



# 2020 Annual Report

A Year of Accomplishments.



Hope

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# A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

## By Derek Fossey

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Like many of you, I could not wait to see the year 2020 in the rearview mirror. Social justice issues, political turmoil, and (do I even need to say it) the pandemic took a large toll on our families, communities, societies, nation and world. It was a year that was filled with chaos, uncertainty, and unrest. Also like many of you, I have huge hopes and prayers for 2021: prayers that we can deliver a vaccine quickly and effectively; prayers that our nation focuses on what unites us rather than what divides us; prayers for justice and equality; prayers that we can simply forget 2020 ever happened.

But then I thought about a word that we find in the Bible. It's a word that occurs 159 times. It's the word "remember." Over and over again throughout Scripture, God calls us to remember what God has done, most often during difficult times: that God was faithful while God's people were slaves in Egypt; God was faithful while they wandered the desert, and were captives in Babylon; God was faithful even when God's own Son, Jesus Christ, was nailed to the cross; and God was faithful in the year 2020.

I don't believe it is too much of a stretch to say that Hope Lutheran Church accomplished more ministry in 2020 than any other year. Since our transition to online worship in mid-March, we are reaching vastly more people with the Good News of Jesus Christ than ever before. I have received messages from people who are watching our services in the Philippines, Rome, Cairo, Norway and elsewhere around the world. People who have never visited California are now calling Hope Lutheran Church their home church.

Our daily devotionals on Facebook have attracted a community of people who are looking to start their day with the hope we have in Jesus. It is such a delight to see family members and friends connecting with each other each morning and hearing a message of God's grace. Pastors Gerald, Rick, Kevin and Nick have each brought their own, unique messages every weekday morning.

Our online Bible studies have been engaging and enlightening, and the participation has been incredible. While typical Bible studies tend to wane over time, the participation online has remained strong. We are all learning from each other.

# A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

## By Derek Fossey

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Our Stephen Ministry brought a new group of Stephen Ministers and two new leaders: Bob Kramer and Karen Anschell. God worked through each of our Stephen Ministers to bring God's comfort and care during a crucial time in people's lives. God's faithfulness shines through each and all of them, including Tootie Killingsworth who began Grief Share as part of Stephen Ministry.

Another place where God's faithfulness could be seen clearly in 2020 was in our Hope Children's Center. I'll admit that I was worried when schools transitioned to distanced learning, thinking that we would not be able to continue with our mission to reach more families. However, the Hope Children's Center has been a crucial place for many parents and children in our community. They are able to connect with their classes, receive support, play with others, and hear about Jesus. It was a bold step in our mission to share the Good News with Jesus Christ.

Yes, when I think back on 2020, I will remember all the times God showed God's faithfulness to Hope. God brought us Manny Marinez, John Wilson, Dana Karr and Christina Jutovsky. God was with Pastor Gerald as he made the decision to transition to part time ministry and with Kevin as he was called to be our Family Pastor. And I can't begin to tell you how God worked through Pastor Rick, Pastor Carl, Nick, Gabe, Doug, Virginia, Barb, and our entire staff.

But where God was most clearly at work was through you! You are the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus at work in the world. You donated more food items this year than any year before. Your financial contributions went to support struggling families as well as the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, Galilee Center, Read With Me Program, St. Margaret's Food Bank, and FIND Food Bank. The difference you made in 2020 is something I will always remember. Thank you, people of Hope, for all that you did last year, and I cannot wait to see how the Holy Spirit will move through you this year as well.

In Christ,  
Pastor Derek

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# MISSION STATEMENT



“As a part of the family of God’s people, we are a center of hope, a caring community, supporting individuals, nurturing children, assisting families, reaching out in the joy, love, and fellowship that comes from Christ.”

## 2020 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Position	Council Member	Year(s) Elected	Years Eligible for Re-Election
President	Mary Fay Pinnow	2020	2022
Vice President	Jerry Beers	2017	2021
Treasurer	Rick Greaves	2019	2021/2023
Secretary/Worship & Music	Reynold Worch	2015/2017	2021
Youth	Eddy McLachlan	2020	2022
Human Resources	Kent Schulz	2017	2021
Stewardship	Carole Heptinstall	2020	2022
Property Management	Martha Osborne	2020	2022

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA JANUARY 31, 2021 AT 11AM PST VIA ZOOM.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. OPENING DEVOTION
3. OPENING HYMN: "BUILD US UP, LORD"
4. APPROVAL OF THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
6. PASTORS REPORTS
7. COMMITTEE REPORTS
8. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT
9. APPROVAL OF BUDGET FOR 2021
10. ELECTION OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS
11. OLD BUSINESS
12. NEW BUSINESS
13. ADJOURNMENT
14. CLOSING PRAYER

# STATISTICAL REPORT

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The logo for 'Hoper' is written in a white, handwritten-style script font. It is positioned in the upper right corner of the page, set against a dark blue background. The letter 'H' is stylized with a loop, and the 'o' is a simple circle. The 'p' has a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

## Our Online ministry grew rapidly in 2020.

• Average weekly online worship services attendance in 2020	1220
• Average online daily devotional attendance in 2020	400
• Average weekly online kids attendance in 2020	321
• Average weekly online student attendance in 2020	50

## Our Online ministry grew rapidly in 2020.

• Membership, December 31, 2019	1300
• Members received during 2020	
◦ By Baptism – children	4
◦ By Baptism – adults	1
◦ By Affirmation of Faith	0
◦ By transfer from ELCA Congregations	6
◦ From other sources	18
• Total members received 2020	29
• Members removed during 2020	
◦ By death	35
• By transfer	2
• For other reasons and statistical adjustment	0
• Total members removed 2020	37
• Membership, December 31, 2020	1292
• Total Confirmed Membership end of 2020	1144
• Number of Baptized youth who were confirmed in 2020	3
• Households with at least one member	877
• Total member weddings	4

## 2020 HOPE ANNUAL REPORTS

### INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR/ PASTOR EMERITUS

Hard to believe, but it has been twenty-six years since Cheryl and I arrived here at Hope Lutheran Church! My latest position was that of Visitation Pastor. The year 2020 started out well. I spent my time visiting and communing with the sick and hospitalized, those in assisted living and care centers and with those who just wanted a visit. In March that all changed with the arrival of COVID-19. Now most visits were via the telephone. In June I decided that I would probably not return to the Visitation position and would retire for the fifth time.

The summer brought changes with Pastor Karen returning to Atlanta and a call from Pastor Derek. He asked me to come back on staff as the Interim Associate Pastor until a replacement for the Associate Pastor is found. I had to think about how things had changed, no inside worship, everything online and the worship service now videoed in front of a camera. Could the old guy handle that much change? I have to admit that the first few tries were nerve wracking, but over time I have adjusted quite well. So now with the COVID-19 pandemic and stay at home orders, my time is spent writing sermons, visiting members on the phone, taking Zoom meetings and helping Cheryl complete jigsaw puzzles.

Let's all pray that things get back to normal soon and we can worship together in the church again. Through it all, God continues to be good, filling our lives with blessings and hope for a bright future! Thank you Hope members and friends for keeping the "faith" and for making a difference in these trying times.

Pastor Carl R. Witt, Jr.

## TEACHING PASTOR

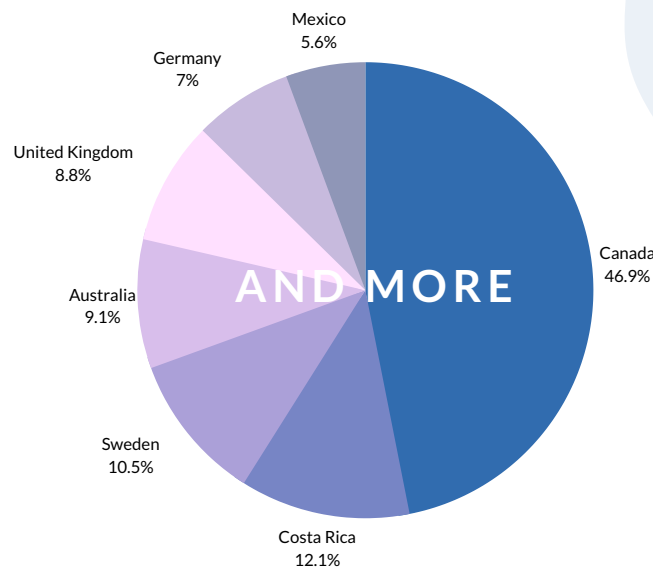
As 2020 began life and ministry was full of plans and dreams that, by the middle of March, had experienced an immediate shift by the disruptive reality of COVID-19. All aspects of ministry had to be rapidly rearranged. Here are a few highlights of the year for me.

### Daily Devotionals

At the onset of the pandemic when we were no longer able to gather for services, Pastor Derek asked each of us on staff to immediately find a way to help the Hope Family stay connected. God placed the idea of Daily Devotionals on my heart. Since, at the beginning, most people were still working away from home, I decided to do them at 7:00am so people could join in and still be able to make it on time to their place of work. What I had anticipated would be two weeks moved into months and by the end of 2020 your pastoral staff had spent 209 mornings online with you. That time not only fulfilled the original purpose of keeping us connected, but went beyond that to deeply enhance our relationships as a regular online community began to form.



