

# Hope Lutheran Church

## January 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

Call to Order - Lanae McClellan

Validation of a Quorum - Heather Kinkeade

Opening Prayer - Pastor Matt Cordes

Approval of the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Recognition of Staff - Lanae

Presentation of Candidates for Officers and Board Members - Erik Aamlid

Board Reports:

BOYEM: Hope Mack

Deacons: Shelli Schubert

Trustees: Ben Kalow

Treasurer's Reports - Doug Hvidsten

Approval of the 2023 Financial Report

Presentation of the 2024 Budget - Trustee Representative

Approval of the 2024 Annual Budget

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members - Lanae

Review of the Election Results

Closing Remarks - Lanae

Closing Prayer - Pastor Matt

Meeting Adjournment

# Recapping 2023 and Planning for 2024

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**HOPE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



**GATHER**



**GROW**



**GO**

## Minutes of Hope Lutheran Church Annual Meeting held January 29, 2023.

**Welcome to Worship & Announcements:** Pastor Ted Vanderpan at 9:00 AM  
Annual meeting to convene at the conclusion of an abbreviated worship service.

**Call to Order:** Congregation President Denny Lindell at 9:32 AM  
This is Hope Lutheran's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Quorum necessary to conduct church business is present per Heidi Voels, as determined by the number of members in attendance.

Opening prayer: Pastor Ted  
As we discuss business and make decisions, we pray for guidance and blessings in our decisions. Help us remember that people should be at the core of all our decisions.

President Denny Lindell:  
One addition to the published agenda: update on the call process will be provided by Lanae McClellan following the Transition Team update. Motion to approve Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting was made, seconded and approved.

**Presentation of Candidates for Election** by Lanae McClellan, Vice President:

Deacons - Jason Felten, Matt Lorenz  
BOYEM - Leah Aamlid, Dustin Kempf & Hope Mack  
Trustees - Steve Isles & Brad Warmka  
Nominating Committee - Denny Lindell, Sandy Louis & Kristi Pasek  
Mission Endowment Fund - Erica Major  
Council Vice-President - Erik Aamlid  
Council President - Lanae McClellan  
Special thanks to outgoing President Denny Lindell

No additional nominations were made from the floor. Votes were cast and ballots then collected. Votes will be tallied and reported by the close of the annual meeting.

**BOYEM Report:** Clint Mack. Other board members are Erik Aamlid, Jess Felten, Alan Strand & Danielle Tieben.  
BOYEM manages Hope's youth education programming.

Highlights of 2022: 68 children attended VBS, 32 youth are in confirmation and H2H, 4 children attended Green Lake Bible Camp, 37 children and numerous volunteers are involved with Kids of the Kingdom Sunday programming, 6 youth went on the mission trip to Milwaukee, WI. VBS participation continues to grow and we are looking for ways to continue and enhance programming. We brought 5<sup>th</sup> grade students into the H2H curriculum and will be assessing that after the school year is completed. Additional volunteers are always needed. KOK programs are being adjusted to better match the weekly worship service lessons. We are looking into new mission trips / opportunities that include more of an adventure component. Thanks to Pastor Ted and Pastor Steve for their fine work planning and leading confirmation classes. Welcome Leah Aamlid, Justin Kempf & Hope Mack to the board!

**Deacons Report:** Jason Felten. Other board members are Deb Barker, Paul Engfer, Kathy Mattson and Shelli Schubert. The Deacons are responsible for the spiritual health of the congregation, organizing and encouraging opportunities for people to grow in relationship with each other. The easing of Covid restrictions and people returning to church allowed us to renew some existing fellowship opportunities and begin some new ones.

2022 Highlights: During the Christmas season we brought in donations of \$2,100 for ELCA Good Gifts, in April we raised \$1,280 for the MN food share drive, in May we teamed with KOK to provide carnations in celebration of Mother's Day, while in June we had a bowling event in which 23 bowlers participated in raising \$300 for the local food shelf and we celebrated Father's Day with root beer floats. In August we kicked off the monthly movie night that involves 20+ volunteers and through December has raised \$260. In September we partnered with BOYEM in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Welcome Sunday event. November featured the return of the chili cook-off. We are always looking for new and creative ways for fellowship so feel free to bring us any suggestions you may have. Special thanks to Angie and Sarah for their continued support in all we do.

**Trustee Report:** John Tieben Sr. Other Trustees are Roger Anderson, Rod Lieske, Ben Kalow and Kelly Lorenz. Trustees oversee the budget, building, facilities, grounds and maintenance inside and out, as well as the usage of the facility. See page 11 of the annual report for the full list of projects. We rely on many volunteers to accomplish these tasks and give thanks for all of them. Thanks to Rod Lieske and Roger Anderson as their terms expire, and welcome to Steve and Brad (if they get elected).

## 2023 Annual Mtg. Minutes Cont. . .

### **Stewardship Committee Report:** Dave Holzer.

Our theme this year is “Blessed to be a Blessing”, the sharing of what we have. Stewardship report is written. We encourage everyone to complete an estimated giving card and to take advantage of the electronic giving program currently in place. Thanks to everyone for your participation in the stewardship drive and for your continued support of Hope Lutheran.

**Mortgage Payoff Celebration:** John Tieben Sr and Doug Hvidsten (to the theme song from “Rocky”). Thank you to Dave Holzer and Hometown Bank for your faith and investment in us years ago when our current facility was built and for working with us along the way. A symbolic check for \$1,530,000 was presented to Dave. Per John, we chose not to burn the mortgage as the building was just paid for. Denny added our thanks to Pastor Steve for his leadership through most of the mortgage years.

**Transition Team update:** Doug Hvidsten. Other members are Molly Warmka, Clint Mack, John Tieben Jr, Erik Aamlid, Dave Holzer, Deb Anderson, and Pastor Ted as our guide. Our goal over the past 6 months has been to make good choices in determining the characteristics we want in our new pastor. We are half-way through the projected timeline and at least that far in the overall process. We recently completed the step of ID’ing our top priorities. A visual representation of that is posted in the narthex. We’ve now begun working on the Ministry Site Profile which creates for prospective candidates an accurate picture of Jordan, of Hope Lutheran and of our wants and expectations. We plan to complete the MSP in the March / April timeframe. Following the Synod’s review and approval, we can then launch the actual call process.

