



Annual Meeting Informational Packet

Please bring back with you for the May 19th
meeting starting at approximately 11:45am

Contents:

Proposed Agenda, Minutes from the May 20,
2019 meeting, Reports from Pastor Steve, Vicar
Lou, and Paul Goodman, Proposed Ministry
Budget for 2019-20

**Hope Lutheran Church
Bozeman, Montana
Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda
May 19, 2019**

- 1. Call to Order [Joe]**
- 2. Opening Prayer [Vicar Lou]**
- 3. Approval of Secretary for Meeting**
- 4. Approval of May 20, 2018 Minutes of Congregational Meeting**
- 5. Election of Congregational Officers [Joe]**
 - 5.1. President : Joe Kurcinka**
 - 5.2. Vice-President: Cindy Sease**
 - 5.3. Treasurer: Elizabeth Linsky**
- 6. Current Governance Council Members (One year remaining)**
 - 6.1. Cheryl Holm**
 - 6.2. Michael Romeo**
 - 6.3. Jennifer Sonnichsen**
- 7. Election of Governance Council Members (Two-year terms) [Joe]**
 - 7.1. Nigel Waterton**
 - 7.2. Kay Carrier**
 - 7.3. Elizabeth Linsky**
- 8. Election of Christikon Delegates [Joe]**
- 9. Reports**
 - 9.1. Lead Pastor**
 - 9.2. Vicar**
 - 9.3. Director of Youth and Family**
- 10. Approval of the Ministry Plan for 2019-20 [Pete and Elizabeth]**
- 11. New Business**
 - 11.1. Appointed Delegates to the Montana Synod Assembly**
 - 11.2. Other New Business**
- 12. Adjournment and Closing Prayer [Dick Deschamps]**

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, BOZEMAN MONTANA
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, May 20, 2018

A quorum was present and Joe Kurcinka called the meeting to order at 11:47AM. Pastor Steve led the opening prayer.

- Motion made, seconded and passed to approve Kay Carrier as secretary for the meeting and council.
- Motion made to accept the May 21, 2017 congregational meeting minutes, seconded and passed.

Election of Congregational Officers

- Motion made, seconded and approved to elect the following congregational officers:
 - President: Joe Kurcinka
 - Vice-President: Cindy Sease
 - Treasurer: Elizabeth Linsky

Election of Governance Council Members (two-year terms)

- Motion made, seconded and approved to elect the follow Governance Council members (two-year terms):
 - Cheryl Holm
 - Michael Romeo
 - Jennifer Sonnichsen

Election of Governance Council Members (One-year terms)

- Motion made, seconded and approved to elect the following Governance Council members (one-year terms):
 - David Flikkema
 - Greg Regenssheid
 - Nigel Wateron

Reports

- Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the following reports:
 - Pastor Steve Schmidt (attached)
 - Vicar Grant Ragsdale (attached)
 - Paul Goodman, Director of Youth & Family Ministry (attached)
 - Joe added that Vicar Grant's report was well done and that it was great to see his growth this year. He thanked Grant for his time at Hope.

Ministry Plan for 2018-19 (presented by Pete & Elizabeth)

- Joe thanked Pete, Elizabeth & Pastor Steve as well as the members of MRT. He added special thanks to Elizabeth who has enhanced our recording system and reports.
- Joe commented that the budget total reflects modifications and a reduction, but not in services. We are doing a good job managing the budget.
- Motion made, seconded to accept the 2018-19 Ministry Plan and passed unanimously.

New Business

- Update from the Security Task Force
 - 30 people have been trained on de-escalation techniques by the Bozeman police force. Budget items from the building fund have provided locks, shades, walky-talkies and several cameras.
 - There will be another training in the Fall.
- Update from the Centennial Task Force
 - Deb Larson & Darryl Kinion are co-chairs. There are listening sessions planned for ideas and the celebration is tentatively scheduled for October. Pastor Steve added that the past is important as well as looking forward.
- Other New Business
 - There was a question about finances for property maintenance, including weed control and the irrigation system. Joe said there are funds available and Pastor Steve added that the church has \$20,000 from building rent that goes toward supporting building & grounds maintenance.

Closing Prayer (Vicar Grant)

*before closing, he thanked the congregation for his time at Hope. His last day will be August, 12th.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:12PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Carrier, Secretary

Annual Report – 2019

Pastor Stephen R. Schmidt

My report will include four sections this year: Introduction, Past Year, Upcoming Year, and Concluding Comments. For the sections of the “past year” and “upcoming year” I will again use a bulleted list. Please feel free to contact me if you desire more detailed information or clarification on any bullet. The bullets are just in random order.

