

*Building Hope
Together*



*Forever
Today
Yesterday*

*Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
January 31, 2010*

...WE HAVE PUT OUR HOPE IN THE LIVING GOD...I TIMOTHY 4:10

Hope Lutheran Church

January 31, 2010 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Including Ministry Reports for 2009

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Agenda

January 31, 2010

Call to Order

Pastor Joel Prayer and Sharing

Reading and Approval of Minutes

President's Remarks

Treasurer Report for 2009

2010 Budget

Lease Opportunity

Good of the Church

Lords Prayer and Adjourn

HOPE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2009 at 12 noon

Call to Order: Pastor Joel opened with prayer.

January Congregational Meeting Minutes:

- Melanie Jones made the motion to waive reading and approve the minutes as presented. Mike Purkiss seconded and the motion passed.

Treasury Report:

- The Treasurer's Report was presented to the congregation and will be filed with these minutes.
- We need to keep an eye on the trend and need to start being a little concerned.
- Steve Harr made a motion to approve the Treasury report as presented. Mark Hill seconded and the motion passed.

Operating Budget:

- AC and Dishwasher have been fixed, but have put pressure on our budget.

Auditing Committee:

- Committee members (Bob Wessa, Scott Rushbrook, and Barbara Hawkins) found no unexplained discrepancies during their audit.
- The committee wants to thank Bob Kuhn and Kathy Still for their efforts.
- The final report will be submitted as soon as signatures are complete.
- Doug Heyerdahl made a motion to accept the report as presented. Melanie Jones seconded and the motion passed.

Election of Officers:

- The Nomination Committee presents the name of Candy Moltz for Pres-Elect. Steve Harr made a motion to close nomination requests. Carolee Juergens seconded and the motion passed. Steve Harr made a motion to accept the nomination of Candy Moltz for Pres-Elect. Mike Purkiss seconded and the motion passed.
- Thanks go out to Hazel Linder and Ron Trygstad for their service on the Council. The Nominating Committee presents the names of Barbara York, Carrie Hamilton, Bryan Pender and Gene Janke to fill the vacancies on the Council. Carolee Juergens made a motion to close nomination requests. Steve Harr seconded and the motion passed. Steve Harr made a motion to accept the nominations. Melanie Jones seconded and the motion passed.
- Names for the Nominating Committee are presented as Margaret Bengtson, Steve Harr, Carol Newman and Janice Wessa. Mike Purkiss made a motion to close nominations. Melanie Jones seconded and the motion passed. Andrew Hill made the motion to accept the nominations. Philip Berthelsen seconded and the motion passed.

Redefinition of Pastor Wendy's Call:

- Basically, as a church, we are calling Pastor Wendy as a missionary with Call, Inc.
- For the second half of this year, the church would owe her \$450 and the rest of her salary would be covered by Call, Inc.

- The Bishop has approved this redefinition of her call.
There is a handout explaining the exact nature of the redefinition. A copy of this will be attached to these minutes.
- Member comment - Pastor Wendy would keep her ordination based on our call. It would not be a new call, just redefines it.
- A new title such as Associate Pastor of Ministry in Daily Life may be used.
Mike Purkiss made a motion to redefine Pastor Wendy's call. Melanie Jones seconded and the motion passed.

Good of the Church:

- Thanks to Judy Knoll for the great food.
- The chime choir expressed their thanks and appreciation to Judy Knoll for leading them the past year and presented her with a gift.
- Member comment – although we don't always see eye to eye, thanks very much to Pastor Wendy for the service and commitment she gives to our church.

Mike Purkiss made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Debbie Rushbrook seconded and the motion passed.

HOPE LUTHERAN SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2009 at 12 noon

Call to Order: Wayne called meeting to order.

Informational Meeting about Financials:

- Slides shown indicate that we are expecting to run a deficit through the first half of the year.
- The budget information for the month of July is the reason for this meeting. Constitution states that a special congregation meeting if the church budget is off by more than 5%, hence the meeting.
- Good news is that August shows some improvement.
- The church continues to be fiscally responsible during this time. June and July shows lower offerings given.
- In January to August: Pledged offering (\$9349) which is 6% less than expected; faith-based offering (\$3938) which is 100% less than expected; expenses (\$5361) which is 3% less than expected so the total was (\$7885) less than expected for the year to now.
- There will be salary adjustments for the time period September to December. Pastor Wendy's salary offset will be \$6752, vacant Music Director will save \$2560, and there is an additional cost for the youth intern which is (\$2941). The net salary adjustments will be a positive amount of \$6371.
- In summary, if the similar conditions continue through to the end of the year, then pledges could be (\$4950) less than expected; faith-based could be (\$2348) less than expected; expenses could be (\$2520) less than expected and the salary adjustments could save \$6371. With that info, projected net income for the remainder of the year would be a positive amount of \$1593.
- The bottom line for the year would be Jan-Aug will be a loss (\$7885) and Sept-Dec could see a positive of \$1593 so this would result in an end of year loss of (\$6292) based on the current situation, which results in about 2% of the budget.

