

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

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

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16).



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2022 Annual Report of the Synod

by Bishop Patricia Lull | January 2023

"Cold December flies away ... when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light brings unending joy, brings the endless joy of our hope ... Son beloved of heaven." - ELW 299

During the Christmas season, we sing dozens of hymns, recounting the story of Jesus' birth and the coming of Emmanuel to dwell with us. This hymn from the last century is one of my favorites, using the images of nature and the turning seasons to highlight the gifts of hope and joy, which come from God.

This past year was a time of **return** to many familiar in-person events. Though we started 2022 with the hope that the impact of COVID-19 was fading, we quickly learned that this pandemic would continue to shape our synod's life all through the year. Despite setbacks and challenges, much common work was undertaken.

By year's end it was clear that we were not simply returning to pre-pandemic realities of being God's church but that we were called to **turn** toward new habits for worship, teaching, community service and outreach with a message of God's good news for all. If there is a singular lesson to highlight it is that the church is the servant of God's mission, which will take many forms in an ever-changing society and still be the community where joy and hope are received and shared.

At the Synod Assembly in May 2022 we finally had an in-person launch for the synod's Planting Hope Campaign. This included the announcement of a formal partnership with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota to replicate a Families Together therapeutic preschool on the East Side of St. Paul, which will be housed on the first level of Grace Lutheran Church. Our aspiration is to raise \$1 million dollars for this by the 2023 Synod Assembly in May.

At year's end, \$636,703 was available for distribution to the four goals of the campaign, which in addition to the Families Together preschool include:

- Invite neighbors into life in Christ;
- Renew the congregations of the synod;
- Raise up the next generations of leaders.

Our timeline is to secure the entire \$2.75 million in dollars and intents from congregations, individuals and foundations by the end of 2024. If yours is one of the 49 congregation already invested in the campaign, I thank you. If you are engaging the campaign in 2023, I am grateful for your willingness to join in making hope real for many.

Alongside the Planting Hope Campaign, we anticipate that at the close of the synod's fiscal year on Jan. 31, mission support will be at 97% of the budget for 2022 at \$1,891,500. I am grateful for the ways that congregations connect to others through mission support, including sharing 41.5% of these financial resources with the global work of the ELCA.

As a synod, this year we were also able to reinvest \$113,000 in Gleaning From the Harvest ministry grants back to congregations for work in evangelism, racial justice, worship training and technology, and for projects entitled "We never did that before." Nineteen requests were funded from the 74 applications received.



A church, faithful to serving God's mission, requires well prepared and supported rostered ministers and lay leaders. We currently have 29 persons in the candidacy process including eight who are awaiting their first call. This past year, 22 pastors and deacons were installed in new calls in this synod, six pastors received calls to specialized ministry beyond congregations, and the Synod Council issued synod calls to 11 pastors and deacons for interim ministry. This work with call committees and candidates, along with monthly meetings with all interims, reflects some of the most important work we do together as a synod.

Those ordained in 2022 include Pastor Marty Wyatt, Pastor John E. Swanson, Pastor Amy Johnson, Pastor Ana Becerra, Pastor Tori Remer, Pastor Terri Elton and Pastor Susie Modrow.

Synod work with congregations includes support for the vitality and stewardship of congregations. During 2022, nine congregations participated in the Stewardship for All Seasons program or the Building A Culture of Generosity cohort. Four congregations hosted spiritual gifts retreats, led by synod staff. A total of 21 congregations participated in three Tools for the Church vitality events.

In addition, this past year a new training program for congregational presidents and vice presidents was launched. This Deeper Dive program, hosted monthly on Zoom, has averaged 15 participants. Combined with the annual Tool Kit for Lay Leaders, this new program is designed to better equip lay leaders for the real-time challenges of leading a congregation.

Is your congregation among those noted above? If so, you are reaping the benefit of being part of a connected church. Are there other resources you need? Please know that new programs and formats for training grow out of feedback from you in the 107 congregations and mission developments within this synod.

2022 also brought greater freedom to travel again to our global companions in Tanzania and Guatemala with increased travel planned for the coming year. Even as Zoom has been a godsend for hosting meetings within congregations and the synod, our global companions also connected to synod committees and partner congregations using this technology. It is encouraging to see the mutuality of these partnerships continuing despite pandemic restrictions. I am also grateful for the work of the Bega Kwa Bega staff and volunteers in making visits to so many congregations in our synod and in the Iringa Diocese.

The synod continues to benefit from a multi-year grant from the Lilly Endowment for support of rostered ministers. In 2022, 10 pastors and deacons began work in a new Second Act Cohort for those in years 4 to 10 of ministry, and eight pastors completed the two-year long Kubernesis Seminar with its emphasis on preparing rostered ministers for senior level leadership position. After pursuing more individualized forms of renewal through spiritual direction, coaching or time away this year, those in the Leaders of Color cohort are preparing for a three-day retreat together with synod staff in February 2023.

We can do this and so much more because of the talented and dedicated staff of the synod. In 2022 we said farewell to Alicia Rodriguez, Michael Gold, Pastor Peter Harrits and Dr. Anna Marsh as they left the staff to take new positions. Replacing them were Kirsten Levorson, director of Bega Kwa Bega; Leslie Ortiz, executive assistant to the bishop and program director for the Lilly Grant; and Rachel Holsten in the new role of front office administrator and event planner. Other staff include Mary Smith, director of communications; David Roinas, synod finance administrator; Astine and Ryan Bose, Bega Kwa Bega coordinators in Iringa; Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, assistant to the bishop for lay leadership and equity initiatives; Pastor Justin Grimm, director for evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop for congregational vitality; and Deacon Krista Lind, assistant to the bishop for vocational formation.

As bishop of the synod, I know the difference each colleague makes in our overall efforts to serve you and your congregation. Look around. The signs of God's fruitfulness can be seen in so many ways in this synod. Thank you for being a part of that work, too.

Yours in God's service –



Bishop Patricia Lull

Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda
House of Prayer Lutheran Church Oakdale, Minnesota
Sunday, January 29, 2023

1. **Call to Order** – President Bruce Johnson
2. **Opening Prayer** – Tom Gualdoni
3. **Teller’s Count** – Lead Teller
4. **Approval of Agenda** – Bruce Johnson
5. **Approval of Minutes** - January 30, 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting – Bruce Johnson
6. **Approval of Ministry Reports:** Bruce Johnson
Ministry Reports, including but not limited to:
Council President; Pastor’s State of the Congregation; Christian Education; Community Festival;
Finance Ministry; Global Missions; Love Fund; Membership; Memorial Committee; Music
Ministry; Outreach; Property; Service Ministry; Women of Hope; Auditors and Treasurer.
7. **Old Business:** - Bruce Johnson
8. **New Business:** - Bruce Johnson
 - a. **2023 Annual Budget Presentation and Vote** – Treasurer John Tatem motions to adopt the **2023-2024 budget, approved by the council on January 15, 2023 as presented.**
 - b. **Nominations for Delegates** to the Synod Tool Kit and Conference Assembly– Saturday. Feb. 25, 2023 at Apple Valley at 8:00 AM. (Four candidates are needed: 2 female & 2 male)

_____ ; _____ ;

_____ ; _____ ;
 - c. **Nominations for Delegates** to the 2023 Synod Assembly: Fri-Sat. May 12th and 13th, at St. Andrew’s Church in Mahtomedi (Two candidates are needed: 1 female & 1 male)

_____ ; _____ ;
9. **Church Council Election** – : Official Balloting: - Bruce Johnson
10. **Announcements** – Bruce Johnson
11. **Council Election** – Official Results – Lead Teller
12. **Closing Prayer** – Vice President Pam Hults
13. **Adjourn** - Bruce Johnson

**Annual Congregation Minutes –
House of Prayer Lutheran Church Oakdale Minnesota
Sunday, January 31, 2021**

Congregational Goals: 1) Deepen our relationship with God and each other; 2) Improve Congregation Communication; 3) Simplify Ministry Efforts; 4) Establish a 5-10 Year Congregation Plan

Council Members: Pastor Dan Streeper, Bruce Johnson (President), Tom Gualdoni (Vice President), Beverly Buan (Secretary), Scott Hults (Treasurer), David Biedermann (At Large), Sebastian Schoonover (At Large), Bill Ham (At Large) and Nikky Kazeem (At Large).

