

# 2010 Annual Reports

## 2010 President's Report

January 20, 2011

This past year provided many opportunities for growth at Hope Lutheran Church. A well attended Vacation Bible School, community outreach for youth and adults, challenging Sunday school programs for all ages, allowed a variety of settings to grow in faith and mission as Christians. Sharing our facilities with Faith Tabernacle proved our ability to grow, turning into a win for both congregations.

Our budget this year was tight, but everyone worked together to keep costs down and expenditures to a minimum, maximizing our income to meet the needs of the church. Church council member, Gene Janke, discovered that Hope had been charged tax by the energy companies and recovered those funds for Hope, and that significantly helped to balance our 2010 budget. The rent received from Thanksgiving Tabernacle helped our bottom line this year and allowed for a small cushion to carry over to the 2011 budget. Hope's pledges for the next fiscal year were down (simply a sign of the times), and the new budget reflected a frugal approach that did not allow for staff raises nor sadly, the reinstatement of a choir director. Andrew Trites graciously donated his talents this past fall in cooperation with Cathy Peterson and Steve Hawkins to provide our Sunday morning praise and music.

It was a pleasure to work with the thoughtful and dedicated group that comprised the Church Council. Pastor Joel, Matt Cleaver, Dwight Bengston, Carrie Hamilton, Gene Janke, Brandy Trygstad, Barbara York, Brian Pender and Kristine Clark consistently worked to faithfully fulfill their task of leading the church in new directions, protecting our property, and making hard decisions to further the mission of Hope. One important decision was to call a special congregational meeting to vote on the resolution to dissolve our membership in the ELCA with an 88% majority on the first of two mandatory votes. Our Call Driven church allowed all members a myriad of opportunities to meet the needs of our church. We are blessed with so many dedicated members getting God's work accomplished. My heartfelt thanks go to each of the members of Council as we meet the challenges we face at Hope.

I am hopeful for the future of Hope Lutheran Church and the precious relationships we have cherished over the years. As we all work together, let us look forward to the year ahead.

Respectfully and humbly submitted,

Candy Moltz  
President 2010-2011

## ***Pastor Joel Berthelsen 2010 Report***

In 2001 Hope voted to officially become a Call Driven congregation. Over the course of time Hope has been learning what it means to allow the God given call of each member to shape the direction and contour of our ministry. As time goes on, this way of doing church has become more fruitful even as it receives less fanfare. In fact, if we do not highlight the effect of approaching ministry this way we may miss seeing it altogether.

So allow me to point out a few examples of impact this year.

First of all, Doug Heyerdahl told me last spring he had been praying for quite some time about with what ministry and service God wanted him involved. Seeking God's call is, of course, the first step in hearing the call so you can then respond.

After he had been seeking God's call a Cedar Hill resident asked him to consider running for school board. He asked me what I thought. I told him I thought he had the abilities and gifts to be good at this type of service. He then prayed more. Upon praying more he decided God was indeed calling him to this. He ran and won.

God has opened up to one of our members the opportunity to see *kingdom of God ways* incorporated more and more into the community of Cedar Hill through school board policy and directives. We should see this for what it is: one of our members following God's call. It is what we teach about and encourage week-in and week-out: that our call is about all of life, both at church and away from the building. We should understand this as a ministry of Hope as much as being on the church council.

Have you thought about school board service this way? Perhaps you haven't. But you should. Doug entered into it seeking God's leading. Others helped him clarify and discern God's call. This is a great example of the kind of thing we are encouraging at Hope.

Understand this, I point out Doug's service as an example of the kind of thing that happens with other people as well. God is doing the same thing through many others, though often in a less visible way. Nevertheless, it is happening. Again and again it is happening. Rejoice that it is happening. And remember to pray for Doug, as well as others.

It is also happening within our church walls. Look at our music ministry. Everyone knows Cathy Peterson's organ and piano playing is filled with the Spirit. Did you know Steve Hawkins has been choosing music and leading practice for blended and youth services for some time now? He is doing a great job. You sense it in worship as leads the music. This too is call driven ministry.

And look what Judy is doing with music (not to mention her ministry of food! But that is a whole different enchilada!) She has a cross-section of ages in her chime choir playing to the glory of God and with great joy. Remember joy is a mark of the kingdom of God. (Romans 14:17)

And Andrew Trites has been using his choir directing gifts in our midst with great skill and joy.

And this is just the music sector of our church. So much of what happens at Hope happens in this manner. This is reason to rejoice. The priesthood of all believers is alive and well. Don't think that because we have no music committee and have very little money applied to music that we do not have a music ministry. See it for what it is.

And just as I pointed out that what is happening with Doug is happening over and over again, what is happening with our music ministry is happening over and over again at Hope. No one is looking for a lot of fanfare. But we shouldn't lose track of so many people's service because there is little fanfare. See it and rejoice.