Following comments were offered:

- We had a hard Sunday when the power was off due to the storm.
- What money is set aside for the NT-NL? None, we utilize the 5th Sunday offering.
- Synod decisions were made in January and are not due to recent events.
- We have had to make hard decisions this year.
- How are our missions doing? We have continued to support our missionaries.
- Cuts to the budget were made at the beginning of the year.
- Treasurer states that this is not a cash flow problem, but if it continues, it could be.

Music Director:

- Music Director resigned after August council meeting and we are very sad.
- The August meeting reflected the decisions made from the January meeting where the hours required were cut from 20 hrs/week to 10 hrs/week.
- Bob didn't feel he could do his job well with only that amount of time so he chose to leave

Following discussion and comments:

- It is a terrible loss and we will miss him.
- We thank Cathy P. and Steve H. for stepping up to help.
- Do we need to do something for Bob? Yes, we need to think of this.
- Why was the youth intern position added when it equals Bob's salary? Matt took over Pastor Wendy's position and it added a lot more work for Matt. The decision to bring in an intern was made in March when Pastor Wendy redefined her call. We needed to add someone to help Matt with his additional duties.
- You will be receiving your quarterly statements, please prayerfully review the
- statements and think about additional giving.

Good of the Church:

- Thanks to Judy Knoll for providing the great food...AGAIN!!!
- Folks thoroughly enjoyed the 5th Sunday youth led worship and are really glad that we have musically-gifted people. We are blessed to have a musically-gifted church.
- We will miss Bob, but we are fortunate to have talented people to help.
- Cathy P. asked folks to join the adult choir.
- We are running under lean conditions and hope that everyone prays about the situation.
- Thanks to Wayne for his effort putting this info together.
- Thanks to Pastor Joel for his sermons and his service.

Mike Purkiss made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and the motion passed

Presidents Report for 2009

January 25, 2010

As you all know 2009 brought many changes to Hope Lutheran Church. We changed our relationship with Pastor Wendy, enabling her to devote her time and energies to Call, Inc. We changed our relationship with Matt, giving him an opportunity to grow and expand his abilities by serving as Director of Youth and Ministry Development. We lost the services of Bob Brooks, who had served faithfully, and was a valuable asset to our church. Fortunately, we had Cathy Peterson and Steve Hawkins who volunteered to temporarily fill the void. We also added Zach Poulter as a Youth Intern. That relationship was beneficial to the church and to Zach as we helped in his educational goals.

In an effort to go “Green” and save some money for the church we made two changes. We now offer distribution of our newsletter via email. This saves money on postage, paper, copier expense, and labor. If you have not opted in for email distribution, I urge you to do so. We also streamlined the Bulletin for the same reasons. I know the new bulletin has been an uncomfortable transition for some.

2009 was a difficult budget year. The financial climate of our church reflected the general economy. We were good stewards of our funds and continuously beat our budgeted expenses. As is apparent in the Treasurers Report offerings were lower than anticipated and budgeted. The deficit in 2009 has created some issues for the 2010 budget. This will put pressure on our ability to go forward filling the position of Music Director. A position I feel is important for our church.

I want to thank all the people who have served on Council during 2009. They have tackled many tough issues. In addition, I would like to thank everyone in the congregation for all the things that happen in all the areas of our church. It takes everyone’s contribution small or large to keep our church running.

In Jesus Christ,

Wayne Wooley

2009 Annual Report of Pastor Joel

2009 has been a year of transition: it has been a transition for the ELCA, for the Best Southwest of Dallas and Cedar Hill in particular, and for many of our members, and for Hope's ministry staff. While many of these transitions have been difficult for us we can continue to attest to God's great faithfulness. The storms come. God stays steady.

First of all we have come to some conclusions regarding the ELCA. As policy changed to allow active gay clergy and blessings of same-sex unions the Sexuality issue entered a new phase in the life of the ELCA. The policy change represents a monumental shift as we now have lifted up human decisions above the scriptures, endorsing as acceptable what the scriptures label to be sin. The question that I asked in my last year report, "*Will we hold to the Lutheran watch-word of Sola Scriptura or not?*" has been answered. The ELCA has decided to not uphold Sola Scriptura. I will continue to speak up about this sadness. And I will actively work to reverse it. "*Hear I stand. I can do no other.*"

What will our congregation do? I have been keeping the church abreast of options, have communicated these options, and will continue to do so. We will move methodically, prayerfully, and attentively to the scriptures and what the Holy Spirit is telling us through the scriptures. I thank God that we have been able to remain stable in the midst of such turbulence.

Secondly, the Best Southwest of Dallas is being affected by the gospel through you. Throughout 2009 we spoke of how the church has greater reach than just the local congregation. We have spoken of the *Gathered Church*, the *Domestic Church* (each home is a gathering of believers), the *Vocational Church* (God has placed you where you are for a reason), and the *Out-and-about Church* (the Church of Jesus Christ is on the move!) I rejoice to hear reports of how Jesus is being glorified through his body affecting each of these arenas through members of Hope.

Each of you could write a personal footnote to the above paragraph. The following is my footnote. 1.) I continue with involvement mentioned in the past: regular weekly community prayer, the Mayor's quarterly prayer breakfasts, Fire Department Chaplain, and National Day of Prayer planning. These continue to be rewarding.

