

Recapping 2016 and Planning for 2017

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Minutes of Hope's Celebration ~ January 31, 2016

Present: 72 Voting members of Hope Lutheran Church
Meeting was called to order at 9:00am

God's faithful working in the administration of Hope-Executive Team and Council

God's faithful working in ministries of youth and education-BOYEM

- KOK
- Keeping the Promise
- 5th & 6th Youth Group
- H2H Confirmation
- High School Youth Group & Mission Trip
- Adult Learning

God's faithful working in ministries of fellowship and service-Deacons

- Prayer Team
- Creative Worship Committee
- Garden Team
- Shared Ministry Team

God's faithful working in ministries of administration-Trustees

- Contributions
- Budget
- Assets & Liabilities
- Taco Stand

God's faithful working in Word and Sacrament-Pastor Steve

Congressional Decisions

- Election of Officials: 72 ballots collected, all approved
- 2017 Plan for ministry (Budget)

Other Reports: Hope Lutheran Foundation, Congregational Statistics, Gustavus Adolphus Report, Minneapolis Area Synod Letter

Adjourned at 10:00am

Nominating Committee Report

Office	Length of Term	Person(s) Serving	Candidates
President	2 years	Roger Anderson (15,16)	Curt Wicklund (17,18)
Vice President	2 years	Curt Wicklund (15,16)	Kyle Narum (17,18)
Council Secretary	2 years	Deb Barker (16)	Deb Barker (17)
Treasurer	2 years	Dave Holzer (16)	Dave Holzer (17)
Board of Trustees	3 years	Dean Christiansen (15,16) Chuck Soller (13,14,15) Mike Seifert (14,15,16) Randy Mattson (16) Rod Lieske (16)	Dean Christiansen (17) Paul Schmidt (17,18,19) Roger Anderson (17,18,19) Randy Mattson (17,18) Rod Lieske (17,18)
Board of Youth and Educational Ministries	3 years	Jess Felten (15,16) Jennifer Schultz (15,16) Steve McClellan (14,15,16) Leah Holmberg (16) Doug Johnson (16) Jane Sieve (16)	Jess Felten (17) Jennifer Schultz (17) Clint Mack (17,18,19) Leah Holmberg (17,18) Doug Johnson (17,18) Michelle Zappetillo (17,18)
Board of Deacons	3 years	Dana Seifert (15,16) Glenda Laffen (14,15,16) Ken Arntson (14,15,16) Heather Kinkeade (16) Tammy Schleifer (16)	Karen Francis (17) Brenda Lieske (17,18,19) Cindy Lind (17,18,19) Heather Kinkeade (17,18) Tammy Schleifer (17,18)
Gustavus Adolphus Rep	2 years	Curt Wicklund (15,16)	Curt Wicklund (17,18)
Minneapolis Area Synod	1 year	Council Appointed (16)	Council Appointed (17)
Nominating Committee	2 years	Leah Holmberg (15,16) Paul Engfer (16) Hope Mack (15,16) Cindy Lind (15,16) Brenda Lieske (16) Ben Kalow (16)	Steve McClellan (17,18) Paul Engfer (17) Glenda Laffen (17,18) Terri Oakes (17,18) Hope Mack (17) Ben Kalow (17)
Mission Endowment Fund	3 years	Rod Lieske (15,16) Kathy Mattson (14,15,16) Kevin Lind (16)	Rod Lieske (17) Tom Francis(17,18,19) Kevin Lind (17,18)
Audit Committee	3 years	Angela Wood (15,16) Tim Newton (14,15,16) Gene Sieve (16)	Angela Wood (17) Josh Kinkeade (17,18,19) Gene Sieve (17,18)

Pastor's Report- Steve Thompson

I never try to listen to other peoples' conversations in public places, but sometimes it's unavoidable. Recently I overheard someone telling of troubles she had experienced in her church. The basic problem seemed to be that the members of the congregation weren't being told how the congregation's money was being used. I was amazed to hear that the congregation in question didn't have an annual meeting nor did it have a printed annual report.

Our synod requires that its congregations do both, and so you have in your hands our accounting of how we have used the funds that have been given as offerings during the past year as well as other funds that have come our way. The trendy word now is that organizations need to have "transparency," and so this is our way of being transparent in terms of our stewardship of things. The annual meeting and report of the activities of various ministries and committees of our congregation, by which you can get a reading of the many aspects of our parish life is something to be celebrated.

