

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



JANUARY 2021

Hope Lutheran Church
218 W. 18th Street
South Sioux City, Nebraska 68776



Contents

Pastor Awe Report	3
Officers & Boards	4
Statistical Changes	5-6
Attendance	7
Board of Elders	8
Chairman	8
Altar Guild	9
Ladies Aid	10
Memorials Committee	11
Treasurers Report	11-15
Financial Secretary	15
Mission Board	16
Board of Education	17
Sunday School	17
Vacation Bible School	17
Confirmation Class	17
Technology & Equipment	17
Friendship Committee	17
Pastor Flo/Witte Report	18-19
Hispanic Ministries Committee	20
Stewardship Board	21
Trustees Board	22

An Annual Message
From
PASTOR AWE

BUT I HAVE A GOOD REASON!

"The man said, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate' (Genesis 3:12).

2020 certainly will go down in the record books! It definitely has been a year where everyone was given so many reasons to "be safe" and to "be careful." In fact, we have found ourselves infected and hurting as we suffered in fear, wondering what was going to happen. And like Adam, in Eden, we found ourselves hiding out of paranoia and fear. But, just like every year of our lives on earth, we have found ourselves infected from the pandemic of sin.

Sin, not COVID-19, has separated us from one another and from God. We, much like Adam in Eden, have made up one reason or another to help us feel better for staying away from God. We have fearfully not trusted that God can forgive us all of our sins. So, like Adam, we point fingers at others and at God to cast blame away from ourselves for the disease of sin that has gripped us so tightly. We have blamed the Pastor, the people of Hope, a disease, a family member, "the woman that You gave me" to make excuse for our sinfulness. And in sinfulness, our "reasons" have honestly become excuses to help us with a false sense of safety and security.

Separation from God is the direct result from sin. It is not a disease or another individual or any other excuse that we can muster up to give us that false sense of security. No, my friends, Scripture is quite clear: it is sin! There are no reasons or excuses that keep me away from God and His Word and Sacrament except it is my sin.

Thanks be to God in Jesus Christ that He did not make any excuses. He kept His Word and came into this sin-sick world and suffered and died for my sins – all of my sins. The only thing that should ever keep us away from God is ... NOTHING! **"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.'** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:31-39).

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

Pastor Awe

Hope Lutheran Church

2020-2021

Officers & Boards

OFFICERS

Chairman: Darwyn Glover (22)

Secretary: Sheila Floyd (21)

Treasurer: Pat Glover (22)

Financial Secretary: Cindy Quandt (21)

BOARDS

Elders

Ed Stone (22)

Doug Mallette (23)

Richard Quandt (23)

Robert Billiar (21)

Mike Floyd (21)

Stewardship

Ada Hunt (21)

Marie Wakefield (21)

Education

Mallory Calvert (23)

LuAnn Petersen (22)

Jo Diediker (21)

Trustees

Daryl Daum (22)

Dave Schable (23)

Matt Calvert (21)

Missions

Suzy Awe (22)

Annette Poss (21)

Jeanie Heinemann (22)

Carl Petersen (21)

Friendship Committee

Laverne Koebernick

Sharon Weber

Pat Glover

Melissa Reed

Clarrene Leffler

Kathy Danielson

Hispanic Ministry Committee

Dave Calvert

Ed Stone

Sharon Weber

Kathy Danielson

Sandy Calvert (Treasurer)

Names that are **highlighted in bold** are the Chairpersons of each board.

STATISTICAL CHANGES

GAINS

Baptism

Corbin Maverick Steckly

Vivian Mae Banta

Averie Marie Verzani

Birthdate

11-26-2019

10-22-2019

08-07-2014

Baptism Date

01-25-2020

02-29-2020

04-05-2020

Transfer In

Jamison Painter

Carmen Oretaga

Dale Hosch

Date

02-18-2020

02-18-2020

03-10-2020

Church

Bethany, Sioux City, IA

Concordia, Sioux City, IA

Good Shepherd, Fremont, NE

Profession of Faith

Date

Nancy Sivill

02-05-2020

Tina Mellick

04-05-2020

Sharen Massey

04-05-2020

Brantely Verzani

04-05-2020

Bradley Verzani

04-05-2020

Marriage

Date

Gary Massey & Sharen Kallhiff

02-14-2020

Officiant

Rev. Michael Awe

Confirmation (Youth)

