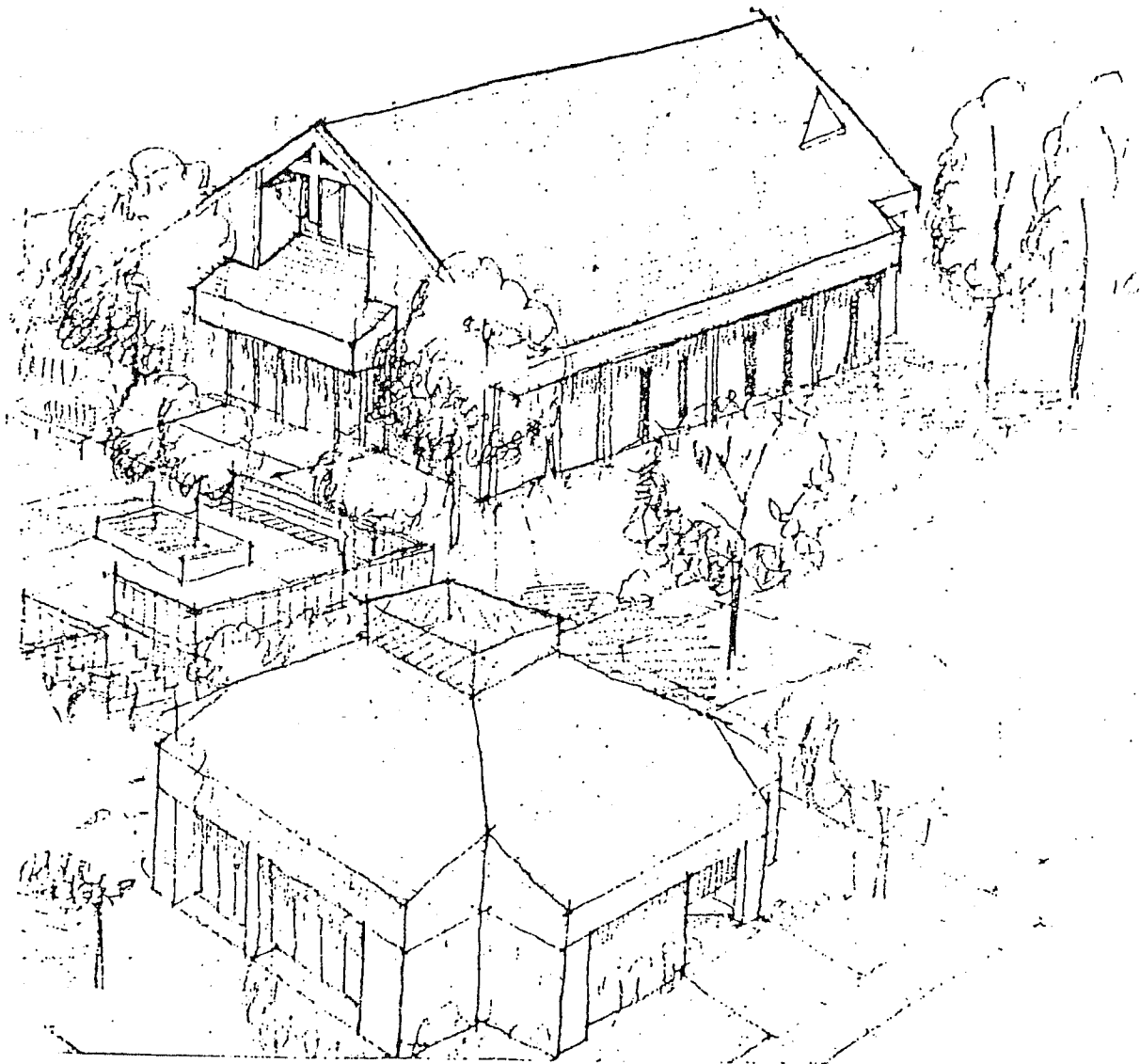


HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PENRYN, CALIFORNIA

The Story of a Successful Daughter Mission Congregation



May 3, 1996
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Senior Church History
Prof. John Brenner
M. Robert Green

To the Members of
Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
of South Placer

Hebrews 10:23-24 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

This is the motto of Hope Lutheran Church that appears
from time to time on their bulletins and letter head.

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HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PENRYN, CALIFORNIA

The Story of a Successful Daughter Mission Congregation

I. Introduction

a. The purpose and historical documentation for this history

This is an historical account of the formation of Hope Lutheran Church, Penryn, California, from its birth as a daughter congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Citrus Heights, California, through its stage as a mission congregation of the California Mission District, to its independence as a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. This account of the history of Hope Lutheran Church is based on the church records including the minutes of the Voter's Assembly meetings, church council records, a short one page summary history of Hope (written for the dedication service of Hope's first permanent worship facility), a longer hand written official history of Hope covering 1976 to 1985 (which consists of eighteen 12" by 12" unnumbered sheets written on both sides), correspondence between the author of this history and key individuals from Hope's past, and personal recollections of the writer who was a member of Hope from 1982 to 1991.

b. Location of Penryn

The location of Hope was important not only in the decision to start Hope, but also in its growth and development. Hope is presently located in Penryn, California. Penryn is a small unincorporated town in northern California with a population of about 1500. Penryn lies about 30

miles northeast of downtown Sacramento in the rolling foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. To the near southwest, about 2-3 miles away, is the Town of Loomis, and immediately southwest of Loomis is the City of Rocklin. Loomis and Rocklin are mainly bedroom (suburban areas existing mainly for housing of those who work in larger cities) for the Sacramento area. Loomis has a population of about 8,000 and Rocklin about 25,000. Rocklin experienced a population explosion beginning about 1989 when it began to grow from a population of about 7,500 to its present population of over 25,000 persons. To the west of Penryn, about 5-10 miles, is the City of Lincoln and the City of Arburn is located about 10 miles east. Lincoln is a fairly small farming and ranching community. Auburn is a semi rural area, but it is the county seat. During the 1970's and 1980's the City of Sacramento itself had a population of about 300,000, but almost 1.5 million in the surrounding suburban area.

c. Lutheranism in the area

In 1976, the year Hope began as a daughter congregation of St. Mark's, there were two Lutheran congregations in the greater Sacramento area holding membership in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, St. Andrew and St. Mark's. St. Andrews is located in the south end of Sacramento and St. Mark's is located in Citrus Heights, a westerly suburb of Sacramento. St. Andrew is about 40 miles south from St. Mark's. Citrus Heights is about 20 miles east of Sacramento and St. Mark's is about 17 miles west of Hope in Penryn.

The nearest W.E.L.S. congregation to St. Mark's, before Hope was formed, to the east was in Reno, Nevada, about 90 miles away and over the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. The nearest W.E.L.S. church to the north was in Anderson, just south of Redding, which is about 130 miles away. There is an independent congregation in fellowship with the W.E.L.S. to the west in

Vallejo, about 45 miles away. The nearest W.E.L.S. congregation to the south is in Lodi which is about 45 miles south of St. Andrew.

II. Formation background for Hope

a. Why a daughter congregation was started which was not an official mission of the W.E.L.S.

According to Pastor Thomas Franzmann, the pastor of St. Mark's at the time Hope was started, the reason why Hope was started, at least from St. Mark's viewpoint, was that St. Mark's wanted to accomplish two tasks: add pastoral staff to St. Mark's and start a satellite congregation in the Penryn-Rocklin area. The idea was that St. Mark's was in need of additional pastoral help but could not afford a full-time second pastor. By starting a satellite congregation St. Mark's would pay one half the cost of an additional pastor and the satellite would pay one half the cost. The new pastor would split his duties between the two congregations.¹ A regular mission was not started at first because of the uncertainties of what would come out of the effort.

Ted Heyn, founding member of Hope and its first president of its voter's assembly, recalls the idea for a daughter congregation was born in 1975. A committee was set up in 1976, at St. Mark's, to begin the process of starting Hope. The impetus for starting Hope, according to Ted Heyn, included several factors: there was a core group of St. Mark's members in the Rocklin-Penryn area, the area was fast growing area, there were no Lutheran churches in the area, and Ted's father, Pastor Paul Heyn, retired, was available to initially serve a small congregation.²

¹ Letter from Pastor Franzmann, dated 10/16/95 in response to letter by this author dated 10/3/95.

² Undated letter from Ted Heyn in response to letter by this author dated 10/3/95.

The availability of Pastor Paul Heyn was very important to opening the "daughter congregation" because he was a veteran and very capable missionary. He was the third missionary sent by the W.E.L.S. to California. In 1957 he began to serve in Pomona, southern California. He began doing mission work in the San Francisco area. He and Pastor Robert Hockmuth started the congregations in Garden Grove, southern California, Sacramento and San Jose in northern California. Up to 1950 there had been an "agreement" with the Missouri Synod that Missouri would work California and the W.E.L.S. would work Arizona as mission areas. Because of this, it should be noted that there were no W.E.L.S. churches at all in California until 1950, except for a failed attempt at Indian mission work in 1876-77.³

An initial survey of St. Mark's members showed that there were 25 communicants, 45 souls, consisting of 15 families, who would be interested in starting the new daughter congregation. All of these were members of St. Mark's and most had been officers of St. Marks.⁴ So there was a small but dedicated and experienced nucleus to begin the effort.

b. The St. Mark's committee on Hope and the California Mission Board, W.E.L.S.

There is no documentation to be found of the first meeting of the St. Mark's committee to form Hope. However there is documentation from a meeting of this committee on February 11, 1976. The committee met to discuss the process of forming Hope Lutheran Church. The members present were Pastor Franzmann, Pastor Hockmuth (who was pastor of St. Andrews and the

³ *The Wisconsin Synod Lutherans*, Fredrich, E.C., Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1992, at pages 214-216.

⁴ Undated W.E.L.S. Schedule of Information Requested for Decisions on Establishment of a Mission, filled out by St. Mark's personnel.

California Mission Counselor), and St. Mark's laymen Ted Heyn, Jerry Lamb and L. G. Schweiger. At this meeting, the Roseville, Folsom, and Auburn areas were discussed as potential sites. These sites were targeted for discussion because in the triangle formed by the cities of Roseville, Folsom and Auburn there was a population base of at least 100,000 and the area was ripe for growth. The City of Roseville lies between Sacramento and Rocklin, and the City of Folsom lies to the southwest. A tentative location of the new daughter congregation was set for Sierra College Blvd. and Highway 50.⁵

The California Mission Board (CMB), the home mission agency for the W.E.L.S. for the State of California, oversaw the formation of Hope Lutheran Church, as a daughter congregation, even though it was not an official mission, because of the possibility of Hope becoming a mission effort of the CMB. At the February 11, 1976 meeting of the St. Mark's committee, those present filled out forms from the District Mission Board to be submitted to the Mission Board on 2/12/76. The purpose of these forms was to set up the procedure for Hope to eventually become a mission effort independent from St. Mark's, if the growth of the daughter congregation warranted mission status.⁶

This application from the District Mission Board would also go to the W.E.L.S. General Board of Home Missions since it oversaw mission openings. In that application, the St. Mark's committee members pointed out that the area targeted was viable for a mission because it was rapidly growing. In 1960 the population in the community was 49,047, in 1970 it was 66,316, and

⁵ Minutes of meeting in Feb. 1976 with Pastor Franzmann and committee members from St. Mark's in which the Home Mission Handbook was studied to see how new mission guidelines applied; DMB (District Mission Board) forms were also filled out.

⁶ *ibid*, Minutes of meeting Feb. 1976 if St. Mark's committee to form Hope..

the projection for 1980 was 97,200. The population was projected to triple in the next 10 years, by 1990. The area was changing from agricultural to residential suburban uses with light new industrial and manufacturing coming. St. Mark's felt there was ample justification to open the daughter congregation because the targeted area was one of the fastest growing areas in the Sacramento Valley and because there was a nucleus of W.E.L.S. families.⁷

St. Mark's was prepared to call a graduate of the 1976 class to serve both St. Mark's and the new daughter congregation. St. Mark's Voters' Assembly unanimously voted to begin exploratory work in the area and a savings account, of \$1,000, was established to support the effort. It should be noted that St. Mark's was established just ten and one half years before and in 1976 had 335 communicant members and 570 souls. St. Andrew had been started two years before, in about 1974, and in 1976 had about one hundred attending worship services. St. Mark's informed the Mission Board that it did

not anticipate supporting this new congregation indefinitely. At a later time the congregation should come under the auspices of the of the Mission Board for them to guide, council and provide financial assistance as deemed necessary.⁸

c. Approval and startup

As noted the St. Mark's Voters' Assembly gave an unanimous approval to begin this work. St. Mark's initially provided full financial support to Hope, with all of Hope's offerings going to the general fund of St. Mark's.⁹ While the date of this vote is unknown, the St. Mark's Voters'

⁷ Undated W.E.L.S. Schedule of Information Requested for Decisions on Establishment of a Mission, filled out by St. Mark's personnel.

⁸ *ibid*, W.E.L.S. Schedule of Information filled out by St. Mark's personnel.

⁹ *ibid*, letter from Ted Heyn.

Assembly did extend a call to Pastor Paul Heyn on July 11, 1976 to start "the South Placer mission." Also, a committee was appointed to find a worship facility. Pastor Heyn accepted the call.¹⁰

III. The work begins at Hope as a daughter congregation.

a. The charter members and first service.

Hope Lutheran Church was organized as a satellite daughter congregation of St. Mark's in October, 1976. According to the memory of some of the charter members of Hope, there were 20 charter members of Hope and 28 souls. They were:

1. David and Jean Ellenberger
2. Bob and Judy Traynor, Brian and Brent
3. Charles and Lorraine McLaughlin
4. Ted and Myra Heyn, Ross and Gloria
5. Pastor Paul and Helene Heyn
6. Bob and JoAnne Spriggs, Martin and Allyson
7. George and Lita Schroeder
8. Jerry and Grace Lamb
9. Jake and Olivia Jacobson
10. Duwaine Earney
11. Oliver Sasse
12. Virginia Hoyer
13. Edna Cook

Of these all but Pastor and Helene Heyn, Bob and JoAnne Spriggs and children, and George and Lita Schroeder were transfers from St. Mark's. Virginia Hoyer and Mrs. Edna Cook were in attendance but, in October 1976, neither one of them was a member of the a Lutheran church body which was in fellowship with the W.E.L.S.¹¹ Duwaine Earney was received by transfer at the

¹⁰ Handwritten History of Hope by the Hope Lutheran historian, by unknown author, entry for 1976.

¹¹ Note that Ted Heyn's letter of October 3, 1995 stated that Mrs. Edna Cook was a charter member, but the bulletin for the November 7, 1976 service notes that she was received that day by re-affirmation of faith.

January 1, 1978 Voters' Assembly meeting for Hope, so it would appear that there were actually 19 charter members.

Hope Lutheran Church held its first service at 10:45 a.m. on October 3, 1976 at the Finn Hall in Rocklin, California. Pastor Paul Heyn conducted the service with 51 in attendance.¹²

Pastor Heyn's text was John 14:6 and his theme was "**None can get to heaven, except thru**
LiFe
Christ: Christ is the way, the Truth, and the Light."¹³

The organist for that first service was Darlene Bartol of St. Mark's. The furnishings were a lectern and altar, donated by Our Beautiful Savior, Carlsbad, California, a Gestetner duplicator donated by the mission in the Bay area and Mrs. Ellenberger made the altar cloth.¹⁴ A large picture of the Lord Jesus was loaned by Mrs. Ruth Borchars.¹⁵ According to the Hope's church historian the organ had been loaned by the CMB.¹⁶

The charter members considered various names for the congregation in a meeting the afternoon of the first service. Several names had been submitted including Beautiful Savior and Rock of Ages. On October 10, 1976 the name Hope Lutheran Church was selected.¹⁷ The October 17, 1976 bulletin had this message about the new name:

¹² A Brief History of Hope written for and included in the bulletin for the dedication service of the new sanctuary Sept. 17, 1989.

¹³ Church bulletin for the first service on October 3, 1976.

¹⁴ *ibid*, Church bulletin for October 3, 1976.

¹⁵ *ibid*, Official History of Hope, section dated 1976.

¹⁶ *ibid*, Official History, section dated 1976.

¹⁷ A Brief History of Hope written for and included in the bulletin for the dedication service of the new sanctuary Sept. 17, 1989 and the Bulletin for the October 10th 1976 service.

This name was chosen by our people last Sunday after church. It is short and has a good sound, but that is not the reason why this name was selected.

It was also not chosen because we "hope" that the mission will grow and prosper. The Lord has assured us of success, for He has promised: "My Word will not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please and prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." As we noted in our opening service, if only one soul is brought to the Lord, or preserved in the faith, thru this mission-it will have been successful.

The name "Hope" implies that we rely on our faith in Christ to bring us into everlasting life. We have hope- not only for this world, but also for that which is to come. Paul wrote in Titus 2:13: "Looking for that blessed Hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God,-our Savior Jesus Christ."

**As believers in the Lord let us testify by word and deed concerning the Hope that is in us. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you, with meekness and fear."
I Peter 3:15**

At the first service the committee organizing Hope was thanked. This committee included Messrs. Jon Horton, Ted Heyn and Leander Schweiger. Sunday School was to begin October 24, 1976 and volunteers for teaching were solicited as well as for a Sunday School superintendent. An adult Bible Class would also begin on October 24th.¹⁸

No teacher could be found for the high school class and so this group joined the adults on October 24th. Mrs. Dave Ellenberger volunteered to teach the small children and Mrs. Myra Heyn the older.¹⁹

b. The first facilities.

Finn Hall was a community facility available for rent. Hope paid \$25 per week for its use. In conversations with Ted and Myra Heyn the author was told that one problem the congregation

¹⁸ *ibid*, Church bulletin for October 3, 1976.

¹⁹ Bulletin for the October 17th service.

had was that on Saturday nights there usually were parties at the hall. Invariably the clean up of the beer glasses and cans and other debris was left up to Hope members on Sunday morning before services. The furnishings had to be stored during the week. These were stored in Ted Heyn's garage and carted back and forth by members.²⁰ Holiday services were held at Ted Heyn's home because Finn Hall was not available. The first Thanksgiving service was at the Heyn's and 16 were present.²¹ All the hymnals and folding chairs were supplied from St. Mark's.²²

Finn Hall was used until January 1, 1977. In late 1976, the congregation found an old building on Taylor Road in Penryn for rent for \$100 a month and the St. Mark's Voters' Assembly voted during the week of December 7th to rent it.²³ The building, apparently, had been an old diner that had been given a new front and then used by a Pentecostal group for worship. When the faith-healer leader could not heal herself, she died, the group broke up and the building became available.²⁴ This author attended worship services at the Taylor Road facility. The facility was very old. By way of the writer's personal knowledge, water would leak in and flood the pastor's study. There was a kitchen, but the water was undrinkable and about half the time the sewers backed up and made the men's room unusable. The building could seat about 50 people for services.

All the furnishings were moved to the Taylor Road sanctuary and a larger organ was

²⁰ *ibid*, letter from Ted Heyn.

²¹ *ibid*, history for the Dedication Service.

²² *ibid*, letter from Pastor Franzmann, dated October 16, 1995.

²³ Bulletin for the December 13th 1976 service.