As pastor during 2016, I led lots of worship services at which the Word of God was boldly proclaimed; I was honored to officiate at baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals. I taught confirmation classes and facilitated the "Keeping the Promise" events with children of each grade level together with their parents. There were visits with people struggling and celebrating the changes and chances of life. There was general administrative work along with dedicated and faithful members of the Hope Lutheran team.

Even after doing pastoral ministry for 30 years I find that I am still learning and growing. Into my 11th year here at Hope I have so many fond memories of our journey together. There has been much laughter and some painful tears along the way. I appreciate being able to encourage and challenge you who intend to be faithful followers of Jesus. As I do what I am called to do I myself am encouraged and challenged. It is my privilege to be part of this congregation and community. I have been well loved and supported through some difficult times.

Thank you, and love to you all,

Pastor Steve

Shared Ministry Report

It was another busy and successful year at Hope Lutheran. As the Shared Ministry Staff we kept very busy. We are truly blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers that keep our programs successful.

Listed below are accomplishments/tasks which are regularly completed.

- Communicated with the congregation through the website, Facebook posts, and monthly newsletters.
- Attended BOYEM, Deacon, Prayer team, and Council meetings to discuss projects, policies, and upcoming events.
- Utilized time and talents of the congregation members.
- Assisted with volunteer recruitment and created online sign-up sheets for church-related events such as taco stand, potlucks, golf tournaments, and VBS.
- Helped coordinate community outreach activities such as Celebrate Jordan.
- Worked with Nominating Committee to come up with lists of possible candidates for open board and committee positions.
- Assembled and sent care packages to seven college freshman.
- Coordinated multiple youth activities such as Bingo, Linus Blanket Project, Sandwich making project, and CERC events.
- Created a background check policy and completed background checks on youth group leaders.
- Helped to coordinate "God's Work. Our Hands."
- Assisted with the needs of Families Moving Forward.

Shared Ministry Coordinators,

Lynda Schaumburg

Sarah Gavert



Contributions Report

1/24/2017
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Hope Lutheran Church

Fund Comparison (5 years) 1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016

Fund	Date Range	Offerings	Count	Givers	Towards a Pledge	Count	Pledgers
0001 - GENERAL	1/1/16 - 12/31/16	193,850	1,983	139	0	0	0
	1/1/15 - 12/31/15	206,453	2,281	146	79,561	840	37
	1/1/14 - 12/31/14	204,188	2,159	153	725	13	1
	1/1/13 - 12/31/13	224,837	2,160	153	137,236	1,302	67
	1/1/12 - 12/31/12	205,879	2,179	155	99,122	768	33
		\$1,035,207			\$316,644		
0003 - SPECIAL	1/1/16 - 12/31/16	1,800	42	3	0	0	0
	1/1/15 - 12/31/15	2,100	48	4	0	0	0
	1/1/14 - 12/31/14	2,250	49	4	0	0	0
	1/1/13 - 12/31/13	2,360	70	5	2,035	59	5
	1/1/12 - 12/31/12	1,880	51	6	0	0	0
		\$10,390			\$2,035		
0004 - BUILDING	1/1/16 - 12/31/16	99,110	906	69	0	0	0
	1/1/15 - 12/31/15	97,156	1,035	71	68,545	643	48
	1/1/14 - 12/31/14	115,780	1,038	77	103,035	865	49
	1/1/13 - 12/31/13	85,745	834	85	27,510	173	17
	1/1/12 - 12/31/12	73,726	814	65	1,300	12	1
		\$471,516			\$200,389		

All Funds		Offerings	Count	Towards a Pledge	Count
1/1/16 - 12/31/16	294,760	2,931	0	0	
1/1/15 - 12/31/15	305,709	3,364	148,106	1,483	
1/1/14 - 12/31/14	322,217	3,246	103,760	878	
1/1/13 - 12/31/13	312,942	3,064	166,781	1,534	
1/1/12 - 12/31/12	281,485	3,044	100,422	780	
	\$1,517,113		\$519,068		

Trustee's Report

2016 Review

Hope Lutheran Trustees are stewards of Hope Lutheran's Building, Grounds, and Operations. Trustee activities include completing monthly maintenance tasks, completing unplanned repairs and quick fixes, and meeting monthly to discuss progress of open and new issues. Highlights for 2016 building and grounds activities were concrete raising of front sidewalk (eliminate trip hazard), adding signs to Hope's Prairie (not to spray), switching to janitorial service (cost savings) and replacing the outdated/and unreliable parking lot lights with new LED lights (safety improvement, and long term energy cost savings). Highlights for 2016 church operations include reducing mortgage to < \$700,000 and Taco stand income of just over \$11,000. One of the challenges for 2016 was meeting our operating budget which did fall short of the budget this year.

