

HOPE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**2020**

ANNUAL  
REPORT

JANUARY 17, 2021



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# AGENDA

## Hope Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

January 17, 2021

- 1.0 Call to order (verification of quorum – 30 voting members); a voting member is any person who is a Confirmed Member or Confirmed Associate Member of this congregation at the time of any Annual Meeting or Special Meeting.
- 2.0 Devotions
- 3.0 Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting
- 4.0 Reports
  - 4.1 Pastor
  - 4.2 President
  - 4.3 Benevolence Committee
  - 4.4 Board of Deacons
  - 4.5 Endowment Committee
  - 4.6 Board of Family/Youth/Education
    - 4.6a Youth Director
  - 4.7 Board of Music & Worship
  - 4.8 Trustees
    - 4.8a Auditor
    - 4.8b Presentation of 2020 financial report
    - 4.8c Presentation of 2021 budget
  - 4.9 Women of Hope
- 5.0 Nominating Committee Report and Election of 2021 Officers
- 6.0 Old Business
- 7.0 New Business
  - 7.1 Adoption of 2021 budget
  - 7.2 Other
- 8.0 Motion to Adjourn
- 9.0 The Lord's Prayer

**1/19/2020 – Hope Lutheran Church Annual Meeting - Minutes – Recorded by Tracy Ware**

**Call to order:** Meeting Called to order by Joan Dufault – President. Verification of quorum – 30+ members present.

**Devotions** – By Evan Fonder

**2019 Minutes** – Approved as written. MMSC: Michelle Solsten/Greg Mireault

**Annual Reports –**

**Pastor** – Printed on pages 3-5 of the annual report. Pastor Jane reviewed.

**President's** – Printed on page 8 of the Annual Report. Joan reviewed.

**Benevolence** – Printed on pages 6-7 of the Annual Report. Kathy Carlson reviewed.

**Deacons** – Printed on page 9 of the Annual Report. Michelle Solsten reviewed.

**Endowment** – No printed Report. Ken Hove reported the balance is \$274 with a deposit coming from Thrivent of \$500.

**Family/Youth/Education** – Printed on pages 10-11 of the Annual Report. Michelle Olson reviewed.

**Music & Worship** – Printed on page 12 of the Annual Report.

**Trustees** – Printed on page 13 of the Annual Report. Greg Mireault reviewed.

**Annual Audit** – Completed by Kathy Carlson.

**2019 Financial Report** – reviewed

**2020 Budget** – reviewed

**Women of Hope** – Printed on pages 17-18 of the annual report. Kathy Carlson reviewed.

Approval of all reports as written– MMSC: Bill Malwitz/Travis Quam

**Nominating Committee & Election of 2019 Officers** – Printed on page 19 of the Annual Report.

Additions/Corrections need to the Nominating Slate: Add Michelle Olson to the Board of FYE for three years, Add Wanda Marshall to the Alter Guild for three years, and add Tim Manecke to the Board of Trustees for three years.

Additions/Corrections needed to the Council Directory: Under FYE – Kate Moore should be removed; Under Trustees – Gloria Osmonson should be 20 and Dan Carlin should be 21; Under Women of Hope – Sue Simonson should be removed and Gloria Osmonson should be added; Under Alter Guild – please add Wanda Marshall; Under Benevolence Committee – please remove Jan Hanson. Update Council Directory with Nominating Slate names/years. MMSC: Phyllis Malwitz/Gloria Osmonson to accept nominations for new council and committee members.

**Old Business:**

Bennett Osmonson thanked President Joan Dufault for her two years of service.

**New Business**

**Adoption of 2020 Budget** – MMSC: Dan Carlin/Travis Quam

**AV Equipment** – Greg stated the work should begin this week. Our goals are to stream live and have an on-demand feature. Bennet questioned how it will be managed. Greg confirmed that Garden Valley now has staff dedicated to this and has taught a class in which some of our students attended. Ryan will also be working with some of the students to help at church. Bill Malwitz reiterated the importance of this project for the future of the church. Pastor Jane said there are still several complaints coming in so we are all looking forward to this project.

