

Hope Lutheran Church

Nanaimo, BC

2023 Annual Report

February 18, 2024 Annual General Meeting

Hybrid Meeting Conducted In-Person & Via Zoom

Pastor: Terry Richardson

Parish Secretary: Janice Valecourt

Agenda

2023 Annual General Meeting, February 18, 2024

1. Call to Order
2. Appointment of scrutineers
3. Certification of Quorum
4. Opening Prayer

Reports

1. Minutes of 2023 AGM
2. Report of Congregational Council
3. Report of the Pastor
4. Review of Program Committee Activities
 - Continual Learning
 - Fellowship/Membership
 - Property/Landscaping
 - Financial Stewardship
 - Witness and Mission; Quilters
 - Worship
5. Financial Reports for year ending December 31, 2023
6. Auditors' Report for 2023
7. Questions

Business Matters

1. Elections
 - Auditors for 2024
 - Congregational Council
2. Budget for 2024
3. New Business
4. Omnibus Motion of Thanks
5. Closing Prayer
6. Adjournment

Committee reports will not be read out. Time will be allotted for general questions before a motion is made to receive them.

- Anyone wishing to add items to the agenda is requested to do so before the meeting is called to order. Such items will be placed under "New Business."

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Definitions

Governing authority

The Annual General Meeting is a *governance* meeting. It is the highest authority in the congregation and its purpose is to review the past year and ensure that all legal requirements and policy procedures have been observed.

Management authority

Management authority is assigned to the elected Congregational Council. It is the responsibility of the management authority to carry out such operations and programs as are outlined in the budget for the upcoming year.

Reporting

Finances

Audited financial statements will be presented and the congregation will be asked to *adopt* them. Financial statements are a matter of governance accountability.

Other Reports

Reports will be presented and the congregation will be asked to *receive* them. Reports are for information, not for governance accountability.

The Congregational Council will present a summary of its meetings and the deliberative decisions it has taken during the past year. Policy additions or changes will be presented separately for adoption depending on whether they are a matter of governance accountability.

Rules of procedure

The role of the chair

The chair of the meeting is responsible for insuring that respectful order prevails and that the Constitution and Bylaws of the congregation are legally observed in the proceedings.

Questions from the floor

The chair will entertain questions from the floor for the following purposes:

1. To request assistance in participating, eg. hearing issues, etc.
2. To request further information
3. To clarify understanding of a comment or report
4. To raise a point of parliamentary order

All questions or comments must be directed to the chair.

Debate about past actions or between members in attendance will not be permitted. Such matters are the purview of the Congregational Council and not pertinent to a general governance meeting.

Motions from the floor

Any member may make a motion from the floor. Such motions must be pertinent to the matter under discussion. Before a motion can be considered, another member must second it. Once such a motion is seconded, the mover may explain the reason for the motion. Further speaking will be acknowledged until it appears that it is time to vote on the motion. The original mover will be permitted to have the last word. ***The chair recommends that all motions be written out to assist the Secretary in preparing accurate minutes.***

A motion may be amended. The mover must state the intended change to the motion and such a motion must be seconded. Discussion will then move to the amendment *only* until the assembly votes on it. The same rules apply to an amendment as to an original motion. Amendments may not change the intended direction of the original motion. *A friendly amendment* can by-pass such rules if the mover of the original motion is receptive to the change. If the amendment carries, the new wording of the motion will be under consideration. If the amendment fails, the original motion stands.

Rules regarding motions

When the chair declares an end to discussion on a motion, the following options may be exercised:

1. A vote by which the motion is adopted or declined
2. A motion to defer action until a specified time
3. A motion to table the motion until the next AGM.

Motions to defer or to table may include directions to the Congregational Council for certain investigations, reviews, studies, etc., prior to the next time those motions are placed back on the table.

End of the meeting

The meeting will end when the Congregational Council presents an omnibus resolution thanking the past years' participants in all areas of the congregation's governance and management. (The appropriate response to the resolution is usually a standing ovation.)

Gerry Owen & Jan Nilsson
Co-Chairs of the Congregational Council



Photo by David Nenzel

**Annual General Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2023
Hope Lutheran Church, Nanaimo, BC**

1. Call to order @ 11:10 am.
2. Certification of quorum. Two scrutinizers (Linda Harvey via zoom and Carolyn Iles in-person) counted members in attendance and determined that there were more than 30 members (16 via zoom and 25 in-house), which exceeds the requirement for a quorum.
3. Opening Prayer led by Pastor Terry Richardson.

Reports

1. Minutes of the February 2022 AGM

Motion to accept the minutes/moved/seconded/carried.

2. Report of the Congregational Council

Motion to receive the report of the congregational council/moved/seconded/carried.

3. Report of the Pastor

Motion to receive the report of the Pastor/moved/seconded/carried.

