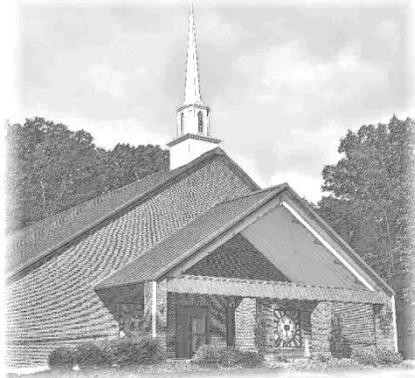


# Hope Lutheran Church

ANNUAL REPORT  
2021



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*"Making Christ known through reaching, welcoming,  
praising, equipping, and sending"*



## **2021 Annual Report of the Congregation Council**

What a year we have gone through! Covid this, Covid that. Wear a mask, don't wear one, wear one some of the time. Stay home and don't touch anyone. Close the church, open it a little bit, and finally come on in. We have gone through all of these things in the past year and while other churches are struggling to survive, Hope is stronger than ever! Our congregation has endured and our faith has grown stronger. Our giving has remained strong and we have been able to continue serving the Lord because of it. Let's look back over this year and see how the church has continued to spread God's Word.

Let's start with the Pastor. Pastor Dave has done an exceptional job this year. That is not to suggest that he did less in years past. I am sure we would all agree Hope has grown in size and in faith directly because of Pastor Dave's efforts. This year has demanded even more from him. Covid made him think outside of the box. With the help of others, he researched and implemented Zoom in the church so we could continue to worship the Lord, even when the church building was closed. He expanded it so committees could continue to function and the various groups in the church were able to stay in touch with each other. As the year progressed, he had to reinvent himself several times. He went from having church just on Zoom to having Zoom and limited numbers of people in the church at the same time, to opening the church completely and still having Zoom for those who were unable to attend. At the same time he went from no visits in the hospital or home, having to give last rites over the phone and being unable to be with our members personally during their time of need to now having to jockey his time around so that he can do some personal visiting and at the same time continue to be available to set up all the zoom meetings that are still taking place. In the past year he has set up hundreds of zoom meetings. He has done an outstanding job. We are truly blessed to have Pastor Dave as our pastor.

There are several other key players involved in assuring the Church stays on an even keel. Where would we be without Ellen? She is certainly Pastor Dave's right hand and sometimes the left as well. She stepped back into her old job by playing the piano when needed. She assisted in the church service when needed and actually ran the whole service a few times. Hope would not begin to run as smoothly without Ellen making sure everything and everyone is in the right place at the right time. She is invaluable to the church.

Sarah has expanded her role in the operation by helping as the assistant to the pastor during the service. Reading the lessons, saying the prayers and leading the singing has made the service run smoothly.

Jan Austin has performed like a miracle worker taking care of all of the financial records and getting the reports to council. Then in her spare time, she found a better loan program than we had so now more of the money we collect for the mortgage goes to debt reduction rather than interest.

We have recently been blessed with the addition of Sandy Hunter as our new church pianist. Her talents were obvious from the beginning and she will play an important role in the growth of Hope in the future. Thanks for being with us as our pianist and new member of the congregation.

Once again we are raising funds via the *La Buena Fe Cafe* to help send supplies and medicine with the Benos when they and their son, Dr. Luke head down to Honduras to help the people there. Like always, the quilters once again put aside their quilting long enough to make 100 bags for the Benos to take for the children. This outreach program is one of the most important things we do as a church body to promote the Love of Christ. Sharing our talents and our resources in the name of God to help people less fortunate truly says "Love your neighbor as yourself." In a very substantial way, this shows the people in Honduras, God is real and God loves you.

We continue to "Bless the Bikes." We will be doing another one soon. We will be collecting toys so the American Legion will be able to distribute them to the local children this Christmas season. We will also bring back the Blessing of the Animals. We are bringing back the craft sale organized by the ladies of the church and guided by Beverly Hiscox to raise money for the needy again this year during the Oktoberfest celebration. Because of Covid we couldn't do it last fall. Let's pray this year's results set a new record in funds raised.

