



Home Mission Monthly Summary

Report Month Range: Jan 2023 - Dec 2023

Hope Lutheran Church

14 Centre St
Toronto, ON M1J 3B5
Canada

WELSource ID: 24327

Numbers reported are identified by icons:

* Average

~ Total

Personal Contacts

	Pastor	Laity
*First-time contact with new prospects:	26	19
*Prospect law/gospel presentation:	5	6
*Electronic personal contact with prospects:	46	44
*Other contact with prospects:	58	25
*Total prospect contacts:	136	96
Total number of prospects, November 2023:	180	
Total member contacts, November 2023:	45	52

E-news and Social Media Contacts

Type	Report Month	Number Reached	Description
E-news service	Nov 2023	529	subscribers
	Oct 2023	529	subscribers
	Sep 2023	529	subscribers
	Aug 2023	529	subscribers
	Jul 2023	522	subscribers
	Jun 2023	522	subscribers
	May 2023	529	subscribers
	Apr 2023	532	subscribers
	Mar 2023	532	subscribers
	Feb 2023	521	subscribers
	Jan 2023	521	subscribers
Facebook	Nov 2023	1388	subscribers
	Oct 2023	1376	subscribers

Facebook	Sep 2023	1376	subscribers
	Aug 2023	1365	subscribers
	Jul 2023	1355	followers
	Jun 2023	1331	followers
	May 2023	1331	followers
	Apr 2023	1318	followers
	Mar 2023	1318	followers
	Feb 2023	1304	followers
	Jan 2023	1304	followers
Instagram	Nov 2023	628	followers
	Oct 2023	630	followers
	Sep 2023	620	followers
	Aug 2023	621	followers
	Jul 2023	613	followers
	Jun 2023	586	followers
	May 2023	586	followers
	Apr 2023	583	followers
	Mar 2023	583	followers
	Feb 2023	579	followers
	Jan 2023	579	followers
YouTube	Nov 2023	441	followers
	Oct 2023	436	subscribers
	Sep 2023	431	subscribers
	Aug 2023	421	subscribers
	Jul 2023	412	subscribers
	Jun 2023	409	subscribers
	May 2023	405	subscribers
	Apr 2023	402	subscribers
	Mar 2023	394	subscribers
	Feb 2023	389	subscribers
	Jan 2023	386	subscribers

Personal Contacts Comments

Report Month	Comment
Apr 2023	Average Livestream attendance per Sunday in April = 155
Feb 2023	Average Livestream views of Sundays services in February was 126.

Communicant Membership Changes

~Confirmations - children:	2	~Deaths (communicant members only):	0
~Confirmations - adults:	6	~Transferred to sister congregation:	3
~Received by profession of faith:	0	~Joined other Christian church:	2
~Transferred from sister congregation:	0	~Removals:	0
Total communicants gained:	8	Total communicants lost:	5
Total communicants:	Dec 2022	Net gain/loss	Nov 2023
	188	3	190

Other Membership Statistics

~Adult baptisms:	2	Total baptized members, November 2023:	223
~Child baptisms:	4	Additional prospects under your spiritual care, November 2023:	22
Total baptisms:	6		

Membership Comments

Report Month	Comment
Jul 2023	We released two members who moved away from Hope to three hours away--- no WELS church so they eventually joined another church.

Worship

*Average weekly attendance:	119	*Average adult Bible class:	46
*Count of unique souls:	0	*Average youth Bible class:	3
*Count of first-time visitors:	22	*Average Sunday school:	11
*Count of repeat prospects:	44	*Bible Information Class prospects:	3
*Count of non prospects:	1	*Bible Information Class members:	5

Bible Study

Attendance Comments

No comments

Income

~Total local budget:	\$1,518,803.00	~CMO remitted:	\$9,900.00
~Total local offerings:	\$205,589.00	~CEF payment remitted:	\$0.00
~Total special gifts and offerings:	\$16,198.00		
~Subsidies received:	\$27,342.00		

Expenses

Finance Comments

Report Month	Comment
May 2023	We received a generous \$13,000 anonymous gift toward our building fund from a member

Goals

No Goals

Goal Comments

No comments

Share the rest of your story!

