
 - Comments on the long-range plans outlined in the Strategic Planning Committee report (page 12)
- Closing prayer

Officer, Board, and Committee Reports

Treasurer and Board of Finance

The draft 2024 budget is presented below. Items that are new to the 2024 budget:

- The Church will pay 100% (instead of 70%) of the employer-funded medical benefits for the school full-time staff (line-item School Benefits).
- Strategic Planning was added as a line item to support preliminary design costs.

Financial Updates since August

- In August 2023, the Board of Directors voted to move \$10,000 from the school benefits budget to a strategic planning designated fund to cover 2023 costs for preliminary design. The school benefits budget is not anticipated to be overspent with this move.
- The Finance team was asked to look at options for our ~\$130,000 at Thrivent Financial.
 - No change – keep at Thrivent Financial
 - Move to a CD at LCEF (much lower interest)
 - Move to LCMS Foundation (money is pooled with other churches so that investments can be made in higher yield investment services) (no office in Idaho Falls)
 - Move to Wealth Management (we currently have fixed income accounts there, but they do offer higher yield services)
 - Move to Bank of Idaho with other money and open a CD (much lower interest)
 - Move to another investment service in Idaho Falls (e.g. Edward Jones, Merrill Lynch, Trimp, etc...)
 - Move to a “Christian” investment service found on a google search (will not be in Idaho Falls)

Draft 2024 Church Budget

Account	Draft Budgets 2024
Income	\$ 285,650.00
Tithes and Offerings	\$ 270,000.00
Weekly Offerings	\$ 270,000.00
Other Church income	\$ 15,650.00
Directed Offerings	\$ 15,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 150.00
Misc. Income	\$ 500.00
Expense	\$ 457,795.00
Finance And Administration	\$ 76,050.00
Janitorial (5110)	\$ 10,500.00
Utilities (5120)	\$ 12,000.00
Insurance (5170)	\$ 10,100.00
Telephone / Internet (5180)	\$ 4,200.00
Postage (5130)	\$ 750.00
Office Supplies (5140)	\$ 1,000.00
Administration (5190)	\$ 1,000.00
Day School Tuition Assistance	\$ 15,000.00
Property Taxes Paid (5195)	\$ 1,500.00
Mortgage Paid	\$ 7,500.00
Mortgage Interest Paid (5196)	\$ 11,500.00
Camp Perkins Assessment (5720)	\$ 1,000.00
Board of Directors	\$ 3,000.00

Advertising (5220)	\$ 1,000.00
BOD Misc (5230)	\$ 1,000.00
Safety Committee (5240)	\$ 1,000.00
Properties	\$ 35,000.00
Maintenance & Improvements (5310)	\$ 35,000.00
Elders	\$ 13,850.00
Worship Supplies (5410)	\$ 3,000.00
Parish Education Expenses (5610)	\$ 1,750.00
Book Allowance (5430)	\$ 100.00
Conferences and Conventions (5440)	\$ 3,000.00
Worship Accompanist (5450)	\$ 3,000.00
Synod and District Support (5465)	\$ 1,500.00
Elders Discretionary (5470)	\$ 1,500.00
Outreach	\$ 2,800.00
Evangelism Supplies (5510)	\$ 800.00
Missionary Support (5520)	\$ 500.00
VBS (5530)	\$ 1,500.00
Youth	\$ 3,150.00
Youth (5810)	\$ 3,150.00
Fellowship	\$ 1,000.00
Fellowship Expenses (5910)	\$ 1,000.00
Strategic Planning	\$ 10,000.00
Preliminary Design (5950)	\$ 10,000.00
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 312,945.00
Pastor Salary and Fuel	\$ 71,305.00
Church Secretary Salary	\$ 17,000.00
Church Benefits	\$ 46,925.00
School Benefits	\$ 177,715.00
Income less Expense	\$ (172,145.00)

Cash Assets: Nov 05, 2023

Church	
Checking	\$ 71,857.46
Spending	\$ 6,080.17
LCEF Properties	\$ 19,817.20
Scholarship	\$ 6,201.80
Wealth Management	
Church Building - Properties	\$ 24,616.67
Church Checking	\$ 16,172.03
Steel Building	\$ 84,432.80
Total Church	\$ 229,178.13
School	
Checking	\$ 24,893.75
Spending	\$ 3,706.90
Savings	\$ 3,196.12
Booster	\$ 20,417.57