²⁴ *ibid*, letter from Pastor Franzmann.

loaned to Hope by Mrs. Anita Bartols. A new rug was laid by the men of Hope. Material for a new royal purple, velvet dossal curtain was donated by Ron and Sue Cousineau in memory of their grandson. Dave and Jean Ellenberger and Mr. and Mrs. Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. Cousineau and Edna Cook worked the material into the curtain.

Joe Doyon constructed several wooden light shades with crosses cut out for light to shine through. Pastor Heyn applied contact paper resembling stained glass to the windows. Mrs. Ellenberger, Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Cook, Mrs Lamb and Mrs. Snyder met weekly to make the communion cloth and baptismal napkins. Paraments for the altar were loaned by Zion Lutheran Church of Gainesville, Florida. The Ellenbergers also made two wooden candelabra. Mr. Menchim of Reno, Nevada made a new sign for the front of the church.²⁵ On November 7, 1976 ceramic vases for flowers were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Leo Brunner, of Newell, South Dakota. Mrs. Brunner is the sister of charter member David Ellenberger.²⁶

c. The first workers, organists, preachers, overseers and officers of Hope.

A committee was appointed from St. Mark's to oversee the affairs of Hope. The members were Pastor Heyn, Ted Heyn, Bob Traynor, and Gerald Lamb. This committee functioned until Hope elected its own officers to begin terms in January 1978. This committee met in December 1976 to make preparations for the move to the Taylor Road facility.²⁷

The first year at Taylor Road saw several different organists playing for Hope. Mr. Oliver Sasse agreed to play from October 17 on until a regular organist from St. Mark's. could be

²⁵ *ibid*, Official history of Hope

²⁶ Bulletin for November 7, 1976.

²⁷ See undated minutes from this committee discussing the move to Taylor Road.

arranged. Mrs. Karl Grebe played on October 10, 1976.²⁸ On October 17, 1976 it was announced that organist Ester Mante, the elderly but very energetic mother of Myra Heyn, would hurry her winter visit (she annually "wintered" in California from her Wisconsin home) so that she could play the organ on a weekly basis.²⁹ On April 1, 1977 a potluck was held to thank Ester for her service in 1977. She returned yearly and played the organ. By the personal knowledge of this writer, she continues to return, but she has retired from the position of organist. Other organists, in the early months, included Mrs. Ruth Borchers (who eventually assumed nearly full-time duties as organist), and Mrs. Grebe.³⁰

Pastor Heyn served until June, 1977.³¹ Vicar Herrmann, assigned to St. Andrews, served Hope once a month until August 1977 when he returned to the Seminary for his final year. In August 1977 the second pastor called by St. Mark's arrived, Pastor Nathan Pope. From August 1, 1977 to the arrival of Hope's own pastor, Pastors Pope and Franzmann shared the duties at Hope.³²

IV. Hope begins to function on its own as it prepares to call its own pastor and to become a regular mission under the CMB.

a. Management of Hope from January 1977 to August 1978, the arrival of Hope's first full-time pastor.

Although Hope would be managed by the committee of overseers consisting of Pastor

²⁸ Bulletin for October 10, 1976.

²⁹ Bulletin for October 17, 1976.

³⁰ *ibid*, Written History of Hope by Timmons.

³¹ *ibid* History of Hope for the Dedication of the new sanctuary.

³² *ibid*, Written history of Hope by Timmons.

Heyn and laymen Ted Heyn, Bob Traynor and Gerald Lamb until January, 1978, the Voters' Assembly of Hope seems to have taken over the day^{ly} to^{al} management of the congregation. Pastor Heyn acted as the chairman of the Voters' Assembly until June 1977 when he retired. In August, 1977, when Pastor Pope arrived as the second pastor for St. Mark's, to January 1978 either Pastor Franzmann or Pastor Pope acted as the chairman of the Hope's Voters' Assembly meetings.³³ Ted Heyn was elected the first chairman of the congregation on September 9, 1977 along with the rest of the officers. Their terms were to start in January, 1978.³⁴

The first record of Hope's Voters' Assembly meetings is for March 1, 1977. Up to the date of this writing, April 1996, Hope Lutheran Church has operated by way of monthly Voters' Meetings instead of the traditional monthly church council meetings with quarterly voters meetings. This was done in the beginning because of the small number of voters. Even though it has been proposed over the years (see below) to change to monthly council meetings, as the congregation grew, Hope continues to function to this day with monthly voters meetings. This is a tradition that continues, in the opinion of this writer, primarily because of the involvement of so many men at the meetings and because this approach to the management of Hope has served well in all these years.

The following is illustrative to show the voter involvement. There were six members present at the March 1, 1977 Voters Assembly meeting. They were Pastor Heyn, Ted Heyn, Jerry Lamb, David Ellenberger, Joe Doyon, and Bob Traynor. At that meeting the members resolved

³³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meetings between March , 1977 to December 1977 in which all such meetings were opened by a pastor.

³⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly Meeting dated September, 1977.

that the regular Voters' Assembly meeting would be henceforth on the last Monday of the month.³⁵ Members present at the March 28, 1977 were Pastor Heyn, Ted Heyn, David Ellenberger, Joe Doyon and Bob Traynor. Members present at the June 27, 1977 meetings of the voters were Pastor Heyn, Ted Heyn, Ellenberger, Pastor Franzmann, Bob Spriggs, Bob Traynor, and George Schroeder. Members present for the August 8, 1977 meeting were Ted Heyn, Pastor Franzmann, Dave Ellenberger, Bob Traynor, Pastor Pope, Ron Cousineau and Joe Doyon. The attendance of 5 to 6 men at these meetings actually represented over 50% of the eligible voters.

A perusal of the voters present at voters meetings over the years shows that this pattern of a small but significant percent of male members attending the monthly voters meetings would continue to the present. Although the percentage of members attending Voters' Assembly meetings declined over the years, having monthly meetings has allowed every voter to have a continuing and timely impact on Hope's affairs and may be one significant factor in having a high degree of personnel involvement in Hope's work.

b. Membership growth, church attendance
from October 1976 to August, 1978,
the arrival of Hope's first full-time pastor.

One of the very first official acts at Hope was the reception of its first new member. On November 7, 1976 Edna Cook was received by re-affirmation of faith. Also, on November 14, 1976 the first Communion Service was observed at Hope.³⁶ The Voters' Assembly met on October 10, 1977 and agreed that Hope would send a collective request to St. Mark's regarding

³⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 1, 1977.

³⁶ Service bulletin for Hope Lutheran Church for Sunday, Nov. 7, 1976.

members who want to transfer to Hope.³⁷ No record of this was found by the writer. The minutes for the November, 1977 Voters' Assembly meeting were lost, but it was reported at the December meeting that the members of Hope from St. Mark's were officially transferred to Hope.³⁸

At the Voters' Assembly meeting for January 1, 1978, Duwaine Earney was received as a member from St. John's, Frontena, Minn., and Pastor and Mrs. Heyn were transferred from Prince of Peace. In January, 1978, a list of all members transferring from St. Mark's was to be prepared as well as a list of all voting members of Hope. No such lists were found in the church records.³⁹

Hilda Benvenuto was received into membership by transfer from St. Paul's, Hollywood, at the February 13, 1978 meeting.⁴⁰ At the March 13, 1978 Voters' Assembly meeting Oscar and Jan Timmons were received by transfer from St. Paul's, Elmer and Mary Ann Frank by profession of faith and Dennis Frank by confirmation.

In the month before the April 1977 Voters' Assembly meeting, 216 persons attended services with an average weekly attendance of 54. There was a high of 70 on Easter. Bible class averaged 12 and Sunday School averaged 11.⁴¹ Attendance for May, 1977 averaged 52, Bible class 14, Sunday School 5.⁴² By August, 1977 average church attendance had dropped to 32 with 11 in Bible class and 8 in Sunday School.⁴³ The average church attendance in December 1977 was

³⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting October 10, 1977.

³⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 5, 1977.

³⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 1, 1978.

⁴⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 13, 1978.

⁴¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 25, 1977.

⁴² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 27, 1977.

⁴³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 8, 1977.

averaging 53.⁴⁴

c. Bible studies and activities
from October 1976 to August, 1978,
the arrival of Hope's first full-time pastor.

At the March 28, 1977 Voters' Assembly meeting the ladies from Hope requested a midweek Bible Class and this was approved.⁴⁵ The woman's Bible class was started in April, 1977 to be on Wednesday mornings. It was led by member LaVerne Suhar.

The one year anniversary was held on October 2, 1977, and Pastor Franzmann preached . The first baptism, of Heydie Timmons, was on December 4, 1977.⁴⁶

d. Evangelism efforts
from October 1976 to August 8, 1978,
the arrival of Hope's first full-time pastor.

Up to the time that the ladies Bible study was started, Mrs. Ellenberger, Mrs. Helene Heyn, Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Suhar had been making evangelism calls and conducting canvasses every Wednesday morning. This evangelism work was then done in the afternoon once the Bible class started. The youth of St. Mark's, St. Andrew, and Hope conducted a canvass of the Newcastle (right next to Penryn) and Loomis area on 5/8/77.⁴⁷

In June, 1977 an area canvass was postponed until after Vacation Bible School. VBS was viewed as an evangelism tool. Hope's VBS was to be at the same time as St. Mark's but no one had volunteered to teach at Hope. There was no response to the VBS canvass and so the 1977

⁴⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 1, 1978.

⁴⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 28, 1977.

⁴⁶ *ibid*, Official history of Hope

⁴⁷ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

VBS was canceled.⁴⁸ In February, 1978 the VBS for 1978 was set for August 7-18, 1978.

At the September, 1977, Voters' Assembly meeting Dave Ellenberger was appointed evangelism chairman. Also at that meeting the voters resolved to seek an editor who would write articles regarding Hope's activities for the local newspapers as an evangelism effort.⁴⁹

e. Pastors, officers, voters assembly work
and the Women of Hope from October 1976 to August 1978,
the arrival of Hope's first full-time pastor.

June 27, 1977 Pastor Heyn was retiring again, but a potluck for him was postponed. David Ellenberger and Bob Traynor were to handle a collection for Pastor Heyn.⁵⁰ The second pastor for St. Mark's was arriving in July or August and he would assume duties at Hope.

In January, 1978 JoAnne Spriggs was appointed the historian.⁵¹ She started the official history of Hope, which has been quoted in this paper. That history is a written record of month to month activities and contains a photographic history of members, events and building projects.

By August 8, 1977, there were enough people attending Hope to warrant the preparation of usher duties. So in August, 1977, Ted Heyn and Bob Traynor were asked to prepare a list of duties for the ushers.⁵² It would not be until January 1, 1978 that members would be requested to sign up to usher.⁵³

In January, 1978, St. Mark's decided to supply Hope with Sunday School material. At

⁴⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 8, 1977.

⁴⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 12, 1977.

⁵⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 27, 1977.

⁵¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 1, 1978.

⁵² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 8, 1977.

⁵³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 1, 1978.

that time, Ted Heyn was appointed the Sunday School superintendent.⁵⁴ Hope now had three Sunday School teachers.⁵⁵

Although the Ladies Aid had not formed, and would not until February, 1978, a group known as "The Ladies Aid" was asked to provide refreshments after services.⁵⁶ A motion was approved to form the Ladies Aid at the January 1, 1978 Voters' Assembly meeting.⁵⁷ The women of Hope met briefly on February 5, 1978 with Mary Ann Frank acting as a temporary chairman. The first meeting was scheduled for February 26, 1978.

On February 26 the women formed an organization to function as the Ladies Aid, but to be called the Women of Hope. The officers were Jean Ellenberger, president, Jan Doyon, secretary and Mary Ann Frank as treasurer. On March 23, 1978 the Women of Hope sponsored a baby shower for Pastor and Mrs. Pope.⁵⁸ This would be one of the first of many social functions sponsored by this group of ladies. The Woman of Hope have provided a service to Hope that probably will not receive the kind of attention it deserves it ~~deserves~~^{these} in this pages. The limitation of time and space prevent giving these hard workers the full credit they deserve. For a taste of the efforts of the Women of Hope at providing fellowship opportunities see below under "**VI. Hope under Pastor Curia**, a. Congregational life and activities.

March 13, 1978 A motion to have the minutes of Voters' Assembly meetings made

⁵⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 1, 1978.

⁵⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 27, 1977.

⁵⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 28, 1977.

⁵⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 1, 1978.

⁵⁸ *ibid*, Official history of Hope

available to widows was defeated because of the concern of misinterpretation by someone who might read a cryptic note in the minutes and not understand the full implications of what was written. But a motion was carried to have a copy made available to the Women of Hope.⁵⁹

By April 10, 1978 there was a growing need for organists since Ester Mante had returned to Wisconsin. The Women of Hope prepared a going away and appreciation for playing the organ luncheon for Ester Mante on April 2, 1978. The Women of Hope also provided refreshments for Easter morning services.⁶⁰ The good news was that on June 12, 1978 Virginia Hoyer was welcomed as a new organist.⁶¹

Mrs. Jan Doyon asked to be relieved of teaching Sunday School. May 5, 1978 LaVerne Suhar agreed to replace Jan Doyon as Sunday School teacher.

f. Financial concerns from
October, 1976, to August 1978,
the arrival of Hope's first full-time pastor.

This section attempts to show the stewardship of Hope from the rather small initial monthly offerings of about \$1,000 in 1977 to the ambitious budget of \$20,000 for 1978. At the March 28, 1977, Voters' Assembly meeting the congregation's offerings were reported to be about \$1,000 a month. Even though the income was so little, the general consensus at that Voters' Assembly meeting was that, if it were possible, Hope would not to ask either St. Mark's or synod for operating funds.⁶² The minutes of the April 25, 1977, meeting of the voters showed income of

⁵⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 13, 1978.

⁶⁰ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

⁶¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 12, 1978.

⁶² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 1, 1977.

\$1,197, an average of \$299 per week.⁶³ The weekly offerings for June 1977 averaged \$319.⁶⁴ Offerings were down to \$212 weekly by August of 1977.⁶⁵ There are no financial records showing income for September -November, 1977.

Income was up for December, 1977, at \$1340 or about \$300 per week. A large donation of \$2192 was received from Lorraine McLaughlin to be used as needed.⁶⁶ \$2,000 was placed in the building fund.⁶⁷

One of the great blessings Hope has had over the years is the Lutheran Day School at St. Mark's. From the beginning, Hope's members recognized that St. Mark's subsidized their school and with the result that the tuition paid by students at St. Mark's really did not cover the cost. So, at St. Mark's request, Hope would send a small subsidy to St. Mark's to defray the cost of sending children from Hope to St. Mark's School. Tuition assistance to St. Mark's was set at \$184 for January, 1978, and \$216 for February to June, 1978.⁶⁸

St. Mark's ordered 78 envelopes for Hope for use in 1978.⁶⁹ The 1978 budget was accepted with expenses of \$20,000.⁷⁰ The offerings in January, 1978, were \$1648 and expenses

⁶³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 25, 1977.

⁶⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 27, 1977.

⁶⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 8, 1977.

⁶⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 1, 1978.

⁶⁷ Minutes from the Voters' Assembly meeting on January 9, 1978.

⁶⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 1, 1978.

⁶⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 8, 1977.

⁷⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 5, 1977.

were \$1338.⁷¹

g. Facilities maintenance and operations
from October, 1976, to August, 1978,
the arrival of Hope's first full-time pastor.

At the March 1, 1977 meeting, the voters decided to buy a small heater for the kitchen. They accepted Dave Ellenberger's offer to loan a heater for the sanctuary for as long as it was needed. Mr. Traynor and Dave Schultz were to install spot lights. There was to be a work day for clean up on March 12. Hope had received an additional 26 chairs for a total of 76. It was resolved to order 25 new hymnals and 10 KJV Bibles, the NIV Bible had not yet been approved as the translation the W.E.L.S. would be using.⁷²

Work on the heaters was put off until the fall. This was when Pastor Heyn was asked to cover the windows with contact paper that looked like stained glass windows. An air conditioner, donated by Alice Johnson, was to be installed by Dave Ellenberger in June of 1977.⁷³

At the facility on Taylor Road, there was a space problem due to a large Sunday School attendance but the matter was tabled for lack of alternative space. The small building simply had no room.

V. Change of status to an official mission of the CMB.

a. Transition to Hope's self-government G24

⁷¹ Minutes from the Voters' Assembly meeting on February 13, 1978.

⁷² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 1, 1977.

⁷³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 27, 1977.

At the March 28, 1977 Voter's Assembly meeting, the voters targeted July 1978 as the date to obtain mission status. At that time Hope's first full-time pastor would be called. At the April 25, 1977 meeting, there was a discussion of the duties of the second pastor at St. Mark's, who would be assigned in May, and his division of time.⁷⁴ In June 1977, Pastor Franzmann recommended that Hope call their own pastor in 1978 if a permanent site could be located.⁷⁵ The Voters' Assembly meeting was set to be on the second Monday of each month.⁷⁶

At the August 8, 1977 Voters' Assembly meeting, a special meeting was to be at St. Mark's, on September 7, regarding the mission status and it was noted that officers needed to be elected and a constitution drawn up by January 1978.⁷⁷

On September 7, 1977 a meeting was held to set a goal for Hope Lutheran Church to become a mission congregation independent of St. Mark's. Persons present at the meeting were Pastors Franzmann, Pope and Hockmuth, and laymen Ted Heyn, Hester, and Bob Traynor. Ted Heyn was elected chairman and Bob Traynor was elected secretary of the committee. At this meeting it was resolved for Hope to submit a Program Facility Requirement to the Mission Board. St. Mark's and Hope would then submit a Land Search Request to obtain authorization to look for land for Hope to buy. Hope was to elect a chairman, secretary and treasurer effective January 1, 1978. Also, Hope was to establish a constitution to prepare for incorporation. July 1, 1978 was

⁷⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 28, 1977.

⁷⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 27, 1977.

⁷⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 1, 1978.

⁷⁷ Minutes from the Voters' Assembly meeting on September 12, 1977.

selected as the target date for going to mission supervision.⁷⁸

An undated budget entitled "Advance Goals," prepared for Hope Lutheran Church, shows a proposed budget for 1978 which totaled \$3,508. This budget included paying for the part-time services of the St. Mark's pastors and then the full-time pastor effective June 1978.⁷⁹ At the meeting on Oct 10, 1977, the mission forms were completed. The budget for 1978 was revised to include support for Hope children attending St. Mark's school.⁸⁰

The minutes of the November Voters' Assembly meeting were missing and not available, but in the December minutes it was noted that the nominating committee reported and the constitution and bylaws were discussed. At the December meeting the first officers of Hope were elected. Ted Heyn was elected President, Bob Spriggs was elected secretary, Joe Doyon was elected treasurer, Ron Cousineau and Dave Ellenberger were elected elders, and Bob Traynor and Duwaine Earney were elected trustees. It was resolved that the two trustees would have authority to sign the incorporation papers.⁸¹

At the March 13, 1978, Voters' Assembly meeting, the trustees were instructed to initiate incorporation at a cost of \$15. It was resolved to have the CMB extend a call to a seminary graduate. Dave Ellenberger was elected to be the lay delegate to the Northern California lay Delegate conference.⁸²

⁷⁸ Minutes from meeting on September 7, 1977 of a special meeting at St. Mark's with Hope members.

⁷⁹ Proposed "Advance Goals" for Hope Lutheran Church for 1978, presented in church on November 13, 1978.

⁸⁰ Minutes from the Voters' Assembly meeting on October 10, 1977.

⁸¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 5, 1977.

⁸² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 12, 1978.