1. **Call to Order:** The Annual Congregational Meeting of House of Prayer Lutheran Church was called to order by President Bruce Johnson at 11:10 a.m.
2. **Opening Devotion:** Pastor Dan read the Litany from the back of the Annual Report, we also sang “Build Us Up Lord” he continued with verses from Ephesians 4, where the apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus. It emphasizes four areas: (1) The word “one” appears more than seven times. This reflects the importance Paul gave to being called into the “unity of Christ”. There is “one Lord, one faith, one baptism”. (2) As believers, they were to “bear with one another in love”. Requiring humility, gentleness and patience as each of them practiced their faith. (3) Each person has been given gifts by God and that these gifts were given to increase the whole. (4) The final emphasis was that by “speaking the truth in love” each person must grow into Christ. Pastor ended with a prayer.
3. **Teller’s Count:** Sebastian Schoonover reported 49 (15 on Zoom and 34 at church) members were in attendance. We had a quorum.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** There were no objections so the agenda was approved.
5. **Approval of the Minutes – January 26, 2020 –** Correction on item #6: change excepting to accepting. There were no additional changes or objections so the minutes were approved.
6. **Approval of the Special Congregation Minutes – May 31, 2020 –** Page 11 change pray to prayer. There were no additional changes or objections so the minutes were approved.
7. **Council Elections – Nominations and Candidacy –** Pastor Dan asked if there were any nominations of candidates in addition to the names on the ballot. There were none and the ballot was closed.

8. Approval of Ministry Reports – There was one correction on the Music Report. Page 26, in the 3rd paragraph of the report, we need to change now to not. Also reports were added: the Audit Report which Bruce read to the congregation and the Financial Reports. **Pastor Dan** gave thanks to the Music and Worship Teams. He stated that the attendance on Zoom was larger than normal. In 2021 he asked for God’s Guidance. He also invited us to consider how we can put our gifts to use. We will need ushers, people to sanitize the sanctuary and making small videos for Sunday School. He also looks forward to seeing us in the sanctuary again. **William** thanked the congregation for being supportive of the new organ. **Bruce** asked for approval of the ministry reports. There were no objections and they were approval.

9. Old Business

Bruce stated that the Church Council on December 10, 2020 made a motion to table the ratification of the House of Prayer Constitution with ELCA updated changes until the January 2022 Annual Meeting. C. Linda Siluk made the second. A vote was taken and a majority was reached. The motion passed.

10. New Business:

A. Bruce stated that the Church Council on October 8, 2020 made a motion to recommend the **creation of a Media Technical Consultant** to be paid the same as worship production units. Mike Nelson is currently filling that position and will continue to be the consultant in the future. The second was made by Larry Goplen. A vote was taken and a majority was reached. The motion passed.

B Synod Conference Assembly: We are the East Conference. We can send the pastor, 2 males and 2 females. It is scheduled for February 13th, either 9:00 or 11:00 thru ZOOM. Our delegates will be: Joanie Gahler, Nikky Kazeem, Dave Biedermann and Bruce Johnson.

C. 2021 Synod Wide Assembly: Friday, May 14, after 5:00 – Saturday, May 15, beginning at 9:00 on ZOOM. We have 3 votes: Pastor, one male and one female: C. Linda Siluk has volunteered. We will still need one male candidate in the next month.

D. Adoption of the Budget

The 2020 Operating Income was: Budgeted \$251,989, 2020 Actual \$252,416 and the 2021 Budget is \$250,775.

The 2020 Operating Expense were: Budgeted \$298,152, 2020 Actual \$276,911 and the 2021 Budget is \$294,595.

The 2020 faith factor was -\$46,163 and the year ended with an actual of +\$5,877. The 2021 faith factor is: -\$43,820.

We received \$15,500 from the federal government from the Payroll Protection Plan in 2020. This was forgiven so we did not have to repay it. We are not eligible for the Payroll Protection Plan for 2021. 2021 The income projection is \$250,775 and the projected expenses are \$294,595 with the Faith Factor of -\$43,820. 2020 Benevolence was: \$30,372 in addition to the Synod benevolence we give of \$27,294. This is almost 19%. Mary Lou Hodge had a question about the auto allowance for Pastor. He did not turn it in. Scott made a motion to accept the budget and Sebastian Schoonover made the second. There were no objections and the vote passed with a majority.

11. Elections:

Candidates are: Bruce Johnson-President, Beverly Buan-Secretary and Sebastian Schoonover- At Large are willing to run again. Bill Ham will be running to complete a 1-year term vacated by Steve Lutz. Margie Kobow will be running for a At-Large position.

Pastor Dan suggested that we vote using a white ballot. Sebastian Schoonover made a motion that we use a white ballot and Alex Odegard made the second. There was no discussion. The vote was a majority so we used the white ballot. We then voted on the candidates: There was a majority vote on the ballot. We thanked Dave Biedermann who was going off the board.

12. Announcements: Ash Wednesday Service – We will be having a time to receive ashes from 6-6:30 in the House of Prayer parking lot. Services will start on ZOOM at 7:00 and in the Sanctuary for those who registered ahead of time. We will be having small groups attend services using a rotation in the Sanctuary Sundays and Wednesdays. Bev Buan asked those who have not picked up their reports, giving envelopes and financial statements to please do so in the next week. Bruce stated that he is optimistic about getting together next year in the Sanctuary and having the Pot Luck lunch.

13. Election Results: 49 Members voted giving us a majority. The ballot passed.

14. Closing Prayer: Tom Gualdoni gave the closing devotions.

15. A motion to adjourn: Mary Lou Hodge made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Ethel Bleninger made the second.

Respectfully Submitted
Beverly Buan
Council Secretary

Council President's Report

This past year found us returning to normal after two years of dealing with the Covid pandemic. It was good to gather without looking at our friends with masks covering their faces. Our attendance at church service increased close to normal but some are still attending via the internet.

At the annual meeting in January the congregation adopted the Mission/Vision/Strategic plan that was developed in 2021 and published at year's end. Work has started putting the ministry goals in action as follows:

- Service ministry both locally and globally is underway providing for nutritional needs, aid for the homeless, help for students with school tools, tuition for students in Ifunda and gifts for seniors to name a few.
- Spiritual Nourishment ministry has started with adult education hour after church on Sundays. Activities for fellowship have begun with Game Day on Tuesday afternoons and BINGO on selected Sunday evenings played over Zoom. Outdoor activities such as picnics at the fire pit and a first time Booyah were well attended.
- Outreach has started with planning for a Bell Tower, new electronic outdoor sign and an outdoor worship area to make House of Prayer more visible to the community.
- Improvements to communications are started with publication of the Broadcaster and improvements to the website are being planned.

In August the Community Festival and in December the Community Pancake Breakfast were held again. We had lots of fun, fellowship, good food and we raised a substantial amount of money for our chosen charities.

