

Hope Lutheran Church

4131 Lehigh Drive, Cherryville, PA 18035-030

December 17th, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice always," begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Jami Possinger	ext. #12
Assistant Pastor	Rev. Brian Rajcok	ext. #13
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Clark W. Kuntz II	
Administrative Manager	Jennifer Sommers	ext. #10
Director of Music	David Ziegler	ext. #11
Treasurer	Trudy Mertz	
Sexton	Bonnie Zmyewski	
Financial Secretary	Deb Gardner	
Communications Specialist	Nina Weiss	ext. #20

SERVICE

PARTICIPANTS

8:00am

10:30am

	8:00am	10:30am
Acolytes	Sarah Bird	Alexa Rousenberger
Crucifers	Brianna Weaver	Crysta Strohl
Greeters	Sharon Kratzer	Adam Holencik
Lectors	Sharon Kratzer	Marge Zimmerman
Nursery	Thomas & Sonya Spohn	Aislinee & Jennifer McDonald
Ushers	Team Mohrey	Team Benninger
AV Assistant	Reece Anderson	Jerry Mraz
Communion Assistants	Deb Gardner, Vicki Steiner, John Zmyewski	
Altar Guild December	Team 2: Weil, Zimmermann, Schimaneck, Christman; Team 3: Steiner, Green, Burns	
Percussionist	Joe Neupauer	

Holy Communion

8:00 AM

Setting Two

Gathering *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

Prelude

Announcements

- * Confession and Forgiveness p 116
- * **Gathering Song "Hark, the Glad Sound" # 239**
- * Greeting/Kyrie p 120
- * Prayer of the Day

Word *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

Advent Hymn/Lighting of Advent Wreath

"He Came Down" (verses 1 - 3) # 253

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Anthem "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed & Burning" . . . Junior Choir

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

- * Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia..." p 124
- * Gospel Reading John 1:6-8, 1-28
- Sermon
- * **Hymn of the Day "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" # 254**
- * Apostles' Creed p 127
- * Prayers of Intercession

Leader: *Lord, in your mercy.* **Cong.:** *Hear our prayer.*

* Peace

Meal *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

Offering/Offertory "Celtic Advent Carol" Senior Choir

..... Danielle Weaver, Flute

- * Offertory Response "Let the Vineyards..." **Hymn # 181**
- * Great Thanksgiving p 129
- * Holy, Holy, Holy p 130
- * The Lord's Prayer p 134
- Communion (*intinction*)
- "Lamb of God..." p 135
- * Post Communion Canticle "Now Lord..." p 135
- * Prayer

Sending *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

- * Blessing
- * **Sending Song "People, Look East" # 248**
- * Dismissal

**please stand if you are able*

Service of the Word

10:30 AM

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, we hear and proclaim the saving word of God for the entire world. We give thanks for that saving word and all the gifts of God, who then sends us to share the good news and to care for those in need.

Gathering *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

Prelude

Announcements

- * Confession and Forgiveness p 211
- * **Gathering Song "Hark, the Glad Sound" # 239**
- * Greeting/Kyrie p 213
- * Prayer of the Day

Word *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

Advent Hymn/Lighting of Advent Wreath

"He Came Down" (verses 1 - 3) # 253

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

- * Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia..." p 216
- * Gospel Reading John 1:6-8, 1-28
- Children's Message
- Sermon
- * **Hymn of the Day "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus" # 254**
- * Apostles' Creed p 217
- * Prayers of Intercession

Leader: *Lord, in your mercy.* **Cong.:** *Hear our prayer.*

* Peace

Thanksgiving *We give thanks for the saving word*

Offering/Offertory "Celtic Advent Carol" Senior Choir

..... Danielle Weaver, Flute

- * Canticle of Thanksgiving p 219
- * Thanksgiving for the Word p 220
- * The Lord's Prayer p 221

Sending *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

- * Blessing
- * **Sending Song "People, Look East" # 248**
- * Dismissal
- Postlude

**please stand if you are able*

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
4131 Lehigh Drive, Cherryville, PA 18035
610-767-7203 | hopecherryville.org
December 17th, 2017

CORE PURPOSE STATEMENT:

People of Hope: working together, with God, to love and serve others...

ALTAR FLOWERS: † In Loving Memory of Harry Weil on our Wedding Anniversary, Love Loretta Weil; † Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to all here at Hope Church!

BULLETINS: † In Loving Memory of Estella Beers, Love Gloria Cole; In Celebration of my Mom, Sharyn Kratzer and In Memory of my Dad, Larry Reiss's Birthday, with love from Robin, Frank, Frankie & Andy

THE PRESS: † In Memory of loved ones.

IN PRAYER TODAY: Union, Schnecksville, The Rev. Mark Swanson, Interim.