Introduction

When you read this report, I will have begun my three-month pastoral renewal leave (April 22 – July 20, 2019). This sabbatical had been planned for last year however in March, 2018 I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. This necessitated that I postpone my sabbatical to deal with determining how best to treat the cancer. We elected for surgery at the Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah hospitals. I want to thank the congregation for walking with Joyce and me through the diagnosis, treatment, and recovery. Your prayers, cards, and well-wishes meant so much to me and I thanked God for a congregation that I minister to, would now minister to Joyce and me.

The planning of the Pastoral Renewal Team, our Leadership Team (staff), and Governing Council worked hard to prepare the congregation and me for this pastoral renewal. I am confident that Vicar Lou and others will successfully sustain the life, ministry and mission of Hope during my leave and I look forward to returning renewed, refreshed, and reinvigorated to continue to serve our community as your Lead Pastor.

Past Year

- ❖ Hope continues to serve the larger church by being a teaching congregation for future pastors in our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We welcomed Lou Peters in September. Vicar Lou brings many gifts to parish ministry and has been warmly accepted by the congregation. He is ready to have a unique and valuable experience, that few vicars are afforded, of having expanded responsibilities and learning experiences during my pastoral renewal leave.
- ❖ I continued this past year to serve on the boards of Greater Gallatin United Way, Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSU, and Freedom in Christ. In the coming year, I am scheduled to assume the chair of Freedom in Christ, our synod’s ministry to the inmates and staff at the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge.
- ❖ I also continued to serve as the Dean of the Rocky Mountain Cluster of our Montana Synod. The role of the dean is to be a pastoral extension of the office of the bishop. I plan to step down from this position by fall of 2020 to allow the new Bishop to select a new dean for our cluster.
- ❖ Because of the tragic sudden death of the synod’s vice-president, Tom Gossack, Dick Deschamps was asked by the Bishop to serve as the acting vice-president. Dick was asked and has accepted to stand for election as the Synod’s VP. I thank him for his willingness to share his leadership gifts with our Synod.

- ❖ Our phone app, which we started in 2016, has had 2670 downloads. To date, people have donated \$50,3888 to Hope Lutheran by using this app. The Mission Resource Team set as a goal to have 100 or more giving units using electronic contribution. We are delighted to have met and exceeded this goal and will continue our efforts to grow this number as it has a significant impact on helping level out our revenue stream.
- ❖ With a pastoral renewal leave approaching, I limited my continuing education experiences to a single event. Vicar Lou and I attended the midwinter theological conference held at the Isaak Walton Inn, outside Glacier National Park in Essex, MT. Professor Pat Keifer was the theologian in residence and his presentations were excellent on the theme of “Dwelling in the Word.”
- ❖ On September 23, 2018 we formally kicked off Hope’s Centennial observance with Bishop Crist preaching at our worship services. A “Century of Hope” has been a year-long observance of this milestone in the history of Hope Lutheran. I am grateful to Deb Larson and Darryl Kinion who accepted taking the leadership roles for the planning of our Centennial. Jack Hyyppa created a marvelous painting for our Centennial that is on display in the Gathering Space. Peg Dirckx created the logo for use during our Centennial year and many others have agreed to help in many ways to make sure our “Century of Hope” observance touches as many people as possible.
- ❖ Part of our “Century of Hope” has been a series of videos that highlight a different decade in our past 100 years. These “Decades of Hope” videos have been shown during worship and are available on our website. We remember each decade as we watch historical events and listen to the history of Hope Lutheran that occurred during that decade. Thanks to Paul Goodman, Darryl Kinion and Deb Larson who work very hard on each video. There are also the photo exhibits to partner with these videos that are on display in the gathering space. These have been wonderful additions to our centennial celebration.

Upcoming Year

- ❖ I will return from my pastoral renewal leave on July 20.
- ❖ We will thank Vicar Lou and wish him Godspeed as he completes his pastoral internship with us on Sunday, August 4. There will be a special reception between the two worship services on that Sunday in honor of Vicar Lou. He will be moving to Des Moines, Iowa where this fall he will complete his seminary education and be ready to enter the ELCA’s process for being considered for a call to serve a congregation in 2020.
- ❖ We will welcome Jaime Benson as our new pastoral intern in late August. Vicar Jaime will be attending our annual Family Labor Day Weekend event at Camp Christikon on the Boulder River. We will again be asking the congregation to donate various gift cards that will be part of Jaime’s welcome basket to Bozeman and Hope Lutheran. I look forward to welcoming Jaime and continuing Hope’s service as a teaching congregation preparing future pastors.