At the January Annual Meeting a resolution was approved authorizing a Capital Campaign to raise funds over a three-year period to build a Bell Tower, install an electronic sign and create an outdoor worship area. Also included was the creation of an Outreach fund and a tithe to the Synod "Planting Hope campaign". Projects are to be constructed as funds are sufficient. At this time, we are planning to issue the Bell Tower construction documents for bidding in time for a spring or early summer construction start.

In November Pastor Dan informed us of his intention to accept a call at another church. We will miss Pastor Dan and Monica and wish them well in their new ministry.

Interim Pastor Steve Cruys will lead us in 2023 as we proceed in the call process for a new Pastor for House of Prayer.

My term as president of your church council is coming to an end and I will be passing that responsibility to someone new. My wish is that they experience the same help and cooperation that I received during the past four years. I want to thank Pastor Dan, the council, the staff, volunteers and the congregation who have made my job a pleasant and enjoyable one.

I hope that we as a congregation continue to volunteer and take pride in doing the best we can in God's work.

God Bless you all,



Bruce Johnson

Pastor's State of the Congregation Report

Annual Report – Rev. Dan Streeper; House of Prayer LC
For the January 2023 Annual Meeting.



Pastor's Report for 2022

Greetings Sisters and Brothers of House of Prayer,

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” - Isaiah 43:19

Reflecting upon what God has accomplished through our work together in 2022 and for the last 12 years, I am humbled and grateful. God is indeed making House of Prayer new!

First, let me **thank you all for the amazing and important work we are doing for the Lord**. Thank you for the ways in which we worship and pray together. For the ways in which we care for each other in sickness, grief, and health, hosting funerals, visiting one another, singing and playing games together. Thank you for our important partnerships with Ifunda Parish in Tanzania, Covern Elementary School, Every Meal, and the North St. Paul Food Shelf. Thank you for giving of your time, talent, and finances, to make these ministries possible. These are just a few ways in which you are ‘Agape’ (unconditionally loving) God, each other, and your neighbor, and are the most important works that we do on a daily basis. Importantly, each of these ministries is part of God’s plan to make all things new. This is especially true for each individual that these ministries impact. And this work cannot be done without you! – Thank you!

This past year **I have been deeply encouraged** by the progress we have made coming out of a pandemic. We continue to do the important work I described above. Additionally, the council created our first five-year strategic plan and our “Reaching Out in Hope Together” Capital Campaign; a plan which focuses our ministry efforts on increasing our relationships with God and the people of the community around us. We have also rejuvenated an excellent and well attended adult education ministry. And, while our attendance remains only about two thirds of what it was pre-pandemic, in-person attendance has steadily increased from about 40 each Sunday (at the time of the 2022 Annual Meeting), to between 70 to 100 on an average week. In addition, this does not include the on-line worship numbers which are running steady between 30 to 60 each week. I share this because, even though it may feel a bit empty for ministry worship and events, participation at House of Prayer remains solid and people are committed.

Some areas of concern for prayer and action include:

Volunteering is down: Families with young children have not yet returned to ‘in-person’ participation, many remain concerned about Covid19 and other illnesses, and we are becoming a more elderly congregation with larger numbers traveling to warmer climates in winter. With participation in ministry leadership down, it becomes more difficult to fulfill ministry obligations and make events happen that we have come to love and enjoy. Currently we have little to no participation in ministries such as outreach and stewardship for example.

Finances: We are witnessing our biggest year-end deficit, during my 12 years, because of a 37% increase in expenses. These are due to increases in utility costs and staffing expenses and additions (we have added an Audio/Visual tech. consultant and are paying a custodial service – all approved at last year’s annual meeting). Even so, giving has remained strong and there are promises that this deficit will be covered by the time of the 2023 annual meeting.

These concerns may seem overwhelming alongside the fact that I have accepted a new call and will be completing my time as your pastor. Let me reassure you that I believe God is at work with a plan for House of Prayer with these words. ***“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”*** I trust that when we are faithful followers of God, God blesses us with good things, and God will never let God’s church fail. While our 12-year chapter of ministry together has come to an end, God is at work beginning the next chapter, and we have done great work together to get ready for this next chapter. So be of good cheer my sisters and brothers of House of Prayer! God’s got this!

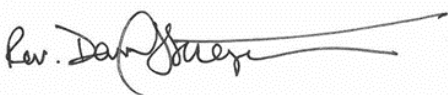
I want to conclude by thanking you again for walking with me as your Pastor these past 12 years. We have accomplished great things together for the Lord, and I trust God will guide us both into even greater things in the future.

I leave you with this scripture and prayer:

Isaiah 56:7 – “I will bring them to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and will fill them with joy in my house of prayer. I will accept their burnt offerings and sacrifices, because my Temple will be called a house of prayer for all people.”

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference”.

In Christ’s loving service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Dan Streeper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pastor Dan Streeper

Christian Education Report:

2022 Sunday School Report:

Due to a lack of young families, House of Prayer has not provided Sunday School this Fall. There are church members willing and ready to teach when the opportunity arises. Please pray that this important ministry will take place next year.

Adult Education:

A variety of topics has brought in a good attendance at the Adult Faith Forums held after worship services each Sunday. This year the topics/events have included:

Bible Basics from Romans

Making Sense of the Cross Bible Study

Presentations by the Council

Service Ministry at House of Prayer

How to use the AED machine

Dealing with Stress

God's Work. Our Hands.

Fall Ministry Fair

***The Chosen* video**

Plan B – Where to Live as You Age presented by Eunice Neubauer from Choice Connections

Power Breakfast Bags for students during MEA

Avoiding Financial Fraud presented by HOP's Penny Hults and William Mills

Healing and Prayer

Estate Planning 101 presented by attorney Rachel Schromen

Global Ministry – Tanzania presented by HOP's Pam and Gene Hults

The Meaning of Advent presented by Luther Seminary Professor Jennifer Wojciechowski

The first Sunday of each month has been set aside for **The Care of Creation** – a program the ELCA has recommended for the next two years. Topics presented this Fall were:

- **Care of Creation Kick-Off** presented by Donald Schule, chairman of the ELCA committee
- **Energy Saving Tips** presented by HOP's Scott Hults, Xcel Energy
- **Using Plants More in our Meals** presented by HOP's Ginny Johnson and Bruce Johnson

In addition to these Sunday morning topics, the movie ***Indian Horse*** (to honor Indigenous People Day) was shown on Monday, Nov. 7th. The movie, ***The Chosen*** series, has continued to be shown two nights a month.

Confirmation:

Confirmation classes in spring of 2022 continued in partnership with both Beaver Lake Lutheran and Holy Cross Lutheran Churches. We were thrilled to hold Affirmation of Baptism rites (Confirmation) for 3 House of Prayer members on May 22, 2022. Fall of 2022 has us adding Gethsemane Lutheran church in Maplewood to our partnership and classes continue Wednesday nights.

Thank you to the 2022 Christian Education Committee Members: Dorothy Anderson, Doreen Biedermann, Irene Kube, Janet Pruden, C. Linda Siluk, John and Terry Tatem, Dienne Wyland and Pastor Dan and Monica Streeper.

Caring for Creation Ministry

Last summer our church started this ministry. Our Synod suggested to the individual churches in our synod to start Care of Creation groups too. I was first introduced to this ministry two summers ago at the Synod Assembly. The purpose is for our church's membership to take better care of God's Creation as a central part of our Christian faith and identity. We explore life-giving ideas, and share best practices within our synod, and community.