All the paper work for a pastoral call was completed at the April, 1978, meeting of the voters.⁸³ At the May 5, 1978 Voters' Assembly meeting Pastor Franzmann read his letter regarding the request for a call. Pastor Franzmann told the Hope voters that an information package would need to be made available if the call was granted. The news that graduate Rick Curia had been assigned to Hope was officially reported at the June 12, 1978 meeting. At the June 12, 1978 it was resolved to rent a duplex for the parsonage.

The Voters' Assembly agreed to send a delegate to the Ariz-Ca Delegate Conference, in 1978.⁸⁴

b. The search for land begins

At the December 5, 1977 meeting of the committee overseeing Hope, a land search committee was formed consisting of Pastors Franzmann and Hope members Ted Heyn and Dave Ellenberger. The committee was to work through a real estate broker.⁸⁵

By March, 1978, a potential site was found near VIP'S, a restaurant along Interstate 80.⁸⁶ In April the Voters decided the site near VIP's was too expensive.⁸⁷

There was a special meeting on April 17 to view properties at Penryn Road and Interstate 80, just south of I-80, and one on Sierra College. Hope submitted both properties to CMB for consideration, but a request was made for the Sierra College property. That property had 1.9

⁸³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 10, 1978.

⁸⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 12, 1978.

⁸⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 5, 1977.

⁸⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly Meeting dated March 13, 1978.

⁸⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 10, 1978.

acres and was for sale at \$66,000.⁸⁸

The CMB began negotiations for the Sierra College property. There was a special Voters' Assembly meeting on May 14, 1978 to consider problems with the Sierra College property. The land use permit had been denied because of concerns ^{about} with inadequate parking. A motion was passed to increase the purchase to 2.5 acres at a increase in cost of additional \$35,000.⁸⁹ Pastor Berg, from the CMB, visited the proposed site in June, 1978, and recommended immediate action and put down \$2,000. Hope was to incorporate as soon as possible and to take title in its name.⁹⁰

In August, 1978, the option on the land on Sierra College expired, but the \$2,000 earnest money was returned. The search for land would continue during the pastorship of Hope's first full time pastor, Pastor Rick Curia.

VI. Hope under Pastor Curia July 16, 1978 to August 12, 1985

a. Congregation life and activities

July 16th was selected for the ordination date of Pastor Curia. Pastor Geiger, of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Belmont, California, home pastor for the Curias, was to perform the rite of ordination. The ordination service was held on July 16, 1978 and drew 176 people.⁹¹

According to the hand written history of Hope, at the ordination, thirty people had to sit on the front porch of the church because of the lack of space inside. The Women of Hope served a dinner following the service. On July 23rd the Women of Hope then sponsored an ice cream

⁸⁸ Minutes of special meeting of Voters' Assembly on April 17, 1978.

⁸⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 5, 1978.

⁹⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 12, 1978.

⁹¹ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

social at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank to allow the congregation an opportunity to get acquainted with Pastor and Mrs. Karen Curia and their infant son Joseph. On August 6th Pastor and Mrs. Curia hosted an open house with a light lunch for the congregation.⁹²

The second anniversary of Hope was celebrated on October 1, 1976⁸ with a luncheon held outside in the warm California weather. Pastor Curia preached the sermon that Sunday. On October 15, 1978 the church had a Sunday School picnic and baseball game which 30 people attended. Another congregational picnic was held outside on November 5.⁹³

On December 16th several families met at the home of Wes and Ann Eickmann, new members, to go caroling. Then on December 17th the Women of Hope sponsored a chili dinner and Christmas decorating party at the church. The children practiced their Christmas parts while the adults decorated. On Christmas Day the Women of Hope also provided refreshments.⁹⁴

The Curias had an open house and provided their new home in Newcastle. The second wedding, but the first of a Hope member, at Hope was on February 17. Randy Cousineau and Karen Leonbard were married. A soup pot luck was sponsored by the Women of Hope on the first Sunday of March.⁹⁵

In July the congregation determined that the young men of the congregation could be asked to light the candles and help with ushering. A farewell luncheon for Martin Sprigs, the first son of the congregation to study for the ministry, was held by the Women of Hope. Martin was

⁹² *ibid*, Official History of Hope

⁹³ *ibid*, Official History of Hope.

⁹⁴ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

⁹⁵ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

leaving to begin his theological training at Northwestern College in Watertown, Wisconsin. A farewell offering of \$162 was presented to Martin.⁹⁶

The first meeting of Hope's youth group was on September 9, 1979. Lynne Cookson was elected president, Karen Doyon secretary, and Gordon Heitman treasurer. On September 23 a joint picnic with St. Mark's, St. Andrew and Hope was held at Rusch Park. A coed baseball game was played. The men resolved to thank the women of Hope for sponsoring the picnic.⁹⁷

The youth group went bowling and had a discussion with Pastor Curia about the Bible. The youth group started a tradition that would last a few years, they purchased the Christmas Tree for Hope. The group also constructed a large wreath for the front of the church. The youth had a swim party and business meeting at the home of Ted and Myra Heyn on April 27th.⁹⁸

Mrs. Ann Eickmann made the Advent wreath, as she would for years to come. A Christmas caroling party to the Dewitt Center, a center for juvenile delinquents and mentally disturbed adults, occurred on December 21.⁹⁹

In January, 1980, the Voters' Assembly resolved to have a square dance as a church activity.¹⁰⁰ The elders discussed the position on square dancing at their February meeting but no action was taken.¹⁰¹ A potluck followed by square dancing was hosted by Hope at E. V. Cain Junior High School on February 17th. It was resolved that fellowship activities that are not

⁹⁶ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

⁹⁷ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

⁹⁸ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

⁹⁹ *ibid*, Official History of Hope, and the author's personal knowledge.

¹⁰⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 14, 1980.

¹⁰¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 4, 1980.

established practices would be subject to Voters approval.¹⁰²

The Hope choir met for the first time on January 27 with Ruth Borchers leading it and fifteen participating. The choir performed for the first time on March 2nd.¹⁰³

The Women of Hope sponsored a shower given to Pastor and Mrs. Curia for their new arrival, Nicholas Curia. This event was followed by the second wedding of a Hope member which occurred on May 17, when Lorraine McLaughlin was married to Roland Van Melichor. Then in June Steve Suhar was confirmed as a youth. A potluck was held at the Suhars' in his honor.¹⁰⁴

The second annual area picnic for W.E.L.S. churches was sponsored by the Women of Hope on September 28th. About fifty persons attended and played softball, earthball, volleyball and had a bubble blowing contest. Joseph Curia, who will be starting Martin Luther College in the fall of 1996, in the pastor tract, won the diaper derby contest.¹⁰⁵

The fourth anniversary of Hope was celebrated with a cake donated by Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Phillips. A potluck and square dance was held by the Women of Hope on November 16th.¹⁰⁶

It was resolved to let an asthmatic group, associated with Mrs. Hoyer, use the church's facilities as long as it did not interfere with church activities and the use was coordinated with

¹⁰² *ibid*, Official History of Hope

¹⁰³ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

¹⁰⁴ *ibid*, Official History of Hope.

¹⁰⁵ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

¹⁰⁶ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

Pastor Curia.¹⁰⁷ In early April the Hope youth sponsored an invitational volleyball tournament at E. V. Cain School for youth from Hope, St. Mark's, Christ (Lodi) and St. Andrews.¹⁰⁸

There was an Easter brunch served after the services in 1981.¹⁰⁹ This was the beginning of a long tradition at Hope, which the Women of Hope succeeded in having the men take over. On most Easter mornings a brunch has been served, although in some years it was simply rolls, coffee and juice. This tradition was continued in large part because of the recognition that large numbers of unchurched visitors would come on Easter Sunday and the brunch provided the opportunity to visit with them.¹¹⁰

Pastor Hermann, who served as a vicar to Pastor Hockmuth and helped at Hope in the first year, preached at the fifth anniversary worship service and Pastor Heyn read the Scripture lessons.¹¹¹ It was decided to give Pastor Hermann \$75 to defray ^{the} cost of trip and the loose plate offering.

Pastor Heyn passed to glory in December, 1981. The funeral was at St. Mark's.¹¹² This marked the end of the earthly journey of a great missionary for home missions. As noted above, Pastor Heyn was a pioneer in California for the W.E.L.S. His work at Hope was especially important when one realizes that the growth of Hope was not simply a matter of transferring

¹⁰⁷ Minutes of the Voters' Assembly meeting on January 2, 1981.

¹⁰⁸ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

¹⁰⁹ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

¹¹⁰ Based on the author's personal recollection of discussions of the Easter brunch at Voters' Assembly meetings.

¹¹¹ Minutes of the Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 15, 1981.

¹¹² *ibid*, Official History of Hope

Lutherans from one congregation to the next but of reaching unchurched people. He is remembered as the first pastor of Hope, without whom it is doubtful that the daughter would have been born when she was.

The November social was a bowling outing with several families participating.¹¹³ The Women of Hope sponsored the first progressive dinner (this involves the participants eating different courses at different houses) on March 28th. Forty attended the festivities.¹¹⁴

The congregation decided to allow social events to be printed in the bulletin, subject to pastor's approval. It was resolved to allow wedding receptions at the Church as long as no alcohol was served and there was no dancing at the church facilities.¹¹⁵ All year the Women of Hope supplied coffee after services. The sixth anniversary of Hope was celebrated with a potluck sponsored by the Women of Hope.¹¹⁶ The on December 11 the Women of Hope held a Christmas party for the women from Hope.¹¹⁷

The Women of Hope announced their fellowship events for 1985 of which there would be seven.¹¹⁸ The Voters resolved to ask the Women of Hope provide cookies , coffee and juice after church.¹¹⁹

¹¹³ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

¹¹⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 11, 1982:

¹¹⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 11, 1982.

¹¹⁶ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

¹¹⁷ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

¹¹⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 10, 1984.

¹¹⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 11, 1985

A church retreat was discussed and John Stegner volunteered to research into it.¹²⁰ This idea would blossom into a weekend retreat with 5-6 hours of Bible study and the rest of the time for fellowship. The retreat would become an annual event with all the northern California congregations being invited. Unfortunately, the retreat ceased to occur in 1991.¹²¹ The retreat was started in 1985 and the congregation invited Pastor Joel Gerlach to be the speaker at the first retreat on September 13-15,¹²² Pastor Gerlach was not able to come.¹²³ Pastor Charles Cortright, pastor of St. Peter, Clovis, California, was able to come and be the speaker at the retreat. By July, 28 had signed up, but 50 people were needed to have enough paying participants to pay for the minimum cost of the facility.¹²⁴ This minimum figure of participants would prove to be a hard obstacle to overcome. The problem was that a figure would be published for the cost of the retreat, but if the number of participants was lower than the number required to reserve the facility then all the participants would have to kick in more money. This always presented the unattractive factor of not knowing what the actual and final individual cost would be. This kept some from going to the retreats. Hope would eventually solve this problem by agreeing to guarantee the minimum, and paying any shortfall itself, so that participants would know exactly what they would have to pay.¹²⁵

¹²⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 13, 1985.

¹²¹ Based on the author's personal knowledge.

¹²² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 13, 1985.

¹²³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 10, 1985.

¹²⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 15, 1985.

¹²⁵ Based on the author's personal knowledge.

Tragedy struck Hope's heart when two members were killed in an automobile accident while returning from vacation, David Urman and his adult son Roger Urman. The deaths were especially tragic because they left two widows and Roger's two young sons. The accident was caused by a drunk driver. This would be the first of three drunk driving accidents that would wreck havoc on the lives of members of Hope. Years later, another drunk would cause a head-on collision with the family of Elmer and Mary Ann Frank. Both Mary Ann and Elmer would be hurt, Mary Ann very seriously, and Elmer's brother-in-law would be killed. Then, in the early 90's, another drunk would cause a head-on with the motor home being driven by Gene and Millie Endorf. This couple would be injured as well, but fortunately, no deaths came to that family.¹²⁶

b. Congregational growth, Bible class, Sunday School and evangelism

1. Congregational membership growth.

The congregation had gained 30 souls over the first two years.¹²⁷ In December, 1978, the Elders reported that Hope had 21 families, 41 communicants, and 55 souls. There were 16 eligible voters.¹²⁸ The communicant membership in May 1978 was 50.¹²⁹ Pastor reported that in October he had six people in his Bible Information course including five nonmembers.¹³⁰ As of January 1, 1980 there were 51 communicant members and 67 souls compared to 41 and 55 for January 1, 1979.¹³¹ Church attendance in September, 1980, was averaging 55, with 10 in Bible

¹²⁶ Based on the author's personal knowledge.

¹²⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 6, 1978.

¹²⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 11, 1978.

¹²⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 11, 1979.

¹³⁰ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

¹³¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 14, 1980.

class and 7 in Sunday School.¹³² Confirmands were Gloria Heyn and Leslie King.¹³³

The congregation resolved to drop members who had missed church for a year and could not be contacted by the pastor or an elder. By November, 1982, there were 90 confirmed members of Hope and 114 souls.¹³⁴ Communicant members in May, 1983, stood at 102 and there were 132 souls at Hope.¹³⁵ In 1983, there were two youth confirmed: Brian Borchers and Stu Suhar.¹³⁶ Worship attendance in September, 1983, was averaging 72¹³⁷

The average attendance at church by December, 1983, grew to 84, at Bible class it was 15 and for Sunday School 11. By January 1, 1984, there were 105 communicant members and 133 souls. In 1983 Hope gained 26 and lost 7. Communion attendance for the year 1983 total 655.¹³⁸

Church attendance was averaging 88 in March, 1984.¹³⁹ The church attendance average dropped in 1984 compared with 1983, 83 and 86 respectively. In 1984 there were ten new confirmed members and seven released.¹⁴⁰ Sherri Eickmann was confirmed as a youth.¹⁴¹ By July,

¹³² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 8, 1980.

¹³³ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

¹³⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 8, 1982.

¹³⁵ Minutes of the Voters' Assembly meeting on May 9, 1983.

¹³⁶ Minutes of the Voters' Assembly meeting on June, 1983.

¹³⁷ Minutes of the Voters' Assembly meeting on September, 1983.

¹³⁸ Minutes Voters' Assembly meeting on January 8, 1984.

¹³⁹ Minutes Voters' Assembly meeting on March 11, 1984.

¹⁴⁰ Minutes Voters' Assembly meeting on January 14, 1985.

¹⁴¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on June 10, 1985.

1985, there were 118 communicants and 156 souls at Hope.¹⁴²

2. Bible class and Sunday School

In the beginning of Hope, the young adult (high school age) Bible class was taught by LaVerne Suhar; Paula King taught the primary grades with Mrs. Anne Houser assisting.¹⁴³

As can be seen from the number of adults attending Bible Class over the years the adult Bible Class was slow getting off the ground. In fact, the Bible Class would become popular only under Pastor Behringer. Therefore it is no surprise to note that in 1984 only three people responded to the questionnaire regarding a Bible study group.¹⁴⁴ In September, 1983, there were 12 in Sunday School and only 7 at Bible class.¹⁴⁵

Part of the problem with Bible Class attendance, at times other than Sunday morning, was the great distances that Hope members had to drive. Some members lived as far as 60 miles away. Therefore home or cottage study groups were set up in areas closer to different groups of members. In January, 1985, it was resolved to purchase twenty-five copies of Bible study material for cottage Bible study.¹⁴⁶ Three Bible study groups had begun in Sacramento, Auburn, and Lake of the Pines, in the form of cottage meetings.¹⁴⁷ The Voters resolved to purchase two copies of the *Peoples Bible* as a resource for the cottage Bible study groups.¹⁴⁸ By June, 1985, there were

¹⁴² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on July 15, 1985.

¹⁴³ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

¹⁴⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 14, 1984.

¹⁴⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September, 1983.

¹⁴⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 14, 1985.

¹⁴⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 11, 1985

¹⁴⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 13, 1985.

29 members taking part in the cottage Bible study groups.¹⁴⁹

3. Evangelism

The Women of Hope submitted a report to the Assembly about their plans to visit the county juvenile detention center as part of their evangelism effort. Only four children had signed up for 1978 VBS and it was determined that more advertising would be needed in the future.¹⁵⁰

In another evangelism effort, VBS was scheduled for June 11-22.¹⁵¹ In June 1978 the VBS was cancelled due to a lack of children. In November, 1978, the Hope's evangelism committee had meet with Pastor Vallesky, from Apostles Lutheran Church, San Jose.¹⁵² Pastor Vallesky was known for his home mission evangelism programs. The Voters also resolved, at the suggestion of the Women of Hope, that sponsors be designated to sponsor new members for three months under guidelines established by the Elders.¹⁵³ October, 1979, was designated the as the first ever evangelism month at Hope..

Rain cancelled an area canvass to be done by Hope in 1979. It was to be rescheduled.¹⁵⁴ The canvass was done on February 24, 1979.¹⁵⁵ By 1982 the evangelism committee could report

¹⁴⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 10, 1985.

¹⁵⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on May 14, 1979.

¹⁵¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 12, 1979.

¹⁵² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 13, 1978.

¹⁵³ Minutes of the Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 14, 1982.

¹⁵⁴ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

¹⁵⁵ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

that there were twenty visitors to services during August and one looked like a prospect.¹⁵⁶ In 1983, the Women of Hope asked the Voters' Assembly to authorize greeters at church. The idea was rejected because Hope was small enough that every member could and should be a greeter.¹⁵⁷ Also, in 1983, Pastor Joel Gerlach, the California Mission Counselor, suggested, as an evangelism effort, that Hope start advertising the new sanctuary before it was completed.¹⁵⁸ Pastor Curia requested a congregational meeting to discuss outreach, project and survey in January, 1984.¹⁵⁹

In March of 1985, only five people met for the evangelism committee. This was unfortunate because the synodical canvass witness team was expected around September or October and there was much work to be done. A congregational gospel outreach and projection study was completed in March of 1985.¹⁶⁰ That same year there was a record attendance at Easter services of 165. Again in April, 1985 the Evangelism committee had only five in attendance. A special evangelism seminar was conducted after church on April 28th.¹⁶¹ Twenty attended the evangelism seminar. Then the news came that the canvass-witness team would arrive between November 1985-February 1986. The congregation would need to be ready by mid September.¹⁶²

The evangelism committee scheduled the 1985 VBS on July 29-August 2. Karen Curia

¹⁵⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 9, 1982.

¹⁵⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 10, 1983.

¹⁵⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 14, 1983.

¹⁵⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 8, 1984.

¹⁶⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 11, 1985.

¹⁶¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 8, 1985.

¹⁶² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 13, 1985.

put together a package and 25 books were ordered.¹⁶³ The VBS had to be rescheduled and was held July 22-26 with 26 children coming.¹⁶⁴

The Women of Hope requested guidelines for the mailing of the Sunday bulletin. The Voters' resolved to maintain the practice of mailing the bulletins to those who miss church.¹⁶⁵ the

In August, 1981, it was reported that there were thirteen students enrolled in VBS.¹⁶⁶ For the second month, August, 1981, there was a discussion about putting an advertisement in the newspaper about Hope and again there was no action taken.¹⁶⁷ The 1981 VBS was very successful with fifteen students each day.¹⁶⁸

d. Financial concerns

1. The congregational budget.

This accounting of financial concerns is intended to reflect how the congregation met its needs by the offerings of members, gifts from friends of Hope, and the Synod subsidy for operating expenses and building programs. Hope was a mission congregation and as it is the nature of mission congregations it struggled in the early years. Financial struggles would return to Hope after it became self supporting when the California economy took a downturn in the early 1990's.