Because of Covid we were unable to have the Brasstown Ringers this last Christmas season, but they have promised to be back this year. It will be the first Saturday in December. Please plan now to not only attend this wonderful night of entertainment but to bring a neighbor. It is an excellent way to introduce people to Hope. We want to fill the church and enjoy the Christmas music.

Our local outreach group has continued providing clothes, school supplies, and personal items to the schools and service organizations that need them. We work with *Shoes for Orphan Souls* to provide new shoes for the needy here in the U. S. and around the world. We have provided disposable diapers for young mothers through the Pregnancy Center. The men's group has continued the constant battle of trash pickup along Old Highway 5 and keeping the land and building of the church in good working order.

A new Council will be installed soon. Please continue to pray for them and support them as they go about the job of running the church. Support them by participating in as many of the programs of the church as possible. The more you are involved with church the more benefit you will receive.

God is always with us. He counts on us to do His work. May he continue to bless each of us and let us show His love by helping others.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Buehler,  
Congregation President

and our Hope Council: Frank Quido, vice president; Charlie Brown, secretary; Sybille Bassano, Jim Berman, Julie Deloney, Juanita Littleton, Jordan Pinson, LeRoy Polk, Mark Weber and Pastor Dave Smedley

## 2021 Annual Report of the Pastor

While not much has changed with the COVID-19 pandemic in the country over the course of the past year, we have been able – thanks to the vaccines – to move our life together during that time at Hope Church back to many things approaching what we can call “normal.”

We’re still Zooming our worship service each Sunday and will continue to do that moving into the future, but many of our normal activities – worship, bible studies, craft groups and so on – have thankfully been able to return to in-person gatherings at the church. Starting the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, we were able to move our late service back to its normal 10:45 time slot and our Sunday school class – which has been meeting on Wednesday afternoon via Zoom – has returned to its normal 9:30 time downstairs.

With the protection provided by the vaccines we’ve been able to take the ropes down in our sanctuary, stop having to wear masks (unless we want to) and stop having to safe-distance. For the safety of those who haven’t been able to get vaccinated we recommend they continue to wear masks and not do a lot of hugging.

Of course now everyone has to wrestle with the possibility of getting a booster shot. My life has changed in these last months!

Wayne Buehler in his letter from the Council has done a wonderful job of highlighting many of the things that have comprised our congregational life in the past year – I won’t recap except to say how proud I am of the way all y’all have responded to the many challenges we’ve all been called on to face and how pleased I am to see how important and supportive it’s been for you to keep in touch with one another with your phone calls and your prayers.

Two things stand out for me when I look at our 2021 Membership Report (which follows this report). First is the fact that our membership numbers actually grew in the past year and, second, is the fact that our weekly average of people attending worship (both on Zoom and in-person) grew by 16%. That’s phenomenal! And a true blessing! God has been so good to us all!

When you look at the financial report you notice several amazing things as well. Your financial support of our on-going ministry in the past year is the best it’s ever been! And through a generous gift and our continuing determination to reduce our mortgage debt, we’ve been able to lower our debt to the Mission Investment Fund by \$40,000 this year. Wow!

My greatest joy in these past months has been to watch the great joy on all y’all’s part when you’ve been able to get back together again! We are a community of folks who gather to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That is our calling as Christians!

But we are also a community in Christ who gather to love and support one another and who work to be a blessing to all others in the world! I’m humbled to be a part of this community in Christ along with you. I love to watch how you continuously open your lives up – inviting the Holy Spirit in – and pouring Christ’s love out!

It’s actually been fun in this past year as we’ve had to scratch around to find ways of doing all the new things that help us be able to continue to do all our old things: a drive-through *OctoberFest*, Zoom meetings for everything, working on crafts to get ready for this coming year’s *OctoberFest*, different Sunday bulletins, disposing of communion cups in baskets, wearing masks/not wearing masks, and so on. What I especially love is your good humor and willingness to do whatever is needed to be done that our life together might continue and thrive.

