



# Annual Report 2018

January 27, 2019

Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting

January 27, 2019

Agenda

Welcome Eric McInteer (Council President)

Devotions Pr Lance Ferguson

Meeting Eric McInteer

Quorum

Call to Order

Pastor's Reflection

Parochial Report

Ministry Outlook

Ministry Spending Plan

Voting

Ministry Spending Plan

Council

Synod Assembly

Audit

Closing Eric McInteer

Closing Prayer Pr Lance Ferguson

**Monthly Report**  
**New Members, Baptisms, Confirmation, Funerals and Transfer Out**  
**2018**  
**Annual Meeting –January 27, 2019**

New Members: 3-25-2018: Lonnie & Cheryl Wells, Chad & Sara Sump, Abby Baldwin,  
Joshua & Jennifer Dannelly (Kian, Gavin, Rowan)  
11-11-2018: Tim Schultz, Jaclyn Stambaugh

Baptisms: 2-25-2018 Annabelle Mae Prater  
4-22-2018 Bennett James Thomas Kubes  
9-2-2018 Alivia Jo Baldwin  
11-25-2018 Kenley Anne Vosburg

First Communion: 3-29-2018: Jenna Steen, James Watts, Samuel McInteer, Emelia McInteer

Confirmation: 10-14-2018: Kiana Dostal, Alex Kipper, Peyton Osmond

Funerals: June 9, 2018 Linda K. Gilbertson

Transfers:

Marriages:

Terminated Membership: 7-31-2018 Dirk, Sarah, Brody & Samuel Desmond  
(stat adj)

Tyson, Courtney, Camden & Hudson Barr  
Ralph, Teresa, Adriane, Caleb & Seth Calafiore  
Brad, Peggy & Sophia Breikreutz  
Bobbi & Ben Edwardson  
Dave, Jen, Adrionna, Julius & Trajan Frack  
Ron, Sheryl, Dana & Demi Freeman  
Randy, Amy & Gracie Garton  
Eddy, Lisa, Alayna & Landon Gleason  
Jim & Lonshelle Hamre  
Mike, Jen, Avery, Landry & Mckinley Hiebner  
Josh, Haley, Briggs & Jax Inman  
Dan, Jackie, Brock & Dana Johnson  
Tom, Alison & Matthew Kopplin

Norma Latzel  
Donald, Michele & Alisha Leif  
Caleb, Lacey, Jace & Zoey Maschmann  
Eric & Pearson McDonald  
Carson McNeil  
Kourtnie Lahrs, Andy & Deklan Powell  
Sandene Karen & Glenna McNeil  
Anna Schott  
Lisa & Tregaron Sebek  
Koch Schieler & Wesley Spence  
Andrew, Missy, Camryn & Emersyn Stithem  
Michelle Benson, Mike, Colton & Isabella Wright

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Rouse  
Administrative Assistant

## Pastor's Annual Report

January 27, 2019

Hi everyone,

This past year has been an unusual year for Spirit of Hope. In short, our ministries continue to thrive and impact our community. This is great news. We also had some financial challenges that are difficult to sort out.

First, some ministry highlights, and there are many, too many to capture everything here.

We expanded our worship services this year. Continuing from adding noon worship services during Advent in 2017 we added noon worship services during Lent this year. We also added a third worship service to Easter Sunday as well as to Christmas Eve, which set two attendance records for us at 237 on Easter and 251 on Christmas Eve. All of these are positive signs of some good things going on! It isn't often that you hear about churches adding worship services, in fact what I hear more often are questions about how to roll back the number of services.

We continue to provide lots of shoes for elementary students, lots of meals for hungry people at Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, weekly Meals on Wheels delivery, and contributions to the Lincoln Lutheran Food Pantry. I mentioned this many times but I still enjoy the fact we can throw the Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach notebook on the counter and in a couple of Sundays it's all filled in. No begging, cajoling, yelling, or hissy fits required. You just make it happen.

Lots of quilts go out the door as well as support for the Barnabas Community. Space for scouting groups, not to mention providing space for a couple of youth group trips on their way to service projects in Denver. One interesting note from this outreach is that one of the groups read about our Beer Study and Bible Tasting group in the bulletin and this month started their own Beer Study and Bible Tasting group. Outreach can take many different forms. Women's prayer groups gather on a regular basis, we made Advent trees in a large group, we have active faith formation groups going now for PreK-5 and Middle/Senior High.

There are many wonderful, spirit-filled, God breathed things going on here at Spirit of Hope!

