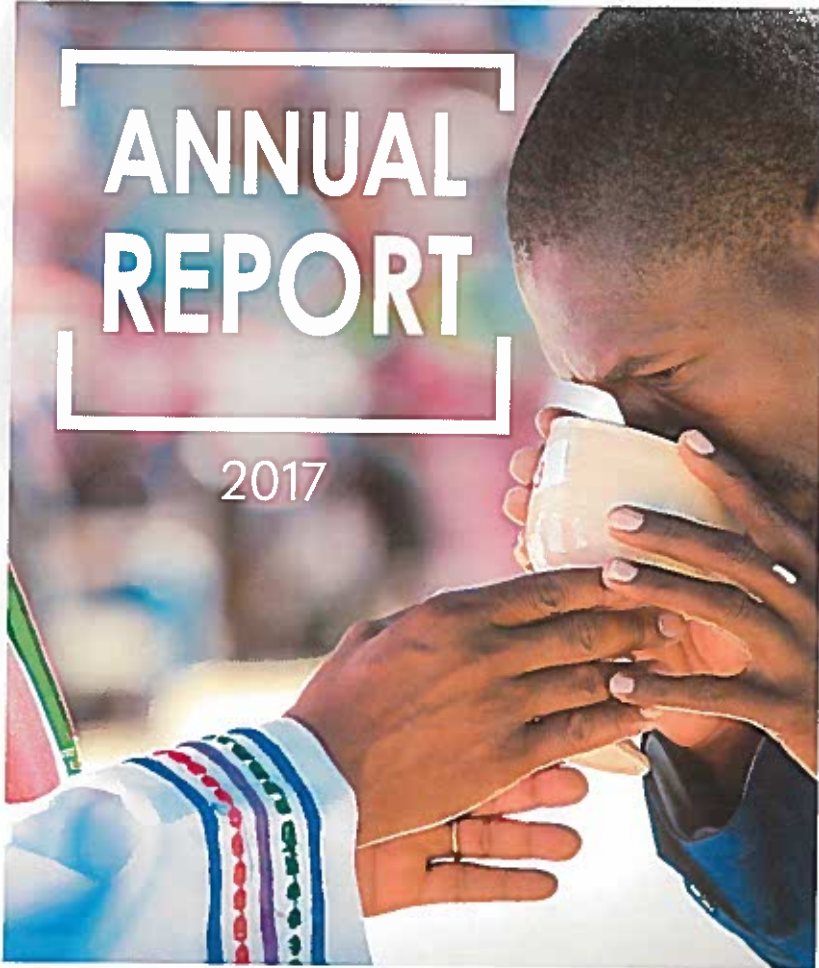


ANNUAL REPORT

2017



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Annual Report of the Congregation
Hope Lutheran Church, Walker Minnesota
January 21, 2018

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AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER
2. PRESENT AND APPROVE AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL MEETING and 8/27/17 CONG. MTG
4. PASTOR'S REPORT
5. APPROVAL OF 2018 MISSION PLAN
6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS
7. OTHER BUSINESS
8. ADJOURNMENT

PAROCHIAL REPORT

Membership Statistics

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership, end of 2016:	1204	984
<u>Members received as of December 31, 2017</u>		
By Baptism:	5	
By ELCA transfer	3	3
By Affirmation of Faith:	15	13
By other sources + statistical adjustments	1	1
TOTAL MEMBERS RECEIVED in 2017:	24	17
Baptized youth who were confirmed in 2017:		9
<u>Members removed as of December 31, 2017</u>		
By death:	22	22
By transfer to other ELCA congregations:	2	2
For other reasons + statistical adjustment	25	20
TOTAL MEMBERS REMOVED in 2017:	49	44
MEMBERSHIP as of December 31, 2017:	1179	966

MEMBERS LOST

Lynn Abraham
Elsie Andrews
Leon Arola
Kathy Barker
Mary Bloomquist
Allie Lu Dunlevy
Jerry Fischer
Aldeen Johnson
Brian Johnson
Karl Kiisa
Tom McAllister
Jewell Mendenhall
Bob Murphy
Jim Roy
Shirley Schneider
Carol Sommers
Gary & Muggs Trimble
Ruth Vaage
Chris Yarger
Phil & Joan Peterson
Jim & Janet Hausmann
Dan, Melinda, Ben, Hunter,
Joe, Elijah & Ellie Hed
Daniel Rud
Gary, Lois, Kyle
& Stuart Sommers
Chuck & Marlene Cowan
Skip, Lori, Chris & Logan Gooch
Jeff & Peggy Lindstrom
Ellise Loomis
Stella Muller
Hal Solem

