



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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(352) 750-2321  
hope4all.church  
info@hope4all.church

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# Pastoral Staff



**Lead Pastor**  
Jon-Marc MacLean



**Pastor**  
Rani Abdulmasih



**Associate Pastor**  
Bruce Dillman

# Commissioned Pastors



Marcus Pera



Bob Knepel



Patricia Bromberek



John LeCain

## 2022 Annual Report of Pastor MacLean, Lead Pastor

Hope Family,

Grace and peace be unto you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

What a season it has been in our society and in our congregation. Due to the disruption and changes brought about by the pandemic, I have a sense of what athletes deal with when weather causes a delay. The uncertainty of what to expect can cause frustration and worry. The muscles and the mind, keyed for the event, are now kept warm on a stationary bike and through mental drills...but it's not the same. It's not the way it's "supposed to be."

We can't always choose our situation, but we can choose how we respond. The great athletes are the ones who adapt. This past year was a time that many in our society strove to "return to normal." As our congregation has returned to regular gatherings, we have seen many folks return from extended times away up north, distanced for health reasons, and (like athletes picking up the game where they left off after the delay) working the kinks out of their life. It has been a joy to see more and more returning and new faces in worship as we celebrate TOGETHER what God has done and is doing for and through us. Though our regular practices were upset, our commitment to our mission To Know Christ and To Make Christ Known never wavered.

In this past year, we've relished a return of practices we had missed, and we've embraced new opportunities to engage in our mission. We are a dynamic and enthusiastic congregation that continues to grow post-pandemic. I am thrilled by the number of small groups we have added this year and grateful for those who serve as leaders for them. The challenge for each of us to invite two new people to experience God's grace through the ministries of Hope was taken up by many, and we've had the joy of sharing life and faith with new friends throughout the year.

The welcoming and encouraging spirit of our congregation is evident at all three locations where we gather for worship and life together. The challenges of the pandemic have left their mark on the world and on us, but the pressure and heat of a situation that threatens to break communities can also *temper* them. Tempering is the process of making metal more durable and resilient. It requires both heat and pressure to be done. I believe this is what we have experienced in this season of change.

As for myself, I have been going through my own season of tempering. The busy-ness of life has increased with our building plans and capital appeal for the expansion of ministries at Hope Lake Weir Campus and Hope Central Campus, and the building of our new facilities in the southern Villages. I've worked with agencies from the Synod, Lutheran Services of Florida, STS, neighboring pastors, Lutheran Counseling Services, and others to reengage or expand on how Hope can partner with them in new ways.

It has also been a year of personal tempering, with the loss of both our brother-in-law and my father-in-law in a two-month period, a significant bout of double pneumonia, and the loss we shared of many long-time members of our congregation who had become good friends.

In times like these, I'm tempted to put my head down and push through, focusing on work. It didn't happen this time. I found myself more deeply affected physically and emotionally than I have been in the past. The compound interest of stress and sorrow caught up with me. Through times of reflection in prayer and in dialog with colleagues and leaders here at Hope, I began to practice "being still" and listening to the call to "fear not (don't be anxious)." I have experienced anew the warmth and joy of our congregation in ways that have blessed and encouraged me. Rather than leaving me drained or anxious, the events of the year have fixed my eyes on the future and the exciting journey ahead.

The author of Hebrews reminds us, "therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire'" (from Deut. 4:23-24). We are called to remember to "keep the main thing the main thing." That is, glorify God, lean into and live out of the grace God has offered us in Jesus Christ, and do it *together*.

One body (the Church) with one head (Christ) expressed in and through us, a congregation that is engaged in our mission to Know Christ and Make Christ Known throughout the region, anchored and launched from three locations.

As I conclude this report, having struggled with how it should begin, I find my mind overflowing with expressions of thanksgiving and joy that YOU, my faith family, have birthed in me. The year ahead will be filled with much work but greater joy. It will be filled with new people to love, to serve, to share the gospel with. So let us be enthusiastic (en-theus....filled with God) about what is in store, tempered by the past and focused on our future.

In Christ,

Pastor Jon-Marc MacLean

## 2022 Annual Report of Pastor Abdulmasih

*"You shall be My Witnesses" Acts 1:8*

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

What a joy it is for us to serve together our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! God has given us an amazing opportunity right here at Hope to live out our Christian faith and to share it boldly with others, locally and globally. I am reminded of when the disciples had asked Jesus at the time of His ascension about the time when He will restore the Kingdom. Jesus told the disciples that it is not for them to know the time and the dates, but it is for them, and for us, to know this: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* Acts 1:8

We are called by our Lord to be His witnesses right here on earth, everywhere and anywhere we go, until the day He comes back in His glory when we will see Him face to face. Through the many ministries we have right here at Hope, we continue to witness to the gospel each and every day. The gospel is proclaimed each time we gather for worship. Jesus is lifted as the Lord of all, and salvation can be in no one else. We are fed through the Sacrament by His body and blood, and we are strengthened and renewed each time we gather in prayer and fellowship.

Our Faith & Fellowship ministry has expanded and now meets in the southern part of The Villages at Publix near our future site. It has been spiritually uplifting to see those who are committed to the deepening of their faith and relationship with Jesus come together and meet in a public place. No, they are not ashamed of their faith, but they want everyone to know that they are believers, they are "witnesses!" Faith & Fellowship continues to also meet at Hope Central Campus every Monday morning as well as at Hope Lake Weir Campus in the afternoon.

As we spend more time with one another, praying and reading the scriptures, the Holy Spirit continues to speak to our hearts and minds, empowering us to go out and be witnesses. Gatherings of Hope is a caring and loving group that meets regularly to share one another's burdens and deepen that sense of joy that each one feels when they are comforted by our Lord and His amazing grace. This group continues to be a witness to God's love and compassion as they pray and care for one another.

The Hope for the Future Scholarship continues to give hope to graduating high school students from our surrounding schools as they get ready to embrace a new journey away from home and family. Every year, fifteen students are selected to receive scholarships to help them with college expenses, but more importantly, each student receives a mentor from Hope who is a witness to the gospel. These mentors are there to accompany each student and to be there for them to offer prayers and emotional support along the journey.

A new way to witness to God's love in the whole community. Jesus called each and every one of us to be a witness and that is why through our Lay Leadership Development ministry we

continue to find new ways to empower the laity of the congregation by equipping them to do God's work.

We continue to highlight the many opportunities we have at Hope to be engaged in. Everyone is invited to find a ministry that can give meaning and purpose as one seeks to make a difference in the lives of others. We have been excited at Hope to have yet another opportunity to become witnesses of our Lord in a new way as we expand our ministries and small group gatherings in the South. With so much growth in the southern part of The Villages, and everywhere, comes the amazing opportunity to share, expand, and grow that witness that God has called us to right from the beginning.

Today, I hope that you are just as excited as I am to be part of God's work in our community and join us as we continue to seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness. As we do that, Jesus Himself has promised us that He will take care of everything else that we might need. Thank you for being part of this journey of faith!

To our Lord Jesus we give all praise, blessings, honor and glory now and forever! Amen!

In Christ,

Pastor Rani Abdulmasih



## 2022 Annual Report of Pastor Dillman

Dear people of Hope Lutheran Church,

As I write this report, today is January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. For those of us in the Western Church, today is the day that marks the end of the “12 days of Christmas.” Our big feast was 12 days ago when we offered 10 Christmas services at our three campuses spanning Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. While I enjoy the quiet of this Friday morning, I am mindful that Christians throughout the Eastern Church are celebrating the way we did almost two weeks ago. It’s not that one way of celebrating is better than the other; it’s just a reminder that the feast that celebrates that God was born among us cannot be confined to one day, or even a season, but we celebrate “God with us” throughout the year.

And so, as I reflect on the past year, looking for signs of how God has been “with us” here at Hope, the examples I see are too numerous to count. At a time in history when so many churches in our country and around the world are making heart-breaking decisions to shutter their doors or, best case scenario, merge with another church, we find ourselves growing in both faith and numbers. It was just a few short years ago when we had one campus at the corner of Morse Blvd and CR 466, and now look at us—three campuses, with new people coming through the doors of each campus every week. We are indeed blessed; but with blessing comes the responsibility as disciples of Christ to spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus to all those who walk through our doors—and, perhaps more importantly, even to those we meet outside our doors.

Several years ago, when our number of campuses began to expand, the council and the leadership at the time decided to have the called pastors rotate around to the three campuses, rather than a concentrated presence of a pastor at only one campus. Perhaps the greatest blessing of being at all three of Hope’s campuses is the ability to see and welcome, at all campuses, new visitors, new members, and those who are discerning what they want from church. I am overjoyed to see vitality and experience strong faith and community at each of our three campuses. We are indeed quite blessed.

Although my primary responsibilities center around preaching and teaching—both of which I see as blessings God has called me to do—I have also been humbled to be part of the weekly food pantry ministry staffed by nearly 60 volunteers who have taken seriously Jesus’ call to serve him in the “least of these.” Thank you for all your donations and to our volunteers—everything you do helps keep this vital ministry of Hope Lutheran Church alive and thriving.

In addition to my ministry here at Hope, I continue to serve on the board of Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) where I serve with other brothers and sisters in Christ to help those in need transform their lives from poverty to healthy living. Additionally, I serve the Florida-Bahamas Synod as a member of the worship planning committee and the diakonia oversight committee. I am truly blessed with many opportunities to serve Christ in this place at this time.

Recently, the daily lectionary reading was the story of Moses and the burning bush, where God asked Moses to remove his shoes because he stood on holy ground. So many of you have invited me into your lives and have shared deeply of your faith and your spiritual journey. Often, I feel that you have invited me onto holy ground. Thank you for your trust and your support, and may God bless each of you in this new year.