These sorts of ministries are the kinds of things that need to be highlighted every-now-and-then at Hope. See it and give God thanks.

Allow me to also mention a few other things significant to this year: pastoral care, teaching ministry, the good stewardship of sharing our building with Thanksgiving Tabernacle and taking care of our facility, and lastly "Hope's Direction."

Pastorally, 2010 was a rotating door at the hospital. Nearly every month I was called there for significant health issues. We were saddened to lose our dear sister Gerry Seefeldt after a courageous fight with cancer. We were grateful a number of other serious situations turned towards health after significant struggles. We are constantly reminded life is fragile. Jesus, who is resurrection itself, is our constant source of hope.

Adult Sunday school included themes of The Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard, "Taking a Look at End-times," "Taking the Anxiety out of Evangelism," and "Called to Be: a look at our God-given Christian Identity." **Growing in our understanding and faith in the scriptures is the most critical growth we can make as a church.** To that end Pastor Wendy hosts a systematic study of the whole scriptures on Wednesday nights called "Timothy Project." I encourage the congregation to take the opportunities offered to you.

Our decision to lease our building to Thanksgiving Tabernacle Bible Fellowship has blessed us financially and spiritually as we have gotten to know and been blessed by other Christians in

our community. The decision to change our second service church worship time from 10:30 AM to 10:00 AM has worked more smoothly than almost anyone would have imagined. We are thankful to God for His provision.

A major theft of our air conditioning system outside the church building prompted us to take action that we have talked about for some time regarding an alarm system for the inside of the building. It is sad we have to do these things to secure our building but reality is reality. We have been prudent in spending some money for this. Thanksgiving Tabernacle paid and pays for half of this expense.

Lastly, I am hoping the distraction of the ELCA decisions will soon be behind us.

In January 010 Bishop Kanouse was invited to Hope to scripturally explain the decisions made at the August 09 Churchwide Assembly. His presentation left more questions than answers so we needed a couple of meetings to look closely at his presentation.

Our synod assembly in May came and went with resolutions to call those August 09 decisions “unconstitutional” gaining little traction. One resolution was not allowed to the floor. And a second (memorial) was changed so thoroughly by a committee that it wouldn’t have mattered if it had passed. Nevertheless, it received about 40% support showing the issue is a concern of many still.

After the April assembly Bishop Kanouse declared the issue behind us and didn’t want to talk about it anymore. I thought about it and prayed through the summer. Then I decided to simply propose we move on. A number of meetings and forums were called labeled Hope’s Direction.

Hope voted January 9<sup>th</sup>, 011 at a margin of 88%, to leave the ELCA. We have decisions yet to make about which Lutheran body we will relate. We also need to vote a second time to leave the ELCA by at least a 2/3 margin. But these ongoing distractions are nearly behind us. I look forward to moving ahead with you, giving more and more energy to the main thing of the church: releasing each member of our church into their God given calling.

May God be glorified! And, may God’s kingdom come! (“**What does this mean?** *God’s kingdom comes indeed without our praying for it, but we ask in this prayer that it may come also to us. **When does this happen?** *God’s kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe his holy Word and live a godly life on earth now and in heaven forever.*” Martin Luther’s Small Catechism on the “Second Petition of the Lord’s Prayer.”)*

Pastor Joel

## **Ministry Reports 2010**

2010 was another great year of ministry at Hope Lutheran Church. It was also a time of rest and pruning as some events and ministries took a break. We continued many of the ministries that have been pillars of our church. Among them are:

- Youth Ministry. Matt Cleaver continued to lead the youth ministry along with a dedicated group of adult volunteers. Confirmation, Sunday school, Soul Emergence, Inner Mission, youth fellowship events, youth praise team, and more comprised the bulk of the youth ministry in 2010. The youth did not go on a mission trip this year but are looking forward to another mission trip in 2011.
- Hope Lutheran Women. The women of Hope continue to meet together regularly for fellowship and Bible Study. As a result of Thrivent no longer offering matching funds for fundraisers, the women did not hold a High Tea in 2010.
- Music Ministry. The music ministry saw a new addition in 2010 with Andrew Trites volunteering to become the Choir Director. We are grateful for his service. Vathy Peterson continues to do a great job on organ and piano. Steve Hawkins puts in much time leading the Adult and Youth Praise teams. And of course there are the many people involved in choir, praise team, and different singing groups. We are grateful for them all sharing their gifts with us.
- Memorials – Nina Griggs, Mark Driscoll, and Karine Samer continued in 2010 to coordinate memorials given in memory of loved ones. They take special care in thanking individuals for these gifts.
- Library. Valerie Peterson continues to administrate the church library to ensure we have a wide range of materials available for spiritual growth and education.
- Game Night. Game night continued to be held on the third Saturday of each month.
- Extending the Kingdom: Hope sent over \$30,000 in 2010 to various missions, including: Call Inc, Briarwood, Cedar Hill Food Pantry, Compassion International, Debbie Buenting, the Gaultney family, the Gerhardts, TLU, Sierra Leone, Lutheran World Relief, Matt Cleaver's seminary fund, and Feed My Starving Children.
- VBS. For the first time this year, Hope partners with Thanksgiving Tabernacle Bible Fellowship and Good Shepherd Church for a joint VBS. With record attendance and participation, it was one of the best VBS weeks in memory. Thank you to Deb Burleson for coordinating VBS and all the many, many adults who gave their time and love to our children.
- Adult Spiritual Formation and Growth. Adult Sunday school classes, small groups, and the Timothy project all continued to grow and mature Hope Lutheran Church in faith. Thank you to all involved in these various ministries.
- Altar Guild. Barbara York continued to lead the Altar Guild in 2010 to provide care in preparing the altar and sanctuary for worship every week. We thank them for their loving service.