4. Review of Program Committee Activities

- a. Continuous Learning
- b. Fellowship/Membership
- c. Property/Landscaping
- d. Financial Stewardship
- e. Witness and Mission
- f. Worship

Motion to receive the reports as submitted/moved/seconded/carried.

5. Financial reports for the year ending December 31, 2022

Gerry Owen recognized the delay in reopening the church for in-service worship, the cost involved in establishing a successful hybrid service, the cost of maintaining the property, and the need to budget for a full-time musician.

Motion to receive the financial report for the year ending December 31, 2022/seconded/moved/carried.

6. Auditors' report for 2022

This year's audit was performed by Rosina Nilsson and Fred Wilke.

7. Questions. There were no questions.

Business Matters

1. Elections

a. Auditors for 2023. Nominations included Rosina Nilsson and Fred Wilke. Glenn was nominated as alternate.

Moved to accept Rosina Nilsson and Fred Wilke as financial auditors and Glenn Harvey as alternate for the year ending December 31, 2023/moved/seconded/accepted.

b. Congregational Council. Volunteers included Bill Fehr.

Moved to accept Bill Fehr for a three year term as a congregational council member/moved/seconded/accepted.

2. Budget for 2023

Gerry Owen asked the congregation to consider voting on three items:

- a. To continue our BC Synod pledge of \$15,000 over the year.
- b. To continue to give \$5,000 towards local giving as the need arises.
- c. Provide the funds to pay for a musician each week.

Moved to adopt the proposed budget for 2023/seconded/moved/carried.

3. New Business. There was no new business.

4. Omnibus Motion of Thanks 2022. The omnibus motion of thanks was read by Peter Clark and Shirley Forwell followed by a standing ovation.

5. Closing Prayer led by Pastor Terry Richardson

6. Adjournment @ 11:42 am.



Photo by David Nenzel

Report of the Congregational Council

2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM), February 18, 2024

Members of Council for 2023 include:

Raymond Schultz, Chairperson
Randi Turner, Secretary
Jan Nilsson, Vice Chair and Financial Stewardship
Gerry Owen, Treasurer
Cynthia Cantelon, Member-at-large
Peter Clark, Member-at-large
Bill Fehr, Member-at-large
Shirley Forwell, Member-at-large
Doug Roszmann, Member-at-large
Audrey Strauss, Member-at-large
Pastor Terry Richardson, Ex-officio

Three members have their terms expiring as of this meeting.

Council met eleven times in 2023, combining the July and August meetings. The standing agenda included reviewing previous minutes, the pastor's report, scheduled governance matters arising from the Policy Handbook, Program Committee reports and the report of the Treasurer. In addition, recommendations from the reports and other new business are discussed as they arise on a monthly basis. The spiritual and physical well-being of the members arises from the Pastor's report and is discussed at each meeting.

The budget is a tool of Council as approved at each AGM. The By-laws of the congregation define the limits and flexibility of the Council in the administration of the budget.

The goals and responsibilities of each Program Committee are defined in the Policy Handbook. Each committee has a Council liaison to facilitate reporting.

On-going issues for Council in the coming year include ways to make our church a welcoming place and reviewing our vision, mission and objectives.

Respectfully Submitted,
Raymond Schultz, Council Chair



Photo by Rebecca Garber

Hope Lutheran Church Annual General Meeting

Pastor's Report — Feb 18, 2024

*Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.'
At once the man was made well, and he took up his
mat and began to walk. John 5:8*

2023 was a year of standing on our feet once again for Hope Lutheran Church. We cared for each other and made new friends in unexpected ways during the pandemic. It was not good to be alone all the time, so we worked with compassion, commitment, technology, confidence, peace, and humour to locate others. Faith and love have us up and walking again. With new worship options, we can always find community. Our *Zoom* techs work hard and *Hybrid* worship is our new normal. We give thanks for *Zoom* techs Gail, Garth, Gerry, Glenn, Jamie, John, Marlis, Sue, and Steven. The Spirit of God has helped us stand and walk in fresh ways.

Some of our folks still use emailed *Worship* resources privately in order to stay strong in faith. The *Tuesday Afternoon Bible study*, *Thursday Morning Hymn Sing*, *Friday Men's group* and *Church Council meetings* have used *Zoom* regularly for fellowship and inspiration.

During 2023 we gathered for worship 55 times. Our average Sunday attendance was 86 (with an average of 44 in the sanctuary and 42 on *Zoom*) which is an increase over the prior year. We gathered at the table of the Lord every Sunday. We rejoiced regularly as musicians John, Cheryl & Pippa played the piano for worship, and sometimes even brass instruments were added by John, Jamie, Marlis & Curt.

We are a growing community of compassion. Our friendliness, welcome, and energy is acknowledged by visitors. We bear witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ in that way. This graciousness draws people into the sanctuary and onto the computer screen. Many visitors found their way to us over the year and we are thankful for the participation of *Shepherd of the Valley congregation* from Comox who have been regular attenders. We also added a few members to Hope Lutheran Church during the year. I am grateful that people feel welcome and want to be part of our congregation.