¹⁶³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 10, 1985.

¹⁶⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 15, 1985.

¹⁶⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 8, 1980.

¹⁶⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 10, 1981.

¹⁶⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 10, 1981.

¹⁶⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 14, 1981.

In July, 1978, Pastor Curia was reimbursed \$150 for moving expenses. In July 1978 offerings were up to \$1,495, but expenses were \$1,470. In July, 1978, the Voters' resolved to make the final payment to St. Mark's for the services of the half time pastor.¹⁶⁹ As well be seen, the congregation was not able to ^{make} this payment, and would not for some time.

The offerings were growing and in August, 1978, \$1,822 was received. But there were unpaid bills including the pastor's salary and the synod mission offering. The Voters' Assembly resolved to pay the synod and Pastor Curia.¹⁷⁰ In September of 1978 the receipts were down to \$1,267 and this left \$703 in unpaid bills.¹⁷¹ October, 1978, brought the bad news that although receipts were up for the month to \$1466, due to a lack of funds, there were \$1,241 in unpaid bills.¹⁷² November, 1978, brought an increase of offerings to \$2,385, but expenses were \$2,247. This left unpaid bills of \$1,341, from previous deficits, including \$333 in salary to Pastor Curia.¹⁷³

The 1979 budget was accepted with the requirement that it be reviewed in six months. The budget was based on commitment cards of \$16,390. It was resolved to delete from the budget \$966 owed to synod and to review this in six months.¹⁷⁴

Financial woes continued in January 1979, The receipts were up to \$1,978 but the expenses were \$1,667 and there were \$2,031 in unpaid bills.¹⁷⁵ In February the receipts were

¹⁶⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July, 1978.

¹⁷⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 14, 1978.

¹⁷¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September, 11, 1978.

¹⁷² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 6, 1978.

¹⁷³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 13, 1978.

¹⁷⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 11, 1978.

¹⁷⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 8, 1979.

down to \$1,347, but the expenses ran \$2,604. This left unpaid debts of \$399 (the balance in checking from January of \$1,014 was used to pay off bills). The Voters' resolved again in February, 1979, to pay off the unpaid debt for pastoral salaries to St. Mark's as soon as possible.¹⁷⁶ In April the offerings were up and the expenses were down, but there still were \$888 in unpaid bills.¹⁷⁷ A review of the budget resulted in the decision that the congregation would pay 100% of the rent of the parsonage and so relieve Pastor of paying \$50 monthly. It was also resolved that Hope would discontinue subsidizing St. Mark's Day school.¹⁷⁸

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the resolution in July to discontinue the subsidy to St. Mark's Day school but not action was taken.¹⁷⁹ The congregation continued to have unpaid bills, as of September there were \$958 in unpaid bills.¹⁸⁰ In November the treasurer's report showed expenses exceeding income, leaving unpaid bills in the amount of \$2,186.¹⁸¹

At the December, 1979, meeting of the Voters' a \$1,000 gift was acknowledged from Doug Barstad and it was put into the building fund. The new budget for 1980 of \$27,200 was accepted although only 50% of the pledges had been received. These were non-binding pledges.¹⁸²

Again it was resolved in January, 1980, to repay St, Mark's for the use of their pastor and

¹⁷⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 12, 1979.

¹⁷⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 9, 1979.

¹⁷⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 9, 1979.

¹⁷⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 13, 1979.

¹⁸⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 10, 1979.

¹⁸¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on November 5, 1979 and the minutes of the continued Voters' Assembly meeting on November 7, 1979.

¹⁸² This is based on the author's personal knowledge of the budgeting system and procedures at Hope.

to pay \$300 to synod.¹⁸³ By September, 1980, the unpaid bills were \$3,160 and the balance in checking was a negative \$262.20. The negative figure did not represent an overdrawn account, but rather, that funds had been loaned to the account. The principal amount owed was to the building fund in the amount of \$2,899 for funds loaned to the general fund. The Christian Day School subsidy for St. Mark's that was dropped in 1979 was again discussed, but no action taken. It was resolved to inquire of synod for operating support.¹⁸⁴

The proposed budget was approved with the deletion of the building fund. The budget for 1981 was \$28,200.¹⁸⁵ In January, 1981, the Voters resolved to increase their request for operating subsidy to \$400 monthly.¹⁸⁶ The Voters discussed the priority of paying unpaid bills and set the priorities as follows: loan payment, missions, pastor's salary and benefits, church rent, remainder of bills at discretion of treasurer.¹⁸⁷ The synod subsidy was to be left at \$400 for the rest of 1981.¹⁸⁸

The 1983 budget was accepted in the amount of \$45,500. As of April, 1983, there was \$9,721 in the building fund and no unpaid bills.¹⁸⁹ Income for May, 1983, was \$3,928 and expenditures were \$3,640. Again, there were no unpaid bills and there was \$10,083 in the

¹⁸³ Minutes of the Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 14, 1980.

¹⁸⁴ Minutes of the Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 8, 1980.

¹⁸⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 8, 1980.

¹⁸⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 2, 1981.

¹⁸⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 9, 1981.

¹⁸⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 15, 1981.

¹⁸⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 11, 1983.

building fund.¹⁹⁰ At this time, St. Mark's has agreed to give sister congregations the same rate as St. Mark's students.¹⁹¹

The 1984 proposed budget was accepted at \$51,600.¹⁹² In February, 1984, the treasurer was asked to reflect the subsidy from synod in the income report each month so that the congregation would be constantly reminded that it was financially dependent on the synod.¹⁹³ By March of 1984 the receipts were up to about \$4,500 a month. Bills were being paid currently and there was \$4,700 in the building fund.

The offerings for May -July, 1984, dropped considerably and now there were \$1,370 in unpaid bills, mainly two months payments to synod.¹⁹⁴ In September, 1984, ^{it was resolved that} Every confirmand ^{would} will be given own envelopes except husbands and wives would get one envelope for the two of them.¹⁹⁵

The proposed budget for 1985 of \$50,500 was only .049% over 1984.¹⁹⁶ The Voters' resolved to request the synod ^{to} give a subsidy on the building payment. The proposed budget for 1985 was accepted.¹⁹⁷ By March 1985 all bills were paid and there was \$4,179 in the checking

¹⁹⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June, 1983.

¹⁹¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September, 1983.

¹⁹² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 10, 1983.

¹⁹³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 6, 1984.

¹⁹⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 20, 1984.

¹⁹⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 14, 1984.

¹⁹⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 11, 1984.

¹⁹⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 10, 1984.

account and \$683 in the building fund.¹⁹⁸

2. Stewardship efforts.

There was a stewardship workshop in July, 1978, at St. Mark's which Pastor Curia, Heyn, Ellenberger, and Traynor attended.¹⁹⁹ In July 1981 the Women of Hope were given permission to hold a garage sale on church property. At the August, 1981 Voters' Assembly meeting it was acknowledge that some guidelines were needed for contributions to memorial funds.²⁰⁰ Pastor Curia was going to have an every member visit in October, 1981, to discuss ushering, cleaning and stewardship.²⁰¹

In March 1982, it was resolved to have a series of cottage meetings to explain the building program and the Reaching Out program. At the cottage meetings non-binding pledge cards were given out. A member could write "open" rather than pledge a specific amount.²⁰² At these cottage meetings Pastor Curia informed members of the up coming year and let them mark a participation sheet and set goals for themselves in 1982 not only for stewardship, but also for Bible study, and participation in church work activities were concerned.²⁰³

A committee of Pastor Curia and Bob Green formed to present the "Reaching Out" program.²⁰⁴ Hope did not participate in the program except by making members aware of the need

¹⁹⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 11, 1985.

¹⁹⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July, 1978.

²⁰⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 15, 1981.

²⁰¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 10, 1981.

²⁰² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 14, 1982.

²⁰³ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

²⁰⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 8, 1982.

and the opportunity to contribute. Names were not given out to synod officials who were responsible for the Reaching Out program.

3. Gifts to and by the congregation.

One of the early gifts to Hope was a Hammond Spinet Organ, donated by Mrs. Ellenberger in November, 1978. The organ that had been loaned was returned to Mrs. Bartol.²⁰⁵ In July, 1979, the congregation decided to buy more hymnals with monies donated from the Gloria Dei congregation of Belmont, California.²⁰⁶ In August, 1979, the Voters resolved to buy flags in honor of Pastor Heyn with monies donated by Mr. John Paris.²⁰⁷ The parents of Wes Eickmann, Mr. and Mrs. L Eickmann, donated four new collection plates. A missal stand was donated by the parents of Wes Eickmann, Mr. and Mrs. L Eickmann.²⁰⁸

One hundred hymnals ^{WERD} ~~are~~ available from a LCMS congregation in Hastings, Nebraska. Al Borchers father brought these when he comes out for confirmation Sunday.²⁰⁹ A Kimball organ donated by the Heitmans' in January 1984, which the congregation accepted subject to Ron Siffring's (he was the choir director) and the organists approval.²¹⁰

In March of 1984, Don Schram found a 1977 Rogers Organ at a cost of \$7,400 including installation. The cost new would be \$17,000 and the then present day worth was \$12,000. Schram

²⁰⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 13, 1978.

²⁰⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 9, 1979.

²⁰⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 13, 1979.

²⁰⁸ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

²⁰⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 9, 1983.

²¹⁰ Minutes Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 8, 1984.

offered to make the down payment of \$1,000 and take out a loan in his name if the congregation would pay off the loan. A special meeting was called to decide on this.²¹¹ At the special meeting of the Voters' Assembly meeting, it was resolved to purchase the Rodgers organ with a loan in Don Schram's name with the agreement that the congregation would reimburse him.²¹² As would happen many times over, Hope's members would come forward and ^{meet} special financial needs such as this. The organ would be paid off by the members before the loan was due.²¹³

A special meeting was called on May 6, 1984 at which it was resolved that the congregation would purchase Martin Spriggs a set of commentaries for a gift at the time of his graduation from the Seminary.²¹⁴

The Voters resolved in May 1984, to take a special door offering for the Tree of Life Bible Camp scholarship fund.²¹⁵ It was resolved to allow the AAL to provide a supper for the congregation in November, 1984.²¹⁶

In the summer of 1985, the congregation needed a new copier. By June of 1985, \$1,225 had been collected for a new copier.²¹⁷ The new copier arrived and \$900 was due by October 1st, voluntary offerings were solicited to pay off.²¹⁸ Again this special financial need would be met by

²¹¹ Minutes Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 11, 1984.

²¹² Minutes Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 18, 1984.

²¹³ Based on the author's personal recollection.

²¹⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 6, 1984.

²¹⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 18, 1984.

²¹⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 11, 1984.

²¹⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 10, 1985.

²¹⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 15, 1985.

Hope's members above and beyond their regular offerings..

e. Officers and management

1. Officers, offices and jobs in the congregation.

The first officers for Hope, to serve beginning in January, 1978, were: for president Ted Heyn; secretary Elmer Frank; treasurer Joe Doyon; elders Ron Cousineau and David Ellenberger; trustees George Schroeder, Ed Schaeffer, and Bob Spriggs.²¹⁹

Ruth Borchers agreed to in September, 1978, to serve as organist without compensation.²²⁰ Pastor Curia attended his first Voters' Assembly meeting in July.²²¹

In November, 1979, the Elders requested and it was approved to have greeters at services.²²² Because not enough men were willing to serve, the Board of Trustees was cut to two members. The voting age for the congregation was set at age 18. The new officers for 1980 were: for president Elmer Frank; for secretary Ted Heyn; for elder Wes Eickmann and Bob Traynor.²²³

For a couple of years, Hope started having problems getting volunteers to be the lay delegate from Hope to the Northern California Lay Delegate Conference. There was no volunteer from Hope to be lay delegate in 1980²²⁴ and 1982 and so, no action was taken.²²⁵

²¹⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on December 11, 1978.

²²⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 11, 1978.

²²¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 1978.

²²² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 5, 1979 and the minutes of the continued Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 7, 1979.

²²³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 10, 1979.

²²⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 14, 1980.

²²⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 19, 1982.

At the December, 1980, meeting of the Voters, the following were elected officers for 1981: President Joe Doyon; secretary Elmer Frank for two months and Simmons for ten months; treasurer Wes Eickmann; elders Tim Cookson and Ted Heyn; trustee Bob Traynor. The building committee was filled with the trustees, Tim Cookson, Ted Heyn and Joe Doyon.²²⁶

JoAnne Spriggs was released as church historian. The officers for 1982 would be: president Joe Doyon,; secretary Oscar Timmons; treasurer Ted Heyn; financial officer Bob Grigas; elders Tim Cookson and Al Borchers, trustees Ron Siffing, Bob Heitman, and Bob Traynor.²²⁷

There was to be a special meeting on January 20, 1982, with all officers of the church to discuss the reports of the Mission Board.²²⁸ The Voters' Assembly meeting would be every other month in summer.²²⁹ In 1982, Wes Eickmann resigned as treasurer and the office of financial secretary was created by separating the counting function from the treasurer. Ted Heyn was elected treasurer. There was a problem with getting enough help to count money after church. New member, by transfer from St. Mark's, Bob Grigas, was elected the financial officer. Tim Cookson volunteered to help count.²³⁰

Hope needed a male or female volunteer to be delegate to Tree of Life Bible Camp, for 1982. The Tree of Life Bible Camp is a youth Bible camp that runs every summer for a week for

²²⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 8, 1980.

²²⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 4, 1981.

²²⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 2, 1981.

²²⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 9, 1981.

²³⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 11, 1981 and the special meeting called on May 3, 1981.

the W.E.L.S. children from northern California.²³¹ Bob Green volunteered to become Hope's delegate to the Tree of Life Bible Camp and was so appointed.²³² Bob Green and Kim Taylor ^{would} will be camp counselors, for the 1982 camp.²³³

The Voters' Assembly approved the youth constitution in September, 1982. The Voters resolved that high school students would be honorary members and that the president and vice president be male.²³⁴

Officers for 1983: president Joe Doyon; secretary Steve Green; treasurer Ted Heyn; financial secretary Bob Grigas; assistant financial secretary Bob Green; trustee Gene Endorf; and elders Tim Cookson and Oscar Timmons.²³⁵ The minutes to the August 1983 Voters' Assembly meeting were lost.²³⁶ The congregation resolved to try having Voters' Meetings on second Sunday for six months.²³⁷

Officers for 1984: president Joe Doyon; secretary Steve Green; treasurer Ted Heyn; financial secretary Bob Green; assistant financial secretary Bob Grigas, Bob Heitman, and John Stegner; elders Tim Cookson, Pastor Jonas, and Oscar Timmons; trustee Larry Vestal.²³⁸

The 1983 audit was completed with no discrepancies. The June and July Voters'

²³¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 5, 1982.

²³² Minutes of the Voters' Assembly meeting on August 8, 1982.

²³³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 12, 1982.

²³⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 9, 1982.

²³⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 13, 1982.

²³⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September, 1983.

²³⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 10, 1983.

²³⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 12, 1983.

Assembly meetings were cancelled, but a special meeting in June was called to discuss the growth of Hope.²³⁹

The First Congregational meeting was held in August, 1984. There was a recommendation that a Bible study group be formed and a questionnaire would be sent to determine the interest. Recommended also that the congregation pay for refreshments after services for increased fellowship and visiting. Also there was a recommendation that officers delegate more duties to others and that elders assist in visiting.²⁴⁰ The trustees discussed putting in a playground but no action taken.²⁴¹

Officers for 1985: president Bob Green; vice president Steve Green; secretary Jim Bitzer; treasurer John Stegner; financial secretary Bob Grigas; assistant financial secretary Tim Cookson; elders Ted Heyn and Tim Cookson; trustee Ron Siffing.²⁴² The Voters resolved to have Pastor Curia make an announcement requesting volunteers to lead the youth group in 1985.²⁴³

The Voters' resolved in January 1985, to give the organists each a \$25 gift to buy music. The June and July, 1985, Voters' Assembly were cancelled.²⁴⁴

In January, 1985, Tim Cookson agreed to talk with any young people and their parents after church regarding a youth group.²⁴⁵ Ann Eickmann was requested to head up the Pioneer

²³⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 18, 1984.

²⁴⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 20, 1984.

²⁴¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 14, 1984.

²⁴² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 10, 1984.

²⁴³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 10, 1984.

²⁴⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 12, 1980.

²⁴⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 14, 1985.

group in May 1985.²⁴⁶

The Voters' Assembly resolved that instead of taking official votes on all matters at Voters' Assembly meetings, matters could be approved by general consensus. The need for a youth group was referred to the Board of Elders. In February, 1985, Roger Urman was elected to Sunday School Superintendent.²⁴⁷

The Voters' Assembly authorized the presence of the president at future elder meetings. The financial secretary was given the authority to appoint counters.²⁴⁸ It was agreed that Steve Green, ^{†k}financial secretary, could take home the funds to count.

A special meeting was set for April 10, 1985 to discuss a church retreat. The first annual retreat took place in the fall of 985, see below.²⁴⁹

One of the most tragic events in the history of Hope was the sudden and unexpected resignation of its pastor, Rick Curia, on August 12, 1985. Pastor Curia resigned from Hope and from the Ministerium of the W.E.L.S. The resignation came by way of a letter left for the president at the Voters' Assembly meeting scheduled for that day. A committee was set up to write to Rick Curia on behalf of the congregation. The purpose of the letter was to institute a church discipline effort. Pastor Franzmann, circuit pastor, came to the Voters' Assembly meeting, that night, at the request of the congregation president. Pastor Franzmann advised the Voters regarding the call process. The Voters resolved to pay the pastor's salary due August 30 the

²⁴⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 12, 1980.

²⁴⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 11, 1985

²⁴⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on March 11, 1985.

²⁴⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on April 8, 1985.

Karen Curia and to look into rent concerns for Karen and the children.²⁵⁰

On the day that Pastor Curia resigned a member started a fire in the burn barrel to burn some garbage. In the turmoil of the events that night, some of the burning garbage fell from the barrel and started a small grass fire. The author was present and, admittedly too hastily, called the fire department. I did not want to see the church burn down on top of everything else. The fire was contained before the fire department arrived. The fire marshall was rather upset and demanded to know who was burning. Unfortunately Steve Green was seen by the fire barrel and the fire marshall assumed it was Steve. Steve would not accuse a brother and so he was cited for negligently operating a burn barrel. The matter went to court and the judge threw it out. This was after Hope paid a fine of almost \$300.00 to the fire department. That was a day that will not be forgotten.²⁵¹

2. Women of Hope

The constitution for the Women of Hope organization had been approved in October, 1978.²⁵² The Women of Hope requested, in January, 1980, that the minutes of the Voters' Assembly meetings be posted was not granted, however it was resolved that the minutes could be read at their meeting.²⁵³ The annual report by the Women of Hope was read. The Women of Hope were thanked by resolution for their work in 1979. The new officers for the Women of Hope for 1980 were: president Mary Ann Frank; vice president Diana Schaefer; secretary LaVern

²⁵⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on Augustus 12, 1985.

²⁵¹ Based on the personal recollections of the author.

²⁵² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 11, 1978.

²⁵³ Minutes of the Voters' Assembly meeting on January 14, 1980.

Suhar; treasurer Judy Traynor; chairman of committee for the care of the church Jean Ellenberger; evangelism JoAnne Spriggs; and constitution Ann Eickmann.