**Call Incorporated**  
**www.callinc.org**  
*January 2010*

Built on the essential foundation of Jesus' call to know, follow and uniquely serve Him, **Call Incorporated** is a Christian non-profit teaching mission dedicated to helping people seek, discover and "incorporate" God's call into all of life. **Call Inc.** provides teaching events, resources, training and services to assist in building a life, family, church or organization around the fullness of God's call. The mission was formed in December 2006 by Joel and Wendy Berthelsen, and Steve and Kathy Harr.

In 2010, **Call Inc.** led 7 full call events and 9 introductory events. Several of these events were out-of-town including two staff reunion events at Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp (Amery, WI) and Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp (Milford, IA) for a total of 130 young adults and college age students. Our events were interdenominational in nature including a Baptist university workshop, a Methodist Women's retreat and Thanksgiving Tabernacle Bible Fellowship. A mission church, Crossroads Community Church has enlisted our help in building its existence around the calls of people, taking seriously the essential nature of "call" for the church as prescribed in the Holy Scriptures. We were featured in the Luther Seminary Stewardship email network and Luther Seminary Magazine, **The Story**. We received many orders for resources from all around the world as a result. We have been supported by the donations and volunteer efforts of many. Call Inc. was endorsed by the national Lutheran Core Congregational Life Board (Wendy serves on this board) and Sola Publishing. We are in relationship with such organizations as Campus Crusade for Christ International, Trinity Forum Academy, and Institute of Lutheran Theology who share the essential nature of walking in conformity with Christ and His call in order to live the Christian life.

Upcoming Highlights 2011: We will co-host a family "call" camp with Heartwood Conference Center (Thrivent Financial) and Youth Encounter. Individuals of all ages and families will seek God's call together. We are currently designing activities and materials for this event. We will lead an ALOA Luther hostel in Orlando, FL with senior adults. We will lead a workshop at the national Lutheran Men's Mission gathering in Colorado. We currently have eight events around the country scheduled in 2011. God's call will be the theme of an upcoming issue of **Connections** magazine with three significant articles by our organization in this issue.

Our living Lord Jesus is good and gracious, and to Him be the glory! Jesus is calling you to know, follow and serve Him alone!

*"I, therefore, ... am earnestly calling you to walk in conformity with the calling to which you were called."* Ephesians 4:1

Pastor Wendy Berthelsen  
Mission Pastor and President of Call Inc.  
Pastor of Ministry in Daily Life, Hope Lutheran Church

Membership Record for 2010

<b>1. Membership end of 2009</b>	453	329
<b>2. Members received during 2010</b>		
a. By Baptism: Children 15 + under		
<b>Maximillian David Bolduc</b>		
b. By affirmation of faith	1	0
c. By transfer from ELCA congregations		
<b>Mark Weiss</b>	1	1
<b>Erica Weiss</b>	1	1
<b>Caelan Weiss</b>	1	0
<b>Marcus Weiss</b>	1	0
d. From other sources & statistical adjustment	3	3
e. Total members received this year	461	334
<b>3. Baptized youth - confirmed- 2010</b>		
<b>Ana Berthelsen</b>		1
<b>Steven Conner Hawkins</b>		1
<b>Megan Johnson</b>		1
<b>4. Total in #baptized &amp; confirmed columns</b>	461	334
<b>5. Members removed during 2010</b>		
a. By death		
<b>Gerry Seefeldt</b>	1	1
b. By transfer		
<b>Elizabeth Moore</b>	1	1
c. For other reasons & statistical adjustment(Non-active/moved)	45	28
f. Total members removed this year	47	30
<b>6. Membership, end of 2010</b>		