Category	Report Month	Comment
Education	Nov 2023	Mission Counselor Mark Birkholz came to lead a well received one day workshop (Nov. 4) on "From small to mid-size church". It was a needed discussion with our present size and move to self-supporting within 6 months. 25 people attended and it was a good mix of old and young, new and veteran leaders. Thought provoking and now hopefully action inducing.
	Oct 2023	confirmation classes began for 4 students. Because 3 live a distance from church the classes this year are online on Saturday mornings.
	Sep 2023	It was good to restart Sunday School, Youth Bible class (new young adult teacher), Sunday morning Bible class and two online midweek Bible classes. I also wrapped up a longer PSI course with Dr. David Shang and Mark from San Diego on OT prophets.
	May 2023	We wrapped up our three online weekly Bible classes the end of May.... attendance was lower in May --- warmer weather... On Sunday, May 28, we hosted a thank you meal aty our house for the Sunday School staff and families.... enjoyable fellowship
	Jan 2023	Three of our members attended the Leadership conference in Chicago (Wayne, Maggie, and David) and the two were also able to attend the Big city conference that followed. They gave a report to the church on their return.
Elders	Sep 2023	We had one of our twice a year congregational information meetings after church on Sept. 10. It was well led and many stayed. A key point is our intended goal to be self-supporting by June 30, 2024
	Feb 2023	We held our first congregational information mtg of the year after worship on Feb. 26. The leaders did a good job of keeping it moving and informative.
	Jan 2023	After 20 years of servinbg as congregational chairman, Arthur Soman stepped down from serving in that role. We are cognizant of our new bylaws and implementing council rotation and Arthur is leading the way. His replacement is a young man, Jaden Bhakti, - well respected in our church. Shiv David was elected new president.
Facilities	Sep 2023	We had a great fall cleaning day on Sept. 30. Beautiful day and over 35 volunteers and prospects came to help clean inside/outside
	May 2023	On May 6, we had our church work day--- great to have 30 people show up to help with inside and outside projects....

Fellowship	Sep 2023	Hope's Garden club sponsored an apple picking expedition along with post food gathering--- 20 or so took part.. Also after worship fellowship is back on the regular schedule with weekly volunteers providing refreshments--- this is such an important and enjoyable part of our congregational life--- an opportunity to stick around after church and enjoy each other's company- most people do.
	Jun 2023	On Father's Day, we had the park reserved for our annual church picnic. Blessed with a beautiful day and probably best attendance ever for it with a good mix of members, prospects and friends and family. An after church picnic becomes an all day affair with most people leaving after 6/7. Fun organized games for children and adults- and the grill goes all day.
	Feb 2023	We were able to once again have our Family Day joy of after worship big meal and entertainment. Another positive was that the food and entertainment organizing was done by two new volunteers. approximately 80 people stayed to enjoy the afternoon.
	Jan 2023	It was great to have an outreach/fellowship event again in January (as we were doing before Covid)- we kicked it off with a Karaoke night. Probably 40-50 people enjoying a Friday night of fun at church. (Jan. 27)
Member care	Nov 2023	We held our first Seniors event in 4 years! Seniors used to meet once every month or two for Bible study, singing, food and fellowship. Covid put a halt to it... and then a couple of the key leaders went home to heaven. Now there are new leaders and renewed interest. We had a good restart with 11 seniors. (do I count myself?- gasp)
	Nov 2023	Nov. 19th was a full day--- including a baby shower for new members from India- which was a unique cultural experience and then the second part of the day was a house blessing for new members with a full house of guests.
	Oct 2023	A member hosted a prayer mtg at their home on October 28 inviting pastor/vicar friends and family. always a good devotional fellowship night
	Oct 2023	Councilman Michael Soman (41) was hospitalized and diagnosed with a spinal tumor. This led to two back to back surgeries and the rebuilding of his spine. While initially thought to be cancerous the biopsy came back benign. Much rejoicing and now a rehab as nerve damage slowly repairs and increased mobility comes back
	Jul 2023	a long term prospect (married to a member) died- I had the funeral service at the funeral home- full house and another opportunity to share the gospel- with his dying weeks and days and then at the funeral home.
	Apr 2023	On Palm Sunday we had 2 youth confirmations. The young ladies had a mixed of online and in-person during their two years of studies. Both are actively involved in youth class and steel pan.
	Apr 2023	Not sure what it was but we had one of our highest times of hospitalizations at the end of April for a variety of surgeries; hip replacement, shoulder replacement, major scoliosis back surgery, heart attack (prospect) gall bladder surgery... always a good time for visits/devotions
	Feb 2023	On Saturday, Feb. 9, we went to the 90th birthday celebration of our member Brodie Kanhai. Approximately 100 people were there and the family asked me to give a sermon as the "featured event" of the evening.
	Jan 2023	Mollie and I hosted a new member meal welcoming our new members and families--- joy!