- ❖ Mark your calendars now for Sunday, October 6th which will be the festive conclusion to our centennial year observance. We, hopefully, will have the new Bishop of our Montana Synod present with us as our guest preacher at both worship services that Sunday. Our chancel choir will also debut the new composition by Erik Funk that he has written based on a poem by June Safford for our Centennial. A Centennial Dinner is being planned for that evening to be held at the Student Union Building (SUB) at Montana State University. The details for that closing celebration dinner are just now being finalized. Information will be forthcoming on how you can purchase tickets for yourselves and friends for this dinner. Other events are being planned for September which will include a block party.

- ❖ This summer we will continue our Picnics in the Park series; gathering on the second Wednesday of each month in a different park pavilion to share in a cookout and fellowship. Again, this summer we will invite the community to share in these cookouts. If you attend, you are asked to bring a dish to share. The barbecue and drinks will be provided. Plan now to join us on June 12 at Bozeman Pond, on July 10 at Bozeman Beach (East Gallatin Recreation Area), and on August 14 at the Hyalite Reservoir pavilion. More specifics about each of these events will be forthcoming throughout the summer.

Concluding Comments

- ❖ I remain truly thankful for the dedication and work of my colleagues on the Leadership Team: Pete Astrup, Dick Deschamps, Dar Ellingson, Paul Goodman, John Parris, Lou Peters, Jen Poore and Steve Ward. Their counsel and support is deeply appreciated.
- ❖ Our bulletin states that the Ministers of Hope Lutheran are our partners in the life and ministry of Hope Lutheran. Thank you to all those who serve or volunteer in any capacity whether in our programs here at Hope or through our outreach service ministries in the community. We continue to be challenged by not having enough of our “partners” step up to serve in many areas. I often refer to this as “commitment aversion.” Yet the truth is that our ministry and mission cannot be accomplished without folks agreeing to not only financial support our congregation but giving of their time too. Some continuing areas of need for more folks to help are ushers, altar guild, serving in the AV booth on Sundays, welcomers to greet people coming to worship with us on Sundays, coffee hosts for our fellowship time following worship, landscape helpers, and nursery attendants on Sunday mornings. If you can give a few hours in any of these areas please call or talk with Jen Poore in our Church Office.

- ❖ Finally, I cannot conclude this annual report without expressing my sincere appreciation and thanks to my wife, Joyce, who supports me in my ministry here at Hope and beyond. I could not think of doing this work without the support of my partner in life, especially when faced with medical challenges as we both were this past year.

Sincerely in Christ,

Stephen R. Schmidt
Lead Pastor

Annual Report
Vicar Lou Peters
September 2018 – May 2019

Past Year:

- I arrived in Bozeman August 25, 2018, a week before my official start date for internship. I arrived early so I could get a lay of the land and get settled into Bozeman.
- August 31st, I attended family camp at Christikon as my first participation with Hope Lutheran.
- I began working in the Hope office Sept. 3rd.
- I attended the Faith, Science, & Climate Action conference here in Bozeman Oct. 12-13.
- My first Sunday of preaching was October 21st.
- Oct. 29-30 was our fall internship cluster retreat in Seattle, WA. As a part of the Luther internship we are required to attend the two clusters, one in fall and the other in spring, while we are on internship.
- I traveled to Atlanta, GA Nov. 9th-11th to attend the memorial service of Kristin's, my fiancé, father. He passed away in mid-October.
- Nov. 12th-18th my parents and grandparents visited me here in Bozeman. They attended worship on the 18th and we explored Bozeman further.
- I visited my family in Iowa Dec. 3rd-9th. We celebrated Christmas and I was able to spend time with Kristin and our two foreign exchange students.
- I helped organize, lead, and participate in the Hope Lutheran's Chill Weekend Jan. 11th-13th.
- I travelled to and attended January intensive classes in St. Paul, MN at Luther Seminary. Jan. 13th-19th
- March 1st-5th was a Dwelling in the Word seminar held in Essex, MT. The main speaker was a former Luther professor and it was a great opportunity to connect with other pastors and leaders in the Montana Synod.
- My younger brother came to visit Mar. 22nd-30th.
- I helped lead and organize Holy Week (April 4th-21st) and the Wednesday night Lent services that led up to Holy Week.
- April 22nd-26th was the Montana Synod's pastoral retreat at Chico. This was a great opportunity for me to reconnect with other pastors and leaders in Montana. I was able to have some great conversations with pastors from all walks of life.
- May 1st-3rd was the second of my two Internship Cluster retreats in Seattle, WA.