### **Call Committee process update:** Lanae McClellan.

Call Committee member selection process is planned for the March council meeting. Hope’s constitution requires that no less than 6 members comprise this committee. Once the MSP has been approved by the Synod, this process can begin. Please ask yourself if you have the interest and time to be considered for this vital task.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Report:** Brenda Lieske. Other members are Char Senske, Harry Janssen, Kathy Templin, Sally Voss, Lynn Mollenhauer, Glenda Laffen, Danielle Tieben, Alexi Zimmerman, Kathy Mattson, Kyle Narum & Sarah Gavert. We have selected Sunday, September 10, 2023 as that is 50 years after the initial worship service and it coincides with this year’s Heimatfest celebration. Please bring to the committee members any suggestions you may have for making our 50<sup>th</sup> celebration successful.

### **Treasure’s Report:** Doug Hvidsten

The full financial report is listed in the annual report that is available for all members to read and study. Income was \$390K vs budget of \$412K (94.6%) Attendance and giving rebounds from the Covid era were a little slower than we estimated a year ago. Expenses totaled \$424K vs budget of \$412K (\$12K over). That included an unbudgeted payment of \$14K to zero-out the mortgage. Actual operational expenses came in at 99.5%. Thanks to the office staff and the Trustees for forecasting and managing expenses so well. We are in good financial condition. Now that the mortgage is paid off, we have plans to continue and grow the worship and education experiences at Hope, as well as maintain and improve our facilities. We ask for your continued financial support so that Hope Lutheran can continue to be a place where we can Gather, Grow, and Go!

### **Proposed Budget for 2023:** John Tieben Sr

See page 15 of the financial report. 2023 expense budget is \$5K less than 2022. Now that the mortgage is gone, we have chosen to invest more in youth and education, fellowship and outreach, increased funds for bible camp scholarships, covering the meal costs for youth attending Wednesday evening programming, creating a place-holder for a potential youth minister, and setting up a capital reserve for necessary repairs to the parking lot and building. The reserve’s purpose is to allow us to be proactive in providing funds for such expenses rather than doing a capital campaign and loan when we do move forward with any of these. The full financial report is listed in the annual report that is available for all members to read and study.

**New Business:** None

### **Continuation of Church Business:** President Denny Lindell

The proposed budget prepares a path for the continued success of Hope Lutheran as we move into the next 50 years. A motion to approve the proposed 2023 budget was made, seconded and approved. Per Heidi Voels, the Slate of Officers has been approved by unanimous ballot. The President’s report is included in the annual report.

For the sake of time, I will read only a portion of it. Thank you to the paid staff; Pastor Ted, Angie, Sarah, Char, Kristi & Jill, for their dedication in making everything work so well. Thanks to the many board and committee members, teachers and volunteers that make sure all the behind-the-scenes work is completed.

Thank you to the outgoing board members for their service: Rod Lieske, Roger Anderson, Clint Mack, Danielle Tieben, and Paul Engfer, and to outgoing nominating committee members Heather Kinkeade, Kyle Narum and Cecil Laffen.

Special thanks to Angie for gathering, compiling and assembling the annual report. That is a monumental task.

Thank you all for the trust and support you've given me in my time as Vice-President and President.

Thank you!

**Communion:** Pastor Ted

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Ted

Dear Lord, Take the plans we've made today, bless them, continue to shape them, and help us to make good decisions.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Made, second, and approved. Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 AM

Respectfully prepared and submitted, Doug Hvidsten, Council Treasurer.



# MEETING MINUTES

# Board & Committee Membership Report

Office	Length of Term	Person(s) Serving	Candidates
<b>President</b>	2 years	Lanae McClellan (23,24)	
<b>Vice President</b>	2 years	Erik Aamlid (23,24)	
<b>Secretary</b>	2 years	Heather Kinkeade (23)	Molly Warmka (24,25)
<b>Treasurer</b>	2 years	Doug Hvidsten (22,23)	Paul Gaukstad (24,25)
<b>Board of Trustees</b>	3 years	John Tieben Sr. (21,22,23) Brad Warmka (23,24,25) Steve Isles (23,24,25) Kelly Lorenz (22,23,24) Ben Kalow (22,23,24)	Steve McClellan (24,25,26)
<b>Board of Youth and Educational Ministries</b>	3 years	Dustin Kempf (23) Jess Felten (22,23) Hope Mack (23,24,25) Alan Strand (22,23,24) Leah Aamlid (23,24,25)	Derek Staloch (24,25,26) Jess Felten (24,25,26)
<b>Board of Deacons</b>	3 years	Deb Barker (21,22,23) Matt Lorenz (23,24,25) Jason Felten (23,24,25) Kathy Mattson (22,23,24) Shelli Schubert (22,23,24)	Lynda Schaumburg (24,25,26)
<b>Gustavus Adolphus Rep</b>	2 years	Curt Wicklund (23)	Char Senske (24)
<b>Minneapolis Area Synod</b>	1 year	Council Appointed (23)	Doug Hvidsten (24) Brenda Lieske (24)
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	2 years	Sandy Louis (23) Kathie Harrington (22,23) Denny Lindell (23,24) Kristi Pasek (23,24) Erica Major (22,23) Paul Gaukstad (22,23)	Angie Newton (24) Kathie Harrington (24,25)  Doug Hvidsten (24,25) John Tieben Sr. (24,25)
<b>Audit Committee</b> (Trustee Appointed)	3 years	Dave Holzer (23) Jo Nelson (21,22,23)	Kristi Narum (24,25) Jo Nelson (24,25,26)
<b>Mission Endowment Fund</b> (Hope Lutheran Foundation)	3 years	Sarah Wicklund (21,22,23) Erica Major (23,24,25) Josh Kinkeade (22,23,24)	Jo Nelson (24,25,26)

# Pastor's Report - Matt Cordes

Well, so far so good! I haven't been here for long, but I have been here long enough to know that Hope is a good place. This is a good place first and foremost because God is here. Secondly, it is a good place because of the people that make it what it is. The list is long of the beautiful souls that have given of themselves for the sake of the Gospel and for this community of faith. Thank you to all of you and to the many others that have gone before us. A special thanks to Pastor Steve and the other pastors that have laid the groundwork for the ministry of Hope. I often share with others that Hope is ripe for growth, meaning that this congregation is set up well to grow and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

I am very grateful for the partnership in this ministry with Angie, Sarah and Char as well as the numerous other volunteers that give of themselves to the mission of Hope. Again, Hope is a good place, filled with God's powerful presence. It is a tremendous privilege and responsibility to serve in this community of faith. I am blessed to be here.

We do have a great deal of work to do, below is a list of area's to focus on:

- Keeping first things first. It all must point to Jesus.
- Continue to nurture relationships with God and our neighbors.
- Continue to do our best, so that worship is done to best of our ability, to the glory of God.
- Creating a job description and hiring a youth minister.
- Stewardship, we need to be more intentional.
- Reaching out into our surrounding community with the Good News.
- Thanking, equipping and encouraging our invested volunteers.
- Revisiting the membership process.
- Working toward a second service.