The seasons of life bring times of grieving when loved ones die. We gathered for the listed Memorial and Funeral services to remember that death is not the end and nothing separates us from the love of God in Christ.

You have been faithful with your offerings and practical support. As a result, we have managed our budget well and maintained all expressions of ministry without anxiety. Thank you. Gifted people volunteered energy to be part of Church Council and Committees. I am very grateful for the support of our retired pastors who have been able to happily provide coverage when I am absent.

Our church secretary and cleaner, as well as our large volunteer team keep the congregation running with gentle grace and good humour. Many volunteers rose to occasions and helped where there was need which has ensured the continuance of worship; education; mission and witness; fellowship; stewardship; and those on the property committee kept the building in good condition and our grounds beautiful.

We look forward to new adventures ahead. Life has changed and so have we. Our joy in God's grace and each other is strong for 2024. We know our priorities and how to adapt in new ways. We are open to the leading of God's Spirit as we stand up and walk together. I am blessed to be your Pastor.

The Lord is with us!
Pastor Terry Richardson

PASTORAL ACTS – 2023

BAPTISMS

ROOYAKKERS, Luke Colton	January 29
BUTT, Kenzie Isabella Marie	May 14
CASHULETTE-MACABANTING, Jay Simon	June 18
SPARROW, John	August 27
LUSSIER, Katia Adeline	October 23

MARRIAGES

CLAUSEN Corrina & PRICE, Rocky	August 3 <i>(in Campbell River)</i>
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NEW MEMBERS

CROSS, Alan	August 6 (Affirmation of Faith)
CROSS, Janel	August 6 (Affirmation of Faith)
DEIGHTON, Rudy	October 29 <i>(Transfer from Zion Lutheran, Stratford, ON)</i>

FUNERALS & MEMORIAL SERVICES

VOSPER, Janice	February 11
REVILLE, Maureen	March 25
CASH, Dave	June 10
SCHWARTZ, Amolina	June 17
LIPPERT, Harry	July 8 <i>(at Bruce, Alberta)</i>
NIELSEN, Johanna	July 25
PENIUUK, Edward	October 7
BUSCHHAUS, Edith	October 18
HALPER, Walter	December 19



Photo by Rebecca Garber

Ministry Through Continuous Learning Annual Report 2023

Mission: *Support and encourage educational opportunities for all members of the church family.*

Members: Carolyn Iles. Shirley Forwell, Council Liaison. We have lost two of the three committee members this past year. More members are required to keep this committee viable.

Educational opportunities are provided by different people. Among the learning opportunities at Hope this past year are the following:

Learning in Worship: Pastor Terry's Sunday Sermons and Wednesday Updates provide us with information and inspiration. Thanks, Pastor Terry.

Sunday School: Only once in the past year have there been children in church on the first Sunday of the month, which is when we provide Sunday School. The Sunday School concept may need to be re-visited.

Personal devotionals: Hope provided paper copies of popular devotionals this past year. Costs continue to rise, though, and it may be time to request that those who can afford to make a donation towards the approximately \$15 subscription price be invited to do so. Special Lenten and Advent devotionals were purchased or, in the case of LAMP, donated. Only half of the devotionals offered were taken home. We did promote the Lutherans Connect devotional which arrives in one's e-mail. These devotions include music, pictures/videos, scripture and commentary. They cover both Advent-Epiphany and Lent. For those able to use the technology, this is a good format for daily devotionals. (note: Our National Church, the ELCIC, has undertaken to print and manage subscriptions for Eternity for Today, our most popular paper devotional, after the US publisher closed.)

Bible Study: Bible study continues on Tuesday afternoons. Using the *Dwelling in the Word* method, the group focuses on the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. This encourages an exchange of ideas and good discussions.

Men's Breakfast Group: The men's breakfast group worked through Jesus and John Wayne, a critical look at the far right evangelical movement in the US. We are currently finishing Don't Bite the Hook by Pemma Chaudri, concerning dealing with conflict and anger. Discussions have revolved around climate change, aboriginal issues, homelessness, local and world politics, and personal spirituality. We have decided to meet weekly for those who are able to and zooming at the same time.

Reconciliation Activities: Continuing Hope's "Journey: Towards Reconciliation" adventure in learning - in September, some of us attended a Cultural Interpretive Tour of Saisutshun (Newcastle Island) with Snuneymuxw Elder and awesome Storyteller Dave Bodaly. Following this interesting adventure, the group discussed some other activities we could explore. The Messenger of Hope newsletter will include articles on the Reconciliation Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Tim was encouraged to arrange other activities, possibly a tour of Departure Bay and/or working with other congregations on this important topic.