Date

None

Confirmation (Adult)

Date

Gary Massey

04-05-2020

Amanda Verzani

04-05-2020

STATISTICAL CHANGES

Continued

LOSSES

Death

Dennis Bloch
Donna Dillion
Don Johnson
Pastor Ray Adams
Lois Larson
Marie Dahle

Date Of Death

01-08-2020
01-27-2020
03-18-2020
06-17-2020
07-07-2020
11-17-2020

Funeral

01-13-2020
01-30-2020
03-18-2020
06-23-2020
07-10-2020

Transfer Out

Aaron Barge
Tom & Vicki Gesell

Date

02-05-2020
10-29-2020

Church

Good Shepherd, Sgt. Bluff, IA
Trinity, Fremont, NE

Released

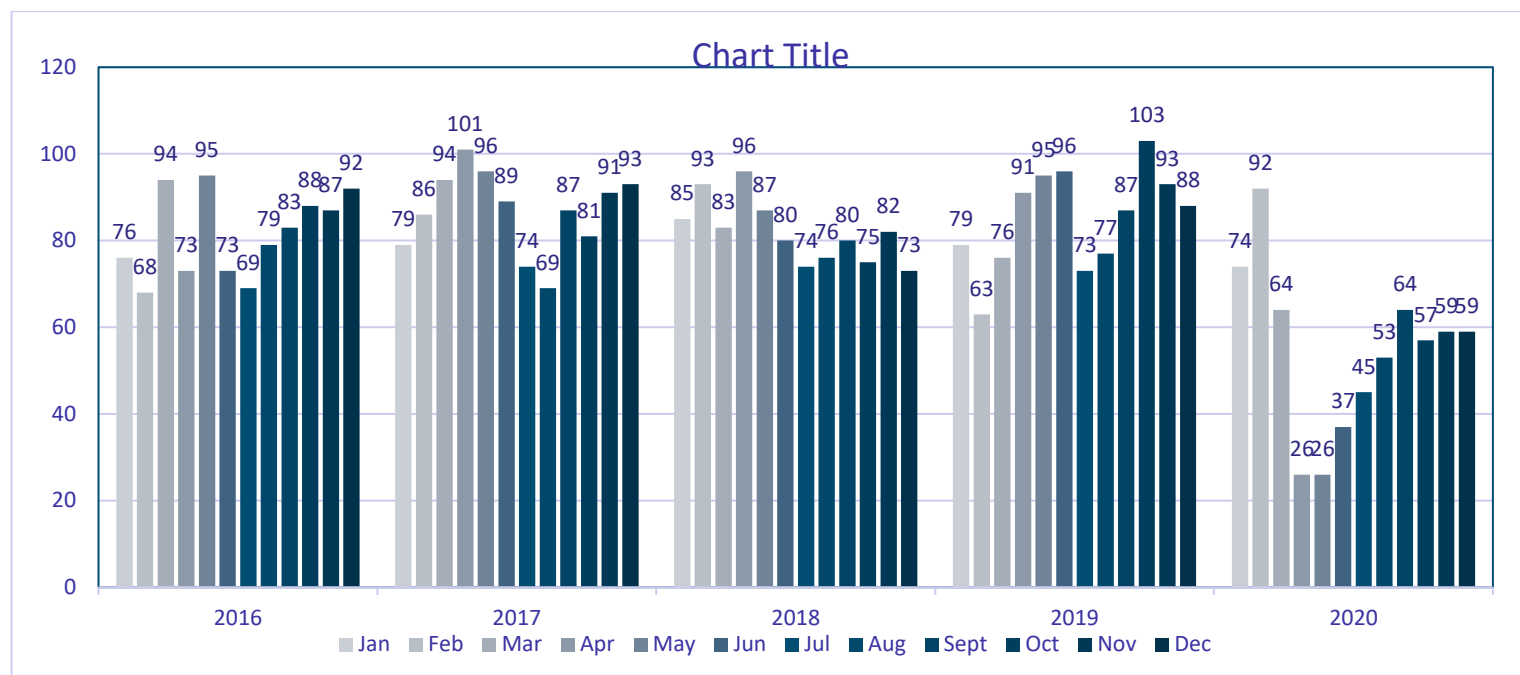
None

Date

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bapt. Members	320	332	345	347	342
Communicants	200	203	197	195	189