2.) We had two services with the Methodist church and once along with Thanksgiving Tabernacle (Thanksgiving and Good Friday). These services remind us that we are part of a bigger church picture. 3.) My family life continues to be a great source of strength and blessing for me.

Thirdly, the economy has had a significant impact on all of us. The *Vocational Church* has gone through a shaking. Many had concerns about their jobs. Some have lost jobs. Some are searching. The markets have affected many people's situation in retirement and anticipation of retirement. All of this has had a noticeable impact at Hope. Here too, nevertheless, we rejoice in God's faithfulness and his solid love and provision.

Fourth. In response to this we have had to adjust and then readjust again in our staffing. Pastor Wendy shifted her job description to largely involve outside the walls of Hope. This helped us to partially deal with shortfalls. Bob Brooks, who has been with us since 2001, took a cut in hours then decided this was not working for him so he resigned. Cathy Peterson picked up significant portions of his job and we have continued on at a high level of ministry quality. Matt Cleaver shifted his responsibilities to pick up part of Pastor Wendy's ministry development job description. We hired a youth intern from John Brown University, Zach Poulter, to pick up part of Matt's earlier job description. (Thank you to the Harrs for Zach's room and board.) These tough decisions and wise responses helped us to rise to the challenges of our new situation. I am thankful to God and proud of the great job done by each person. In addition Karine Samer has adjusted her work patterns to deal with the new situation. Thank you Karine. And other non-paid people have done yeoman's work in their areas. I shouldn't list names here because how do I stop once I start. Nevertheless, as the saying goes, "*Fools rush in...*" Thank you Judy Knoll and Steve Hawkins for doing very significant work in your areas of music. For this we should all be thankful.

How should we move forward given the significant shaking going on around us? If we keep our feet standing on the solid rock, Jesus Christ, we can stand through any storm! By the grace of God we will do this.

Here are some specifics that will help us to do this.

What I said in the last few years is still front and center. "*We will continue to custom build Hope Lutheran Church around individual people's sense of call to know Jesus, follow Jesus, and serve Jesus, continuing to encourage this to happen in the four arenas of church, home, community, and world.*" Custom Building the Church around All People's Unique Calls **is the future of the church. (It is also the church's best past!** This is what the Priesthood of All Believers is about.) WE ARE AHEAD OF THE CURVE and will continue to prayerfully look for ways to release each person into their calling.

Last year I wrote, "*Our Vision will help us to navigate through six important new realities: (1.) The Collapse of the Church Culture, (2.) The Shift from church growth to Kingdom growth, (3.) A new Reformation of releasing God's People, (4.) the return to Spiritual Formation, (5.) The shift from Planning to Preparation, and (6.) the Rise of a new kind of leadership.*"

We are seeing more clearly the reality of (1.) in our attendance. What other churches have been talking about in the last few years (lower church attendance) is now more a part of our experience.

Our "Call Designed" approach to church will continue to help us deal with #s (2.) (3.) (4.) (5.) and (6.) and provide a road through (1.) as we rise above a mere ABC's (attendance/building/cash) measurement system.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."
Matthew 7:24-25

Membership Record for 2009

	Baptized	Confirmed
1. Membership end of 2008	447	329
2. Members received during 2009		
a. By Baptism: Children 15 + under		
Kason Jeffrey Bailey 2/15	1	0
Holly Ann Peterson 3/28	1	0
Alexis Catherine Beasley	1	0
Cole Andrew Roberson	1	0
b. By Baptism: Children 16 + older		0
c. By affirmation of faith		
d. By transfer from ELCA congregations		
Frank Rugari	1	1
Susan Rugari	1	1
LeAnne Rugari	1	0
Addison Chappell	1	0
Erin O'Conner	1	1
e. By transfer from other Lutheran congregations		
f. From non-Lutheran Congregation		
g. From other sources & statistical adjustment		
h. Total members received this year	456	332
3. Baptized youth - confirmed- 2009		
Isabel Bengtson		1
Kaylie Cox		1
Mariah Heyerdahl		1
Holly Peterson		1
Jakob Vitullo		1
4. Total #1,2h in baptiaed column & Total #1, 2h, & 3 in confirmed column	456	337

6. Members removed during 2009

a. By death

Clyde Newman 8/10/09

1

1

Hazel Linder 11/3/09

1

1

b. By transfer to other ELCA congregations

c. By transfer to other Lutheran congregations

d. By release to non-Lutheran congregations

e. For other reasons & statistical adjustment

f. Total members removed this year

6. Membership, end of 2009

454

335

ALTAR GUILD - 2009

Our long-time chairperson, Hazel Linder, went home to her Heavenly Father this past November. She worked hard to leave us with valuable instructions and resources but most of all she has left us with an appreciation for working together to do a job well.

We have dedicated volunteers who prepare for Holy Communion each week, usually with each person responsible for one month. The volunteers generally prefer to furnish the communion bread when they are setting up, however this is not a requirement. Some months are more demanding than others with several changes of paraments and banners, etc. and additional helping hands are always welcome.

We have used artificial flowers for most Sundays this year and appreciate the arrangements that have been donated. A special thank you to all in our congregation who beautified the sanctuary with the purchase of Easter Lilies and Poinsettia plants.