Not only are people from Hope a regular part of the online community, we are now joined daily by people who have never attended our church. Families in different cities and states are connecting each day. We're joined daily by people from across the United States, Canada, Europe and more as we average over 400 views per day.





# TEACHING PASTOR

## **Small Group**

At any point in life it's critical that we stay connected in relationships, and one of the great places to do that is in a small group. Before gathering together was restricted, I was leading a small group that had a fluid nature to it, but as we moved online there was a regular group of people who began to connect in community each week around a Bible or book study on Zoom. Our online small group gathering saw up to 18 people gathering each week. The group not only studied together, but journeyed together throughout 2020 on a deep level of caring for one another through significant life events. Being online provided the opportunity for individuals who hadn't previously been part of the Hope family to get connected.

## **Regathering Plan**

We are all looking forward to the day when we get to regather, what a joyful day that will be. When we thought we'd be able to do so in October I led the effort of organizing and strategizing the most effective way to regather while providing as safe an environment as possible. Kudos to Gabe (our Office Manager) and Manny (our Facilities Director) for putting practical plans in place for the strategy I'd envisioned. Regretfully, because of a surge we were unable to regather in October, but we now have plans in place so we'll be ready for regathering as soon as it is possible.

## **Outreach**

As the reality of COVID-19 began to impact lives through job loss or reduction we knew Jesus would expect us to care for those around us in practical ways. One of those was the provision of food for those in need. So I helped lead our first food drive where you donated nearly two tons of food. Additionally, there were day to day needs that we met through providing \$50 grocery gift cards to families and individuals in need.

## **Preaching**

After more than 40 years of pastoring, learning to preach to a camera instead of a congregation was a new adventure. It's hard to preach when you don't know if anyone is "actually" listening. But, our online presence became critical so we all learned to adapt and lives were significantly impacted for Jesus in 2020.

## **Baptism**

One of my definite highlights of 2020 was getting to baptize a high school student during COVID-19. She was ready to receive the promise of God in baptism and be welcomed into the family of God, so I would not let a virus stand in the way of that! I only wish each of you could have seen the joy on her face following her baptism.

## TEACHING PASTOR

### Concluding Thoughts

Although we were all caught off-guard by 2020, God wasn't. God had seen this pandemic before any of us were born and had brought the right people together at the right moment for just this time in the life of Hope. What a joy it was to get in on what God had prepared for us to do.

Pastor Gerald Sharon

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## ONLINE MINISTRY REPORT

**2020 WAS FILLED WITH HUGE CHALLENGES THAT COULD CRIPPLE HOPE'S MISSION** to "Help People Know Jesus". We had to figure out first how to connect our church family and then how to reach out to those God has mandated us to reach. Our answer came quickly: an Online Ministry unlike anything we've done before at Hope.

We immediately went to work designing our website so that people could find us online and see the online resources we have.

**THE MIRACLE** was that Christina (our Social Media Creator) and I had been working on a new website for months and were about to launch two weeks before COVID-19 hit.

We also had ordered some new cameras for the Sanctuary and the Hope Center for the services that we wanted to take online. All of this equipment was exactly what we needed to use in our studios for filming speakers, choir and bands. **THIS WAS NOT JUST A COINCIDENCE.** This was God's hand getting us ready for what was coming. We then had to build studios where we could film all these online resources.

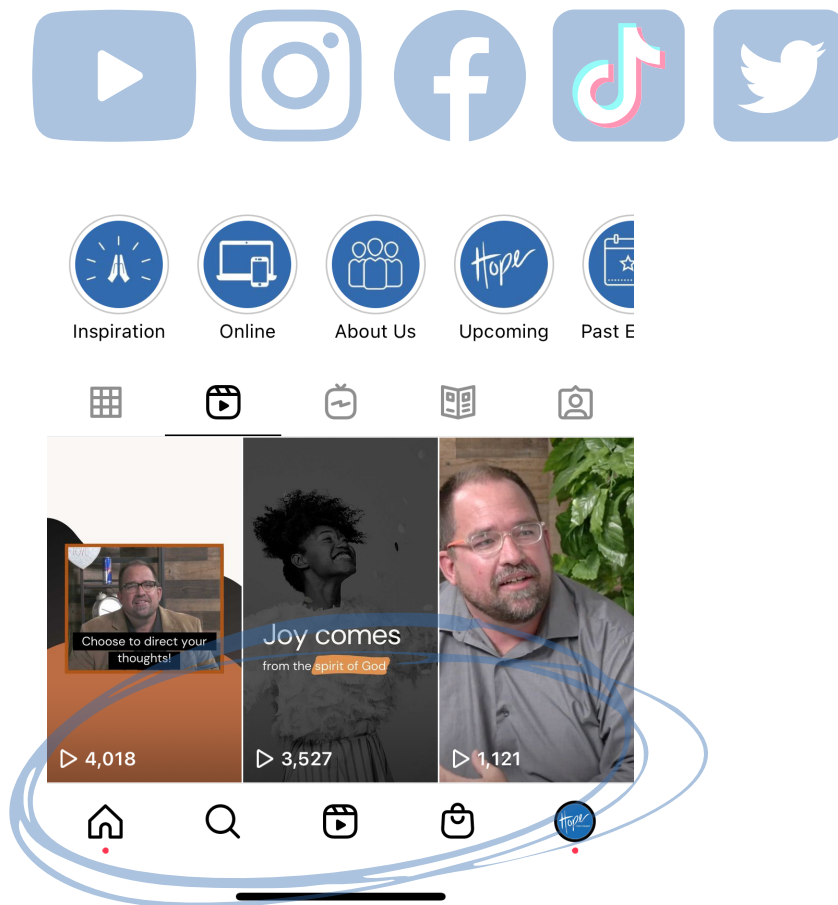
After several months of adapting to an online world **WE REALIZED WHAT A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY GOD WAS GIVING US** to reach people way beyond our church walls. We started hearing from people in other cities, states and even countries that God was connecting us with online. So, we rethought, repurposed, and redesigned our focus to online ministry and all that it would take to accomplish it. In October we started putting together a top rate online ministry team lead by a pastor, Video Creator (John Wilson) and Social Media Creator (Christina Jutovsky).

## ONLINE MINISTRY REPORT

**HOPE IS NOW REACHING OUT DAILY** on YouTube, Instagram, Instagram Reels, Facebook, TikTok as well as our hopepd.org website. We are seeing an increase in all of these platforms to families, students and adults.

We are **CONNECTING** and **ENGAGING** people online and **Helping People Know Jesus**. I want to thank all the staff and volunteers who have given their time to put Hope online. I also want to thank you for your support and prayers. Be encouraged and inspired because God uses us all to minister to our people and the people whom God is calling to Him so all can hear the Good News of Jesus our Savior.

Pastor Rick



## SINCE MARCH 2020

Instagram Reach ⓘ

**11.3K** ↑8699.2%

Facebook Page Reach ⓘ

**84.8K** ↓11.8%



# Student Ministry

## Middle School

- We transferred Stand Firm to an online platform where we are continuing to rewrite, record, and edit the lessons weekly. This platform allows students to complete weekly lessons on their own schedule.
- Stand Firm monthly meetings: we meet in person or via zoom once a month with students to go over curriculum and go into more depth as well as answer any questions students may have.
- Sunday Service: we record and edit weekly Sunday service videos for middle school students and upload them to YouTube.
- The Landing: This service has been held in person in the parking lot and averages anywhere from 15-25 students every Thursday night at 7:00pm. This program has freed a lot of students this year from their doubts about life as well as many other hurts, hang-ups and habits.
- Game Night: Every Friday at 7:00pm students can hop online on any of their gaming devices and play games together. We average anywhere from 5-12 students on game night.

## High School

- Sunday Service: We have been reaching students through prerecorded services which are on many different social media platforms. We directly send the service to each student individually through email, messenger, Snapchat or Instagram.
- Winter Camp: In February we took 30 students to winter camp where 8 students' lives were changed forever through the holy spirits reveal. One of these students has been in daily contact and feels that God is calling him to also become a pastor. This student helps with sending every weekend message to students all over the valley.
- Boys' Bible Study: This is a place where students who are looking to ask harder questions about their faith and life in general. This event happens via Zoom and averages around 5 students biweekly on whatever night works best for the students. It varies but is usually on Wednesday nights or Sunday nights. This year we have read through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.