Scrip	\$ 4,086.44
Wealth Management	
School Savings	\$ 289,144.32
School Reserves	\$ 88,111.25
Thrivent	
Jennifer Anne Barrett Fund	\$ 28,563.06
Scholarship Endowment	\$ 66,647.15
Operations Endowment	\$ 29,867.32
Tuition Assistance CD	\$ 40,000.00
Total School	\$ 598,633.88

Hope Lutheran Church Chart of Account Balances: Jan 01, 2023 – Nov 07, 2023

Account	Balance as of 2023-01-01	Balance as of 2023-11-07	Change %
Assets	\$ 203,267.64	\$ 237,081.32	16.64%
Checking Accounts	\$ 59,415.16	\$ 85,840.83	44.48%
Primary Checking (7528)	\$ 59,415.16	\$ 85,840.83	44.48%
Unrestricted (Primary Checking)	\$ 25,972.26	\$ 58,431.54	124.98%
Benevolent Fund	\$ 37.74	\$ 550.00	1357.34%
Camp Perkins Scholarships	\$ 1,609.50	\$ 1,159.50	-27.96%
Church Choir and Music Fund	\$ 811.46	\$ 111.54	-86.25%
Day School Giving	\$ 14,491.94	\$ 785.00	-94.58%
Day School Scholarship	\$ 2,206.00	\$ 100.00	-95.47%
Expansion Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,509.31	50.93%
Fellowship Fund	\$ 133.37	\$ 96.58	-27.58%
Golf Tournament	\$ -	\$ 1,407.00	-
Hopperdietzel Memorial	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	0.00%
LWML Mites	\$ -	\$ 10.00	-
Landscape Fund	\$ 3,139.85	\$ 20.00	-99.36%
Missions Fund	\$ 500.72	\$ 5,129.08	924.34%
Oloff Seminary	\$ -	\$ 2,080.00	-
Outreach	\$ 50.00	\$ 606.66	1113.32%
Properties Fund	\$ 1,037.46	\$ 4,087.46	293.99%
Puerto Rico Missions Fund	\$ 25.00	\$ 975.00	3800.00%
Rescue Mission	\$ 1,496.47	\$ 1,406.47	-6.01%
Schwartz Memorial	\$ -	\$ 20.00	-
Security System	\$ 102.86	\$ 102.86	0.00%
Sunday School Fund	\$ 233.57	\$ 169.94	-27.24%
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 266.00	\$ 409.00	53.76%
Vacation Bible School	\$ 393.07	\$ -	-100.00%
Youth Fund and Gathering	\$ 4,382.89	\$ 5,173.89	18.05%
Savings Accounts	\$ 19,742.71	\$ 26,018.99	31.79%
LCEF Properties*	\$ 19,725.14	\$ 19,817.20	0.47%
Scholarship (5275)	\$ 17.57	\$ 6,201.79	35197.61%
Investment Accounts	\$ 124,109.77	\$ 125,221.50	0.90%
Wealth Management**	\$ 124,109.77	\$ 125,221.50	0.90%

Liabilities	\$ 165,183.52	\$ 156,791.84	-5.08%
Long Term Liabilities	\$ 165,183.52	\$ 156,791.84	-5.08%
LCEF Mortgage	\$ 165,183.52	\$ 156,791.84	-5.08%

*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 Church Income & Expense: Jan 01, 2023 – Nov 07, 2023