**Motion to Adjourn** – MMSC: Bennett Osmonson/Darin Larson

**Closed** with The Lord's Prayer

## PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I always give **thanks to God** in my prayers for your faithfulness and love for the members of our community. This is especially obvious in our church leadership during this time of peril. I am encouraged when I hear people say this Christmas had more spiritual meaning to them without some of the usual preparations of receiving and preparing for get-togethers of families and friends.

**Staying safe** and loving one another from a distance became a priority on March 16 and more so, as the threat of pandemic came closer to us. We pray for all medical personnel who are in our last line of defense, knowing that using the preventive measures at our disposal are our first lines of defense against disease and pandemic.

The 16 **funerals and graveside services**, began slowly with practically no one present to help families grieve or to comfort them. Thanks to guidance from our local funeral directors, as the weather warmed, graveside outdoor services blossomed. Families and friends were able to socialize and provide comfort to each other at a 6-foot distance in the safety and freedom of the outside air, and enjoy picnic type "comfort food". Many of us are Scandinavian AND Lutheran; still we adapted. Only one of our deaths has been Covid related. Only two out of many bedside visits have been Covid related.

We have done a good job of taking **care of each other**. Most of our small groups are on hold. Hoping to reconvene are the Men's Discussion Group, the Thursday Bible Study, Befrienders, the Choir, 7<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class, 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation 9<sup>th</sup> confirmation, Sunday School grades 1-12. and Friday School classes for grades 1-6. Of high priority is getting our 10<sup>th</sup> graders confirmed!

Student who could not attend 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation were **privately tutored** to catch up with the class. One adult became a new member through **adult confirmation**. The dedication and faithfulness shown by these members, is an inspiration to your pastor.

Two **Baptisms** this year, brought joy to us all as we pledged to support the parents in their call as their child's first pastor, teacher and spiritual mentor.

Of special concern is the spiritual development of our **youth**, who have lost some of the usual education and activities in their formative years. My prayer is that we have **also gained more than we know** by way of family closeness,

family values, family loyalties, and the ability to be flexible and patient. I pray that families are better equipped for change now than a year ago, and that heads of households have taken a **leadership role** in bringing church, faith, and the Bible intentionally into homelife.

Despite Covid, we managed to get nine students through their **First Communion classes**. Many thanks to the efforts of parents and others for their help with making the unleavened bread, as well as altar guild in helping to train them in the preparation of the heavenly meal.

I am always thankful for **our team of volunteers** at:

1. The Loaves and Fishes **Foodshelf**, as well as the youth in Fellowship of Christian Athletes who help load and unload.
2. The Ignite **Youth** Hangout, for helping supervise.
3. Who serve on our Benevolence Committee with faithfulness and stewardship allocate 10% of our donations to **missions at home and abroad**.

**Daily prayer** is a gift you give yourself. Psychologically, the “attitude of gratitude” starts each day on a positive note. Our church is open for private and safe prayer and meditation from 9-4 each weekday in the Sanctuary. While our heavenly Father hears our prayers anytime, anywhere, it is helpful to us to soak in the meditative atmosphere of our beautiful sanctuary.

As **your pastor**, I want to be available to you by phone almost anytime. You can reach me either at the church ( I am off Mondays, my Sabbath,) or if I am elsewhere on my cell phone.

St. James says we should “**count it all joy**, when we meet various trials.” Because it is making us “fit for the kingdom of heaven.” Thank you for your perseverance, your many kindnesses, and your hearts of gold. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be serving as your pastor. Thank you so very much!

In His Love,

Pastor Jane

## President's Report

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." – Theodore Roosevelt

A few years ago, this quote was delivered by Nate Johnson during a guest sermon that he delivered here at Hope. I have found myself thinking of and coming back to this more than ever in this past year. And I think it speaks to so much of the work that has gone into serving Christ and His mission through our church this past year.

We began the year with a major financial project in the replacement of our camera and broadcast system for our church, and little did we know what a blessing that would be.