Praise the Lord!

Pastor Matt Cordes



# President's Report ~ Lanae McClellan

It brings me great pleasure to present the annual report for Hope Lutheran Church, highlighting significant milestones and achievements over the past year.

Welcoming Our New Pastor: When the year began, our Transition Team was working on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Special thanks to Pastor Ted Vanderpan, who served as interim pastor and expertly guided us through the Transition Team/MSP processes. He was a blessing as we prepared for a successful call. The MSP was completed in March, and a Call Committee was formed.

In the middle of June, Kyle Narum, the Chair of the Call Committee, gave me a call. Excitedly, he told me about a candidate the Call Committee wanted the Council to meet. On June 29th, our Council connected with the candidate for a "meet and greet." After the meeting, we voted unanimously to move forward with a Congregational Meeting to elect a new pastor.

We joyously welcomed Pastor Matt Cordes and his family into our congregation in September. His passion for ministry, dedication to spiritual growth, and commitment to youth have already begun to enrich our church family. He is truly an answer to our prayers!

New Parking Lot: At our Annual Meeting last January, we celebrated paying off our mortgage. After that, the Trustees discussed our parking lot. A committee was organized, the Council approved their plan, and a Congregational Meeting was scheduled. Our congregation voted to move forward with the parking lot project in July, and it was finished in the fall. This endeavor was a testament to our collective dedication and support. Our newly paved lot looks amazing and is safer for our members. I extend my deepest gratitude to the volunteers, donors, and everyone involved in making this project a reality.

Celebrating 50 Years of Faith and Fellowship: 2023 marked a remarkable milestone in our church's history—the celebration of our 50th anniversary! To commemorate this occasion, a committee was formed to plan a celebration for our church. September 10th was a special day filled with smiles, hugs, and stories. On that day, we honored our past and looked forward to a future filled with hope and faith. God has been good to us and will continue to bless our church.



## President's Report cont. . . .

Many Thanks: During one of our first meetings, Pastor Matt mentioned that he was impressed with the dedication and involvement of our members. It is true: One of the things that makes Hope Lutheran Church a beautiful, special place is its members. Thanks to board and committee members, planning teams, teachers, guides, tech support, service teams, musicians, garage sale organizers, craft fair coordinators, taco stand workers, and *anyone* who volunteers their time and talent to enhance our lives at Hope Lutheran.

This year, we had two committees that worked with the Synod to find Pastor Matt, who has been a wonderful addition to our church. Thank you, Transition Team and Call Committee, for your dedication to this important task.

Special thanks to our staff: Pastor Matt, Angie, Sarah, Char, Jill, and Kristi. You all share unique gifts that enrich our spiritual lives. Thank you for your commitment to our church.

As we elect new board and committee members, I'd like to acknowledge and thank our outgoing volunteers: Heather Kinkeade, Doug Hvidsten, Dustin Kempf, Deb Barker, John Tieben, Sr., Erica Major, Paul Gaukstad, Sarah Wicklund, and Curt Wicklund. We appreciate your service at Hope Lutheran.

The Past and the Future: Although this is a time to reflect on the past year's accomplishments, we should also look forward to blessings in the year to come. A committee has recently been formed to explore a youth director position for our church. Please pray that we find a faithful person to nurture and grow our youth program.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each of you for your support, dedication, and contributions that make our church a special place of faith and fellowship. May God's grace guide us as we move forward in faith. Let us continue to gather, grow, and go!

In Christ,  
Lanae

**PRESIDENT'S**  
REPORT

# Shared Ministry Report

2023 was a blessed year! Here are some of the things I did throughout the year ~ I attended (as I was able) :

Monthly Deacon and BOYEM meetings and assisted as needed.

Monthly Council meetings

FISH 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday meetings

Assisted the Nominating Committee in finding candidates for open positions.

Made numerous sign-ups on “signup genius” ~ monthly Service Teams, Garage Sale, Taco Stand, Meal Delivery for Families Moving Forward, Chili Cook Off, Rides for Shirley, Installation Potluck, H2H Golf Zone, 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration and more.

Brenda Lieske and Glenda Laffen helped me to fill the signups up. Thank you to you both for the many calls and texts you sent!

Filed Purchase Orders.

Updated our Facebook page and our website ([hope-jordan.org](http://hope-jordan.org)) with our various events.

Enter Attendance into Shepherd’s Staff. {This is a great place to let us know if you have changed your phone number!}

I worked with the monthly Service Teams to fill the service schedule for worship.

I found people to take care of the “little jobs” around the church ~ it takes a lot of people to take care of this place! Tami Nielsen takes care of our laundry, Karen Francis and Cindy Lind take care of the pew racks and there are more!

Helped to line people up for different needs ~ drivers to get people to appointments ~ others to help take care of someone else’s yard ~ even changing batteries in smoked detectors that are way too high.

Working on freshening up the Kids Table with fidgets to help those little ones that have a hard time sitting still. A big thank you to whoever is adding to our book selection!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Gavert



# Trustee's Report

## Board Of Trustee Annual Report 2023 Year Review

Repaired drywall in entryway	Fixed and blew out water lines
Painted various walls in church	Bled fire room condenser
Relocated two bulletin boards	Replaced all batteries in fire/smoke alarms
Installed windows in solid office doors	Cut down 13 trees and removed stumps
Removed window coverings behind musicians	Installed video cameras for better online viewing
Replaced supply lines, fluids filled & drain dishwasher	Installed new TV at the back of the sanctuary
Replaced bulb in Hope sign	Ran new electrical to parking lot island
Replaced outside fixtures with LED timed lights	Replaced old folding chairs and relocated downstairs
Drinking fountain repaired (twice)	Repaired sanctuary furnace
Tarred around roof vents above women's bathroom	Replaced and upgraded our parking lot
Changed furnace filters	Upgraded handicap signs
Installed new heat tape on roof (ice dam prevention)	Ordered sun blinds for sanctuary windows
Ran new water line to the garden	Improved lighting for KOK area
Adjusted garden sprinkler heads	Established budget for 2024

### Upcoming Projects

Church entry upgrades: new sidewalk and landscaping  
Kitchen renovation planning

### Members 2023

John Tieben (6th yr) Chair  
Kelly Lorenz (2nd yr) Secretary  
Ben Kalow (2nd yr) Council Rep  
Brad Warmka (1st yr)  
Stephen Isles (1st yr)

John is coming off the board after two consecutive terms for 2024.  
**Thanks for your hard work!**