Account	Budgets 2023	Actuals 2023	% of Budget
Income	\$ 266,150.00	\$ 330,900.60	124.33%
Tithes and Offerings	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 257,125.88	102.85%
Weekly Offerings	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 257,125.88	102.85%
Other Church income	\$ 16,150.00	\$ 42,149.72	260.99%
Directed Offerings	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 41,671.38	277.81%
Interest Income	\$ 150.00	\$ 343.16	228.77%
Misc. Income	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 135.18	13.52%
Giving to the School	\$ -	\$ 31,625.00	0.00%
Pass Thru Giving	\$ -	\$ 31,625.00	0.00%
Expense	\$ 371,185.00	\$ 289,806.97	78.08%
Finance And Administration	\$ 74,125.00	\$ 44,736.77	60.35%
Janitorial (5110)	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 9,625.00	91.67%
Utilities (5120)	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 10,672.00	88.93%
Insurance (5170)	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 10,100.00	118.82%
Telephone / Internet (5180)	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 3,525.21	83.93%
Postage (5130)	\$ 750.00	\$ 596.47	79.53%
Office Supplies (5140)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 199.56	19.96%
Administration (5190)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,597.41	159.74%
Day School Tuition Assistance	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	0.00%
Property Taxes Paid (5195)	\$ 1,175.00	\$ -	0.00%
Mortgage Paid	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 2,079.46	21.89%
Mortgage Interest Paid (5196)	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 5,341.66	56.23%
Camp Perkins Assessment (5720)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	100.00%
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	\$ 30,293.19	86.55%
Elders	\$ 13,850.00	\$ 8,261.59	59.65%
Worship Supplies (5410)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,138.66	71.29%
Parish Education Expenses (5610)	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 989.43	56.54%
Book Allowance (5430)	\$ 100.00	\$ 16.88	16.88%

Conferences & Conventions (5440)	\$	3,000.00	\$	1,179.36	39.31%
Worship Accompanist (5450)	\$	3,000.00	\$	2,100.00	70.00%
Synod and District Support (5465)	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00	100.00%
Elders Discretionary (5470)	\$	1,500.00	\$	337.26	22.48%
Outreach	\$	2,700.00	\$	1,168.09	43.26%
Evangelism Supplies (5510)	\$	700.00	\$	612.28	87.47%
Missionary Support (5520)	\$	500.00	\$	-	0.00%
VBS (5530)	\$	1,500.00	\$	555.81	37.05%
Youth	\$	3,150.00	\$	980.30	31.12%
Fellowship	\$	1,000.00	\$	-	0.00%
Strategic Planning	\$	10,000.00	\$	2,065.00	20.65%
School Giving	\$	-	\$	42,965.94	0.00%
School Giving Pass Thru (6000)	\$	-	\$	42,965.94	0.00%
Donations Expense*	\$	-	\$	30,230.70	0.00%
Salaries and Benefits	\$	228,360.00	\$	129,105.39	56.54%
Pastor Salary and Fuel	\$	67,910.00	\$	67,909.92	100.00%
Church Secretary Salary	\$	15,450.00	\$	14,132.12	91.47%
Church Benefits	\$	50,000.00	\$	24,328.23	48.66%
School Benefits	\$	95,000.00	\$	22,735.12	23.93%
Income less Expense	\$	(105,035.00)	\$	41,093.63	

* Jul 01 – Nov 05, 2023 Donations Expenses:

Benevolence Fund: Scrip Cards – \$187.74
Day School Donations: \$6,772
Fellowship: Pastor Appreciation - \$36.79
Landscape Fund: Fall Weed and Feed grass – \$240
Lutheran Braille Fund: \$500
Missions: Hawaii Fire Disaster – \$118.63
LWML Mites: Transferred to LWML - \$520
Outreach: Rescue Mission Scrip Cards - \$500
Tuition Assistance: 3 months for 7 students – \$2,303
Vacation Bible School: \$120
Worship Supplies: New Christ Candle - \$200
Youth: South Idaho Senior Youth Retreat – \$100

Church Financial Review Transmittal Email from Grace Ruiz

August 12, 2023

Good afternoon,

Attached is the Hope Books review report for 2022. I want to express my appreciation to Whitney and Jaime for taking time and providing assistance to complete this review. I also want to thank Whitney and Jaime for their hard work in maintaining the books for Hope. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Grace