STATISTICS: Last Sunday's attendance; 8:00am service – 67/ 10:30 am service 86; **Total offering - \$1328.00;** (includes **\$38.00** for the building fund; **\$102.00** for Sunday School; **\$18.00** for Advent). Evening Advent Service on 12/13/17; attendance 68, offering **\$467.00.**

COMMITMENT CARDS: If you have not already done so, kindly return your commitment card to the church as soon as possible. Please place them in the box located in the Narthex. Extra cards will be available on the table in the Narthex. Thank you.

ADVENT GIVING: If you are giving a donation at one of the Advent evening worship services, please use one of the Advent envelopes from your packet or you can use one of the pew envelopes. Include your name and envelope number (if known) on the envelope, to be sure to get credit for your giving.

BLOOD DRIVE: We are hosting a Miller Blood Drive on January 28th from 7:30 am to 1:00 pm. You will be able to sign-up after worship services on January 7th, 14th & 20th. You can also sign-up online, here is the link: www.giveapint.org; use the Sponsor Code: 0288.

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK – The Congregational Council is encouraging all our members to grow in their spirituality through a regular Prayer Life. One way of doing this is by lifting up in prayer one family from our church each day of the year. This week’s families are:

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 12/17/17 | Shirley, Lorrie Graver and family |
| 12/18/17 | Gregory, AnnaMarie Gaugler and family |
| 12/19/17 | Matthew, Jacob Gehringer and family |
| 12/20/17 | Jean Gerding and family |
| 12/21/17 | Valarie Gross and family |
| 12/22/17 | John, Jane Grason and family |
| 12/23/17 | Mary Gallagher and family |

ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

In this season of thanksgiving and gift giving, we hope you will also consider an additional gift to our church. It is through the contributions of every member that we are able to fulfill our mission. You can use our electronic giving option for both regular offerings and one-time gifts. Help us achieve a more consistent level of funding by setting up a recurring giving plan. Please remember that envelope packs include a special envelope for Christmas. Visit the church website at www.hopecherryville.org and locate the Online Giving Page.



Simply scan this code with your device.

**you may need to download a free QR reader app first!*

CANDLE SPONSORSHIPS: Are available for Christmas Eve. If you would like to help defray the costs of the beeswax candles and the red frill tissue paper, you can do so by sponsoring candles in memory of or in honor of someone. You can donate any amount you wish (no donation too small). Please contact Jennifer in the church office at 610-767-7203.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES: 1st Holy Communion Classes will begin January 7th. Holy Communion classes are open to current 5th grade students and any student in 6th, or 7th grade who did not receive the Communion Preparedness Classes. Classes will be held each week from January 7, 2018 through March 4, 2018. There are nine Sundays to get the children prepared, they must attend at least six times. Make-up work will be required for any missed classes. 1st Holy Communion will be on March 11, 2018 at the 10:30 service. There will be a reception with cake and beverages following the service. Rehearsal will be held March 10, 2018 at 9:30 until 11:00 in the sanctuary. There is a \$15.00 donation requested for each student to help defray material cost and can be given to the teachers. Please contact the church office with any questions at 610-767-7203.

CHURCH DIRECTORY – Put names with faces and be a part of our new church family directory. We are partnering with Lifetouch to tell our story. These very convenient photographs will be taken at the church. The directory will not be complete without you!

Portrait dates are as follows:

- Wednesday, December 27th through Friday, December 29th:
 - 2 pm – 9 pm
- Saturday, December 30th: 10 am – 5 pm
- Tuesday, January 2nd through Friday, January 5th: 2 pm – 9 pm
- Saturday, January 6th: 10 am – 5 pm

APPOINTMENTS: Make an appointment after worship service today: or visit our online link at:

<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y7jpgtvq/>

DIRECTORY HOST/HOSTESSESS: We are looking for volunteers to greet and sign-in congregation members for their pictorial photo sessions. The shifts would be 2 ½ hours each. If you are interested, please sign-up with the Appointment Committee after Service as indicated above. We thank you in advance for your time and support.

IS THERE CHURCH: If the weather is extremely bad on any given Sunday, and you are wondering if Sunday Church School, worship services, or evening activities are cancelled, please check WFMZ either online or TV or check our website at www.hopecherryville.org.

GIVING: The snow last week affected our attendance and income. Please catch up with your 2017 commitment or intended giving by the end of December or give an extra gift before the end of the year. Let's keep Hope's ministries strong! All 2017 offerings must be received or postmarked on or before December 31st 2017 to receive credit for this year. Any offerings received on or after January 1, 2018 MUST be credited as 2018 contributions.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP PARTICIPANT SCHEDULES: We are in **NEED** of Communion Assistants and Ushers for the following Christmas Eve Worship Services, if you are able to lend a hand, please sign-up utilizing the Sign-up Genius or contact the church office at 610-767-7203 or office@hopecherryville.org. Thank you all for your continued sharing of your time and talents!