# Student Ministry

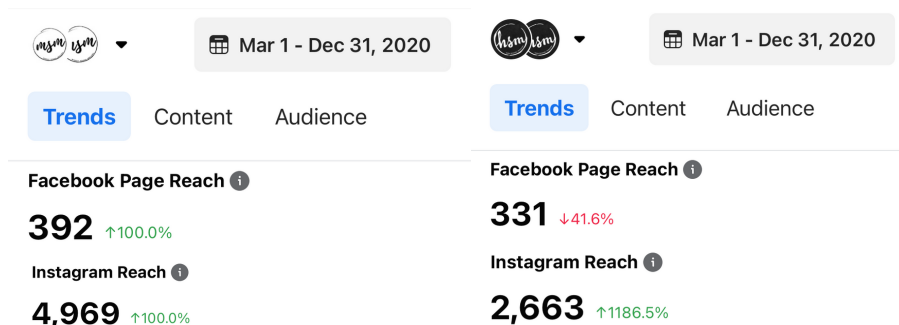
- **The Landing:** this service has been held in person in the parking lot and averages anywhere from 15-25 students every Thursday night at 7:00pm. This program has helped a lot of students this year from their doubts about life as well as many other hurts hang-ups and habits. High School students are asked to help guide and mentor middle school students who are struggling. They can do this just by reaching out on social media through prayer right there or via phone call. Many High School Ministry students have expressed how The Landing has saved their family relationships, friendships, and even their lives.
- **Game Night:** every Friday at 7:00pm students can hop online on any of their gaming devices and play games together. We average anywhere from 5-12 students on game night.

## Students' Stories

- **Christian:** this student is a sophomore in high school and has a passion to spread the word and love of Christ. Christian is interested in an internship where he would work closely in helping develop events through setting up, help lead groups, and bring new students from his high school in Indio.
- **Felix:** when we met Felix, he was a student attending our winter camp in February of 2020. Felix rekindled his relationship with Christ. When he came back from camp, he asked for advice on how to leave his gang. Felix has since left his old life behind and has been sober for 11 months. He is graduating high school early and will be going to school for his contractors license. Felix helps every Thursday night at The Landing with set up and encouraging young male students by sharing that Jesus is the reason he is still here, and that because of Christ he can lead the life God had chosen for him.
- **Grace:** despite moving to Yucca Valley, Grace has expressed interest in being a student leader. She has already been volunteering at The Landing helping young women through life's turbulent times, with Christ at the center of it all.

Pastor Rick Bailard

Nick Orth, Student Minister



# KIDS Ministry

## Our Kids ministry exists to help kids...

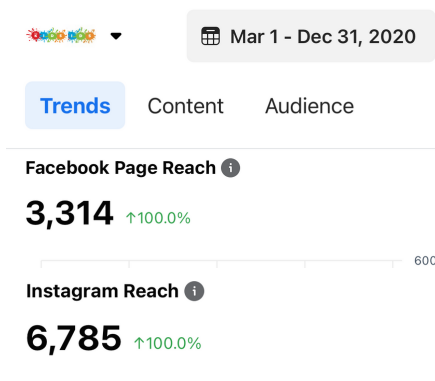
As I sit down to write this and reflect on the last year at Hope Kids, I can't help but let my mind shift to our immediate circumstances and how COVID-19

has changed EVERYTHING we provided to the kids and families in our ministry. As disruptive as this might have been. I was reminded of 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19.

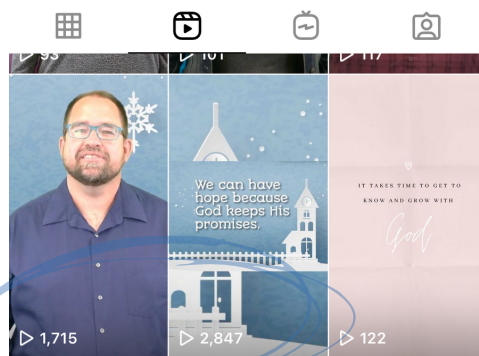
*"<sup>16</sup> Always be joyful. <sup>17</sup> Never stop praying. <sup>18</sup> Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank Him because you believe in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup> Don't try to stop what the Holy Spirit is doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 (NIRV).*

And that is exactly what we did in Hope Kids this past year. We joyfully submitted to the changes the Holy Spirit worked around us. And we give thanks to God, because He did some amazing things!

- The biggest change we made this year was transitioning the weekend services from a physical environment on campus to providing weekend services virtually through our Hope Palm Desert YouTube page. Weekly, we provided two age-appropriate worship services for families to watch from the comfort of their living rooms. In addition, we provided the parents with discussion questions, weekly devotionals, and applicable activities to go along with the virtual services.
- With all of the negative news happening around us this year, Hope Kids created a weekly news segment to balance what the actual news was reporting around us. We created HKGN (Hope Kids Good News) with Dylan Foley, where we gathered the good things that were happening in our church and our community to bring hope and light to those around us.
- We created Hope Kids Facebook and Instagram pages for daily communication with parents, providing parenting tips, promoting our events or missions, reinforcing the weekend message, and allowing an avenue for families to share with their friends what we were providing. Currently we have 177 followers on Instagram and 172 followers on Facebook.

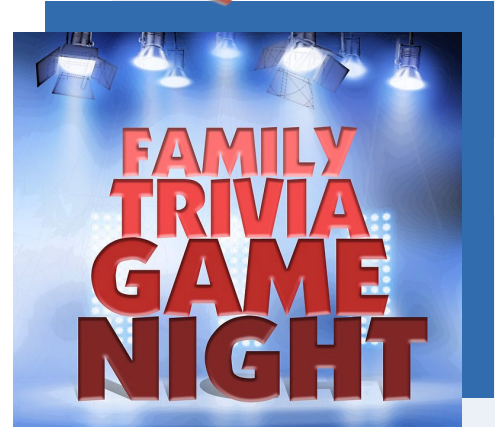


hopekids\_palmdesert 9+ + ≡



# KIDS Ministry

- As the world went more virtual we needed to also find virtual ways to keep kids and families engaged. We did this by offering Family Trivia Game Night, where families could come on an online Zoom environment and challenge other families in a friendly trivia game. We know that families that have fun together stick together. Over the summer we offered this weekly event, averaging seven families, and have since continued offering it monthly with similar attendance.



- Before the shutdown happened, Hope Kids: Joyful Noise Kids Choir was able to perform our musical theater production of What's Up Zak?. With the direction and support of Doug Wilson, 15 of our kids and students at Hope put on a full length (1 hour) production in front of 100 friends, family, and congregational members. And it was AMAZING!! Additionally, the Kids' Choir was able to safely record kids separately and mix their sound and video to make two beautiful Christmas songs for our Christmas Eve services at Hope.
- Although we could not come together in person as a church, we also provided the kids with some service projects that they could get involved in from afar. This year Hope Kids partnered with Coachella Cares and collected 200 Bags of Hope for the homeless in the east valley. These bags were filled with either food and water or hygiene items and distributed to those in need. Also, the kids partnered with Thrivent Member Tina Gates in providing over 100 Letters of Cheer for elderly people in retirement homes.
- In October, Hope Kids hosted our very first Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat. On Halloween we coordinated an event where families from our community could drive through our parking lot at the church while collecting candy from 32 decorated cars. With the help and support of our congregation providing candy and over 75 volunteers handing it out, taking pictures, directing traffic, and creating the atmosphere, we were able to provide an event for over 200 cars and 500 family members that will be remembered for years to come. We hope to continue this event annually.



# KIDS Ministry

- In December of this year we transitioned Kevin Foley to the Family Pastor role and filled the Kids Minister role with the very capable Dana Karr. She has done a seamless job of transitioning into that role. We are very excited to see the success that she will take Hope Kids to in 2021 and forward.
- In 2020, Hope Church added one of our biggest outreach programs to the community around us by opening a Before and After School Childcare for 'kids age 5-12 years'. Originally this was a childcare that was meant to provide care and a Christian worldview to kids before and after they attended school at Washington Charter Elementary School. However, when schools did not open up physically in August, we were able to provide essential working families who needed full day care and help with their kids distance learning. Currently we have 30 kids who attend the Hope Children's Center weekly and 14 of them are attending our Distance Learning Enrichment program. Virginia Plavec is our Director and with her guidance and leadership over the staff and teachers, Hope Children's Center has been a blessing to many families who desperately needed a place for their kids to thrive. We are very excited to see how much it grows.

We are fortunate to have many highlights to reflect upon throughout the last year. We were not without challenges, but the positives were plentiful, and more importantly, the foundation on which Hope Kids stands, continues to be strengthened. Despite these trying times, our current path and values are solid and will be for many years to come. Hope Kids wants nothing more than to provide a platform where a kid's faith can be strengthened by being intentional in the events and programs we run and we are thankful that we get to do this at Hope Lutheran Church.

Truly Grateful,  
Kevin Foley  
Family Pastor





## COVID-19 REPORT

Change has been the key word since March 2020. Since the shut-down began, everything has been different. The last service for Hope was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020. Within a few days, Pastor Gerald began producing Morning Devotionals through our Facebook page. Now the Devotionals are presented by all members of our pastoral staff. We began creating videos of service elements. Simple broadcasts soon developed into beautiful, professional videos. Pastor Rick was responsible for leading the new video presence. In late fall, John Wilson was hired to be Video Creator and Technical Director. Hope's online services are viewed throughout the United States and in several countries. Our video productions will continue after we return to in-person services.