* Means attendance effected by Covid restrictions

Church Attendance (Average Per Sunday)



TOTAL AVG.	2016----82	2017----87	2018----82	2019----85	2020----*55
AVG. %	26%	26%	24%	24%	16%

Attendance at Special Services:	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Ash Wednesday	41	67	69	62	69
Lent	35	57	56	53	*62
Palm Sunday	76	88	92	89	*27
Maundy Thursday	81	76	52	62	*23
Good Friday	42	52	32	40	*25
Easter	114	185	172	125	*76
All Saints Day	97	121	106	104	*72
Thanksgiving Eve	48	34	38	26	*32
Advent (Average)	58	43	46	45	*58
Christmas Eve Candlelight	165	150	207	169	*63
Christmas Day	53	41	40	41	*30

TOTAL AVG.	2016-- 74	2017----83	2018----83	2019----74	2020---*49
AVG. %	23%	25%	24%	21%	14%

Board of Elders

The Board of Elders wishes to thank Terry Koebernick and Kevin Diediker for their many years of dedicated service to the Board of Elders.

The Board of Elders welcomed Mike Floyd as its newest member. We still have one vacant seat on the Board.

Much of the time and attention for the Board this year has been taken up by the Corona virus restrictions imposed by the state of Nebraska. We managed to keep Divine Worship services going while complying with state and local restrictions. Our thanks to Pastor Awe for his diligence in staying current with restrictions, which enabled Hope Lutheran to offer Word and Sacrament throughout the pandemic.

We encourage everyone to contact Pastor Awe, or any of the Elders with questions, concerns or other issues you may have. Because of privacy laws dealing with hospitals and health care professionals we must rely on you to keep us informed. A quiet visit and a reassuring prayer are gladly offered.

We all have special talents and abilities to offer in service to our congregation and to our God. With many vacancies on our church boards and committees, the Elders encourage congregation members to prayerfully consider how they may contribute their time and talents to serve. Please take time to pray for our church, our church workers and encourage them in their ministries.

Members of the Board of Elders are Mike Floyd, Rich Quandt, Doug Mallette, Dr. Bob Billiar and Ed Stone with Dave Calvert serving during vacancies.

Hope Lutheran Church Chairman, Darwyn Glover

This has been a challenging year for Hope Lutheran Church due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Due to Pastor Awe's great guidance about the ever changing restrictions we were able to legally & safely worship and conduct business. I chaired 11 Voters meetings practicing social distancing. Had to cancel November's meeting due to being exposed to Covid.

Due to Covid we voted to retain current officers, board, & committee members unless they chose to not continue. We are currently without some positions being filled. I would encourage everyone currently not serving to prayerfully consider filling one of those vacancies. You are needed to help with God's mission at Hope Lutheran Church.

I continued to work with the Board of Trustees and volunteers to complete many projects this year. With Bryce & Katie Anderson's technology knowledge we installed equipment for the sound system and overhead screen in the gymnasium. New outdoor carpet was installed at north & south entrances. The Ed building kitchen was completely remodeled .

Thank you to everyone for your support.



The purpose of Altar Guild is to serve. Its service requires spiritual commitment. This service has a spiritual goal. Its members must be devoted to their task, reliable in carrying out their assignment, humble and reverent in their work, and joyful for the privilege they have to serve the Lord.

The number of committee members is not a set number, but the committee strives to have two or more members serve each month. There will be a chairperson. The committee may meet once a year.

There were 28 members on this care committee in 2020

It serves by: making sure the worship area is maintained and set up for the Seasons of the Church Year, and other special occasions

- ❖ **Placing paraments and linens out, making sure they are in good repair, cleaning linens, and storing them appropriately**
- ❖ **Setting out sacramental vessels and linens for Holy Communion. Cleaning them and putting them away appropriately**
- ❖ **Ordering supplies used in Holy Communion. Making sure the sacramental vessels are in top condition**
- ❖ **Placing banners for the seasons, including weddings and baptisms**
- ❖ **Filling candles with oil and maintain candle holders**

Hope Lutheran Ladies Aid

Annual Report 2020

The Ladies Aid of Hope Lutheran Church usually meet the first Tuesday of each month, eleven months of the year. All members, as well as visitors are welcome to any and all meetings.