If you would like to serve your congregation as a part of the Altar Guild team, we would love to have you. A personal training session would be scheduled to acquaint you with the various procedures and storage areas.

Barbara York, Chairperson

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS

Karen Driscoll	Melanie Jones
Pat Foster	Brenda Kyle
Carolyn Gibbons	Candy Moltz
Nina Griggs	Valerie Peterson
Donna Hackney	Mary Strand
Lynn Halowec	Brandy Trygstad
Rose Janke	Barbara York

Adult Spiritual Formation and Growth

Hope places a high emphasis on personal spiritual formation and growth by helping all to discern their unique call to know, follow, and serve Jesus Christ. Some of the ways that we did that this year are through:

Adult Sunday School Classes:

1. The church: How to be the church at home, at work, in the world, and gathered as a body of believers – Pastors Joel and Wendy
2. Panera Women's Book Study: Memoirs and *Custom Designed* – Janice Wessa
3. Missions class: A joint class for adults and youth – Erin O'Connor
4. *The Gift of the Blessing* – Candy Moltz
5. *Running with Giants* – Mark Hill
6. *The Shack* – Pastor Joel
7. Other special forums on matters relating to the church: ELCA Churchwide Assembly and potential lease of our facilities, for example.

Special One-time classes, such as Pastor Wendy introducing her book *Custom Designed*.

Other Opportunities:

- Timothy Project Bible Study (Wednesday Eve) Led by Pastor Wendy. Over three years, members will read through the entire Bible, learn an in-depth Bible study method, and learn to hear God speak through the Scriptures using many practices used by Christians through the ages.
- Small (Spiritual Formation) Groups—Each group decides their faith conversation focus, how often they will meet and what type of fellowship they will share. Let Pastor Joel or Matt Cleaver know of your interest.
- Women's Spiritual Growth—The Women's Ministries offers many opportunities for spiritual growth: Faith Circle, Panera Book Study, College Mom's Group and the Women's Retreat
- Mobile Church Library was developed by our librarian Valerie Peterson, and is regularly used by members.
- Devotionals Two devotionals are available to members for daily devotions throughout the year: Daily Texts and Christ in Our Home.

Prayer Ministries: We have a very active email prayer chain (Coordinator is Kathy Longstreet). We also have daily intercessors assigned to each day of the week. We hold an Easter Prayer Vigil every year (Coordinator is Jan Koska). Through out the year, we had Wednesday evening prayer, focusing on listening and even developed one of our classrooms into a prayer chapel.

We continue to place a strong emphasis on helping each other grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. If you would like to know any more about any of these ministries or to develop new opportunities for adult spiritual growth in our congregation, please contact Matt Cleaver.

- Matt Cleaver

Bryan's House ~ 2009

Donations were made to Bryan's House for School supplies only this year. We received no information for Christmas.

Thank you to all made donations.

Brenda Kyle

Call Inc.

Call Incorporated is a Christian non-profit teaching mission dedicated to helping people discover, discern, and “*incorporate*” God's call into all of life. We do this through seminars, retreats, resources, services, and training. Call Inc. is a metaphor for church (Biblical Greek meaning: *called-out-ones*)... calling and bringing together people to continue the work of Jesus now. Some highlights:

- **Seminars and Retreats:** Our event in June was attended by nearly thirty people. Now, our events are attended mostly by people outside of our church.
- **Resources and Books:** My book, **Custom Designed: A Life Worth of the Call** (Tate Publishing) was officially released (to Amazon etc) on September 1. We have three other resource books. Recently, my book and some of our other resources were featured in the Ellis County Living Magazine and the Luther Seminary Stewardship E-newsletter. We even received orders from international contacts. I am available to do book signings or introduce the call message in congregations on Sunday mornings. I welcome any contacts.
- **Networking:** In addition to churches, we are partnering with other organizations that share common ministry interests. We have developed relationships with several other ministries: NTNL Parish Lay Ministry Academy, Association of Lutheran Older Adults, Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, Wappogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, Youth Encounter, Mount Carmel Ministries, Campus Crusade for Christ, Thrivent, Lutheran CORE, and Leadership Network. We have made numerous other contacts as well. Additional contacts are welcome.
- **Website:** Matt Cleaver contributed many volunteer hours to develop a new Call Inc. website. Over time, we are going to be adding several features, aesthetic and informational.

I am very grateful for the following:

Prayers of many... We have a very dedicated prayer team who prays daily for us...

credible! We want Jesus to be Lord and in control of ALL in this endeavor.

Provision of our Lord... the generous and gracious gifts of others... small or larger

Many people who have helped us in many and various creative ways.

Those who have helped with sharing about Call Inc., my book or better yet, the call message with others.

Joel's and my partnership with Steve and Kathy Harr in forming and continuing to develop Call Inc.

I invite you to ...

Give contacts to us

Invest in the ministry of Call Inc. by sharing a gift with us. We are a non-profit organization that is supported by the gifts of individuals, event fees and book sales.

We do not receive funds from Hope.

Attend our events and invite others to do the same.