Synodical (BC) learning opportunity: A series of monthly webinars presented by "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going" author, Rev. Susan Beaumont, began last year and continues through March of this year. Some of the information has been shared in the monthly newsletter.

Messenger of Hope: Our monthly newsletter is a compilation of information and thoughtful articles which inform and sometimes challenge us. Articles from Witness and Mission, Worship, Learning and Pastor Terry provide most of the content. Please consider submitting ideas/suggestions and articles, as more voices are welcome. Deadline for submission to the church office is usually the Wednesday before the last Friday of the month.

Thanks to those individuals who strive to provide learning opportunities for all of us at Hope Lutheran Church and to all those who keep on learning.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Iles

Ministry Through Fellowship/Membership Annual Report 2023

The Committee consisting of chair, Linda Harvey, Randi Turner, Terry Owen and Diana Musgreave, along with the four Host Teams have had a busy summer and fall. Below, is the synopsis of the year from May to December.

1. May 20/23; Bill Fehr's Reconciliation Service, was followed by a dessert and coffee buffet.
2. June 10/23; Dave Cash's Memorial Service was followed by a dessert and coffee buffet. 199 people attended.
3. June 17/23 was Amolina Schwartz's Memorial Service. A sandwich, dessert and coffee buffet was provided.
4. July 22/23 was our annual Hope Indoor Picnic with 40 in attendance. The church provided hot dogs, buns and drinks while the attendees brought salads and desserts. The sanctuary was set up with tables and chairs.
5. July 25/23; Johanna Nielsen's Memorial Service was followed by a sandwich, dessert, and coffee buffet.
6. The Oktoberfest on Oct. 14th was a huge success. The Oktoberfest was a fund raiser for the Quilters of Hope for their Baby Bundle project and other future projects. The church supplied the meat and sauerkraut, and the rest of the food was provided by volunteers in the congregation. The bill for the church came to less than \$200 for the food that I mentioned above. A bill was submitted. There was also a Silent Auction during the event. Pat and Judy Hyslop were in charge of the auction. A big thank you to them as it was a lot of work. About 70 people attended the dinner. The donations at the door and from the Silent Auction came to about \$2300. Another cheque for \$1000 was received later as well as a few other donations. From those totals, you can see that the evening was indeed a success! People enjoyed themselves too and remarked how happy they were to be able to come. We were blessed to have many helpers. Thank you to all!
7. The Quilters of Hope had their annual Christmas gathering in the form of an afternoon coffee/tea party at Linda's house. We were 8 in number as several stayed home with colds. A new motto for our group. "As much as we would like to see you, please stay home if you are unwell". The afternoon was filled with laughter and stories as well as appetizers and desserts. What a winning combination!
8. December 19/23; A memorial service was held for Walter Halper. The Fellowship Host team arranged for sweets and refreshments.
9. The weekly Zoom Hymn Sing is an arm of Fellowship/Membership. It began at the start of Covid and continues due to its popularity. On the average, there are 20 people participating. Some are from far away; Saskatchewan, Texas and Manitoba. Thank you to Glenn Harvey and Garth & Sue Wedemire for maintaining the program. Lisbeth Scott from Comox hosts the 40 minute show.
10. Another offshoot of Fellowship/Membership is the newly established North End Men's Coffee Break. This happens on Tuesday mornings at a local eatery and has been met with enthusiasm.
11. If you call fellowship "cleaning", well that is what is planned for the new year. Several of us think that we will announce an annual cleaning in the church. We hope for many volunteers within the congregation. Possibly a pot luck lunch will be arranged. (Possibly this will happen before the AGM!)
12. The Fellowship Committee purchased a large 32 cup coffee urn to replace an old damaged one. Also purchased was a 12 cup coffee maker for the Library as church committees as well as the gardeners use this space for coffee time. The old coffee maker was decrepit and unsanitary.

The Fellowship Committee is always looking for people to join our Host Teams. We have 4 teams and need more workers. By having 4 teams, we can rotate the commitments thus spreading out the work. Please consider joining a team as serving with one another creates friendship bonds and a satisfaction of helping others. We have fun too!! Call me: Linda Harvey @ 250-751-1435 with any inquiries.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Harvey (Chair of Fellowship/Membership)

Ministry Through Property/Landscaping Annual Report 2023

The Property committee (including the Gardening Group) had a busy year this year. Our biggest project was the purchasing of a used riding lawnmower and the building of the shed (facetiously referred to as the “Monastery”). This project included the levelling and supplying of a base and the construction of the shed for gardening supplies, lawn mowers, and riding mower. It also required metal for the long-term maintenance-free roofing. The work was done in stages over the year. We send many thanks to Curt Satre for his expertise and assistance with his bobcat and trailer. Other diligent workers were Gerry Owen, Gerry Jacob, John Musgreave, Fred and Carol Wilke.