MEMBERS GAINED

Hank Ehlenfeldt
Amellia Lair
Millie Laputka
Theodore Puffer
Lorelei Scherbing
Bob Dennis
Chuck & Brenda Erickson
Wesley Johnson
Vern & Lois Nornes
Jonathan Schultz
Dutch & Carolyn Schulz
Darren & Wendy Strosahl
& Kerstin, Coleman, Carson
and Caiden
Stan & Sharon Anderson
Devin & Olivia Murphy

MEMBERS CONFIRMED

Ethan Anderson
Conner Craven
Grant DeVries
Isaiah Haas
Hunter Hopen
Wesley Johnson
Brianna Raddatz
Jonathan Schultz
Benjamin Strandlie

MINISTERIAL ACTS

BAPTISMS

Hank Philip Ehlenfeldt
Lorelei Rose Scherbing
Theodor James Puffer
Millie Ann Laputka
Amellia Ryan Lair

MARRIAGES

Erin Koring & Nathan Anderson

FUNERALS

Brian Johnson
Thomas McAllister
Tanya Estabrooks
Christopher Yarger
Beth Mary Conklin
Edwin Johnson
Jerry Fischer
Alice Pewick
Margaret Trimble
Lynn Abraham
Karl Kiisa
Elsie Andrews
Helen Louise Bottrell
Gerald Gary Trimble
James Roy
Carol Sommers
Leon Arola
Allie Lu Dunlevy
Robert Murphy
Aldeen Johnson
Kathryn Barker
Jewell Mendenhall

ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

Jim Dowson will serve as the parliamentarian. Gloria Niswonger has prepared slides to go with the agenda items. 90 members were present which constituted a quorum.

Item #1: CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER: The meeting was called to order by President Larry Jacobson. Pastor Matt opened the meeting with prayer and a devotion.

Item #2: PRESENT AND APPROVE AGENDA. A change in the agenda: Item 6, the Youth Director's report will be presented next week. A motion was received by Harley Melin and seconded by Bill Niswonger to accept the agenda as amended. The motion passed.

Item #3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2015 ANNUAL MEETING: A motion was received by David Bangerter and seconded by Bruce Pederson. The motion passed.

Item #4: AUDITOR'S REPORT: President Jacobson spoke to the Auditor's Report found on page 18. The five areas of concerns or comments were presented.

Item #5: PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Matt advised us to read his report in the Annual Report. He highlighted these items:

- He thanked officially Pastors Keith and Bob for their superb work. And, he praised the whole staff, especially the office staff for their diligence at the beginning of this year.
- This is the Year of Jubilee! 500 year celebration of the Reformation. Plans for celebrating are in progress for a fund raiser, perhaps an ecumenical concert.

Item #7: PRESENTATION OF THE 2017 MISSION PLAN: These items will be discussed when the Annual Meeting resumes in a week:

- 10% administrative fee for designated funds. (Tabled for further discussion)
- Align expenses for this year.
- Suspend our donation to the Synod.
- Underspent \$20,000. So, in figuring out the mission plan, the last three years were studied on how these items were underspent. Therefore, the 2017 Mission Plan will reflect these changes.

A motion was presented by Shirley Dowson and seconded by Ardyce Pederson to recess until next week. Motion passed.

Recess

October 2nd

Item #8: APPROVAL OF THE 2017 MISSION PLAN: The Mission Plan was presented on pages 16 and 17. A motion was received by Marge Reinke to approve the Mission Plan. Discussion followed with Lois Jacobson for an amendment asking the Mission Plan not include suspending the Synod support. A paper ballot was handed out. The result of the vote was 49 against the amendment and 26 for. Marge Reinke's original motion was seconded by Rick Rothausen. Motion passed.

Item #9: ELECTION OF OFFICERS, COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEMBERS: A motion was received by Mike Kerrigan and seconded by Mar Kuha to elect the entire ballot as presented. Motion passed.

Item #10: OTHER BUSINESS: Pastor Matt praised Larry for his fine work as Council President. He introduced Dan Piprude, the new vice president who is standing in for Ivan Paulsen, the new Council President.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion received by Larry Jacobson to adjourn and Harley Melin seconded. Motion passed. AMEN!

Meeting adjourned. Submitted by Martha Vetter, Secretary

**Special Meeting
Hope Lutheran Church
Walker, MN**

A Special meeting of the Hope Lutheran Church congregation was called by the Church Council. The meeting was held on Sunday, August 27, 2017 between the 8:30 and 10:30 AM services. There were 60+ voting members present so a quorum was present.

The purpose of the meeting was to vote on the proposed amendment to change the bylaw, C10.01.01, which reads, "The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held in September at a time specified by the Congregation Council",

The proposed amendment presented by the Congregation Council was "The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified by the Congregation Council".

The meeting was called to order by the Congregation President Ivan Paulsen at 9:40AM. The purpose of the meeting was presented by the President. The current version of bylaw C10.01.01 was read and the amendment to C10.01.01 was read.