The Trustees also get help throughout the year by many volunteers and donations from the congregation. The Trustees would like to thank everyone that donated to and participated in the 2016 Church Silent auction (2017 auction coming soon), lawn mowers, garden tenders, Taco stand volunteers and committee, Gods Work our Hands workers (tree trimmers) and anyone else that pitched in to help maintain our building and grounds during 2016.

Challenges for 2017 and Beyond

One project on the list for 2017 is bathroom updating. Our plumbing has struggled to keep up with the extra use during FMF weeks over the past couple of years. Overall the bathrooms are showing wear and are not as hospitable as they should be. For 2017 a committee has been formed to investigate and propose a plan to address the concerns, so stay tuned for updates as the year progresses. Other items that still need attention are parking lot resurfacing, sanctuary lighting, and Praise the Children area updates to flooring, lighting, and walls. These items will remain near the top of the Trustee to do list.

Trustees:

Chuck Soller
Dean Christiansen
Rod Lieske
Randy Mattson
Mike Seifert

Treasurer's Report 2016 & Budget for 2017

		2015	2015	2016	2016	2017
		Budget	DEC. 31ST	Budget	DEC. 31ST	Budget
1100	Income					
1110	Offerings/Current	\$ 215,000	\$206,242	\$215,000.00	\$193,790	\$215,000.00
1130	Capital Campaign (Mortgage P&I)	\$ 130,000	\$99,162	\$118,000.00	\$100,831	\$130,000.00
1140	Sunday School Offerings (Kids of K)	\$ 1,000	\$1,135	\$1,000.00	\$1,359	\$1,000.00
2000	OUTREACH					
2110	VBS Registration	\$ 1,000	\$653	\$1,000.00	\$708	\$800.00
2150	KOK Registration	\$ 1,000	\$732	\$1,000.00	\$651	\$800.00
3000	OTHER INCOME					
3101	Praise the Children - Rent	\$ 25,800	\$30,100	\$25,800.00	\$25,800	\$25,800.00
3220	Loose Offerings	\$ 10,000	\$10,552	\$10,000.00	\$13,310	\$12,000.00
3230	Thrivent Matching Funds	\$ 1,000	\$3,332	\$2,000.00	\$947	\$2,000.00
3780	Community Page	\$ 2,000	\$3,000	\$3,000.00	\$3,300	\$3,000.00
3850	Hall Rental	\$ 1,000	\$1,125	\$1,000.00	\$1,150	\$1,100.00
3855	Table Rental	\$ 350	\$207	\$350.00	\$465	\$400.00
3900	Bldg, Grnds, Improvement					\$50,000.00
4000	Fund Raising					
4010	Taco Stand	\$ 15,000	\$20,160	\$20,000.00	\$20,474	\$20,000.00
4030	Silent Auction	\$ 4,000	\$3,400	\$3,500.00	\$2,560	\$3,000.00
4050	Garage Sale	\$ 2,000	\$2,211	\$2,000.00	\$7	\$2,000.00
4060	Pop Machine	\$ 1,000	\$1,074	\$1,000.00	\$833	\$1,000.00
4070	Craft & Vendor Fair	\$ 1,000	\$1,117	\$1,000.00	\$844	\$0.00
	Income Total	\$ 411,150	\$384,202	\$405,650.00	\$367,029	\$467,900.00
100	Benevolence					
110	ELCA Pledge	\$ 10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000.00	\$10,000	\$10,000.00
120	Sunday School	\$ 1,000	\$1,140	\$1,000.00	\$1,360	\$1,000.00
	Total	\$ 11,000	\$11,140	\$11,000.00	\$11,360	\$11,000.00
200	Ministry					
210	Pastor Salary	\$ 38,890	\$38,890	\$38,890.00	\$38,890	\$38,890.00
220	Housing Allowance	\$ 27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000.00	\$27,000	\$27,000.00
230	Social Security Reimbursement	\$ 4,045	\$4,044	\$4,045.00	\$4,044	\$4,045.00
240	Car/Business Allowance	\$ 8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000.00	\$8,000	\$8,000.00
250	Continuing Education	\$ 500	\$546	\$500.00	\$512	\$500.00
260	Pension, Medical, Dental	\$ 30,336	\$30,156	\$32,647.00	\$32,433	\$33,850.00
265	Sabbatical	\$ 2,000	\$0	\$2,000.00	\$0	
270	Shared Ministry Coordinator Salary	\$ 20,400	\$14,352	\$9,360.00	\$3,855	\$9,360.00
	Total	\$ 131,171	\$122,988	\$122,442.00	\$114,734	\$121,645.00

Treasurer's Report 2016 & Budget for 2017 continued. . .

