

## RAINFOREST ADVENTURE

What an Adventure we had! Monday the children were greeted at the door by a talking parrot and handler, 2 fluttering butterflies, an insecure monkey, a leaping frog, and a snake. It was green “recycle”

Monday where they wore their old recycled VBS t-shirts. The children brought in aluminum cans which “We Shared”, recycled, and raised \$72. That money was added to the change we raised for Ryan Bird. Ryan was the recipient of our annual collection fundraiser for VBS. We collected \$1000 total by throwing coins at a tree filled with blue and red moneys. The girls won by knocking the most monkeys off. At the conclusion of Monday, the children took home pine trees to make our earth green.

Tuesday was Career Day where the children came dressed as a profession and were met at the door by our 3 crazy bakers. You could smell the fresh bread baking even though smoke was pouring out of their oven. The theme was “We Give” like when Boaz gave wheat to Ruth. Our bakers gave donut holes to the children.

Wednesday was “We Grow” where the children wore clothing too small or too big. It was the story of the Mustard Seed and the children saw Colonel Mustard and the rest of the Clue characters from the game at the door. They were served hot dogs with a little fake mustard squirting out of bottles.

Thursday the children came dressed in red and hearts to symbolize “We Love”. They were greeted by our two cupids and received candy hearts. The children learned about “Jesus is the Vine”

*Continued on next page....*

## RAINFOREST ADVENTURE CONTINUED...

Friday our friends Ben and Kathy and their donkeys JoJo & Cecely, from The Gress Mountain Ranch were there to welcome the children. Jesus and a crowd were also there waving their palms on the procession to Jerusalem as we learned about “We Praise”. The children were dressed in their swimming attire to prepare for our annual hayride and received a donkey cookie upon arrival, thanks Jean. Rainforest guides PK and Dan led the children through the rainforest on an adventure looking for our lost butterflies that had emerged out of their chrysalis earlier in the week. On their adventure they ran into Ruth, Boaz, Elisha, Billy Bob and his mustard and candy trees, and followed Jesus and his donkeys to where the butterflies were released. The children enjoyed Rita’s Ice provided by the store on 145 in Whitehall.

Thank you also to Ice Cream World in Walnutport for allowing us to give the volunteers and children an ice cream cone coupon.

The items collected throughout the week were donated to the Northampton Food bank and the Gress Mountain Ranch where they do Animal Therapy.

Thank you to all the many volunteers who make our wonderful bible school so successful. We had 216 children registered this year and each year our numbers have increased. Please register early next year so you can ensure a spot.

Kathy and Jen

## START OF 2008-09 SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL YEAR

Our SCS year begins on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Our teachers are ready to have a good year with their students. Please note that SCS begins at 9:15 and ends at 10:15. Everyone will get his or her SCS envelopes the first Sunday of SCS. Please make giving a weekly offering each week a priority with your children.

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### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF FOR 2008-09

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCS: Bonnie Schwartz\*

ASST. SUPERINT. OF SCS: Nancy Creyer

SECRETARIES OF SCS: Nancy & Dennis Biechy

TREASURER OF SCS: Nancy Creyer

SUPERINTENDENT OF CRADLE ROLL: Kathy Ziegler

CRADLE ROLL: Pat Demko, Tammy Demko, Jennifer Edwards

3-YEAR NURSERY: Kristy Gonzalez, Amy Nichols, Trish Ninos

PREKINDERGARTEN: Sonya Newton, Dawn Wainwright, Loretta Weil, Nancy Xander

KINDERGARTEN: Bev Goll, Sandy Kramer, Donna Neetz, Elsie Thompson

FIRST GRADE: Judy Chase, Debra Kalbach, Lori Kerper, Kay O'Donnell\*

SECOND GRADE: Rita Hulsizer, Debbie Leibenguth, Kailee Leibenguth

THIRD GRADE: Carol Galloway, Bernard Kressley, Sr., Bonnie Zmyewski

FOURTH GRADE: Barbara Burns, Kim Eckroth, Michele Miller

FIFTH GRADE: Diane Deiter, Stacey Ziegler, Stephanie Ziegler

SIXTH GRADE: Ginger Bachman, Andrea Hetrick, Lynn LaBarre\*

LEVEL I CONFIRMATION: Susan Demko, Louise Santee, Joan Sherwood\*

LEVEL II CONFIRMATION: Vicki Steiner, Sharon Weidner

POST CONFIRMATION: Jessica Skeleton, Nicholas Steiner

ADULT A: Dale Newhart

Adult B: Bob Small

\*Christian Education Committee members: (An \* is behind the members that are teaching.) LeAnn Chandler\*, Kerry Follweiler\*, Lorilee Lambert\*, Jill Schwartz\*, David Zehner\*