Fuel Fitness

This past fall I decided, with the permission of Pastor Steve and church leadership, to take on a second job. I found a position at the Gym Fuel Fitness on Baxter Lane, north of Bozeman. Although I took on this job to make ends meet with my family it quickly became so much more than just a job. I worked Mondays and occasionally filled in for people who needed their shift covered. Fuel became a community of great people within the larger Bozeman community. I enjoyed the environment and people I worked with and found a great way minister to people in simple ways. I ended this job April 28th so I could focus on my responsibilities here

at Hope while Pastor Steve was on his sabbatical, but this “job” has been a great source of renewal and belonging for my time here in Bozeman.

Luther Classes

I have been taking classes through Luther Seminary’s online Distributed Learner program since I began my internship. Coming into this internship I thought this was the typical practice of interns, but I discovered that there aren’t many interns who take classes while on internship. In order to meet my goal of graduating at the end of 2019 I needed to take at least one class in the fall of 2018 and one and half credits in the spring of 2019. This has consumed a great deal of my time outside of Hope, but I am happy to say that my spring classes have been completed and I am able to give my full attention to Hope Lutheran and my internship for these remaining three months.

Post-Internship

This internship year has been pivotal in my call to ministry for numerous reasons. First, up to this point I had very little experience in the church, let alone a parish. I have been studying and learning for the past three years without much of an opportunity to use the knowledge that I was accumulating. This time at Hope has been amazing to finally be able to use the knowledge I’ve learned and to share my experiences, thoughts, and challenges with others. Another dominant reason this internship has been pivotal is that it has helped me to discern my specific call to ministry. Even though I feel my call is to mission work or international ministry, Hope has taught me vital skills in leading a community of believers. I’ve always felt called to the mission field and Hope has only affirmed this call in the most positive of ways. I am more than excited for what lays before me and I’m ready to be a part of this church and community of believers.

Peace,

Lou Peters
Vicar

Youth and Family Ministry Annual Report 2019

Dear Friends, as of this writing I have had the privilege to be a part of our community for over 9 years. This February will mark the 10th anniversary of my arrival in Bozeman. This afternoon I had lunch with a young woman who was in High school 10 years ago and we were reflecting on how quickly time goes. If the next 10 years are as fun as these past 10 have been I am sure the time will fly! Here's a few new things that I undertook this past year:

Christmas Shop

Pastor Steve and I visited last spring and realized that if we were going to have a Christmas Shop this coming year that someone would need to organize it. This is a ministry that I think is crucial for our community and so I set up a task force to plan and execute this event. We built on the great work that has already been done and instituted some new techniques that were able to bring the Christmas Shop to a new level. We looked at the overall structure of the program and realized that a lot of great systems were in place. We then asked what steps we could make to make the event as fun and welcoming for our guests as possible. We added entertainment, cut down the line dramatically and provided breakfast. We also added a special event on Friday afternoon for 20 students with special needs. We are just starting to have conversations about what we will do this coming December, but I really felt like we were able to take an already incredible event and enhance it for this past year. When all was said and done, nearly 400 people participated in the program. This year we hope to learn from the things we did this past year to make the event even more effective.

Decades of Hope/centennial work

Beginning in September we unveiled a monthly program that we call "Decades of Hope." These 5 minute videos are helping to tell the story of Hope Lutheran's history from 1919 to 2019. Each month we have been focusing on a new decade starting with the 19 teens and moving all the way to one that will air in October that will talk about looking forward into the future. Darryl Kinion helped me on the first 5 and Deb Larson and Clinton Gerst are lending their hands in producing from the 1970's on. This has been a very different project from what I've usually been working on and it's been a lot of fun to put these together. I've learned quite a lot about our history, both on local and national level! I am hoping to compile a longer piece that can be used as a part of our final centennial celebration as well. We will have new videos in May, June, September and October as well as a possible final video that looks forward to the next 100 years.

I am also currently working on putting together a block party that will take place in September as a part of our centennial celebration.

Summer Programs

This past Summer I took a large group of people to Houston, TX for the National Youth Gathering. This was a meaningful week of learning, service and fun. On our service day we spent time working at a community park doing clean up. Our group of youth and adults grew closer to one another and were challenged to think about our faith differently. This summer we look forward to attending a Group Work Camp in Garnett, KS. We currently have 23 youth and adults registered for this event.

