



Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church
2605 S. Signal Butte Rd.
Mesa, Arizona 85209
Reverend Anton W. Scheer

20th Annual Meeting

Sunday February 5, 2023

Meeting Documents

20th Annual Meeting Agenda
February 5, 2023 10:30 AM

1. Welcome and call to order- President Rosemary Brant
2. Open Prayer- Pastor Tony
3. Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes- Rosemary Brant
4. Introduction of the Audit Committee Members- Rosemary Brant
 1. Chris Palmer
 - 2 Sam Small
5. Four nominations for Council this year . We have four spots open. Beginning new 3 year terms are : Rosemary Brant, Barb Kearns, Diane Thompson and Darryl Wilton .
6. Announcing Ministry Team Chairs:
 - a. Youth Ministry and Education – Jackie Shelbourn
 - b. Evangelism- Bonnie Osterman
 - c. Facilities- Carl McCoy
 - d. Outreach- Debbie Snyder
 - e. Stewardship- Sam Small
 - f. Worship- Linda Wilcox
7. 2022 Financial Review and Proposed Budget for 2023- Rosemary Brant and Mary Beth Bracken
8. Reflections on 2022 and hopes for 2023- Pastor Tony
9. Motion for adjournment
10. Close meeting with *The Lord's Prayer*

**19 th ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, February 6 th , 2022 @ 10:30
MINUTES**

1. President Duane Gilson welcomed us and called the meeting to order.
2. Pastor Tony opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. Mike Snyder moved to accept the minutes from the 2021 annual meeting. Butch

Schleicher seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Duane introduced the Audit Committee of Chris Palmer, Brian Bracken and Allen Thompson. During the year they met and offered suggestions that would help the council follow the Synod Constitution.
5. There were no nominations from the floor for council candidates. Mary Beth Bracken nominated Karen Torgersen for Council. Deb Kravec seconded the motion. Motion passed. Duane nominated himself for council. Karen Torgerson moved to accept his nomination. Chris Palmer seconded the motion. Motion Passed.
6. Ministry Team Chairs:
 - a. Youth and children education ministry—Karen Torgersen (Nite Lite and VBS for 2022)
 - b. Evangelism Ministry—Pastor Tony. (They did an ad in the newspaper and sent out post cards with church events and times.)
 - c. Facilities Ministry—Duane Gilson (a new AC was purchased and paid for. We need another one before prices go up.)
 - d. Fellowship Ministry—Phil Troiano (Five small groups formed.) Layla Haddod Chairman.
 - e. Outreach Ministry—Butch Schleicher and Tina Gilson (Rummage Sale total was \$3100.) Tina Gilson Chairman.
 - f. Stewardship Ministry—Duane Gilson-Barb Kearns. (Kickoff the end of February)
 - g. Worship Ministry.--Diane Thompson (New Banners) Linda Wilson chairman

7. Butch and Lynel Schleicher and Marcie Fleming were nominated to attend the Synod assembly by Phil Troiano. Mike Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed.
8. Duane Gilson presented the proposed budget. Items of interest were raising the Pastor's salary up to Synod standards. He hadn't had a raise in 2 years.

An increase in Donna Miller's salary as she has been helping with Saturday night service. We are in the church more now so an increase in cleaning supplies and Cleaners. An increase in Facilities as we need a new AC.

Mike Snyder moved to accept the budget.

Rosemary Brant seconded the motion. Motion passed.

9. Pastor included his report in the handout. He did want to mention that the congregation has grown by one-third.
Butch moved we adjourn the meeting.
Phil Troiano seconded the motion. Motion passed.