We try to have our Care of Creation Sundays meet on the first Sunday of each month during the school year at our Education Hour. So far we have had three speakers speaking to our members on the first Sunday of each month presenting a different topic. So far, our first Care of Creation Sunday we had Donald Schuld, the chair of the synod's work group. He gave us background information on what our Lutheran Synod is trying to do. Next on November we had Scott Hults speak on saving energy in our homes. Then we had Ginny Johnson introduce us on eating a plant-based diet. Also in December at a church service we had a special recognition to Jacky Hanson who made our church a Care of Creation banner for our sanctuary.

Our ministry meets regularly to plan our upcoming topics and speakers. We have had 16 members participate. Our next meeting is Sunday, January 15 after the Dedication Service. Please join us if you are interested in trying to improve our God's Creation.

C. Linda Siluk, chair
John Tatum , vice chair



Community Festival / Congregational Picnic

A huge thank you to everyone that helped bring back our 2022 Community Festival! To all the HOP congregation members and Scouts who volunteered their time and effort on Sunday, August 21.....Great job!

A big shout out to Bev Buan when our guest of honor (The Pig) didn't show up. Some quick thinking and a trip to Costco and we were serving the masses. A special thank you to the men for firing up the grill and getting the food out.



If I "shout out" or "thumbs up" everyone that contributed their time, talent or treasure, this will be a very long list. Just about everyone in the congregation had something to do with the festival. I feel blessed and just a little emotional over the warmth, charity and prayers you all put forth to make this happen.

Despite a rocky start, everything came together just fine. Perfect weather, good food and good company. With the raffle, cake walk, free will offerings and food sales, we managed to raise a little over \$3,000.00 for the North St. Paul Food Shelf and LSS Refugees! Outstanding!



Thank You again and well done everybody!
John Tatem
2022 House of Prayer Community Festival Chairperson



Finance Ministry 2022 Annual Report

The Finance Ministry Board was added as a bylaw at our Annual Meeting on January 2015 and its responsibilities are as follows:

The Finance Ministry shall oversee any financial accounts intended for longer term than annual operating budget, including any accounts that hold securities (stock, bonds, mutual funds, insurance policies).

The current members on the Finance Ministry Board which were appointed by the HOP Council are Scott Hults, Mike Nelson, Dave Burau. The ex-officio members include the Church Council and Pastor Dan.

The primary financial firm that handles transfers of stocks and money market funds is RBC Wealth Management located in St. Paul.

The following is the income and expense in our account at RBC through November 30,2022.

Cash Activity

Money Market cash balance 1/1/2022 **112,531.21**

Money coming into HOP account in 2021

Operating Income	49,400.00
Interest (Thru 11/31/2021)	112.46
Medtronic Dividends	432.30
Bond Interest	281.25
Bond Income	<u>300,000.00</u>
Total	350,226.01

Withdrawals from Money Market account

HOP Operating Expenses (thru 11/30/22)	52,650.00
Medtronic Operating fees	3.24
Bond Purchase (April 2022)	149,525.24
Bond Purchase (August 2022)	<u>147,606.52</u>
Total	349,784.80

Money Market cash balance 11/30/2022 **112,972.42**

165 shares Medtronic stock

Market Value on 1/30/2022	17,075.85
Market value on 11/30/2022	13,041.60

Sincerely,



Dave Burau

Financial Secretary

House of Prayer Lutheran Church

Ifunda Companion Congregation Report 2022

Global Missions Committee

We continue to receive great blessings from a partnership with our Companion Congregation in Ifunda, Tanzania. They pray for us daily and have enriched our lives in countless ways since our partnership began in 2000. Our promise to our partner congregation continues to be to pray for them, to help them with church projects by sending \$1,000 (funded through our church budget) each year and to build relationships with our partners.

We sponsored 22 students with scholarships for Secondary School in the Iringa Diocese. The gifts for education that you at House of Prayer have given over the past twenty plus years have blessed the families of Ifunda beyond measure. As our friends in Iringa like to remind visitors, given how extended families work in Tanzanian culture, each scholarship received has a ripple effect that directly impacts the lives of ten other people. Asante Sana (Thank you) to all for your generosity in walking beside these students and helping them to have a profound impact on their communities. Cost of education keeps rising in Tanzania as well. The cost to educate a secondary student is currently \$450.

In November we finally were able to celebrate 20 years (postponed because of the covid virus) of partnership with the Ifunda parish. Some of our Global Mission members shared during worship their inspiring stories of faith as they visited our Christian brothers and sisters in Ifunda. The Bethel choir (partners who share our worship space) shared a song sung in Swahili during worship also. Stories were also shared during the education hour by the Global Mission members.

Our annual Community Breakfast was held on December 3rd. We again served pancakes, French toast, and sausages. Santa was also available to take pictures with the children. There was a silent auction, Duka (African shop) and raffle. We raised \$4,256.64 which will be used to help our companion congregation in Ifunda as they spread the gospel in the Iringa area. Thank you to the many people who helped, donated and attended the event.



We want to thank the members of House of Prayer for their support and prayers for this wonderful mission. As we look forward to the coming year we are beginning to plan for a visit in February 2024 to our partners in Ifunda Tanzania. If you are interested in knowing more about this mission trip please contact us.

Gene and Pam Hults
Global Mission Chairs

House of Prayer Special Checking Account – Global Missions	
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2022	\$7,708.30
Total Disbursements	\$4,613.36
Total/Income/Deposits	\$4,627.02
Ending Balance, December 20, 2022	\$7,721.94

Deposits to this account include fundraisers and donations by individuals (some outside the congregation from family and friends). Monies raised are used for financial support for our partners in Ifunda. This account is also used for travel to Tanzania. No money received from donations or fundraising is used for travel. The travel money is paid by the individual travelers.

Gene and Pam Hults
Global Mission Chairs

Love Fund Financial Report 2022

2021 Year End Balance	\$5,653.39
2022 Donations throughout the year. (Credits)	\$8,720.98
Totals	\$14,373.37
2022 Disbursements (debits)	\$12,603.36
2022 Total Balance	\$1,771.01
2022 Funds being held for NK Legal Fees	(\$750.00)
2023 Year end available balance	\$1,021.01

Members of House of Prayer,

1 John 3:17 John teaches us that we are to share what God has first blessed us with. ***“If anyone has the world’s goods and sees a (sibling) in need, yet closes his/her heart against (that sibling), how does God’s love (agape) abide in him?”***

God has truly blessed us to be a blessing and share God’s love with others. This past year, as you can see above, we shared significant resources from our Love Fund to help those in deep need. You can also see this was a year, where things have been difficult for many and the Love Fund is running a bit low in funding. Please consider helping to replenish this fund if you are able. Every little bit helps and makes a critical difference for many.

This year we provided assistance 13 times to members and 73 times to non-members. This demand is up significantly from even our past two Covid19 years. We distributed 45 gas gift cards, 29 cub food cards, and assisted with rent assistance 7 times (helping three different families avoid eviction). We helped purchase needed clothing twice, paying medical bills twice (including a needed ambulance expense), and we aided one family in renewing their car tabs so they could be legal on the road. Notably, we continue to assist Nikki Kazeem with her asylum/immigration legal fees and Betty Yama Tuolee in the process of bringing her children here from Liberia. On one occasion we assisted Betty in covering hospital bills for her son in Liberia. Both Betty and Nikki are extremely thankful for the congregation’s assistance.

For those that do not know, the purpose of this fund is to be used, at the Pastor’s discretion, to assist anyone from our community (member or non-member) in crisis when all other options have been exhausted. This money is gifted with no-strings attached. People may pay the money back if they are able in the future, but it is not required.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and generosity!