It was noted that in 1979 nine families cleaned the church, sixteen families gave flowers, and nineteen families furnished refreshments after church. The altar had been kept by Lorraine McLaughlin and there had been nine social events hosted by the Women of Hope. The Women of Hope also helped Pastor draw up the Altar Guild guidelines, made a flannel board and a quiet book, made visits to the juvenile delinquent center and placed six Bibles there, three layettes had been made for the African Medical Mission, the cradle roll was initiated and mite boxes for Lutheran Women Mission Society were started.

3. Articles of Incorporation of Hope.

The incorporation was moving along, but the papers had been returned by the state for further processing. The articles of incorporation were filed October 12, 1978. The incorporation papers were returned again with a request to change the name to avoid duplication. Because of a conflict with a similar name, for another congregation, the congregation had to pick a new name to incorporate under. The new name would be Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Placer County.²⁵⁴ The articles of incorporation were finally accepted by the State of California in November, 1978.²⁵⁵

4. Constitution and By Laws of Hope

It was resolved to begin work on a new constitution in 1980 to be done by year's end.²⁵⁶

²⁵⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 13, 1978.

²⁵⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 11, 1978.

²⁵⁶ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

And so in January, 1980, a constitution committee was formed.²⁵⁷ The constitution revisions and 1/3 of the by-laws were ready at the January, 1984, meeting for the congregation's review.²⁵⁸ There had been no action on the constitution and by-laws by early February, 1985.²⁵⁹

But then the constitution was set to be reviewed at a special meeting of the Voters' Assembly on February 24, 1985.²⁶⁰ The review of the constitution was completed at a special Voters' Assembly meeting. The constitution and by-laws were presented to the congregation for acceptance on May 29th.²⁶¹ The secretary was directed to sign the constitution and by-laws on behalf of the congregation on June 19, 1985.²⁶² The constitution were forwarded to the synod for its approval.²⁶³ See below for the response by synod.

5. Actions taken by the Voters' Assembly

In 1978, the president was given the authority to appoint three men to the nominating committee.²⁶⁴ Also, in 1978, the members of Hope limited terms of officers of the congregation to one year terms. This was done to encourage men to run for office.²⁶⁵ The Voters resolved in April, 1983, to purchase a blanket subscription for the Northwestern Lutheran for the

²⁵⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 8, 1984.

²⁵⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 10, 1984.

²⁵⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 11, 1985

²⁶⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 11, 1985

²⁶¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 13, 1985.

²⁶² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 10, 1985.

²⁶³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 15, 1985.

²⁶⁴ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

²⁶⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 6, 1978.

) congregation. They also elected to purchase a burn barrel, an item that would play a small part on a wretched day in the history of Hope, as will be discussed later.²⁶⁶ The Voters' resolved in January, 1984, to use the church building for church sponsored activities only.²⁶⁷

The trustees completed the audit of the 1981 books with no problems reported. This would be ^{true} of every audit except one in the early 1990's. That audit would show only two mistakes totaling less than \$37.

) In 1982 Bob Grigas was working on developing a form for counting the receipts.²⁶⁸ One problem area for most any congregation seems to be getting the money counted and this was no different for Hope. As was shown, Hope tried various efforts to solve this. Two financial officers were used early on. Then the financial officer was given the authority to appoint a committee. The Voters even allowed the financial secretary to take the receipts home to count. Hope's Voters finally resolved that every officer would be on the counting team and take turns counting. This is how the matter is taken care of today.²⁶⁹

The Voters' Assembly entertained discussions over a wide range of concerns. There was some discussion particular concerning the role of men and women and the authority to vote. The response by Pastor Curia remained the same throughout these discussions. ^{He} His taught that the man is the head of the family in all phases of life.²⁷⁰ Bob Green in April, 1983 requested

²⁶⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 11, 1983.

²⁶⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 8, 1984.

²⁶⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 8, 1982 and the Official History of Hope.

²⁶⁹ Based on a conversation with member and church officer Steve Green, April, 1996.

²⁷⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 8, 1982.

clarification on issue of whether or not women can vote on camp matters. The response was that matters of doctrine can not be voted on. Doctrine is clear that women can not vote.²⁷¹

In 1984 the congregation adopted a resolution to send to the Northern California Lay Delegate Conference regarding the equal voting of male and female teachers at teacher conferences. That resolution called for

Resolved a. that the Council of Presidents of the WELS deal with and clarify this issue in a way that will remove any possibility of offense or the possibility of an appeal to the voting and office holding of female teachers on an equal basis with the male teachers at Teachers' Conferences as an inconsistency within our Synod and a practice which could, would or should also allow for a similar arrangement in other religious organizations where authority is clearly an issue; be it further

Resolved b. that if it can be realistically determined that authority is involved in our Teachers' Conferences in the relationship between male and female teachers, no matter how small the degree, and thus a situation would exist which would stand in opposition to the principle established for us by God's Word, the COP oversee that some other arrangement for the operation of the business of the Teachers' Conferences be established allowing our female teachers the opportunity to voice their opinions and share their insights and experience in a way which gives recognition of the fact that such is done within the biblical order authority, with the understanding by the COP that such an arrangement might then also be applicable to other religious organizations within our fellowship...²⁷²

The congregation decided in January, 1985, to have pictures taken of all members and posted. Mr. Sweet volunteered to build a frame for the pictures and Jan Timmons would take the pictures.²⁷³ John Stegner volunteered to take pictures of members.²⁷⁴

²⁷¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 11, 1983.

²⁷² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 6, 1984.

²⁷³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 14, 1985.

²⁷⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 11, 1985

At special meeting, on February 3, 1985, to discuss the constitution, the vice-president was appointed head of a committee, with the power to appoint members, to discuss the new outreach program of the synod called "Come to the WELS" and to work with the Synod evangelism team in 1985. Also, the number of elders was increased to four and Pastor Jonas was elected. Ron Siffing would continue being the stewardship chairman. The president or his appointee was authorized to attend all committee meetings. Also resolved that minutes of all board and committee meetings would be kept. Resolved also that the minutes of the Voters' Assembly meetings would be posted. It was also resolved that a monthly newsletter be published with Pastor Jonas as editor with Mary Ann Frank assisting.²⁷⁵

The historical record, the Official History of Hope, was not written during 1982, but was written out in 1983-1985. No separate contemporaneous history has been maintained since 1985.²⁷⁶ The first issue of the monthly newsletter, the *Star of Hope*, first published in September, 1985, was received very favorably.²⁷⁷ The *Star of Hope* is being published to this date. Hope's official history record is now the *Star of Hope*. Hope's Voters resolved that every board and officer submit reports to the newsletter. The newsletter publishes the proposed agenda and treasurer's report.²⁷⁸

The two functions of the stewardship committee would be 1) conduct a building fund drive; 2) determine how best to use our facilities. It was resolved that no free offering would

²⁷⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 14, 1985.

²⁷⁶ Based on a review of all the documents of Hope submitted to this writer.

²⁷⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 11, 1985

²⁷⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 10, 1985.

taken at special events without the prior approval of the Voters. The first meeting of the stewardship meeting was on June 10, 1985.²⁷⁹

f. Land and a building project!

1. Land is acquired.

In October, 1978, several properties were visited.²⁸⁰ Then more property sites were visited in November.²⁸¹ Finally, a site was found that seemed very suitable. It was a five acre site across from the Ground Cow Restaurant on Penryn Road, the site the church presently occupies.²⁸² The congregation resolved to request the General Board of Home Missions to purchase the five acres on Penryn Road.²⁸³

The preliminary testing on the proposed site had been completed and were approved. The church would be allowed to name the road leading to the church. It was noted in the minutes for March that a special Voters' Assembly meeting was held on March 4th, the minutes for that meeting are not available. But at that meeting the congregation resolved to accept the sellers counter offer for the property on Penryn. The seller was to provide a chip and seal finish road.²⁸⁴ The Synod's Board of Trustees gave notice to Hope that they had approved the funds for purchase of the Penryn Road property.²⁸⁵

²⁷⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 10, 1985.

²⁸⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 9, 1978.

²⁸¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 13, 1978.

²⁸² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 8, 1979.

²⁸³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 12, 1979.

²⁸⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 12, 1978.

²⁸⁵ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

Also the congregation decided to use volunteers to survey the property.²⁸⁶ The survey of the new property was completed by member Joe Doyon.²⁸⁷

2. The Worship, Education, Fellowship Unit (The WEF)

Haight and Associates were retained as the architects for the new building.²⁸⁸ The architect, George Haight, presented two master plans, plan "A" and plan "B." Plan "A" was accepted around January 1980 by the Voters.

The water bond had been written for the property in January, 1980, and the road was about to go in.²⁸⁹ The water project was set for public hearing on April 2, 1980 and the architect was preparing environmental impact reports.²⁹⁰ The water project was delayed 3-4 months so that the water agency could be assured that the property owners would have the cash or bonds to pay for it.²⁹¹ The water bond was \$11,000.²⁹² The main water lines were installed. The synod paid the water bond in October, 1981, and the cost was added to the loan.²⁹³

The use permit was applied for.²⁹⁴ The use permit was approved with some conditions. The asphalt road bid was \$9,000. A dispute arose about the cost of the road. The CMB accepted

²⁸⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 13, 1979.

²⁸⁷ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

²⁸⁸ *ibid*, Official History of Hope, and the author's personal knowledge.

²⁸⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 14, 1980.

²⁹⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 10, 1980.

²⁹¹ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

²⁹² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 8, 1980.

²⁹³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 12, 1981.

²⁹⁴ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

the seller's proposal to resolve the dispute and the matter was sent to synod.²⁹⁵ Hope would pay the water bond in exchange for the seller putting in the paved road.²⁹⁶ Later it was discovered, there had been a misunderstanding by the seller regarding how much of the road was to be paved. He paved only about one half the length of 600 feet. The agreement was for the full length.²⁹⁷ The escrow for closing the property sale was extended forty-five days to allow the seller time to complete the road.²⁹⁸ In February, 1982, the builder was granted another 45 days to complete the road.²⁹⁹ The road was completed in June of 1982 subject to Hope's approval.³⁰⁰

The architect, George Haight, was contacted for an estimate of the cost of phase one. The proposal was submitted to the California Mission Board, which approved it and sent it to synod around August, 1981.³⁰¹ The contract for architectural work was signed in September, 1981.³⁰² The building committee was instructed to report to the worshipers, after service, once a month, beginning in May, 1981.³⁰³

In March, 1982, the president of Hope, Ted Heyn, made a special presentation of the new church facilities. The building was said to be slightly larger than the present one but would allow

²⁹⁵ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

²⁹⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 20, 1980.

²⁹⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 14, 1981.

²⁹⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 4, 1981.

²⁹⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 8, 1982 and the Official History of Hope.

³⁰⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 7, 1982.

³⁰¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 10, 1981.

³⁰² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 14, 1981.

³⁰³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 11, 1981 and the special meeting called on May 3, 1991.

for future use as a school, and a much better worship facility.³⁰⁴ The concept of designing a building that could be added onto as the growth required had been abandoned. The idea was to develop the church buildings around a courtyard.³⁰⁵

A total of \$122,725 was allocated to Hope for the construction of the new building. The property had a poor perk test for drainage and special drains had to be considered.³⁰⁶ The property continued to fail the perk test.³⁰⁷ Joe Doyon continued to do perk tests. The project drawings were ready by March of 1982.³⁰⁸ A septic plan was being drawn up by the engineers, subject to synod's approval.³⁰⁹

Hope congregation was given the pulpit, lectern and baptismal font from St. Mark's, which just built their own new sanctuary. But Hope could not use St. Mark's pews or altar.³¹⁰

The Synod had five pages of questions regarding the building plans which had to be addressed and then resubmitted to synod.³¹¹ Some of synod's questions concerned the square footage of the new building and the bathroom designs. The square footage had to be reduced because the synod considered the outside overhang as square footage. The architect addressed the questions of synod and obtained the approval of synod and Placer County for final bathroom

³⁰⁴ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

³⁰⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 9, 1981.

³⁰⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 8, 1982.

³⁰⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 5, 1982.

³⁰⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 8, 1982.

³⁰⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 12, 1982.

³¹⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 7, 1982.

³¹¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 9, 1982.

revisions. The congregation revised the plans and the plans were finally approved by synod to go to bid.³¹² Bids went out by February 17th and accepted by March 8th. Construction was set to begin April 1st, 1983.³¹³

The lowest bid was for \$134,000, but Synod allowed a bid of only \$113,000 without further review. The architect met with the builder to get a new figure to send to synod. The building committee still needed \$22,730 more in additional monies or cuts.³¹⁴ The synod Mission Board finally approved the bid, but the Synod Trustees had to approve it. Hope needed to have \$7,500 set aside for its share.³¹⁵ The building fund was down to \$1,405 because most of it used to pay the 1% loan fee. The Synod Board of Trustees finally approved the bid and the building construction was finally started in June, 1983.

Back in October, 1982, the building committee sent a letter to architect listing what work the members of Hope could do on their own.³¹⁶ The idea finally had to be rejected that members would install the roof tiles because a roofer would do that work at almost no cost, due to savings on materials, and guarantee it for five years. The insulation could be provided and installed by a contractor cheaper than the congregation ^{could} buy it, and so the congregation did not do the insulation.

Occupation of the WEF was set for November 17, 1983. There sketches were made of

³¹² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 10, 1983.

³¹³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 14, 1983.

³¹⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 9, 1983.

³¹⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June, 1983.

³¹⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 11, 1982.

stain glass designs for rear windows. The building was completed, but \$12,725 was withheld until minor problems were corrected.³¹⁷

The building was release to the church by the contractor in December, 1983.³¹⁸ The parking lot and courtyard were completed at a cost of \$3,000, a \$1,000 less than the Voters' Assembly had authorized. The congregation met for work days to complete the irrigation, weeding, rototilling, and laying of turf and seeding.³¹⁹

On December 4, 1983 the first service was held in the new sanctuary. At that service Matthew Grigas, infant son of Bob and Linda Grigas, was baptized. The chalice used for communion was a gift from Helene Heyn in memory of her husband Pastor Heyn.³²⁰ The dedication service was originally set for January, 1984. Pastor Joel Gerlach was asked to preach. Also, the Heyn's were asked for a picture of Pastor and Mrs. Heyn to hang in the new church.³²¹ The dedication service was on February 5th.³²²

The congregation voted at a special meeting of the Voters' Assembly to spend \$1349 for the initial cost for the sewer that was being extended into the area.³²³ The sewer work was to start in October. There was a property owners' protest meeting regarding the assessment for the sewer.

³¹⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 12, 1983.

³¹⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 8, 1984.

³¹⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 9, 1984.

³²⁰ *ibid*, Official History of Hope

³²¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 10, 1983.

³²² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 12, 1983.

³²³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 22, 1984.

A \$10,995 sewer bond was issued.³²⁴

The congregation resolved to review the need for additional buildings in three months.³²⁵ The building committee and Pastor would continue to discuss the building needs, especially for a parsonage and a patio with trees.³²⁶

3. The parsonage

In October 1984, even before the Worship, Education, Fellowship unit, (WEF) was built it was decided to ask synod for permission to build a parsonage as funds ^dbecome available.³²⁷ The congregation was told that in 1985 funds should be available to build a parsonage from the Reaching Out program. A committee was formed for planning the building of the parsonage.

The synod informed the congregation in February of 1995, it would approve the construction of a parsonage. It was resolved to build a parsonage with four bedrooms, two baths, a garage, and a study, at about 1700-2000 square feet.³²⁸ The drawings for the parsonage were presented to the Voters. The parsonage would be 1884 square feet and would cost \$85,000 to build, of which \$15,000 was to be done by the members. Work was to begin July, 1985.³²⁹ The bids went out on May 3rd for the parsonage.³³⁰ The parsonage plans had to be redrawn and the

³²⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 13, 1985.

³²⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 20, 1984.

³²⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 14, 1985.

³²⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 8, 1980.

³²⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 11, 1985.

³²⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 11, 1985.

³³⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 8, 1985.

new plans had been sent to synod.³³¹

VII. Transition to new pastor

a. Disciple of Rick Curia

A special meeting of the Voters' Assembly was to discuss a proposed letter by the Board of Elders to Rick Curia. The proposed letter admonishing Rick Curia was approved. The Elders were in communication with Rick Curia and were waiting for a reply letter. Rick was under the discipline of the congregation. The Elders had received a letter from Rick Curia and requested a meeting with him.³³² There were several letters sent to Rick Curia. In addition, Pastor Hochmuth had several meetings and telephone calls with him. The Elders met with Pastor Hochmuth regarding Rick Curia. There was one meeting between Rick Curia and the Board of Elders. All this did not accomplish the desired repentance.

An open congregational meeting regarding Rick Curia was set for April 23, 1986.³³³ A presentation of the discipline procedures, contacts and efforts of the Board of Elders regarding Rick Curia was made by Pastor Hochmuth on April 28th to the congregation. President Green and Pastor Hochmuth read and discussed certain items made available to the congregation. A discussion of excommunication was also presented emphasizing that excommunication was a last effort of discipline designed to drive home the seriousness of impenitence and that it must always be done out of love and concern. At that meeting, Gene Endorf, chairman of the Board of Elders

³³¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 15, 1985.

³³² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on November 16, 1985.

³³³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on April 14, 1986.

motioned that Rick Curia be excommunicated. The motion was seconded and after further discussion the Voters' Assembly unanimously voted to excommunicate Rick Curia.

b. The calling of the new pastor.

Shortly after the resignation, a meeting between the president and Pastors Franzmann and Hochmuth occurred to start the call process and take care of the vacancy needs. The desired qualifications for the new pastor were determined to be: youth experience, evangelism, mission work, and Christian Day School experience. The congregation resolved to submit the names of Pastors Witte and Seager to President Nitz as possible candidates.³³⁴

The first call was issued to Pastor Pautz of Tempe, Arizona. Pastor Pautz returned the call.³³⁵ A request to the District President to submit an updated call list for October 14th was made. After the call to Pastor Pautz was returned, a call was submitted to Pastor Bater of Neosho, Wisconsin.³³⁶ Pastor Bater returned the call and a new call went to Pastor Seager of Milwaukee.³³⁷ A special call meeting was conducted on December 29, 1985 since Pastor Seager returned the call. A call was issued to pastor Scott Klein.³³⁸

At a special meeting of the Voters' Assembly on February 2 a call was issued to pastor Pautz for a second time, Pastor Klein having returned the call. The call was issued again to Pastor

³³⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 26, 1985.

³³⁵ Minutes of Special Voters' Assembly meeting on October 6, 1985.

³³⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 6, 1985.

³³⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on November 16, 1985.

³³⁸ Minutes of Special Voters' Assembly meeting on December 29, 1985.

Pautz because he had returned the call, extended six months before, because of a building program that was on going, but that program was now completed.³³⁹

A call was issued to Pastor James Behringer on March 16, 1986. When Hope was told that Pastor Behringer had accepted the call, it was a moment of great joy and gratitude. The long vacancy and the many returned calls emphasized how precious it is to have a shepherd under Christ to be called to your corner of the Kingdom of God. His installation was set for May 18, 1986.³⁴⁰

Any discussion of the difficult period between August, 1985, and May, 1986, must include words of praise for Vicar David Rosenbaum, assigned to Pastor Hochmuth. Vicar Rosenbaum was serving a second year as a vicar for Pastor Hochmuth, because ^{his} he duties as the California Mission Counselor were very demanding. Vicar Rosenbaum had been serving Hope almost as a vacancy pastor. He had been and would continue to do an outstanding job both as our weekly preacher and as ? Pastor Hochmuth commended Vicar Rosenbaum at the November, 1985, Voters' Assembly meeting.³⁴¹

VIII. Hope thrives under Pastor Behringer

a. Evangelism

The evangelism committee continued to function during the vacancy.³⁴² Bob Grigas took

³³⁹ Minutes of Special Voters' Assembly meeting on February 2, 1986.