To recap a few of the things that highlighted this past year:

When the COVID pandemic began to be a reality in our state in early April, we were able to get going in short order with Live Broadcast of our services on FB, YouTube, and our Website. As I mentioned this was made possible by the generous support from many both here at Hope and beyond. It has also been made possible by the many hours of work from Ryan Hanlon, along with help from Garden Valley, Jim Offerdahl, and Jimmy London from the city crew. In addition to creating a way for all of us to continue to worship with each other, it has allowed our church to extend it's reach in a way that is hard to measure.

Another way that technology was leveraged early on this year, was setting up an online giving tool. This has created an easier way for people that we are reaching and feel called to support our church to do just that. It was setup in early April and through the end of the year over 11 thousand dollars were given through that platform.

Flexibility & Adaptability have been an ever-present part of our year. Whether it has been rescheduled events, worshipping from home, confirmation lessons via video, or council meeting via zoom video conference we have had to adapt and show patience and flexibility as the situation has changed and evolved through the year.

Thank you to all of the boards and committees and to Pastor Jane for your willingness to adapt to a challenging year. And a big thank you to our Ushers who have helped to create a safer worship environment for those that have come to the church in person.

From a family & youth front, this has been an area impacted greatly in the past year and created many challenges for things like Sunday School, VBS, and Friday School / Confirmation. One very positive note is that we as Hope welcomed Michelle Levin into the role of youth leader and for that we are very thankful.

Despite the fact that many of our traditional events had to be cancelled or greatly modified this year, please know that many are looking forward to when we can safely resume many of the things that we have come to enjoy as a church family (meals, events, worship etc.) In closing, this has been a year of challenges, and one that has certainly not looked the same for our church. And it has also brought an incredibly powerful reminder that the church is not a building. The church is all of us worshipping and serving in the work that we are called to by Him.



## **Board of Deacons Report**

This year has been full of challenges and changes due to COVID, but also allowed for opportunities to expand our congregation via technology. Thank you to Pastor Jane for her willingness in trying new ways of spreading the gospel and connecting with members and nonmembers. Also, thank you to Ryan Hanlon and all others involved in making this happen.

This year also brought changes with Communion including hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, and social distancing. Thank you to all of the communion servers for helping during this crazy time. Due to this year's limitations, at-home communion kits have been made available for pick up and/or delivery by Pastor Jane or the deacons.

Bible studies have continued with limited numbers. We hope to start a more "normal" schedule for this in the upcoming months.

We would once again like to thank Pastor Jane for all of her extra efforts in spreading God's word. The adaptations needed for Sunday worship, visitations, and communion are outstanding and we appreciate her work. Also, thank you to Steve for becoming a regular part of the service. We appreciate both of you!

Thank you to Tom Sedler for his years of service as a deacon. We will be welcoming Tracy Ware to our committee.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Olson (Michelle Olson : ))  
Deacons: Wayne Olson, Dean Vikan, and Tracy Ware

## Family, Youth, and Education Report

This year was quite different for our committee. We had to make decisions about canceling events and changing the “normal” way of doing things.

January & February: \*Sunday School & Friday School classes

February, March and April: \*Lenten Soup and Sandwich Suppers--only had February 26, March 4, and March 11 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

April: \*Confirmation Sunday--postponed  
\*Spaghetti Supper- cancelled

May: \*Teacher Appreciation Sunday-Teachers were mailed a gift card as a thank you.  
\*Graduates were honored with a parade of cars to deliver them their quilt, flower, and a cake. So fun!

June: \*New Sunday School Curriculum ordered.. still waiting to be used!

July: \*VBS--cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

August: \*Michelle Levin was hired on as Youth Leader.

September: \*Rally Sunday-Students were given Sunday School packets for use at home.  
A grab and go breakfast was provided following church.  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade students received their bibles

October: \*Pumpkin Carving  
\*Meatball Supper- cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions

November: \*Operation Christmas Child-monetary donations only this year

December: \*Ornaments and treat bags were passed out following December 20 church service. Committee members delivered to church families in town that were not able to pick up themselves.

What a year!! Thank you to the amazing members of this committee for their time, talents, and great attitudes toward serving our youth. We would like to thank Matt & Chantel for their years of wonderful service to our church and youth. We will miss you!!