Pastor Matt gave a detailed explanation as to why this amendment was being proposed. The current meeting date of September falls during one of the more busy times of the year for the staff with Sunday School beginning, etc. In addition, it is difficult to formulate a budget for the upcoming year with 4 months remaining in the current year. Pastor Matt also stated that the Council is open to receiving comments regarding items for the annual meeting so that all individuals have an opportunity to express their support/concerns on items for the annual meeting.

A motion was made and seconded that the amendment to C10.01.01 be accepted. Several items were mentioned during the discussion to include; 1) having the agenda for the annual meeting well posted to include the Herald of Hope and Hope web site so people could see what will be discussed and voted on at the meeting prior to the meeting, 2) possibility of recording and posting the meeting on You Tube, and 3) a statement of support for changing the existing bylaw to the amended bylaw.

A voice call was made to approve the amendment. It was unanimously accepted. President Paulsen thanked the members present.

A call for adjournment was made and the meeting was adjourned at 9:55AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivan L. Paulsen, Congregation President

THE CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

As another year draws to a close, I am constantly amazed at the vitality and enthusiasm which exists in our church. There are so many dedicated individuals who take an active part in the life of Hope. It is you, the people, who make our church alive. I commend all for their involvement, whether it is active volunteering or dedicated worship attendees. Together we profess our love for Jesus Christ.

This has also been a year where we have lost over 24 of our members. We have all mourned with those of you directly affected by these losses. I think we have become stronger in our support for one another in these times of sorrow. It is reassuring to know that those loved ones we have lost are now with our Savior Jesus Christ.

In 2017, we have celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It has been enlightening to have had various church scholars share on videos the history of Martin Luther and his concerns with the church leadership and their various policies and interpretations of scripture. Luther had no idea of the impact his questions would have on the future of the Christian churches.

A great big thank you is in order to the staff of Hope. Pastor Matt's enthusiasm and presence in our congregation has been wonderful. He is most definitely a strong leader in our church. Michelle D. and Kris K., Hope's office staff, are invaluable assets to our church and are the integral part which keeps the day to day operations running smoothly. Our Youth Program is running full steam ahead with Michelle A. at the helm. Our music ministry of Jill, Mike and Roger are a true blessing to our church and provide an enriched worship experience. Barb and Jon continue to provide outstanding custodial services for Hope.

As my time as your Congregational President nears the end, I am confident your new President, Dan Piprude, will do an outstanding job representing you the people of Hope. Thank you Dan for being there this past year. Also, thanks to Dick S. and Martha V. for their insight and guidance on the Executive Committee. Our Congregational Council was blessed to have Monte L., Pat P., Jolene L., Randy M., and Mar K. overseeing the duties of their respective boards. Together we were all able to make sound decisions in the life of our church. You have made my year as President an easy journey.

Ivan Paulsen, Hope Congregational President

Thank you to our 2017 Boards & Council

President: Ivan Paulsen Vice President: Dan Piprude Secretary: Martha Vetter Treasurer: Dick Sessing

PROPERTY: Monte Lienau, Brian Bruns, Carl Berg, Duane Foss, Pamela Robinson, Gary Schuette

WORSHIP: Pat Paulsen, Judy Keiser, Gail Baumann, Tom Girtz, Leslie James, Noelle Johnson

OUTREACH: Randy Matsen, Mary Bengtson, Pat Roush, Gloria Niswonger, Joyce Nelson Schuette, Dee Oliver, Bruce Pederson

EDUCATION: Jolene Link, Jim & Shirley Cirhan, Janelle Johnson, Sherren Foss, Brenda Zimmer, Gail Tufte

FELLOWSHIP: Mar Kuha, Kelly Felton, Sue Jacobson, Shirley Nelson, Margie Richardson, Mark McKenna

PASTOR MATT McWATERS

"⁸For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God - ⁹not the results of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."(Ephesians 2:8-10, NRSV)

These words have been etched upon many of our hearts over the years because they so eloquently proclaim the salvific work of God in Christ Jesus that is for us. In them we are reminded of the gift of grace God gives us through faith, the same faith that is gifted to us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism. My! There are a lot of gifts there! While we remember these words for these reasons, we often forget that we too are a gift given in Christ for our neighbors. This is our way of life.

Dear brothers and sisters, I am grateful to be a part of this congregation who gives of itself so freely to neighbors near and far. You are a gift for our neighbors when supporting food baskets, fleece blankets, sewing quilts, sharing gifts at the Walker Area Food Shelf, and more! You are gift in your teaching and serving alongside our young and not-as-young neighbors in our community. You are gift when supporting our mission plan that deploys missionaries worldwide, feeds hungry bellies in the midst of famine, responds to disasters in our homeland, and provides scholarships for kids at Nairobi, students at Lutheran Colleges, and our next generation of leaders in the church.

