



FEBRUARY 2021

Update from the Elders on Next Steps for Hope Lutheran Church

The Board of Elders and Pastor Ben, thank those of you who participated in the 21 Days of Prayer last month. Hope Church was blessed, whether you prayed in person on Sunday evenings, or whether you prayed in your homes.

On February 5-6, 2021, the board of Elders prayed over and discussed the many thoughts that you submitted. The question, “What is God telling us to do?” was the focus of our prayer and discussion.

Here is a summary of what we heard from our prayers:

Our Mission remains - Love God, Love People and Make Disciples of Christ

Hope has a rich legacy of biblical teaching and preaching; we must continue this in humility. Do not compare Hope with other churches – depend on the Holy Spirit through prayer for our direction. If there is sin holding Hope back from loving people, or responding to the ministry we have been called to, we will confess, repent and move forward in freedom.

- Move forward with one full-time Pastor.
- Pastor Ben is willing to assume the role of Lead Pastor, if the congregation feels that is the direction Hope should take. The congregation can vote on Pastor Ben becoming Lead Pastor or can choose to enter into a search process in which Hope would form a call committee and expand a search for the Lead Pastor role. We will schedule a Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote on the Lead Pastor role.
- Hire a part-time director of worship/music.
- Continue to meet together for Sunday evening congregational prayer once per month.
- Equip Disciples of Christ how to hear the voice of God and connect with others.
- Create a culture of Discipleship.
- Equip the congregation via teaching/preaching on Sunday morning.
- Trust God and be led by the Holy Spirit for His redemptive purposes.
- Look for other ministries to partner with in our neighborhood.
- Embrace newcomers and new ways of outreach on a heart level.
- Develop a strong education/equipping hour between worship services for all ages.
- Maintain Wednesday morning Bible Study and Wednesday evening prayer – open to all.

We believe the Holy Spirit will reveal more of His will for us as we step out in faith. We will offer continued updates as details emerge. The 21 Days of Prayer has positively impacted our congregation and we need to continue to pray for each other as we move forward.

Contact one of the Elders or Pastor Ben if you have questions or additional thoughts to share. May the Lord shine His face upon us!

Elder Board - Dan Haugen, Thom Jones, Lynn Hauger, Dean Abbott, Chris McKenzie and Pastor Ben