The Sick and Charity committee served at some funerals this year. Cards were sent to congregation members for sympathy, get well, and thinking of you. Valentine's Day cards were made and given to shut-ins.

Our monthly mite offerings are sent to LWML to help meet mission goals.

Ladies Aid ordered Easter lilies poinsettias for Christmas.

Ladies Aid sent \$500 to our seminary student.

We put together school backpack kits and health hygiene kits for the Orphan Grain Train.

A new banner was made for LWML Sunday in October.

Ladies Aid 2020 officers are:

- President: *Ada Hunt*
- Vice President: *Marie Wakefield*
- Treasurer: *Amanda Verzani*
- Secretary: *Shelia Floyd*
- Christian Growth: *Paula Verzani*

Hope Lutheran Memorials Committee

The Memorials Committee received \$89,134.23 in memorial gifts in 2020.

The Committee disbursed \$19,950.24 for memorials in 2020.

Account balance as of 12/31/2020 is \$108,469.04

Members of the committee are: Marie Wakefield, Kathy Koch, Vern Cummins, Ed Stone. The committee is in need of one more member with the departure of Tom Gesell, who we sincerely thank for his service and expertise.

Treasurer's Report

		Prior Month Ending Bal	Current Mth Ending Bal		
Checkbook		3,711.15	155.48		
		Current Month	YTD Amount	Budget to Date	Annual Budget Amt
Budget Receipts					
Account #					
1010	Envelopes - General Fund	14,612.72	168,971.03		
1020	Loose Plate - General Fund	162.10	6,639.11		
	Sub Total	14,774.82	175,610.14		
Non-Budget Receipts					
1110	Debt Reduction		0.00		
1120	Special Gifts	476.31	8,492.53		
1130	Reimbursements	290.00	1,834.14		
1140	Miscellaneous Income	120.00	1,415.40		
	Sub Total	886.31	11,742.07		
+	Transfer from Savings	545.00	3,349.00		
+	Transfer from Stifel		0.00		
+			0.00		
+	Loan Proceeds		0.00		

Total Deposits		16,206.13	190,701.21		
Monthly Balance					
	Total Monthly Disbursements	19,761.80	208,808.46		
+	Transfers to Savings-Stifel		2,748.59		
Total Disbursements		19,761.80	211,557.05		
Current Balance		155.48			
		Current	YTD	Budget	Annual
		Month	Amount	to Date	Budget Amt
Disbursements					
Mission Board					
Outreach					
2010	Synod Support (3%)	440.06	5,335.76	4,500.00	4,500.00
2020	Hispanic Ministry (2%)	293.37	3,557.16	3,800.00	3,800.00
2030	Light of the World Outreach		160.00	600.00	600.00
2040	Concordia Seminary Support		0.00	400.00	400.00
2110	Missionary Support - Sarah Kanoy		800.00	800.00	800.00
2120	Lutheran Family Service of Iowa		500.00	500.00	500.00
2130	Her Health	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
2140	Poland		0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Friendship Committee					
2310	County Fair Ministry		0.00	0.00	0.00
2320	Local Outreach	16.92	219.96	2,000.00	2,000.00
2330	Inreach	120.40	120.40	1,000.00	1,000.00
2340	Video Ministry		0.00	100.00	100.00
2950	Non Budget - Mission Board		328.68	0.00	0.00
	Mission Board - Sub Total	1,370.75	11,521.96	15,200.00	15,200.00
Board of Christian Education					
3010	Sunday School		474.94	1,500.00	1,500.00
3015	Sunday School - Missions		0.00	0.00	0.00
3020	Vacation Bible School		254.46	1,500.00	1,500.00
3025	LCEF VBS Grant		0.00	0.00	0.00
3030	Teacher Training		0.00	500.00	500.00
3040	Counselor Training and Expenses		0.00	500.00	500.00
3090	Resource Material	642.00	642.00	350.00	350.00
3110	Adult Education		238.19	200.00	200.00
3120	Mid Week School		2,147.25	500.00	500.00
3210	Parochial School Tuition Assistance		0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
3220	Camp Luther Jr League		0.00	250.00	250.00
3230	Registration for District Meetings		0.00	300.00	300.00
3310	Youth Activities		250.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
3320	Sports Ministry		56.78	500.00	500.00