- Parts of the carpeting that were significantly damaged were replaced. This was thankfully provided by the AA/NA groups who paid for the replacement cost. We have a number of squares still remaining downstairs for future problems.
- We have begun replacing the old fluorescent light fixtures with LED lights that use significantly less electricity. This will continue into the next year. A fixture is planned for the Narthex to improve the lighting.
- Ray Schultz has provided another board for the Memorial board that has been filled up.
- Our water usage was extremely high over the summer. The city determined that there was no leakage from our side. Gerry Owen has a device for monitoring the water usage so this will be monitored over the year.
- The safety inspection of the fire lighting, exits and extinguishers was done by MIFEL (Mid Island Fire Equipment Ltd).
- Over the next year we should consider the upgrading of the parking lot, painting of the inside of the church, and complete the LED replacement.
- Many thanks to Fred Wilke, Gerry Jacob, Gerry Owen, Gary Granke, and Mona Richardson for their volunteer service to the church.

The Hope Gardening group spent many hours on Tuesdays and over the summer keeping our gardens alive, thriving and looking great. We are grateful to Gerry Jacob, Mona Richardson, Gary Granke, Naomi Granke, Dale Perkins, and Randi Turner for their diligence and work on behalf of the church in maintaining our gardens.

Respectfully submitted,
D. Roszmann

Ministry Through Financial Stewardship Annual Report 2023

*Each person should give as they have made up their mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver 2 Cor 9:7.*

This Ministry includes the Treasurer, the Financial Secretary, and any other person(s) Church Council may designate as a liaison. Currently this other person is called Financial Secretary Accounts Payable and takes care of the day-to-day bill payments on behalf of the Treasurer.

In discussion, at one of our more recent council meetings, the council clarified the mandate of our ministry as being, ...to assure the Financial Stewardship of our church and financial assets.

Our Mission statement illustrates Stewardship very well: *To live Christ's teachings and share them with others; to nurture and strengthen spiritual growth to embody Christ in the world.*

Part of good Financial Stewardship is having a solid budgeting process, which also includes regular budget reviews. We might find during the year that our spending and income diverge from our approved budget forecast. With regular budget reviews we can now take measured suitable actions when needed.

Financial Stewardship is one part of stewardship, but stewardship is also our own time and talents. We, as a thriving, caring church, would not function well without the countless unpaid hours volunteered by members of our congregation every year. Many volunteer tasks though, seem to be done by the same people year after year. Our hope is that the Mutual Ministry's survey document will find new volunteers who will step forward this year with their time and talents.

Most people who volunteer find enjoyment and satisfaction by being a volunteer.

In line with Finance/Stewardship's mandate, your team has this year made the following changes to past practices:

- **Donations** - As many donations now are coming through PAR or E-transfers, many church envelopes are not utilized at all. Our next order will therefore be substantially smaller than before.
- **Tax receipts** - Last year many received their tax receipt via e-mail thus saving substantially on postage. We would like to expand this to as many donors as possible.
- **Paying our bills** - in line with our offerings coming through e-transfers and the extreme increase in the cost of printed cheques we would like to reduce the use of cheques and pay our bills through e-transfers.

These changes will save us up to \$500 per year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Nilsson

Financial Secretary and Financial Stewardship Chair

Finance/Stewardship Council rep.

Ministry Through Witness and Mission Annual Report 2023

Mission: *To promote the total ministry of Christ and this church to the world around us and in Nanaimo and surrounding communities.*

Committee members: Audrey Strauss (council rep), Joan Nolting (CLWR), Joan Roszmann (chair), Erika Blakeman and Pastor Terry. Canada Lutheran rep is Cathy Lund.

This committee met the second Wednesday most months in 2023 and encouraged new members to join.

Men's Clothing and Card Drive – Rev. Burdge, chaplain of the Nanaimo Correctional Centre, gratefully received donations of men's winter clothing as well as cards for all occasions.

Praise Appeal Sunday – June 11, with resources from elcic.org and an insert and special envelopes created by Joan Nolting. Purpose of the service is to draw attention to the work of the national church. Donations through offering envelopes: \$635.

Donations received for ELCIC Missions: \$3,250

Used Stamps – continued to be collected and passed to St Paul's Lutheran for providing bibles to prisoners. Country Grocer receipts may also be placed in the container for Clay Tree Society.

CLWR (Canadian Lutheran World Relief) Sunday – was celebrated on September 24th. Joan Nolting prepared a display board, bulletin insert and offering envelopes. John Collett chose appropriate hymns and Pastor Terry highlighted the work in his message.

In addition to an unknown amount of online donations, \$7,129 was donated through the church.

Also, the following CLWR specific donations were received:

Ukraine	\$125
Turkiye/Syria	745
East Africa	540
Sudan	300
Sub-Sahara	300
Refugee Relief	100
Gaza	465
Emergency Food	<u>200</u>
	\$2,775

CLWR Gifts from the Heart -the catalogues were made available to the congregation and advertised in the newsletter.