Other	Nov 2023	WELS-Canada AGM was in Edmonton. Hope's delegate was our youngest council member Jaden Bhakti. He really appreciated the experience. The AGM itself was front, middle and back ended with mission board meetings. Then I took an extra day to go down to St. Paul, Calgary with Mission Counselor Matt Vogt to help the congregation with their proposed mission enhancement request. The epilogue to WELS-Canada was over 10 people getting Covid--- including me- for the first known time. Thankfully it was nothing more than regular cold symptoms
	Nov 2023	Mollie made a quick trip to MLC to speak for Evangelism Day on cross cultural experiences and outreach. Thankful that a woman's voice was added to the day.
	Oct 2023	Two days before our planned departure for Israel Egypt on Oct. 10 - the trip was cancelled because of hostilities. There were 27 planning to go- including from 3 WELS-Canada congregations. Easy decision to make because of the situation but disappointing all the same as people had been making plans for 12-24 months for this trip. Those from Hope gathered for a fellowship night to "decompress", pray and eat.
	Oct 2023	Pastor/vicar attended pastor conference in Clifton Park, NY Oct. 16-18
	Sep 2023	I attended BHM mtgs in Milwaukee and NAD praesidium/circuit pastor mtgs in Sept.
	Sep 2023	It was good to have Mollie's folks with us over Labour Day - first time here since before Covid.
	Aug 2023	Vicar exchange--- Aug. 6 was the farewell service for Vicar Ben Kieta. We "released" him one week early as he and Heidi decided not to go back to the Seminary but are doing at least one year in Budapest teaching. Ben was a blessing to ministry , especially Chinese outreach - but Heidi has always struggled with the idea of being a pastor's wife. It wasn't an easy year for her. And now we have Vicar Noah Satorius who arrived on Aug. 17. We are thankful for an uneventful border crossing. Time was spent in the last weeks of August with vicar orientation and lining up visits for him to meet our Hope family and get to know Toronto.
	Aug 2023	We continued our relatively new tradition of having the eastern Canadian pastors and families meet in Gananoque (heart of 1000 islands) for a one day circuit pastor family overnigher. great fellowship and morning golf.
	Aug 2023	It was a wonderful summer with connecting with family. In August, oldest daughter Emily, husband and two grandchildren came for a long weekend.
	Jul 2023	we enjoyed the 5 day visit from son and family in early July--- and then just returned yesterday from our end of July start of August great Eastern Canadian road trip- featuring Montreal, Bay of Fundy, PEI, Halifax and Quebec City. We were thankful to stay and visit with friends in Montreal (former student from Antigua days) and members from Cross of Life in Mississauga who moved to Halifax 2 years ago. Good memories!
	Jun 2023	Made the journey down to Maryland for SSQ--- it's too many days to be gone so Johannah Schultz had some pre-labor pains that brought Caleb and me home a day early. Thankful :-) Did appreciate the course on Bioethics.
	Jun 2023	Over the last weekend of June I traveled to Vancouver as part of WELS-Canada Mission Board responsibilities- to see first hand the mission field and encourage. Was a joy to preach for Geoff in the morning and at the afternoon Sudanese service. I also attended Qiang's Chinese service. Spent a good deal of time with Geoff and family- and also Saturday afternoon with Qiang and Susan. (family came with and we took one extra day to be tourists)
Jun 2023	Mollie and neighborhood friend organized a kindergarten graduation picnic for our daughters and all their classmates in the school. Blessed to have Mollie's community connections with her teaching as a supply in the two nearest schools to home. Rarely go to the park without children running up to say hello- to her, not me :-)	