3950	Non Budget - Board of Christian Education		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Board of Christian Education - Sub Total	642.00	4,063.62	8,100.00	8,100.00
	Board of Stewardship				
5110	Offering Envelopes		0.00	100.00	100.00
5120	Stewardship Education		0.00	500.00	500.00
5510	Vanco Online Admin Fee		0.00	0.00	0.00
5950	Non Budget - Board of Stewardship		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Board of Stewardship - Sub Total	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
		Current	YTD	Budget	Annual
		Month	Amount	to Date	Budget Amt
	Board of Elders				
	Pastoral Support				
6110	Admin. Pastor's Salary	3,837.16	46,045.92	50,846.00	50,846.00
6120	Admin. Pastor's auto	129.38	4,096.68	3,600.00	3,600.00
6130	Admin Pastor's Housing	2,118.66	23,305.26	25,424.00	25,424.00
6140	Pastor's Health Reimbursement		2,321.60	2,800.00	2,800.00
6150	Admin Pastor's Benefits	3,724.06	26,086.18	23,226.00	23,226.00
6160	Admin Pastor's Continuing Education		#VALUE!	250.00	250.00
6170	Admin Pastor's Conventions and Conf		411.10	500.00	500.00
6190	Church Plan-Retirement	800.00	5,600.00	0.00	0.00
6210	Guest Speakers		0.00	450.00	450.00
6220	Wayne NE Circuit Dues		250.00	250.00	250.00
	Administration				
6310	Secretary's Salary	1,313.74	14,955.35	17,472.00	17,472.00
6320	Secretary's Benefits	139.28	1,671.36	1,913.00	1,913.00
6330	Secretary's Soc. Security & Medicare	102.94	1,270.14	1,337.00	1,337.00
6340	Secretary's Soc Sec/Med/NE/Fed Withholding	102.94	1,552.69	0.00	0.00
6380	Treasurer's Salary		0.00	250.00	250.00
	Christian Worship				
6410	Organists	300.00	3,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
6421	Music Fund		0.00	100.00	100.00
6510	Alter/Worship Supplies	398.40	1,429.57	1,000.00	1,000.00
6910	Select Account Administration Fee	7.80	93.60	0.00	0.00
6950	Non Budget - Board of Elders		125.99	0.00	0.00
	Board of Elders - Sub Total	12,974.36	#VALUE!	134,418.00	134,418.00
	Board of Trustees				
	Administration				
7010	Office Supplies	495.59	5,857.78	5,500.00	5,500.00
7020	Postage		519.59	1,000.00	1,000.00
7040	Telephone	126.02	1,483.43	1,200.00	1,200.00
	Church Properties				
7210	Custodian's Salary	670.00	8,040.00	8,040.00	8,040.00
7310	Janitor Supplies	85.24	844.73	1,000.00	1,000.00

7320	Kitchen Supplies		154.28	500.00	500.00
7410	General Maintenance	115.94	2,170.97	5,000.00	5,000.00
7420	Equipment		0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
7510	Electricity	641.82	7,365.31	7,500.00	7,500.00
7520	Gas	362.00	5,298.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
7530	Water, Sewer and Garbage	164.88	2,173.89	2,200.00	2,200.00
7540	Snow Removal and Lawn Care		3,258.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
7810	Insurance	1,068.20	9,293.95	9,000.00	9,000.00
7910	Quickbooks Monthly Administration Fee		0.00	0.00	0.00
7950	Non Budget - Board of Trustees		250.00	0.00	0.00
	Board of Trustees - Sub Total	3,729.69	46,709.93	54,940.00	54,940.00
8000	Non Budget - No Board	1,045.00	14,297.51	0.00	0.00
	Total Budget Disbursements	18,716.80	#VALUE!	213,258.00	213,258.00
+	Total Non Budget Disbursements	1,045.00	15,002.18	0.00	0.00
	Total Disbursements	19,761.80	#VALUE!	213,258.00	213,258.00

Hope Lutheran Church Statement of Fund Balances

Period Ending 12/31/2020

Description	Amount
Cash, Savings and Investments	
Checking - F&M Bank (Dakota County)	155.48
Savings - F&M Bank (Dakota County)	5,694.29
LCEF Fund	86,469.20
Anonymous Gift (Mutual fund with Steel Nicholas)	151,012.38
Total Cash, Savings and Investments	243,331.35