In Christ’s service,

Pastor Dan Streeper

Membership Report 2022

Membership Statistics:

1.	Membership, end of 2021		325
2.	Members received during 2022		
	i. By baptism (15 yrs. and under)	1	
	ii. By Baptism (16 and older)	2	
	iii. By Affirmation of Faith	9	
	iv. By Transfer		
	v. From other sources/statistical adjustment	2	
	vi. <i>Total members received during 2022</i>		14
3.	Baptized members removed during 2022		
	i. By death	5	
	ii. By transfer	2	
	iii. For other reasons/statistical adjustment	62	
	iv. <i>Total Members removed during 2022</i>		69
4.	Total Baptized membership at the end of 2022		270
5.	Number of Baptized youth who were confirmed in 2022	3	
6.	In 2022, the number of weeks this congregation worshipped:		
	i. On Site (in person)	52	
	ii. Online via streaming	52	
7.	Average In Person weekly worship attendance:		
	• 2021 41 2022 63		
8.	Average On Line weekly worship attendance:		
	• 2021 460 2022 303		

Members added in 2022:

Baptisms (3):

- Garagiola, Michael – Aug. 28, 2022
- Frison, Logan – October 9, 2022
- Dugbe, Queenella – Sept. 7, 2022

New Members (9):

- Patty Brecount
- Tess Feemster
- Katharine Holden
- Desirae Murphy
- Jeremiah Murphy
- Brian O'Reilly
- Gayle O'Reilly
- Steve Woulfe
- Carol Woulfe

Members removed in 2022:

Deaths (5):

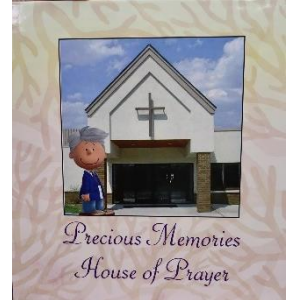
- Rovie, Mark – February 2
- Bruun, Harley – February 22
- Preston, Marilyn – July 25
- Jones, Tom – September 9
- Bunde, Jim – October 5

Memorial Committee Report 2022

The memorial committee exists for the purpose of making decisions about how monies donated by families who have lost loved ones should be spent. Church members may make suggestions to the committee, or families may request a use for their donations. Memorial money is used to purchase items that will enhance worship or will benefit the church and its members.

Items that were purchased this year include the following:

- First aid kits to upgrade safety and meet code
- New outdoor flags to replace the worn ones on the plaza
- Indoor directional signs to help visitors navigate the church
- Care of Creation banner
- Memory book for Pastor Dan as he leaves for his new call



An item that has been approved for purchase and is pending is a new AV cart.

Members of the memorial committee are Rosie Flannigan, Pam Hults, Irene Kube, Pastor Dan Streeper, Dienne Wyland, and Mary Kay Meisner. Anyone wishing to join this committee may give their name to a committee member or to Barb Benetti in the church office. Also, anyone with suggestions for items to be purchased with memorial funds may contact one of the members.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kay Meisner, committee chair

The House of Prayer Music Ministry

While still affected by our attempts to protect people from illness, the House of Prayer Music Ministry is returning to its previous strengths. The HOP Musicians, the HOP Bell Choir, and the HOP Adult Choir have all returned to regular practice and participation in the worship life of House of Prayer.

Before I begin our group reports, I feel it is important to state how much we, as the musicians of House of Prayer, appreciated and were honored by Pastor Dan's commitment and passion for the music of not only House of Prayer but of the greater Church in general. Pastor Dan's voice was always appreciated as a singer and as a theological guide for us here at House of Prayer. Pastor Dan will be missed and we wish him the best.

The HOP Musicians have expanded in number and are leading worship admirably. We have been working on learning new music from the All Creation Sings hymnal supplement and presenting this music to the congregation to include in the regular worship life of the church. We are also trying to incorporate more of our previously learned repertoire back into the worship life of the church. In the year ahead we will be collecting the congregation's favorite hymns for their incorporation into worship. Familiar music can be a comfort and stay in times of transition. We look forward to leading worship every week but the third week of the month.

The HOP Bell Choir has also added new members and are now functioning in a "project-based" model. This means that members can commit to as many or as few projects throughout the year as they are able. We also hope that this will allow us to teach new members and have them join us as often as they are available. We hope to provide music in worship about every 6 weeks.

The HOP Adult Choir has also now been able to fully reconvene. We are so pleased to be back together learning new music, growing and maintaining our voices, and worshiping. The choir is also now functioning on a "project-based" model. This has allowed for us to meet people where they are and not ask for more than they can give. We hope to provide music in worship about every 6 weeks.

As the Music Ministry of House of Prayer, we recognize the important role that we will play in this transitional time in the life of our Church. We look forward to working with Pastor Cruys to continue our development of an open and affirming worship environment for all participants. We are honored to be able to be supportive of the congregation as we enter the call process. We actively anticipate the ways in which God will lead us and the new person who will be chosen to lead us into the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Mills
Music Coordinator

Outreach Report

We were happy to have some of the Covid restrictions lifted this year so we could once again focus on some of our favorite Community Outreach activities!

We tried something new this year, “Sale in the Dale” on Sunday May 15th. We had 45 outside vendors selling their craft and boutique items, the Burning Barn band played, hot dogs and deep fried tacos were served, and a great time was had by all. We raised \$2,280 and donated half to “Rescued Pets are Wonderful” and the other half went to our Love fund. A big thanks to Mary O’Malley for leading this event.



We participated in the Oakdale Parade on Friday June 24th. We handed out candy and postcards advertising our Community Festival in August. Thank you to all who organized, walked in the parade, and donated candy.

We hosted Trunk or Treat Sunday October 30th, it was well attended on a beautiful afternoon. Thank you to all who decorated their trunks and handed out candy, thanks to all who donated candy, and thanks to Sebastian Schoonover for organizing this fun community outreach event.



Property 2022 Annual Report

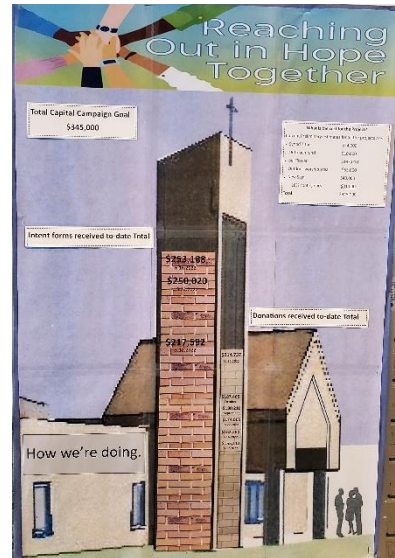
This year we finally returned to some sense of normalcy from the Covid debacle. The mask requirement has been relaxed so we have had more normal Sunday services. Along with that we have continued to have one Sunday service as well as online broadcasting every Sunday.

On a positive note, we haven't had any major maintenance issues this year, thankfully.

“Reaching Out in Hope Together”

This stewardship appeal was approved in July to fund projects that will help us to live out our mission to “Live, Share and Proclaim the Love of Christ. The preliminary estimates for the projects are as follows. This is a three-year appeal.

Bell tower	\$185,000
New Sign	\$40,000
Outdoor Worship	\$55,000
Outreach Fund	\$10,000
10% building contingency	\$31,000
Synod Tithe	<u>\$24,000</u>
Total	<u>\$345,000</u>



The **bell tower** and the **new sign** are the two projects that will be completed first. Our monthly financial progress is posted in the Narthex. We are well on our way!

Guide One Insurance Hail Damage Claim

In July we experienced a pretty severe hail storm and filed a damage claim. After reviewing the damage Guide One approved replacing the shingles on the garage and the church entry canopy as well as metal roof cap on the church. Surprisingly we received a check for \$31,799 to cover all the repairs.