³⁴⁰ Based on the personal recollections of the author who was serving as Hope's president during the call process.

³⁴¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 16, 1985.

³⁴² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 9, 1985.

over the evangelism committee in October, 1985.³⁴³ After the evangelism committee had met 2-3 times it recommended a "Friendship Sunday." The "Friendship Sunday" was based on the liturgy being explained step by step so that visitors would understand better what was going on and hence not be intimidated by a liturgical service.³⁴⁴ The Voters' Assembly resolved to make the last Sunday of each month a "friendship" Sunday with a potluck.³⁴⁵ The congregation resolved that Hope proceed with synod's mass media program..³⁴⁶

Plans for synod's evangelism canvass witness team to come to Hope were continued during the vacancy. In order to properly prepare for the team, Hope congregation needed to establish a budget and work out the target areas and arrange congregational participation.³⁴⁷ The team arrived and with Vicar Rosenbaum as the impetus at Hope a cooperative effort was made with the team and members from Hope. The evangelism committee developed 200-300 prospects for its files, from the canvass witness team effort.³⁴⁸ The canvass witness team's leads needed to be followed up.³⁴⁹ At the first Voters' Assembly meeting Pastor Behringer attended at Hope, Vicar Rosenbaum stressed the need for the congregation to call on the prospects more than once.³⁵⁰

³⁴³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 14, 1985.

³⁴⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 19, 1988.

³⁴⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 16, 1985.

³⁴⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 13, 1986.

³⁴⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on January 13, 1986.

³⁴⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 8, 1986.

³⁴⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 14, 1986.

³⁵⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 12, 1986.

The committee continued to focus on VBS and began a new project to eventually establish a church library.³⁵¹ The evangelism committee viewed the VBS as an evangelism tool and so recognized the need to plan one for 1986.³⁵² The evangelism committee reported that 28 attended VBS, double over the previous year. Eleven contacts were made by the evangelism committee in July.³⁵³ Members of called on prospects from the VBS.³⁵⁴

In 1987, evangelism workshops for the congregation were held starting March 24th and held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. The evangelism committee reported to the Voters' Assembly that they needed volunteers to stuff the 1987 Easter mailers.³⁵⁵ In April, 1987, the evangelism committee sent out about 1100-1500 mailers with 1-2% response. Also, 250 handbills were delivered.³⁵⁶ The evangelism mailing produced six responses, with one family taking instructions.³⁵⁷ In 1987 the VBS was dropped because of no morning teachers were available form Hope.³⁵⁸

The evangelism committee continued to focus on Easter mailings and advertisements for VBS in 1988.³⁵⁹ Also, the evangelism committee hosted a gearing up seminar and urged all the

³⁵¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 13, 1986.

³⁵² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 14, 1986.

³⁵³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 11, 1986.

³⁵⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 9, 1986.

³⁵⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 10, 1987.

³⁵⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 21, 1987.

³⁵⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 12, 1987.

³⁵⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 19, 1988.

³⁵⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 16, 1988.

members of Hope to go.³⁶⁰ Because of the problems getting teachers for the morning in 1987 for VBS, in 1988 the committee planned to try late afternoon and evening slots for the VBS. There were 9 followups or prospects from Easter service. May 15th was the first door to door outreach for 1988.³⁶¹

The need for volunteers to teach the 1988 VBS was met by July, 1988. By July, VBS was on track with 4-5 teachers but needed more. The 1988 VBS produced two prospects who were interested in Hope.³⁶²

There were 18 prospects, at an average of 7 a month, developed by the evangelism committee in 1988. On May 16th 600 homes were visited, which gave rise to an expectation of 48-50 visitors. In June a mailer went to every home in Penryn.³⁶³ There was contact with 52 families from this canvass. There were 962 pamphlets were mailed to residents of Penryn in June, 1988.³⁶⁴

In October-November, 1988, the evangelism committee sent out 400 fliers as a newsletter to prospects. By November 15th, 1988, Hope's members had made 70 evangelism calls and had 730 contacts for the year. In October 10 people visited Hope for the first time³⁶⁵. The evangelism committee sent out 8,514 mailers to all of New Castle, Penryn and Loomis households in

³⁶⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 15, 1988.

³⁶¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 19, 1988.

³⁶² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 20, 1988.

³⁶³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 17, 1988.

³⁶⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 21, 1988.

³⁶⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 15, 1988.

December, 1988.³⁶⁶

In February, 1989 there were 5 prospects attending Hope for the first time. The evangelism committee ordered 2500 bags for door hangers for a new development, Stanford Ranch in January or February, 1989. May 7th was set as Evangelism Sunday.³⁶⁷ The canvass of Rocklin was coming up and the committee reported to the Voters that they needed help to hang 2500 bags.³⁶⁸

Ten prospects came to Hope in March, 1989. The evangelism committee wanted every member to make a list of all unchurched people they knew and to start praying for them and to invite them to church.³⁶⁹ The evangelism committee sent out bulk mailing in July and a canvass of Lincoln was planned for after VBS.³⁷⁰ In June 1989 there were 5 first time visitors to Hope.³⁷¹

In October, 1989, \$200 in the budget was transferred to the evangelism committee from the youth fund. The youth fund had sat dormant for quite some time. Sixteen prospects visited.³⁷² Two children were baptized as result of Loomis canvass,(the Cortez children.) Their mother attended the Basic Information Class and became a member.³⁷³ On November 18 Roseville was

³⁶⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 20, 1988.

³⁶⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 21, 1989.

³⁶⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 21, 1989.

³⁶⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 18, 1989.

³⁷⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 16, 1989.

³⁷¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 20, 1989.

³⁷² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 17, 1989.

³⁷³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 19, 1989.

the target of a canvass. The 1989 Hope evangelism workshop was well attended. A 1990 Easter canvass was planned. The add in the Roseville phone book did not get printed for 1990.³⁷⁴

There was no VBS planned for 1990.³⁷⁵ In May, 1990, a canvass of Loomis covered 600 homes and turned up 175 addresses of unchurched people. Of these, 7 were prospects.³⁷⁶ In June, fifteen visitors came to Hope.³⁷⁷ The Voters' Assembly gave the evangelism committee authority to pursue T.V. Channel 6 taping of services.³⁷⁸

A canvass by the evangelism committee members happened on November 17-18 in Auburn.³⁷⁹ This was followed by the evangelism committee mailing flyers to everyone who had been on the prospect list in the last few years and who had shown any interest in Hope.³⁸⁰

Because of the recurring problem of getting VBS teachers, it was decided to announce that there will be one plea for VBS teachers. If not enough teachers signed up, there would be no VBS in 1991.³⁸¹

Three members of the Hope evangelism committee attended the evangelism workshop at St. Mark's. The committee ordered 500-1000 "Before ^y ^c ^c you come to church." and the same for

³⁷⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 20, 1990.

³⁷⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 17, 1990.

³⁷⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 15, 1990.

³⁷⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 17, 1990.

³⁷⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 21, 1990.

³⁷⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 21, 1990.

³⁸⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 19, 1991.

³⁸¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 19, 1991.

"The Lord's Supper"³⁸² This committee had a September mailing of 1949 pieces for registration for Sunday School.³⁸³

In December, 1991, the evangelism committee mailed out 1500 pieces, put Christmas ads in newspapers, put up a temporary sign for Christmas on the road, and ordered 125 round type letter openers with Hope's name on them.³⁸⁴ The evangelism committee implemented a farming program, and handed out the letter openers ordered to mission prospects.

Starting in January, 1992, the farming technique was put into play. But again VBS was cancelled in 1992.³⁸⁵

Because of the budget crisis in 1992, the evangelism committee sought advise from the Voters' Assembly regarding mailing and yellow pages. The Voters' Assembly resolved to spend \$50 for mailings for the farm project and for Easter. The Voters' authorized the evangelism committee to put in four yellow page advertisements.³⁸⁶ The members of the evangelism committee, in May of 1992, distributed materials by foot in lieu of mailing to save money.³⁸⁷

The farming project started up on April 25, with Jerry Swagger heading it up then, and Gene Endorf heading it up on May 3.³⁸⁸ The farming effort produced 39 prospects with 44

³⁸² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 14, 1991.

³⁸³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 10, 1991.

³⁸⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 10, 1991.

³⁸⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 14, 1992.

³⁸⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 10, 1992.

³⁸⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 14, 1992.

³⁸⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 12, 1992.

followup visits.³⁸⁹ This hard working evangelism committee invited 26 persons to the special hymn Sunday. Following this effort, there were 30 followups and of these 8 had a specific contact with Hope.³⁹⁰ The evangelism was able to report in October, 1992, that 26 families interested in Hope.³⁹¹

The evangelism committee arranged for Sierra College to show a tape of "Precious is the Child" with Hope as the sponsor on CATV, Rocklin. Holiday invitations to worship services were mailed as well as extra ones given to each family unit of Hope to give to friends and relatives.³⁹² The committee wisely decided not to participate in a radio stations's religious show since it is not W.E.L.S.³⁹³

The members of the evangelism committee started another project of working with Hope's Board of Education on ways to get kids to Sunday School. Sadly, there would be no VBS in 1993, but Hope did plan to use the VBS at St. Mark's. Because of the problems with getting help and participants, the Board of Education started considering alternatives to VBS.³⁹⁴ In 1993 the evangelism committee decided to drop bulk mailing due to the budget shortfalls.³⁹⁵ But the committee was still looking for ways to transport kids to Sunday School.³⁹⁶

³⁸⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 14, 1992.

³⁹⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 8, 1992.

³⁹¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 13, 1992.

³⁹² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 15, 1992.

³⁹³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 13, 1993.

³⁹⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 11, 1993.

³⁹⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 13, 1993.

³⁹⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 9, 1993.

To make the Friendship Sunday successful, the evangelism committee needed congregational help. While planning the Friendship Sunday, the committee also developed a draft of a proposed visitor registration card.³⁹⁷ The Friendship Festival became a major focus. Invitations were mailed to those on the then current prospect list.³⁹⁸ Hope member Bob Cluny was asked to sing at Friendship Festival and to use his guitar.³⁹⁹

All visitors, from the local area, to the 1994 Easter services were visited by the evangelism committee.⁴⁰⁰ The committee reported to the Voters' Assembly in May, 1994, that another farming project was coming up and the evangelism committee needed volunteers. A small gift to remind contacts of Hope was given out during this farm project.⁴⁰¹ October 22nd and 23rd, 1994, were canvass days.⁴⁰²

This history of the efforts of the evangelism committee was rather surprising to write. It was surprising because even though I was an active member of Hope and attended most of the Voters' Assembly meetings, I had no idea how busy and involved the evangelism committee had been. I was a witness to the continual growth of Hope and even helped with a few canvass projects. But my personal perception of what this committee did over the years in no way did it justice. The committee has earned my respect.

b. Church attendance and membership growth

³⁹⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting held February 15, 1994.

³⁹⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting held March 15, 1994.

³⁹⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting held April 12, 1994.

⁴⁰⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting held May 10, 1994.

⁴⁰¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting held September 13, 1994.

⁴⁰² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting held October 11, 1994.

In 1986 there were 28 new members added to Hope, but 24 left. Gains being offset by losses would be the same story for years as the highly mobile California culture took its toll on evangelism efforts. But the good news is that not all of those leaving were lost to the church. Of the 24 souls leaving Hope in 1986, only 9 left the W.E.L.S. On January 1, 1987 there were 122 communicant members of Hope, and 158 souls.⁴⁰³

By May, 1987 the worship attendance was averaging 127.⁴⁰⁴ The 1987 yearly average attendance was 111, which was 8 over the 1986 average. There was a record attendance at Easter, 1987, of 205.⁴⁰⁵ There was an average Sunday School attendance in 1987 of 10, one over 1986, and an average of 30 in the adult class, 8 over 1986. By years end, there would be 172 souls at Hope, an increase of 16 or 8.8%. There also was a 13.1% increase in communicants, up to 138 from 122.⁴⁰⁶

There were 12 nonmember baptisms in 1988. Attendance at worship on the average increase by one in 1988 over 1987. Sunday School attendance increased by 3 as did Bible class attendance. Communicant membership in 1988 decreased by one to 136 and the souls decreased by 6 to 170. There were 15 gains and 22 losses overall.⁴⁰⁷ A baby and his mother were both baptized.⁴⁰⁸

⁴⁰³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 22, 1987.

⁴⁰⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 12, 1987.

⁴⁰⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 17, 1988.

⁴⁰⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 19, 1988.

⁴⁰⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 17, 1989.

⁴⁰⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 19, 1989.

In 1989 there was a gained of 18 souls and 16 communicants. The lost of 9 souls and 9 communicants were all due to members in good standing moving out of the area. Communicants as of January 1, 1990 were 145; souls 188. Worship averaging 124 and Bible class 33. Sunday School attendance was not taken in 1989.⁴⁰⁹ By March, 1990 there were 147 communicants and 191 souls⁴¹⁰ and by May, 1990 there were 150 communicants and 197 souls. There were 7 in the Basic Information Class.⁴¹¹

In 1990 there were five baptisms, but only one member baptism.⁴¹² In March, 1990, Pastor Behringer suggested doing away with Advent services because they were poorly attended. In 1990 the congregation gained 11 communicants and 23 souls, so that there were 156 communicants and 214 souls by January 1, 1991. Average attendance at worship in 1990 was 141.⁴¹³ The congregation resolved that from 1990 on an infant, who was ^{baptized} baptism at Hope, would not be regarded as a soul of the congregation unless the parents had been received into membership.⁴¹⁴ In November, 1991, Pastor Behringer did a study to see why attendance had dropped. It was not because people have stopped coming, but because many were coming less frequently.⁴¹⁵

In 1991 there was a loss of 23 souls and 17 communicants and a gain of 24 souls and 19

⁴⁰⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 16, 1990.

⁴¹⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 20, 1990.

⁴¹¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 15, 1990.

⁴¹² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 17, 1990.

⁴¹³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 12, 1991.

⁴¹⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 10, 1991.

⁴¹⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 12, 1991.

communicants.⁴¹⁶ This put the souls of Hope at 214, and the communicant membership at 158. Interestingly, at one point, since Pastor Behringer's arrival, there were 138 new communicants and 190 new souls out of the 160 communicants and 214 souls existing at the time of the study.⁴¹⁷ The exciting news, for a congregation that had struggled for years to get enough organists, ^{wes that} a prospect was an organist. Hope was now the fourth largest congregation in Northern California as of June, 1991.⁴¹⁸

The members designated June, 1992, as the new member welcome month but there were no new members to welcome.⁴¹⁹ 1992 saw a loss of 25 souls and 16 communicants and a gain of 22 communicants and 33 souls. This put the membership as of January 1, 1993 at 223 souls and 164 communicants.⁴²⁰ The Elders reactivated the sponsors program for new members in January, 1993. Sunday attendance at worship in 1991 was 131, and in 1992 138.⁴²¹ Another record at Easter of 271.⁴²² Two teenagers were confirmed in 1993.⁴²³ By September, 1993, a new high of 181 communicant members and 251 souls was reached. Pastor Behringer started Flock Talk, a new innovation. It was not a replacement for the *Star of Hope*, but simply a new format for the

⁴¹⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 14, 1992.

⁴¹⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 14, 1992.

⁴¹⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 9, 1991.

⁴¹⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 12, 1992.

⁴²⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 15, 1992.

⁴²¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 1993.

⁴²² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 13, 1993.

⁴²³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 11, 1993.

pastoral report.⁴²⁴

There was a gain of 46 souls and 31 communicate members in 1993 and a loss of only 14 souls and 10 communicants. This put the membership of Hope at 262 souls and 193 communicant members as of January 1, 1994. Church attendance in 1993 averaged 146 as compared to 138 in 1992.⁴²⁵ By February, 1994 there were 261 Souls and 192 communicants.⁴²⁶

By April, 1994, Hope passed the 200 communicant mark with 201 communicants and 272 souls. The average worship attendance in February was 161.⁴²⁷ 290 came for Easter in 1994.⁴²⁸

c. The building goes on.

The Voters unanimously approved the building plans for the parsonage on September 29, 1985.⁴²⁹ The parsonage plans were approved by the CMB and had been sent to the synod. By October, 1985 the County of Placer had the plans for review and the county approved the plan.⁴³⁰ The plans had to be revised to get to synod's mandate of 1700 sq. ft. The revised plans for the parsonage were approved by the county. The synod finally approved the plans and released the funds. Special announcements were made to the congregation after services regarding financial needs for the building program. It was resolved to have a playground leveled at the same time the

⁴²⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 9, 1993.

⁴²⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 11, 1994.

⁴²⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 15, 1994.

⁴²⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 12, 1994.

⁴²⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 10, 1994.

⁴²⁹ Minutes of Special Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 29, 1985.

⁴³⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 16, 1985.

parsonage was constructed.⁴³¹

July 1, 1986, was set as the target date for the completion of the parsonage. The ground breaking ceremony was on April 20th. Ron Siffring, chairman of this and every other building program at Hope, prepared a schedule for volunteers to do work on the parsonage.⁴³² By June 9, 1985, the completion of the parsonage was delayed to July 15th.⁴³³ There has not been a good response by volunteers for work on the parsonage.⁴³⁴ The parsonage was completed and Pastor and his family moved in during July or August 1985.⁴³⁵

About the time the parsonage was completed, there was a general discussion regarding the need for a new church building.⁴³⁶ In April, 1986 the Voters' Assembly resolved to seek permission to hire an architect for the sanctuary. At that time there was \$5,201 in the building fund.⁴³⁷ The architect was approved and his plans were to be ready in May, 1987.⁴³⁸ But the architect did not finished the plans for the sanctuary until July of 1987.⁴³⁹ Meanwhile, the patio designs had been approved by the County of Placer.

In July, 1987, the Voters' Assembly was informed that ^{the building of} the sanctuary was scheduled to

⁴³¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 10, 1986.

⁴³² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 14, 1986.

⁴³³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 9, 1986.

⁴³⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 14, 1986.

⁴³⁵ Based on the personal recollection of the author.

⁴³⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 11, 1986.

⁴³⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 21, 1987.

⁴³⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 12, 1987.

⁴³⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 21, 1987.

begin within 1- 1 1/2 years. A new building committee was formed for overseeing the construction of the sanctuary.⁴⁴⁰ Revised and final plans for the sanctuary were nearing completion in December, 1987.⁴⁴¹

To save money, the members of Hope were to build a redwood retaining wall needed around the sanctuary. The paper work for the new sanctuary was sent to the CMB sometime around February, then to the HMB and then to the Placer County.⁴⁴² The CMB approved the request of new sanctuary.⁴⁴³ The HMB said the estimate for the parking lot was too high and HMB felt that bathrooms were not needed in chapel. So there was a compromise and revision.⁴⁴⁴

The women in the congregation were given the opportunity to express their opinions on the new church colors and interior. A procedure was set up to comply with Scripture's teaching on authority. Basically, an opinion poll was taken that was stated to be advisory only. There was ^{to} be an advisory congregational meeting on July 31 regarding the new sanctuary.⁴⁴⁵

Ground breaking for the new sanctuary was around ^{around ?} August 30, 1988.⁴⁴⁶ The sanctuary was to have a moveable free standing altar. There also would be upholstered pews and the pulpit, altar, and baptismal ^{font} fount would incorporate local granite in construction. Rocklin was a well known quarry site for granite. Many famous buildings, including the State Capitol building, were

⁴⁴⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 15, 1987.