# Treasurer's Report 2023 & Budget for 2024

		2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed
	<b>Income</b>					
1110	Offerings/Current	\$236,266.00	\$218,048.00	\$360,000.00	\$278,020.00	\$323,475.00
0	Mortgage	\$130,000.00	\$95,509.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1140	Sunday School Offerings (KOK)	\$300.00	\$819.00	\$300.00	\$1,192.00	\$300.00
1120	Parking Lot				\$60,033.00	\$20,000.00
<b>2000</b>	<b>OUTREACH</b>					
2110	VBS Registration	\$750.00	\$944.00	\$800.00	\$1,565.00	\$1,200.00
2150	KOK Registration	\$600.00	\$536.00	\$600.00	\$334.00	\$600.00
2155	H2H Registration				\$0.00	\$600.00
<b>3000</b>	<b>OTHER INCOME</b>					
3105	Nueva Vida Church	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
3220	Loose Offerings	\$7,000.00	\$8,595.00	\$7,000.00	\$9,237.00	\$7,000.00
3230	Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$4,000.00	\$1,095.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,000.00
3780	Community Page	\$3,000.00	\$3,296.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
3850	Hall Rental	\$500.00	\$2,026.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,000.00
3855	Table Rental	\$500.00	\$1,479.00	\$900.00	\$885.00	\$800.00
3950	Foundation Support	\$1,000.00	\$2,050.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,300.00	\$1,000.00
0	Internship (Seminary Stipend Support)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
0	Welcome Table	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
0	PPP/ERC	\$0.00	\$19,912.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>4000</b>	<b>Fund Raising</b>					
4010	Taco Stand	\$18,000.00	\$22,812.00	\$18,000.00	\$22,473.00	\$20,000.00
4030	Silent Auction	\$3,000.00	\$4,829.00	\$4,000.00	\$5,607.00	\$5,000.00
4050	Garage Sale	\$3,500.00	\$4,016.00	\$3,200.00	\$5,014.00	\$4,500.00
0	Pop Machine	\$0.00	\$17.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
4070	Craft and Vendor Fair	\$1,200.00	\$1,409.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,475.00	\$1,300.00
0	Internship (member support)	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$412,616.00</b>	<b>\$390,392.00</b>	<b>\$407,500.00</b>	<b>\$398,635.00</b>	<b>\$395,775.00</b>
	<b>Expenses</b>					
100	<b>Benevolence</b>					
110	ELCA Pledge	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$9,995.00	\$10,000.00
120	Sunday School	\$300.00	\$820.00	\$300.00	\$1,185.00	\$300.00
125	Community Benevolence (tithe)	new	new	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,300.00</b>	<b>\$10,820.00</b>	<b>\$15,300.00</b>	<b>\$11,180.00</b>	<b>\$15,300.00</b>

## Treasurer's Report 2023 & Budget for 2024 (cont.)

		2022	2022	2023		2023	2024
		Budget	Actual	Budget		Actual	Proposed
200	<b>Ministry</b>			6 mo	4 mo		
210	Pastor Salary	\$46,520.00	\$28,523.00	\$13,716.00	\$28,180.00	\$42,183.00	\$81,200.00
220	Housing Allowance	\$27,000.00	\$49,833.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00
230	Social Security Reimbursement	\$4,838.00	\$6,962.00	\$3,726.77	\$2,155.77	\$5,903.00	\$6,211.00
240	Car / Business Allowance (phone)	\$8,000.00	\$7,336.00	\$4,000.00	\$664.00	\$4,577.00	\$1,200.00
260	Pension /10%	new	new	\$4,871.60	\$2,818.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,120.00
260	Medical, Dental, Life, Disability	\$39,606.00	\$28,010.00	\$14,931.40	\$11,000.00	\$21,690.00	\$27,569.00
0	Sabbatical	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
0	Shared Ministry Coordinator	Trustee	Trustee	\$76,245.77	\$44,817.77	Trustee	Trustee
	<b>Total</b>	\$125,964.00	\$120,664.00	\$121,063.54		\$117,353.00	\$124,300.00
300	<b>Board of Youth &amp; Education</b>						
310	Youth - KOK	\$600.00	\$434.00	\$600.00		\$434.00	\$600.00
320	Volunteer Appreciation	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00		\$49.00	\$200.00
330	Adult Education	\$250.00	\$51.00	\$250.00		\$0.00	\$300.00
340	Vacation Bible School	\$750.00	\$827.00	\$1,000.00		\$1,132.00	\$1,500.00
0	Youth Led Worship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
0	Youth - 5th grade	\$150.00	\$63.00	\$300.00		\$33.00	\$0.00
360	Youth - H2H	\$500.00	\$427.00	\$600.00		\$127.00	\$900.00
365	Youth - High School	\$200.00	\$78.00	\$600.00		\$56.00	\$600.00
375	Youth meals	new	new	\$2,000.00		\$1,067.00	\$2,500.00
466	Care Packages	\$400.00	\$462.00	\$500.00		\$270.00	\$500.00
467	BOYEM fellowship	\$500.00	\$98.00	\$500.00		\$227.00	\$500.00
395	Scholarship Fund (camp/mission trip)	new	new	\$3,000.00		\$350.00	\$3,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	\$3,550.00	\$2,440.00	\$9,550.00		\$3,745.00	\$10,600.00
400	<b>Fund Raising Expense</b>						
410	Taco Stand Expense	\$9,000.00	\$11,209.00	\$11,000.00		\$10,337.00	\$11,000.00
535	Garage Sale Expense	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00		\$307.00	\$310.00
536	Craft & Vendor Fair Expense	\$100.00	\$113.00	\$100.00		\$89.50	\$150.00
537	Craft & Vendor Fair Allocation	\$0.00	\$298.00	\$0.00		\$1,424.00	\$1,300.00
0	Pop Machine Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>Total</b>	\$9,400.00	\$11,920.00	\$11,400.00		\$12,157.50	\$12,760.00