It's kind of hard at this point to know what the next year will be like – it seems with the pandemic we take one step forward and then one step back. No matter!

With our strong, faithful and dedicated lay leadership here at Hope I have no doubt that we will continue to faithfully grow into our calling to be Christ's voice, hands and heart for the people of our world. Please know that I am always here for all of you. Please know how blessed and honored I am to be your pastor.

With the continuing guidance of the Holy Spirit we can take great comfort in remembering always that – *we can do all things – endure all things – through Christ who strengthens us!*

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor David E. Smedley, Jr.

## 2021 Year-Ending Membership Report

Members Received – 09/01/20 – 08/31/21	
By baptism	1
By affirmation of faith	7
By transfer from ELCA congregations	4
By transfer – other Lutheran congregations	0
From non-Lutheran congregations	0
 Total members received this year	 12
 Baptized youth confirmed this year	 0
 Members removed – 09/01/20 – 08/31/21	
By death	2
For other reasons	2
 Total members removed this year	 4
 Membership at 8/31/21	 225
 Average weekly worship at 09/01/20	 117
Average weekly worship at 08/31/21	136
Net percentage increase/decrease	+16%



## **2021 Annual Report of the Treasurer**

Our financial condition begins with us, the members and friends of Hope Lutheran Church. We are blessed and we continue to be generous. In 2021 Hope increased its offerings, kept expenses in line with budget and increased retained earnings. Through “40x60” mortgage offerings and special gifts the mortgage principal was reduced by \$40,000. Additionally \$27,000 of support went to local and worldwide ministries. That's on top of the immeasurable hours given and items donated which can't be captured on our financial statements.

This year we negotiated a mortgage loan modification with Mission Investment Fund for a lower rate and, therefore, lower payment. Hope's direction with the mortgage over the years has been to be as aggressive as reasonable in paying it off. At one point the payment was reduced by \$417 and Council invested the monthly savings to build cash reserves. Once cash was built up, Council directed the \$417 be applied to mortgage principal. With the same philosophy, Council authorized using the \$233 monthly savings from the new payment to reduce principal. The revised budget format distinguishes the interest, principal of the regular payment and the extra principal. The total is the same amount that has been paid for years and the best part is that should “times get tough” we are only obligated for the \$1599 monthly payment. Thanks to Pastor Dave for getting the mortgage process started.

Offerings for 2022 are conservatively budgeted to be less than offerings received for 2021. Budgeted mortgage offerings reflect total interest, regular principal and extra principal. Non-mortgage expenses increase about \$11,000 over last year's budget with 5% increase in Pastor's compensation and increases for worship, pianist, administrative assistant, community outreach, building maintenance and several small amounts. Other Income and Gifts are estimated based on 2021 actual benevolences and fundraising. Amounts received are disbursed to the intended benefactors and are not funded through regular or mortgage offerings. A net cash outflow is projected for 2022 which can be paid from cash reserves, reduced expenses or offerings in excess of budget.

I offer praise and special thanks to Ellen Hancock, Micky Northrup, Jack O'Donovan, Sylvia Negri, Steve Austin and Pastor Dave for all their help. Kudos to Council members for their discerning questions and thoughtful consideration of financial decisions and for always being faithful stewards of Hope's resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Austin  
Treasurer

## **2021 Financial Reports**

The following End-of-Year financial reports will be filed as an Addendum to this Annual Report and presented at the Annual Meeting:

**FY 2021 Balance Sheet**  
as of August 31, 2021

**FY 2021 Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
September 2020 through August 2021

## Proposed Budget FY 2022

### Offerings

4010 · Regular Offerings	200,000
4066 · Offerings for Mortgage Pmt	26,988
8020 · Interest Income	850

<b>Total Offerings and Interest</b>	<b>\$ 227,838</b>
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### Mortgage Disbursements

7210 – Mortgage Interest Expense	9,600
2510 – Mortgage Principal Payment	9,588
2510 – Extra Principal Payment	7,800

<b>Total Mortgage Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 26,988</b>
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### Non-Mortgage Expenses