11. The Congregational Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Barb Kearns Secretary

Pastor's Annual Report for 2022

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (MATTHEW 28:18-20)

This year has been challenging to say the least... especially for me personally. Not only did I have to take the time to recover from both extensive knee and back surgeries, the death of my spouse, Carol, really changed the way life flows. I want to personally thank each one of our congregational members for the love and support you have shown me and my family this past year by sharing your grace and understanding in so many ways. I know I would not be doing as well emotionally as I am without your love and compassion. A special “thank you” to all those who have supported me and filled in for me several times throughout this past year: Tina Gilson, Pastor David Hall, Pastor Roger Hanson, Pastor Jim Eschenbacher, and Bobby Edwardson. Our office volunteers have also made the year’s administration needs go smoothly. “Thank you” to Mary Beth Bracken, Diane Thompson, and Rosemary Brant.

Besides these personal set backs the year of ministry has been productive and I feel we have been true to our mission statement of “Making Christ Known.” I am encouraged by the growth and love that I have seen in this congregation over the past year. There is no doubt God has a plan for us and our future is looking bright. Yes, there have been times we can feel like everything is falling apart, but we know God’s plan is to grow the church and share the grace and hope for everyone’s peaceful future. I am proud of our leadership from the Council to every worker bee in this church family. We have worked hard this year to get more people involved in the every-day ministries as a participant one way or another in our ministry teams. It’s great to see so many people sharing in our many ministries!

One of my highlights for this year was our first Senior High youth group “Mountain Top Experience” to the Luther Glen camp where 6 of us participated in the national church-wide event that replaced the National Youth Gathering which was cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns. This event proved to be a life-changing moment for all our youth as most of them have never been to California nor have they been to this large of event of Lutheran Christian youth from all over the nation. Thank you so much for supporting these kids and giving them the opportunity to be witnessed to through our national ELCA outdoor ministries. Special thanks to our adult chaperones: Scott Shipley and Donna Giorsetti.

I feel we have met my goal this year to increase volunteerism. Each of our ministry teams are busy and many of them have new chair people along with many new faces. Please be sure to take the time to read their reports as they too share their excitement for ministry. Every event we had this year was a success and we have shown growth in every way including our worship attendance. Our average worship attendance is at least 10% higher each week than last year and we have visitors each week along with many new members !

Our worship experience has changed this year and we have brought back most of our regular worship service order with the exception of the “sharing of the peace.” We will continue to look forward to the time we can feel comfortable sharing the peace as we are people who like physical contact when we share the peace. Our media resources have improved greatly this year thanks to a special grant from the synod. We now have top of the line video cameras and software that allows us to stream our

services through Face-Book each week. We will soon be able to have this streaming service done through our website too! Thank you to Duane Gilson for his expertise in writing those grants for us!

Stewardship and finances still tend to be a concern for us. However, we are not over-spending and are still paying all our bills on time. The mortgage is being paid down more each month. We have shown an increase of giving per family unit even though our over all giving still not at a level where we would like to be. This will be the challenge for 2023. Without an increase in our financial resources we may not be able to continue the many ministry highlights we enjoy such as the “mountain top experiences” within each ministry team.

Our website and Facebook pages continue to be a major media outreach resource. A very special thanks to those of you who have helped make this happen especially Tina Gilson and Wendy Sontag. I invite you to spend some time on our website along with our synod’s website to see what is going on and the opportunities there are for you to be a part of the events. The website for the Grand Canyon Synod is www.gcsynod.org

We also have increased the usage of our building opening it up to several outside non-profits. We currently have 6 different AA and AL Anon groups using the facility each week. They are so thankful for our hospitality and we are proud to be able to be of service to them! Let us go forward into 2023 with God in our hearts, minds, and hands!

FOR THE RECORD:

- 3 Baptisms: 1 Adult / 2 infant
- 7 Funerals - including 2 private services at a private setting
- 3 Confirmation Students in their first year to be confirmed in 2023
- Brought in at least 15 new members into the community
- 4 weddings: 2 outside weddings within the Community
- Pastoral counseling for several congregational families
 - Participant in the Synodical Diakonia Board and serve as a Teacher for the Courses as needed
- Active in community groups such as Synod Board of New and Renewal Team, GCS Coaching Network, Rio Salado Conference of Pastors, International Coaching Federation, and Arizona Conference of Coaches.
- Continued to use my ACC Coaching Accreditation and officially coached at least 50 hours.
 - Perform 2 special worship / communion services per month at community nursing homes
 - Weekly Bible Studies and Beer and Theology once a month at my home.