## Treasurer's Report 2023 & Budget for 2024 (cont.)

		2022	2022	2023	2023	2024
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Proposed
500	<b>Board of Deacons</b>					
610	Visiting Pastor	\$1,000.00	\$2,145.00	Trustee	Trustee	Trustee
520	Worship	\$1,500.00	\$881.00	\$1,500.00	\$838.00	\$1,500.00
530	Music/Instrument Purchases	\$250.00	\$185.00	\$500.00	\$655.00	\$1,200.00
540	Stewardship	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
550	Fellowship	\$250.00	\$234.00	\$500.00	\$297.00	\$1,000.00
0	Organist Pianist	\$1,700.00	\$2,066.00	Trustee	Trustee	Trustee
0	50th Anniversary	new	new	\$10,000.00	\$8,296.00	\$0.00
0	Choir Director	\$1,000.00	\$1,115.00	Trustee	Trustee	Trustee
580	Deacons Pantry	\$400.00	\$186.00	\$1,500.00	\$612.00	\$1,500.00
0	Continuing Education	\$500.00	\$266.00	Trustee	Trustee	Trustee
	<b>Total</b>	\$6,750.00	\$7,078.00	\$14,150.00	\$10,698.00	\$5,200.00
600	<b>Board of Trustees</b>					
615	Office Administrator	\$47,612.00	\$47,612.00	\$49,516.00	\$49,516.00	\$51,496.00
617	Bookkeeping	\$1,700.00	\$1,745.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,792.00	\$1,800.00
618	Administrative Assistant	\$5,890.00	\$6,080.00	\$5,890.00	\$5,889.00	\$6,479.00
619	Shared Ministry Coord. Salary	\$5,600.00	\$5,793.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,954.00	\$6,600.00
620	Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$1,154.00	\$1,000.00	\$920.00	\$1,100.00
625	Printing & Advertising	\$1,500.00	\$2,062.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,555.00	\$4,000.00
630	Copier Expense	\$4,000.00	\$3,622.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,416.00	\$3,600.00
635	Postage	\$1,200.00	\$358.00	\$800.00	\$523.00	\$700.00
640	Payroll Expenses (FICA)	\$4,800.00	\$4,698.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,814.00	\$5,000.00
650	Computer Software / Support	\$2,000.00	\$2,137.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,925.00	\$2,900.00
0	Mortgage (P&I)	\$130,000.00	\$143,211.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
652	Choir Director	new	new	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
653	Organist / Pianist	new	new	\$1,700.00	\$1,985.00	\$1,700.00
605	Youth Director (Potential)	new	new	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$45,000.00
610	Visiting Pastors	new	new	\$2,000.00	\$3,980.00	\$1,500.00
655	Continuing Education staff	new	new	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
660	Parking Lot Loan					\$23,840.00
685	Continuing Education Pastor	new	new	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
658	Pastor synod obligation (meetings)	new	new	\$200.00	\$172.00	\$200.00
659	Clergy professional expense Books, robes,	new	new	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
665	Utility - Gas	\$4,000.00	\$4,915.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,918.00	\$5,000.00

# Treasurer's Report 2023 & Budget for 2024 (cont.)

		2022	2022	2023	2023	2024
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Proposed
666	Utility - Electric	\$7,000.00	\$9,312.00	\$10,000.00	\$8,833.00	\$10,000.00
667	Sewer, Water, Garbage	\$5,000.00	\$4,752.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,082.00	\$5,000.00
670	Insurance	\$7,000.00	\$7,651.00	\$7,200.00	\$8,703.00	\$8,400.00
675	Phone/Internet	\$2,000.00	\$2,017.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,026.00	\$3,000.00
690	Offering Envelopes	\$250.00	\$249.00	\$250.00	\$267.00	\$300.00
695	Security / Fire Maintenance Fee	\$1,200.00	\$1,568.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,183.00	\$1,200.00
0	Consulting Services (ERC)		\$1,500.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
697	Elevator Service Contract	\$400.00	\$401.00	\$400.00	\$316.00	\$400.00
	<b>Total</b>	\$232,152.00	\$250,837.00	\$143,456.00	\$118,769.00	\$192,015.00
700	<b>Other</b>					
705	Foundation Community Outreach in/out	\$1,000.00	\$2,050.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,000.00
710	Conventions / Conferences	\$200.00	\$391.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
720	Thrivent Choice Dollars Allocation in/out	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
0	Pastor Internship (Stipend)	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
715	Transition team /call committee	new	new	\$2,000.00	\$229.00	\$0.00
0	Welcome Table Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
0	Pastor Internship (expenses)	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00
735	Table Expenses	\$500.00	\$1,999.00		\$404.00	\$200.00
0	Potential moving expenses	new	new	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<b>Total</b>	\$1,700.00	\$5,340.00	\$6,300.00	\$2,933.00	\$2,500.00
800	<b>Capital Improvements / Exp.</b>					
810	Bldg, Grnds, Maint / Capital	\$15,000.00	\$7,356.00	\$15,000.00	\$7,399.00	\$12,000.00
805	Potential Improvements (parking lot, kitchen)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$63,480.46	\$61,325.00	\$13,300.00
815	Custodian	\$7,800.00	\$7,800.00	\$7,800.00	\$7,800.00	\$7,800.00
	<b>Total</b>	\$22,800.00	\$15,156.00	\$86,280.46	\$76,524.00	\$33,100.00
	<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>\$412,616.00</b>	<b>\$424,255.00</b>	<b>\$407,500.00</b>	<b>\$353,359.50</b>	<b>\$395,775.00</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>-\$33,863.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$45,275.50</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
		balanced	down	balanced	up	balanced



# Assets and Liabilities (12/31/23)

## Assets

Hope Checking Account		\$91,903
Community Outreach	\$ 3,270	
Christian Car Fund	\$ 2,576	
Memorial Fund	\$ 4,456	
Youth Fund	\$ 4,825	
Families Moving Forward	\$ 1,855	
HS Mission Trip	\$ 932	
BOYEM Camp Scholarships	\$ 3,400	
Hope Checking Account available balance		\$70,589
Building and Land		\$2,650,000

**Total Assets** **\$2,720,589**

## Liabilities

Loan for Parking Lot		\$61,168
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**Total Liabilities** **\$61,168**





# Audit Committee Report

Performed & Reviewed by: Audit Committee (Jo Nelson, Deb Anderson, Kristi Narum)

Period covered: January 2023-October 2023

Report provided to: Hope Lutheran Church Board of Trustees

Date of Report: November 29, 2023

Date presented to Board: December 15, 2023

## OBJECTIVE:

The objectives of this financial audit are:

To review financial records and procedures for safe, secure and efficient practices

To provide Board of Trustees with recommendations that would enhance the church's financial program and prevent fraud

## PROCEDURES OF AUDIT:

The following procedures were used to determine if the audit objectives were met:

Discussion with church office manager, Angie Newton

Reviewed monthly bank statements

Reviewed Shepherd Staff's accounting software monthly reconciliation documents

Reviewed monthly board reports for consistency to bank statements and Shepherd Staff internal monthly reports

Reviewed purchase orders over \$2500

## PROCEDURES OF OFFICE MANAGER:

The outline of the process for financial transactions is as follows:

Angie Newton receives receipts for reimbursements or bills to be paid

A purchase order is created in Shepherd's Staff's software for each check (purchase orders \$2,500 or above need two trustees signatures prior to purchase)

Checks are created using Shepherd Staff's software

Angie signs, mails, and distributes checks

Purchase order, receipt and check stub are placed in a folder for Trustees

Trustees review monthly payments

Documents are filed

Dual control of weekly offering collection has been implemented

Reconciliation of bank statements is performed by Treasurer

## FINDINGS:

Reconciliation Report from Shepherd's Staff missing for February 2023 Bank Reconciliation

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continue procedures of Office Manager as stated above

Encourage timeliness of purchases to prior approval of Trustees as needed

Recommend Treasurer sign and date bank statement after reconciliation to Shepherd's Staff is complete

Recommend "other offering" specified in Shepherd's staff. Consider creating specific categories for these givings.