		2015 Budget	2015 12/31/2015	2016 Budget	2016 12/31/2016	2017 Proposed
300	Board of Youth & Education					
310	KOK	\$ 1,000	\$687	\$1,000.00	\$558	\$800.00
320	Volunteer Appreciation	\$ 200	\$46	\$100.00	\$0	\$100.00
330	Adult Education	\$ 300	\$0	\$150.00	\$0	\$150.00
340	Vacation Bible School	\$ 800	\$243	\$500.00	\$285	\$500.00
345	Youth Lead Worship	\$ 2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000.00	\$1,500	\$2,000.00
350	Craft & Vendor Fair	\$ 300	\$201	\$200.00	\$203	\$0.00
355	Youth 5th-6th grade	\$ 400	\$56	\$200.00	\$63	\$200.00
360	Youth 7th-8th grade	\$ 500	\$551	\$600.00	\$423	\$600.00
365	Youth 9th-12th grade	\$ 500	\$110	\$250.00	\$208	\$250.00
	Total	\$ 6,000	\$3,894	\$5,000.00	\$3,240	\$4,600.00
400	Fund Raising Expense					
410	Taco Stand Expense	\$ 7,000	\$8,698	\$10,000.00	\$9,132	\$10,000.00
430	Garage Sale Expense & Allocations	\$ 1,000	\$684	\$500.00	\$0	\$500.00
450	Pop Machine Expense	\$ 400	\$138	\$250.00	\$185	\$250.00
	Total	\$ 8,400	\$9,520	\$10,750.00	\$9,317	\$10,750.00
500	Board of Deacons					
510	Visiting Pastors	\$ 1,000	\$1,033	\$1,000.00	\$690	\$1,000.00
520	Worship	\$ 1,500	\$1,314	\$1,500.00	\$1,725	\$1,500.00
530	Music Purchases	\$ 500	\$472	\$500.00	\$279	\$500.00
540	Stewardship	\$ 400	\$0	\$250.00	\$0	\$250.00
550	Fellowship	\$ 700	\$380	\$700.00	\$455	\$700.00
560	Organist/Pianist	\$ 1,700	\$1,923	\$1,700.00	\$1,644	\$1,700.00
570	Choir Director	\$ 1,000	\$720	\$1,000.00	\$610	\$1,000.00
580	Deacons Pantry	\$ 700	\$259	\$500.00	\$446	\$500.00
	Total	\$ 7,500	\$6,101	\$7,150.00	\$5,849	\$7,150.00



Treasurer's Report 2016 & Budget for 2017 continued. . .

		2015 Budget	2015 12/31/2015	2016 Budget	2016 12/31/2016	2017 Proposed
600	Board of Trustees					
615	Office Administrator	\$ 29,640	\$28,863	\$36,972.00	\$37,000	\$38,095.00
617	Bookkeeping	\$ 1,500	\$1,383	\$1,500.00	\$1,390	\$1,500.00
618	Administrative Assistant	\$ 2,600	\$2,300	\$6,448.00	\$6,081	\$6,864.00
620	Supplies	\$ 2,500	\$1,810	\$2,500.00	\$1,263	\$2,500.00
625	Printing & Advertising	\$ 750	\$934	\$750.00	\$1,357	\$2,000.00
630	Copier Expense	\$ 3,600	\$3,857	\$4,000.00	\$3,998	\$4,000.00
635	Postage	\$ 2,000	\$1,777	\$2,000.00	\$1,333	\$1,600.00
640	Payroll Expenses	\$ 4,000	\$3,418	\$4,000.00	\$3,351	\$4,000.00
650	Computer Software/Support	\$ 1,500	\$2,510	\$2,000.00	\$1,877	\$2,000.00
660	Mortgage (P&I)	\$ 130,000	\$129,684	\$130,000.00	\$129,684	\$130,000.00
665	Utility - Gas	\$ 7,500	\$3,839	\$5,000.00	\$2,491	\$5,000.00
666	Utility - Electric	\$ 12,000	\$10,471	\$10,000.00	\$10,427	\$10,000.00
667	Sewer, Water, Garbage	\$ 6,000	\$5,557	\$5,500.00	\$5,474	\$5,500.00
670	Insurance	\$ 7,200	\$8,108	\$7,500.00	\$7,718	\$7,500.00
675	Phone/Internet	\$ 1,500	\$1,611	\$1,500.00	\$1,717	\$1,500.00
690	Offering Envelopes	\$ 1,200	\$814	\$1,000.00	\$946	\$1,000.00
695	Security/Fire Maintenance Fee	\$ 1,200	\$1,159	\$1,200.00	\$1,403	\$1,200.00
697	Elevator Service Contract	\$ 500	\$1,008	\$500.00	\$610	\$500.00
	Total	\$ 215,190	\$209,103	\$222,370.00	\$218,120	\$224,759.00
700	Other					
710	Conventions/Conferences	\$ 500	\$0	\$500.00	\$135	\$500.00
720	Thrivent Allocation	\$ 1,000	\$465	\$1,000.00	\$0	\$500.00
740	Treasurer	\$ 500	\$500	\$500.00	\$500	\$500.00
	Total	\$ 2,000	\$965	\$2,000.00	\$635	\$1,500.00
800	Capital Improvements/Exp.					
810	Bldg, Grnds, Maint/Replace Equip.	\$ 6,000	\$5,303	\$15,000.00	\$8,768	\$65,000.00
815	Custodian	\$ 6,600	\$6,114	\$6,600.00	\$5,740	\$5,200.00
840	New Equipment	\$ 3,000	\$1,280	\$3,000.00	\$242	\$0.00
	Total	\$ 15,600	\$12,697	\$24,600.00	\$14,750	\$70,200.00
900	Miscellaneous					
	Expense Total	\$ 396,861	\$376,408	\$405,312.00	\$378,005	\$451,604.00
	Difference	\$ 14,289.00	\$7,794	\$338.00	-\$10,977	\$16,296.00