Other programs

Overall we had a great program year this past year with regular programs like confirmation, Stepping Stones and Sunday School all going well. I've enjoyed working with Vicar Lou this year and I think that our first communion instruction was the strongest it's been in a long time! Our drama team presented, "Fairy Tale Misfits" this spring and it was a great success.

Looking forward

Focusing on 5th and 6th graders

I was excited to teach a large group of fifth grade students in first communion. I suspect that while our average attendance at Confirmation from October through April this coming year will be lighter than it's been due to small numbers in our current 6th and 7th grade classes, that we will be able to recoup that group within one year. I will be working this summer and early fall to grab the attention of some of our incoming 6th graders and hopefully we can get some of them plugged into our youth drama, youth music and other opportunities so that when Confirmation comes around we already have a core of youth who are excited about it. My hope is that with a little intentional work we can continue to grow our programs, even through the graduation of some of our key leaders in the next couple of years.

Stepping Stones

I've been working with families to try to figure out how to make Stepping Stones more accessible to families. Often this year we've had families who forget about the event and arrive just in time for worship. Beginning this fall we are going to experiment with holding the Stepping Stones events from 11:30-12. My hope is that this will boost attendance for these meaningful events.

Block Party!

We are going to hold a Block party in September as a part of our centennial celebration. This event will include games, food, activities for families, hopefully some inflatable games and more. I am currently assembling a team to make this happen.

Retreats

I am going to use the summer to look over our current fall, winter and summer retreat opportunities and analyze whether they are meeting our needs. I have had a request to add an opportunity to attend camp that is more organized than what we currently offer and so I will be seriously looking at that possibility. Likewise, our experience with the camp that we have worked with forever for our Chill retreat was not as positive as I wanted it to be this year. We may end up using their facility again this winter, as it really is convenient and fun for the most part, but I am also looking at alternate opportunities. Likewise, I am going to be re-looking at our winter ski retreat for college students and considering how we might grow that opportunity to include more people.

I am sure there will be other new and exciting things coming this year as well! All in all I am excited about the possibilities that are in front of us to continue to grow and enhance our offerings in faith formation for all ages. Thank you all for your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted

Paul Goodman

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Hope Lutheran Church

Hope Lutheran Church

2019-20 Allocated Ministry Plan - Proposed

	<u>2018-19</u>		<u>2019-20</u>	
<u>Worship</u>	\$ 269,450	36.3%	\$ 264,581	35.8%
Planning, preparation and presentation of all aspects of worship including sermons, readings and music. Management of sound booth, ushers and readers. Communion preparation and serving. Sanctuary preparation and set up, altar and communion supplies, bulletin and Hope Weekly development and production. Baptism and first communion events and supplies, youth band and choir preparation and performance. Scheduling of substitute pastors.				
<u>Outreach</u>	\$ 159,250	21.4%	\$ 158,279	21.4%
Local mailings, emailing and advertising, Planning, preparation and management for local programs including Christmas Shop, Family Promise, Mobil Soup Kitchen, Interfaith Quilters, Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association. Outside group event scheduling and hosting.				
<u>Faith Formation</u>	\$ 117,800	15.8%	\$ 119,398	16.2%
Christian education program planning, preparation and management for all ages including adult forums, bible study, daily devotionals, Sunday school, vacation bible school, confirmation, family camp and Stepping Stones. New member programs.				
<u>Fellowship</u>	\$ 81,050	10.9%	\$ 81,797	11.1%
Programs, events and activities for all age groups. Planning, preparation and management of youth drama, Chill retreat, summer mission trip, outdoor summer worship, Sr. high events, service plunge, Sunday coffee and treats, various celebrations and meals.				
<u>Community & Synod Missions</u>	\$ 51,850	7.0%	\$ 51,955	7.0%
Financial support for community organizations and the Montana Synod. ELCA annual reporting of church finances, ministries, worship and programs. Preparation for and attendance at Synod assembly and Bishop convocation.				
<u>Pastoral Care</u>	\$ 36,500	4.9%	\$ 36,176	4.9%
Pastoral visits at hospitals, nursing homes and residences. Marriage, bereavement and grief counseling. Card ministry. Stephen ministry support, training and materials. Wedding and funeral support. Home communion.				
<u>MRT/Stewardship</u>	\$ 27,600	3.7%	\$ 26,406	3.6%
Planning, preparation and management of the annual stewardship campaign and communication of finances to members. Monthly giving review. Memorial and Endowment fund tracking and management.				
	\$ 743,500	100.0%	\$ 738,592	100.0%