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ,

Pr. Bruce Dillman

## Pastoral Acts Report

### Average Weekly Attendance at Worship Services Per Year:

2000	279	2012	1,183
2001	339	2013	1,250
2002	419	2014	1,309
2003	570	2015	1,367
2004	667	2016	1,361
2005	739	2017	1,312
2006	900	2018	1,347
2007	951	2019	1,374
2008	1,025	2020	Inconclusive (COVID Year)
2009	1,033	2021	760 (COVID Year)
2010	1,038	2022	1,010
2011	1,131		

### Membership (includes Charter Members):

2022	1,898	Decrease of 3
2021	1,901	

### Associate Membership (includes Associate Charter Members):

2022	241	Decrease of 13
2021	254	

### Seasonal Membership:

2022	64	Decrease of 6
2021	70	

### Total Membership:

2022	2,203	Decrease of 22
2021	2,225	

*\*After an audit of our membership files, many inactive and duplicate members were removed. This caused the decreased as noted above.*

### Marriages and Affirmation/Renewal of Wedding Vows:

Pastor Marc: 1

### Baptisms:

2022	5 infants, 1 adult
2021	2 Infants

Deaths Total – 69

Members – 64

Assoc. Members – 4

Non-members – 5

Members funerals / Memorial service – 29

Non-members funerals / Memorial service – 6

Non-member Interments – 10

## **Current Staff as of February 5, 2023**

Called Pastors:        Pastor Jon-Marc MacLean, Lead Pastor  
                             Pastor Rani Abdulmasih, Pastor  
                             Pastor Bruce Dillman, Associate Pastor

Commissioned Pastors:    Pastor Patricia Bromberek, Pastoral Care  
                                 Pastor Bob Knepel, Pastoral Care  
                                 Pastor John LeCain, Pastoral Care/Education  
                                 Pastor Marcus Pera, Pastoral Care

Parish Deacon:        Suzanne Kuebler

### **Administration:**

Karen Barnes, Bookkeeper  
Debbie Bennett, Hospitality (Head Cook) (F/T)  
Lenea Carnes, Social Services Advocate  
Pam Caudill, Donations and Software Specialist  
Jeff Dunfee, Membership Specialist / Event Coordinator (F/T)  
Marina Ernst, Communications Director (F/T)  
Bob Franceski, Church Administrator (F/T)  
Sara Lush, Administrative Assistant Worship (F/T)  
Debbie Schuettler, Operations Manager - Hope Lake Weir Campus Food Pantry

### **Music Ministry:**

Jime Eversole, Audio Visual Engineer (F/T)  
Loretta Franceski, Worship Publications Specialist  
Jeen Harper, Spirit Ringers  
Paul Hoffman, Organist/Accompanist  
Dennis Kienitz, Director of VOH – Hope Lake Weir Campus  
Mary Jo Vitale MacLean, Director of VOH – Hope South Campus  
Michael McConnell, Audio Visual Tech  
Eric Mielke, Audio Visual Tech  
Riley Senner, Presentation Specialist  
Marcia Spear, Organist/Accompanist  
Justin Steger, Drummer  
Kathryn Stevens, Audio Visual Tech  
Brenda Wood, Choral Accompanist  
Howie Wood, Presentation Specialist  
Ken Wood, Director of Music Ministries (F/T)

Building and Maintenance:

Russell Kreager

Susan Mitchell, Custodian (F/T)

Denny Reed

Rick Schaaf, Building Maintenance Manager (F/T)

**Total Staff**

Pastors: Called – 3, Commissioned – 4

Lay Staff: Full Time – 9, Part Time – 19

# Congregational Council



Kent Hamdorf  
President



David Redding  
Vice President



Gary Hill  
Treasurer



Pam Fenn  
Secretary



Cathy Daley  
Council Member-at-Large



Kristina Giffin  
Council Member-at-Large



Rolf Moulton  
Council Member-at-Large



Kathy Beekman  
Council Member-at-Large



Dave Withers  
Council Member-at-Large

## Greetings From Your Council President

To the congregation of the three campuses of Hope Lutheran Church,

Your Church Council began 2022 with much vigor and faith. We knew that our attention had to be given to all three Hope campuses equally and effectively as we continue to grow and prosper. Our expanding church has a responsibility to serve the needs of not only The Villages, but the surrounding community and the world at large.

Only then are we truly living our mission **“To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known.”**

The Council worked diligently this year with our pastors, staff, and ministry teams to address the changes needed to move Hope Lutheran Church forward. Needless to say, we are still adjusting and changing policies as needed.

The Council would like to thank the congregation for your continued support and involvement, and especially for your attendance at our important church meetings and events. Nothing would be possible without your involvement, and we greatly appreciate your passion and time.

During 2022, your Council met 16 times. The following is a summary of a few important milestones from the year:

- Heard from the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee for all three campuses monthly. Additionally, met with various chairs from the Capital Campaign Committee as needed.
- Interviewed and hired the consulting firm GSB to advise the Capital Campaign and conduct the Feasibility Study for Hope South Campus.
- Approved and hired part-time Pastoral Care pastor Patricia Bromberek.
- Implemented an evaluation process for pastors.
- Approved formation of the Disaster Preparedness Committee.
- Approved concepts for Vacation Bible School at Hope Lake Weir Campus.
- Brought motion before congregation to approve construction of the Hope South Campus Activity Center and to obtain design/engineering contracts for the Main Building Complex.
- Approved and hired full-time Communications Director Marina Ernst.
- Approved and hired part-time Food Pantry Operations Manager Debbie Schuettler.
- Consulted with Council Treasurer and staff bookkeeper to keep Council updated on monthly budget and spending.

As this is my final letter as President of the Hope Lutheran Church Congregational Council, I want to thank you all for the support and encouragement you have shared with me over my term. I am especially grateful for the care and love you have shared with me and my wife Sarah, as I have faced health issues in the last year.



Additionally, I am leaving the Council with a plan for forward progress. We understand that a strong church starts with strong leadership, and that our focus should be on renewing our collective energy, unifying our focus, holding one another accountable, and developing innovative new ideas. It is also essential that the congregation holds the Church Council accountable for progress.

Lastly, I would like to share my hope for the congregation of Hope Lutheran Church. In the coming year, I pray that your priorities may honor your purpose, that decisions may foster innovation, and that you will encourage service and empower one another to honor God and elevate yourselves and others.

Congregation, I know I am leaving you with a capable new President and Church Council. Remember, whenever there are competing concerns in your life, be sure you always put your relationship to God first. The future is not found. It's created through prayer, working, and listening to God and each other.

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:11-16.*

Blessings and grace to all,

Kent Hamdorf, Congregation and Church Council President

**Hope Lutheran Church  
The Villages Florida**

**2022 Annual Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2022**

Pastor Rani, Pam Fenn, and Kristina Giffin reviewed 2021 ministry teams and thanked the team leaders and volunteers. Members should have received a digital copy of the Annual Report. A hard copy is available if you contact the church office.

Pastor Jon-Marc recalled the many contributions and legacy of The Rev. Dr. Dean Piper.

**Meeting was called to order by President Kent at 12:25 p.m.**

**Determination of a Quorum:**

We have 192 members in attendance at Hope Central Campus.

The meeting will follow Roberts Rules of Order and Pastor Wayne Kofink was the Parliamentarian.

**Agenda:**

We will follow the agenda which is on the screens. **Motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded. Motion Passed.**

**Review of the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion was made to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes, seconded. Motion Passed. (Minutes are in the 2021 Annual Report, and the official copy resides in the Church office.)**

**Nomination Committee:**

Kent took time to thank the members of the nominating committee for their work. The committee spent many hours and meetings to ensure the nomination process was followed in accordance with our constitution. The committee members were Cathy Daley, John Ruff, and Susan Ninstil.

We will be electing one congregation council officer and two congregation council at-large members.

**Election of Congregation and Council Officers:**

**The following members were nominated by the Nominating Committee and affirmed by Council to serve as officers of Hope for the following terms:**

**Secretary – Pam Fenn (2-year term)**

**Treasurer – Gary Hill (3-year term)**

**The nominees for Secretary and Treasurer are unopposed. According to our bylaws, no further nominations can be made.**

The following members were nominated by the Nominating Committee & affirmed by Council to serve as council Member-at-Large of Hope for the following term. According to our bylaws, no further nominations can be made.

- Kristina Giffin (3-year term)
- Kathy Beekman (3-year term):

**The nominees for council officers and members-at-large are unopposed. Motion was made and seconded to approve these members. Motion Passed.**

**Installation of 2022 Church Council Members (Pastor Marc):**

Pastor Jon-Marc thanked the previous Council and Synod Assembly delegates for their dedicated work.

Pastor Jon-Marc congratulated the newly elected council members. Prayed for guidance for the new council as they conduct the business of Hope. He charged them with oath office and offered God's blessing.

**Election of four (4) voting members to 2022 Synod Assembly**

The following members have been nominated to serve as voting members to the 2022 Synod Assembly: Al Hellwege, Richard Gal, Kathy Beekman, and Fred Heller. **Motion was made and seconded to approve these members. Motion Passed.**

**Other business:**

- There was no other business to conduct.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

- **At 12:48 p.m. a Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed.**

**Closing Prayer: Pastor Jon-Marc and Pastor Rani**

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Fenn

Congregation Council Secretary

Offered for Approval to the Congregation February 5, 2023

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*Following the meeting Bob O'Dell from the Strategic Planning Committee gave a brief overview of Hope South future possibilities and potential building plans.*

*Pastor Rani – challenged the congregation with 2 in 22. Each member is encouraged in the year 2022 bring 2 people to Hope and to share their faith with them. He gave a brief overview of the Palms Deaf Ministry that will launch in 2022.*

## **2022 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes**

October 7, 2022

### **Meeting Called to Order at 3:00pm by David Redding, Vice President**

- Welcomed congregation and gave a special welcome to Council President Kent Hamdorf.
- A quorum was established. (We needed 99 members in attendance). There were 278 in attendance.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Bruce Dillman

### **Agenda:**

- To approve the Hope South Campus Building Project
- To approve the 2023 Operating Budget

A brief overview of the Hope South Campus Building Project was presented. Questions were answered.