School

Hope Lutheran School Income & Expense: July 01, 2022 – Nov 07, 2023

	Budgets	Actuals	% of Budget
Income	\$ 420,029.00	\$ 148,147.47	35.27%
1100 Registration	\$ 31,350.00	\$ 11,040.00	35.22%
1200 Tuition	\$ 273,379.00	\$ 104,240.22	38.13%
1300 Extended Care	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 925.00	10.88%
1400 Lunch/Milk	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 2,601.25	54.19%
1500 Summer Program	\$ -	\$ 1,580.00	-
2000 Donations	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 23,761.00	26.40%
4000 Spread Spectrum Lease	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	33.33%
4000+ Other Income	\$ -	\$ 447.95	-
Expenses	\$ 503,671.00	\$ 158,714.53	33.16%
5100 Salaries	\$ 246,518.00	\$ 81,076.30	32.89%
5200 Wages	\$ 56,196.00	\$ 9,291.74	16.53%
5500 Benefits	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 4,897.83	14.84%
5550 Payroll Taxes	\$ 23,127.00	\$ 6,840.91	29.58%
5600 Continuing Education	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,178.81	278.59%
5700 Workers Comp	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 1,664.00	19.58%
6120 TADS	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 3,617.40	49.55%
6130 Gradelink	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 885.74	44.29%
6140 Application Licenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 20.25	2.03%
6220 Early Childhood Supplies	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 196.59	7.86%
6240/6260/6270 K/Elem/Friday Supplies	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,161.97	158.10%
6280 Summer Program Supplies	\$ -	\$ 65.23	
6300 Curriculum	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,916.58	19.17%
6400 Milk/Lunch/Snacks	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 5,287.41	70.50%
6610 Technology Equipment Service	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,559.95	44.57%
6620 IT Service Contract	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 5,827.20	40.47%
7100 Business	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 7,947.80	169.10%
7200 Business Equipment	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,697.65	107.91%
7300 Postage	\$ 950.00	\$ -	
7400 Office Supplies	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 702.87	35.14%
7500 Advertising	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,017.80	30.18%
7600 Janitorial Services	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 10,500.00	33.33%
7650 Janitorial Supplies	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 1,519.20	27.62%
7700 Maintenance Contracts	\$ 480.00	\$ 355.00	73.96%
7800 Transportation	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,486.30	74.32%
8000 Contingency	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	
Income Less Expense	\$ (83,642.00)	\$ (10,567.06)	

Hope Lutheran School Financial Review Report of physical year 2022-2023

Hope Lutheran School
Financial Review of physical year 2022-2023
September 22, 2023

First, let me remind you that I am not a CPA. My financial experiences are from being a business owner, bookkeeper, and banker.

I was asked to review Hope Lutheran School's 2022-2023 Financials. My process was the same as the last two years. I went through each month and compared the bank statement with the QuickBooks entries and with the documents in the file. The physical files and bank statements that I had access to were for the General School Checking Account at Bank of Idaho. This is the account where the tuition is deposited, and the bills are paid out of. There are several other accounts that I know nothing about.

The corrections were made for the 2021-2022 year so the 2022–2023 school year started with a balanced total. There are some corrections that need to be made to get the ending balance corrected. I prepared a document for each month with the outstanding credits & debits, missing documentation and items that I need clarified and items that need to be corrected. I was able to balance these sheets with the bank statements and the QuickBooks ledgers.

I met with Whitney, Bryan, Ed, and Jamie on Friday September 22nd to go through the corrections and offered some recommendations to make things more efficient and easier for all involved and for the next reviewer. It was a good meeting, and they will be making the corrections and reviewing their processes.

As a congregation you are able to see how the school is doing financially with the reports presented at the congregational meetings.

The most important thing is, you as a congregation are supporting the school as they share Jesus.

Melody Rosenwinkel

Board of Elders

- Average Attendance: 95.8 (July – October).
- Membership Losses: Frank and Mariann Childs, Shanna Wessel, and Lyle Schwartz, deceased.
- Membership Gains: Holt and Heidi Howard (baptism), Michael and Kristen Overfield (Reaffirmation of Faith).
- Nonmember Baptism: Andrew Brooks.
- Richard Hentzen has retired from the Board of Elders.
- Policy Changes:
 - o Completed Guidelines for Admonition, submitted to the Board of Directors in October.
 - o Pastor Pay has revised the Bulletin's "Should I Commune?" blurb.
 - o The latest revision of the Elder and Usher Schedule includes at least one Usher at every service.
 - o Young men of the congregation have begun doing some of the readings during services.