There were several Sundays when the conditions seemed to indicate services could be held at Hope. Conditions always changed and we have not been able to do so. We are prepared for that day. Hope Facilities Manager, Manny Martinez, has purchased sanitation equipment to sanitize the space following services and meetings. We have signage ready to direct members safely in and out of the building. Thermometers are available to take temperatures as we enter the building. Our pews are marked off to allow for social distancing. We have individual communion elements that will be used to worship safely including the sacrament of Holy Communion. For health reasons, the hymnals and Bibles may not be found in the pews.

In addition to the above, Hope has continued to be a servant to our community. Several food drives have been held to support food banks throughout the valley. WELCA donated hundreds of personal care products for women to the homeless shelters. WELCA's annual Angel Tree gathered more than 250 gifts for children at 4 elementary schools. The church provided over \$1500.00 in Ralph's



gift cards for individuals in need of financial help. Members of the congregation continued to bless our church financially so that Hope could show the love of God in Jesus Christ by providing \$1,000.00 a month to Find Food Bank, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, Martha's Village and Kitchen, The Galilee Center and St. Margaret's Church Food Bank. Since the beginning of the pandemic, over \$57,382.00 has been donated to these groups. Hope also provided \$1,000.00 to assist the Read with Me program.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**2020 – What a Year!!** We definitely didn't expect this last year to be as tumultuous as it turned out to be BUT the good news is that WE accomplished the goals we set forth last year!!!

- WE are now reaching more people with the Good News of Christ than ever before through our social media!
- WE opened the new Hope Children's Center, providing Christian values and care for children whose parents need to work.
- WE assisted those in need with an unprecedented amount of benevolence to several charities in the Coachella Valley.
- WE added a new Children's minister, Dana Karr, and moved Kevin Foley into a new role as Family Minister.
- WE added Video Creator and Technical Director, John Wilson, who's done amazing work in creating our videos. A big thanks to Rick Bailard who created all of our content until John joined us.

Yes, WE accomplished all of this! Through the hard work of our staff and the continued support of all of YOU!! THANK YOU!!

Mary Fay Pinnow  
President, Congregational Council

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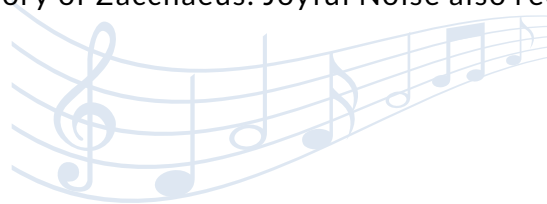
## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The Hope Chorale is the principle music ensemble at Hope. Every week they lead the traditional worship at 9:30am. They also sing for special services, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Thanksgiving Eve, etc. For 2020 the choir rehearsed and led worship until March 8. In April members of the Chorale began recording hymns to be used in the online services.

The Hope Bell Choir played at services in January and February.

Joyful Noise, led by Douglas Wilson and Kevin Foley, presented the children's musical, "What's Up Zak?", the story of Zacchaeus. Joyful Noise also recorded carols for the Christmas Eve service.

Douglas Wilson



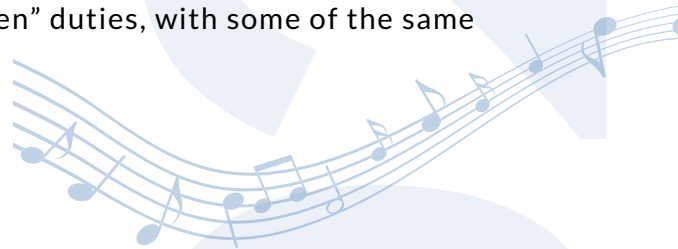
## WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for coordinating Scripture Readers, Acolytes, Greeters, Ushers, Altar Guild, Hope Chorale, Bell Choir, and Audio/Visual Technicians. Much of our work is “behind the scenes”. Our coordinators are Alvera Gaeta, Frank and Cynthia Kawai, Jim and Jeanie Morris, Bonnie Riesen, Doug Wilson, Cheryl Witt, and Reynold Worch.

The year 2020 was an extraordinary year. We had in-church services from January to March. After that, our church doors had to be closed due to the pandemic. This changed our responsibilities quite drastically! Our duties were replaced by our pastoral and administrative staffs and technicians. Our worship services went virtual!

When we begin our in-church services once again, our Worship and Music committee will again go back into action working our “seen” and “unseen” duties, with some of the same leadership coordinators as well as some new ones.

Report respectfully submitted by Reynold Worch



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## CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Celebrate Recovery (CR) at Hope Lutheran has in 2020 been in its third year. It continued to meet every Thursday night at 7:00pm in the Hope Center. CR is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain, or addiction of any kind.

### Some examples are:

- Alcohol / Drug Addiction
- Anger
- Co-dependency
- Eating Disorders / Food Addiction
- Financial Recovery
- Gambling Addiction
- Love & Relationship Addiction
- Physical / Sexual / Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Addiction

CR is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our lives.

The weekly Thursday night program includes a Large Group meeting, with live worship and either a recovery specific lesson or a testimony by someone who has experienced healing through Celebrate Recovery. Gender specific open Share Groups and a time of fellowship called Hope Café follow the Large Group. Once a month, on the second Thursday of the month, we start our evenings by serving dinner as an additional time of fellowship. At the end of February, CR celebrated its second anniversary with 102 people in attendance.

## CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Once the meetings could no longer take place in person, CR moved the Thursday night Large Group meeting to Facebook Live at 6:30pm and the Open Share Groups to Zoom immediately following at 7:00pm and 8:00pm. The Facebook Live events consistently received between 250 and 300 views, with some weeks reaching up to 500 views.

On other days of the week, Step Study groups, which operate like small groups, meet, working through a Celebrate Recovery four-workbook curriculum. CR started 4 Step Studies in 2020. Two of those are held on Zoom. Together they total 27 individuals. One group that started in 2019 graduated in July.

The program began with thirteen trained leaders, and ended the year with fifteen. Those leaders include a Ministry Leader, a Ministry Co-leader, a Training Coach, an Encourager Coach, an Assimilation Coach, a Celebration Place Coordinator, plus a Coordinator for The Landing.

To stay connected and encouraged, the leadership team had two socially distanced, mask-wearing gatherings. Instead of attending the “Summit”, the annual CR conference, in person, fourteen leaders had a virtual conference in the Hope Center in early August, and in November CR leaders and families gathered at the park with a corn hole tournament and some in-person fellowship.

Celebration Place and The Landing usually run parallel to the weekly Large Group and Open Share meetings for adults. Celebration Place is the approved children’s curriculum for CR ministries for children in the 4th -5th grades.

Since CR moved online in March, the Celebration Place Coordinator has put extra effort into staying in touch with the children who usually attend on Thursday nights. She has delivered care packages to their homes, held Zoom gatherings, and has provided lessons that were posted on the social media sites.

The Landing continues to provide a safe place for middle school and high school students to process life, provide tools to help them live emotionally and spiritually healthy lives, and point them towards the freedom found in Jesus Christ. During the first months of the shutdown, the meetings were on Zoom. Later in the fall they regathered outside in the church parking lot.

Through these programs offered by CR, the whole family has been able to continue to participate either online or in person.



## CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Due to COVID-19, CR has not been able to continue most of their church and community outreach. One outreach that was done was the Angel Tree that provided Christmas gifts to 28 children of incarcerated parents here in the valley.

The leadership team of Celebrate Recovery at Hope wants to express their gratitude for the ongoing support from the pastors and congregation. The team is thrilled to have watched the immense life changes that have occurred in people's lives in 2020 due to the tools of CR and the grace of God, and is excited to continue to serve our church community and beyond to provide a safe place to heal from life's struggles and challenges through the recovery principles, the 12 Steps and most of all the healing power of Jesus.

Gesa Sharon  
Ministry Leader

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## ALTAR GUILD

Our Altar Guild, as with some other systems to support the pastors and our worship services, came to an abrupt halt in March of this year because of the COVID-19 virus.

We hope most of our group will be ready to serve when open church services are deemed safe. We have had communion by means of our virtual services, but I know we are all looking forward to having it administered in person.

A huge thank you to all our Pastors who have given us hope, love, and inspiration by our virtual Sunday services and our Monday through Friday devotionals.

Alvera Gaeta  
Chairperson

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## BASESHORE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Baseshore Scholarship Fund, established in the memory of Ira Baseshore, is for the youth of Hope Lutheran Church attending college or seminary. The Baseshore Scholarship is to be used for books, supplies, etc., but not to be used to pay tuition. Hope Lutheran Church thanks The Baseshore Scholarship Fund for providing the scholarships to the following young people in 2020: Aaron Hibler, Sequoia Leach, Daniel Mendoza, Rikki Mottler, and Nick Orth. Total Scholarships provided: \$1,500. Total Value of Assets: \$50,000.00.

For information about participating in the Baseshore Scholarship Fund, please contact the church office. The scholarships are given out of the fund's yearly income. Scholarship Fund donations are greatly appreciated.

## COLUMBARIUM

The Columbarium at Hope Lutheran church provides a special place for inurnment of cremated remains of deceased church members and former members and their spouses and children. Also included are friends of the church who regularly attend and support our ministry.