Other	May 2023	On May 24 we were blessed to be assigned another vicar- Noah Satorius. Exciting for all... Vicar Ben Kieta and wife Heidi have decided not to go back to the Seminary next year. This has been an ongoing discussion point with us, the Kieta's and Seminary. Ben's hope would be to be able to finish up after this one year. They will teach English at a school in Budapest for the year.
	Apr 2023	Hope hosted the Colonial North pastor conference on Oct. 18-19. First time we have hosted in 9-10 years. Was a good conference- special shout out to our church secretary Andra for handling the majority of the conference logistics with meals, snacks, etc. Our fellowship after conference on Tuesday included all the attendees hopping on the Go Train to do a little tour of downtown Toronto (cold day)- and then a later supper at one of our member's Caribbean restaurant. Hope made the decision to sponsor the meal for all the attendees.
	Mar 2023	I traveled to MKE for my first BHM mtgs--- good to experience, good to learn... very thankful that Hope was approved once again to receive a VIM (Vicar in Mission setting) Beat a snowstorm back to Toronto.
	Mar 2023	We made use of Ontario's March break to take a family vacation--- drove 19 hours straight down to New Orleans to say farewell to daughter Erin and family before they move to new call in Antigua (small world department) where she was born and she and her husband grew up. Preached on the Sunday. Then stopped in Knoxville on the way home for a couple days to see son Scott and family- including 3 month old third daughter- Elianna
	Feb 2023	after almost a 4 month wait, Mollie was finally able to have surgery to remove her gall bladder. What a relief. She took three weeks off of teaching and was given dr. permission to travel. She went to Phoenix for 5 days to see her mom who has been having a lot of ongoing health issues. The girls and I survived. (btw- thankful for Canadian child benefits that are automatically received each month. Those benefits enable us to have the girls participate in after school community programmes- like dance, swimming and newly started skating classes)
	Jan 2023	I went to Ottawa at the end of the month to meet with Pastor Skip and new WELS-Canada president Pastor Pete Metzger-- to discuss transition and learn from Pastor Skip- for me, specifically in the area of new duties as mission board chairman. We have been very well served by Pastor Skip but are also thankful for his gifts now being used to head up the PSI programme.
Outreach	Sep 2023	We had a members' 10th anniversary renewal--- interesting and full event--- many Hope members and many prospects-- opportunity to share a gospel message.
	Sep 2023	We rejoiced in 4 new adult members (including one adult baptism) a couple from India, a woman from Poland and a young lady from Guyana who was baptized- formerly Hindu. also the baptism for Isaiah Hezekiah- first grandchild for church leaders Wayne and Andra Owen--- was a packed church for that Sunday! (170) We also had three members transfer to St. Peter's in Edmonton... One young couple who had just come here a year ago and got homesick and an older member.
	Aug 2023	Forward in Christ magazine featured a 5 page spread on the Chine ministry of Dr. David Shang.... a bit of work went into this in the previous months. We are so thankful for how the Lord is blessing his ministry. David also was the Scripture reader for the month of August at Hope. Hios first time doing so--- and also heled distribute communion.