- o Wednesday Advent Services will not be shared with St. John, but will be held December 6, 13, and 20 beginning at 6 pm with a Soup Supper, and Service at 7 pm.
- o Christmas Eve Services Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm.
- o Christmas Day Service Monday, December 25 at 9:30 am.
- o We're discussing an Outreach campaign in the spring. (Last year was Inreach.)
- o The Church Directory will be updated in January.

Day School Board

1. Enrollment 2023-2024. Enrollment 62 students: Early Childhood: 17, Grades K-7: 45
2. Staffing: Crystal Chapin, early childhood teacher will be leaving for Texas on Nov. 17. Mr. Northcutt is seeking her replacement.
3. CCLE (Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education) accreditation team did an onsite visit September 13-15, 2023. The team recommended Hope Lutheran Classical Academy for accreditation. Formal Accreditation came September 22. Hope has also been recommended for National Lutheran Schools Accreditation. The team submitted a report with 20 recommendations for improvement. The improvements are to be completed over the next 5 years. The report is available in the office for those interested.
4. Hope Lutheran Finance Committee's recommendation for a 5% increase to the base salary to determine teacher and staff payroll for school year 2024-2025 was accepted.
5. The committee amended the Personal Attire 8.3, point 4 in the Personnel Manual, "Thursday and field trips: casual, which includes jeans or non-collared shirts. No shorts (except on field trips) by taking out the words, "Thursday and"
6. Mr. Northcutt attended the Northwest District Leadership Conference at Seaside, Oregon, the week of October 16
7. Other: Wendy's dine out was October 18, Fall Exordium and Harvest Carnival was October 26
8. Fundraisers: Christmas wreaths, complete; Texas Roadhouse gift cards; School Auction April 13, 2024.

Jim Oloff, Day School Chair

Board of Outreach

September: Helped with Rally Sunday

October: The Food Drive will run through November 17th.

Board of Youth Ministry

The Next Chapter youth group did not meet every week in August because of traveling and vacations. Betty attended the South Idaho Youth Workers Retreat at Camp Perkins August 14-16 to plan events for youth in South Idaho.

On August 27, Pastor Pay met with Morgan and Jacob Pralle to coordinate plans between Hope and St. John.

Sunday, September 10 was Rally Sunday. Youth participated in the worship service and helped with refreshments after the service.

On October 6, St. John hosted the Oktober Fest to raise money for the national youth gathering (2025) and other events from which our students can benefit.

There are about 9 youth on the acolyte list, enough to have 2 acolytes on a Sunday.

Rehearsals for the singers for the Cantata began on Sunday, October 29, after the worship service and will continue through November.

Board of Property

Major Tasks Completed Since July 9, 2023 Voters meeting:

Safety and Security: Fall Work Day tasks completed:

- Emergency egress and exit lights tested to determine operation status: All passed.
- CO sensors tested for correct operation: Kindergarten room sensor missing – located and plugged in and passed operational testing on 10-24-2023. Grade 5-6 CO monitor test button broken and new sensor ordered, received, installed, tested, and passed on 10-29-2023. Mr. Northcutt chatted with both teachers to emphasize that these sensors are required by the Idaho Falls Fire Department – no exception! Note, all sensors were present and operational on 6-26-2023 CO monitor testing.

The Property Director requested from insurance agent the listing of approved van drivers for the 2023-2024 school year who appear on the van insurance policy. Jamie Gibson then updated the list to reflect those still employed, removed those no longer employed, and added new employees. In the past the listing has been inaccurate and was a concern from the liability-risk standpoint.

Building Maintenance: Noel removed weeds from in front of the school and trimmed shrubs in advance of Mike Rosenwinkel's 100 birthday.

Thomas Cleaning and Restoration completed wall repair and painting in the Grade 1-2 classroom and middle school classroom. Nancy and her granddaughter cleaned desks, removed, and repositioned library tables for use in school and church areas, and prepared the room for painting. When painting completed, her grandson helped moving paint, chairs, and other heavy things to get the middle school classroom in good order for start of school.