Management of Columbarium: On behalf of the church Council, the Columbarium Committee administers and manages the Columbarium, and keeps records regarding niche reservations and persons inurned in the Columbarium, including names, dates of birth and death, and inurnment dates.

2020 Activity: There were two inurnments and one new reservation made in 2020. A brochure developed in 2016, "The Columbarium at Hope Lutheran Church" is available to the congregation via the church office and the Information Center. The brochure describes the Columbarium benefits as well as information about how to reserve and select a niche for you or your loved ones.

A series of articles were published in the Hope Light to generate awareness about the availability of the Columbarium, which is located at the east end of the church plaza across from the Hope Center entrance.

Financials: The Ending Balance on December 31, 2020 was \$1,001.68.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerry Beers, Chair

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## HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources (HR) at Hope Lutheran Palm Desert quickly evolved and adapted to accommodate all changes that resulted from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic early in 2020. Essentially Hope Lutheran has gone through a major restructuring. To help understand all the changes at a glance please refer to the accompanying Org Chart, Rev 12.

To best summarize the major changes, there are three key areas that have been affected. The first area is the impact of supporting our Online Ministry, which is headed up by Pastor Rick and supported by John Wilson (newly created position -- Video Creator and Technical Director) and Christina Jutovsky (Social Media Creator). The second area is our Family Ministry led by Kevin Foley in his newly formed position of Pastor Family Ministry. Kevin is supported by Nick Orth (newly promoted to Student Minister), Dana Karr (newly hired Kids Minister) and Virginia Plavec (Director, Hope Children's Center daycare).

## HUMAN RESOURCES

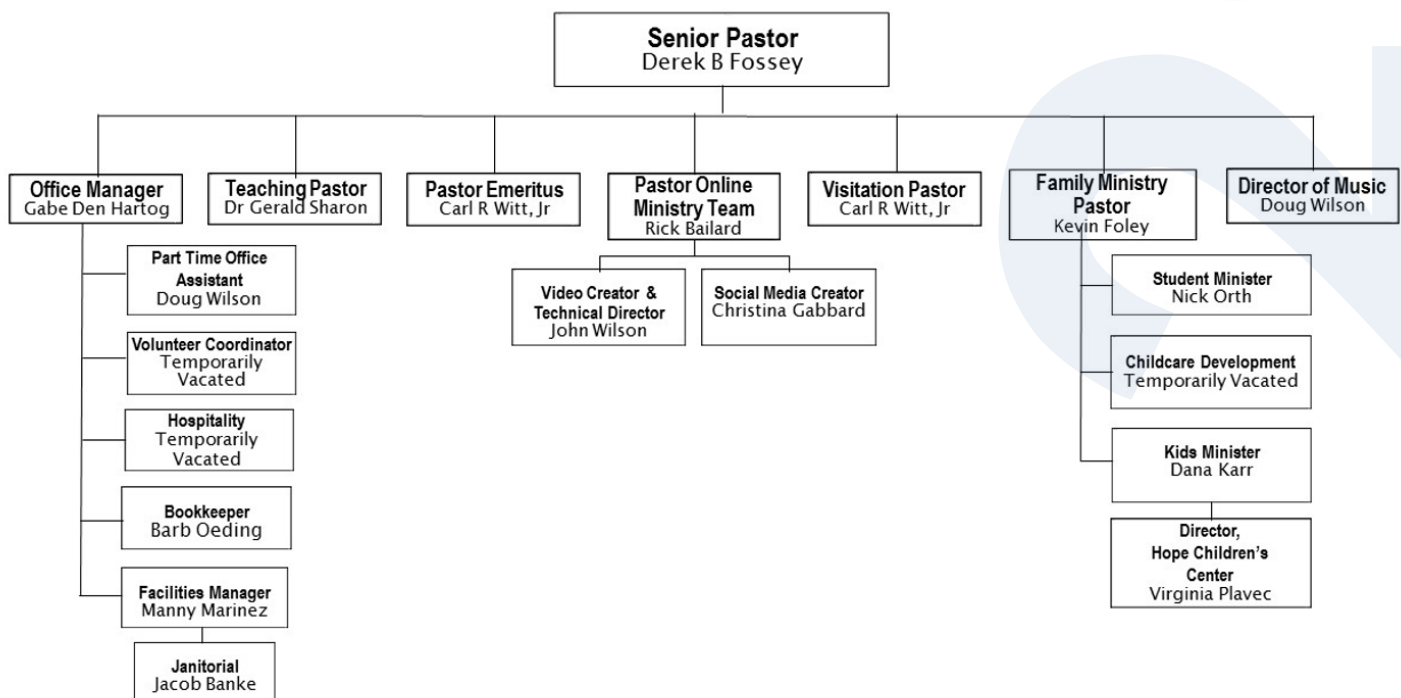
The third area is our overall pastoral support. Hope Lutheran continues to be blessed with an amazingly talented Pastoral Staff. With the departure of our Associate Pastor, we are once again fortunate to have Pastor Carl stepping up to support Pastor Derek (Senior Pastor). It should be noted that Pastor Gerald has decided to move to part time status effective Jan 1, 2021. We will continue to see Pastor Gerald, as most of his duties will involve interacting directly with our congregation. Kevin will now report directly to Pastor Derek.

Other important changes include support for Gabe Den Hartog who continues to do an outstanding job as our Office Manager. Unfortunately, we were forced to lay off all our part time support due to the pandemic; however, we have called back, on a limited basis, Jacob Banke, reporting to Manny Martinez (Facilities Manager). We miss Bobbi Acosta, who did a terrific job for us during her tenure. One more addition is Barb Oeding as Bookkeeper.

Going forward we look forward to a post pandemic environment where we can once again worship and have fellowship together in person. That being said, HR is prepared to make necessary changes to support our ministries as things change and we continue to grow.

Jerry Beers and Kent Schulz,  
The HR Guys

### Hope Lutheran Church Organization



Rev 12  
14 Jan 2021

## LEGACY COMMITTEE



*Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree today.*

Martin Luther

The Legacy Committee of Hope Lutheran Church is chartered to promote and encourage gifts and bequests to the Endowment Fund and to serve as trustees of the Fund. The principal of the Fund is held in perpetuity; only its distributions are used to support the Church's mission and ministry activities that would not otherwise be possible within the church's operating budget.

The Legacy Circle of Hope was created to recognize and honor those who have advised the church that they have prayerfully chosen to leave a legacy that reflects their faith, values, and commitment to Hope Lutheran Church's mission to future generations. These gifts include, but are not limited to, a bequest, charitable trust, charitable gift annuity, IRA or life insurance policy beneficiary designation, or other planned gift such as an asset gift to the Endowment Fund.

We honor these faithful stewards who are the first members of the Legacy Circle of Hope:

Vicki & Larry Graves  
Lynn & Alan Hendershot  
Jeanne & Lou Mace  
Linda, Dale & Kent Schulz  
Gesa & Pastor Gerald Sharon  
Cheryl & Pastor Carl Witt  
Anonymous

A "Legacy Sunday" was held on February 23, 2020 which included an informal question and answer time with Kurt Mortenson and Rick Greaves and an "information booth" on the patio. Two families came forward to say that they had included Hope Lutheran Church in their estate plan.

In August 2020, a \$25,000 gift was invested in a mutual fund, Value Line Asset Allocation (VLAIX), held at TD Ameritrade. Because of the generous gifts made to the Endowment Fund this year and good market appreciation, as of December 31, 2020 the value of the Endowment Fund was \$83,672.53.

Committee members are Lynn Hendershot, Chair, Rick Greaves, Church Treasurer, Derek Fossey, Pastor, Carl Witt, Pastor, Liz Chambers, Gary Eilefson, Sherry Godward, Jeanne Mace and Kurt Mortenson. Any member of the Legacy Committee would be pleased to speak with you about our work and how you might invest in the future of our Church.