Baby Bundles – Terry Owen told our committee about the quilting group project to assemble baby bundles, crib size quilts are filled with newborn needs and donated to the Mental Health and Addiction office. Donations received for baby bundles: \$345 and for the quilting group: \$640

Loaves and Fishes – Gary Granke attended a meeting to update the committee on the work of this organization; Carolyn Iles submitted an article to the July newsletter when food donations were low. Their work was highlighted during Advent. Donations for the year came to \$3010.

Island Crisis Care Society – the local organization that supports local unhoused, their work highlighted during Advent. Donations received: \$285

Covenant House - Catholic originated charity organization in downtown Vancouver which provides excellent service to homeless youth. Work of this charity highlighted during Advent. Donations received: \$124.

Canada Lutheran – Cathy Lund facilitated the 13 renewals (down 2 from last year). No extra copies ordered. Thank you for your support through time, talents, and money. New members to this committee are always welcome. We request your prayers as we **witness and serve** in our community, conference, synod, national church, and throughout the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Roszmann, Chairperson

Quilters of Hope Annual Report 2023

Hope Quilters continue to meet every Friday morning from 9:00 to 1:00. We have met for nearly 13 years now and have produced over 1400 quilts over the years. Our numbers vary, at times we can have as many as 17 quilters. This fluctuates as some travel south for the winter or appointments can fall on a Friday! We are a congenial group and invite anyone to join us. Just drop in and see for yourself!

We continue to look for agencies in the Nanaimo area who will accept our quilts. For years we sent our quilts to CLWR who then shipped them to the places of the greatest need. Unfortunately, the CLWR does not accept quilts any longer as the cost of shipping has gone up. Now, they purchase quilts from the countries where the needs are. This, in turn, helps the economy of that country, the workers, as well as the recipients of the quilts.

We have given 6 quilts to Cilaire school to include in Christmas hampers for families of the school who are in need of some support. 15 quilts have been committed to Connective Nanaimo, (formerly called the John Howard Society). They will be given to women who were formerly on the streets or in danger of being on the street, who have completed a program of support and training. They are moving from the supported program into apartments of their own. The Compassion Warehouse, via Lantzville (destination Victoria) will be given 12 or more quilts. They will be shipped in containers to wherever the need is greatest.

Hope Quilters are supplying “baby bundles” to the Mental Health and Addictions agencies for distribution to mothers with babies. There is a great need. The items we add into each bundle include the following and the emphasis is on babies who are aged **0 to 9 months:**

<i>2 sleep sacs or sleepers in 2 sizes</i>	<i>2 onesies in 2 sizes</i>	<i>2 bibs</i>	<i>2 shoulder burp pads</i>
<i>2 knitted or sewn hats</i>	<i>Sweater</i>	<i>2 pairs of socks</i>	<i>4 face wipes</i>
<i>teething toy</i>	<i>baby quilt</i>	<i>2 receiving blankets</i>	<i>Jergens or Ivory soap bar</i>
<i>1 car seat chenille blanket</i>			

Right now, we are in short supply of sleepers, onesies and don't have any sweaters. We are really well stocked with bibs, soap and socks. We are asking the congregation to help us with this project. Please leave any of the above items in the church library. If you would rather, monetary contributions are welcome too. Mark your envelopes “Baby Bundles”.

Thank you for your support in this endeavour.

The quilters also make baby quilts for the children who are baptised at Hope Lutheran. Special lap quilts are made for the infirm and shut-ins who are members or friends of Hope Lutheran. Once again, thank you for your support for our many projects. The Oktoberfest fundraiser was a great success. We so appreciate your willing to help us.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Harvey

Ministry Through Worship Annual Report 2023

Mission: *“Heeding the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to supervise the worship structure at Hope Lutheran Church, in order to offer a full range of services drawn from the many opportunities offered by Lutheran liturgies”*

Members: Flo Bender, Peter Clark, Carolyn Iles, Doug Roszmann, and Pastor Richardson. John Collett is the musician liaison, and Peter Clark is the Council liaison. Meetings have been held in person, once a month, generally on the second or third Thursday of the month.

The Worship Committee is responsible for worship at Hope Lutheran Church. This includes the regular Sunday services, special services, such as memorial services, funerals and weddings. The members support the pastor in his worship work in many ways, through many people.

Hybrid services have been offered throughout the year thanks to the “zoom techs” who operate the cameras, mics, and internet connections that allow us to keep in touch with our members and friends in Nanaimo, around Vancouver Island, and across Canada.