The ballot stated: Approve constructing the Activity Center Phase and obtaining design/engineering contracts for the Main Building Complex (design phase), as presented with a projected budget to exceed \$1,650,000 and also approve the \$1,000,000 Line of Credit First Mortgage Loan from Mission Investment Fund in accordance with the attached Resolution from Mission Investment Fund. Paper ballots were collected. The results were:

- 275 ballots cast. There were 262 yes, 13 no. Project Approved.

Mary Jo Vitale MacLean led the congregation in singing the Doxology.

Gary Hill, Treasurer gave a brief overview of the proposed 2023 Operating Budget. Gary explained why we were seeking approval of the budget early. This year the Stewardship Campaign will be connected with the Capital Campaign. Questions were answered. Paper ballots were collected. The results were:

- 268 ballot cast. There were 249 yes, 19 no. Budget Approved.

### **Closing Prayer by Pastor Rani**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

### **Respectfully Submitted:**

Pam Fenn  
Council Secretary

### **Approved By:**

Congregation Council

## 2022 Financial Highlights

2022 was a year of recovery from the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021. The Current and Benevolence offerings increased by over \$150,000 from 2021 and were \$23,000 over what was budgeted. The total General Fund expenses were kept at 98% of the budgeted amount, resulting in a surplus to the General Fund of \$11,654 for the year. Because of the large surplus carried over from 2021, we were able to establish an equipment replacement fund of \$100,000 and transfer \$100,000 to the Building Fund.

The donations to the Donor Restricted Funds (Food Pantry, The Rock, Scholarships, etc.) were down by \$63,000 from 2021, but they were still able to contribute over \$205,000 to the needs of people in the community by drawing down on some of the ample accumulated balances in their respective Funds.

The Building Fund received over \$500,000 in donations this year with almost half being for capital projects including the Third Site and the Hope Lake Weir Campus pavilion. There were over \$90,000 worth of capital expenditures from the Fund including architectural fees for the Third Site and a pavilion and Memorial Garden at Hope Lake Weir Campus. The balance was contributed to the Debt Service Fund with \$72,000 being paid for interest on the Mortgage Loan and \$200,000 being paid or allocated to be paid on the principal balance. The current Loan balance is now down to \$1,755,874.

With continued recovery and growth, along with the excitement from activity on the Third Site, we are looking forward to another positive year in 2023.

	MORTGAGE LOAN/BUILDING FUNDS				
	Mortgage Loan	Debt Service Fund	Third Site	LW Pavillion	LW Memorial Garden
Balance January 1, 2022	\$1,858,510	\$26,463	\$77,855	\$0	\$0
Contributions		\$274,448	\$226,591	\$15,220	\$14,168
Transfer from General Fund			\$100,000		
Transfer from Food Pantry Fund				\$15,000	
Principal Payments	-\$102,636	-\$102,636			
Capital Expenditures			-\$42,230	-\$34,365	-\$14,168
Interest Payments		-\$72,372			
Balance December 31, 2022	\$1,755,874	\$125,903	\$362,216	-\$4,145	\$0

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH — THE VILLAGES FL	Balance Sheet as of December 31	Balance Sheet as of December 31
	2021	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$500,268.35	\$836,567.11
Investments	\$932,462.47	\$812,687.78
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,432,730.82</b>	<b>\$1,649,254.89</b>
Land Buildings and Equipment	\$8,476,413.85	\$8,555,624.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$9,909,144.67</b>	<b>\$10,204,878.89</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Prepaid Pledges	\$63,741.34	\$24,275.62
Accounts Payable	\$1,164.94	\$821.10
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$64,906.28</b>	<b>\$25,096.72</b>
Mortgage Loan Payable	\$1,858,509.85	\$1,755,873.93
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$1,923,416.13</b>	<b>\$1,780,970.65</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
Operating Fund	\$512,906.43	\$299,071.71
Undesignated Memorials	\$72,495.26	\$72,495.26
<b>Total Undesignated Funds</b>	<b>\$585,401.69</b>	<b>\$371,566.97</b>
Designated Special Gifts	\$12,946.95	\$7,946.95
Memorial Gardem	\$60,207.06	\$81,804.05
My Time	\$10,667.97	\$9,593.12
Equipment Replacement	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
Women Of Hope	\$5,714.87	\$4,512.24
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>\$89,536.85</b>	<b>\$203,856.36</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$674,938.54</b>	<b>\$575,423.33</b>
<b>DONOR RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		
Lake Weir Food Pantry	\$216,266.37	\$196,245.39
The Rock at Lake Weir Middle School	\$58,305.81	\$49,681.75
Scholarship	\$41,415.50	\$36,343.13
Pastors Discretionary	\$28,526.02	\$26,876.43
Pennies from Heaven	\$6,731.30	\$6,678.51
<b>TOTAL DONOR RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$351,245.00</b>	<b>\$315,825.21</b>
<b>BUILDING FUND</b>		
Building Third Site	\$77,854.85	\$362,216.00
Debt Service	\$26,462.89	\$125,902.93
Lake Weir Pavillion	\$0.00	-\$4,145.00
Net Fixed Assets	\$6,610,423.12	\$6,799,750.07
<b>TOTAL BUILDING FUND</b>	<b>\$6,714,740.86</b>	<b>\$7,283,724.00</b>
<b>ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>		
St Johns/Hope Fund	\$244,804.14	\$228,935.70
Theological Education Fund	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
<b>TOTAL ENDOWMENT FUNDS</b>	<b>\$244,804.14</b>	<b>\$248,935.70</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$7,985,728.54</b>	<b>\$8,423,908.24</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$9,909,144.67</b>	<b>\$10,204,878.89</b>

# HOPE LUTHERAN TREASURER'S REPORT 2022

	2021	2022	Budget 2023
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>			
Current & Benevolence	\$1,871,625.09	\$2,023,044.66	\$2,200,000.00
Loose Plate	\$39,139.75	\$45,684.00	\$60,000.00
Loan Forgiveness	\$223,706.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hospitality Income	\$47,042.53	\$62,763.14	\$95,000.00
Other Income	\$86,202.41	\$89,322.70	\$103,500.00
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,267,715.78</b>	<b>\$2,220,814.50</b>	<b>\$2,458,500.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Pastors Salary/Benefits	\$487,318.85	\$538,143.87	\$571,700.00
Benevolence	\$113,705.18	\$145,733.69	\$138,000.00
Office Expense	\$340,624.13	\$471,094.96	\$508,500.00
Worship and Music	\$411,516.76	\$432,402.36	\$482,800.00
Utility Expense	\$67,610.54	\$73,001.53	\$90,900.00
Hospitality	\$110,417.87	\$142,509.97	\$183,500.00
Maintenance	\$230,780.56	\$287,267.39	\$337,900.00
Mission & Outreach	\$32,458.51	\$25,422.60	\$34,000.00
Other Expenses	\$64,165.21	\$93,584.56	\$116,500.00
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,858,597.61</b>	<b>\$2,209,160.93</b>	<b>\$2,463,800.00</b>
General Fund Income less Expense	\$409,118.17	\$11,653.57	-\$5,300.00
<b>DONOR RESRTICTED FUNDS</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>			
Food Pantry	\$184,390.36	\$145,161.57	\$120,000.00
The Rock at Lake Weir Middle School	\$28,636.95	\$18,923.27	\$20,000.00
Scholarships	\$23,710.00	\$9,927.63	\$12,000.00
Pennies from Heaven	\$1,167.50	\$888.55	\$1,000.00
Pastors Discretionary	\$7,075.00	\$6,980.00	\$10,000.00
<b>TOTAL DONOR RESTRICTCTED INCOME</b>	<b>\$244,979.81</b>	<b>\$181,881.02</b>	<b>\$163,000.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Food Pantry	\$158,260.47	\$151,001.55	\$120,000.00
The Rock at Lake Weir Middle School	\$17,150.95	\$27,547.33	\$20,000.00
Scholarships	\$11,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$12,000.00
Pennies from Heaven	\$2,552.94	\$941.34	\$1,000.00
Pastors Discretionary	\$3,932.59	\$11,128.04	\$10,000.00
<b>TOTAL DONOR RESTRICTED EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$192,896.95</b>	<b>\$205,618.26</b>	<b>\$163,000.00</b>
Donor Restricted Income less Expense	\$52,082.86	-\$23,737.24	\$0.00
<b>BUILDING FUND</b>			

<b>INCOME</b>			
Debt Reduction	\$292,180.42	\$272,221.00	\$300,000.00
Third Site	\$20,440.00	\$226,591.15	\$5,000.00
Lake Weir Campus Pavillion		\$15,220.00	
<b>TOTAL BUILDING FUND INCOME</b>	<b>\$312,620.42</b>	<b>\$514,032.15</b>	<b>\$305,000.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Mortgage Interest	\$80,866.05	\$72,372.08	\$72,000.00
Principal Loan Payment allocation	\$211,314.37	\$199,848.92	\$228,000.00
<b>TOTAL BUILDING FUND EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$292,180.42</b>	<b>\$272,221.00</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>
<b>Building Fund Income Less Expense</b>	<b>\$20,440.00</b>	<b>\$241,811.15</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND</b>			
Contributions	\$3,116.00	\$23,763.50	\$5,000.00
Earnings	\$14,550.53	-\$3,131.94	\$7,000.00
<b>TOTAL ENDOWMENT FUND INCOME</b>	<b>\$17,666.53</b>	<b>\$20,631.56</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>
Endowment Committee Grants	\$8,250.00	\$16,500.00	\$7,000.00
<b>Endowment Fund Income Less Expense</b>	<b>\$9,416.53</b>	<b>\$4,131.56</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$491,057.56</b>	<b>\$233,859.04</b>	<b>\$4,700.00</b>