This past year has been one filled with faithful ministry, even as we grieved alongside so many families we call our own. Being we have hosted so many funerals, and participated in many others offsite, I invite you to join me in giving thanks for those who assist families as they endured the death of loved ones. A big thank you to Northern Peace Funeral Home (Jarrod & Jenelle Mankie), Dennis Funeral Home (Jerry Souder), the Funeral luncheon crews who so faithfully prepare meals, musicians who bear us atop a melody, sound booth crews who seamlessly integrate media into services, our honored veterans who provide military honors, and those who show up in presence and prayers. Even in grief, Hope is a gift.

What a gift we all have in our church staff and leadership! It is a special thing to get to work alongside such talented and dedicated all-star staff whose work behind the scenes often goes unnoticed. Thanks are due to Jill Anderson, Michelle Anderson, Pastor Bob Dennis, Michelle Dowson, Barb Johnson, Mike Kerrigan, Kris Knowles, and Jon Osowski for their excellent and leading contributions to our life together. Further, to the council members, board members, and other "unofficial" leaders in the church, we say thank you.

This past year has been one filled with great stories of life-changing ministry bursting from our doors, and I expect 2018 will be the same. I'm excited that in response to congregational feedback and our 2017 visioning process, we will be experimenting in worship, particularly at 10:30. Be sure to share your feedback, hopes and dreams concerning worship as nothing we do will ever be set in stone.

I'm also excited that in response to our 2017 vision forward priority of continuing to provide opportunities in ministry for children, youth and families, our church leadership and staff have agreed to begin creating a new job description that will assist in this area. This will help our ministry to, of, and alongside our young people to continue to flourish into the future.

Though it might not sound like a bright spot, I'm enthused that as a whole congregation, we refuse to rest comfortably contented with the ministry that reaches out to our neighbors in our surrounding area. I have heard from many a smoldering desire to go upstream and continue, or begin new, bridge-building ministry alongside our friends of different denominations, faiths, and creeds, that seeking understanding and mutuality, we might grow stronger together.

Giving thanks for all God's gifts and the gift we are to each other, we begin a new year of life together. In this next year, let us continue to imagine and dream what it means to live Hope's mission, to Welcome all people, Enrich one another's lives, Send believers forth to Serve as our way of proclaiming the gospel!

Grace and Peace be Yours, Pastor Matt

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Sunday School

The Board of Education continues to provide Augsburg's Spark curriculum for Sunday School. The 2016-2017 theme was "Treasure Hunters," with the theme verse of "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" Matthew 6:21. The classes dug into the stories, teachings and miracles of Jesus in the book of Matthew. The 2017-2018 theme is "Good News," as the classes are digging into various stories from the four Gospels.

Most of the classrooms have two teachers. This benefited teachers and students by giving teachers more time to focus more individually with students, along with limiting the need to find substitutes.

The Christmas Program directed by the wonderful Martha Vetter was titled "Don't Cancel Christmas." Speaking parts were given out to Sunday School kids from oldest to youngest kids until they were all taken. All Sunday School kids took part in the Christmas program singing beautiful Christmas carols.

First Communion

Two instructional classes took place with students on Wednesday's this year along with one parent-student session. Classes were led by Margie Richardson and Pastor Matt McWaters. Six students took the class and received their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Along with the instructional classes, the youth painted chalices on a field trip to Bemidji and made the bread for their First Communion. All was celebrated at a dinner with family and friends at church served by the Board of Education.

Release Time

Large changes happened for release time. Kindergarten students were added to the program. Kindergartners-2nd Graders met in the mornings and 3rd Graders-5th Graders met in the afternoon 10 Wednesday's throughout the school year. The older kids were split into two groups, 6th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade. This change was to decrease the age gap of youth to help create a schedule that was more age appropriate for all. This proved to be a huge success and was kept for the next school year.

Confirmation

6th graders were added to the Confirmation program for the 2017-2018 year. On Wednesday evenings the 6th-9th graders dig through Augsburg Fortress's confirmation curriculum "Here We Stand." The confirmation program includes a Mentor Program where mentors & mentees are required meet twice a year through scheduled events & are encouraged to meet more in their own time. A confirmation Parents Night is held once a year on a Wednesday evening with a guest speaker to hear & talk about important topics that intersect life & faith. The 2017 topic focused on social media.

New to the confirmation program is an evening we call "Sent to Serve." On the first Wednesday of every month, instead of holding regular class, the students participate in various service projects around our community.

On October 29th, 2017, nine youth who completed Hope's confirmation program Affirmed their Baptisms. Beforehand we held an overnight with the group at Hiawatha Beach. We spent time together talking about the "what now" for faith lives & looked at the confirmation promises they would be would make.

Youth Group

Throughout the school year, 10th-12th grade youth group took place every Wednesday evening and 6th-9th grade youth group met the first Sunday of every month. We played games, ate snacks and had conversations about faith and life.