The most expensive cost was replacing the metal roof cap, \$21,000. The General Contractor that has agreed to do the repairs is JFK Exteriors LLC. Jerry Kiekhoefer is the insurance claims specialist for his company. He stated that we can keep the money for the metal roof cap and not repair the cap. Looking at the very minimal hail dings in the metal cap, the integrity of the metal cap was not affected at all. Good news!

Jerry also indicated that because of all the roof repairs he had contracted over the Summer and Fall he would do our church in the Spring.

ECR Government Payment

We received the last ECR (Employee Retention Credit) from the government in March for \$7107. This was part of the stimulus Covid program. We received several other ECR payments in 2021. The March payment was added to our 2022 operating income.

Property 2022 Annual Report-continued

Kitchen Floor Replacement

The tile floor in the kitchen was installed in 2000 and it was in pretty bad shape. The Women of Hope indicated they had some funds available to replace the kitchen flooring. After looking at what was available, they agreed to use a waterproof vinyl planking. This is a snap together plank which is easy to install and it was installed right over the existing tile.

Bruce Johnson, Dave Burau, Chuck Bauer and Bill Ham installed the planking. It turned out great! In addition to the planking, Dean Libby painted all the walls. Not an easy job. Thanks, Dean.

BEFORE



AFTER



Thanks

Thanks to everyone maintaining our building and church grounds.

Lawn mowing

Taking care of the Community Garden, Rain Garden and flower garden

Snow shoveling

Trimming the shrubs

HV/AC maintenance

Etc.

David Burau

Property Committee Chair

Reaching Out in Hope Together Campaign



The “Reaching out in Hope” Campaign was started in April as a three-year fund drive to procure funding for the following:

- Construction of a Bell Tower
- A new Electronic Outdoor sign to replace the existing sign on Highway 120.
- Creation of an Outdoor Worship Area
- An Outreach Fund
- A donation to the Synod “Planting Hope Campaign”

The campaign is for three years with a goal of \$345,000.

To date, pledges of intent total \$253,188 (73% of goal) and funds received total \$214,737.

Plans are to issue bidding documents for the Bell Tower in Winter 2023 to allow for a Spring 2023 construction start.

A first-year donation to the Synod campaign will also be made this winter.

When sufficient funding is received the other projects will proceed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Johnson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bruce Johnson,
Campaign Chairman

Service Ministry 2022

Baking Bags Project – Grocery bags were decorated with drawings, stickers, and uplifting messages. Then, the bags were filled with an aluminum cake pan, a cake mix, a can of frosting, and decorations like candy sprinkles. “Baking Bags” were delivered to Living Well Disability Services, which provided a bag to each of the 37 group homes that manage, for residents to share a fun event – baking and decorating a cake!.

(March) *Thrivent Card: Doreen Biedermann*



Little Pantry – The Little Pantry is the top shelf in the Little Library (on 40th St side of church). It continues to be used regularly by people. Many thanks to HOP members who donate to this effort.



God’s work, Our hands. was a dedicated day of service (Sept. 11). Our two projects in 2022 were no-sew fleece blankets and blessing bags to be carried in cars and given to people as needed (on street, in shopping center parking lots, etc.). We produced 16 blankets for Camp Noah and 20 Blessing Bags.

Thrivent Action Cards: Mary Kay Meisner and Pam Hults.

MEA Weekend Power Breakfasts – Zip-loc bags with non-perishable breakfast items were placed in the Little Pantry, to help families provide easy breakfasts for children over MEA weekend (Oct. 20-21). *Thrivent Card: Doreen Biedermann*

Power Breakfasts for Thanksgiving holiday – Zip-loc bags with non-perishable breakfast items were placed in the Little Pantry, to help provide easy breakfasts for children over the Thanksgiving weekend, especially with no breakfasts at school (Thurs-Fri, Nov. 24-25). *Thrivent Card: Doreen Biedermann*



Feminine Hygiene Kits – Packets of feminine hygiene products (tampons, napkins) were bundled to make available free to clients of Neighbors, Inc. (November). *Thrivent Card: Doreen Biedermann*

Giving Tree - HOP members provided gifts for 24 people: four families (17 people) in the Kinship Family Services Program at Lutheran Social Services; and seven HOP-connected people (3 children & 4 adults). You helped others have a blessed and Merry Christmas. (Nov.-Dec.) *Thrivent Card: Dean Libby*



Foster Care Families – Partnering with Washington County Community Services, HOP donated a large supply of gift items for some of the children/youth and families in foster care. In addition, Lori Libby donated fleece blankets. (December) *Thrivent Card: Lori Libby*

Service Ministry 2022-continued

Gifts for Seniors - Established in 1994, this group provides donated gifts and life-affirming personal contact to isolated seniors in the Twin Cities area. Thank you for your gift items! (December)

Walking with a Purpose -We continue to support the homeless in our community by a variety of donations. We are also making plastic mats to sleep on made from recycled plastic bags. Please see the donation bin for bags in the front of the church by the coats.



North St. Paul Food Shelf - Since 1979, the North St. Paul Area Food Shelf has been dedicated to helping families in need of food. The Food Shelf is a volunteer-run, non-profit 501c3 organization. We have helped this food shelf for many years. Because of the pandemic, this past year we only helped them for three weeks. This fall I made a new plan for our church to work for them every other month during the first full week. That way everyone has an idea of when we will be working again. Also we will working for them one more week. We have 16 members in our ministry; we hope to increase our numbers. Please consider joining our ministry. It is a wonderful experience.

C. Linda Siluk
Liaison
North St. Paul Food Shelf

Service Ministry 2022-Cowern School Activities

Undies Sunday – We answered the “Help!” plea from the School Nurse in the Fall of 2021, providing a generous donation of undies and socks. So at our usual “Undies Sunday” time, we donated sweatshirts, sweatpants, leggings, jeans, and long-sleeve shirts for Cowern Elementary School to have available for their students. (January) *Thrivent Card: Bev Buan*



School Tools Outreach – Due to physical plant work at Cowern School over the summer, we took all accumulated school supplies from the social worker’s office back to church, to do inventory and organize the items. Discovering an abundance of the usual School Tools, we added only crayons, markers, and glue. (July-August) *Thrivent Card: none needed*

Every Meal – Every Meal’s goal is fighting child hunger by supporting a child (and family) with a consistent supply of nutritious food for weekends. Working with the school social worker, HOP delivered food packages to 15-20 children at Cowern Elementary School weekly. (Sept.-May). Food bags were also delivered to the Cowern students at Summer School. (June-July)

Service Ministry 2022-continued

Food-in-a-Box Mobile Market – This is a program of the non-profit group Good in the Hood available to all Cowern families and the community at-large. On the third Wednesday of each month (Sept.-May), FREE fresh produce, dairy, meat {frozen}, and bread; and non-perishable items are available for people to shop for. Volunteers are needed for set-up (1:00-3:30 pm) on Mobile Market days.