I hope that you are earnestly seeking and pursuing our Lord's unique call to YOU and you know what it is at this very moment! God is calling everyone... including you!

“Therefore, I am earnestly calling you to live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.” Ephesians 4:1

Pastor Wendy Berthelsen
President of Call Inc.
Pastor of Ministry in Daily Life

Children's Spiritual Growth

This year was a year of transition in our children's Sunday school. After many years of dedicated service to our children, Donna Hackney retired from teaching Godly Play on Sunday mornings. In her absence, two new people stepped up to fill her void at the end of 2009: Cheree Kelli and Holly Bolduc. Godly play is a very creative and visual way to tell Bible stories and to engage in contemplation on those stories. Thank you to Donna Hackney for her many years of loving service to our children. Elizabeth Bockarie and Melanie Jones continue to co-teach the middle and upper elementary classes. Kelly Johnson and Cathy Peterson continue to lead music during the opening of children's Sunday school once a month.

Many others have helped coordinate and volunteer for activities such as Vacation Bible School (Deb Burleson) and the Fall Festival (Judy Knoll and Janie Marjonen) and Sunday morning children sermons (Austin Hill). Thank you to all the many people who desire to grow our children in faith!

- Matt Cleaver

Hope Lutheran Fellowship/Children's Events 2009:

Annual Easter Egg Hunt:

The Hope Lutheran Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Sunday, April 12, 2009, all children ages pre-school through 6th grade were invited to attend and participate in this fun egg hunt including a Easter craft class. The children enjoyed the opportunity to put together a fun Christian craft as a reminder of why we celebrate this joyous occasion!

Vacation Bible School and Mini-Taste of Hope Event:

17 of Gold's children attended the Hope Lutheran Annual VBS program held Sunday – Thursday, June 14-18, 2009! The program was “kicked-off” with a Mini-Taste of Hope picnic meal held on the Church front lawn! A special thanks to Steve and Kathy Harr and John Navarro! This year's theme – The Studio Go Game Show – Go Lead, Risk, Tell, Obey and Serve message was carried out throughout the week. From local community leaders that were invited to participate in the nightly Showcase Service; these leaders included Captain Mo and his firemen from the Cedar Hill Fire Department, our very own Valerie Peterson who spoke to the children about the Cedar Hill Food Pantry; Erin O'Connor who discussed her missionary work abroad; Officer Cooper with the Cedar Hill Police Department and Jamie Huselton with the Tri-City Animal Shelter in Cedar Hill. Kelly Johnson and Cathy Peterson lead and taught the children the wonderful

songs and music, Katelyn Johnson for being the nightly MC and leading the Opening skits, Pastor Joel leading and teaching the Bible stories, Donna Hackney leading the awesome Craft class, Dwight Bengston and Steve Hawkins leading the Games, Carrie Hamilton, Tiffany Roberson and Holly Bolduc leading the Snack portion of the program, and all of the youth and adults who lent a helping hand and donated the many items used.

A special thanks to Janie and Dave Marjonen along with Matt Cleaver and Zach, intern, for all of their assistance.

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Hope Lutheran Annual Picnic and Fall Festivities:

This annual event took place on Sunday, October 25, 2009. Fellowship, food and fun was enjoyed by our Hope family members. Games, prizes and crafts were provided and enjoyed by the children. A special thanks to Judy Knoll and Janie Marjonen for their planning and coordination.

Extending the Kingdom 2009

In 2009 Hope Lutheran Church gave over \$20,000 to specific missions causes, including:

- Briarwood Lutheran Camp
- Bryan's House
- Cedar Hill Food Pantry
- Compassion International
- Missionaries:
 - o Debbie Buenting
 - o Gaultney Family
 - o Gerhardt Family
 - o Texas Lutheran University
 - o NTNL
 - o Lutheran World Relief
 - o Luther Seminary (Matt Cleaver seminary fund)
- Youth Mission Trip

Our church is also active in our community in some of the following ways:

- Cedar Hill Food Pantry (and New 2 You Thrift Store) – Many others volunteer there regularly. Our church has consistently given monetary donations, food donations and volunteer hours.
 - Cedar Hill Fire Department Chaplain – Pastor Joel
 - Crisis Pregnancy Center Volunteer – Bitania Bereket
 - Cedar Hill Transformation Vision Prayer Ministries – Pastors Joel and Wendy
 - Community Building Use – Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts
- YOU! In your personal witness and service our members serve the Lord daily in their families, work, community and world.

- Matt Cleaver

Game Night ~ 2009

Game night was held on the 3rd Saturday of each month, with the exception of New Year's Eve. A great time of fun, food and fellowship was had by all who attended. Thank you to all who participated.

Joe & Brenda Kyle

LIBRARY – 2009

The Hope Lutheran Church Library consists of three mobile library carts. Two are housed in the fellowship corridor and one in the narthex. The position of these carts is rotated frequently to provide a variety of exposure for the books. The collection consists of approximately 600 media items including print books, audio books, DVD s and videos.

Valerie Peterson

Memorial Report ~ 2009

The Memorial Committee, in its 8th year, was lovingly cared for by Hazel Linder for the first ten months of 2009. Hazel with Kathy Harr helped treat to every memorial contribution with loving care and concern for all of this committee's existence. Every family, losing a loved one, received Hazel's & Kathy's loving help in distributing their memorials according to the family's wishes. Hazel truly loved working with the memorials our church received, and she will be so greatly missed.