Outreach	Jul 2023	July's focus was on Hope's signature outreach event- our Music Camp... It was a wonderful blessing to again gather with full steam. We averaged 106 campers (ages 5-14) with over 60 volunteers of all ages (from teens to senior citizens). Of special note is that we had 18 volunteers from the States (WISCO and MLS) and many of Hope's adult volunteers take a week of their own vacation time to serve in this special way. Many of our campers come from non-Christian homes so it provides a special time to share the Gospel in words and actions. An exhausting and wonderful week.
	Jun 2023	On Saturday, June 3, conducted a prayer mtg and worship service for a prospect - thankfulness for health recovery. 50 people crowded into house for this. followed by food, of course
	Jun 2023	On June 3 we had our Steps for Hope 5K run followed by our free community BBQ- the plus of the day was a great turnout of members and volunteers--- good fellowship. We could have done better advertising to the community. Forgot some of our key steps as this was the first big outreach for the picnic since pre-Covid. But still had prospects come through and enjoy the day (kids games, music, food) and one young lady has come to church several times since.
	Apr 2023	We held our Easter4Kids on Palm Saturday as is somehow our tradition. We never know what to expect and were glad to have 50 children in attendance (110 in total with parents and volunteers) Over 30 of the children were non-members and many prospects. One family came the next day and Easter.
	Apr 2023	On April 23, we had the adult baptism of Geoffrey Cao from Shangai. He has been studying online with our Dr. David Shang for three years- and as time came to be baptized he made a special trip here to meet David in person and to be baptized by him in our service. This was Dr. David's first baptism- (done in Mandarin during our worship service)
	Feb 2023	This was a big PSI month. Prof. Skip Goetzinger and Pastor Neil Birkholz came to Toronto the week of the 12th to meet with Dr. David Shang, and Guili (+ families) and also to meet with Hope leaders to better coordinate PSI efforts that involve classes, vicaring experience and future ministry possibilities in Toronto and abroad. Dr. David has begun Level 3 classes and through his online Bible classes there are approximately 20 individuals have have been baptized in various places (through WELS contacts) and 20 more who want to be baptized. On the 12, Guili Chi and DuJie (husband and wife) were officially welcomed as members at Hope. Vicar Ben carried out the vows with them in Mandarin. They were a part of our WELS ministry in East Asia before moving to Toronto. Guili was also interviewed and accepted into the PSI programme.
	Feb 2023	We had private baptisms on Feb. 4 for two young children of an immigrant family from Pakistan. They live very close to the church.
	Jan 2023	our Chinese ministry continues to grow... we recognized the Chinese new year in our Jan. 22 worship service (special Chinese song) - and a special Bible class and good gathering was held for 30 people.
Stewardship	Oct 2023	We had our 2nndscheduled congregational information mtg of the year after church on Oct. 1. A major point was the announced intent of going off of subsidy by June 30, 2024.
	May 2023	Offerings continue to run above budget. Thankful! Hope received a strong encouragement letter from outgoing WELS-Canada president to make this the final year of being on subsidy. This spurred good discussion and we hope to conclude receiving subsidy June of 2024. The Stewardship Committee has expanded and now has 6 active members with 4 new additions.

Stewardship	Jan 2023	We finished the year a little bit behind expected offerings but also we saved in various budget categories so the treasurer gave us a good report. We also recognize that our members raised \$25,000 over and above dollars for the special shingling project over the summer- (and that probably affected offerings to some degree)
Worship	Nov 2023	Because of the Covid diagnosis Saturday night at 9 pm, and because Vicar Noah was gone for a wedding, lay leader Wayne Owen stepped forward on very short notice to preach on Nov. 12. He did an excellent job of taking a written sermon and making it his own. Arthur Soman led the liturgy. One older member reassured me that they they did such a good job that I could take another Sunday off... thanks?
	Aug 2023	We enjoyed having a wedding for two more "mature" members.... it was a long time in coming and there was great joy.... wonderful day and reception.
	May 2023	A busy, full month- Mother's Day service followed by our big fellowship dinner where the men organize and serve the meal--- seating all the women and children first. Great event. We also did an Ontario pulpit swap--- with Cross of Life and also Vicar was able to preach at St. Paul in Ottawa to help cover for Jon Kock with arrival of new baby.
	Apr 2023	By God's grace it was a wonderful month at Hope... we think highest ever attendance for an Easter service (243) and good attendances throughout April at worship and Bible class... and another month of strong offerings. Thank the Lord for these visible fruits of faith! Holy Week was a definite joy with services, participation, music, and many, many visitors.
	Apr 2023	On May 16, we had Pres. Mark Luetzow as our guest preacher (MLS and Ministry Education Sunday) He also led the Sunday morning Bible class hour with a presentation. Good service and enjoyed the after church fellowship with him. Good ties with MLS through some of our members who have gone there and the annual MLS students coming to volunteer for our Music Camp (Project Titus)
	Mar 2023	"Normal" ---- it was a normal month--- and after going through all the variations of Covid ministry we don't want to take "normal" for granted.... normal--- people gathering for Bible class, worship, choir, committees, visitors coming to worship, offerings.... preparing for the events and services of Holy Week. Normal--- a good normal!
	Feb 2023	February was a good normal month---- good attendance (in person and online) in both worship and Bible classes. (5 different classes offered throughout the week). Our "normal" special music was featured during Black History Month. Ash Wednesday worship was moved to an online devotional format because of a major snowstorm. Covid learnings made this an easy change.

Attachments

No attachments