7010 · Advertising Expense	600
7040 · Mission Support ELCA	14,400
7111 · Pastor's Compensation	72,600
7112 · Pastor's Retirement	8,724
7125 · Pastor's Medical Expense	13,392
7120 · Pastor's Auto Reimbursement	7,500
7130 · Choir Director Compensation	7,900
7131 · Pianist Compensation	9,100
7150 · Administrative Assistant Compensation	17,000
7151 · Hope FICA Contribution Expense	3,114
7190 · Cleaning Services	6,700
7221 · Grounds Maintenance	1,200
7222 · Building Maintenance	4,800
7230 · Utilities	11,496
7240 · Insurance	6,504
7335 · Office Supplies	4,500
7340 · Telephone	1,200
7341 · Internet Access	900
7345 · Postage	240
7350 · Security Monitoring	516
7510 · Conferences	1,200
7610 · Dues & Subscriptions	300
7650 · Education	1,200
7690 · Fellowship	3,996
7691 · Sonshine Committee	600
7700 · Flowers & Altar Supplies	180
7720 · Community Outreach	3,600
7750 · Music	1,500
7760 · Quilting Group	600
7860 · Visiting Pastors	600
7870 · Worship	4,800

<b>Total Non-Mortgage Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 210,962</b>
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<b>Total Disbursements and Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 237,950</b>
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<b>Net Inflow Operations</b>	<b>\$ (10,112)</b>
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**Other Income and Gifts**

4050 · Festival Income and Gifts	2,400
4121 · Food Pantry Gifts	300
4057 · Special Ministries/Scholarship Gifts	600
4125 · Local Outreach Gifts	1,200
4131 · Honduras Gifts	4,500
4220 · Pastor's Discretionary Gifts	1,200
4081 · Designated Benevolence Gifts	1,500

<b>Total Other Income and Gifts</b>	<b>\$ 11,700</b>
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**Other Disbursements**

7020 · Food Pantry	2,700
7890 · Special Ministries/Scholarships	600
7022 · Local Outreach	1,200
7050 · Honduras	4,500
7550 · Pastor's Discretionary	1,200
7560 · Designated Benevolences	1,500

<b>Total Other Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 11,700</b>
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<b>Net Other Income and Gifts</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
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<b>Total Net Inflow</b>	<b>\$ (10,112)</b>
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## **2021 Annual Report of the Covid-19 Task Force**

Hope's faithful COVID-19 Taskforce has been one of the busiest committees at the church since its first meeting at the end of June last year. To date it's met 28 times – many times twice a month. The members of the group are: Steve Austin, Julianne Deloney, Timothy Christensen, Carolyn Clark, Francisco Negri and Pastor Dave Smedley. Dawn Latham served faithfully with the group until she moved to South Carolina earlier this year.

Each week the group receives and reviews a report of the vital COVID-19 statistics for the State of Georgia and our local counties. At its meetings, the group looks at these reports, discusses trends and changes in the COVID-19 landscape, reviews Hope's response protocol to the virus and makes recommendations to Hope's Council about changes they might consider for that protocol moving forward.

The group has done a wonderful job helping lead us through all the chaos and confusion in these past months that the COVID-19 landscape has presented them with. They've helped us to stay healthy as a community and have done a great job of helping us stay in touch with one another.

Many thanks to them for a faithful job well-done!

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Dave Smedley

## **2021 Annual Report of the Nominating Committee**

Faithfully serving on this year's Nominating Committee were Barbara Bell, Barbara Polk, Duane Northrup, Sylvia Negri and Pastor Dave Smedley.

There are four council terms expiring September 26, 2021. Those nominated to serve two-year terms are: Julianne Deloney and Mark Weber who have agreed to serve a second term; and Mike Hoover. Nominated for a one-year term to complete the second year of Juanita Littleton's term of service is Barbara Fail.

Continuing on Council for another year to complete their terms are Sybille Bassano, Jim Berman, Charlie Brown, Wayne Buehler, Jordan Pinson, and LeRoy Polk. Many thanks to Frank Quido who is completing his second term of office and leaving the Council.