I ask for your prayers and God's help as I try to carry forward with every special memorial contribution Hope Lutheran Church receives.

In 2009, we received 77 memorial gifts for a total of over \$6,840. We lost two truly beloved church members, Clyde Newman, and Hazel Linder. We received 23 designated contributions to the Altar Guild, one library book placement of "Tear Soup" to our church library and 53 undesignated contributions. These undesignated funds will be distributed per the family's wisher. Your Memorial Committee works with the families and the Pastor as to how these funds may be best utilized.

Memorial Committee:

Nina Griggs

Mark Driscoll

Kathy Harr

Hope Lutheran Church 2009 Music Ministry Report

In 2009, we experienced a significant change in our Music Ministry with the departure of Bob Brookes. Even though this left a hole in our ministry, from both a planning and a leadership perspective, several people stepped up and not only did the program continue on without very many hiccups, we were also able to expand our ministry. Pastor Joel assumed the responsibility of selecting all the music for the Traditional Services.

We saw the development, and really a more expanded use during worship of “Smaller” groups like the Mixed Gospel Choir, The Men’s Group, and the Women’s Group and lots of solos. All of the music for these groups has been selected by Cathy Peterson and she also led these groups (so if you have a complaint go see her.) She has also taken on the roll of selecting music and leading the Adult Choir as well as continuing to serve as our organist, and our accompanist for the Youth Praise Team. Believe it or not, she still has time to hold down a full time job, take care of her family and boss Steve Hawkins around. Seriously, she is a wonderful talent and a wonderful person, and we are so blessed to have her.

And what about that Youth Praise Team!!! Do they know how to jam or what!! In 2009 we were able to twist enough youth arms, and we got this praise team off the ground again. We tried to pick up with the kids where Pastor Joel left off, and it has been a blast. The Youth lead worship service when there is a 5th Sunday, at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services. They have jumped into this ministry with both feet and the support from the congregation has been awesome. I know that they are looking forward to 2010 and the new music that they will introduce to our church family.

“The Queen of the Ding-a-Lings” (I can say that because she knows that I love her with all my heart), keeps those chimers chiming and it seems like every time they play, there’s more and more of them...and that is a great thing!! Judy Knoll has done a fantastic job with the “Chimers” and music that she selects throughout the year is wonderful and always fits the mood of the worship service.

The Adult Praise Team also experienced some change when Pastor Joel made the decision to step out of the team. Thank you Jesus for Pastor Joel and for the direction he has provided to the team for many years now. Steve Hawkins started selecting the music for the praise team and has enjoyed introducing new music to the congregation last year and we look forward to more new music in 2010. Also, we hope to add a new voice to the team very soon. I know that I speak for all of the team when I say that this is our passion and it is indeed a privilege to be able to lead God’s people in worship. What a blessing it has been for us.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Submitted by Steve Hawkins and Cathy Peterson

Mutual Ministries Committee 2009-2010

Drawing upon the perspective of many persons out of the congregation, small sub-teams of people once again completed year-end reviews for each staff person. The Mutual Ministries Committee is a function required by our Constitution. The Council approved the sub-teams. Each sub-team outlined a process, talked to several people from the congregation and completed a review with their respective staff person. The six persons officially on the Committee are underlined below. Additional team members assist them in their work. Each person on the Committee is assigned to one staff position, and essentially operates independently of one another.

Joel Berthelsen Team: Carolee Juergens, Mark Driscoll, Wayne Wooley

Matt Cleaver Team: Margaret Bengtson, Scott Rushbrook, Joel Berthelsen, Eddie Jarrett

Karine Samer Team: Valerie Peterson, Pastor Joel, Barbara York

Music Ministries Review Team: Carl Metzger, Pastor Joel, Candy Moltz

- Matt Cleaver

HOPE LUTHERAN WOMEN--2009

The activities of the women at Hope Lutheran Church are overseen by a leadership team. The co-facilitators are Candy Moltz and Jan Koska. Valerie Peterson is secretary, and Carolyn Gibbons is treasurer. Team meetings are held as needed or at least quarterly. Members of the team stay in communication by e-mail and phone updating decisions as needed. Hope Lutheran Women is a part of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. All confirmed women of the church are members.

Women gathered at Camp Hoblitzelle in March for a retreat. Erin O'Connor was the keynote speaker, and she shared her experiences as a missionary.

In May a Mother Daughter Banquet was held at the church and Carolee Juergens reviewed *The Acorn People* by Ron Jones.

The High Tea this year featured The Lake Highlands Songbirds and 77 women attended. The proceeds of \$1562 were added to the treasury.

In November the women conducted a Thank Offering during Sunday worship. The proceeds of the offering go to the ELCA World Wide Missions Thank Offering.

In December the annual Christmas Brunch was held at Crestview Community Center. Ladies contributed items for a silent auction and \$216 in funds were generated to contribute to the youth of our church. Carolee read a Christmas story.