Kid & Youth Events

Throughout the year, several youth events take place besides normal programing. Some in the past year have included; Blessing of the Backpacks, Middle School Synod Gathering, Wreath Fundraiser, Winter Retreat at Camp, Winter Celebration at Martha's, High School Synod Gathering, Lent Soup & Sandwich Dinners, Easter Breakfast fundraiser, Movie Marathon Lock-In, Paintballing, Bowling and so much more.

Vacation Bible School

Once again, the Kids of Hope, along with several volunteers, learned all about Jesus' light shines bright in the darkness through Group's curriculum, Cave Quest. Vacation Bible School was held in the evenings and over 50 kids participated. They met several Cave creatures that God created and though rotating through stations everyday, VBS participants learned how God's light shines in the darkest places!

Mission Trips

The Youth of Hope traveled with Youth Works this summer for their mission trips. In June, 9 7th & 8th graders spent a week serving in Green Bay, WI. In July, 9 10th-12th graders served in Nashville, TN. Along with serving, the youth dug into John 10:10 and exploring what it means to "Live the Good Life," through scripture, speakers, devotions, worship & discussions. Both were given the opportunities to explore their cities, including tour of Lambeau Field in Green Bay & The Grand Ol Opry in Nashville.

Summer Camp

Twenty-one members from Hope headed to Church Camp this summer. They had a blast playing games, swimming, meeting new friends, digging into the Bible and living in a faith community for a week. The 2017 theme for the summer was "Living Water" from John 7:37-38. These kids, teenagers and adults attended Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, Minnesota. Members from Hope attended several different programs including; Night Owls, Basketball, Leapers, Seekers, and Explorers.

Michelle Anderson, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

BOARD OF WORSHIP

Four years ago we installed the technology we use in the Sanctuary. It has now become an integral part of our worship service not only in our sanctuary, but to radio listeners as well as those who tune in on YouTube. We continue to strive to make improvements and so appreciate the many of you who have gotten involved in the operation of the systems. We are hoping to make some changes to our video capabilities in the future allowing viewing of our worship services even better for those of you away throughout the year. With the purchase of more hearing assist devices we hear from those who regularly use them say that the device has made church "enjoyable" again.

We offered another Advent Reflection Book for our members to utilize during the season of preparation. In it members of the congregation wrote daily reflections on Bible verses that have influenced the way they observe Advent and prepare for Jesus' birth. Other successes that this Board was involved with this past year were the midweek Advent services and Mid-week lenten services.

Hope's music programs continue to be strong with two choirs, a children's choir, a bell choir and Hope's House Band. The individuals who have volunteered to work with technology, assist in worship as lay liturgists or prepare the slideshows for each week have been outstanding. We are always looking for new volunteers in any of the worship areas. If something sounds fun or interesting, don't hesitate to give it a try.

The Board of Worship continues to work closely with other committees that we oversee. The Altar Guild, The Head Ushers and Art and Environment have all had a successful year with numerous volunteers.

We are excited about the upcoming year and we look forward to planning and preparing for meaningful worship.

Jill Anderson, Director of Music and Worship

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Two of the areas that were identified by the congregation during the Hope's Vision process were to continue to offer and develop strong programs for the children and youth of our congregation (birth through post-confirmation age) and to regularly provide opportunities for a diverse variety of Adult Educational Offerings and Bible Studies. Established educational opportunities and programs have continued to be offered and well attended throughout the year (Sunday School, VBS, Confirmation, First Communion, Church Release Time and Adult Education Offerings). In addition to these educational opportunities, the Board of Education had set some additional goals for 2017 which included:

1. To explore and consider creating a "kid friendly" atmosphere for children to be part of worship. (survey completed and identified several changes to move forward with in 2018)
2. To consider and develop a four year confirmation program, adding 6th grade (Completed: 6th grade confirmation was developed and added)
3. To develop an opportunity to gain feedback from the congregation regarding desired Adult Education topics (Carry this goal over into 2018)

As we move into 2018 the Board of Education will continue to assist and support Hope's staff with our established educational programs. The board will also focus on the following goals:

1. Implement and evaluate our enhanced "kid-friendly" atmosphere in worship.
2. Support the proposed new staff education position as it is developed and implemented.
3. Develop an opportunity to gain feedback from the congregation regarding desired Adult Education topics and formats.

Board of Education Chair, Jolene Link

BOARD OF PROPERTY

2018 GOALS

1. Continue the service contracts for the air conditioning system, heating system, boilers, pumps, air handling units.
2. Conduct business in a fiscally responsible manner while maintaining the facility at the current high standard.
3. Provide support to the custodial staff via the executive council and working boards in securing the facility and "clean up what you mess up campaign".
4. To provide training of CPR and use of the defibrillator.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2017

1. Continued the preventative maintenance contracts on the air handling units, air conditioning system, heating system, boilers and pumps.
2. Spring clean- up of the church lawn and grounds.
3. Updated church inventory list.
4. Replaced library blinds track.
5. Investigating solar panels.
6. Purchased a desk top computer for youth director.
7. Installed new window in Sanctuary.
8. Underground LP tanks are now Hope Lutheran Church.
9. Installed new light bulbs in Sanctuary.
10. Installed two fire extinguishers in Sanctuary.