## **Ministry Opportunities**

### **Music Opportunities (Worship & Music)**

#### Hope Central Campus:

Brotherhood of Harmony  
Voices of Hope  
Combined Choirs of Hope (holidays)  
Sisters in Song  
SonShine Celebration Band  
Spirit Ringers  
Song Leaders & Anthem Soloists

#### Hope Lake Weir Campus:

Spirit Ringers  
Hope Lake Weir Campus Choir  
Song Leaders & Anthem Soloists

#### Hope South Campus:

Voices of Hope  
Song Leaders & Anthem Soloists

### **Study/Fellowship (Education)**

H.O.P.E. University Leadership Team  
Men's Small Group Bible Study  
Book Group Ministries

Walk to Emmaus  
Women of Hope Circles

### **Generosity Development (Administration)**

Endowment  
Hope for the Future Student Scholarship

Stewardship

### **Hope Helpers (Outreach/Local & Global)**

Baby Quilt Ministry (Sweet Dreams)  
Blessing Bags  
Fish Frys  
Hope Lake Weir Campus Food Pantry  
Handyman  
Hands of Hope  
Hospitality

Mission Outreach  
Prayer Shawl  
Quilters  
The Rock  
Seasonal Decorating  
Women of Hope Crafters

### **Wellness (Group)**

Diabetes Support Group  
Square Dancing at Hope Lake Weir Campus

Strong Bones  
Walk Away the Pounds

### **Worship (Worship & Music)**

Altar Angels  
Audio Visual (Clickers & Video)  
Communion & Worship Assistants  
Greeters  
Narthex Servers

Newcomer Welcome to Worship  
Parking  
Readers  
Ushers

**Outreach & Fellowship (Group, Outreach Global & Local)**

C.I.A (Christians in Action)	Southern Neighbors Social Group
Bridge Ladies – Fellowship (Participation)	On Our Own
Dining Out – Fellowship (Participation)	Women of Hope
Gatherings of Hope	Men of Hope – Fellowship (Participation)
Golf (Monthly) – Fellowship (Participation)	

**Member Care (Outreach, Shepherding)**

First Visit Calling	My Time Caregiver Respite
Funeral Reception	New Member Prep
Grief Support	Prayer Team
Inactive Calling	Stephen Ministers
Lay Communion Visitation	

**Service Projects (Admin., Buildings & Grounds)**

Archivist – Scrapbook	Hope South Campus Building Teams
Clerical Volunteers	Memorial Garden Sales Attendant
Facilities	Pew Rack Replenishment
Grounds	

**Large Event Teams**

90+ Birthday Party	Parking – Special Events
Angel Tree	Special Occasions & Holidays (Concerts,
Annual Picnic	Christmas, Easter, Large Funerals) –
Blessing of the Animals	includes ushers, greeters, communion
Hospitality Special Events	workers

**Opportunities for expanding Faith & Church Support**

Faith and Fellowship	Social Services Advocacy
H.O.P.E. University	Thrivent
Love INC	Wednesday Evening Meals & Worship
Small Groups	

## **Staff Ministry Reports**

### **Audio/Visual**

- The AV team is still in need of more volunteers for all 3 campuses.
- Weekly maintenance and repair of Hope Central Campus AV.
- Installing new/replacement gear for all campuses.

Jime Eversole, Audio Visual Engineer

### **H.O.P.E. University**

Hope Lutheran Church has always stressed that adult education is one of the most important ways for us to “Know Christ.” With that sound foundation, Hope has expanded our education program to a year-round program with the vision of “Providing Educational Opportunities to Deepen Our Relationship with God,” with a mission to “Spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and Equip (provide additional tools to) the members of Hope to be His Disciples.”

Our goal is to provide a broad learning experience to members and friends to grow in faith and knowledge of their Christian heritage. Classes will consist of instructor-led lectures, including presentation of material by DVD, group discussion and dialogue, and other forms of engagement. Most courses will be in person, and the majority of courses will take advantage of Zoom and Livestream platforms to engage the greatest number of participants.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor John LeCain

### **Hospitality / Head Cook – Chef**

The Hope Lutheran Church Hospitality Team plans, coordinates, and prepares all food-related events at Hope to include Hope Central Campus as well as Hope Lake Weir Campus and certain hospitality supplies for Hope South Campus meeting at Everglades. Hope Lake Weir Campus has a regular Sunday refreshment time after service, with the first Sunday of the month being Ice Cream Sundae Sunday. Hope South Campus meeting at Everglades now has regular refreshments after each service on Sunday. This year, we were able to provide refreshments and both of these locations during Angel Tree Giving Weekend and on Christmas Eve. Additionally, for the Advent services, a hot appetizer meal was prepared for the Hope Lake Weir Campus Blessing of the Greens service and hot cocoa and cookies were prepared for the Lessons and Carols Advent service at our south property on Meggison Road.

Our events include simple coffee and Danish for certain bible study groups up to and including feeding nearly 500 folks at the yearly picnic in October. The weekly social suppers average 110 to 160 fed with approximately 18 to 20 volunteers assisting with preparation, cooking, serving, and cleanup. Thanksgiving and Christmas social suppers saw 185 to 240 people attending the

meals. This team also is responsible for the monthly Men of Hope breakfast, Women of Hope breakfast, preparation of sandwiches for all funerals, pastor installation receptions, group ministry retreats, choir breakfast/lunch events for many of their weekend special performances, and quarterly STS breakfast meetings, plus Newcomer Appetizers and dinner support each quarter.

The Hospitality team provides hot food and beverages all Christmas Eve afternoon and into the evening during the numerous performances for staff, volunteers, traffic police officers, and parking team. We also provide Easter morning breakfast for the choir, staff and volunteers. Refreshments are provided during the Angel Tree weekend. The team also provides cookies and hot beverages after each Cantata performance in December. We continue to support Gatherings of Hope with beverages and light snacks plus preparing breakfasts and lunches for several training events.

At the Christmas social supper, we had a great time with an Ugly Christmas Sweater contest with numerous participants.

In 2022, the Hospitality Team added the following new events:

- First Responders Breakfasts at Hope Central Campus and Hope Lake Weir Campus
- Refreshments for weekly My Time meetings
- Breakfast and lunch for Pinelands Conference for Women of Hope
- Sunday morning hot pastries and coffee at Hope Central Campus between services
- Annual chili cookoff event to benefit one of our ministries
- Pizza party benefits for our ministries
- Summer church wide potluck at Hope Central Campus
- Summer samplers to try out new foods
- Stephen Ministers graduation reception
- Ice cream socials, dessert socials
- Lunch provided prior to annual meeting events

As you can see, Hospitality has been quite busy as we offer various food events to foster fellowship, friendship, and spread the love of Christ. We are looking forward to an even busier 2023 at all three of our locations.

We gratefully added 12 new regular team members and 4 “part-time” team members over the 2022 year.

As I have always said, in my nearly 5 years with the Hope Hospitality Team, the strength of the hospitality team lies in the many dedicated and hard-working volunteers who weekly come in to cook, prep, clean, clear tables, decorate, serve, wash dishes and do whatever is necessary to make the food events successful. We are truly blessed in the talents of those who have owned their own restaurants in the past and have had other extensive cooking experiences. No words can ever thank them properly for what they do in a very hectic and hot environment in the

kitchen. With only a head cook on full-time staff, they are the backbone of this team. We consider ourselves one big family as we work together, laugh and cry together, and support each other daily.

We are always ready to welcome new members to the team as we continue to grow this ministry and add new events.

God's blessings,  
Debbie Bennett, Head Cook / Chef

## **Music**

Last year at this time, I was telling of how, post-Covid, groups from Hope's campuses were building membership back up. The south site had begun a fledgling choral program, rounding out traditional singing ensembles at all three locations.

I am happy to report that numbers have either now met or exceeded our pre-Covid department membership. In fact, we have expanded group leadership in different areas to help meet demand. Allow me to break it down...

At Hope Central Campus, the Voices of Hope has a current roster of 76 people joining us throughout the 9-month liturgical season. The Sisters in Song, our women's ensemble has 24 members, with our men's group, the Brotherhood of Harmony clocking in at 18 singers. At Hope Lake Weir Campus, Dennis Kienitz leads the VOH-LW with a group of 15 currently.

Last year, the Voices of Hope-South (VOH-S) was begun. This year, its leadership was officially taken over by Mary Jo Vitale-MacLean and has grown to 10 singers. Additionally, the leadership mantle of the Spirit Ringers-Central (SR-C) was officially passed on to Jeen Harper, who had previously acted in a volunteer assistant capacity. That group now lists 16 regular ringers.

One other notable mention is the 95 vocalists who volunteered to join in the annual Christmas Cantata. Aside from a majority of members of other groups, we are blessed to have additional folks from the congregation at large, as well as extended family and community singers join us. At present, two singers even join us annually from Michigan, who travel down each year to specifically sing in our early December presentation.

The end of 2022 also brought a transition for the Hope Central Campus 4:00pm service. Currently, we are beginning a temporary rotation of song leadership. This gives us a chance to put different voices in front of that congregation to facilitate worship while simultaneously beginning the process of locating and hiring a new permanent leader for that service. At this time, many questions of who that may ultimately be, changes they may choose to implement, and/or how soon it could take place are all up in the air. Yet, we are excited and hopeful for whatever new season God may orchestrate. For the time being, we encourage 4:00pm folks to enjoy the variety of offerings.

The Department of Music Ministries at Hope has consistently benefited from the amassed talents of so many. Our roster of staff and volunteers run the engine that keeps music administration going, coordinates with pastoral and AV teams, provides accompaniment, well-rehearsed ensembles and/or capable song leadership for every campus service, as well as seeing to the on-going care and concern of choir members. Each individual is a vital cog in our ministerial machine.