Assets and Liabilities (12/31/16)

Assets

Hope Checking Account		\$28,194
Community Outreach	\$ 4,967	
Christian Car Fund	\$ 833	
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,006	
Foundation Campership Donation	\$ 500	
Youth Fund	\$ 3,771	
Families Moving Forward	\$ 3,539	
Hope Checking Account available balance		\$13,578
Hope Building Fund		\$ 0
Money Market Certificate		\$ 1,810
Savings		\$ 1,001
Building and Land		\$3,123,400

Total Assets **\$3,139,789**

Liabilities

Loan for building		\$690,020
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Total Liabilities **\$ 690,020**

Taco Stand Report

Many thanks to everyone who was involved in making the Hope Lutheran Taco Stand happen! It is always a pleasure to serve with the happy volunteers who choose to give their time to this excellent fundraiser.

Overall, sales were up very slightly from 2016, but food expenses also went up; leading to similar profits when compared to 2015. Heimatfest booth fees were waived this year because of the 2015 “Best New German Food” item, the reuben taco! Unfortunately, the reuben taco was not as popular this year, so Hope’s taco engineers will need to develop a new food to debut in 2017.

The Taco Stand Committee is looking to add members! Please let Brian know if you would like to join the fun!

Your Taco Stand Committee, 2016

Brian Nissen, Kyle Narum, Doug Johnson, Steve McClellan and Kevin Louis

Taco Stand 2016 Summary

Deposits

Scott County Fair Sales	\$13,199.25
Fair Startup Cash	\$1,300.00
Heimatfest Sales	\$5030.00
Heimatfest Startup Cash	\$600.00
Leftover Sales	\$345.00

Total Deposits	\$20,474.25
Total Sales (less startup cash)	\$18,574.25

Expenses

Scott County Fair - Booth Fees	\$650.00
MN Dept. of Health	\$85.00
Heimatfest - Booth Fees	Free!
Supplies	\$6,496.52
Fair Startup Cash	\$1,300.00
Heimatfest Startup Cash	\$600.00

Total Expense	\$9,131.52
Operating Expense (less startup cash)	\$7,231.52

2016 Profit	\$11,342.73
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Deacon's Report

Deacons are responsible for the spiritual health of the congregation. They are to help organize, develop and encourage opportunities for people to grow and build meaningful relationships with each other and the family of Hope.

2016 brought the following activities:

- ⇒ The Ash Wednesday baked potato supper with plenty of potatoes to be scrubbed, baked, served and cleaned up.
- ⇒ The Wednesday soup and sandwich suppers – a deacon may have been the coordinator each week but the bulk of the work was done by the many volunteers taking care of each other and the fellow diners.
- ⇒ Celebrate Jordan offered a place to showcase Hope to the community. The Hope table was staffed with a representative from BOYEM, a Deacon and Pastor Steve on the guitar.
- ⇒ In May, we celebrated Mother's Day with carnations.
- ⇒ In June, we celebrated Father's Day with root beer floats outside on a breezy but sunny day.
- ⇒ Other outdoor worship Sundays included the pet blessing and a Sunday with soft, soggy ground and passing around the bug spray.
- ⇒ October brought Lutherfest with a good meal of sausages, German potato salad and many other goodies while listening to polka music.
- ⇒ The Church was decorated for the Christmas season and undecorated in January with the help of many hands. The ELCA Good Gifts Tree focused on health oriented items. All together, over \$2000 was raised to help others live healthy lives.