This year, our overall average attendance has been 86 (in-church and on zoom) for 55 services. People come to hear the message, sing the hymns, and experience God’s love. It is the many people behind the scenes that make our worship a warm and welcoming experience. Here are some of the people and groups that prepare and carry out our worship services:

Pastor: Pastor Terry is our spiritual leader. He provides messages that affirm and build our faith on Sunday morning; the Wednesday e-mail update; and through personal interactions. Pastor Terry develops the Sunday Worship flow, selecting liturgy appropriate for the day including prayers, incorporating the hymns selected and including children-times, for the child in all of us. The Home Service which is sent out on Saturday is Pastor’s creation. From this, our secretary Janice Valecourt sets up the weekly bulletin for in-church services. Hope is blessed to have several retired pastors willing to lend a hand with the sermon and worship leadership. These include: Bishop Ray Schultz, Comox’s Pastor Carol Dennison, Pastor Bill Fehr, Pastor Marvin Svingen and Rev. Deborah van der Goes. Our thanks to all these worship leaders for their faithful service.

Zoom hosts and tech support: Our Hybrid service is made possible by these technical wizards: Jamie and Marlis Enders, Sue Grant and Garth Wedemire, Glenn Harvey, John Musgreave, Steven Musgreave, Gail Smith and Gerry Owen. Zoom greeters include Bill and Caroline Fehr and Dorothy Pagan. This year a tech table was built by our resident builder Ray Schultz. This has been a very welcome addition to our Worship area and a good support for our wonderful tech team!

Musicians: Once again John Collett has been our primary musician, for which we give great thanks. John has been the lead hymnologist as well, selecting hymns that relate to the scriptures, and engage the congregation in singing. We welcome back Cheryl Satre, who has played throughout the year, when John is away. Our “back up” musician, Pippa Williams, has been able to play for us occasionally, and we are very grateful for the work of all three of these talented individuals.

Altar Guild: Linda Harvey has been faithfully attending to the many duties of the Altar Guild. She has been assisted on occasion by Randi Turner and Glenn Harvey. Changing paraments, banners, setting up the Advent Wreath and the Christmas Tree are just some of the work of the Altar Guild. A few more willing hands once in a while, would make a big difference to Linda. Please connect with her via phone or e-mail to volunteer. Heartfelt thanks, Linda.

Of special note:

The Seasonal Tree was a wonderful addition to our worship life this year. You may have noticed the evergreen tree in the corner of the sanctuary. The tree is a symbol of “eternal life”. Throughout the church year, Linda changed the decorations making the tree a teaching tool for the “seasons of the church”. The liturgy is divided into several seasons starting with Advent, followed by Christmas, Epiphany, Pre-lent, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time (referred to as Pentecost and Trinity).

There is a tradition of decorating the church during the different seasons: “This heightens the awareness of the festive, solemn, or penitential nature of these seasons.” Throughout the year our minds and hearts have been stimulated by the colors, banners, flowers, light, and paraments in the sanctuary. It is hoped you have been reminded of or became aware of the various church seasons, through the Seasonal Tree in the corner of our sanctuary. Many thanks to Linda Harvey for her work on the Seasonal Tree.

Worship Assistant Schedulers: Thanks to John Musgreave for scheduling the zoom techs and to Shirley Forwell for scheduling the scripture and prayer readers and the ushers. The scheduling of communion people and coffee service people is slowly coming along. Until a few more people are able to volunteer to help, Carolyn Iles will continue to schedule these people. Thank you faithful schedulers.

Worship Assistants: On screen or in the church, those who read the scriptures and prayer add much to our service. In the church, ushers and communion preparers/servers help provide a comfortable and welcoming service, while quietly attending to details most of us do not notice. Please consider offering to help with worship, even once-in-a-while. Heartfelt thanks to those who are able to volunteer.

Thursday Hymn Sing: This popular zoom event enables participants to enjoy hymns old and new, while muted! Thanks to the Hymn Sing leaders, Glenn Harvey and Lisbeth Scott, for providing the technical know-how to zoom, and the interesting information about and selection of the hymns. If you enjoy singing, please consider this worship experience, singing with friends and learning more about the hymns. Thanks to the organizers and all the singers!

Increasing costs: Over the past year several church publishing houses have closed and/or amalgamated. Today, the remaining publishing houses are based in the United States. This has resulted in a significant increase in costs for worship planning materials, weekly bulletins and copyright licenses. We now source out local stores for as many items as possible, such as candles, communion crackers, and books. Another example of adapting to a changing publishing scene is the production of the *Eternity for Today* daily devotional by our

National Church the ELCIC. Hope provides (pays for) 12 copies of this popular devotional at \$15 each. They are picked up by members at the church. (Mailed directly to your home, a subscription costs \$18.56. <https://simplecirc.com/subscribe/eternity-for-today>)

As a committee, we try to keep up with the changing publishing scene. It has been a challenge this year.

A Conference To Keep in your prayers: Mark Your Calendars for the 2024 National Worship Conference. The [2024 National Worship Conference](#) titled '**The Stones Cry Out: Praying with the Land**' will be held on July 18-21, 2024 in beautiful Regina, Saskatchewan. Even YOU could attend this conference!!