Recommend generating a vendor report in Shepherd's staff to verify 1099s that need to be created/mailed (vendors/people that have been paid over \$600 for the fiscal year).

The audit committee would recommend auditing a full calendar year at a time. In order to get back on track, we recommend the next audit take place January 2025 to audit November 2023-December 2024.

Reviewed by:

Kristi Narum

Jo Nelson

Deb Anderson



# Taco Stand Report

2023 brought another profitable year for the Hope Lutheran Taco Stand. With rising food costs and more food vendors attending the Scott County Fair and Heimatfest, we saw profit fall -5% compared to last year. With increasing competition from additional vendors, we will need to continue to evaluate our participation in each of the various events in coming years.

As always, many thanks go out to all involved in making the events happen. On behalf of the committee, it was a pleasure to serve with all the volunteers who gave their time and energy. Without their involvement, this fundraiser would not be possible. And as always, the committee is looking to add members. If you or someone you know is interested in helping next year, please let one of the members know.

Respectfully submitted,

Your 2023 Taco Stand Committee,  
 Ben Kalow  
 Deb Barker  
 Doug Johnson  
 Kyle Narum  
 Matt Lorenz  
 Steve McClellan



## Taco Stand 2023 Financial Summary

### Sales

Scott County Fair	\$15,754.50
Heimatfest	\$4,877.00

### Supplies

Scott County Fair	\$6,635.11
Heimatfest	\$1,432.25

### Fees

MN Department of Health	\$95.00
Scott County Fair Booth	\$800.00
Heimatfest Booth	\$175.00

### Startup Cash

Scott County Fair	\$600.00
Heimatfest	\$600.00

Operating Income (less startup cash)	\$19,431.15
Operating Expense (less startup cash)	\$9,137.36

**2023 Operating Profit \$10,293.79 (-4.9% vs. 2022)**



# Deacon's Report

The 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.

Deacon Board members in 2023 were:

Deb Barker - Secretary

Jason Felten – Board Chair

Kathy Mattson

Shelli Schubert

Matt Lorenz

During the school year the Deacons hosted a movie night once a month. A total of \$307 was added to the youth fund.

- January
  - Members of the congregation worked alongside the Deacons to “undecorate” the church Sunday January 1 following the morning worship service.
  - \$1029 in donations for ELCA Good Gifts was collected during the Christmas season and sent to the ELCA.
  - The items added to the hat and mitten tree were donated locally.
- February
  - Valentine’s Friends and Families Social Dinner was held on February 10<sup>th</sup>. There were 75 people in attendance and \$786.00 was collected and a check was written to Feed My Starving Children
  - A baked potato bar was held to celebrate Ash Wednesday. Seventy five people attended and \$288.00 was collected.
- March
  - Hope Lutheran participated in the Minnesota Food Share Drive. The drive was set to run through the second week of April. \$1,660.00 was collected.
  - Wednesday Evening Lenten Services. Soup, breads and sides were served on the Wednesdays leading up to Holy week and were well attended.
- April
  - A total of \$1,660.00 was donated by Hope members during the Minnesota Food Share Drive.
  - Partnered with BOYEM in having a Hope Lutheran booth at Celebrate Jordan.
  - The garden was split in half with Hope retaining half the space and 4 families using the other half as a community garden. \$2,053.00 was collected from produce sold and soup and salsa.
- May
  - The Deacons worked with Kids of the Kingdom providing carnations at the worship service in celebration of Mother’s Day.
- June
  - “Root beer” floats were served following the service on Father’s Day.
- July
  - Garage sale was held and a total of \$5,014.00 was collected for the general fund.

# Deacon's Report (cont.)

- September
  - 50 Years of Hope Anniversary Celebration – Leading up to the open house on Sunday, September 10, Wendy Swiontek's decorated cookies were passed out during Celebrate Jordan. Two specially created banners were hung on church property and at the fairgrounds' Taco Stand. Postcards were passed out all over Jordan. Souvenir t-shirts and mugs were available for purchase throughout the summer. On September 9<sup>th</sup>, Hope was represented in the Heimatfest parade by a float carrying a new worship band that performed along the route. Especially for the event, Kathy Templin and Kyle Narum created a video of Hope's history through pictures including comments from Hope's pastors which is still available for viewing on YouTube. Carlonna Lindell created a picture wall using old photos. After a special worship service, the whole community of Jordan was invited to join our congregation for a buffet meal with activities for the children. The 50<sup>th</sup> Committee stayed within budget and maintained a tight schedule to create a meaningful celebratory event. Many thanks to Char Senske, Brenda Lieske, Harry Janssen, Glenda Laffen, Kathy Templin, Kyle Narum, Danielle Tieben, Aljexi Zimmerman, Lynn Mollenhauer, Sarah Gavert and Kathy Mattson acting as liaison to the Deacons.
  - There will be a new insert in the bulletin called The Deacons Corner. This insert will be advertising the upcoming events for the congregation.
- October
  - God's Work Our Hands has been revisited and is now God's Work Our Hands - On Call Ministry.
  - The congregation was asked to fill out a gift inventory form so there is a database to use if a request for help is made.
- November
  - "Chili Cook Off" fellowship event was hosted by the Deacons after a Sunday worship service.
  - The congregation assisted the Deacons with decorating for Christmas after the November 27 Service.
  - Thanksgiving Service was held on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup>. Pies were served to 91 people attended service.

The Deacons enjoyed planning events to help with getting the congregation together in 2023 and appreciate the interest and participation of so many individuals. Overall great participation inspires us to keep trying new things. Please reach out and let us know if there is a fellowship idea you would like the Deacons to consider.

Many "Thanks" to Angie and Sarah in the office, and to all who prayerfully support, organize, and participate in these activities. Thanks also go out to the "Men of Hope" who help by providing the "muscle" with tables & chairs and big Christmas Trees!