The Board of Deacons is a “parent” committee for several other teams within Hope – the Prayer team, Garden of Hope and the Creative Worship team. It is to these fellow teams, the assistance of Angie and Sarah in the office and to the entire congregation that we say a hearty thank you. These activities wouldn't be carried out or done as wonderfully without your help. We appreciate you and would love to hear your ideas for the future.

Board Members:

Glenda Laffen – chair and council rep

Ken Arntson

Heather Kinkeade

Tammy Schleifer



Garden of Hope Report

It was another successful year of gardening. Hope Lutheran donated 538 pounds of fresh produce to the Jordan Area Food Shelf. Seed money, provided by Thrivent Financial, was used to purchase seeds, tomato and pepper plants, Preen, tomato cages, jar lids and canning supplies.

Volunteers worked together to can 247 pints of salsa, tomato soup, bread and butter pickles, cucumber relish and zucchini pickles. The congregation enjoyed buying produce after the Sunday morning worship services. Total profits from the garden were \$1314.00.

Thank you to the following people, Steven Hennen, Joyce Roberts, Myrna Rieck, Myra Anderson, Kay Guenther, Earl and Jane Nash, Deb Barker, Karen Francis, Deb Anderson, Judy Adams, Brenda Lieske, Ginny Engfer, Sarah Gavert and Shawntea Roberts.

The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.
-Isaiah 58:11

Your Garden Committee:

Myrna Rieck

Joyce Roberts



Prayer Team Report

The Mission of the Prayer Ministry is to lift up the prayer concerns of our congregation, community, and world. The Prayer Team supports, encourages and creates opportunities of the congregation of Hope to become rooted in the Biblical principles of prayer.

- ~ We held our **Annual Prayer Vigil** on Good Friday and it was well attended. It has been a deeply personal and spiritual experience for many over the years.
- ~ Our next event was the **National Day of Prayer** which was held the first Thursday of May, We had a potluck supper followed by a very intimate service. Our numbers were few, but the Spirit of our Lord was Great! The Prayer Team organized the worship service this year and Pastor Steve added the finishing touches.
- ~ In September we led a **Prayer Series** with a new theme every week with testimonials given by various members of Hope. It was a very inspirational series based on *Philippians 4:4-9. . . "Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute! Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies."*
- ~ We once again were blessed to anoint those who attended the **Annual Advent Healing and Prayer Service**. It is indeed a blessing to be the one doing the anointing!
- ~ We continued to send out "Birthday Blessings" to adult members, personalized Sunday's "Prayers of the People", and updated the newsletter on our joys and concerns.
- ~ The **Prayer Chain** continues to be used by many and we have had many answered prayers over the year. The prayer letter we send out to these we pray for continues to be a great comfort to many.

We look forward to serving your prayer needs in 2017!

Your Prayer Team,

Ginny Engfer, Kari Schmidt, Kathy Mattson, Sarah Gavert

Board of Youth and Educational Ministries Report

It was another busy year in the life of Hope's youth and education programming.

The following is a recap of the year.

There were 77 children registered for Kids of the Kingdom. KOK children packed 100 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and raised \$1605 to help cover shipping costs and purchase needed items for boxes. There was also \$560 raised for school uniforms for girls and \$800 raised for honey bees from KOK offerings. Funds raised were used to purchase these items through ELCA Good Gifts.

Second graders attended a 10 Commandments retreat in February, 1st graders attended the Lord's Prayer retreat in March, 5th graders attended a Holy Communion retreat in March, 3rd graders attended a Bible retreat in October, and 4th graders attended an Apostle's Creed retreat in November.

Vacation Bible School was held in August during daytime hours. Many volunteers and donations helped make it a successful year for participants. There were 64 children in attendance.

The church is buzzing on Wednesday nights with energetic middle school youth.. There have been approximately 27 youth in attendance for 5th/6th grade programming. There have been 44 youth involved in the 7th and 8th grade program. Youth made blankets for the Linus Project, made sandwiches for The Sandwich Project, packed meals for Feed My Starving Children, and played bingo with Oak Terrace and Schule Haus residents. We also started an intergenerational ministry for 5/6 graders and their parents called GROW. We offer this program once a month.