In conclusion, worship at Hope Lutheran Church requires the active participation of many people. Please consider how you can help with worship. Even those who are unable to attend in person have a role to play. Your smiling presence on zoom enriches us all, and helps make the worship at Hope a warm and inviting experience.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Iles, Member

OMNIBUS MOTION OF THANKS AGM 2023

- Pastor Terry Richardson, for his commitment, dedication and leadership to all.
- Thank you Pastor Terry for leading the weekly Zoom Bible Study. Another successful learning experience for those near and far. (Comox, Duncan and Winnipeg are some examples)
- Everyone who attends Hope Lutheran Church either in person or on Zoom.
- Those who signed up to wash up after the services and to those who volunteer when needed.
- To Flo Bender and Marilyn Gross for preparing communion and to Carolyn Iles and Terry Owen who help as well.
- All who served on council this year.
- Jan Nilsson, our Financial Secretary for his work in financial recording. Thank you to Joan Nolting for stepping in when Jan is away.
- All the congregational members who provide financial support for our church.
- All donors to CLWR, the Men's Clothing Drive, Samaritan House, Hope Quilters, the Baby Bundles and the Blue Box.
- The Host Teams (setting up, serving & cleaning up) after congregational events – An invaluable service.
- The musicians of Hope whose talent is heard every Sunday: Cheryl Satre, John Collett and Pippa Williams (Christmas Eve).
- All of our retired clergy who step in when needed.
- Cathy Lund for ordering and looking after subscriptions for the Canada Lutheran.
- The members of Hope, who do all things that need doing, at times without recognition.
- To our members who have volunteered through the years, who have stepped back for a variety of reasons. They are missed and very much appreciated by all the members at Hope.
- To Jamie and Marlis Enders for playing musical instruments during the service.
- Rebecca Garber for sharing her writing talents.

- Our secretary, Janice Valecourt and the volunteer secretaries, who keep our office running efficiently.
- To those who fold the weekly church bulletins, thank you.
- Howard Collier, our janitor, who patiently and efficiently works at cleaning the church.
- Shirley Forwell and Carolyn Iles for patiently scheduling and rescheduling worship assistants.
- Carolyn Iles for her constant help and guidance in all situations.
- The Altar Guild: Linda Harvey with Randi Turner's help for changing banners and altar cloths, replacing candles, dusting, flower charting and setting up various items for special services. (Themed Christmas tree).
- Mona Richardson and her gardeners (Randi Turner, Linda Harvey, Gerry Jacob and Gary and Naomi Granke) for their weekly care of the grounds and Memorial Garden at Hope.
- All those who signed up to cut grass.
- Hope Quilters who tirelessly meet every Friday to sew quilts and other items for those in need in the Nanaimo area and some in various other Island locations.
- To those who signed up to count the offering and to those who take the offering to the bank.
- To Jim Ketelsen, Bonnie Law and Randi Turner who do the financial payables monthly.
- To our Treasurer, Gerry Owen. Thank you.
- Hope Men's Group meet every Friday morning to discuss books and important issues. This group has reached out to members and non-members and has provided a safe, nourishing bond between all who attend. Thank you for the monetary support you provide to various causes.
- Mona Richardson who maintains the Memorial Plaque.
- To the Zoom committee who arranges the Zoom service each Sunday: Gerry Owen, Glenn Harvey, John Musgreave, Gail Smith, Steven Musgreave, Marlis & Jamie Enders, Garth Wedemire and Sue Grant.
- The Property Committee and chair of the committee, Doug Roszmann, who work constantly on keeping our property maintained.
- Erika Blakeman for organizing the user group administration and following up on procedures and commitments of the user groups.
- To all the readers every Sunday.
- Doug Roszmann, our Web master. Thank you.
- Jan Nilsson who solves our office computer problems.
- Our Sunday School teachers, Carolyn Iles and Jasmine Lushman.
- To the Fellowship Committee, Linda Harvey, Randi Turner, Diana Musgreave and Terri Owen who organize events, work and recruit people for the Host Teams.
- The ushers and parking lot attendants who help at Memorial services at the beginning of the year.
- Thank you to Gerry Jacob and Shirley Forwell for maintaining our church general supplies.
- Marilyn Gross who checks on and orders our needed supplies and for delivering newsletters and church service handouts to those who can't receive them through the internet.
- All of our committee heads and their members who work on many projects within our church and places far and near. (Witness & Mission, Fellowship & Membership, Continuous Learning, Worship, Property, Mutual Ministry, Finance & Stewardship). Great work!
- Thank you to Glenn Harvey for his role in creating "Hymn Sing" by Zoom every Thursday morning. Participants come from B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and even as far as Texas.
- A thank you to all. If someone has been missed, we apologise.