**Balance Sheet**  
**As of December 31, 2010**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

**Checking/Savings**

**Checking/Savings**

100 - Prosperity Bank	26,195.25
110 - Mission Plus	10,859.54
120 - Petty cash-church	400.00
125 - Petty cash-youth	<u>300.00</u>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>37,754.79</u>

**Total Checking/Savings** 37,754.79

**Other Current Assets**

130 - Prepaid expense	<u>500.00</u>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>500.00</u>

**Total Current Assets** 38,254.79

**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	<u>86,722.20</u>

**Total Fixed Assets** 852,154.02

**TOTAL ASSETS** 890,408.81

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

**Accounts Payable**

**Trade Payables**

290 - Accounts Payable	<u>0.02</u>
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**Total Trade Payables** 0.02

**Total Accounts Payable** 0.02

<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Designated Funds</b>	
<b>1 Memorials &amp; Honorariums</b>	
Memorial-Newman	5,400.00
Memorial-Sheridan	50.00
202 · Memorial-Seefeldt	<u>528.60</u>
<b>Total 1 Memorials &amp; Honorariums</b>	<b>5,978.60</b>
Computer upgrades-maintenance	300.00
Designated-other	7.50
Front sign flowerbed	622.24
216 · Bereavement	411.42
217 · Ministry development	2,241.82
222 · Sunday School-Missions	-6.54
223 · Library	69.08
224 · Youth-General	361.50
226 · Youth-Missions	1,973.23
229 · Gaultneys	500.00
230 · Pleasants fund	600.00
237 · Sound system	1,233.22
238 · Altar guild	2,265.01
246 · Cedar Hill Food Pantry	20.00
247 · Council	100.19
249 · Lawnmower	<u>1,805.00</u>
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>18,482.27</b>
250 · Payroll Liabilities	1,876.02
292 · Deposit	<u>150.00</u>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b><u>20,508.29</u></b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b><u>20,508.31</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>20,508.31</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
300 · Opening Bal Equity	861,642.73
390 · Retained Earnings	9,805.27
Net Income	<u>-1,547.50</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b><u>869,900.50</u></b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>890,408.81</u></b>

<b>Fund Report</b> <b>2010 Year to Date</b>
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	Balance 12/31/09	Added	Used	Balance 12/31/10
Alarm system	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Altar guild	\$ 2,195.40	\$ 413.35	\$ 241.74	\$ 2,367.01
Bereavement	\$ 411.42			\$ 411.42
Briarwood	\$ -	\$ 565.36	\$ 565.36	\$ -
Brush removal	\$ -	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00	\$ -
Cedar Hill food pantry	\$ 160.00	\$ 1,208.00	\$ 1,348.00	\$ 20.00
Computer upgrades	\$ 200.00	\$ 262.50	\$ 162.50	\$ 300.00
Council	\$ 100.19			\$ 100.19
Council-outreach	\$ 351.30			\$ 351.30
Feed my starving childrer	\$ -	\$ 160.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 40.00
Front sign flowerbed	\$ 2,190.00	\$ 520.00	\$ 2,087.76	\$ 622.24
Gaultneys	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Honararium-Metzger	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00	\$ -
Lawnmower	\$ 1,605.00	200.00		\$ 1,805.00
Library	\$ 42.32	\$ 75.00	\$ 48.24	\$ 69.08
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,497.00	\$ 1,697.00	\$ -
Memorial-Englemann	\$ -	\$ 45.00	\$ 45.00	\$ -
Memorial-Newman	\$ 5,390.00	\$ 10.00		\$ 5,400.00
Memorial-Seefeldt	\$ -	\$ 770.00		\$ 770.00
Memorial-Sheridan	\$ -	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00
Ministry development	\$ 2,224.32	\$ 17.50		\$ 2,241.82
Pall fund	\$ 600.00			\$ 600.00
Pastor Christmas	\$ -	\$ 1,872.50	\$ 1,872.50	\$ -
Pest control	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Property	\$ (43.24)	\$ 213.24		\$ 170.00
Seminary-Matt	\$ 1,260.00		\$ 1,260.00	\$ -
Sierra Leone	\$ -	\$ 384.00	\$ 384.00	\$ -
Sound system	\$ 583.22	\$ 775.00		\$ 1,358.22
Staff Christmas	\$ -	\$ 832.50		\$ 832.50
Sunday school-missions	\$ 99.33	\$ 426.13	\$ 456.00	\$ 69.46
TLU	\$ -	\$ 265.00	\$ 265.00	\$ -
Youth general	\$ 327.18	\$ 912.13	\$ 977.81	\$ 261.50
Youth mission	\$ 1,049.83	\$ 883.40		\$ 1,933.23
	\$ 19,046.27	\$ 14,182.61	\$ 12,955.91	\$ 20,272.97