⁴⁴¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 16, 1987.

⁴⁴² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 16, 1988.

⁴⁴³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 15, 1988.

⁴⁴⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 17, 1988.

⁴⁴⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 19, 1988.

⁴⁴⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 19, 1988.

built with Rocklin quarry granite. A separate furniture and pew fund was set up to collect the \$13,000 that would be needed above the cost of the building. It was agreed that no individual would buy a specific pew with his name on it.⁴⁴⁷

September, 1988, brought the news that the building plans had been held up by Placer County because the County demanded that all restrooms be handicap accessible.⁴⁴⁸ Finally, Placer County gave its approval in January, 1989, except the final for trusses, for the plans..

By January, 1989, \$10,315 had been pledged for the pews and \$8,552 of that had been turned in. The congregation needed a total of \$12,163.⁴⁴⁹ Then in February, 1989, the congregation learned that \$30,000 had to be cut from bids for the sanctuary. Savings would be in the use of member labor and in the use of pine instead of oak on the ceiling. To save money, the congregation would also do the landscaping and the staining.⁴⁵⁰

The building fund had \$14,083 as of March, 1989. The building was on schedule with the lot leveled and the foundation to about to be poured. The building was fully approved by the synod and Placer County.⁴⁵¹

The building dedication was set for September 17, 1989.⁴⁵² But services started in the new

⁴⁴⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 16, 1988.

⁴⁴⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 20, 1988.

⁴⁴⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 17, 1989.

⁴⁵⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 21, 1989.

⁴⁵¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 21, 1989.

⁴⁵² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 16, 1989.

church on September 3, 1989.⁴⁵³ Stain glass window inserts were designed by Les Sweet and Dona Williamson.⁴⁵⁴ The Voters' Assembly resolved to have a Good Shepherd design on the stain glass window insert.⁴⁵⁵

During this building process, the congregation resolved to locate the playground as previously designated.⁴⁵⁶ But the playground would not be built until 1995/96.⁴⁵⁷

d. The Christian Day School

In March of 1986 a committee was formed to look into the possibility of using the WEF unit as a Christian day care or school. The members of the committee were Steve Green, Fred Meinert, and Tim Cookson.⁴⁵⁸ It is unknown to the author what that committee resolved.

However, a committee was formed in February of 1989 to study the potential uses of the WEF after the new sanctuary would be completed.⁴⁵⁹ The WEF use committee recommended taking the first steps toward a Lutheran Day School. The Voters' Assembly authorized the WEF committee to undertake the congregational self study program provided by synod for congregations contemplating opening a school.⁴⁶⁰ The congregation authorized the WEF committee to do phase one of the study. The committee received excellent cooperation from Jim

⁴⁵³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 18, 1989.

⁴⁵⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 21, 1989.

⁴⁵⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 8, 1991.

⁴⁵⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 21, 1990.

⁴⁵⁷ Based on conversation with Pastor Behringer during December 1995 and April 1996.

⁴⁵⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 10, 1986.

⁴⁵⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 21, 1989.

⁴⁶⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 21, 1989.

Holman, who was the principal of St. Mark's at the time.

In the May, 1989, issue of *Star of Hope*, the WEF committee outlined the benefits of a Lutheran Day School. Phase two, of the synod's study, is a feasibility study to see if it would be feasible to start at the congregation-in-question a school in the near future. The Voters' Assembly authorized the phase two of the study in May of 1989.⁴⁶¹

In the meanwhile, the WEF committee reported to the Voters' Assembly in April of 1990. the possibility of California Lutheran High School relocating from southern California and moving right next to Hope.⁴⁶² There were 10 vacant acres contiguous to Hope Lutheran Church property in Penryn. This of course caused great excitement at the time.⁴⁶³

The School Study committee, as the WEF committee became known as, discussed with the Voters' Assembly the curriculum, multi-classroom, monetary considerations, tuition, and possible number of students in July, 1990.⁴⁶⁴ The School Study committee made a recommendation that the congregation vote in January 1991 on whether or not to start a school.⁴⁶⁵ The school vote was delayed until a detailed report had been submitted by the committee. The vote would come at a special meeting on January 21, 1991.⁴⁶⁶

A special congregational meeting and afterwards a Voters' Assembly meeting were held on January 21, 1991 to discuss and then vote on the School Study committee's report and

⁴⁶¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 16, 1989.

⁴⁶² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 17, 1990.

⁴⁶³ Based on the author's personal recollection.

⁴⁶⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 17, 1990.

⁴⁶⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 20, 1990.

⁴⁶⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 18, 1990.

recommendation regarding the opening of a Lutheran Day School. Thirty three men and women attended the meetings, with only the Voters voting at the Voters' Assembly meeting. Interestingly, many of those attending had personal experience with a one room school house. The School Study committee had recommended that Hope start out as a one room school house. The point of no return would be January 1992, which is when the call for a teacher would need to be issued, to insure an opening date of September 1992.

At the special Voters' Assembly meeting, held right after the congregational meeting, the following resolution was passed

Resolved: That Hope Lutheran Church should implement the founding of a Lutheran Elementary School at Penryn in the fall of 1992, should God in his grace bless our efforts to eliminate all subsidies during the 1991-1992 fiscal year.

By secret ballot it carried 13 to 8. The School committee would function until a Board of Education could be included in the constitution. A very informal exit poll of all those who attended the congregational meeting had 26 people saying they would be in favor of a school if they were sure Hope could afford it and 3 saying no. When asked if they thought Hope should delay 16 said yes and 16 said no.⁴⁶⁷

The School Study committee stressed the need to give input for the 1992 budget and the need for a school board to be formed. There was continual general and good cooperation from St. Mark's regarding Hope potentially opening a school, even though this would draw students away from the St. Mark's school.⁴⁶⁸

⁴⁶⁷ Minutes of congregational and special Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 21, 1991.

⁴⁶⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 14, 1991.

In July 1991, the School Study committee discussed providing a principal for the school, especially if a female teacher was called.⁴⁶⁹ The school committee put articles in Star of Hope regarding calling a principal and teacher.⁴⁷⁰ The committee stressed to the Voters' Assembly the need for a continual flow of information to the congregation regarding the value of a Lutheran Day School. The tuition cost was a major factor and concern with families of prospective students.⁴⁷¹

The economic woes that hit California in the early 1990's did not by pass the members of Hope. Because of serious financial woes the congregation wisely resolved that 1992 would not be the time to start a Lutheran Day School. The congregation did resolved to continue to plan for the school and also to continue to support the scholarship funds⁴⁷² by opening a savings account for school funds.⁴⁷³ In August, 1992 the school question was postponed until September.⁴⁷⁴ The Hope Lutheran Church Board of Education was set up and it recommend in May of 1993 to continue to delay the start up of a Lutheran Day School but that it was time to earnestly start saving for it.⁴⁷⁵

The Lutheran High School Foundation, for CLHS, met and voted to purchase the ten

⁴⁶⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 9, 1991.

⁴⁷⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 10, 1991.

⁴⁷¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 10, 1991.

⁴⁷² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on December 10, 1991.

⁴⁷³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 10, 1991.

⁴⁷⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 14, 1992.

⁴⁷⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 11, 1993.

acres next to Hope, but it need \$100,000 by mid-July, 1991.⁴⁷⁶ The effort to move CLHS next to Hope never materialized and its Board of Control voted to purchase land in southern California.⁴⁷⁷

e. Financial concerns

1. Income and operating budget concerns.

The Voters decided in October, 1985, to table until the December meeting a motion to be removed from interest subsidy by the synod.⁴⁷⁸ The proposed budget for 1986 of \$60,300 was presented in November.⁴⁷⁹ The 1986 budget was approved in December, 1985.⁴⁸⁰ Pastor Hochmuth discussed the synod mission subsidy and encouraged the congregation to aim towards a synod mission subsidy of 20-25% of the annual budget. He encouraged an annual increase of 1% until the 20-25% was reached. The Voters generally adopted this as a goal to reach and continue to work towards this goal as of this writing.⁴⁸¹ It should be noted that during the vacancy there were no unpaid bills.⁴⁸²

In December, 1986 Pastor Behringer requested that his salary not be increased as

⁴⁷⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 11, 1991.

⁴⁷⁷ Based on conversations with various members of Hope in 1995.

⁴⁷⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 21, 1986.

⁴⁷⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 16, 1985.

⁴⁸⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 9, 1985.

⁴⁸¹ Based on the author's personal knowledge and Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 13, 1985.

⁴⁸² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 12, 1986.

proposed in the 1987 budget, but that the extra be given to synod. The proposed budget for 1987 was accepted as amended. Pastor Behringer's salary was reduced to \$1,366 until July 1, 1987 and the loan payment to synod was reduced to \$907 from \$1,173. The money saved from the Pastor's salary and the reduction in principal was used to offset the interest subsidy and reduce it by \$351. The operating budget for Hope for 1987 was \$61,500.⁴⁸³

The income for Hope from offerings was looking much by May, 1987. In May, 1987, there was \$9,960 in the checking account, with all bills paid and \$5,867 in the building fund.⁴⁸⁴ There was \$8,792 in the building fund by September, 1987.⁴⁸⁵ In November the Voters' Assembly resolved to accept \$100 from AAL.⁴⁸⁶

The proposed budget for 1988 was adopted in December, 1987, with an adjustment to Pastor's salary.⁴⁸⁷ As of January 19, 1988 there was \$9,411 in checking, after all bills paid, and \$4,172 in the building fund.⁴⁸⁸

The audit for 1987 was completed with no discrepancies.⁴⁸⁹ In March, 1988, the building fund was \$14,627.⁴⁹⁰ Members donated funds in April, 1988, for a computer and so a committee

⁴⁸³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 15, 1986.

⁴⁸⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 12, 1987.

⁴⁸⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 15, 1987.

⁴⁸⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 17, 1987.

⁴⁸⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 16, 1987.

⁴⁸⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 19, 1988.

⁴⁸⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 16, 1988.

⁴⁹⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 15, 1988.

was formed to purchase one.⁴⁹¹

Receipts for reported in May were a record \$30,566 of which \$17,513 was specially designated. The funds were primarily designated for the Synod's Commission on Youth Ministry, the Tree of Life Bible Camp and the Ariz-Ca District youth fund.⁴⁹²

In August, 1988, the building fund had \$15,062 in it. But receipts for August (last month reported in September) were down to \$5,102.⁴⁹³ In December, 1988, the Voters' Assembly resolved to go off interest subsidy so that Hope could go self-supporting. The 1989 budget of \$84,500 was adopted.⁴⁹⁴

There were \$103,997 in receipts for 1988.⁴⁹⁵ Even with the money saved for the new building, Hope gave more than its subscription to the Synod.⁴⁹⁶

In April, 1989, the synod sponsored a financial workshop for congregations receiving synodical support. Hope's financial officers attended.⁴⁹⁷ The annual income for 1989 was \$102,429.⁴⁹⁸

A pledge of \$25 a week^{was} received for a janitor in 1990, to be administer by the trustees. In January, the January 1990 to July 1990 budget was approved, 1/2 of \$87,500. The congregation

⁴⁹¹Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 19, 1988.

⁴⁹²Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 17, 1988.

⁴⁹³Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 20, 1988.

⁴⁹⁴Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 20, 1988.

⁴⁹⁵Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 17, 1989.

⁴⁹⁶Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 21, 1989.

⁴⁹⁷Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 18, 1989.

⁴⁹⁸Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 19, 1989.

was going to a fiscal year accounting system. The building savings fund as of 1/90 was \$4,490. A Computer accounting system was authorized by the congregation.⁴⁹⁹ In May of 1990 Hope was still receiving \$3,281 in interest subsidy from the Synod.⁵⁰⁰

The 1990/91 budget was approved for \$101,400.⁵⁰¹ The Voters' Assembly resolved, in September, 1990, that all gifts must be approved by the Voters' Assembly prior to acceptance. The one year donation for a janitor ended on January 1, 1991. The congregation resolved that church cleaning be continued as a budget item.⁵⁰² The 1990 envelope income \$52,389 and expenses were \$48,514.⁵⁰³ The budget was 10% over budget and exceeded expenses by \$300.⁵⁰⁴

A red letter occurred in September, 1991, the congregation went off all synod subsidy and became self supporting. Even though Hope had exceeded the suggested targets for synod mission offerings it was resolved in September, 1991, to accept the suggested target. Also the congregation resolved to let a member voluntarily pay a guest organist for Christmas Eve and Easter services.⁵⁰⁵

Concern arose in October, 1991, that receipts were *Falling* following behind budget expectations.⁵⁰⁶ A serious financial situation existed, even though expenditures less than budgeted.

⁴⁹⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 16, 1990.

⁵⁰⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 15, 1990.

⁵⁰¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 26, 1990.

⁵⁰² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 20, 1990.

⁵⁰³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 15, 1991.

⁵⁰⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 9, 1991.

⁵⁰⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 10, 1991.

⁵⁰⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 8, 1991.

Therefore the congregation remade the budget in January, 1992.⁵⁰⁷ The main problem was a lack of operating capital and the payment of bills was delayed. Because of the crisis, the Voters authorized the treasurer to transfer money from building to general fund.⁵⁰⁸ Hope went behind two months synod offering and one mortgage payment by April, 1992.⁵⁰⁹

In May, 1992, the loan payments were current but mission offering were still two months behind. The FY 1993 budget proposed was \$121,400.⁵¹⁰ The proposed budget was adopted, but with cuts of \$100 from the Ariz-Ca Dist Youth fund; \$500 from worship; \$500 from evangelism; \$200 from the Sunday School; \$100 from the Pioneers; \$150 in conference expenses; \$00 in newspaper ads; \$1300 for the church janitor; and \$200 from maintenance. The congregation planned for members to clean church or pay \$25.⁵¹¹

By September, 1992, all the bills were paid except the SMO, which was three months behind.⁵¹² In October, Hope was behind only two SMO behind and a full payment on the mortgage was made.⁵¹³

The Voters resolved to make a full mortgage payment for the November, plus pay the missed principal payment for October and to defer the SMO if necessary.⁵¹⁴ In December, 1992,

⁵⁰⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 10, 1991.

⁵⁰⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 10, 1992.

⁵⁰⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 14, 1992.

⁵¹⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 12, 1992.

⁵¹¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 9, 1991.

⁵¹² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 8, 1992.

⁵¹³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 13, 1992.

⁵¹⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 13, 1992.

Hope was still behind 3 SMO payments.⁵¹⁵ There was a little room for catch up on SMO payments in January, 1993.⁵¹⁶ Hope was behind only two SMO payments in February, but \$3,400 had to be taken from designated funds and used in the general fund.⁵¹⁷ The Voters' Assembly took note of the fact that several families had been laid off and expenses were expected to rise. Also it was noted that the church food closet getting high use by members. Easter Sunday offering was \$4,500 and two SMO payments were made.⁵¹⁸

In May, 1993, the congregation considered closing out the balance from the last retreat, in 1990, but the motion was tabled.⁵¹⁹ All obligations through May, 1993, were current, but the treasurer had to use designated funds to do it. The proposed budget for 1993/94 was \$125,000. The budget for the Board of Education was cut from \$7,200 to \$3,000 The proposed FY 93/94 budget was adopted as amended and it was balanced with new pledges. There was no proposed growth except for new pledges.⁵²⁰

Because of the problem with getting organists, the congregation had resolved to pay for an organist. Now the congregation resolved to pay Natalie Schultz, St. Mark's teacher, an additional \$15 for playing the organ.⁵²¹

per week, per month, per year?

The treasurer's report in December, 1993, had the good news that the offerings had been

⁵¹⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 15, 1992.

⁵¹⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 1993.

⁵¹⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 9, 1993.

⁵¹⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 13, 1993.

⁵¹⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 11, 1993.

⁵²⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 8, 1993.

⁵²¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 9, 1993.

consistently strong in the recent weeks. So the congregation resolved to increase the SMO payment by \$200 per month for six months.⁵²² Then in January, 1994, the good news was that all bills were paid including all the SMO payment's.⁵²³ The audit of FY 92/93 was completed with just two minor discrepancies, which were \$36.68 and \$.02.⁵²⁴ All bills were paid in February, 1994 and the remaining unfunded obligations were soon covered.⁵²⁵

In May, 1994 it was reported that the monthly offerings continued to exceed averages of last seven years. The treasurer had begun to attach a graph of the recent months income to his report.⁵²⁶ All bills, SMOs, property tax and specially funded obligations continued to be up to date in April, 1994.⁵²⁷

The proposed FY 1994/95 budget was based on 54 pledges and the actual FY 1993/94 contribution for those not returning a pledge. No growth estimates were included. The SMO payment was set at 12.4% of the total budget.⁵²⁸ The Budget committee actually had a surplus by the end of FY 1993/94. The congregation resolved to divide the 1993/94 budget surplus as follows: to the general fund \$3,000; Hope Lutheran School \$2,000; SMO \$1,000; \$1,000 for a contingency fund; and \$1,000 to the tuition assistance fund. The FY 1994/95 budget was

⁵²² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 14, 1993.

⁵²³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 11, 1994.

⁵²⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 11, 1994.

⁵²⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 15, 1994.

⁵²⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 15, 1994.

⁵²⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 12, 1994.

⁵²⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 10, 1994.

\$160,000.⁵²⁹

Attached as Appendix "A" to this history, is a document prepared by Pastor Behringer which shows by year from 1978 to 1994 the following: the number of communicant members of Hope (and the number of new communicants); the average church attendance; the per communicant giving; and total offerings. This document on stewardship shows that in 1978 there were 41 communicants each giving \$532.17. In 1988 there 137 members with each giving \$759.10. 1988 was the year that there was a special gift of \$20,000 to the congregation designated for various youth programs and this caused the averages to be slightly elevated. in 1994 there were 202 communicants and the average giving was \$724.60. This was a 6.87% increase over 1993.

2. Special services offerings and gifts by the congregation.

The members of Hope have always had a heart for missions and for special needs. This is reflected in the continuous resolutions to designate most of any special service offering for needs outside of Hope.

In 1987 the special services offerings were designated to go to California Lutheran High School and the Hope building fund.⁵³⁰ The 1987 Advent and Christmas special services offerings went to support the Hope building fund, the Commission on Youth Ministry, and the Committee on Relief.⁵³¹ The Sunday School children were always permitted to designate where their offerings

⁵²⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 14, 1994.

⁵³⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 10, 1987.