Thank you to all volunteers that helped this year.

Submitted by Monte Lienau, Chair, Board of Property

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP

The Board of Fellowship will coordinate social events for congregational fellowship. We will focus on intergenerational opportunities for youth and families...with intentional focus on Generation X and parents with young children. Fellowship will coordinate food for Lenten dinners.

The Board of Fellowship sponsored events that provided cross generational opportunities! Those included Christmas caroling, Brews and Hymns, Lenten dinners, our annual golf tournament and other smaller events. In 2018, with the ideas of several new members, we hope to continue to offer creative fellowship events. The board is already planning a Women's retreat around wellness of body, mind and spirit. Our hope is that the Brews and Hymns will become a monthly event at Portage Brewery. We are reaching out to other faith communities to participate in that.

Along with new ideas, we will continue to plan Lenten dinners, the golf tournament, and other events that bring the church family together.

Respectfully submitted: Mar Kuha, Chair, Board of Fellowship

BOARD OF OUTREACH

The protocol for welcoming new members has been working well. When a new member indicates that they have an interest in using their talent in a particular area, they will receive a follow up call from a member who is involved in that activity. The new member will be provided with information and given an opportunity to participate. We have received some positive feedback regarding this part of the process.

Outreach continues to support the monthly community meals with an average of about 90 meals served per month. The summer and Christmas food box programs are blessed with numerous volunteers who seem to get as much enjoyment out of getting the boxes ready for delivery, as the recipients of the boxes who enjoy and appreciate getting them. Hope Lutheran and the area church community has been supportive of the Walker Area Food Shelf. For the past several years the Lenten offerings at Hope have been donated to the food shelf, which helps take advantage of matching funds available during the March campaign. Also, this past summer many members of Hope took part in the Seeds of Hope straw bale project to help grow fresh produce for the food shelf.

Friends of Ngong Road is a mission program that supports and educates children in Nairobi Kenya, whose lives have impacted by the loss of a parent though AIDS. In November, board member Joyce Nelson-Schuette arranged for speakers from Friends of Ngong Road to speak to the congregation about the program, and the craft sale was held on that date.

Board of Outreach again organized the work projects for God's Work/Our Hands. Many of the families who participated stayed to enjoy the lunch served afterwards. One of our goals is to continue to develop this program and look at how it might be modified next year.

Board members Dee Oliver and Bruce Pederson are involved in the St. Vincent de Paul charitable program. The program assesses and assists individuals and families in need. The program receives referrals from local churches and agencies. During the coming year, Outreach hopes to develop a plan for providing more support for the program.

Another Outreach goal for the coming year is to coordinate mission opportunities to help in areas hit by natural disasters.

Randy Matsen, Chair, Board of Outreach

HOPE WOMEN of the ELCA

2017 was an exciting year for the Women of Hope. Eight of us attended the "All Anew" Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA held at the Minneapolis Convention Center, including Ardyce Pederson, Shirley Dowson, Marge Reinke, Lynn Reiten, Gloria Niswonger, Brittni McWaters, Kelly Felton, and Heather Rogosheske. What a thrill it was for all of us! The next Triennial Gathering will be held in Phoenix in July 2020. All women of Hope Lutheran are encouraged to prayerfully consider attending this amazing event!

In October, we hosted the Fall Gathering of the Living Waters Conference, which was an uplifting, spiritually-rewarding event.

Many people have spent countless hours throughout the year creating craft items, greeting cards, quilts, and prayer shawls. Almost 300 quilts were made by the quilters in 2017! Quilts are given to Hope's graduating seniors, to each baby, child or adult at his or her baptism, and to people in need here in our community as well as in other parts of the United States and the world. One of our confirmation classes assisted us in putting together 89 school kits in October which were sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Our Christmas in July event was the main fund-raiser in 2017. This year, each area took in the following amounts:

Bake Sale \$1,392.52
Card Sales \$787.75
Crafts \$1,840.60
Luncheon \$2,817.00
Plant Sales \$250.00
Quilt Auction \$1,435.00
Silent Auction \$1,768.00
Anonymous Donation \$500.00
Total \$10,790.87
Our expenses totaled \$1,557.07, giving us net proceeds of \$9,233.80

With the proceeds from Christmas in July and other income from funeral receptions, year-round card and craft sales, and our offerings, we were able to make donations to many local charities, including Boys & Girls Club, Faith in Action, Family Safety Network, Hope's food boxes and fleece blankets, the Walker Food Shelf, Second Harvest, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School food program and teacher's fund, Friends of Ngong

Road, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as well as world-wide charities, including ELCA disaster relief, Lutheran World Relief, WELCA World Hunger, Phebe Project, and Water Wells. We have an ongoing offering called the "penny jar," the proceeds of which our conference designates annually where to give, currently designated to go to Sweetwater Ranch, a place of shelter and restoration for young women rescued from sex trafficking. We also give money to the "Love Offering," which is used for leadership training on the synod level, and "Project Comfort," which helps defray expenses with shipping quilts to Lutheran World Relief.