Each of the nominees was contacted and has expressed his/her willingness to serve on the Congregational Council.

Respectfully submitted,

The Nominating Committee

## **2021 Annual Report of the Worship and Music Ministry Team**

Worship and Music ministry at Hope Church sure has been different this past year because of the COVID-19 virus! Fortunately, we've continued to utilize the Zoom streaming technology to broadcast our services through Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost and up to the present moment. We will continue to live-broadcast our services even as things return to "normal."

Again, Ellen Hancock and the Christensen family have helped us throughout with all the technical aspects of our broadcasts. There aren't words enough to thank them for all their faithful help! At the 10 AM broadcast – up until recently - Ellen has served as accompanist, worship assistant and lector and – again – has done a wonderful job. Sarah Harbin continued faithfully in her accompanist and assisting minister role at the 8:15 service and picked up her accompanist role at the late service in June until our new church pianist – Sandy Hunter came on board at the beginning of July.

Sandy comes us with a wealth of experience – having served in several churches over the years as church organist, and as the primary teacher and musician in the music department at Woodard Academy in College Park, Georgia for many years. We look forward to enjoying her many talents in the coming years.

Since last October, we've been back to worshipping in-person both at the 8:15 and 10:00 AM services. Until recently, following the guidance of Hope's COVID-19 Taskforce, ropes separating the pews in the sanctuary, the wearing of masks, safe-distancing, and limiting the number of people in the sanctuary, was the order of the day for our worship time together. Because of a steep uptick in COVID-19 cases locally in January and February, we returned to a 10:00 AM Zoom broadcasted service only – no in-house participation.

Once that eased up before Easter, we returned to our earlier protocol for in-person services, and shortly after that – as more and more people were vaccinated – we removed our restrictions on the wearing of masks, safe-distancing and the number of people in the sanctuary. We also took down the ropes. To protect those who for one reason or another had not been vaccinated we asked that they continue to wear masks for their safety.

Even though COVID numbers in the State of Georgia have gone up because of the Delta Variant in July and August, things haven't been bad locally and so we have not changed any of our protocol for worship. We have asked that no food be served at memorial services for the time being and we pushed our *La Buena Fe Café* luncheon back into September.

At the end of August, our string ensemble – *anchored* – helped lead worship on a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday for the first time since early 2020. What a treat! In the near future we hope to start our choir to practicing again that we might return even more to "normal."

Our worship attendance has stayed wonderfully strong all year long – both in-person and on Zoom. As you can see on our membership report, our weekly attendance has actually increased by 16% over the previous year.

Respectfully submitted,

The Worship and Music Ministry Team

## **2021 Annual Report of the Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild is a group of dedicated, behind the scenes members of Hope. The congregation hardly ever sees us in action—particularly in these days of COVID-19 – but we know our efforts are always appreciated!

Some of the duties we perform include baking and storing bread for communion each Sunday; keeping altar supplies stocked, and linens and paraments clean and ready to use on the altar; preparing the altar and sanctuary for our Sunday and special services; making sure our floral displays for the sanctuary and the narthex are fresh and seasonal; keeping our chancel candles filled with oil.

If anyone would like to donate flowers to mark a special occasion or as a memorial, please call Ellen Hancock in the church office or contact any Altar Guild member to make your request. Donors have a choice of bringing your own flowers, or making a contribution to the flower fund and having the Altar Guild obtain fresh flowers for you. We recently had the Hope Quilters make the new white paraments for the altar—given in memory of Gene Caldara (Barbara Polk’s brother) and Priscilla Smith.

If anyone would like to become a member, please contact Ann Buehler or Pastor Dave. Members and their phone numbers are listed below.