We continue to support our missionaries. The Gaultney family received \$700, the Gerhardt family was given \$500, and Debbie Buenting was granted \$200. We also contribute to the education of our members. Matt Clever was given \$500, Erin O'Connor was allotted \$250, and Zach Poulter was gifted with \$300.

Faith Circle meets on the second Tuesday of the month for study and fellowship. Carolee Juergens is study leader and Lillian Radke is circle leader. Other regularly scheduled study gathers for women include M and Ms small group and Panera Women's Sunday School.

Valerie Peterson

Youth Ministry

Highlights for the youth ministry from 2009 include:

- Hosting a synod-wide Passing on Faith Conference. In collaboration with other youth directors in our synod, we hosted a conference in February on nurturing spiritual growth in our children and young people, attended by over 100 people from all over our synod.
- Youth Praise Team – Youth led all 5th Sunday worship services in 2009 and will
- continue in 2010. Thank you to Steve Hawkins and Cathy Peterson for their vision and dedication to this ministry.
- Joint Mission Trip to Rogers, AR – Rather than host two separate mission trips, this summer we joined the Jr. High and High School together for one trip. Done in collaboration with Peace Lutheran Church in Rogers, AR and First Baptist Church in Pea Ridge, AR, we were able to provide a cost-effective trip that allowed us to serve others and grow personally. It was a highlight of the year.

Additionally, regular events like Confirmation, Cross-Examination/Remix, Devo Nights, monthly “nights out,” Sunday school, Inner Mission, Maundy Thursday, and more provide a good natural rhythm to our ministry.

Highlights for Matt Cleaver in 2008 include:

- Churchwide Assembly – It was great to be able to be at such an event and cast my vote and have a voice in the churchwide ministry of the ELCA.
- Chair of DiscipleLife Team B – Bishop Kanouse has asked me to chair the team in our synod charged with developing youth and family ministry within our synod.

Seminary – My seminary program has been a great source of encouragement and camaraderie aside from the educational benefits. I have formed great friendships with colleagues in ministry. I took four classes in 2009:

1. Leadership in Youth and Family Ministry
2. Overview of Christian Teaching
3. Children, Youth, and Families in the Church and its Mission
4. Christian History from the New Testament to the Present
5. Ethics I: Intro to Christian Ethics

The breadth and depth of ministry is always impossible to capture in a brief statement on paper. I would love to share with you in person what is going on in my life and the lives of our youth and adults. Feel free to contact me any time to chat. Thank you to the countless people who have dedicated time, money, sweat, homes, love, and prayers to the young people in our church. I hope that we as a church will always seek to discern how the Holy Spirit may be leading and working in the world to build up the Kingdom of God. May it especially be so in the lives of our young people.

- Matt Cleaver

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01/10/10

Accrual Basis

Hope Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2009

Dec 31, 09

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking/Savings	
100 · Prosperity Bank	21,363.57
105 · Fidelity Ultra Brokerage	1,078.71
110 · Mission Plus	10,739.65
120 · Petty cash-church	400.00
125 · Petty cash-youth	300.00
Total Checking/Savings	33,881.93
Total Checking/Savings	33,881.93
Total Current Assets	33,881.93
Fixed Assets	
150 · Building	625,157.86
151 · Building improvements	23,046.75
155 · Equipment	99,923.93
160 · Furniture	17,303.28
165 · Land	86,722.20
Total Fixed Assets	852,154.02
TOTAL ASSETS	886,035.95
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Trade Payables	
290 · Accounts Payable	2,864.60
Total Trade Payables	2,864.60
Total Accounts Payable	2,864.60
Other Current Liabilities	
Designated Funds	
1 Memorials & Honorariums	
Honorarium-Metzger	100.00
Memorial-Newman	5,390.00
Total 1 Memorials & Honorari...	5,490.00
Front sign flowerbed	2,190.00
Powerpoint	200.00
Seminary-Matt	1,260.00
216 · Bereavement	411.42
217 · Ministry development	2,224.32
219 · Council Dsgn-Outreach	351.30
221 · Property	-43.24
222 · Sunday School-Missions	99.33
223 · Peterson Library	42.32
224 · Youth-General	327.18
226 · Youth-Missions	1,049.83
230 · Pleasants fund	600.00
237 · Sound system	583.22
238 · Altar guild	2,195.40
246 · Cedar Hill Food Pantry	160.00
247 · Council	100.19
249 · Lawnmower	1,605.00
253 · Lutheran World Relief	200.00
Total Designated Funds	19,046.27

12:41 PM
01/10/10
Accrual Basis

Hope Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2009

	Dec 31, 09
250 · Payroll Liabilities	2,492.16
Total Other Current Liabilities	21,538.43
Total Current Liabilities	24,403.03
Total Liabilities	24,403.03
Equity	
300 · Opening Bal Equity	873,087.42
Net Income	-11,454.50
Total Equity	861,632.92
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	886,035.95