The Women of Hope continue to have general meetings with a potluck lunch in January, June, July and August, and in September we have a brunch served by members of one of the circles. We continue to have five active circles that meet during the months when there is no general meeting. A bible study is part of each meeting.

We wish to thank all those who have contributed in any way to making 2017 a successful year for Women of Hope, and invite all women of Hope Lutheran to join us in our ministry as Women of the ELCA.

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Niswonger, Co-Chair
Sherren Foss, Treasurer

MEN OF HOPE

They were sure good, the butter braids I mean. Men of Hope conducted a successful fund raiser with the support of many members of Hope., thanks. We continue to support our Ngong Road student in Africa, with help from Gary and Joyce Schuette. Perhaps another sale will be started in 2018. Helping the Women of Hope seems to be an enjoyable project and will continue next year.

Bruce Pederson, Men of Hope

Endowment Fund

December 31, 2017

The current committee has approved one grant request this past year. We continue to seek opportunities and encourage grant requests to fill needs not otherwise funded. We are also looking for suggestions to further develop the fund and expand our resources. Any thoughts can be made to any of the committee members or drop in the mail box for the Endowment Fund near the church office.

Last year an envelope program was begun to help leave a legacy by contributing a gift to the endowment fund in memory of or in honor an individual or special event. There have been gifts as memorials from funerals thru the year. Together, the gifts and memorials have contributed greatly this year. We are especially grateful for those that have found the endowment fund a means to give a gift that keeps on giving.

Our current status is shown below for activity and valuation for the year 2017.

Valuation 1/1/2017 \$ 47,502.77
 Valuation 12/31/2017 \$ 55,696.01

Receipts:

Capital Gains: \$996.47
 Dividends: \$689.99
 Donations: \$2,590.00

Disbursements:

Expenses: \$140.94
 Grant Approvals: \$ 500.00

The Hope Church Endowment Fund was established in 1985. It was established as a non-profit fund for the purpose of receiving gifts and bequests to the Church to be held in permanent trust. The fund is designed to provide additional financial resources for special needs and opportunities in support of the mission of the Church at Hope and in the community. It is a where a donation once given can keep on giving through the fund's financial assistance to local activities. Please consider a gift to the Endowment Fund.

Submitted by Richard Yeager, Chair,
 Hope Lutheran Church Endowment
 Fund

Hope Lutheran Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2017

	Dec 31, 17
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1st National Checking 11882	53,207.42
FNB C/D 10091776	78,377.60
Hope Petty Cash	500.00
Savings-626275	69,908.84
Total Checking/Savings	201,993.86
Total Current Assets	201,993.86
Fixed Assets	
Turtle Lake Cemetery	100.00
Worship Facility & Furnishing	2,002,532.55
Total Fixed Assets	2,002,632.55
Other Assets	
Endowment Fund	
1st National Checking-Endowment	4,104.16
Cash-Brokerage	2,830.94
Fund of America	27,323.65
Intermedidate Bond Fund	10,109.44
Janus Fund	4,922.58
T. Rowe Price	6,405.29
Total Endowment Fund	55,696.06
Total Other Assets	55,696.06
TOTAL ASSETS	2,260,322.47
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	2,434,980.06
Restricted Retained Earnings	
Endowment Fund	54,766.98
Restricted Retained Earnings - Other	929.08
Total Restricted Retained Earnings	55,696.06
Unrestrict (retained earnings)	-280,491.40
Net Income	50,137.75
Total Equity	2,260,322.47
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,260,322.47

2018 MISSION PLAN

	Jan-Dec 2017 Actual	2017 Mission	2017 Percent	2018 Mission
INCOME:				
REGULAR SUNDAY OFFERINGS	430,514	434,092		441,889
TOTAL REGULAR SUNDAY OFFERINGS	430,514	434,092	99	441,889
HOLIDAY SERVICE OFFERINGS	10,711	15,025		15,025
TOTAL HOLIDAY SERVICE OFFERINGS	10,711	15,025	71	15,025
OTHER INCOME	21,119	12,750		12,750
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	21,119	12,750	165	12,750
PASS THROUGH GIVING	12,282	-		-
TOTAL PASS THROUGH	12,282	-		-
INCOME BASED ON BUDGET	474,626	461,867	102	469,664
TOTAL INCOME	474,626	461,867	102	469,664