Snacks for Kindergarteners – Kid-friendly snacks are donated regularly to the kindergarten classes. Without snacks, these students have a long wait for their assigned lunch time at noon. Donated snacks need to be gluten- / nut- / sugar-free, easy to dispense, and requiring no refrigeration or utensils. The snacks are Goldfish crackers, Cheez-it crackers, pretzels, and plain popcorn. Note: Large containers of the snacks work best (vs. individual packets) for dispensing to students. *When delivered to the classroom, students provide loud, sincere “Thank You’s” ... and sometimes even applause!* (Sept-May)

Snacks for Special Ed students – The Special Education teacher for Cowern made a one-time request for some snacks to have on hand for the students who sometimes report being hungry because of lack of food at home. The requested items were for nut-free and low-sugar non-perishable items, such as crackers-n-cheese packages and fruit-filled breakfast bars. (Sept/Oct)

Christmas Gift Shopping and Wrapping – We responded to a request of the School Social Worker for help with Christmas gifts for the children in some Cowern families. Armed with wish lists and a generous per-child donation from a member of the community at-large, gifts were purchased for three families (9 children total). Despite the steady snowfall, seven HOP’ers held a gift-wrapping party in the Fellowship Hall on December 15. *Social Worker Kyliah Thompson plans for a repeat shopping & wrapping effort from HOP in 2023.* (December)

Staff at Cowern Elementary School are grateful for the ongoing help from House of Prayer. Your continued support for their students and families is a strong, enduring collaboration to help students make the most of their time in the classrooms at Cowern.

God Bless You! What a rich blessing when HOP members embrace these opportunities to carry God’s ministries into our community and around the world! This report reflects a congregation with a truly generous giving spirit. We will continue to do God’s work through 2023 and beyond.

Service Ministry Committee members are Dorothy Anderson, Doreen Biedermann, Bev Buan, Rosie Flannigan, Lori Libby, Mary Kay Meisner, Deb Seyfer, and Jan Stiles.

What is Women of Hope?

*As a community of women, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to:
Grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.*

God's Blessings! to all the creative and generous women at House of Prayer!
Thank You!

Women of Hope plays a key role in hospitality-related ministry at House of Prayer by maintaining the kitchen, including stocking it with supplies; and additional service to the church and its members as needs arise, providing refreshments for church functions not covered by any other ministry. Hospitality commitments included hosting funeral receptions; serving lunch for the Annual Congregational Meeting; beverages and supplies for Sunday social hour; Lenten Soup Suppers; Confirmation Day reception; and dinners for First Communion training and New Member Orientation. WOH funds come from family donations for funeral receptions; free-will offerings for Sunday social hour, Lenten Soup Suppers, and other church events; plus the annual Bake Sale. WOH funds support efforts within the church, in the local community, and internationally.

Knitting Ministry / Yarn Craft at HOP would normally meet on (Wednesday, 9:30 am) and produces prayer shawls; lap robes; warm and colorful hats, mittens, and scarves; and baby blankets. The baby blankets were gifts for baptisms. Due to Covid, this group did not meet, but plans are to begin again in 2023 on Wednesday mornings.

Disbursement of Funds

The Women of House of Prayer have disbursed their treasury to many worthwhile projects including: Love Fund, Women of Ifunda, Tanzania; Ifunda Scholarships, kitchen supplies, ELCA dues and convention delegate fees and offerings. Women of Hope also funded new vinyl kitchen flooring, installed by several HOP men. This was a big project and very much appreciated!

Four funerals, bake sale, soup suppers, misc. provided income throughout the year.

Financial Report

Beginning Balance, Dec. 31, 2021	\$3,643.19
Income	\$1,397.25
Expenses	\$2,130.36
<u>Designated Kitchen Funds</u>	\$1,368.26
Ending Balance (avail. funds), Dec. 31, 2022	\$1,541.82

Officers in 2022: Deb Breister (President), Linda Siluk (Vice President), Julie Burau (Treasurer), Irene Kube (Secretary), Deb Seyfer and Bev Buan (Purchasing), Rosemary Jensen (Historian), and Bev Buan (Hospitality Chair) – looking for a new person(s) for Hospitality Chair.

W O H CONTACTS:

Deb Breister, 651-233-6771 327djbc10@centurylink.net
Linda Siluk, 651-770-1355 clindasiluk30@aol.com
Irene Kube, 651-739-1450 gikube@hotmail.com

2022 Audit Report

Deb Seyfer, Penny Hults, and Larry Bachman met on January 26, 2023, to review the following accounts on behalf of House of Prayer Lutheran Church.

- * House of Prayer Operating Account (Premier Bank)
- * Global Missions Account (Premier Bank)
- * Love Fund Account (Premier Bank)
- * Hope Campaign
- * Women of Hope
- * RBC Investment Account

The group reviewed six random months of activity for the operating account. This included bank statements, expense reports, invoices, and counter records. We also reviewed activity for the entire year for the other five accounts (listed above).

Folders for three of the months we initially chose to review did not have bank statements and reconciliation reports needed to do an assessment of those files. We had questions about some items in other folders, which are written on post-it notes attached to the documents.

To continue to keep transparency in all accounts and to protect the assets of the church, the Committee recommends:

1. The Audit Committee meet to review files more than once a year. We felt it would be useful to have reviews quarterly, or at least twice a year.
2. An orientation should be provided for Audit Committee members (new and continuing), to aid in identifying the documents under review.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve House of prayer as the Audit Committee for 2022 financial activity.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Seyfer, Penny Hults, Larry Bachman

House of Prayer Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
 As of December 31, 2022

	Dec 31, 22
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Premier Bank	85,113.06
Premier Bank Global	7,721.94
Premier Bank Love	1,771.01
RBC	129,600.46
Total Checking/Savings	224,206.47
Other Current Assets	
Mission Investment Loan deposit	109.29
Total Other Current Assets	109.29
Total Current Assets	224,315.76
Fixed Assets	
Building	1,086,000.00
Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	80,000.00
Garage and Contents	29,000.00
Land	185,169.00
Total Fixed Assets	1,380,169.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,604,484.76
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
Menards	130.41
Total Credit Cards	130.41
Other Current Liabilities	
Non-operating Designated Income	
Deferred Giving Income	129,600.46
Global Mission	7,921.94
Love Fund	1,721.01
Total Non-operating Designated Income	139,243.41
Operating Designated Income	
Designated Income	
Christmas Garden	132.00
Hail Damage	31,799.80
HOP Inhouse Outreach	2,080.97
HOP musicians	850.00
Hope Campaign	31,653.92
Lenten Special 22	761.01
Memorial	6,573.49
Pastor Sabbatical	4,200.00
Property equip replacement des	9,500.00
Recycling Grant	1,582.51
Sendafa Ministry	510.00
WAPO	39.00
Wrshp Bell Repr,Supplies,MusGtr	709.94
Youth	8,035.50
Total Designated Income	98,428.14
Total Operating Designated Income	98,428.14
Payroll Taxes Withheld	1,089.60
Total Other Current Liabilities	238,761.15
Total Current Liabilities	238,891.56

12:16 PM
01/26/23
Accrual Basis

House of Prayer Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2022

	<u>Dec 31, 22</u>
Long Term Liabilities	
Mortgage	183,634.02
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>183,634.02</u>
Total Liabilities	422,525.58
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	884,559.16
Retained Earnings	306,619.32
Net Income	-9,219.30
Total Equity	<u>1,181,959.18</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>1,604,484.76</u></u>

2022 Budget Presentation

House of Prayer 2023 Budget

Operating Income

	2022 Budget	2022 Actuals	2023 Budget
Envelopes Current	257,400	275,065	282,069
Loose	4,500	5,331	5,129
Facility Use	4,000	5,535	7,190
Employee Retention Credit (ERC)	-	7,132	
Thrivent Choice	1,500	176	
Other (2023 insurance claim)	3,500		21,000
Total	270,900	293,239	315,388
Faith Factor	(42,037)	(12,342)	(7,189)