Fund Report 2009 Year to Date
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	Balance 12/31/08	Added	Used	Balance 12/31/09
Altar guild	\$ 764.14	\$ 1,495.00	\$ 63.74	\$ 2,195.40
Bereavement	\$ 711.42		\$ 300.00	\$ 411.42
Briarwood	\$ -	\$ 493.89	\$ 493.89	\$ -
Bryan's House	\$ -	\$ 172.00	\$ 172.00	\$ -
Cedar Hill food pantry	\$ -	\$ 2,466.00	\$ 2,306.00	\$ 160.00
Copier	\$ 800.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Council	\$ 100.19			\$ 100.19
Council-outreach	\$ 351.30			\$ 351.30
Devotionals	\$ -	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00	\$ -
Front sign flowerbed	\$ 1,230.00	\$ 960.00		\$ 2,190.00
Honararium-Metzger	\$ 100.00			\$ 100.00
Lawnmower	\$ 785.00	820.00		\$ 1,605.00
Library	\$ 55.31		\$ 12.99	\$ 42.32
Lutheran World Relief	\$ -	\$ 1,017.00	\$ 817.00	\$ 200.00
Memorial-Hirt	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ -
Memorial-Newman	\$ -	\$ 5,390.00		\$ 5,390.00
Men's group	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00	\$ -
Ministry development	\$ 2,963.09	\$ 510.95	\$ 1,249.72	\$ 2,224.32
NTNL	\$ 75.00	\$ 459.00	\$ 534.00	\$ -
Pall fund	\$ 600.00			\$ 600.00
Pastor's compensation	\$ 415.00	\$ 1,765.00	\$ 2,180.00	\$ -
Pest control	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Powerpoint	\$ -	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Property	\$ -		\$ 43.24	\$ (43.24)
Seminary-Matt	\$ 4,075.00	\$ 2,235.00	\$ 5,050.00	\$ 1,260.00
Sound system	\$ 839.22		\$ 256.00	\$ 583.22
Staff compensation	\$ -	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	\$ -
Sunday school-missions	\$ 338.86	\$ 194.47	\$ 434.00	\$ 99.33
Texas Lutheran Univ	\$ -	\$ 503.50	\$ 503.50	\$ -
Youth general	\$ 353.02	\$ 2,496.27	\$ 2,522.11	\$ 327.18
Youth mission	\$ 177.13	\$ 4,929.68	\$ 4,056.98	\$ 1,049.83
	\$ 14,833.68	\$ 27,898.76	\$ 23,686.17	\$ 19,046.27

Pastoral Ministry:			
Total Compensation + Benefits	95,404	113,472	111,445
Continuing Education	1,200	1,268	1,400
Travel/Mileage Reimbursement	2,400	2,388	2,300
Conventions	510	460	510
Stipend	1,050	450	225
Total Pastoral Ministry	100,564	118,038	115,880
Administration:			
Office Supplies	1,320	1,354	1,200
Postage	720	903	900
Copier	2,076	3,537	3,708
Telephone	2,124	2,040	2,100
Memberships	140	140	140
Internet	714	522	504
Software upgrades	459	479	500
Workers comp insurance	-	-	-
FICA match-all staff	4,732	5,261	5,024
Background investigations	156	-	42
Synod Convention delegates	640	640	640
Member care cards	60	60	144
Offering envelopes	300	263	430
Council discretionary	0	0	0
Administrative Staff	15,555	13,526	15,786
Total Administration	28,996	28,725	31,118
Property Expenses:			
Maintenance Building	720	831	720
Lawn and Landscaping	600	708	320
Repairs	1,140	1,218	240
Gas and Electric	12,444	13,316	13,440
Water and Refuse	600	496	600
Janitorial Services	4,104	4,101	4,104
Insurance	6,000	5,858	6,360
Other	-	-	-
Total Property	25,608	26,528	25,784
Total Inflows	243,822	248,499	264,410
Total Outflows	243,822	259,953	264,410
Difference	(0)	(11,454)	-

Category Name	2010 Budget	2009 Actual	2009 Budget
Inflows:			
Offerings	207,846	222,172	236,710
Youth designated	15,600	15,600	15,600
Total Pledged/Anticipated Offerings	223,446	237,772	252,310
Prior Year Surplus Carryover	-	-	-
Designated Giving Carryover	-	400	400
Call Inc.	20,256	10,128	10,128
Growth & Faith Based Giving	-	-	1,572
Total Offerings	243,702	248,300	264,410
Interest/investment income (loss)	120	199	-
Interest income and other income	-	-	-
Total inflows	243,822	248,499	264,410
Outflows:			
Missions:			
Call Inc.	20,256	10,128	10,128
Wycliffe - Gaultney	6,000	6,000	6,000
Texas Lutheran	-	-	-
Debbie Buenting	1,000	1,000	1,000
Gerhardts	500	500	500
Cedar Hill Food Pantry	-	-	-
Total Missions	27,756	17,628	17,628
Ministries:			
Hospitality	591	514	593
Building Relationships	1,699	1,206	1,900
Worship and Music	3,350	3,490	4,850
Music compensation	9,640	14,081	14,120
Discipleship Education & Trng	1,000	648	1,200
Extending God's Kingdom	-	-	-
Youth	4,892	4,078	5,300
Youth compensation	39,726	45,017	46,037
Total Ministries	60,898	69,034	74,000
Pastoral Ministry:			
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Janitorial Services	4,104	4,101	4,104
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