The big issue looming for us is our financial situation and 2018 was a surprise year in that regard. Our expenses were pretty much what we expected throughout the year and our income was trending as it usually does through the first half of the year. Our monthly offerings were pretty nominal if maybe a little low and then they really dropped off in June. That's not terribly unusual as it is pretty common for offerings to drop off in the summer as attendance drops off. We anticipate it (as do most communities of faith) and just ride it out until the fall comes and attendance and offering come back up. Only this year neither happened. We realized this in October when we got the September financials. That event underscored a long term problem of inadvertently using the 'fund balances' for general operating expenses, as we let everyone know about in November and was partly corrected by an infusion of cash from the Prince of Peace property accounts.

Our situation was looking pretty grim but it wasn't time to panic. All of our bills were paid and November and December tend to be our largest giving months. Until they weren't. November turned out to be one of the lowest offering months of the year. That put us into a serious bind and we weren't

sure what to do beyond pray and see what December looked like. I'll be honest enough to say that panic felt like the better option but not surprisingly prayer turned out to be the better choice.

December was a good month financially, maybe a little better than expected in terms of general offerings. What was unexpected is that a family had asked me in November what our financial status was at that time. I discussed with them that it was not great but that November and December are traditionally our better months. But after we got the November financials I spoke with them again and in December this family gave a gracious donation to the church of \$30,000. This was something of a surprise to say the least. Knowing that this community of faith is that important to someone, makes me feel God is truly present in more ways than one at Spirit of Hope.

The upshot for 2018 is that we appeared to finish the year in good shape financially but that appearance is due to the large gift. We have some questions to address structurally in terms of how we approach financial stewardship in the coming year. We've had the same approach toward stewardship for the 8 years I've been here and it has worked reasonably well, trending upward every year while we kept expenses fairly steady. The trending of the last half of 2018 can't continue, of course, so your leadership team is looking for ideas that engage our need and desire to be good stewards without rolling back to earlier years of church history with what amounted to guilt based fundraising. And I say that as a former stewardship committee chair who used guilt based fundraising!

From an expense standpoint we've frozen staff salaries for 2019, we are getting help from our cleaning service, and we've cut our giving to Nebraska Synod. None of these are things we've wanted to do but we can't in good conscience keep our expenses at the same level until we understand what changed in our giving patterns. After looking at individual giving nothing can really be ascertained. It appears some families are giving less but on the other hand some are giving more. This will tend to happen from year to year based on life's curve balls. In the past couple of years we have lost a few families due to moving out of the Lincoln area that did contribute substantially to the church. Undoubtedly this hurts but hopefully we continue to gain membership that can fill that back in.

All that said, there is no doubt that we can and will get through this. This isn't the first time our finances have been a challenge so we'll continue praying for Spirit of Hope and ask that you do, as well. Just know that your leadership team is taking an active role in making certain that we're doing what God is calling us to do.

Personally, I'm looking forward to the next year, challenges and all.

In Christ!

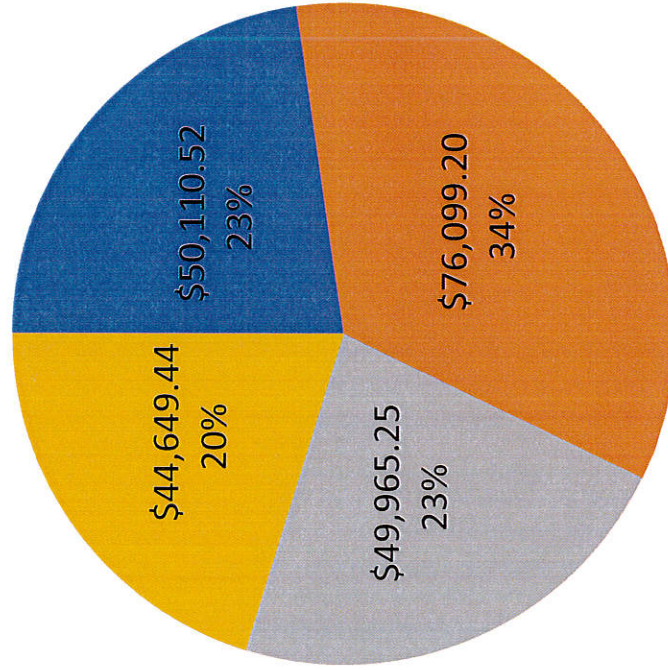
Rev. Lance Ferguson  
Pastor

Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church  
 Ministry Spending Plan - 2019  
 Sunday, January 27, 2019