I have always counted it a humbling privilege to oversee such a stellar group of God's children. More than a collective of talents, it is the heart of each individual, in passionate pursuit of Christlikeness, that continues to inspire and propel me in my role as Director of Music Ministries.

Ken Wood, Director of Music Ministries

### **Prayers for Hope**

This ministry was begun in 2021 as a natural outgrowth of the Prayer Chain maintained by the church. The Prayer team was being furnished with an email to update current need for prayers. Each member prayed individually for the needs.

Prayers for Hope began in order to have members of the Prayer team join together in person and by Zoom to pray over the joys and concerns of Hope, to study prayer and to have a time of meditative silence.

if you are interested in joining Prayers for Hope, contact [PastorJohn@hope4all.church](mailto:PastorJohn@hope4all.church)

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor John LeCain

### **Social Services Advocate**

Referrals Outcomes for this Year

- Long-Term Planning: 33
- Elder Affairs Attorney: 21
- Placement: 36
- Financial Assistance/Goods: 100
- Visitation: 34
- Referrals to Hope Ministry: 28
- Telehealth: 23

Lenea Carnes, BA  
Social Services Advocate

## Ministry Team Reports (alphabetical order)

### 90+ Birthday Party

In 2014 we had our first 90+ Birthday Party at church. This is a once-a-year event that is planned for Hope members that are 90+ years old. This year we had 88 members that turned 90+ years old in 2022 that receive an invitation to the yearly party.

Some members live out of town. They receive a note telling them we know they won't be able to attend but we are thinking of them on their birthday.



The party was held on October 2 after the 10:30am service at Hope Central Campus. We had 21 members and their families come to enjoy the festivities. We also have a number of Hope members that attend to share the excitement. This year we added chicken sandwiches and fruit cups for lunch. Then as always cake, ice cream for the celebration. The oldest member, Ginny Smeiska, got to blow out the candle!

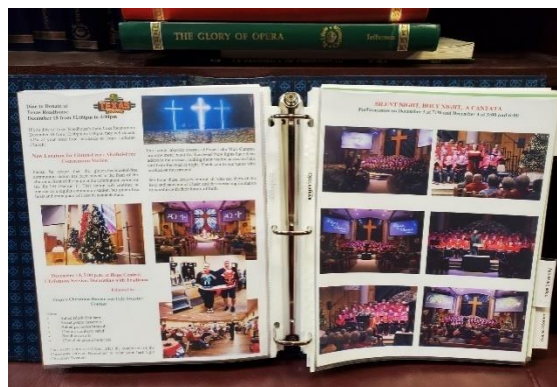
All the guests go home with a smile on their faces and a balloon to commemorate the day. They have their picture taken during the event and a print is mailed to them with a thank you card for attending the party. We thank God for these wonderful people and their willingness to share their stories with us. Hope Lutheran Church is blessed to have 11 members of the 90+ Birthday Party Team that volunteer to plan for this event and spread the cheer!

If you would like to join the 90+ Birthday Party Team email Karen O'Brien at [fredandkaren@mpinet.net](mailto:fredandkaren@mpinet.net).

Karen O'Brien, Team Leader

### Archive Team

During 2022, the Archive Team continued its work of chronicling the many and expanding ways in which the church pursues its mission to know Christ and to make Christ known. In addition to the month-by-month account of Hope's activities and the special sections devoted to the Council Corner and Hope University, we have added a third section entitled Third Campus. And we continue to collect important videos for the archives.



To compile the archives, we depend on News in the Pews, and gather as many articles and photos as we can from the Daily Sun, the Hope website, and Facebook posts by Hope and by various parishioners. We would be delighted to draw more people into taking candid shots of their groups and committees at work or play (a quick smart-phone picture would be perfect), but so far we have not had a great deal of luck in finding volunteers.

**DID YOU KNOW?** It is possible to search across 23 years of pdf documents using the adobe search function. Say you want to find some information on the construction of the first sanctuary at Hope Central Campus. In Acrobat,

- Click on the Edit menu and select Advanced Search.
- Select All PDF Documents in and then choose the Archives folder.
- Enter your search term in the input box and click on the Search button.
- If a prompt requesting access to the files appears, press Allow.

Adobe will show a progress bar and a Results box displaying a list of documents containing the search term. Click on any document, and that document will pop up on screen with the search words highlighted.

What is planned for 2023 and 2024? Compilation of an illustrated timeline of Hope Lutheran Church's first 25 years. We are hoping to complete all but the last three months in time for the 2024 annual picnic.

Kathryn Clement, Team Leader

### **Angel Tree Project**

Angel Tree Project was able to share the joy of the holiday season with 408 local seniors, children, and their families. Angel Tree distributed over 1224 toys/items for seniors, children, and their families. Over 25 volunteers from the church congregation (including brand new members) assisted to make this project a success.

We are currently working on establishing a Summer Angels program and have ten volunteers serving on this committee set to meet this summer to expand the successful program for the community.

Lenea Carnes, BA  
Social Services Advocate





### **Blessing of the Animals**

The 2022 Blessing of the Animals occurred on October 8 from 8:30am to 11:00am. Conservative estimate of over 100 people attended this event in addition to over 30 volunteers that worked at this event. Fifty-one pictures were taken and sent to pet owners.

As in the past, refreshments were provided with the cookies donated by members and the hospitality department along with water and soft drinks donated by the hospitality department.

This year, we collected over \$200 for YOUR Humane Society SPCA. Pastor Jon-Marc MacLean presided over the blessing with Ken Wood providing music.

Pam Caudill, Team Leader



### **Book Groups**

The Hope Book Groups have successfully completed another year of fellowship, with stimulating conversations, as we continue to grow and learn about our lives and our place in it. Our lists contain fiction and non-fiction selections.

We continue 2023 with our four book groups of men and women in our church and those in our community. Each has a different leader, with its own selections and facilitators. The book lists are posted on our website.



All groups meet once a month at Hope Central Campus. (1<sup>st</sup> of the month - Monday 9 AM, Tuesday 1 PM, Wednesday 9 AM and second Tuesday of the month 4 PM). We welcome snowbirds and those who cannot attend every month. All groups are open to new members.

Anita Dillman, Team Leader

## **CIA (Christians in Action)**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

We are a group known as CIA, "Christians in Action." Men and women whose goals and objectives are to encourage, motivate and increase the action and activity of all three Hope Lutheran Church campuses.

Hope will be a place where faith and community come together to reach beyond the walls of the church and into the community.

*Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another. Hebrews 10:25*

The CIA (Christians In Action) was formed in July 2021 with members representing all three campuses. Our initial projects started small, e.g. replacing and enlarging the existing sign on our Hope South Campus Site, Singles and Couples Groups, Bible Studies and a Pancake Breakfast at Hope Lake Weir Campus. All were accomplished. In time, additional men and women joined the CIA. In the year 2022, CIA became more active.

January - small groups such as singles and couples, continued with Hope South Campus folks, e.g. bible groups, dinner social suppers, etc. The number varied from month to month. January dinner was twenty-three people. (This expanded to five separate groups, with the idea to promote to the other two campuses.)

February - Three bible groups were set up, the total number of people varied.

February - Chili Cook Off/Stuff the Truck was held at Hope Central Campus on Wednesday evening, February 23rd -- 247 people approximately. To benefit Hope Lake Weir Campus Food Pantry.

March - Music Remembrance Jazz Trio, on the 24th -- 150 people.

April - Hope Lake Weir Campus Spruce Up Day on the 30th -- 27 people attended. Crosses painted in front and back on the building.

May - Christian Night of Comedy on the 20th -- 407 people, congregation and outside folks attended. Promote Hope for the Future Scholarship Fund.

June – Partnered with Mission Outreach Team/Fred O'Brien for the movie "No Vacancy" which was held on the 23rd and 24th. Approximately 125-130 each night

November – Pizza Night was held on the 9th – over 175 people participated. This event benefited the Hope Lake Weir Campus Food Pantry.



December was a great month for activities. The Crosses at Hope Lake Weir Campus were replaced, LED lights added (outside crosses). They can be seen both from the road and from the lake side. Also, the construction of the Pavilion was under way. Pastor John LeCain shared the plans for further enhancing this location.

Respectfully submitted,  
Len Robertson

### **Crafters**

Hope Crafters has the mission "to give hope and love on life's journey". We meet every Tuesday from 9:00am to 11:00am in room 205 at Hope Central Campus. All women are welcome, even if you have no sewing experience. We accept donations of yarn, cotton material, and money all year long. You may leave your contributions in the information hallway at Hope Central Campus in the baskets on the shelves labeled Crafters.

In 2022, we spent 9478 hours making and distributing the following items:

- 1013 Sojourn bears to cancer treatment patients
- 484 baby bears to children
- 643 ribbon crosses
- 1111 hats
- 62 dish cloth sets
- 446 bandages
- 55 wheelchair bags
- 178 sweaters
- 69 seamen's scarves and hats
- 212 baby balls
- 26 lap robes
- 7 baby blankets
- 10 NICU covers
- 22 knitted knockers



For more information you may contact Donna Walker at 352-753-8618 or Eileen Hintzen at 352-753-0777.

### **Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee**

This committee was authorized by the Church Council in May 2022. The purpose of the Committee is to develop and manage a strategy for protecting the facilities, members, and guests of Hope Lutheran Church, as well as to define how we respond in the event of a disaster or in-house emergency. The scope of the effort includes all three campuses. The committee

was formed and started work immediately. The committee is composed of members with experience in facilities management and emergency services. The Church Administrator and Building Maintenance Manager are also on the committee.