EXPENSE:

PASS THROUGH EXPENSES	12,282	-		-
TOTAL PASS THROUGH EXPENSE	12,282	-	-	-
MISSION EXPENSES	39,844	40,200		40,200
TOTAL MISSION EXPENSE	39,844	40,200	99	40,200
FELLOWSHIP	5,739	7,100		7,600
TOTAL FELLOWSHIP	5,739	7,100	80	7,600
EDUCATION	6,994	7,250		8,250
TOTAL EDUCATION	6,994	7,250	96	8,250
OUTREACH	2,067	2,500		2,500
TOTAL OUTREACH	2,067	2,500	82	2,500
WORSHIP	8,807	8,875		8,875
TOTAL WORSHIP	8,807	8,875	99	8,875
PROPERTY	48,087	52,646		52,646
TOTAL PROPERTY	48,087	52,646	91	52,646
STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE	616	500		500
TOTAL STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE	616	500	123	500
ADMINISTRATION	20,831	21,800		22,550
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	20,831	21,800	95	22,550

Detailed Financial Report available from the church office upon request

STAFF				
SENIOR PASTOR	98,637	97,344		101,869
VISITATION PASTOR	15,847	21,900		21,900
TOTAL PASTOR STAFF	114,484	119,244	96	123,769
FULL TIME STAFF				
YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTRIES	45,938	44,684		47,076
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	59,961	64,481		61,423
TOTAL FULL TIME STAFF	105,899	109,165	97	108,499
SUPPORT STAFF/PAYROLL EXPENSE				
SUPPORT STAFF WAGES	69,288	73,287		75,275
PAYROLL EXPENSES	12,823	13,000		14,000
TOTAL SUPPORT STAFF	82,111	86,287	95	89,275
PROVISION FOR YOUTH STAFF				
WAGES		6,300		5,000
MEDICAL/PENSION		-		-
TOTAL PROVISION OF INCREASES	-	6,300		5,000
TOTAL STAFF	302,494	320,996	94	326,543
TOTAL EXPENSE	447,761	461,867	96	469,664
NET INCOME BASED ON BUDGET	26,865	-		-
NET INCOME	26,865	-		-

DESIGNATED FUNDS	12/31/2016	Gifts	Spent	12/31/2017
Building Improvement	11,702.33	1,018.00	460.00	12,260.33
Memorial Garden	1,606.64	877.65	647.72	1,836.57
Lutheran Music	-	-	-	-
Bell	1,526.68	3,600.00	419.28	4,707.40
Music Resource	7,377.76	4,201.00	1,895.57	9,683.19
Library	299.99	238.00	149.58	388.41
Food Boxes	4,166.22	11,960.58	10,062.17	6,064.63
Fleece Blankets	884.08	300.00	833.95	350.13
Locally Designated Benevolence	1,383.60	2,530.00	3,583.70	329.90
Community Meals	-	-	-	-
Confirmation Curriculum	904.75	30.00	451.12	483.63
External Missions	4,623.32	-	-	4,623.32
Ngong Road	-	600.00	600.00	-
Processional Cross	750.00	-	750.00	-
Prayer Shawls	338.95	-	105.43	233.52
High School Scholarships	13,703.00	550.00	1,400.00	12,853.00
Sign	-	17,500.00	-	17,500.00
Thivent Choice	5,000.00	2,660.00	3,701.99	3,958.01
Unrestricted Memorial	-	-	-	-
Youth of Hope	-	3,914.00	102.00	3,812.00
Bible Camp Scholarships	3,418.31	601.66	2,146.00	1,873.97
	57,685.63	50,580.89	27,308.51	80,958.01

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In 2017, Lutherans around the world observed the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are called to foster unity within the church and to live into God's calling together in the years ahead. Through our more than 3.7 million members and friends, we will continue to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.

We are church together, united by a common vision.

A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation.

We are church for the sake of the world, united by a common purpose.

Together in Jesus Christ, we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.

As we strive to live into this vision and purpose, we face many challenges. In a radically individualistic society, we seek to create and sustain life-giving relationships and communities that connect us to God and one another. In a society that is becoming increasingly secular while facing many tensions, we seek to proclaim the gospel and share the story of Jesus as a source of hope, inclusion, peace and reconciliation. And, in a world that misuses power and authority while struggling with growing inequality, we seek to follow Jesus who spoke publicly for those who were oppressed and marginalized.

As your church family gathers to make decisions about using the gifts God has entrusted to you, may you remember that by the tender love of God, by the ceaseless pursuit of the Spirit, we are members of the body of Christ. We are family. We share our lives. We love each other. By the reconciling expression of God's grace, we can live confidently and generously in this community of faith and in service of others because we are joined in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Living together in community with Christ,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7