## MEMORIAL FUND

		BEGINNING	RECEIPTS	Utilized	ENDING	
		BALANCE	2020	2020	BALANCE	
GENERAL MEMORIAL FUND		\$ 26		\$ 26	\$ -	
BLOOMQUIST, JERRY		\$ 775		\$ 775	\$ -	
COLLINS, WILLIAM		\$ 960		\$ -	\$ 960	
DEW, REV. ROBERT		\$ 3,695			\$ 3,695	
DEW, REV. ROBERT	Flowers	\$ 500		\$ -	\$ 500	
FRANKEL, MIRIAM		\$ 200		\$ 200	\$ -	
FROST, ROGER		\$ 225		\$ 225	\$ -	
GATES, BILL		\$ 275		\$ 275	\$ -	
GRIFFITH, BILL		\$ 450		\$ 450	\$ -	
HARTMAN, TED		\$ 300		\$ 300	\$ -	
HESSE, NOLIE		\$ 175		\$ 175	\$ -	
HOLDEN, CLIFF & CAROL		\$ 4,264		\$ 4,264	\$ -	
IRWIN, RON		\$ 50		\$ 50	\$ -	
KILLINGSWORTH, ARMOR		\$ 1,675		\$ 556	\$ 1,119	
MC GINNIS, PAT		\$ 1,040		\$ 1,040	\$ -	
MILLER, RICHARD		\$ 200		\$ 200	\$ -	
PARTEE, DICK		\$ 150		\$ 150	\$ -	
RENNER, FRED		\$ 1,895		\$ 1,895	\$ -	
ROLLO, JOYCE		\$ 1,555		\$ 1,555	\$ -	
ROMMEREIM, SHIRLEY		\$ 430		\$ 430	\$ -	
SAN JOSE, ELVIRA		\$ 100		\$ 100	\$ -	
SCHULZ, ESTHER		\$ 3,291		\$ 3,291	\$ -	
SEVERTSEN, SHIRLEY		\$ 71		\$ 71	\$ -	
STROM, LOIS		\$ 1,125		\$ 1,125	\$ -	
TORREY, MIRIAM		\$ 455		\$ 455	\$ -	
WALKER, JANE		\$ 570		\$ 570	\$ -	
WOEHRMANN, BOB		\$ 85		\$ 85	\$ -	
WOLLUM, MARY ANN		\$ 100		\$ 100	\$ -	
YASI, KATHY		\$ 300		\$ 300	\$ -	
<b>MEMORIAL FUND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 24,937</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 18,663</b>	<b>\$ 6,274</b>	
Bill Gates			\$ 1,705	\$ 1,705	\$ -	
Val Schultz			\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -	
Jim Hoover			\$ 70	\$ 70	\$ -	
Louis Edwards			\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ -	
Barb Mtzger			\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ -	
Logan Carr			\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ -	
Calvin Heptinstall			\$ 1,375	\$ 1,375	\$ -	
Vivian Whitesell			\$ 1,055	\$ 1,055	\$ -	
Tony LaPorte			\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -	
Jean Johnson			\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ -	
Pat McGinnis			\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ -	
<b>2020 Receipts</b>			<b>\$ 4,825</b>	<b>\$ 4,825</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
Totals		\$ 24,937	\$ 4,825	\$ 23,488	\$ 6,274	
<b>New Memorial Balance as of 1/1/2021</b>					<b>\$ 6,274</b>	



## QUILTERS OF HOPE

Wow! 2020 was a year of the unexpected in so many ways and as a result of the pandemic, at the middle of March, Quilters of Hope was canceled until further notice. We are still waiting to resume activities when it is safe to do so.

Our Quilters season begins in November after we send off the Quilts in October. From November to March 4th we completed 69 quilts. Lutheran World Relief suspended all of the in-gatherings of Quilts, but we were still able to present 4 quilts for a drive-by celebration to graduating high school seniors labeled with a patch including a picture of the Hope sanctuary, their name and bible verse to remind them that God loves them and so do we. We also provided 18 quilts for distribution in the Northern California fire area. We currently have 47 quilts completed to start off our new season and a lot of quilt tops to put together whenever that may be. We are ready!

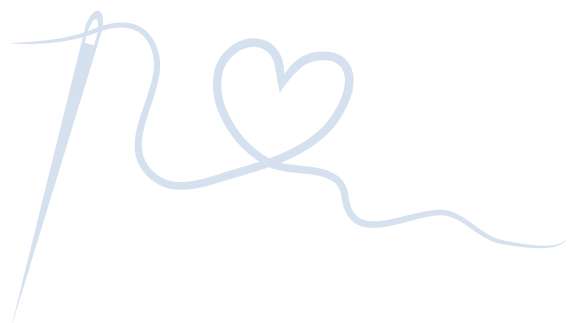
As we continue to demonstrate, Quilting at Hope Lutheran is a combination of fellowship and ministry around the world as well as here in our own congregation and community. Even though we were unable to get together to make quilts, we made masks and sent 77 for a member's daughter's cancer patients and 78 to Central City Mission in San Bernardino.

Those who participated October to March were Carol Beers, Anita Bohning, Jeri Brokaw, Susan Dellinger, Marilyn Devalon, Jane Dreiske, Nancie Free, Julie Fremstad, Tina Gates, Annis Giannini, Ginny Gillman, Luella Grandgard, Kathleen Herring, Shirley Hess, Idell Jessett, Emily Johns, Charlotte Larsen, Bonnie Madonna, Marcia McAfee, Charlotte Moro, Gail Mulkey, Mary Ellen Peterson, Barb Rank, Joanne Risius, Marge Ruffolo, Jenny Russell, Peggy Schauer, Jackie Severa, Carol Simpson, Susan Sommerfeld, Charlene Such, Charlene Westergaard and Linda Wilson. Thank you ladies for a job well done!

Thank you to everyone who donated fabric, supplies and to Manny and Dustin for setting up for us. Thank you Susan Summerfeld for ironing sheets used for backing. A special thank you to my husband, Rick, for his continued encouragement and patience. Even though we were not meeting there is still a lot of "stuff" at our house.

I have missed being able to gather with the wonderful ladies of Quilters of Hope and look forward to the time when we can once again be together and make quilts. We will have so much to talk about. Until that time I pray that everyone stays safe and healthy. We didn't expect 2020 to be like this and I don't know what God has planned for 2021 but I look forward to see what happens and when.

In His Love,  
Anita Holden



## READ WITH ME

Read with Me serves 16 elementary schools in the Coachella Valley with more than 400 volunteers. Its purpose is to help students with English language reading and comprehension proficiency. Saul Martinez Elementary School in Mecca is the school sponsored by our church.

We started our 6th year at Saul Martinez Elementary School with 62 volunteers, twenty of them members of Hope. The Read with Me program and the Hope sponsorship received several write-ups in local newspapers and reports on local television.



In March, when the schools closed to volunteers, and shortly thereafter to students and teachers, we moved to online tutoring, a challenging process for all. Read with Me developed a program and trained volunteers in the online tutoring software used by the school district, and our church provided a classroom for volunteer training and support. We currently have 17 active volunteers in the online tutoring program at Saul Martinez, with several more expected soon.

At Christmas time we also distributed 1,500 books to the students at Saul Martinez.

This is a challenging time. Volunteers and teachers are frustrated, but the students are the ones suffering. Internet service in the remote areas of the valley is spotty. Several school buses were configured as wifi hotspots and parked at strategic places so that students could access the internet and their teachers. Some families have several kids on separate iPads and in different grades, online at the same time, in crowded conditions at home. One of my students from a remote area has to be driven to a place that has an internet signal. He has to participate sitting in his parents' car with one of his siblings who is in another class, and on another iPad, in the back seat.

We have adapted to the changing school environment and will be on the front lines when we can be back in the classroom with the students. In the meantime, we will continue to help where we can and we always welcome more volunteers.

Horst Engel  
Read with Me Volunteer Coordinator.



## WOMEN OF THE ELCA HOPE CHURCH

The women of Hope rely on our faith in God as we pursue our ministry goals to “grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.”

The Coordinating Committee included Sandy McGinnis, Coordinator; Bernice Muller, Treasurer; Carole Olson, Secretary; Gesa Sharon; Barbara Savery; Ginny Gillman; Julie Fremstad; Jackie Severa; Monika Hoover; and Pastor Karen Stephenson. Thanks to each member for their dedication, service and fellowship.

**We grew in our faith through Bible studies.** Esther Circle continued to be well attended and when necessitated by COVID-19 restrictions, met monthly via Zoom. “Sisters in Christ” Bible study continued to be well attended until the summer break. The study was scheduled to resume in November; however, it was suspended due to the difficulties presented by the COVID-19 restrictions. Thanks to Barbara Savery and Julie Fremstad for their leadership in these studies. Pastor Karen offered bible studies twice a month until her departure in June.

We gave generously to local organizations and causes. The following entities are recipients of over \$10,500 in donations: Find Food Bank, Galilee Center, CVRM, The Narrow Door, Shelter from the Storm, Safe House of the Desert, Bethesda, Hope Children’s Center, Mama’s House, Angel Tree, Families Needs and Coachella Cares.

**We sponsored events throughout the year to support and nurture our faith.**

January - The Thank Offering service, organized by Barbara Savery, emphasized the work of women in the congregation who showed their generosity by giving over \$15,000 in Thank Offering gifts. Women participated in the service giving thanks for their many blessings. We are so grateful for the commitment and generosity of all the women of Hope!

February - Gesa Sharon organized our participation in the Tour de Palm Springs. Tour registrations added \$200 to our fundraising totals.

March - Women of Hope hosted the Pacific Synod gathering on March 7. We had good attendance from other churches, and, in addition to the good fellowship, great program and luncheon, we gathered a very large number of love gifts (personal care items, baby products, cleaning supplies, etc.) for Mama’s House and Shelter from the Storm. This was our last in-person gathering of the year. The WELCA Coordinating Committee was tasked with providing for the Soup Supper on March 18; however, the COVID-19 shutdown precluded us from having it.

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA HOPE CHURCH

April - The Committee began meeting via Zoom. Church administration was very helpful in using social media to keep the women of the church connected and informed on continuing activities despite the inability to meet in person.