The committee, working in cooperation with our local emergency personnel, considered the events that need to be addressed (including medical emergencies, weather-related, interruptions in utility services, computer malfunctions, and entry of an intruder.) They prioritized the risks associated with each category and allocated energy to the most severe.

Since many events might require protecting congregants from external forces, a strategy was developed to keep us safe without requiring an emergency evacuation. Plans include making windows and doors stronger and focusing our security officers on the highest risks. There may still be a time when evacuation is the only alternative, and the plan includes procedures to do that safely.

The committee developed the first “Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan” for Hope Lutheran Church that was put in place in December. Updates and additions to the plan will continue. A copy is available by request to the church office. Volunteers with relevant experience are invited to join the committee.

Submitted

Dave Withers, Disaster Preparedness Coordinator

## **Endowment**

### **St. John-Hope Endowment Fund**

As of the writing of this report, the year-end financials were not available. Please see the Balance Sheet report for Hope Lutheran Church found earlier in this annual report.

This has been an exciting year for the St. John-Hope Endowment Fund committee. We met six times approving the following grants:

- January - \$1,500 Grant to Hope’s 3 diaconal students (Peg Piper, Kathy Smith, and Peggy Torda)
- April - \$5,000 grant to Ken Wood to continue graduate studies
- October - \$5,000 grant to Florida-Bahamas Synod for Hurricane Relief
- December - \$5,000 grant as an early gift to Hope’s Capital Campaign for construction of the activities center at the southern site.

In June a Legacy Weekend was held with a guest preacher, Pastor Ana Lugo, a gift planner from the ELCA Foundation. A soup and salad meal was held on a Wednesday, June 29, with her giving a presentation on methods to use in making estate gifts. She has worked with several Hope members to plan for their legacy gifts.

The highlight of the year was the approval by congregation council of a continuing resolution for the formation of a Theological Education Fund to be administered by the Endowment committee. This fund will be funded by Hope's membership and is intended to assist persons attending seminary. This was the inspiration of a Gary and Carol Forrester who are members of Hope Lutheran Church.

The committee regretfully accepted the resignation of Frank Livingston. He resigned due to family health issues. He was a valued member of the committee.

2022 Committee Members: Ron Durian; Steve German; Gary Hill, Council Treasurer; Frank Livingston; Pastor Marc MacLean; Pat O'Dell; and Peg Piper.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peg Piper, Team Leader

### **Food Pantry at Hope Lake Weir Campus**

Hope's Food Pantry fills a vital need of feeding the hungry and meeting some of the needs for the people in the Summerfield area. Our Food Pantry is open every Thursday from 10:00am to 12:00pm. This past year we fed an average of 175 families per week (over 600 individuals). A total of 5,387 visits were made to the Food Pantry as of October 2022.

This ministry requires the assistance of the Hope congregation and staff as well as organizations in the community. Over 70 volunteers are needed with an average time spent of 400 hours per month. 4815.25 volunteer hours were logged Jan-Dec 1, 2022.



The process requires volunteers in the following capacities: Purchasing food from First Step Food Bank in Ocala (19 cents per pound), ordering food from US foods and volunteer shoppers in local stores, transportation of food from Hope Central Campus to Hope Lake Weir Campus, stocking shelves, filling bags of groceries and toiletries, registering clients, distributing food to the clients. Food is loaded and brought to Hope Lake Weir Campus by one of our volunteers. Donations of food and money have been generously given from our members. Food is moved to Hope Lake Weir Campus on our trailer (purchased through a donation) by volunteers. The food is inventoried and stocked by volunteers.

Distribution of the food on Thursdays requires volunteers who bag groceries and transport to the client's vehicles. Clients are registered and offered refreshment and sometimes referred to agencies with other support services.



Our donated items include non-perishable items, some meat and fresh vegetables or fruit and bread (donated from Panera bread and picked up each week by volunteers). Baked goods are donated by Publix. We receive fresh vegetables from Villages Grown. We also have a member of Hope who contributes hot dogs and buns and delivers them to the pantry. This past year we provided 148 Easter meals, 208 Thanksgiving Turkey meals, Christmas meals and a toy for each child in the family. Special treats are distributed on Holidays. Toiletries are distributed the 1st of every month. The cost of food in each set of bags is approximately \$15 and \$14 for the toiletries.

We continue to be blessed with Hope's support of the food pantry. The Food Pantry volunteers continue to look for ways to meet the needs of the local community and expand the ministry. As the food pantry responsibilities continue to mount, after three years of leadership, the food pantry will now be directed by a paid staff person, Deb Schuettler.

Anita Dillman  
Tonia Brock

### **First Visit Calling**

This past year for first time visitors, I have contacted 50 families and have had positive conversations with many of them. In the last couple of months my numbers have been reduced since Pastor Rani has taken over calling those who have visited our Hope South Campus at Everglades.

This last year we have really made an attempt to reach our members of whom we have not seen for a while. After attempting to reach many of them after the first of the year and not reaching many of them by phone, we sent out letters asking them to respond in regard to their plans. This summer, we then attempted to reach 150 families whom we had not seen since May and we were able to reach most of them except 39 households. Some of them have not been in the area, some were still hesitant to come because of COVID, and others admitted they had become lazy. Some of whom I talked to shared health issues or other needs that we as a church family should be aware of but they had not thought to inform us. I used that opportunity to share with them the various resources that we have but they declined any of them. We are now just starting a new list of members we have not seen since October and will be doing this on a regular basis.

I had been given a list of names of individuals who wanted to participate in reaching our inactive members. I had emailed each one with a meeting date to discuss how to contact these members but unfortunately, I did not hear back from a single individual. There is a member that has assisted me and am very grateful for her help. I continue to enjoy to be a part of this ministry.

Dawn Deinert, Team Leader

### **Funeral Reception Team**

The Funeral Reception Team provides food and beverages for a luncheon after a funeral/memorial service. We provide this service at church. Our goal is to relieve the family during a memorial service of the worry of serving their guests a lunch following a service.

The Covid restrictions were lifted so we were able to serve 20 luncheons for members in the Fellowship Hall. Debbie Bennett and her Team prepare the sandwiches and the Funeral Reception Team members provided salads, veggie trays, cheese trays, and cookies. There is a special team that provides the workers to setup, serve the food, and cleanup. We are a group of 100+ members with five team coordinators, four for food, and one for Setup. Each member is asked to bring in food for a luncheon or help with setup 4-5 times a year. Please call the church office if you would like to join this team.

Karen O'Brien

### **Grief Support Group**

The Grief Support Group is designed to help each participant navigate their grief journey through education and information. The first week we share our story. The second week we learn about the stages of grief and what to expect in each stage. Week three we learn the importance of staying mentally, physically, and spiritually healthy. Week four is learning about navigating the "firsts" alone. The first birthday, anniversary, Thanksgiving, Christmas and more. The group continues support and educate as people walk through the grief process.

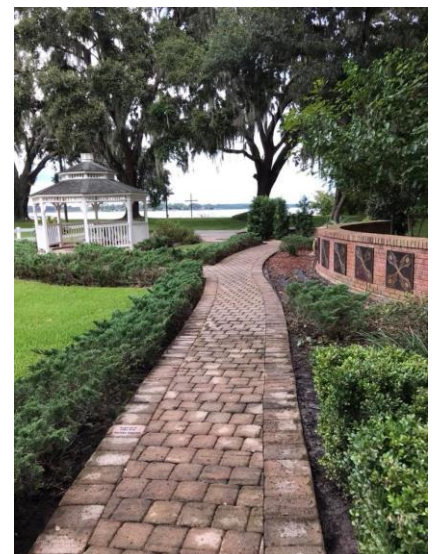
Jim and Ruth Jenkins, Team Leaders

### **Memorial Gardens**

Hope Lutheran Church has memorial gardens at Hope Central Campus and Hope Lake Weir Campus. The gardens are beautiful and tranquil settings for family members to inter and memorialize their loved ones. They bring comfort, a sense of peace, and a time of reflection for those who visit. This ministry is available to members of Hope, as well as non-members.

The options for interment are scattering of cremains, in-ground burial, and above ground burial in a columbarium niche.

In 2022, there were seventeen sales at Hope Central Campus, five of which were to non-members. Eight of the sales were columbarium niches, six were in-ground plots, and three were for spreading of cremains. Most sales have been to people who are doing preplanning. This allows them choices for their final disposition, as well as easing stress on family members at time of death.



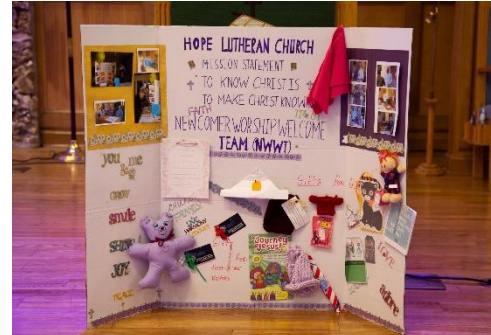
Interments in 2022 numbered twenty-four at Hope Central Campus and two at Hope Lake Weir Campus. The memorial gardens continue to be an important ministry for Hope.

Andrea and Gary Jacklin  
Team Leaders

### **Mission Outreach**

The main function of the mission outreach team is to support projects that enhance Hope's mission statement which is "to know Christ and to make Christ known" globally, nationally and locally. You may give without loving but you cannot love without giving.