In His service,

Ann Buehler,  
For Hope’s Altar Guild

### Altar Guild Members

Ann Buehler: 706-635-7988; cell: 727-642-3268  
Micky Northrup: 706-636-2284;  
June Edgemon: 770-893-1288  
Jim Beno: cell: 706-455-1639  
Barbara Fail: 706-276-6113

## **2021 Annual Report of the Christian Education Team**

Zoom broadcasting has certainly been a lifesaver for us here at Hope Church during the past year. It has allowed us to continue to regularly hold our different bible studies (Tuesday Morning Ellijay Men's, Tuesday Ladies', Wednesday Sunday school, Thursday Afternoon Co-ed and Thursday Morning Jasper Men's) each week without interruption. What's been great in a number of those sessions has been the ability of folks from out of town to be able to join with us for the study and the fellowship!

In the last several months as our COVID protocols have eased up, most of these groups have started gathering here at the church again in-person. Our two men's bible studies still meet on Zoom once a month so our out-of-town guys can still join with us – that's working out well for everybody. We'll probably continue to do that as we move forward.

We had no Confirmation students at Hope this past year.

We continue to make quarterly devotionals available to any in the congregation who would like to have them. Our distribution of bulletins, devotionals, etc in the boxes placed outside the front door worked well for us throughout the year right up until we removed them a few weeks ago. Many thanks to Wayne Buehler for making the beautiful custom-made box that stood on the stand outside for many months.

Our Sunday school class will be returning to in-person learning on Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. Everyone is thankful for Zoom but most anxious to be back face-to-face again. When that happens, our late service will switch from the 10 AM time of these last 18 months back to our "regular" 10:45 AM start of service.

Respectfully submitted,

The Christian Education Team

## **2021 Annual Report of the Fellowship Ministry**

During the last year we have not been able to get together in our usual fellowship ways due to COVID restrictions. Still, in creative ways, our fellowship has taken on new and different forms. Zoom has been our primary fellowship platform during these last months – and the telephone, too.

Through Zoom we've been able to worship weekly, hold Sunday school class and have bible studies meet. Pastor has reached out to us with weekly phone calls, and the phone has been a wonderful anchor for all of us as we've kept in touch with each other as well.

Our Angels of Hope ministry has continued to be a blessing for all among us who have received angel cards reminding us that we're not forgotten and that we're being prayed for. The beautiful part in this is the blessing that comes to both the receiver and the sender of the cards!

Thankfully, we've been able to gather with one another lately (and pray that COVID doesn't cause that to change) and we've been able to have both a men's breakfast and a ladies luncheon – something we haven't been able to do in the last year-and-a-half. Our Ladies get-together in July saw the men of Hope cooking and 50 ladies of Hope able to eat and enjoy one another's company again.

Respectfully submitted,

Sybille Bassano,  
For the Fellowship Committee

## 2021 Annual Report of the Men's Group

Things have been mostly quiet for Hope's Men's Group over the last year. Its most notable activities have been:

- \* The quarterly cleaning of rubbish off of Old Highway 5 South – from the edge of our property up to the new roundabout by Green's Corner. Many thanks to Jeff Lewis and his hardworking crew! It's always amazing how much garbage people throw out of their car windows!

- \* The men actually had a meeting a couple of months ago downstairs in Founders Hall with breakfast cooked, served and eaten. It was great to be back together again!

- \* At the end of July, the men cooked for the Ladies of Hope as they gathered again downstairs for brunch and the making of plans for the craft sale at *OctoberFest* this year (God willing and the creek don't rise). The ladies had a wonderful time and were especially pleased with the attention and service provided them by the men. A second such brunch is planned for the 11<sup>th</sup> of September with the men again doing the honors with the meal!

- \* Last October – because of the stringent COVID-19 restrictions at the time – the Men's Group got creative and still had an *OctoberFest* meal cooked and served for the community. Rather than being held downstairs like usual in Founders Hall though, the meal was served drive-through pick-up style at the front door of the church. It was supported wonderfully by Hope members and others from the larger community –and the funds raised were used to support our community's *Rise Against Hunger Campaign* – adding \$2,000 to the coffers to help with our next packing event.

Our plan is to again hold our *OctoberFest* meal, raffle and craft show downstairs in Founders Hall at the end of October.