Pastor Tony Scheer

Youth Ministry Report 2022

Our Senior High youth planned and worked at a spaghetti dinner and pie auction in February raising money for their trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. With Covid rising again in the Midwest, the convention was cancelled. Three youth did get to go to California on a youth retreat for a week accompanied by Pastor and two adults. A great experience for them.

The Senior High group was all set to ring the bell for Salvation Army in December, but due to an emergency with the lead person, this did not happen. More opportunities to work with them will happen this coming year.

The youth were involved with the Trunk or Treat event in October and a Christmas party for the elementary youth was held with fun activities and treats.

Thanks to Jackie Shelbourn for stepping up to lead the youth ministry. She has many great ideas for the coming year. Hopefully some of you will step up and help with the youth here at Spirit of Hope. Council wants opportunities for the young children to grow in their faith and have fun also. Please let Jackie know if you want to help out in any way.

Karen Torgersen, Council Liaison

Team Members: Jackie Shelbourn, Chair
Kathy & Scott Shipley
Donna Giorsetti
Sarah & Scott Prada
Julie French

FACILITIES REPORT 2022

I would like to list projects that members accomplished by their hard work, generous time and donations to get the jobs accomplished:

- a. Cleaned the storage room and janitor room.
- b. Landscaping
- c. Tree trimming
- d. Painting curbs
- e. Clean the inside and outside of the church windows.
- f. Repaired a ceiling fan and replaced ceiling light bulbs with LEDs.
- g. Paint the Spirit of Hope sign and address numbers.
- h. A new stool in the ladies' bathroom.
- i. Fixed the AC in the narthex.
- j. Repair one of the kitchen refrigerators.
- k. Carpet cleaned
- l. Deep cleaning of the bathrooms and their floors, and the kitchen and narthex area.
- m. Members helped get out the Christmas decorations and put them away.
- n. Replace WIFI network, installed new camera to broadcast services, install microphones, repaired soundboard, replaced thermostats.
- o. Replaced the North Narthex fan motor.

- p. Sprayed weeds, trimmed trees
- q. Stripped, waxed and buffed the floors.

Generous donations were received for the roof, fascia, caulking of the top windows, landscaping, tree trimming carpet cleaning, etc. We are blessed at Spirit of Hope for such generous members of God's family.

Items on the facilities to-do list are:

- a. New irrigation for the front so the water can be turned back on the plants
- b. The weeds in the back taken care of.
- c. Paint the church.

Evangelism Report 2022

The Evangelism Team is one that needs to meet on a regular basis as it is one of the most important ministries of the church. This ministry is so important, as everything we do with the church includes some form of evangelism. I would like to thank everyone who has supported this ministry in 2022 and those who helped with extra financing for some of our endeavors. We have sent out Postcards as well as included advertisements in Welcome Wagon. We are seeing some new worshippers and are getting some new members through these avenues.

We created a "welcome" bag that we give to visitors as well as to outreach and youth activities. However, we need to do more! Recently we began updating the website and are still working on changes there, but it is looking better and more welcoming and easier to navigate. We are working on updating pictures as well, as many of the pictures from events are 5-6 years old.

This ministry can be difficult to fund due to the high costs of advertising, so we ask if you can reach out to friends and neighbors and bring them along to a service. You can also have them join us for a bible study, Seniors Rock or one of the other events. We are hopeful that as a church in this next year we will find more ways to help our church grow and continue to be the loving and welcoming church that we all know and love.

We need your help, so if you are interested in helping with this ministry in any capacity please contact Bonnie Osterman, Evangelism Chair or Pastor Tony, our Council Representative for more information. Thank you again for your support in 2022 and I am hopeful that 2023 will be a wonderful year to grow and expand our church family and disciples of Jesus.