Eleven 9th graders were confirmed in October. Nine students and two adults traveled to Chicago for a mission trip in July. Middle school and KOK youth led special services with Hans Peterson.

BOYEM hosted a bake sale on Easter to raise money for our youth fund. We raised \$304. BOYEM also hosted a Craft and Vendor Fair in November which raised \$640. These funds will be used for mission trips and other general items needed for youth ministries.

Board of Youth and Educational Ministries

Jess Felten
Steve McClellan
Jennifer Schultz
Leah Holmberg
Doug Johnson
Jane Sieve

Congregational Statistics

New Members

Bromeland, Phil & Anna, Jake, Alex, Maxwell
Reinke, Daniel & Kally, Camden
Hvidsten, Doug & Kaye

Baptisms

February 13 Parker John Fredrick McKinley
March 13 Jack David Sheridan
April 3 Bennett Lee Kelly
June 5 Violet Dorothy Mack
August 14 Jathan William Peabody
October 9 Maxwell Lee Bromeland
Devin James Bommelyn

Funerals

January 16 Kenneth Peterson
January 23 Mike Shaw
April 1 John Marks
May 30 Todd Oakes
September 30 Betty Herman

Confirmands

Brooklynn Bedney
Josie Benko
Thomas Dietel
Aysia Kim
Jarrett McDermid
Claire Newton
Jack Newton
Bailey Riemer
Michaela Roemmich
Ryan Samuelson
Bryce Sievers

Weddings

March 19 Heath Herman & Amanda Deutsch
June 11 Kyeanna Pickar & Stuart Blomgren
July 30 Abby Roff & Adam Skartvedt

Transferred Out / Moved

Baluski, Sara and Nathan

Baptized Membership 534
Confirmed Membership 330
Voting Membership 278

It is not jealous
it does not seek its own interests
endures all things
It bears all things
is not pompous
believes all things
believes
Love is patient
it does not brood over injury
but rejoices with the truth
rejoice
bears
Love is kind
hopes all things
it is not rude
it is not quick tempered
hopes
Love never fails
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing
it is not inflated

GUSTAVUS

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2016 •

Greetings to you from your partners in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! The College community has been looking forward, dreaming big and thinking strategically. In alignment with our mission and core values, we have identified a bold, 10-year vision to energize and focus our work. Here is our vision: *Gustavus equips students to lead purposeful lives and to act on the great challenges of our time through an innovative liberal arts education of recognized excellence.* For more than 150 years, Gustavus Adolphus College has educated students to lead fulfilling lives of leadership and service. The people of Gustavus are academics and artists, scientists and stewards, learners and landscapers. We are designers and dancers, cooks and coaches, theologians and teachers. We are a diverse community of people passionate about the power of the liberal arts to transform lives and improve our world. Gustavus stands on a strong foundation of tradition and heritage that has shaped who we are today. Embracing our living connection to the Lutheran tradition, the College is actively dedicated to the longstanding principles of Lutheran higher education, including education explicitly aimed at developing the whole person and contributing to the common good, a love for and openness to the world in its complexity and diversity, and critical questioning in the ongoing search for truth and the advancement of knowledge.

As you gather for congregation annual meetings and synod assemblies, we hope you are inspired by the reminder of the many others who walk along side you in mission. We are blessed to be able to share numerous resources with your congregation. Thank you to the many of you who have made good use of our church and college ministry partnership.

MARK YOUR 2017 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **STEP UP — MARCH 9, 2017**, a leadership development resource for high school youth. Students will be introduced to college level concepts of leadership that will help them develop a stronger personal plan for continuing to grow as a leader. For more information: www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations/stepup
- **Annual Gustavus Faith Conference and Association of Congregations Business Meeting Luncheon — APRIL 22, 2017**

The theme for the 2017 conference is *“Faith, Science, and the Freedom to Serve.”* Dr. Philip Clayton, Ingraham Professor of Theology at Claremont School of Theology and Rev. Siri Erickson, Chaplain of the College at Gustavus Adolphus College are the featured presenters. The Annual Business Meeting of Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations will take place during the luncheon meeting. For more information: www.gustavus.edu/faithconference