Respectfully prepared and submitted by the Deacon Board



# Garden of Hope Report ~ 2023



With the help from Paul Engfer and Deb Barker, the garden was very successful this summer. The black mulch that was put on the garden last summer increased productivity a lot.

I made and sold 40 half pints of rhubarb jam. With the help of several people, we made 31 pints of salsa, 100 pints of tomato soup. I made 7 pints of bread and butter pickles and Angie Newton made 10 quarts of dill pickles. All of these canned goods along with vegetables from the garden were sold to congregation members in the amount of \$2,053.

I want to thank the following people who helped make the garden successful: Deb Barker, Paul Engfer, June Aufderhar, Teresa Gaukstad, Glenda Laffen, Bev McGowen, Diane Hessler, Kathie Harrington, Cindy Lind, Mecque Leonard, Kathy Smith, and Deb & Roger Anderson.

~Myrna Rieck

## Board of Youth and Educational Ministries

The Board of Youth and Educational Ministry (BOYEM) is tasked to provide, plan, promote and oversee the faith formation and educational programs of the congregation. This includes both youth and adult ministries. The strength of these programs is only made possible because of the many dedicated and skilled volunteers that help support these ministries.

There are 32 children enrolled in Kids of the Kingdom (KOK) which provides education to 4 yr. olds through 4th graders on Sundays after the worship service. KOK relies on many volunteers who assist with music, teaching, and preparing lessons. The KOK volunteers planned lessons to coincide with the worship services lesson and organized other fun events. We hosted our 16th annual Operation Christmas Child where youth packed 158 boxes. Offerings from KOK children are being donated to the ELCA Good Gifts project.

We continue to host “Keeping the Promise” family retreats that help parents fulfill the promise they made when their children were baptized. Retreats led by our pastor were provided for grades 1 through 5 on the Lord’s Prayer, 10 Commandments, Bible, Apostle’s Creed, and Holy Communion.

We have a group of 34 Head to Heart (H2H) confirmation youth that fill this place with energy Wednesday evenings. Pastor Matt leads the lessons and volunteer group leaders work together to create a fun environment with learning, fellowship, and service. We have worked to incorporate more fellowship and service events into the schedule this year. Some of our service events include: setting up for Operation Christmas Child and the Sandwich project. To work in some fun fellowship, we have gone mini golfing and enjoyed some fun game nights - not to mention the weekly pizza dinners! Ten youth were confirmed in 2023.

In addition to programs that serve children during the school year, Hope Lutheran coordinates and encourages youth to participate in fun faith building summer opportunities. A wonderful team of coordinators and adult and youth volunteers supported our Vacation Bible School (VBS) program in which 69 children participated. A show of the quality of this program is that it attracts and serves many children from the community. We also had 5 children attend Bible Camp. We are appreciative of the donation from the Lindell Family which continues to offset some of the costs for these faith formation activities. In addition, Hope Lutheran also kicks in a stipend amount for each camper. In our mission to help make camp affordable for all families, we also offer camp scholarships.

# Board of Youth and Educational Ministries cont. . .

We have initiated and participated in a variety of activities and events to help impact all congregation members. One event was a summer fellowship gathering where individuals and families were invited to participate in outdoor games, a meal, and fellowship. We also assist the deacons in the monthly movie nights. We helped coordinate a float in the Heimatfest Parade to share our programs and invite the community to Hope Lutheran. We had some high school youth assist in putting together care packages for last year's senior class, as well as care packages for our homebound members. BOYEM members and Pastor Matt delivered the care packages to homebound members.

One of our biggest goals and accomplishments this past year was the renovation of the Youth Room. The room received a fresh coat of paint, furniture updates, and new flooring. There were many volunteers that donated items, their time, and talents into helping BOYEM update this room. The room has been a huge success, especially on Wednesday evenings for youth!

For adult education, the Adult Bible Study has remained strong. We have been working closely with Pastor Matt and are excited for continued Adult Education opportunities in the new year.

The current BOYEM members include Leah Aamlid, Jess Felten, Hope Mack, Alan Strand, and Dustin Kempf. The BOYEM members want to again thank all the volunteers. We also want to thank Hope's office staff who help provide significant support and Pastor Matt who has participated in and guided these programs this year.

BOYEM members, youth, and their families have put a lot of time and effort into these programs. Thank you to all who have supported these programs this year.



# Congregational Statistics-2023

## New Members

Butkiewicz, Brendon, Maggie, Rowan, Flannery  
 Strand, Darrell, Linda  
 Parrott, Kristin, Scott, Natalie, Aubrie  
 Larson, Leiton  
 Larson, Margie  
 Tieben, Joann  
 Johnson, John  
 Cordes, Matthew, Von

## Baptisms

April 16	Irving Howard Johnson
June 25	Hank James Menden
June 25	Nora Eloise Menden
October 1	Maverick Nickles
October 1	Kayden Nickles
October 1	Wyatt Nickles
October 8	Brynley Louise Howk
November 26	Keegan Joseph Theis

## Funerals

January 28	Marilyn Peltier
September 15	Dennis Simpson
September 27	Robert Gavert

## Confirmands

Jake Bromeland  
 Jacilyn Preisen  
 Charles Brewster  
 Isabel Haugen  
 Joshua Hulet  
 Abigail Schiffman  
 Domenek Williams  
 Preston Kulics  
 Carson Schultz  
 Abigail Strand

## Transferred Out / Moved

Louis, Sandy & Kevin  
 Anderson, Myra  
 Gosewisch, Lolly & Dave  
 Iverson, Sandy & Bob

<b>Baptized Membership</b>	<b>293</b>
<b>Confirmed Membership</b>	<b>227</b>
<b>Voting Membership</b>	<b>227</b>





**Mission Endowment (Hope Lutheran Foundation)  
Statement of Activity for 2023**

**Home Town Bank checking account**

Beginning balance 1/1/23	\$8,176.96
Transfer from Home Town Bank savings account	\$15,986.61
Check to Fidelity (Money Market)	-\$19,000.00
<b>Disbursements this year</b>	
2 - scholarships	-\$800.00
Jordan Family Outreach	-\$1,500.00
Ending balance 12/31/23	\$2,863.57

**Home Town Bank savings account**

Beginning balance 1/1/23	\$15,980.31
Investment income	\$6.30
Transfer to Hometown Bank checking	-\$15,986.61
Ending balance 12/31/23 (account closed)	\$0.00

**Fidelity investment portfolio**

Beginning balance 1/1/23	\$83,110.29
Addition from Home Town Bank checking	\$19,000.00
Investment portfolio gains/losses	\$15,611.84
Ending balance 12/31/23 <b>(value of Money Market fund \$28,728.48)</b>	\$117,722.13
<b>Total of Assets as of 1/1/23</b>	<b>\$107,267.56</b>
<b>Total of Assets as of 12/31/23</b>	<b>\$120,585.70</b>

## • ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS-DEC. 2023 •

Greetings to you from your partners in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! The definition of community at Gustavus has always included the wider ELCA community. The network of institutions and relationships which holds our Lutheran congregations, synods, camps, colleges, seminaries, and social agencies together plays a vital role in nourishing and advancing our collective and important contribution to the world. We all make a greater impact because of this diverse network to which we belong.