SAVINGS-F& M BANK	
PREVIOUS BALANCE	6,238.78
DEPOSITS	0.00
Interest	0.51
Thrivent Choice Dollars	
DEBITS	
Transfer-Pastors computer	545.00
Total debits	545.00
Current Balance	5,694.29

LCEF	
Previous Balance	86,442.04
DEPOSIT-INTEREST	27.16
DEBIT-	0.00
CURRENT BALANCE	86,469.20

ANNONYMOUS GIFT(STIFEL)RESTRICTED USE: OPERATING EXPENSES, MAJOR REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS

PREVIOUS BALANCE	146,530.23
Change in Securities Value	3,991.76
Income & Distributions	490.39
CURRENT BALANCE	151,012.38

~Summary of Account December 2020~

Petty Cash	
<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>377.82</u>
Ladies Aid Account	
<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>376.17</u>
Coffee Fund	
<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>651.45</u>
<u>Ladies Aid Checkbook Balance</u>	<u>1,027.62</u>
LWML	
<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>5.00</u>
Lutheran Church Exten. Fund-Ladies Aid	
<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>1,576.41</u>
Thrivent Scholarship Fund	
<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>46,157.76</u>
F&M Scholarship Fund #19	
<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>298.69</u>
Memorial Account- F&M Bank	
<u>Current Balance</u>	<u>108,482.87</u>

Financial Secretary

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

<u>Contributions</u>	<u>2020</u>
Total General Fund	\$126,806.03
Total Thrivent	\$ 18,000.00
Total Sunday School	\$ 232.22
Total VBS	\$ 5,118.00
Silent Auction	\$ 1,131.00
Total Vanco Services	\$ 24,165.00
<u>Room Use</u>	<u>\$ 1,290.00</u>
TOTAL	\$176,742.25

Thank you to all who contributed in anyway to the support and maintenance of our church and its mission work.

Mission Board

*To Share God's Message of HOPE and Grace through Faith in Christ Jesus.
To attach ourselves to missions and missionaries locally, nationally, and globally.*

Hispanic ministry was low in funds at the start of 2020 and the Committee made a very heart-felt plea to the Siouxland Lutheran community. In this time of unrest and pandemic. The Committee announced finishing the year in a very blessed and HOPE-filled place where funds are still needed but needs are being met and the Lord is showing His favor upon this ministry. Thank you for your support friends!

Over this year we were able to host/co-host three meals in January and February. We prayed often for our missionaries near and far. We are now supporting missionaries in West Africa, Gary & Steph Schulte. There was a Silent Auction in December that so many helped with and we are so thankful to have raised over \$550.00 for Poland Mission Trips. A Big Red Bag was filled...over filled... with socks, mittens, hats & gloves for The Gospel Mission this winter.

Poland, Africa, and other Mission Trips were postponed or cancelled this year. Yet we see the people of HOPE tirelessly coming up with ways of raising funds safely and responsibly during this time to help fund the trips, Local missions, people traveling through who need help, and those of our own community. That's what the Mission Board does! We welcome your ideas to help locally, nationally and globally to serve God's people.

Everyone who belongs to the family of God is charged with a mission to speak God's Word, to do God's will, and to bring God glory. In His Great Commission, the main task Jesus assigned to His followers was to go, tell, and teach (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus calmed their anxieties, assuring them that the Holy Spirit would supply them with the needed words and opportunities. Jesus promised to accompany them always, everywhere. Our loving Saviour does these same things for us." (*from devotion: God, You Want Me? Written by Mary Martin, Sterling, Kansas, Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 2019*)

Board of Education

No Reports

Friendship Committee

The purpose of this committee is to be involved in the reception and integration of new members

We took care of our elder care members in their homes or care centers. We have contact with our young adults and service personnel. We train our members to be greeters at church services and various functions.