Submitted by Michelle Olson

Current Members: Michelle Olson, Darin Larson, Teresa Sannes, and Emily Quam.

New Members: Crystal Munter, Jake & Brittini Radkte

## **Youth Director Report**

With a joyous and humble heart, I'd like to say thank you for the opportunity to be Hope's Youth Director! Although we have been on a break from conducting in person youth group since Thanksgiving due to COVID, I am hoping now that school is back in session youth group will once again resume.

This fall we had very successful youth group turnouts, with most Wednesday nights in Pastor Jane's yard due to the mild fall weather we had.

In October we carved pumpkins thanks to the Malmanger family, and in November we had a movie night at the theater, which included all Fosston youth church groups. We saw the movie "I Still Believe," and had over 80 kids in attendance! Thanks to Kevin Moore for hosting us all!

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve! I look forward to a wonderful winter with our youth!

God Bless!

Michelle Levin

## Board of Music & Worship Report

The Board of Music and Worship works to enhance our worship services by securing special music, lay readers, and assisting Pastor Jane on special programs and speakers.

Thanks to everyone who has said "yes" to reading scriptures each week. If you haven't been asked to read and would like to, please contact Nancy, Bonnie or Kim, or you could also contact Sylvia in the office or our latest Board member Cyndee Larson. We would like to have you on our list.

2020 has been described as the year like none other. We hope there won't be another at least. Little did we realize when we first heard about Covid 19 that everything we do would change. We have people who have definitely had to perform above and beyond the call of duty.

1. Have we ever asked our Pastor to hold a service with no one in the pews? Pastor Jane had to do just that with Steve helping. When we finally could have 25 percent occupancy we were elated even if everyone is asked to wear a mask.

2. Ryan Hanlon's presence in the control booth has been absolutely critical. If there aren't people in the pews, there's no one to sing so we have to use recorded music. Also it's hard to sing through a mask. We are still at this point. Singing is not recommended. Pastor Jane picks the music and Ryan plays it.

3. The completion of the update of our sound system was so timely. Thanks Ryan and all you tech people who helped so we can watch on city cable, Garden Valley Television, Facebook or listen on radio.

Special music is always such a joy. It does seem that it's more difficult to find people who are willing and able to perform. You don't have to be professional. Taking lessons? Please share with us. It can be vocal or instrumental.

Thanks everyone for your continued prayers and participation in the life of Hope Church.

We all look forward to post Covid 19 and all of our favorite activities resuming.

Bonnie Albright  
Kim Kleinwachter  
Nancy Andree

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**  
**2021 CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

President (1 year)	Evan Fonder
Vice President (1 year)	Travis Quam
Secretary (1 year)	Tina Averill
Board of Deacons (3 years)	Tracy Ware
Endowment Committee	Karen Schultz
Board of Family/Youth/Education (3 years)	Crystal Munter Jake & Brittnei Radke Lisa Sekely
Board of Music/Worship (3 years)	Cynthia Larson
Board of Trustees (3 years)	Sarah Manecke Matt Wickham
Altar Guild (3 years)	Jenifer Dahl Alisa Halvorson Anita Lucken Margot Simonson
Head Ushers	Sid Fjerstad Terry Halvorson Tom Kleinwachter Rod Olson Darin Larson

## HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH 2020 COUNCIL DIRECTORY

Pastor	Jane Ekholm	435-6765	H: 435-1484 C: 218-820-2017
Office Manager/Treasurer	Sylvia Munter	435-6765	H: 435-1761
Custodian	Steve Sovick	435-6765	H: 435-1754
Organists	Mary Hanson 280-1559 / Ruth Olson 435-6560		
Audio/Visual Technician	Ryan Hanlon		
Contract Mowing	MT Snow Removal & Lawn Care 218-779-3574		
Choir Director	Charity Salmonson	938-4528	
Choir Accompanist	Jeanie Stout	435-1921	
Sunday School Supt.	Emily Quam	435-1732	
Friday School Supt.	Julie Malmanger	668-2108	