- **MAYDAY! Peace Conference—MAY 3, 2017** *“What Would You Do? Citizenship and Mass Surveillance”*
- **The Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics — JUNE 24-30, 2017**, an exciting new resource for high school youth interested in exploring creative alliances between faith and science. For more information: www.gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy
- **Annual Nobel Conference®— OCTOBER 3-4, 2017** *“Reproductive Technology: How Far Do We Go?”*
- **STEP UP — NOVEMBER 2, 2017**, a leadership development resource for high school youth.
- **Christmas in Christ Chapel—DECEMBER 1-3, 2017**

For more information about these events and the many resources we offer congregations, please contact the Office of Church Relations or visit us on-line at: www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations. Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Rev. Grady St. Dennis
College Chaplain/Director of Church Relations

Hope Lutheran Church Foundation

December 31, 2016

Assets:

Deposits with HomeTown Bank	\$32,673.07
Investments	<u>\$134,807.61</u>
Total	\$167,480.68

Expenses for 2016

Land acquisition expenses	498.65
Jordan Family Outreach	400.00
Scholarship	400.00
Families Moving Forward	300.00
Blessings in a Backpack	400.00
Jordan Food Shelf	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	\$2,998.65



Bishop's Annual Report to Congregations

Dear Friends in Christ,

At a recent gathering of retired pastors, I asked participants to share the names of their home congregations. After all the introductions, I noticed that every congregation named was one I would love to attend—where the Gospel is proclaimed and the community is real.



Minneapolis Area Synod
of the ELCA

Nothing gratifies a bishop more than seeing the vibrancy of the synod's congregations. Our most important goal as a synod staff is to support and nurture life-giving communities of faith. And, yet, we all know that a healthy congregation doesn't just magically appear; it is a miraculous coming together of gifts, talents, leaders, love, and openness to the spirit. When a synod is filled with such communities, our joy is clear, our gratitude is deep. Thank you for being communities where lives are healed and transformed through the Gospel shared in Word, Sacrament, and beloved community.

In addition to our 147 congregations, the synod has three new mission starts: Tapestry in Richfield, Intertwine in Northeast Minneapolis, Tree of Life in the North Loop. We have 268 pastors and deacons serving congregations (including 10 whom I was privileged to ordain in 2016), 71 serving in specialized ministries such as chaplaincy, and 326 who are now retired and rostered in our synod.

Much of the synod's work focuses on **leaders**. We actively look for faithful pastors and deacons to serve in our synod. We **support** leaders through mentoring, peer groups, theological and spiritual growth. We provide resources for elected congregational leaders, especially through our staff's commitment to offer wise and swift responses to the many resource requests we receive each day.

The members of our synod staff spend much of their time in congregations—preaching, installing new pastors and deacons, and providing leadership in times of transition: staff changes, call processes (of which our synod had 34 in 2016), conflict situations, and strategic planning. We also foster **connections** among ministries and congregations, believing we are stronger together. Our relationships with our companion synods continue to flourish. Next month I travel to Nigeria for the installation of the new Archbishop of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, the Rev. Musa Filibus. In May, I will be in Leipzig for Germany's premiere observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

We also have a distinctive focus on worship. We both host and provide funding for the Center for Worship and Music, led by Jay Beech, which “fosters imagination and creativity to make worship innovative and meaningful in every time and culture.” I invite you to its website: worshipandmusic.org.

Our commitment to the care of creation grows – and we delight in the efforts of our synod's EcoFaith Network. Together, we worked to pass a resolution at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly that will provide resources so every congregation knows the watershed district in which it is located.

At our 2016 synod assembly, we passed a resolution asking each congregation to develop a mission statement on racial justice and appoint a person to serve as racial justice liaison with the synod.

During that same assembly we approved a synodical capital campaign feasibility study in conjunction with the ELCA churchwide campaign. Depending upon the study results, your synod council will decide whether to launch a campaign. The focus will be on raising resources for those urgent mission priorities that we can only do as church together.

We struggled some financially in FY 2015-16, receiving only 94% of our anticipated mission support from congregations. This meant that churchwide received 94% of what our synod pledged – and the synod operated on 94% of budget. We are especially grateful to all who have faithfully supported the synod and churchwide through their benevolence for FY 2016-17.

Thank you for the incredible privilege of serving as your bishop. I have such a deep sense of calling to this work, such profound gratitude for the Minneapolis Area Synod, and such love for the Gospel-centered, thoughtful, and welcoming work we do as the ELCA. Please let us know how we can serve one another better – working together so all experience **gracious invitation** into **life-giving Christian community** and live in **just and healthy neighborhoods**.

Bishop Ann Svennungsen

Hope's Vision:

We are a community of hope inviting all people into God's transforming embrace of love for the world through Jesus Christ.