Prevent Fire, our fire extinguisher inspection and maintenance company, inspected one extinguisher they missed during their March 2023 inspection. They also tested and serviced two fire extinguishers "found" in furnace rooms. Now all extinguishers known to exist in the building are inspected. Nancy also developed a fire extinguisher map of the building so when future inspections occur Prevent Fire has an extinguisher locations map to use.

Gutter installation is complete on the north-side of building and west-side of the gym. Job included installation of gutter, downspout, and heat cable in gutters, downspouts, and along bottom of roof line as well as screwing on the bottom downspout joint on all building gutter so busy hands quit pulling off. Also secured west-side gym gutter where nails were pulling away from building.

On Fall Work Day all thermostat batteries checked for operation and old batteries replaced. West sanctuary hallway thermostat battery corroded so battery holder cleaned and new battery inserted now thermostat works.

Grounds Maintenance: A-1 Pest Control treated perimeter of the fenced ground, playground areas, parking lot, sidewalks, and weeds on Hoopes with Roundup to kill weeds mid-summer. They also did a winter fertilizer and weed control applications in late October.

Noel had the sprinkler system blown-out in mid-October.

Dave Van Haaften has maintained the trees in the front of the church - trimming high and low to keep branches off the fascia and roof and allowing us to look out of the south-facing sanctuary building windows. Thanks, Dave.

On Fall Work Day the following activities completed:

- Weeping white birch tree by the main playground aggressively trimmed to get leaves above reach of students and to limit bugs on the picnic tables.
- Heat-taped down spouts on the north-side of building had down spout runs of bricks installed to make mowing and weed trimming easier and to keep water flowing away from the building.
- Front of school and sanctuary pine cones raked and collected, and leaves blown out of front rocked areas.

School Maintenance: Thomas Cleaning and Restoration completed wall repair and painting the Grade 1-2 classroom and the middle school classroom. Nancy and her granddaughter cleaned classroom desks then removed and repositioned library tables for use in school and church areas in preparation for the room painting. Her grandson helped moving paint, chairs, and other heavy things once painting was completed to get the middle school classroom in good order for the start of school.

Holden Electric completed the yearly servicing on the AC unit that cools the south-side classrooms, so we were ready for the start of school. Later in the fall Holden will inspect all our furnaces before the cold weather arrives.

First Street Plumbing pulled the traps on all the classroom sinks and found assorted items, the majority of which were paint brushes. The sinks now drain correctly. Administrative controls should be put in place to avoid this issue in the future.

Property oversaw purchase and installation of smart TVs in grades 1-2 and 7-8 classrooms. The expense of the TVs and ancillary HDMI cables was paid by PTO.

Grade 3-4 door was not closing properly. Kurt, Noel, and Nancy scoped the door, and Noel implemented a fix. Nancy called Darla Schofield to determine who in town is best to call for future interior door repairs – Johnson Brothers was her answer!

General Issues: Nancy cleaned both stinky refrigerators in the kitchen and unplugged them. Signs were posted that refrigerators are to be unplugged for the summer unless used for a social event. If used, all food must be removed after the event; refrigerators cleaned, unplugged, and blocked open. There was NO kitchen staff this summer as well as no summer school.

SignPro provided an estimate of \$6,778.87 to update our lighted sign at the corner of Hoopes and 12th Street. A digital sign in that location is prohibitively expensive. No action will be taken on the

sign until the congregation votes on refurbishing existing building and building a new classroom facility. We will fix the sign only once!

Extra locks and keys to fenced grounds padlocks that secure gates are now in the office under Jamie's oversight. We had spare Master lock keys made so we have a good supply and can control who receives a key.

Strategic Planning Committee

November 8, 2023

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) met Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Mike Madison of LCEF was present at this meeting via Zoom.

Since the last voters meeting, much has been accomplished fleshing out the planning concept. An HVAC mechanical engineer determined from a site visit that our existing building can be feasibly backfitted with central A/C as well as updated heating. Additionally, Roth Properties dug four test holes on the east side of the gym to determine depth to rock. Upon digging to a depth of 48 inches, no rock was encountered. This is very good news.

Two weeks ago, Roth Properties provided cost estimates for the planning concept. Those figures can be seen on the following spreadsheet. Marla Morgan Architecture has also provided her cost estimates (also on the spreadsheet). The cost estimates appear to be very competitive. Both Roth Properties and Marla Morgan are providing reduced fees for their professional services.