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God's Blessings to all,

Bonnie Osterman
Evangelism Chair
Email: Blittlesprout@gmail.com

Outreach Report 2022

Dear Fellow Disciples,

From Matthew 28: ¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus gave this command to his disciples, and it's true for us today too! Do you ever think about what this means for you? The church is meant to go beyond the walls and share the good news of Jesus Christ. This is what Outreach is. This is what we on the Outreach committee provide for you to participate in and be Jesus' disciple.

It is with grateful hearts for the generosity of time, talent and treasure that this congregation has to give to continue to spread the good news in the world outside our church walls, that we submit this report.

The cash we used for our ministries came from the rummage sale proceeds. It was a lot of work, but the reward was great - \$3000! With this money, we were able to serve 4 pancake breakfast events at Grace Lutheran (\$1000). Service at Grace is back to near-normal. We look forward to continuing with this outreach again in 2023.

Trunk R Treat was back this year, and another great success this event. There were plenty of little ones receiving some Halloween love from our volunteers.

Outreach supplied the lunch fixings for Grace Lutheran this summer and partnered with Seniors Rock who lent a hand with making the lunches. Thanks to the spirit-filled group of hard-working Seniors!

YOU donated over 120 shoeboxes of Christmas gifts to the Mesa PD for distribution in 4 schools.

We donated several hundred dollars for purchase of food gift cards for those in need.

This is my last update as Outreach Chair. I leave the team in the very capable hands of Debbie Snyder. I ask each of you to please consider what your gift is and use it to the glory of God in 2023, here at Spirit of Hope and in the world!

God Bless,

The Outreach Committee Tina Gilson, Chair

Worship/Altar Guild Report 2022

Throughout the year, the worship team changes the banners and altar linens according to the season of the Church year.

In January all the Christmas decorations are removed and stored. February brought preparations for the Lenten season. Altar linens were inspected and replaced as needed. Together with the Fellowship Team an Easter Breakfast following the Sunrise service was planned. Collection for Easter lilies and flowers began. Carol Scheer organized the flowers to decorate the cross.

IN November we returned to the traditional method for communion. However, the option to receive in your seat was retained. A new instruction sheet for setting up communion was presented. Advent decorating was assigned, and Christmas decorating was held December 3rd.

Linda Wilcox- Worship and Altar Guild Chair

Fellowship Report 2022

In addition to preparing weekly treats following our Sunday services, our team prepared refreshments for 4 funerals/memorials this past year.

Our “Welcome Back” BBQ in November was a big success. We are planning several more fellowship events in the coming year.

Thank you for all the support!

Fellowship Co chairs:

Debbie Kravec
Diane Thompson
Vicki Camacho
Debbie Hall

Stewardship Report 2022

The Stewardship team is working on a new drive for 2023. In the fall of 2022, we started the “Step it up Campaign” asking everyone to donate just an extra \$2.50 per week to the church. The numbers are in, and you all stepped up in a big way. The generosity of the members of SOH is incredible. You have never let your church down.

I look forward to working with our new Stewardship Council team, led by Sam Small, to continue to grow our generosity even further in 2023.

Thank all of you for your continued support.

Duane J Gilson

Steward Team Member

Council Nominations

Rosemary Brant

I have been privileged to serve on the Council for Spirit of Hope for the last 3 years. This past year I served as president. The best part of my service (for me) was getting to know so many more people in our Congregation. We are really blessed with many wonderful people in this church community.

Recently, we have made some big strides by calling forth more people to serve on our Ministry teams. We had a very successful church-wide gathering in November for our BBQ and we are planning more of these events. I am excited about this growth and pleased that many of you have stepped up and become more active!

We are poised to welcome more new members. We are seeing some former members return and we are ready to begin bringing back Sunday school and opening the nursery which we had to close due to covid. I would be honored to be able to follow through with some of these new and old programs and continue to serve the people of this congregation.

Barb Kearns

I, Barb Kearns, would like to run for council again.