We had no big functions this year



Pastor Flo's Yearly Report

I have been with you all for a little over a year and a half now and I continue to enjoy seeing how God is at work through all of us to serve our neighbors and share the good news of forgiveness and salvation freely offered through Jesus Christ our Lord. In spite of some very unique challenges through 2020, our relationships with some special Hispanic neighbors (children and adults) have been deepened, their knowledge of God's Word has increased, and the reputation of La Iglesia Luterana Esperanza (Hope Lutheran Church) as a safe place with pastors and people that genuinely care has spread. Below, you will find a few highlights from our 2020 monthly newsletters.

1. March 2020 - Working Together to Serve a Sister - This month, we were all blessed as we came together as a community, cooked and ate lots of waffles and sausage, and raised funds to help Carmen with her cancer treatment costs. The event was a wonderful bridge between our Anglo and Hispanic communities as we all worked together to serve our sister Carmen. Our expectations for the waffle breakfast fundraiser were surpassed with 30 volunteers, \$2,369 raised, and close to 300 participants.

2. April - Never Assume We Know - Over the last couple months, I've been visiting Yessenia, a neighbor from Mexico. We met by knocking on her door, introducing ourselves, and asking what needs she saw in the community. She was very open to conversation and said she'd like to talk more. In the following weeks, I stopped by once in a while to visit, to ask how her family was doing, and to share a short prayer or devotion with her. This month, Yessenia, Alberto, and their grandson, Rocky, visited Hope for the first time. During the Bible study, Alberto surprised us all when he said, "This is the FIRST time in my life that I've held a Bible in my hands and read from the Word of God." He's a lifelong nominal Catholic who seemed very skeptical the first time we met. We'll see what God has in mind for the future. Never assume we know!

3. May-June - Times that Challenge - The pandemic is now in full swing. Since people are at home, we're thinking of better ways to reach them at home. We've formed a WhatsApp group (a messaging service very popular throughout most of the world). We now have nearly 30 people in our group receiving daily audio and video devotions. We've never met most members of the group in person, so it's been a good way to pave the way for new connections and relationships. This month, I've also been asked by a community leader to be the primary contact person for "Community Response," a resource for individuals and families looking for help. I pray this will lead to many new connections and an increased reputation as "the church who speaks our language and is here to serve."

4. July - Keep On Keepin' On - This month at a conference, I met a man named Ramon who lives close to Lincoln. He's originally from Venezuela where he was, believe it or not, catechized and confirmed in the faith by our very own Pastor Henry Witte. How wonderful to see the fruits of our labor from years past! This is a good reminder to think long term as we continue our ministries! Additionally, Valia and her son, Leandro, are from Cuba. They first came to visit us after a simple invitation from their neighbors, who are members of Hope's English-speaking congregation. Valia has visited our Sunday evening service in Spanish for months now and recently asked me to visit

them in their apartment every Thursday for a Bible study. It's beautiful to see how Valia's growing faith leads to such a desire to learn God's Word.

5. August - Slow and Steady- After receiving about 3 calls every day for weeks through Community Response, we have been able to connect many families with financial aid, food, and other community organizations offering help. As I help them fill out the applications over the phone or in person, I have the opportunity to introduce myself and our "Iglesia Luterana Esperanza" (Hope Lutheran Church). In addition to the physical needs, many ask me to pray for them. Some ask for a visit to their homes. I have started a new weekly study with Juana and her son, Cristofer, from El Salvador as a result of these connections. The organization has now asked me to be a member of their board of directors. We will see what new connections and opportunities this leads to. Slow and steady!

6. September-October - One Year with Siouxland Hispanic Ministry! - It's hard to believe I've already been with you all for a full year! As we continue to build relationships with our Hispanic neighbors and share the Good News of all that Jesus, as their Lord, has done for them through His life, death, and resurrection, God's own Spirit will call them through that same Gospel, enlighten them with His gifts, make them holy and keep them in the true faith—just as He has done for you and me and for Christians of all times and places. That's our God's way of doing things. In these months, we also came together as a community and raised funds for our Hispanic Ministry. With the help of our very courageous Pastor Mike Awe and his crazy hairdos, we raised over \$5000! Thanks to Hope Lutheran for supporting our Hispanic ministry!