June/July/August - During the month of June the women of Hope partnered with a local non-profit called "Coachella Cares" to safely distribute "Bags of Hope" to homeless women in the valley. Gesa introduced us to Peggy Grabow who shared how she and others visit homeless camps and build relationships with homeless persons. As part of her effort to build trust she provides various forms of supplies when she visits. With donations from members of the Hope congregation we were able to provide over 100 personal hygiene kits for distribution. The Committee met in person (but socially distanced) to assemble these kits. Needs continued in July for general hygiene kits for men and women as well as food items. The Committee purchased items that were needed. Again, in August the Committee met and assembled 80 snack bags and delivered them to Coachella Cares along with cases of water.

September - The Hope food drive resulted in 2 ¾ tons of food for the Narrow Door along with \$1600 in donations. What a success!

November - Women of the Pacific Synod had a gathering "Celebrating Women" via Zoom on November 7. We were invited and were provided the information for accessing the event.

December - The Angel Tree project spearheaded by Ginny Gillman provided over 250 Christmas gifts for under privileged children at five schools in the Coachella Valley and CVRM. We provided names of children and members of the congregation purchased gifts, wrapped them and returned them to the church where they were delivered to the applicable schools. The committee's "socially distanced" activities including sorting, organizing and delivering these gifts served as our Christmas get-together.

A special thank you to ALL the women of Hope who have supported our mission over this past difficult time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carole Olson

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA FINANCIAL REPORT

	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET
<b><u>Account Balance as of January 1, 2020</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,119.45</u></b>	
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Total Circle Offerings	381.00	
Thankoffering Donations	16,020.00	
Tour de Palm Springs Fundraiser	200.00	
Angel Tree Donations	2,915.00	
General Donations	1,160.00	
Total Income	<u>\$20,676.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Administrative Costs	1,615.00	1,000.00
Ministry Projects		
ELCA Disaster Response	500.00	
Angel Tree and Families Needs	3,413.00	
Local Donations - Other	7,092.75	5,000.00
Total Ministry Projects	<u>12,620.75</u>	
Thanksoffering		
To Churchwide	8,010.00	5,000.00
Gathering Expenses	78.72	
Total Expenses	<u>\$20,709.47</u>	<u>\$11,000.00</u>
<b><u>Ending Balance as of December 31, 2020</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,085.98</u></b>	

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The year ending December 31st, 2020 was no less than an amazing financial year. Total income was up 42.4% to \$1,859,046 from the prior year comparison of \$1,305,145.

Total expenses were up as well by 50.5% amounting to \$1,815,844 from the prior year comparison of \$1,207,977. It is important to point out that this expense number includes the funding of reserves \$75,000, the retirement of debt \$160,000, and the startup costs of the Children's Center \$58,000. This left a net positive result for the church of \$43,202 against a prior year surplus of \$98,368. This year's results stated above are prior to normal debt service and principal reduction expenses, however this year we used general funds to apply \$160,000 to the reduction of debt.

A few comments to explain some of the expense numbers. Our Benevolence payments to the Synod amounted to 5% (\$75,134.55) of our member offering envelopes. Of which \$2500 per month of this was categorized to assist in the mission startup of Hope Palm Springs. An additional \$57,382 was given to local charities that support the community.

The Category "Campus Support" significantly increased over the prior year. However, in that result we had several reserves that we were able to fund. We put \$150,000 into a rainy-day reserve and \$25,000 into building maintenance reserves. Also, this year we were able to reroof the traditional building and fund it from prior reserves.

The Category "Ministry Programs" increased by \$159,000. Supporting the many existing and new ministries of Hope Palm Desert. This includes the startup cost of the Children's Center of \$58,088. The Category Pastoral staff increased by \$47,000 recognizing the additions and reorganization of our ministerial staff.

Another highlight that impacted the church in the year included the retiring of debt that began the year at \$1,876,644 and ended the year at \$1,631,982 (which included a onetime \$160,000 principal reduction mentioned above) resulting in a net reduction of \$244,662. We were also able to refinance our debt earlier this year at a lower rate of 4.375% from 4.875%, reducing our payment by \$994.00 per month. The new rate became effective 6/1/20.

Our mortgage debt remains the elephant in the room, so to speak, from a financial perspective. Retiring this debt would create a sustainable mission environment for Hope for many years to come. This work should be considered of the highest priority financially.

In addition to the above comments your church was able to invest in several things to improve the virtual worship experience, as an example, new audio video equipment to support our online ministries. A Family Pastor position with staffing for Student Ministries, and the new Children's Center ministries.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Another significant accomplishment of your church was the creation of a Legacy/Endowment fund, through gifts of our parishioners we were able to invest \$80,830 in this new fund.

As we enter 2021, we have constructed a budget approved by the church council to manage the church in a similar fashion as we have this prior year. We did anticipate that our member giving would increase as our membership continues to rise and or members generous outpouring of support continues. Our ordinary expenses we increased by 3%. We anticipated that we would regather this new year. In addition, we increased campus support to recognize that we have an aging facility that will require unexpected maintenance events. However, we did not factor in any large gifts as they are too difficult to predict. It is worth noting that the church did receive significant unanticipated gifts in the year that supported many individual missions and the loan principal reduction noted above.

Lastly, I would like to thank the finance committee for their guidance. (Lynn Hendershot, Paul Meinhold, Peter Bohn, Bernice Muller, Dave Vickers and Phil Strick). Although we met only once in person this year, we exchanged emails throughout the year with the financial issues that presented themselves at the time. All committee members receive all the detailed financial reports monthly for their review and comment.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Your Treasurer,  
Rick Greaves

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
Summary Balance Sheet  
As of December 31, 2020

<u>Assets</u>	
Current Assets	
Cash (Checking/Saving)	\$ 745,489
Total Current Assets	\$ 745,489
Fixed Assets	\$ 5,551,481
Total Assets	<u>\$ 6,296,970</u>
<u>Liabilities and Equity</u>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	\$ 518,813
Long Term Liabilities	\$ 1,791,983
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 2,310,796</u>
Equity	<u>\$ 3,986,174</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u><u>\$ 6,296,970</u></u>

Hope Debt Activity Through Dec 31 2020

Year End 2020

Balance of loan Dec.31. 2019	\$ 1,876,644
Debt Reduction through Payments	\$ 84,662
Debt Reduction from General Funds	\$ 160,000
Total Principal Reduction	\$ 244,662
Debt Balance	\$ 1,631,982
Debt Service Expense	\$ 93,555
Growing Hope Donations	\$ 158,006
Balance in Account for Debt Service Dec.31.2020	<u>\$ 83,629</u>
Monthly Payments	\$ 10,264

# BUDGET

## Hope Lutheran Church Palm Desert

### Final Results 2020

REVENUE	Jan - Dec Actuals 2020	Budget 2020	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2019	Percentage Change 2020 to 2019	Proposed 2021 Budget
Member Giving / Total Income	\$1,859,046	\$1,318,299	\$1,305,145	42.4%	\$1,554,625

EXPENSES	Jan - Dec Actuals 2020	Budget 2020	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2019	Percentage Change 2020 to 2019	Proposed 2021 Budget
Benevolence	\$132,516	\$84,048	\$75,980	74.4%	\$92,982
Administration	\$92,733	\$104,504	\$103,439	-10.4%	\$80,045
Campus Support	\$532,186	\$185,602	\$220,664	141.2%	\$232,644
Ministry Programs	\$336,058	\$223,207	\$177,055	89.8%	\$329,837
Non-Pastoral Staff	\$193,672	\$175,561	\$147,881	31.0%	\$290,378
Pastoral Staff	\$528,679	\$534,326	\$481,759	9.7%	\$498,304
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,815,844</b>	<b>\$1,307,248</b>	<b>\$1,206,778</b>	<b>50.5%</b>	<b>\$1,524,190</b>

Surplus / Loss	\$43,202	\$11,051	\$98,367	NA	\$30,435
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Building Revenue	Jan - Dec Actuals 2020	Budget 2020	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2019	Percentage Change 2020 to 2019	Proposed 2021 Budget
Member Giving Growing Hope	\$158,006	\$135,096	\$148,224	6.6%	\$123,168

DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES	Jan - Dec Actuals 2020	Budget 2020	Prior Year Actuals Jan-Dec, 2019	Percentage Change 2020 to 2019	Proposed 2021 Budget
Reduction in Debt	\$244,662	\$39,096.00	\$28,132		\$42,423.00
Debt Service	\$93,555	\$96,000	\$64,157	45.8%	\$71,400