Communion Assistants:

4:00 PM – NEED One (1)	6:00 PM – NEED Three (3)
8:30 pm – All slots filled	11:00 PM – NEED Two (2)

Ushers:

4:00 PM – NEED Two (2)	6:00 PM – NEED Three (3)
8:30 PM – NEED Five (5)	11:00 PM – All slots filled

Sign-Up Genius Link:

(<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054daca2baafa7-christmas1>)

2017 SUNDAY SCHOOL TAX STATEMENTS: Statements to be used for income tax purposes will be given only to those who request them. Please provide your name and envelope number with your child's offering, or phone Nancy Creyer at 610-767-8942 (leave message). Statements will be completed in January of 2018

DID YOU RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION THIS YEAR? Did you complete the hospitality pad indicating you received Holy Communion? If you didn't or you're not sure, please complete the Hope hospitality pad next time you receive communion. Our constitution requires active members to receive communion one time per year.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS ~ MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Concert "Big Church Night Out": 12/15/17, Meet at Hope at 6:00 pm

National Youth Gathering Meeting: 12/19/17, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

****Any questions please contact Pastor Brian Rajcok****

ADOPT A FAMILY: Hope Cherryville has adopted two local families in need to help make their Christmas merry and bright. See the display in the narthex – sign out a tag with a specific need for each member of the family. *** Use your cell phone camera – snap a picture to remind you what to shop for.* Return your unwrapped gift with the tag attached by tomorrow, Monday, December 18th. Then come to the wrapping party Wednesday, December 20th at 5:00 PM before Advent worship. We'll provide the wrap and tape as well as holiday treats and festive music, but definitely BYOS (bring your own scissors)!

SENIOR CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY: All seniors are invited to the Senior Center's Christmas Party on December 19, 2017 from 9:30 am – 2:00 pm in Kuntz Hall. There will be entertainment by Lorri & James at 12:30 pm, plus tricky tray & prizes! If you would like lunch, please make your reservation before December 18th. Please contact Karen for further details: 610-767-2977.

WOMEN OF FAITH: Our next meeting will be held on Monday, December 18th. We will be Christmas caroling and visiting with the residents at the Lovelight House (a personal care home) in Treichlers. We will then come back to the church for some fellowship and fun by having a small Christmas party. We will meet in the church parking lot at 6:00 pm. All are invited to join the fun!



*Wishing You A
Very Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!!!*



Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

9:00 AM – 4TH Sunday in Advent Service

4:00 & 6:00 PM – Family Service

8:30 & 11:00 PM – Communion & Service of Lights

****If you would like to lend a hand in tidying up the Sanctuary between services, please see the sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board. As always, thank you for your time & assistance in keeping the Sanctuary beautiful during this busy worship season ****



REMINDER TO ADVENT EVENING WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

December 20th 2017 at 7:00 pm

Acolyte	Sarah Bird
Greeter	Johnny Zmyewski
Ushers	Kurinec Team
Music	Janet Filchner

AMAZON SMILE:

What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile? To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations? Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile? Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile? On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate? The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

Can I receive a tax deduction for amounts donated from my purchases on AmazonSmile? Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you

REMINDER TO WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Sunday, December 24th, 2017	9:00 AM	
Acolyte	Anna Bealer	
Crucifer	Sam Koplin	
Communion Assistants	Betty Rock, Vicki Steiner, Brenda Lehr	
Greeter	Judy Dieter	
Lector	Bob Small	
Nursery	Holly & Penny Fasching	
Ushers	Brenda & Jeffrey Lehr, Pat & Daryl Amey	
AV Assistants	Jerry Mraz	
December Altar Guild	Team 2: Weil, Zimmermann, Schimaneck, Christman Team 3: Steiner, Green Burns	
Dec. Sign Changers	Betty Rock	

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK: For complete rehearsal schedules, see the online calendar at calendar.hopecherryville.org:

Today	Sunday School Christmas Program	9:15 am
Monday	Newsletter Deadline Friendship Dance	5:00 pm 7:00 pm
Tuesday	Pastor's Pericope Study – Kuntz Hall Senior Center Christmas Party – Kuntz Hall Centering Prayer National Youth Gathering Meeting – Kuntz Hall	8:30 am 9:30 am 6:00 pm 6:00 pm
Wednesday	Decorating for Advent – Sanctuary Staff Meeting Centering Prayer Adopt A-Family Wrapping Party Advent Evening Worship Service	8:00 am 10:00 am 2:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm
Thursday	Newsletter Collation Pastor's Bible Study	10:00 am 10:00 am
Friday		
Saturday		
Next Sunday	Christmas Eve Holy Communion 4th Sunday in Advent Service Decorating for Christmas Family Service: Candlelight & Communion Communion & Service of Lights with Orchestra	9:00 am 10:00 am 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm 8:30 pm & 11:00 pm