	2018 (Plan)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Proposed)	Change from 2018 MSP
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Total General Offering	\$ 223,900.00	\$ 253,568.86	\$ 216,000.00	2%
Advent/Lent Offering	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	-15%
Total Miscellaneous Income	\$ 250.00	\$ 474.67	\$ 474.67	-25%
Building Fund Income	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Barnabas Project Income	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Confirmation Outreach Income	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach Income	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	-100%
Kicks for Kids Income	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	22%
Lutheran Disaster Relief Income	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Good Samaritan Income	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Thrivent Choice Income	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Total Faith Formation Ministry Team Income	\$ 550.00	\$ 542.00	\$ 580.00	52%
Total Worship Income	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,262.00	\$ 1,300.00	0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 238,050.00</b>	<b>\$ 258,247.53</b>	<b>\$ 220,754.67</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>				
Total Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 50.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 50.00	0%
Building Fund Expense	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
ELCA NE Synod Mission Share	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,083.40	\$ 1,000.00	-43%
Barnabas Project Expense	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Lincoln Area Mission Cluster	\$ 525.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Confirmation Outreach Expense	\$ 125.00	\$ 9.62	\$ -	0%
Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Kicks for Kids Expense	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	22%
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Good Samaritan Fund Expense	\$ 500.00	\$ 46.09	\$ -	-43%
Total Property Expense	\$ 92,025.00	\$ 97,213.10	\$ 94,592.75	3%
Youth Fund Expense	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Staff/Misc Expense	\$ 100.00	\$ 224.08	\$ 100.00	0%
Total Compensation Expense	\$ 112,848.31	\$ 114,424.35	\$ 111,528.11	0%
Total Faith Formation Ministry Team Expense	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 900.30	\$ 800.00	-2%
Total Hospitality Expense	\$ 600.00	\$ 526.83	\$ 600.00	0%
Total Worship Ministry Team Expense	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 4,087.06	\$ 2,650.00	0%
Total Worship Music	\$ 1,045.26	\$ 1,440.37	\$ 1,550.00	33%
Total Worship Tech Systems	\$ 450.00	\$ 721.20	\$ 550.00	44%
Total Administrative Ministry Team Expense	\$ 9,800.00	\$ 11,127.61	\$ 7,403.54	3%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 243,018.57</b>	<b>\$ 239,810.01</b>	<b>\$ 220,824.40</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ (4,968.57)</b>	<b>\$ 18,437.52</b>	<b>\$ (69.73)</b>	<b>896%</b>

# Spirit of Hope Ministry Spending Plan 2019

- Outreach
- Worship
- Faith Formation
- Admin







SPIRIT OF HOPE  
WELCA  
TREASURER'S REPORT

**1/6/2019**

Balance as of 12/31/2015 810.86

**RECEIPTS**

1/20/16 Fair Trade Items	15.75
2/27/16 Pinterest Party 271.00/Fair Trade 16.50	287.50
3/18/16 Fair Trade Items	33.85
4/23/16 Folts Funeral 200.00/Fair Trade 39.00	239.00
5/14/16 Fair Trade Items	30.75
7/9/16 Fair Trade Items	16.00
8/20/16 Fair Trade Items	37.00
9/11/16 Women of Faith Funds from SOH account	238.86
12/4/16 Thankoffering	594.49
2017 No activity	
10/13/18 Praying w/Art Workshop	140.00
11/10/18 Praying w/Art Workshop (from SOH)	60.00
11/18/18 Thankoffering	261.10
11/27/18 Thankoffering	26.93

**TOTAL RECEIPTS** 1981.23

**DISBURSEMENTS**

1455	2/13/16 Heather Ladman/Pinterest Supplies	109.00
1456	12/30/16 Women of the ELCA/Thankoffering	594.49
1457	4/7/18 Women of the ELCA/Spring Gathering offering	100.00
1458	6/24/18 Katie Bencken/scholarship	200.00
1459	10/6/18 Lora Ferguson/tablecloths	67.42
1460	10/6/18 CWS/Crop Walk	100.00
1461	10/13/18 SOH/Kicks for Kids	100.00
1462	10/27/18 Heather Ladman/Praying w/Art supplies	92.95
1463	1/6/19 Women of ELCA/Thankoffering	288.03

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS** 1651.89

**Balance as of** **1/6/2019** **1140.20**

**Designated Funds:** 10.00 WELCA Scholarship -10.00

**AVAILABLE BALANCE** 1130.20

Sharlene Blaine  
Treasurer

**Spirit of Hope**  
Annual Meeting 2019  
Ballot

**Ministry Spending Plan**

- Approve  
 Disapprove

**Council**

- Frank Ferraro (1<sup>st</sup> 3 yr term)  
 Gary Westerhoff (1<sup>st</sup> 3 yr term)
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**Synod Assembly Rep**

- Loren Frerichs  
 Sandra Frerichs
- 

**Audit Ministry Team**

- Cheryl Wells (3 yr term)
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