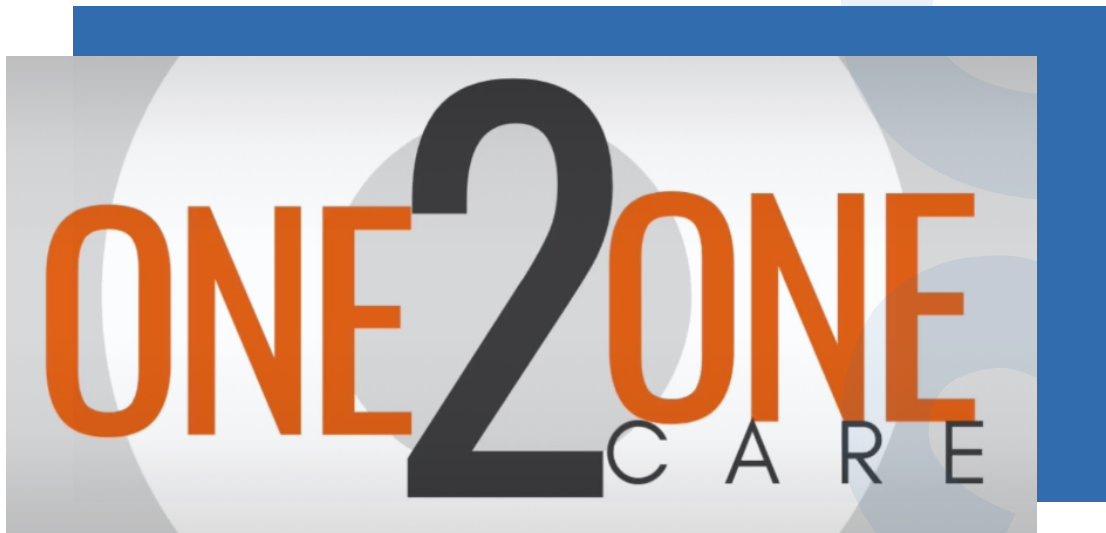
Surplus/ Loss Building / Growing Hope	\$64,451	\$39,096	\$55,935	15.2%	\$9,345
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## STEPHEN MINISTRY

As many of you know, Stephen Ministry is a support system designed around one on one personal visits to persons experiencing one or more of life's hardships that we all face from time to time. It operates as an extension and support of the ministerial staff of the church. It is a worldwide, Christian organization with thousands of ministers in place serving others.

Because of the current epidemic, we have modified our connections with care receivers to conform with the new normal. Most of our support is now virtual or by telephone and other electronic means. We are anxious to restore face to face contact with those in need where not currently possible.

We are, however most anxious to be supportive to anyone needing a little extra support during these stressful times. To connect with one of our trained, caring ministers, please contact Pastor Derek for further information. Top most in our service is confidentiality, so be assured that your need will be held to this high standard, and Pastor Derek will endeavor to find the best match for your support. We can support you safely in any way: in person, on the phone or video conferencing. We want to be there for you, your way!



Hope

## HOPE PALM SPRINGS

“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

The year 2020, our second year of God’s mission and ministry at HPS, will go down in history as a difficult year. It will also be remembered for the way the Light of Christ shone in the darkness of a pandemic era.

For Hope Palm Springs, 2020 was a year of stretching and growth, involving creativity in ministry we could never have imagined and in ways we might never have chosen. From mastering Zoom forums to video producing and editing, from gathering in the park with wind and random sprinkler cycles to developing relationships online, we built into our new DNA more resilience and strength.

Who could have imagined that a new faith community could survive when for half its existence it has not been able to meet in person for worship? With the dedicated leadership of the Launch Team, and by God’s Spirit, we will emerge on the other side of COVID-19, fortified and ready to continue the work of shaping a church. We are a changed people, a changed church, and continue God’s mission among us now in a changed world.

Here are three highlights of ministry of the past year:

### **Deepening of Relationships**

With the increasing isolation brought on by “Stay at Home” orders, people longed for connection. Several people reached out by phone regularly to others of our faith community. Online forums and eventually, communion in the park, provided a chance for us to gather virtually or safely in person. Our weekly worship video and twice-weekly newsletters kept most of us in the loop of communication.

### **Financial Strength and Support**

As Sunday morning “in-person” worship was precluded, most of our faith community switched to online giving. 70% of our faith community gives this way now. Year one to year two of ministry brought with it a stewardship growth expectation of 56%. I am happy to report that giving will exceed even that. Where we did fall short was in developing mission partners with other congregations, a program now well under way at this time and will produce fruits in 2021.

### **Expanded our Understanding of Church**

What will happen now as the vaccine takes hold in our population? Will people simply return to church and attend as they did before? Living in/through a pandemic forced us into new ways of “doing church.” Seasonal folks throughout the country are regulars in online forums, and folks who have never physically attended one of our worship services, attend virtually now and are active within our faith community. An online extension of our work has changed us forever and will continue long after COVID-19 is history.

2021 brings much hope, especially “in light of” the distribution of a vaccine.

## HOPE PALM SPRINGS

It also brings significant anticipated milestones for us as a new faith community: the renaming and rebranding of our ministry and becoming a “Reconciling In Christ” faith community (being recognized in the ELCA as LGBTQ+ welcoming). In 2021 we’ll also begin the ELCA process of becoming an independent Lutheran body and will focus on developing strong mission partnerships with other Lutheran congregations.

Partnerships to a young faith community like ours are vital components to successful mission starts. We continue to be grateful to the folks and pastors/staff of Hope Lutheran Church, Palm Desert, who have graciously taken us under their wing and provided necessary support. Under the umbrella of the Pacifica Synod, Bishop Andy Taylor, Rev. Tom Goellrich (DEM), Terri Robertson, and others of the Pacifica Synod have been the nuts and bolts of this fledgling ministry. To them and to others who share with us the vision, dream along with us the possibilities, and help us lean into the future, we say “thank you”!

May the Light that is the Christ continue to shine in the darkness of the world and in the work we do together that all may know that they are loved, accepted, embraced, and welcomed into a church that reflects the heart of God. Regather. Love. Serve.

Deep Peace,  
Rev. Tim Edmondson  
Pastor/Developer

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

As we marched through 2020 socially distant and congregating from our homes, the campus maintenance continued as usual. This past year, the church engaged in a reserve study to help guide the Council and staff on the timing of future repair and replacement of the major components and how to budget towards this maintenance.

During the summer of 2020, a new polyurethane foam roofing system was applied to the sanctuary building. The foam roof will not only protect the building from leaks, but it also provides insulation, keeping the building cooler during the summer months. Early in the year, the operable/moveable walls were serviced and repaired making them much easier to open and close. Thanks to Kevin Foley’s and Virginia Plavec’s dedication to the children of Hope, the school classrooms were completely renovated. The improvements are welcoming and quite spectacular! We will soon be adding a basketball hoop, a few picnic tables and comfy outdoor seating in the school play areas.

During the shutdown, the media, audio visual and internet service have all been upgraded. In addition, we purchased a disinfecting machine to keep the facilities sanitized.

Lastly, but equally important, special thanks goes to Manny Martinez for his dedication, leadership and hard work in maintaining the facilities at Hope Lutheran Church. Thanks also goes out to Jacob Banke and Raul Mendoza for their continued commitment in keeping the campus clean and ready for when we are all able to reconvene once again.

Martha Osborne



# 2020 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

26 January 2020

Call to order by Mary Fay Pinnow at 12:10 p.m., followed by opening devotion, hymn and prayer.

Congregational Agenda: Linda Griffith moved that we “accept the agenda presented,” seconded by Lenore Jones. Motion passed.

2019 Minutes: Barbara Savery moved that we “accept the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting,” seconded by Kay Bledsoe. Motion passed.

Pastor Derek’s Report: In addition to his message printed in the Annual Report 2019, Pastor also praised and thanked all the volunteers who help to make our Ministry at Hope Bible-based, successful and fulfilling.

Pastor Karen’s Report: Pastor expressed gratitude for being welcomed so wonderfully, and echoed her message as found in the Annual Report 2019.

Pastors Gerald and Rick’s Report: In addition to their messages contained in the Annual Report 2019, they introduced Kevin Foley and Nick Orth and praised them for the exceptional and outstanding Ministry they perform with the youth of our church and community.

Committee Report: Our president referred our members to read the committee reports at their leisure.

Financial Report: Rick Greaves presented his report and answered questions from members. Further discussion ensued after which Kurt McLachlan moved that we “accept the financial report as presented.” The motion was seconded by Carl Caddies. Motion passed.

2020 Budget: A budget of \$1.3 million was presented to the members. After answering questions and discussing various aspects of the budget, members put it to a vote. Carl Caddies moved that we “accept the budget for 2020.” His motion was seconded by Horst Engel. Motion passed.

Election of Congregational Council Members: A slate of candidates for Council was presented by president Mary Fay: Carole Heptinstall, Dr. Eddy McLachlan, Martha Osborne, and Mary Fay Pinnow. Linda Griffith moved and Lenore Jones seconded that we “accept and elect the slate of candidates as presented.” Motion passed.

There was no Old Business or New Business to discuss.

Adjournment: Barbara Savery moved that we “adjourn the meeting,” seconded by Kay Bledsoe.” Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Derek.

Respectfully submitted by Reynold Worch  
Secretary of Hope Lutheran Church Council.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

### LITANY

L. O God of all power and love ...

**C. ... we give thanks for your unfailing presence.**

L. O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...

**C. ... for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.**

L. O God of all power and love ...

**C. ... we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.**

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you ...

**C. ... to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.**

L. O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...

**C. ... a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.**

L. O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...

**C. ... wherever and however we gather. Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

#### Build Us Up, Lord

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in  
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our

us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your  
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our

ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.  
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we  
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us

guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the  
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us

world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.  
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

*Refrain*  
Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in  
faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your  
word to spread the news of your Son!

Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952  
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