### **OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

President	Evan Fonder	435-1038
Vice Pres.	Travis Quam	435-1732
Secretary	Sarah Manecke	791-1882

### **CHURCH BOARDS**

#### **DEACONS**

Tom Sedler	20	435-1187
Wayne Olson	21	435-6627
Dean Vikan	22	435-6954

#### **FAMILY / YOUTH / EDUCATION**

Chantel Wickham	20	686-6688
Matt Wickham	20	686-6484
Carey Sannes	20	686-9149
Teresa Sannes	20	686-9149
Darin Larson	21	435-1244
Cynthia Larson	21	435-1244
Michelle Olson	22	435-6627
Emily Quam	22	435-1732

#### **MUSIC / WORSHIP**

Nancy Andree	20	435-6349
Bonnie Albright	21	435-6688
Kim Kleinwachter	22	637-2048

#### **TRUSTEES**

Gloria Osmonson	20	435-1624
Greg Mireault	20	435-6675
Dan Carlin	21	435-6360
Nathan Pederson	21	435-2365
Tim Manecke	22	435-1601

#### **WOMEN OF HOPE**

Janice Haugen	435-2338
Geri Hove	435-6632
Gloria Osmonson	435-1624
Ilene Sistad	435-6736
Eileen Solsten	435-6101
Mary Steinbrenner	435-6245
Mary Tronerud	694-2421
Treasurer: Kathy Carlson	435-1814

### **COMMITTEES**

#### **ALTAR GUILD**

Michelle Manecke	20
Jenifer Dahl	20
Alisa Halvorson	20
Anita Lucken	20
Marilyn Venem	20
Willow Christen	21
Gina Gensburger	21
Wanda Marshall	22
Keri Mireault	22
Jolene Schmitz	22

#### **BENEVOLENCE**

Kathy Carlson	435-1814
Carrie Danielson	435-1596
Amy Riveland	435-2851

#### **CEMETERY BOARD**

Sexton-Melissa Christen	435-1491
Trustee: Tim Manecke	
John Carlin	Tim Carlin
Dan Carlson	Fritz Frethem

#### **ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

Gary Carlin	Kathy Carlson
Judy Dunrud	Ken Hove
Dean Vikan	

#### **HEAD USHERS**

Sid Fjerstad	Terry Halvorson
Tom Kleinwachter	
Rod Olson	David Skunes

#### **LIBRARY**

Julie Malmanger	Hazel Trogstad
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#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Nancy Andree	Carrie Carlin
Pr. Jane Ekholm	Mark Malmanger
Tim Manecke	Marcy Sedler

## Hope Statistical Report for 2020

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Number of regular Sunday worship services	67	52
Number of special services (Lenten/1st. Comm./Christmas Eve)	19 (16 / 1 / 2)	19 (16 / 1 / 2)
Total Sunday attendance	6,736 (51 Sundays)	2,658 (44 Sundays)
Average Sunday attendance	132	60
Number of Communion services	22	15

Membership Data	Baptized	Confirmed
<b>Membership December 31, 2019</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>502</b>
<b><u>2020 Membership Increases</u></b>		
Baptism (child)	3	
Affirmation of Faith	8	8
Confirmation	2	2
Transfer		
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>
<b><u>2020 Membership Decreases</u></b>		
Death	11	11
Transfer		
<b>Total Removed</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Membership December 31, 2020</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>501</b>

### **BAPTISMS**

Wren Busse  
Justin Gubrud  
Avery London

### **ADULT CONFIRMATIONS**

Craig Larson  
Samuel Manecke

### **FUNERALS**

(\*Non-Members)  
Gary Carlin  
Keith Caskey  
Beverly Drellack  
Aggie Gaetz  
\*Albert Graftaas  
Ralph Hove  
\*Karen Langseth  
Marion Larson

\*David Myklejord  
Vivian Nord  
Judy Olson  
Dennis Rossell  
Martha Sather  
\*Sandy Schultz  
Jan Voxland

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Theodore & Rebecca Busse,  
Declen, Raegan, & Wren  
Greg & Christina Gubrud & Justin  
James & Jamie London & Avery