Operating Expense

Benevolence Expense	2022 Budget	2022 Actuals	2023 Budget
Saint Paul Area Synod (10% of envelopes and loose)	27,090	24,828	28,720
WAPD Membership	700	700	700
Every Meal (Cower School)	2,500	253	-
North St Paul Food Shelf		1,504	
Lutheran Social Services Immigration		1,504	
Ifunda Companion Congregation	1,120	-	1,120
Ifunda Scholarships		13,070	
Love Fund		8,720	
Lutheran Social Services Lent Special		973	
Every Meal Lent Special		973	
Ukraine Special Collection		770	
Sale in the Dale Rescued Pets		1,140	
Sale in the Dale Love Fund		1,140	
Christmas Breakfast		4,284	
Total	31,410	28,789	30,540
% of Benevolence as relates to Total income	11.59%	20.41%	9.68%

2022 Budget Presentation continued

House of Prayer 2023 Budget

Operating Expense (Continued)

Executive Committee	2022 Budget	2022 Actuals	2023 Budget
Mortgage	32,196	32,195	32,200
Utilities	11,000	14,316	14,500
Insurance & Assessments	7,470	10,780	10,000
Custodian		8,401	8,000
HOP Bookkeeping	6,000	7,447	7,500
Supplies & Postage (increase due to Broadcaster)	3,750	3,997	5,000
Copier Maintenance	5,075	4,832	5,000
Telephone/Internet	2,900	3,140	3,400
Synod Assembly	400	195	400
Technology-Equipment	3,500	-	3,500
Pastor Continuing Ed	800	878	800
Christ in Our Home	180	187	225
Lutheran Magazine	180	134	135
Discretionary	1,000	618	1,000
Council Retreat	150	-	150
Bank Charge-Vanco	250	347	400
Fill-in Pastor	1,000	1,250	1,000
Pastor Sabbatical 2020	-	-	
Miscellaneous	100	-	
Total	75,951	88,718	93,210

Operating Expense (Continued)

Staff, Musicians, & Nursery	2022 Budget	2022 Actuals	2023 Budget
Pastor Base & Housing	75,754	75,964	88,050
FICA	5,795	5,716	6,603
Pension & Insurance	21,700	21,646	9,465
Auto Reimbursement	2,100	-	2,100
Music Director	11,921	10,940	12,421
Other Paid Staff - Salaries	49,348	47,330	44,044
- FICA	3,208	4,484	4,172
A/V Consultant	7,500	6,205	7,763
Musicians (Includes FICA)	10,100	6,179	6,559
Total	187,426	178,464	181,177

Operating Expense (Continued)

Committees	2022 Budget	2022 Actuals	2023 Budget
Property	5,500	5,527	5,500
Property - Equip Replace Desig Fund	-	-	
Worship & Music	3,500	2,657	3,500
Christian Ed	2,200	1,492	2,200
Stewardship	1,000	(183)	1,000
Outreach	5,500	117	5,000
Social Ministry	200	-	200
Youth	250	-	250
Total	18,150	9,610	17,650
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	312,937	305,581	322,577

Biographies for Council Positions

Bio for President Scott Hults

Penny and I have been members for over 25 years. House of Prayer has been a blessing to us over that time. Our kids enjoyed being part of the Youth and we traveled with House of Prayer to see our sister congregation in Tanzania two times. I've been in leadership roles over that time as Sunday School Teacher, Youth Leader, Council Representative, Vice-President and Treasurer. I have participated in many committees and events over that time as well. I work in Account Management and Gas Business Development for Xcel Energy. Currently I am active with the A/V operation (soundboard, PowerPoint). I look forward to serving the members of House of Prayer to further our mission as part of Christ's church.

Bio for Secretary Jane Bachman

My husband Larry and I have been members of House of Prayer Lutheran Church for 15+ years. During our time here I have volunteered in many different aspects, including donating baked goods for funeral luncheons, chaperoning at Feed My Starving Children, ushering, and being a communion server, including others. Additionally, our son Brent and his wife Jen were married at HOP in May of 2009. I retired in April 2021 from a small dental practice where I held the position of office manager.

Bio for Secretary Janet Pruden

Became a confirmed member of HOP in May of 1978.

Married at HOP in 1981

(2) Adult Children (both Baptized and Confirmed at HOP)

(6) Grandchildren (5 of which were Baptized at HOP)

Taught Sunday School for many years and was in Charge of VBS for many years. Been serving on the Christian Education committee for many years.

Previously served on Church Council as Council Secretary and Christian Education Chair.

Currently working full time at RSM as a Tax Enterprise Support Services Sr Admin Assistant focusing, Tax Processing/E-Filing Administrator.

Bio for Kris Goplen

After moving back to Minnesota in the mid 80's we searched for a church home and settled on House of Prayer because of the friendly people and small town feel.

Our 3 boys were confirmed at House of Prayer.

My last job was with a Financial Professional and I have been retired for 4 years.

I love spending time with my grandchildren, biking on the beautiful local trails, and walking outside most days, weather permitting.

I have made many friends at House of Prayer and have been included in several groups with them. I love our Game Day Group and a local Quilt Guild that a member invited me to.

I love the fellowship that has become part of my daily life with my House of Prayer Friends.

Bio for Tamara Murray

I have been a member of House of Prayer since 1991, when I moved to Oakdale. Prior to that I lived on the east side of St. Paul and attended Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church.

I am a retired Registered Nurse, and now volunteer for the American Red Cross. I am a blood drive coordinator for the North St. Paul – Oakdale church rotation, which includes House of Prayer.

I look forward to serving on the church council as a member at-large.

Bio for C. Linda Siluk

Two summers ago I was asked if I wanted to be appointed to the council. One of the council members wasn't able to continue. I was grateful to be able to join. During those two shorter terms I learned how our group worked. I introduced the Care of Creation project suggested by our Synod, and to give an extra donation to the Afghan refugees moving to Minnesota. I also feel that our St. Paul Synod will be a better place for all if we can help the churches on the Eastside of St. Paul be stronger. I am familiar with this part of St. Paul because I worked 31 years in three Eastside schools. Last fall I started being active on the Education Committee.

In the past since I joined our church in 2012, I have accomplished a few responsibilities for our church. Before I was a member, I joined the musical department singing in the choir. Then later I played the bells' choir for a couple of years, and later became part of HOPS MUSICANS. Later our church needed a Sunday School teacher, so I took over this position for two years. I helped in Vacation Summer Bible School for one year. Then one of our members wanted to resign doing the North St. Paul Food Shelf so I decided to take over her position. Right before COVID-19 began, I offered to be the Vice President of our women's group; I started doing that position this calendar year. On January 2020 I tried to become a member of our Council, but failed. The past two years I represented our Church in the St. Paul ELCA Synod Conference. It was interesting to see the inter-workings of our Synod!

During my adults years I had wanted to improve the world that we live in. I was involved with my teachers' union helping our St. Paul schools to be a better working place and a better place for students to learn; I was an Union Rep and on the local executive board. During my membership of three churches I brought the beauty of music, and I brought the Christian word through teaching and singing. Also at one church I was the women's ELCW President for one year. During my membership of Alpha Delta Kappa I helped to give scholarships to high school students going into the field of education, and to donate money and items to our local charities. While I was a member of JFFS, a community singing group, we helped give seniors who lived in nursing homes and senior residences the joy of music through song.

Please consider me to continue to be a leader of our church as a Member at Large.

Sincerely,

Carol "Linda" Siluk

2023 House of Prayer Council Elections Ballot

These are the positions that are currently open.

Vote for 1:

President (2 years): **Scott Hults** _____

Vote for 1:

Secretary (2 years): **Jane Bachman and Janet Pruden team** _____

Vote for 2 At Large Members:

At Large #1 (2 years): **Kris Goplen** _____

At Large #2 (2 years): **C. Linda Siluk** _____

Vote for 1 At Large Members to complete a term:

At Large #3 (1 year): **Tamara Murray** _____

Notes

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies;
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wear it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860
 Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897
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