⁵³¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 20, 1987.

would go. In 1987 the children designated their offerings for the Apache Mission.⁵³²

Lenten offerings in 1988 went for Paraments.⁵³³ The Advent special services offerings for 1988 were sent to different funds: to Committee on Relief; the Sunrise Pregnancy Counseling Center (a W.E.L.S. right to life effort); and to the Hope building fund.⁵³⁴

The 1988 Mission Sunday offerings went to "Thoughts of Faith" for the Ukraine work.⁵³⁵

Special offerings for Lent 1989 were split between CLHS and the Ukraine.⁵³⁶

Special offerings 1990 Advent and Thanksgiving went to CLHS and synodical scholarship funds, Sunrise Pregnancy Center, and the synodical ad campaign in 1991.⁵³⁷ Special for the Lenten offerings in 1991 went to the to Ukraine.⁵³⁸ Advent offerings were sent to the Synod for its Christmas broadcast of TV commercials in 1991.⁵³⁹

Lenten offerings from 1992 were designated for the copier maintenance contract at Hope, but even in the budget crisis of 1992, this designation of all the special offerings for Hope was by a close vote and by a show of hands.⁵⁴⁰ Once the copier contract was paid off early, the Lenten

⁵³² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 16, 1987.

⁵³³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 21, 1989.

⁵³⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 15, 1988.

⁵³⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 18, 1989.

⁵³⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 20, 1990.

⁵³⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 18, 1990.

⁵³⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 19, 1991.

⁵³⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 11, 1991.

⁵⁴⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated February 11, 1992.

offerings were changed to go to the general fund.⁵⁴¹ Thanksgiving offerings almost always went to Mrs. Betty Newell's food chest. Mrs. Newell is a member of Hope who runs a community food closet out of her home. In 1992, the Thanksgiving offering would go to Mrs. Newell as well. The rest of the 1992 holiday offerings went equally to hymnals for Hope, CLHS and the Sunrise Pregnancy Counseling Center.⁵⁴²

In 1993 the Lenten offerings were designated as follows: Ash Wednesday for Hope choir music; the next Wednesday for CLHS; and the rest of the Lenten offering for Synod missions over and beyond the Hope SMO.⁵⁴³

Special Advent and Christmas offerings for 1993 were split 50% to general fund; and the rest to Newell's food closet; HLS; CLHS; and Hope's debt reduction.⁵⁴⁴

Special offerings in 1994 for the first three Lenten services were divided 50% to CLHS building fund and 50% Hope debt reduction. The last two Lenten offerings were split 50% to HLS and 50% to Hope debt. The 1994 Mission offerings went to the World Mission Fund.

Hope's generosity can also be seen in the resolution to have a routine door offering whenever there a major national calamity occurs.⁵⁴⁵ The Voters resolved to divide the 1993/94 budget surplus as follows: to the general fund \$3,000; to Hope Lutheran School \$2,000; to the SMO \$1,000; \$1,000 for a contingency fund; and \$1,000 to the Hope tuition assistance fund.⁵⁴⁶

⁵⁴¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 10, 1992.

⁵⁴² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 13, 1992.

⁵⁴³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 9, 1993.

⁵⁴⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 13, 1993.

⁵⁴⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 15, 1994.

⁵⁴⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 14, 1994.

Hope's members were willing to take free will offerings and donate where they could in addition to whatever else they did. A free will offering was authorized for the mission work in Grass Valley, a sister E.L.S. mission effort.⁵⁴⁷ Also, the Voters resolved to support the Tree of Life Bible Camp with a \$200 gift in 1987.⁵⁴⁸ When the synod has requested a door offering to offset the cost of the new hymnal, one was taken at Hope.⁵⁴⁹ A door offering was taken in 1988 for CLHS.⁵⁵⁰ The Hope sanctuary furniture from the WEF was offered to the Grass Valley mission and when it declined the gift the furniture was given to the Sky Mountain Christian Camp.

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Special offerings came to Hope as well. In 1988 \$500 was given for the playground and \$500 for youth work.⁵⁵² In 1990, a \$1,200 gift was received as a memorial for Ron Gehrke for a piano.⁵⁵³ Also in 1990, Hope received a \$500 gift for a lawnmower.⁵⁵⁴

3. Subsidy for St. Mark's School

In 1993, a problem arose over the fact that St. Mark's subsidizes its school at 36.5% and so school tuition was 36.5 % short of the actual cost of an education at St. Mark's. Hope had eight children going to St. Mark's School. In recognition of St. Mark's subsidy from its general

⁵⁴⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 9, 1986.

⁵⁴⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 21, 1986.

⁵⁴⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 20, 1987.

⁵⁵⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 21, 1988.

⁵⁵¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 19, 1989.

⁵⁵² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 17, 1988.

⁵⁵³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 15, 1990.

⁵⁵⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 17, 1990.

budget for the school, Hope was sending \$1,600 or \$200 for each of the eight children. But St. Mark's offset the \$1,600 by charging no tuition for Pastor Behringer's children at a cost of \$1,500.

So in 1993, St. Mark's requested that Hope sent \$400 per kid.⁵⁵⁵ But Hope had an unexpected additional five children from Hope going to St. Mark's. This would raise the subsidy from Hope to \$5,200. Hope requested St. Mark's to accept \$300 instead of \$400 per student.⁵⁵⁶ St. Mark's agreed to the tuition subsidy of \$300 per child.⁵⁵⁷

Then in 1994, St. Mark's decided to end Pastor Behringer's grant for tuition because they started giving grants to St. Mark's member families. St. Mark's also wanted more than \$400 per student for subsidy.⁵⁵⁸ Hope requested and St. Marks agreed to accept \$1,200 for the 1994/95 school year as tuition for Pastor Behringer's children. But St. Mark's wants full tuition for Pastor Behringer's children in the 1995/96 school year.

4. Refinancing of the building loan.

The loan from Synod on the property and buildings had a balloon payment that would come due in the year 2000.⁵⁵⁹ Because of this the Voters formed a refinance committee. This committee concentrated its efforts by looking at Lutheran Association for Church Extension (L.A.C.E).⁵⁶⁰ Hope congregation resolved in June, 1994, to authorize its officers to apply to

⁵⁵⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated May 11, 1993.

⁵⁵⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 9, 1993.

⁵⁵⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 13, 1993.

⁵⁵⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 13, 1994.

⁵⁵⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 8, 1993.

⁵⁶⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 15, 1994.

L.A.C.E. for refinance at \$457,000.⁵⁶¹ In September, 1994, LACE has approved a loan of \$430,000 with the maximum payment being 1% of the principal at a maximum interest rate of 6.5%. LACE required that Hope raise 2/3rd of loan amount in investment dollars designated for Hope. Hope resolved that investors be given an interest rate of between 0-5.25% for LACE invested funds.⁵⁶² Hope congregation resolved to refinance with LACE with ^{the} WEF loan to be paid off in December 1994.

5. Stewardship efforts

In 1985 the congregation decided to have a Stewardship Sunday with a potluck in January.⁵⁶³ Again ^There would be on the last Sunday in November, 1985, another Stewardship Sunday.⁵⁶⁴

The principal tool of the stewardship program came by way of cottage meetings. Cottage meetings were neighborhood meetings of members living relatively close together. The reason cottage meetings were used was because Hope's members came up to 65 miles away to church and coming for a special stewardship presentation was not always easy.⁵⁶⁵ In December, 1986, stewardship cottage meetings were being held and 43 people attended.⁵⁶⁶

⁵⁶¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 14, 1994.

⁵⁶² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 13, 1994.

⁵⁶³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 9, 1985.

⁵⁶⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 14, 1985.

⁵⁶⁵ Based on the author's personal recollection and discussion with member who lived far away.

⁵⁶⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 15, 1986.

In 1987 the stewardship committee only had three volunteers and more were needed.⁵⁶⁷ The committee continued to function and stewardship commitments were handed out on November 22, 1987. In 1987 the cottage attendance was very good.⁵⁶⁸ There were 45 commitments returned out of 100 for \$63,000.⁵⁶⁹ In 1988 forty four attended the cottage meetings or 60% of the members.⁵⁷⁰

In April of 1990, Pastor Behringer recommended that Hope ^{met} with synod's stewardship counselor. May 20, 1990 was set as Stewardship Sunday.⁵⁷¹ Jim Diehl, the synod's stewardship counselor, met with Hope in August.⁵⁷² After the meeting with Diehl, the Voters tabled action regarding the parish stewardship counselor's involvement with Hope.⁵⁷³

Then in September, 1990 the congregation resolved to spend \$2,500 to bring out the parish stewardship counselor to work with Hope.⁵⁷⁴ This would give Hope's stewardship committee a full time director for 12 days. The *Star of Hope* had an article assuring the stewardship program would be biblical.⁵⁷⁵

Jim Diehl arrived in March, 1991, and 68 members of Hope attended his Bible study on

⁵⁶⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 16, 1987.

⁵⁶⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated November 17, 1987.

⁵⁶⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated December 16, 1987.

⁵⁷⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 19, 1988.

⁵⁷¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 17, 1990.

⁵⁷² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated July 17, 1990.

⁵⁷³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated August 21, 1990.

⁵⁷⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated September 18, 1990.

⁵⁷⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on January 15, 1991.

stewardship.⁵⁷⁶ Every member visits in the stewardship program were encouraging. As of April 4, 1991, there were 46 commitments at \$1,431 per week or \$74,419 yearly. Thirty six cards^{w.c.f.'s} still out. There would be a 28% increase in giving over 1990 and the average offering per communicant would increase by 35%.⁵⁷⁷

The members of Hope found out that Mrs. Diehl paid her own way to come to Hope and paid her own expenses. She helped out a great deal. It turned out that she always accompanied here husband and helped, but at her expense and no pay. So the congregation resolved to give the Diehls' \$340 for Mrs. Diehl's airfare since she helped out so much with the stewardship program.⁵⁷⁸

In 1992, the stewardship program had four steps: two cottage meetings in private homes and two workshops- one on family budgeting and one on wills.⁵⁷⁹

Ted Heyn reported in 1993 that the stewardship program resulted in 58 commitment cards being returned and the anticipated income for FY 1993/94 should be about \$103,000. This would be an increase of \$5,000 from FY 1992/93.⁵⁸⁰ Stewardship committee directed to start working on a plan to met this.⁵⁸¹

In April, 1994, the stewardship committee again reported a successful campaign. Pledges were strong. The committee was planning quarterly updates and encouragement. The FY 1993/94 stewardship program involved making every member aware of the Hope Lutheran Church

⁵⁷⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on March 12, 1991.

⁵⁷⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on April 19, 1991.

⁵⁷⁸ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on May 14, 1991.

⁵⁷⁹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting on February 11, 1992.

⁵⁸⁰ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 9, 1993.

⁵⁸¹ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated June 8, 1993.

Mission Statement.⁵⁸² That mission statement was:

As men, women, and children united in faith and worship by the Word of God, Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to make disciples for time and eternity, using the gospel to win the lost for Christ and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service, all to the glory of God.⁵⁸³

6. Support for Mrs. Curia

The Voters resolved to give Karen Curia \$200 in October, November and December, 1985, to help her meet financial needs. Also the Voters' would continue to monitor her needs until synodical assistance could be arranged.⁵⁸⁴ Although Karen Curia was receiving \$900 a month for support from the synod, the Voters resolved in January, 1986, to pay her \$200 a month for support for the next two months.⁵⁸⁵ The Voters again resolved in March, 1986, to give Karen Curia \$200 for support for an additional month.⁵⁸⁶

IX. Conclusion

Hope Lutheran Church came about because members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church were willing to take a risk at starting a daughter congregation, which was, at first, little more than a preaching station. The risk was that the daughter would not be able to afford their share of the cost of the second pastor at St. Mark's. The risk panned out into a daughter congregation that reached maturity as an independent congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

The history of this success must be understood to have occurred not by mere human

⁵⁸² Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 12, 1994.

⁵⁸³ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated April 12, 1994.

⁵⁸⁴ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated October 14, 1985 and November 16, 1985.

⁵⁸⁵ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 13, 1986.

⁵⁸⁶ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated March 10, 1986.

efforts but solely because God blessed the efforts of the members of St. Mark's and Hope to advance the Kingdom of God in their small corner. The work of the Holy Spirit can be seen in the confession of faith of those who were reached by the Gospel through the efforts at Hope. Although we can not see into the hearts of those who were touched by the Gospel brought by the efforts of Hope's members, the numbers of communicants do, in part, tell the human side of things.

In January, 1987, this writer addressed the congregation at the end of his first year as president of Hope Lutheran Church. In that address he said:

At the beginning of the year I addressed the congregation and asked the question, "Could we become a model congregation as was the congregation at Thessalonica?" Whether or not we achieved the same spiritual growth that the congregation at Thessalonica achieved is not the point. But rather, did we grow as the church at Thessalonica, through the blessings of our Lord, toward sharing our faith and in our efforts of serving our Lord in his ministry, in this, our little corner of His kingdom?⁵⁸⁷

The answer to that question can be seen in the blessings of God on their efforts^{to} fulfill the Great Commission in 1986 as well as through the following decade. Hope has committed itself towards^{to} achieving a synod mission offering of 25% of its gross budget and towards opening a Christian Day school. May God continue to bless their efforts in both these commitments as well in the continuing effort at the Great Commission.

⁵⁸⁷ Minutes of Voters' Assembly meeting dated January 20, 1987.

Appendix A

1. Stewardship at Hope 1978-1994

STEWARDSHIP AT HOPE, PENRYN

<u>Year</u>	<u>Communicant (NEW) Members</u>	<u>Church Attendance</u>	<u>Per Commun't Giving</u>	<u>Total Offerings</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
1978	41 (11?)	50	\$532.17	\$ 21,819	First Resident Pastor
1979	51 (12)	57	\$428.92	\$ 21,875	
1980	70 (24)	62	\$331.86	\$ 23,230	
1981	73 (3)	65	\$429.77	\$ 31,373	Purchased Penryn site
1982	86 (18)	71	\$469.21	\$ 40,352	
1983	105 (26)	84	\$408.50	\$ 42,893	Groundbreaking for WEF
1984	112 (14)	86	\$411.66	\$ 46,106	WEF Done (monthly mortgage \$930.92; we paid \$561.75)
1985	118 (?)	91	\$447.11	\$ 52,759	Pastor resigns
1986	122 (21)	103	\$424.05	\$ 51,734	Pastor arrives, parsonage completed, stewardship program
1987	137 (24)	111	\$506.61 (+19%)	\$ 69,406 (+34%)	Building Fund monthly \$500 (loan repayment \$1259); Stewardship program
1988	137 (16)	112	\$759.10 (+49.8%)	\$103,997 (+44.4%)	Building Fund monthly \$833 (loan repayment \$1330)
1989	145 (24)	113	\$706.41	\$102,430	New church dedicated
1990	156 (30)	120	\$672.39	\$104,893	Mortgage: \$2175 monthly
1991	158 (19)	131	\$674.05	\$106,500	Mortgage: \$3123 monthly
1992	164 (22)	138	\$683.70	\$112,127	Mortgage: \$3216 monthly
1993	193 (31)	146	\$678.31	\$130,913	Mortgage: \$3450 monthly
1994	202 (26)	153	\$724.60 (+6.8%)	\$146,370 (+11.9%)	Mortgage: \$3714 monthly, then \$4100 monthly

NOTES:

1. Statistics on how many people joined Hope each year (NEW members) indicate "turnover." The number of new members is offset by the number of people who move away, so net growth always looks smaller. In matters of giving, however, it is important to remember that new members have not experienced the stewardship programs in the past at Hope, and may need information that members learned in previous years.
2. The indebtedness of the congregation as of December, 1994^D, was \$518,050.95. As of September, 1995, the indebtedness stands at \$418,107.03.

MEMBERSHIP AT HOPE LUTHERAN 1986-1993

Transfers IN:

1986: 7 Souls, 7 Communicants
1987: 18 Souls, 12 Communicants
1988: 6 Souls, 4 Communicants
1989: 18 Souls, 16 Communicants
1990: 16 Souls, 13 Communicants
1991: 8 Souls, 6 Communicants
1992: 9 Souls, 12 Communicants
1993: 28 Souls, 17 Communicants

Profession of Faith:

1986: 9 Souls, 7 Communicants
1987: 13 Souls, 11 Communicants
1988: 8 Souls, 8 Communicants
1989: 10 Souls, 6 Communicants
1990: 18 Souls, 10 Communicants
1991: 8 Souls, 6 Communicants
1992: 4 Souls, 4 Communicants
1993: 8 Souls, 8 Communicants

Adult Baptisms:

1986: 2 Adults
1987: 0
1988: 0
1989: 3 Adults (one member)
1990: 1 Adult
1991: 2 Adults
1992: 3 Adults
1993: 0

Children Baptized:

1986: 12 souls (6 members)
1987: 7 souls (3 members)
1988: 12 souls (0 members)
1989: 12 souls (4 members)
1990: 10 souls (5 members)
1991: 5 souls (2 members)
1992: 4 souls (4 members)
1993: 6 souls (4 members)

Confirmations:

1986: 6 Souls, 6 Communicants
1987: 1 Soul, 1 Communicant
1988: 1 Soul, 1 Communicant
1989: 2 Souls, 2 Communicants
1990: 7 Souls, 7 Communicants (plus 3 special)
1991: 6 Souls, 6 Communicants
1992: 9 Communicants (13 Souls, counting children)
1993: 6 Souls, 6 Communicants

TOTAL GAINS

1986: 23 Souls, 19 Communicants
1987: 35 Souls, 24 Communicants
1988: 15 Souls, 13 Communicants
1989: 34 Souls, 24 Communicants
1990: 46 Souls, 30 Communicants
1991: 24 Souls, 19 Communicants
1992: 33 Souls, 22 Communicants
1993: 46 Souls, 31 Communicants
TOTAL GAINS: 256 Souls, 182 Communicants

Transfers OUT:

1986: 15 Souls, 7 Communicants
1987: 7 Souls, 2 Communicants
1988: 9 Souls, 9 Communicants
1989: 9 Souls, 9 Communicants
1990: 8 Souls, 8 Communicants
1991: 6 Souls, 4 Communicants
1992: 13 Souls, 6 Communicants
1993: 2 Souls, 2 Communicants

Releases and exclusions:

1986: 9 Souls, 7 Communicants
1987: 9 Souls, 6 Communicants
1988: 17 Souls, 11 Communicants
1989: 6 Souls, 6 Communicants
1990: 10 Souls, 9 Communicants
1991: 13 Souls, 9 Communicants
1992: 12 Souls, 10 Communicants
1993: 12 souls, 8 Communicants

Deaths:

1986: 0
1987: 1 Communicant
1988: 1 Communicant
1989: 1 communicant
1990: 2 Communicants
1991: 4 Communicants
1992: 0
1993: 0

TOTAL LOSSES

1986 Losses:	24 Souls,	14 Communicants
1987 Losses:	17 Souls,	9 Communicants
1988 Losses:	28 Souls,	22 Communicants
1989 Losses:	16 Souls,	16 Communicants
1990 Losses:	20 Souls,	19 Communicants
1991 Losses:	23 Souls,	17 Communicants
1992 Losses:	25 Souls,	16 Communicants
1993 Losses:	13 souls,	6 Communicants
TOTAL LOSSES:	166 souls,	119 Communicants

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

1986: 103
1987: 111
1988: 112
1989: 113
1990: 120
1991: 131
1992: 138
1993: 146

Membership of Hope Lutheran Church

January 1, 1986:	176 Souls, 115 Communicants
January 1, 1987:	158 Souls, 122 Communicants
January 1, 1988:	176 Souls, 137 Communicants
January 1, 1989:	170 Souls, 137 Communicants
January 1, 1990:	188 Souls, 145 Communicants
January 1, 1991:	214 Souls, 156 Communicants
January 1, 1992:	215 Souls, 158 Communicants
January 1, 1993:	223 Souls, 164 Communicants
January 1, 1994:	262 Souls, 193 Communicants