I am a lifelong Lutheran. I joined Spirit of Hope in 2011 when my husband and I retired from Nevada. I have served as secretary on the council since the February election in 2020. In Nevada, I served on the council for 17 years in all offices. In the past, I was Sunday School Superintendent for 27 years.

I have enjoyed being on the council and serving God in this way. I would appreciate your vote.

Diane Thompson

My name is Diane Thompson, and I am applying for another term on your council. I have just finished my first term. I spent 2 years as a council member and being the liaison for the Worship committee. The last year I spent as Vice president under the leadership of Rosemary Brant. In 2022, I also was on the fellowship committee and again liaison for Worship committee. On Thursday, I am Pastor Tony Scheer's gal in the office.

Actually, my term has gone very quickly. I truly enjoy being on the board and hoping things will go smoothly. Please elect me for another term and we will accomplish more. We are lucky enough to have a fantastic church and really feel like this is part of my family.

If there is anything I can do for you, please stop by on Thursday or talk to me at the 9:30 service on Sunday's.

Darryl Wilton

I grew up near Superior, Nebraska on a dairy farm. My first church was Salem Lutheran near Superior. I graduated from University of Nebraska in 1976. Worked for the department of agriculture for 7 years near Superior and then York, Nebraska. I attended First evangelical Lutheran in York.

Married to Linda in 1982 and in 1983 moved to Winterset, Iowa to work in agricultural lending, where we were members of St John Lutheran. In 1985, moved to Schuyler Nebraska and joined St John Lutheran. In Schuyler I worked at a bank. In 1992 moved to York again to work at a different bank until 2021, when I retired. Linda taught in the York School system and retired in 2019.

We have 2 children, Ben near Omaha Nebraska with 2 daughters, 8 and 5, and Jen who lives in Mesa with 2 daughters, 10 and 8.

We built our house in 2016 and have attended Spirit of Hope off and on since then until we arrived full time in late November of last year.

Proposed Budget for 2023

2023
Proposed
Budget

INCOME

GENERAL FUND TOTAL*

\$250,000.00

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL

6011 - Pastor Salary
 6012 - Pastor Housing
 6014 - Pastor Mileage Reimbursement
 6015 - Pastor Continuing Education
 6016 - Pastor Pension & Medical
 6830 - Pastor Discretionary

\$50,000.00	
\$30,000.00	
\$2,000.00	
\$2,000.00	
\$25,000.00	
\$1,500.00	
TOTAL	\$110,500.00

6100 - OTHER PERSONNEL

6010 - Supply Pastor & Fill In Pastors
 6117 - Custodian Salary
 6131 - Pianist/Choir Director Salary
 6185 - Contemporary Musicians Salary
 6197 - Payroll Processing

\$1,100.00	
\$	
5,880.00	
\$13,000.00	
\$0.00	
\$560.00	
TOTAL	\$20,540.00

6200 - MINISTRY OF SUPPORT

6206Online Processing Fee/Breeze
 6233 CPA/Bookkeeping Chg
 6205 - Bank Charges
 6216 - Synod Assembly
 6230 - Insurance
 6236 - Landscaping
 6238 - Interior Maintenance
 6239 - Large Maintenance Projects

\$1,700.00
\$0.00
\$50.00
\$600.00
\$5,600.00
\$4,500.00
\$1,300.00
\$0.00

6250 - Office Equipment & Leasing	\$15,000.00
6255 - Office Supplies	\$1,000.00
6260 - Postage	\$200.00
6270 - Utilities	\$15,000.00
6207 - Synod Benevolence	\$7,300.00
TOTAL	\$52,250.00
6299 - MINISTRY TEAMS	
6550 - Stewardship	\$0.00
6400 - Evangelism	\$200.00
6600 - Worship & Music Ministry Team	\$2,500.00
TOTAL	\$2,700.00
6900 - Miscellaneous	\$0.00
GENERAL FUND - Operating Total	\$185,990.00
3510 - E BUILDING FUND-Mortgage & Interest	\$64,044.00
TOTAL EXPENSES - General & Building Funds	\$250,034.00
NET INCOME	-\$34.00