7. November-December - Looking Further Ahead and The Message EVERYONE Needs - Facing the challenge of integrating our Anglo and Hispanic brothers and sisters in the faith has led us to start a new event—Faith, Fun, and Food —every Saturday morning from 9 to 12 a.m. With the help of many volunteers, the kids come together for three hours: one hour of Bible stories and catechism work; one hour of activities; and one hour for lunch. They are formed in the Christian faith together and they have fun together. Additionally, our local YMCA has started a community education program and they've asked me to share my story with our Spanish speakers and to help with the ESL classes. This will be yet another way of getting connected to our Hispanic neighbors in our Siouxland community. This month, we also had a special potluck/Divine Service in Spanish for Reformation Sunday. The food was delicious, we had a few visitors who had the chance to hear the Gospel proclaimed, and it also happened to be Carmen's birthday!

God bless you all, and thank you for all you do to support our very special Siouxland Hispanic Ministry — Pastor Paul Flo

Hispanic Ministries Committee – Year End Review

The year of 2020 has been challenging for the HMC. Our committee meets monthly and our Siouxland Hispanic Ministry group meets quarterly.

We at Hope Lutheran and the Sioulnd Hispanic Group have had Pastor Flo with us for over a full year now. We were blessed that the good Lord matched us up with Pastor Flo. He continues to work with Pastor Witte to go spread our goal in missions for the Hispanic community in the Siouxland area.

We started the year with a Waffle Fund Raiser for one of our own Hispanic members of Hope who was diagnosed with Cancer, Carmen Ortega. The entire church donated their time and food/paper products, which made our waffle cooking fun and entertaingin. With 30+ helpers serving approximately 300 guests we were able to raise \$2,369 to help with her medical expense and personal needs.

COVID set in and there were so many changes inside and outside of the church. This put a large strain on our guests and members, but we have worked through this difficult time thus far. We had several guest speakers this year from the Siouxland area to talk about their life and about living with or being a part of the Hispanic community.

Pastor Flo continues to visit all the Siouxland churches for both the Nebraska District and the Iowa West District. We are starting to see results in donations from more than just our neighborhood.

This next year we plan to expand the teachings within the Hispanic Community by spreading the Good News about our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that if we get the youth involved, then the adults and parents will follow. We will continue to have “Faith, Food & Fun”, and put up a basketball hoop outside with an area to shoot around.

With the Siouxland Hispanic group, we will contintue to receive ideas from the whole Siouxland area and representatives from their churches to provide positive constructive ideas on how to reach the Hispanics and get them through our church doors.

We need to be spending more time with knocking on doors, trying to build personal relationships, one on one visits, while providing informative handouts. Donations continue to be a major push this new year also, as low contribuitions were received, our Hispanic funds ran short toward the end of the year. We have forunatley started 2021 on a good note with a couple of larger donations from other congrehation church members that Pastor Flo has visited. They are listening to our need for donations to keep our Hispanic Ministry moving forward.

STEWARDSHIP BOARD

Annual Report 2020

The Stewardship Board and Pastor Awe continued the stewardship program that was begun in 2019. The program was entitled Life At It's Best. In review the program was designed to teach us that giving of our time and talents is a part of our faith and puts our faith into action to support our ministries at Hope. Time and Talent sheets were also distributed to the congregation during a Sunday service on February 26, 2020. They were completed at the time and we collected them as part of the service. Time and Talent sheets were completed at the that time and we collected at a later date. The information from the surveys was compiled later and incorporated into a spread sheet that showed each individual and their responses. The thought was that the spread sheet could be used by other committees and boards in identifying possible recruits for the positions available. There was also some follow up work envisioned for the Stewardship Board, but unfortunately the Covid Virus reared its ugly head at about that time and greatly curtailed these efforts.

The Board reviewed all monthly Financial Secretary reports, bank statements, bank transfers, savings account and budget reports each month. The Board feels that the people associated with the financial matters of the church do an outstanding job.

The Board also worked with the Memorials Committee relating to the gifts that individuals give the Hope. The ongoing Memorial Program is top notch and people associated with it should also be commended.

Late this year our chairman Tom Gesell retired from his job and he and his wife moved to Fremont, NE. Tom recently advised us that he has transferred his church membership to Trinity Lutheran Church in Fremont. Vern Cummins also resigned from the Board on July 21, 2020 and indicated he would remain as part of the Board until the end of December. That will leave just two members on the Stewardship Board and they are in need of replacements. If you have been thinking about being on a Board this would be a great time to become part of our Stewardship Board or any of our other Boards as well.



Trustees

No Report