The projects this team supported personally and through our congregation in 2022 are:



- The ELCA Florida-Bahama Synod (FBS) which provides information, support, and financial assistance to companion synod programs in Guyana, Haiti, Cuba, Suriname and Jamaica. Pastors that are serving in Haiti and Suriname have developed a close relationship with Hope. Pr. Kathryn Carroll of the FBS preached and thanked Hope in January for their generous support to this ministry.
- ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Response are two agencies that are effective in providing assistance during a period of need for others around the globe. MO Team members collected Lenten Boxes and Easter meals for 135 families for World Hunger. In September, Pr. Lisa Kipp from the ELCA preached and thanked Hope for their generous donations to the Lutheran World Relief, for hurricane victims and for Ukraine.
- Hopes Lake Weir Campus food pantry helps those in need of food and other necessities of life who reside in the area of Hope Lake Weir Campus. In addition to funds, some MO members have volunteered extensively at the food pantry.
- Global Health Ministries (GHM) which is an agent to provide financial assistance in materials to Lutheran health care programs throughout the world.
- Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ) is a partnership between many local churches. This organization is a clearing house for those in need and will assist to find the correct service agencies. Love INC provides a faith based environment for all those that are helped. Hope Lutheran Church has volunteers working in many areas of their ministry to the local community.
- The Rock at Lake Weir Middle School. The Rock is a Hope Lutheran Church / School partnership that provides a food, clothing, hygiene products and school supply pantry in the school to share the Love of Christ with needy children in the school and their families.



- World Mission Prayer League (WMPL) which provides financial and spiritual support for missionaries.
- Christians in Action (CIA). We Liaison with the CIA group to support and promote social and outreach activities.
- New Outreach Initiatives for Hope South Campus. The MO Team organized a tour of the Christian Care Center (CCC) in Leesburg and arranged for the producer of the “No Vacancy” movie to show the moving CCC story to 200 attendees in June. Additional ministries are being proposed to the congregation for 2023.

Fred O’Brien - Mission Outreach Team

### **Monthly Golf Scramble**

There are 68 People on the List. Last Month (November) 67% played which is good.

The mission and purpose is to socialize since we have multiple services.

We play October through May each year.

Les Broeker, Team Leader - broeker.les@gmail.com



### **My Time for Free Time**

My Time for Free Time is a ministry for Hope Lutheran Church members, as well as community members in need of respite care. These may be the result of illness, injury, or cognitive impairment. Caring for these adults is often a full-time responsibility for caregivers. The program has provided respite care weekly. My Time for Free Time provides caregivers three hours of free time each week.



The program meets weekly on Thursdays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. It includes a variety of activities including exercise, arts and crafts, games, snacks, and entertainment provided by numerous groups from The Villages.

This very successful program can be attributed to over 50 Volunteers who have made the program an overwhelming success by providing one on one care to participants.

Applications for participants and volunteers are available in the church office. For more information contact My Time for Free Time team leader, Bob Janson, at [rjanson1939@gmail.com](mailto:rjanson1939@gmail.com), or 352-391-0373.

### **New Member Classes**

New Membership continued to thrive at Hope Lutheran Church in 2022 with an addition of 120 new members.

This year, we welcomed Gloria Johnson to the New Member leadership team as the hospitality lead. Pris Broker continues to do an outstanding job in her leadership role of organizing volunteers for checking in and greeting at orientations.



As we continue to grow into three campuses, with a “One Hope” philosophy, our Church Mission,” To Know Christ and Make Christ Known” is being shared throughout our community.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Dunfee, Membership Specialist

### **On Our Own**

We are a group of individuals who are "On Our Own", including single, widowed or divorced, and we also welcome caregivers with spouses not able to be socially active. Our purpose is to provide friendship, support and fellowship through our monthly meetings, events, and outside trips.

Our major service project is to provide 80 "snack packs" per month to a local elementary school, currently Stanton-Weirsdale Elementary School on CR42 in Weirsdale. We pack 11-12 individual items into a gallon size freezer bag which the school distributes to needy children to take home for the weekend (see photo). We also prepare 30 gift baskets each year to be distributed by our pastors to shut-ins at Christmas.



Our monthly meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 10:30am in the fellowship hall at Hope Central Campus. We have a short business meeting, plan future activities and include a presentation or activity of interest.

Members of our group meet weekly at rec centers to play cards or games.

We recently took part in a fun boat ride and lunch in Winter Park, and have plans to attend a luau in Daytona, and a pancake breakfast and boat ride in Deltona over the next few months.

Throughout the year, we try to support each other in terms of need such as with transportation, visitation, or just being there for each other. New attendees are always welcome...we'd love to see you!

Ginny Wilson, Team Leader 352-430-3326 (randy572@msn.com)

### **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral Care is a staff ministry of Hope Lutheran Church that employs four "retired" pastors each working part-time to provide full-time Pastoral Care ministries to the family of Hope and the community. This, of course, is in addition to the care provided by Hope's three full-time Pastors. The ministries provided include visitation, which often includes Holy Communion, anointing, scripture, prayer, and conversation with members and friends in hospitals, hospice care facilities, rehab facilities, skilled nursing facilities, memory care facilities, senior living facilities, and homes. Generally, the ministries are provided to those who are experiencing special needs (physical, spiritual, emotional, family, or other distresses) or who are unable for various reasons to avail themselves of worship and other ministry opportunities that the family of Hope provide. The Pastoral Care Ministers are also regularly involved in worship as Presidents, Holy Communion Assistants and as Preachers. Pastoral Care is involved in funeral ministries and in other team ministries of Hope.



### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Thank you to all who participated in the Prayer Shawl Ministry throughout the past difficult 18 months. You produced many prayer shawls, especially for the Blue Christmas service, as well as hundreds of the pocket prayer patches for the Angel Tree project! You are a blessing to many! Our next meeting is not until the first Monday in February, so there is time to replenish our supply of gifts.



Prayer Shawls and Lap Robes are available at Hope Central Campus in the Information Hallway whenever the church is open. They will also be made available at Hope Lake Weir Campus on

Sunday mornings. If you have a family member, friend, or neighbor who needs the comfort and assurance that they are not alone, please take one for them. You will find it to be a very gratifying experience as you share love and hope with those in need.

The prayer shawl ministry is also happy to report that, through the generosity of many, we sent 81 knitted scarves, 5 knitted hats and 20 hat and scarf sets to The Seamen's Church Institute for the "Christmas at Sea" project during the past year.

Merle Peterson, Team Leader

### **The Rock**

Who will go?

Here I am Lord, send me.

The Rock at Lake Weir Middle School is sponsored and staffed by Hope Lutheran Church with the support of Love INC. At Lake Weir Middle School, The Rock provides shoes, food, clothing, school supplies, hygiene products, emotional support and most important, the love of Christ to children in need.



About 150 students are helped each week. 80% of the children around Hope Lake Weir Campus qualify for free or reduced lunch. Some of the children come from broken homes and don't have adequate food, clothing, hygiene products, or emotional support. Others are dealing with family drug problems. Many do not know Christ.

The Rock is a school-church partnership where the school provides space on its campus for Hope to operate our Rock Room. See The Rock at [https://youtu.be/YD\\_5Lw46lBE](https://youtu.be/YD_5Lw46lBE).

Hope Lutheran Church Volunteers operate The Rock at Lake Weir Middle School from 11 am until 1:30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays. and Fridays. School staff open The Rock for the children whenever there is a need.

We currently need additional staffing volunteers. You may contact Fred O'Brien for more information.

Fred O'Brien, Mission Outreach team member, 352-250-3814.



## Seasonal Decorating

The purpose of this team is to decorate the churches for the Easter and Christmas Seasons.

Easter: Live palms were purchased for all three sites. New wreaths and lilies were purchased for Hope Lake Weir Campus.

Christmas: While preparing for the first Advent Mid-week service, Hanging of the Greens, four new wreaths and two new swags as well as decorating existing wreaths were prepared for Hope Lake Weir Campus. The second Advent Mid-week service was held at Hope Central Campus with the theme of Chrismons. Ken Wood designed and made the two circles that were added to the tree to help display the existing Chrismons. Two large Christmas trees were purchased for Hope Central Campus.



We want to thank the members of this team as well as the many volunteers who helped decorate, tear down and store the decorations. Your help was needed and appreciated.

Nancy Shephard, Team Leader  
Alan and Paula Herold, Assistant Leaders

## Stephen Ministry

“Christ Caring for People through People”

Stephen Ministers are trained members of our congregation that meet weekly, one-to-one with a hurting individual to provide spiritual care. The hurt can be anything: a terminal diagnosis, grief over a loss, surgery, financial difficulties, family challenges, loneliness, or a questioning of faith. The Stephen Minister provides a listening ear and a caring heart to accompany the care receiver on their journey. Everything is confidential. The non-judgmental Stephen Minister can help the hurting one unburden, deal with difficult feelings, and work through complicated situations.



This fall, Hope hosted the initial 50 hours of training (seven consecutive Saturdays, 9:00am to 4:00pm) for 13 new Stephen Ministers. Seven were from Hope Lutheran Church and the other six from three local congregations that participate in our network coalition. The newly commissioned ministers brought our total up to 18. Throughout the year we provided distinctively Christian care to 20 care receivers from our congregation and the community. Barb Hill participated in a nine week Zoom class and was commissioned as a Stephen Leader in

August. Our other leader, Marsha Anderson retired in November. We deeply appreciate her experience and wisdom and will miss her as she moves to other ministries at Hope.

As part of our outreach, we have a Stephen Minister available at the Hope Lake Weir Campus Food Pantry to provide spiritual care, listen, and pray with the clients. A heartfelt thanks to Nora Steenson for her faithful service.

Journeying through Grief booklets (series of four) were mailed out to 51 surviving household during 2022 (as of Thanksgiving). The recipients are spouses who lost a mate and parents who lost a child. Pastor Bob Knepel, who handles this effort continually receives notes and emails of thanks for the booklets. Recipients find the booklets on target and helpful. The series of Grief books and the *Cancer, Now What?* book have proved to be a useful ministry. The grief books are sent on a specific cycle to our grieving members. The cancer book is an outstanding resource that contains practical, down-to-earth information to help someone and their family members upon getting a diagnosis of cancer. Cancer books are available at all three campuses. Our Stephen Ministry provides these books and suggests a \$10 donation.