It is the intent of the SPC working with the Board of Directors (BOD) to provide the greater congregation and voters 3-D renderings, site plans, proposed timelines and cost estimates of the concept. Based on the busy Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons as well as the additional time required for drawings, renderings and preliminary financing information to be finalized, it will be January, at the soonest, before a congregational Q&A session can be scheduled. Ultimately, the voters will determine whether to move forward with the concept.

Estimate for Hope Lutheran Church and School

Description	Estimate
Tear out old asphalt, reconstruct, plus new parking lot	\$212,905.50
New building with offices, classrooms and storage (8,500 @ \$180/sq ft)	\$1,530,000.00
Remodel HVAC upgrades with A/C	\$270,000.00
New bathrooms in existing building (708 sq ft. @ \$180/sq ft)	\$127,440.00
Fellowship hall remodel (1,304 sq ft. @ \$180/sq ft)	\$234,720.00
Contingency account (10% of total estimated cost)	\$237,507.00
A/E fees (mechanical, structural, electrical and plumbing) @ 4%	\$86,486.00
Estimated builder fee (8.5% of building cost)	\$201,881.00
Total Cost	\$2,900,939.50

Fellowship Committee

A report was not submitted.

Safety Committee

Since the last voters' meeting, a draft Emergency Response Brochure was produced and discussed. The brochure will be distributed to the Elders and training will be provided. The Elders will also be encouraged to take CPR training.

Pastor's Report

Dear Members of Hope Lutheran,

The last quarter has seen us “back in the swing of things.”

With school starting and our accreditation through CCLE, I have been working on a few chapel changes (we introduced the beginning liturgy of “Prayer and Preaching” from the hymnal), I am still hosting regular staff morning devotions, and am now hosting regular meetings with our teachers who are taking the “Lutheran Seminar” through the Concordia University System.

But it's not only school that fills my days. My “Shut In” list is up to 20 Hope Members, 4 Crown of Life members, and 3 non-members. If I am out of the office on a given afternoon, I am usually seeing one of them. If you are interested in supporting our shut ins, please see our prayer page or consider dropping off some cards or gifts - I would be happy to deliver them!

Our Bible Classes are back up and running. Thanks to everyone who has been doing their homework and attending Table Talk Theology, I am greatly enjoying it and it's been nice to see some new faces! We will be meeting throughout the winter (probably down on the “flat” ground), consider joining us!

Tuesday Morning Bible Class continues at 9 am. We recently started the book of Romans, feel free to join us as we explore this book with such wonderful Christian teaching.

Thanks, so much, to everyone who attends Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings. And a special thank you to our Sunday school teachers--what a blessing to pass on the Good News to the children! And, of course, thanks to everyone who comes to join us in worship. Recently we had Reformation Sunday and All Saint's Day. Both are wonderful reminders of why we come to worship: to receive, freely, God's gifts in the Divine Service which well up to everlasting life!

Looking forward, please consider attending our Soup Suppers and Advent Services on the 6th, 13th, and 20th of December. Soup at 6 pm, Vespers at 7 pm. It is a busy time of year, no doubt, but perhaps that is even more reason to take a break, slow down, and reflect on Jesus' work to come and save you.

I am pleased to report that Kory W., from Crown of Life, passed all his seminary entrance exams! He is officially enrolled in the spring cohort for the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program and he and I will be flying out for orientation in February at the St. Louis Seminary. I am hoping I can grab a meal with Noah and Abby while we are there. This also means we are waiting on the Seminary to process his Vicarage application, in which time, my trips up to Rigby should be significantly reduced.

As usual, many thanks to Brenda for her support, her fact-checking when I guess at Bible verses in Bible Class, and to all of you for your prayers and support for my family and me. The kids are doing well, and I am mostly confident we won't get blown off the hill this winter.

I am hoping to refresh my language and writing skills this winter, so, if you see me huddled in my office next to my space heater with flash cards or typing-away, please stop by and knock – I'll be happy for the break!

God's Blessings from the Risen Savior who will make all things new.

Pastor Pay

Psalm 40:16 "But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, 'Great is the LORD!'"