

State of the Parish March 27, 2022

- Pastor Ralph provided a State of the Parish report and highlighted the following areas:
 - State of parish of Hope Lutheran Church is not only good, but it is blessed.
 - Congregation Statistics: Baptized members – 638; Confirmed members – 547; non-confirmed members – 91; Average attendance – 239 (2021 – including online) and 259 (2022 – include online); Average weekly bible study – 79; Average weekly giving per worship - \$74.
 - Confirmation/Small Group/Classes:
 - Confirmation: 30 students with 5 instructors.
 - Stephen Ministry: 5 active Stephen Ministers; 1 leader; 1 leader in training.
 - Small Groups: 5 active/semi-active.
 - Adult classes: 5 on Sunday morning; 1 on Thursday morning.
 - Team SLS: 9 team members who operate the stream and screens and lights on Sunday mornings. Livestreams to Facebook and YouTube average 32 viewers on Sunday mornings.
 - Fellowship Committee: New committee chaired by Jennifer Davis – brainstorm/schedule new fellowship opportunities for the congregation.
 - Music Ministry
 - Recovering and expanding from COVID forced reductions.
 - Sanctuary Choir has increase to 12-14 as of March. Plenty of room for others to serve.
 - Brass ensemble is looking for trumpets to join.
 - Chamber orchestra and Vespers Handbell Choir (soon to be at 11 players!) meet on Tuesdays.
 - Matins Bell Quartet meets on Friday.
 - Highlights of Hope's Music Ministry are on our YouTube channel – search for "Hope Lutheran, Friendswood Music".
 - Children/Youth/Family:
 - Meal ministry delivered 30 meals in 2021 and has already sent 14 meals in 2022.
 - 7 prayer quilts have been distributed in past 6 months, including one provided to Russell Chauvin in today's worship service.
 - Added New Member database program to assist in care and keeping of our faith family.
 - MOSAIC Family Ministry program has grown to average 30 people of all ages for dinner and fellowship.
 - National LCMS Youth Gathering is this July in Houston. Recent fund raisers have collected more than \$4,000 toward the trip. Average youth will require \$550 to attend.
 - 3 of our high school alumni will serve as young adult volunteers at the Youth Gathering.
 - Plans underway for our intergenerational bible study and service projects
 - Offered parenting Bible study after a long hiatus. More studies this coming fall that cover more age groups.
 - Parenting in the pew prompted sermon notes for kids. Creative resource helps parents disciple their children in worship.
 - Sunday school has sent 100+ cards to shut ins and those in need of a note of cheer.
 - 10th season of Upwards basketball recently completed.
 - Hosted a successful VBS this past June. 2022 VBS will be in June of this year.
 - Armored Sports Camp will return for a week this summer as well.
 - Sunday school attendance remains steady – Sunday School Opening is occurring once again!
 - We continue to cultivate livestream and online relationships through our streaming of services and active responses by staff members during the service.
 - Facilities
 - From when Pastor Ralph first arrived, every building that was here has been torn down and replaced.
 - We have excellent facilities that require consistent ongoing maintenance.
 - Major projects complete in FY 2022 include replacement of the gym floor and replacement of the gutters.
 - Long term items for sanctuary remain: Carpet replacement and Pew replacement
 - Progress on transition team and IIP.
 - COVID has taken its toll on this congregation:
 - Attendance still at levels of 1 service.
 - Concerns on reduced attendance as worship is a habit.
 - Hope has an extraordinary staff that continues to work well together – extremely proud of them.
 - Ministries of Hope are strong despite COVID, and new ones are on the way:
 - Mentioned being approached by MOPS (Mothers of pre-school children) just recently
 - Fellowship committee
 - Pastor Ralph expressed his difficulty in walking away after so long because of the relationships formed.

The Lord will never forsake the congregation of Hope Lutheran.