Providing Christian Care is a unique and rewarding ministry. Christ cares for people through us. What a wonderful way “To Make Christ Known”. Please contact me if you feel called to learn more about our Stephen Ministry.

Kathy Smith, Stephen Leader - smithkath@aol.com

### **Stewardship**

While we looked for opportunities to highlight stewardship, we did not do the Stewardship Campaign in the fall. It was decided to move the campaign to coincide with the Capital Campaign and at a time when our attendance is greatest. This decision was made after discussion with the team, our Capital Campaign consultant, and approved by Council.

During the year, the importance of stewardship and an explanation of the giving opportunities were included in the New Member Classes. The congregation was reminded of the tax benefits of giving through your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, 401k, or 403b accounts. For 2023, we will continue to move forward and keep the congregation informed on all aspects of stewardship; their time, talent, and treasure as we live our mission – to know Christ and to make Christ known.

Pat O’Dell, Team Leader



## **Strong Bones**

I'm afraid the Strong Bones class is still recovering from COVID. While several of our members have not returned, I am pleased to announce that we have two new members. Our obvious goal is to build our bones stronger, but we also as Christians want to always honor God, so each class begins with a Bible reading and prayer. It seems the older we become the more requests we have for prayer, and sometimes those requests are in our emails to one another in between class.

To build strong fellowship, we gather several times a year after class for brunch, even ladies who no longer attend class come for the brunch.

We hope and pray that our numbers will increase as well as our bone strength, but more importantly, we pray that our relationship with God grows stronger with each day.

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Shimkus, Strong Bones leader.

## **Thrivent**

Hope members that have a Thrivent product have been helping in many ways this year. Each person can initiate 2 Action Teams each year. That means that many have been helped by extra funds to promote and accomplish projects like quilting, crafts and the Hope Lake Weir Campus Food Pantry.



So keep up the good work and look out for more ways to use an Action Team. Also, Thrivent members can designate Choice Dollars (by March 31 each year) to many charities including our own Hope Lutheran Church in The Villages.

Bonnie Andrus, Advocate for Thrivent

## **Walk Away the Pounds**

Walk Away the Pounds (WATP) meets Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 8:00am to 9:00am in the fellowship hall at Hope Central Campus. We use various walking videos to increase our heart rate and strengthen our bodies. Contrary to our name, we do not use a scale, so you can relax!

We have a mix of church members and non-members, male and female, and ages ranging from mid-50's to late 80's. The benefits to our walkers are different for each of us, and you can do 1 mile, 2 miles, or 3 miles—it's up to you! If you have trouble standing, you're welcome to try the exercises sitting on a chair. Stretch bands and weights are sometimes used, but these are

optional. But don't forget to bring your water! We would love to have you come and try us out. We have plenty of room ... ALL ARE WELCOME!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.  
Ginny Wilson, Team Leader 352-430-3326 or [randy572@msn.com](mailto:randy572@msn.com)

## **Women of Hope – WELCA**

### **WHO WE ARE**

We are a community of women at Hope Lutheran Church, guided by our Purpose Statement, encouraging our members to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.



### **WE SUPPORT CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATIONS**

As a tenet of WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) we maintain our relationship through support and participation in conferences, gatherings, programs, and projects.

Recently, our Women of Hope members attended the Fall Gathering of the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) and earlier in the year, hosted, here at Hope, the Spring Gathering of the Pinelands Conference, coordinating activities for over eighty women of participating ELCA churches.

### **WE ENGAGE IN OUTREACH THROUGH CRAFTING**

Women of Hope is proud to support all our caring, creative, and talented crafters. Meeting regularly, these dedicated ladies create hundreds of hand-made items that are distributed throughout our church, community, and world-wide.

The Crafters' Sojourn Bears and Comfort Bears bring comfort to cancer patients and children in trauma settings. Hats and sweaters for children in need and First Time Visitor Crosses for newcomers to our church.

The Prayer Shawls Ministry produce hundreds of prayer shawls, lap robes, and pocket prayer patches to be included in Angel Tree gifts, given to the girls at Camp E-Nini-Hassee, and to church members at all three campuses, local nursing homes, and hospice centers.

**MISSION AND OUTREACH –** We accomplish our services in the name of Our Lord in a variety of ways through:



- Shepherd's LightHouse, a residential mission for homeless single mothers and children located in Belleview.
- Infant and Toddler Pantry, provides supplies, clothing, diapers, and essentials to families in crisis, located at the Congregational Church in Summerfield.
- Camp E-Nini-Hassee, an outdoor residential camp for troubled teenage girls (ages 12-18) in Floral City.
- SOZO Kids, a program that provides the necessary means in helping children receive supplies and essential needed items.
- Hope's Heroes, established this past year as our newest ministry to help our church and the community. This is located at Hope Lake Weir Campus. Our bookshelf is stocked with Christian books and bibles for children of all ages. Also included are activity bags for use during church services.

#### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR)

- Quilters – The quilts made are sent each year through Lutheran World Relief to countries in need across the globe. This year, 105 quilts have been packed and shipped. Some of the quilts are also shared with local agencies in the Tri-County area. These quilts are used in many ways by the recipient and are appreciated by those who receive them.
- School Kits – Each year the Women of Hope assemble 80 school kits with specific items collected for each bag and shipped overseas. Each bag is assembled with the same exact items, using essential items to help break the cycle of poverty. This ensures that each recipient receives uniform items that are useful to their situation.

#### BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

During this past year we have strived to include different venues for the monthly Breakfast Meeting which is held on the third Thursday of each month from September through May. During the months of June, July, and August the "Out to Lunch Bunch" meet at an area location/restaurant.

Women of Hope plans a yearly retreat at Luther Springs every spring where, for three days, women can relax and enjoy fellowship and participate in activities to renew our spirits and listen to some inspirational talks.

At Women of Hope, there are seven active Circles/Bible Study Groups who operate independently, choosing materials to study and discuss and share ideas and fellowship. More small groups are forming, and our members can either join an existing one or form their own.

We stay true to our Mission statement "to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ."

Respectfully submitted by Annie Schaedel, President of Women of Hope

### **Worship Area Ministry**

- Altar Angels
- Communion Servers and Worship Assistants
- Greeters
- Narthex Servers
- Newcomer Welcomers
- Parking Lot Ushers
- Ushers
- Worship Audio/Visual Operators

The mission of these Ministry Teams is to provide a welcoming, comfortable, and safe environment for weekly worship and special events, and ensure the smooth running of each worship service.

The teams have responded to changes in worship as we returned from the pandemic. Over the year some new procedures have been adopted and many more familiar routines and procedures have been brought back. The teams have willingly and effectively adopted these changes. Hope Lutheran Church is known for meaningful worship experiences. This positive reputation is largely attributable to the dedicated servants on these teams.



The Altar Angels prepare the altar and lay out the communion elements for every service. They prepare communion elements for more than 1,000 individuals every week including alcohol-free and gluten free options. They also keep the sacramental linens and chalices organized and clean within the sacristy.



The Worship Assistants and Communion Servers assist the Pastors in distribution of the sacramental communion elements. With the aid of the Ushers, servers pay special attention to those who cannot come forward, and those with other special needs like gluten free or alcohol-free elements. The Worship Assistants help during the service by performing in-chancel duties during services including lighting and extinguishing candles, readings, leading prayer and setting out the elements during the service. As part of the Server team, they also provide communion and Rite of Healing to congregants.



The Greeting Ministry is a wonderful way to serve Hope. All you need is a smile and a pleasant, welcoming attitude. Greeters arrive early for their normal service and greet members and visitors. Most Greeters are asked to serve only once or twice a month on a schedule that is convenient for them. New Greeters are always welcome.



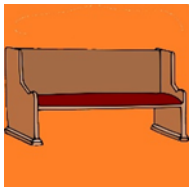
The Narthex Servers are new, post-pandemic, replacing the time-honored tradition of pew registers -initially with roster checks and now with bar code scanners to record attendance. With a warm, friendly smile they also assist those who don't have a bar code card. They are also key members of the "front-line" of folks who help handle the many queries and requests from our parishioners. Every weekend there are new opportunities to help someone. One reason we need accurate attendance records is to confirm voting status at congregational meetings.



The Newcomer Welcome team is vital to the continuing growth of the church. They are ready to not only welcome first-time worshippers, but to answer all of their questions including how they might become involved as part of the church. It's critical we provide hospitality to attract new members.



In the busy season, the Parking Lot Ushers help you find a place to park your cart or car. They are particularly helpful for those who need a spot near the door. They are the "Face of Hope" – being the first to welcome folks to worship. This year we celebrate the many years of service by Wayne King as he retires from leadership of this group.



The Usher teams not only assist people as they enter the chancel, but they remain engaged throughout the service. They are particularly critical in guiding worshippers to the front of the church during communion. They also guide Communion Servers to wheelchair or pew-bound communicants who do not choose to move to the front of the church to receive communion, and to the AV booth if there are individuals there who desire communion. There is strong teamwork between the Ushers and the Communion Server team, both of which take final pre-service instruction from the presiding pastor if there are unique circumstances. The Lead usher coordinates the response to any unusual or emergent situations.



The A/V team balances the sound and lights as worship proceeds and streams the service to a growing internet audience. They continue to be our link to worship for those who can't come to the church in person.

These teams have unique responsibilities: They serve SEVEN TIMES EVERY WEEK. They are responsible for making the worship experience a Holy time in everyone's week. Individuals or couples interested in serving are invited to join one of these teams. Members of these teams can be recognized by the descriptive dangles on their name badges.

# Three Campuses... One HOPE

Hope Central Campus  
250 Avenida Los Angeles  
The Villages, FL 32162

.....

Hope Lake Weir Campus  
10495 SE Sunset Harbor Road  
Summerfield, FL 34491

.....

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center  
5497 Marsh Bend Trail  
The Villages, FL 32163



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