We look forward to the great future fellowship we'll enjoy together and to all the good ways the Lord gives us opportunity to serve.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Hope Men's Group

## **2021 Annual Report of the Community Outreach Ministry**

In spite of the restrictions imposed on all of us by COVID-19, Hope's Community Outreach Ministry has remained active. Here's a run-down of our activities:

There was no Diaper Drive in spring of 2021 but Hope Lutheran Church donated \$50.00 on September 1, 2020 to purchase diapers. We are planning a Diaper Drive for spring 2022.

Snack bags for elderly shut-ins have been continuing with no interruptions. 240 bags were taken to the Gilmer Senior Center which they deliver to their *Meal on Wheels* clients. 40 bags each in September, November, January, March, May and July were delivered. The bags include Mac 'n Cheese, 2 fruits, 2 desserts, crackers and a granola bar. Funds came from Thrivent, church benevolence and donations.

On August 21, 2020, the team donated 48 items including t-shirts, leggings, shorts, and sweat pants to the Mountain View Elementary School Closet. On December 14, 2020, new clothes were purchased from Kohl's with a Thrivent card. Items included 25 pants, 13 shirts and 15 pair of underwear. On May 25, 2020, we delivered several pairs of flip flops

The Mountain View School Closet had an exciting year with lots of donations from new member Donna Wren. Donna is a volunteer with her retirement group that gets lots of school supplies and clothes. On September 11, 2020, she supplied four boxes and a large garbage bag full of school supplies, lots of crafts, activity books, lunch boxes, back packs, water bottles, pencil boxes and pouches. Just amazing! On January 2<sup>nd</sup> she added several bags full of miscellaneous clothing items, in May two big boxes of school supplies, and in June nurse supplies, masks, disinfectant and sanitizers. Thank you so much, Donna, and welcome to the Outreach Team!

The Outreach Team is back to having regular in-person meetings! We are looking forward to helping our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Freese,  
For the Community Outreach Team

## **2021 Annual Report of the Evangelism Team**

As with everything this past year, COVID-19 has muted or put on hold many activities here at Hope. We have continued our Blessing of the Bikes program due to the fact that the Blessing is an outside event. This past fall the Blessing was attempted on a rainy Saturday and also the following Saturday to reach more motorcyclists.

This spring the event was held on May 22 with better success weather-wise resulting in many more participants. We will be planning our next Blessing this fall to coincide with the American Legion Christmas Toy Run.

With the generous support of the congregation, we were able again to collect toys for the American Legion's Christmas Toy give-away. This has become a tradition with us here at Hope Church and we look forward to doing it again this coming Christmas season.

We weren't able to have our handbell concert last December as planned, but we've scheduled it for the first weekend of December this year.

We got a little creative last October for our Blessing of the Animals. Usually we have it in-person in front of the church. This past year we couldn't do it because of COVID-19 but we had a Zoom blessing that worked well – all things considered. This year we plan to do it in-person.

After a successful New Member class, Hope has welcomed twelve new members on August 1st. The extended reach of "Zoom" worship and the over-all warmth and welcoming attitude of the Congregation are factors in bringing us these new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Weber,  
For the Evangelism Committee

## **2021 Annual Report of the Property Team**

After a full year of differences in our usual church activities because of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, we've still managed to keep up with needed work on our church property. The following is what has been taken care of for the past year:

- \* New lights in the parking lot
- \* Trees and shrubs trimmed back for the new lights
- \* Air scrubbers on the air condition system; additional work on HVAC units
- \* New panels in ceiling downstairs for better air circulation
- \* Gutters cleaned outside
- \* Signage on Highway 5 cleaned
- \* Replaced all light bulbs in sanctuary that were out
- \* Several boards replaced in the walkway on the west side of the sanctuary
- \* Replaced speaker cloth above the sanctuary
- \* Cleaned soot from the wall over the sanctuary Christ candle
- \* Changed water filters every 3 months.
- \* Jeannine Sieck does a wonderful job maintaining the interior of the church weekly

Respectfully submitted,

The Hope Property Team



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# THE ANCHOR OF HOPE

Anchored in His Word,  
Ministering in His Mountains

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