Through the Gustavus Association of Congregations, the Office of Church Relations at Gustavus is connected to over 500 congregations from across the country. These relationships are an important source of Christian faith inspiration and ministry encouragement for the college. We have so very much to be grateful for and always look forward to our time together at the annual Gustavus Association of Congregations business meeting in April 2024.

As you gather for congregation annual meetings and synod assemblies, we would like you to know our gratitude for your ministry and hope you are inspired by the reminder of the many others who walk alongside you in mission. The Office of Church Relations at Gustavus exists because as a college we live from our Christian faith and desire to be in service to the wider community within which we are rooted. We seek to be a place you might consider as a ministry partner and resource for your congregation's educational goals and growth.

### MARK YOUR '24 CALENDARS & JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Annual Gustavus Association of Congregations Business Meeting Luncheon — APRIL 27, 2024** The Annual Business Meeting of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations will gather for a luncheon meeting and feature updates from the Gustavus President and Chair of the Board of Trustees as well as inspiration from Gustavus students. For more information: [gustavus.edu/businessmeeting](http://gustavus.edu/businessmeeting).
- **The Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics — JUNE 15-21, 2024**, is an exciting resource for high school youth interested in exploring creative alliances between faith and science. The theme for the 2024 Academy is "How and Why We Sleep, Revelations in Rest." For more information and to nominate a high school student: [gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy](http://gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy).
- **Annual Nobel Conference®— OCTOBER 1-2, 2024** "Sleep Unraveled." Sleep is a universal human experience and yet its importance is often overlooked. Nobel 60 — Sleep Unraveled brings together an interdisciplinary panel of experts to explore the centrality of sleep for human health and mental well-being. In addition to its role in physical rejuvenation, sufficient high-quality sleep is crucial for cognition, memory, learning, and general health. Sleep loss — whether triggered by noise or light pollution, stress, overwork or conflict with circadian rhythms — has been associated with high blood pressure, weight gain, diabetes and a plethora of other medical conditions. The conference will also delve into the neurological and psychological processes of sleep, the cultural evolution of sleep practices and the social justice implications of a twenty-four hour convenience society that condemns workers to permanent sleep deprivation. More details can be found at: [gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference](http://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference).
- **Christmas in Christ Chapel— DECEMBER 6-8, 2024** This annual tradition in Christ Chapel celebrates and reflects upon the birth of Jesus Christ through worship that features music, dance, spoken word, and the visual arts. Ticket information and archived live stream services can be found at: [gustavus.edu/events/ccc](http://gustavus.edu/events/ccc).

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: [gustavus.edu/churchrelations](http://gustavus.edu/churchrelations). Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Grady St. Dennis

Associate Vice President of Mission/Executive Chaplain

# Bishop's Annual Report to Congregations

Grace, peace, and hope through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In May, we meet for our 2024 Synod Assembly under the theme “With Glad and Generous Hearts.” The phrase describes the early church as they gathered on Pentecost. It is also an appropriate description of the past year of our life and ministry together.

In 2023, our hearts were gladdened by:

- Your congregation, along with the other 136 congregations in our synod, faithfully proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, nurturing community, and loving neighbors and neighborhoods.
- The privilege of accompanying congregations in 72 Call Processes; presiding at 14 Ordinations and 30 Installations; and walking with 34 people preparing to become pastors or deacons.
- 142 lay leaders and 28 clergy from 31 congregations learning to be church in the 21st century through our Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices intensive learning communities.
- 6,500 people receiving our weekly enews. (Sign up at [mpls-synod.org/sign-up](https://mpls-synod.org/sign-up) to feel more connected.)
- 100s of rostered and lay leaders involved in synod sponsored peer groups, conferences, and retreats.
- 100s of leaders from synod congregations helping pass the state’s “100% Clean Energy By 2040” and “Restore The Vote” legislation that advance both climate justice and racial justice.
- 100s of leaders faithfully serving as Deans, on Synod Council, and Candidacy, Audit, Program Committees.
- 15 gifted and devoted synod staff members: 10 funded by Mission Support from you and other congregations, and 5 funded by Lilly Endowment and other external grants.

We praise God for the congregational generosity that makes all this happen. At the same time, we recognize that mission support from congregations has declined 16% over the past 10 years, resulting in a reduction in synod staff hours. Especially as we prepare to elect a new bishop this spring, we invite you to consider strengthening your support for the future of the synod’s work.

Conference Assemblies are just around the corner: Saturday, February 10, 9:30 a.m. – Noon. Of particular importance will be conference nominations for bishop as well as for voting members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, July 28 - August 2, 2025. We encourage congregations to send the same voting members to both the Conference and Synod Assemblies.

As we look at declining mission support or grieve the closing of a congregation, we can become discouraged. In such moments, I encourage you to listen to a remarkable conversation from our 2023 Synod Assembly. Our keynote speaker, the Rev. Otis Moss III, was asked: “what do you say to those who think the church is dying?” Filled with courage and hope, Moss responded, “the church is not dying, it is being born, refashioned, and remade. The early church was an alternative community. Today we use the metrics of the market to evaluate the church – buildings, budgets, numbers. But, the early church looked at **impact**: were people hearing the good news of Jesus who lived and died for our salvation? Was suffering being relieved? Were people being welcomed and healed?” ([mpls-synod.org/our-synod/synod-assembly-2/2023-synod-assembly-archives](https://mpls-synod.org/our-synod/synod-assembly-2/2023-synod-assembly-archives) 4:57:27 of the second day)

Rev. Moss reminds us that we are called to be alternative communities. What might it take to measure our churches by **impact**? The work of synod leadership is to support the 137 communities and the thousands of leaders who are making an **impactful** difference in the 21st century: sharing the good news of Jesus, extending radical welcome into beloved community, engaging their neighborhoods in love with justice.

I am filled with both gratitude and sadness as I write this, my final annual report to congregations. I have loved serving as your bishop and am profoundly grateful for this calling. We pray for the year ahead, trusting in the goodness and faithfulness of our God, made known in Jesus Christ.

Bishop Ann Svennungsen