## SEPTEMBER PRAYER LIST

- 9/01/08 Robert, Margaret, Robert, Sarah, Brad, Julia, Clinton Weber and family  
9/02/08 Craig, Diane, Michael Reenock and family  
9/03/08 Scott, Alicia, Dante Keen and family  
9/04/08 Ralph, Donna Fisher, Brian, William, Michael Henry and family  
9/05/08 Arline Fasching and family  
9/06/08 Catherine Fairchild and family  
9/07/08 David, Gloria Hoppy and family  
9/08/08 John, Jennifer, Justin, Kaitlin Nixon and family  
9/09/08 Curtis Evans and family  
9/10/08 Linda Wagner and family  
9/11/08 David, Jane, Marcus, Bryan Morris and family  
9/12/08 Kimberly Rice and family  
9/13/08 Hilda, Gary Furry and family  
9/14/08 Peter, Lynn Ervin and family  
9/15/08 Samuel, Janet Schaadt and family  
9/16/08 Gerald, Karen, Tyler, Jeremy, Kurt, Jessamy Zimmerman and family  
9/17/08 Edmund, Lori, Jillian, Leann Makowe and family  
9/18/08 David, Kathleen, Stephanie, Stacey, Shelbey Ziegler and family  
9/19/08 Stephen, Katrina, Joshua Skrapits, Cory Stauffer and family  
9/20/08 Brian, Sherry, Adam, Brittany Beers and family  
9/21/08 Richard, Carol, Chris Becker and family  
9/22/08 Rodney, Laurie, Rodney, William Christman and family  
9/23/08 Todd, Rachel, Adam, Jacob, Sarah Leibenguth and family  
9/24/08 Trevor Diehl and family  
9/25/08 Dan, Nancy Xander and family  
9/26/08 John McGurrin and family  
9/27/08 Debra Trzesniowski, Marc Wisniewski and family  
9/28/08 Stanley, Doris Royer and family  
9/29/08 Elsie, Brian, Lauren Thompson and family  
9/30/08 Anita Vreeland and family

*In Our Thoughts  
& Prayers*



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

## THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Hope, Thank you, once again, for the scholarship money that I received for this semester. I appreciate the support I receive from everyone as I finish up my final semester at Lock Haven. I am thankful as always to be in your thoughts and prayers.

Steph Ziegler



Dear Hope Church, I greatly appreciate the generous money I received through my scholarship. This money will help contribute to my school funds and will allow me to continue with my studies. Thank you again,

Stacey Ziegler

Dear Hope Lutheran Church, I would like to thank you for your generous scholarship gift. I know it will come in handy soon, as it is just about the time for me to purchase my fifth semester textbooks-and we all know this is no small endeavor. I am now at Penn State University's State College campus, still pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering. I hope the winter weather this year does not prove too challenging for those early-service goers! Thanks again,

Jonathan Bednar

Dear Hope Lutheran Church, I just wanted to say thank you for honoring me with one of the scholarship awards. Every little bit helps! Thanks to all of Hope Church for supporting me in my studies! Sincerely thanks,

Allison Schell

I want to thank Hope Lutheran Church and everyone who was involved in the scholarship for helping and supporting me in furthering my education. I very greatly appreciate it.

Kristin Stephens

Dear Kathy, Sam had a great time at Bible School! Thanks for everything you and Jennifer did to make it so much fun for the kids!

Karen



## THANK YOU NOTES CONTINUED...

Dear Pastor Kuntz, Ernie and Members of Hope Church, We are so blessed to have such a caring and thoughtful congregation and staff at our church. We truly appreciate all the calls, cards and visits from the Hope Family while John was in the hospital. He is on the road to recovery, taking one day at a time with a goal of getting to college on time to begin classes at the end of August. We are hopeful that his health will return. Thank you all again. God Bless you all.

Lynn, John, Jen and John LaBarre

Dear VBS committee, Thank you for your monetary gift for Ryan from your 2008 Bible School. Everyone's generosity, prayers, concern and thoughtfulness are very much appreciated, more than words can ever express.

Deb Gardner on behalf of  
Cathy, Ryan and Sarah Bird

Dear Hope Church, thank you for the use of your facilities. It helped to make our camp a success. (**\$50.00 donation enclosed**).

Girl Scout Blue Mountain Day Camp

Dear VBS, Thank you for the **wonderful** time you all provided for my daughter. She loved every minute. You are all very **special** people to be so giving of your time!

Sue Moser

Dear VBS, Thanks for a fantastic week. Everyone did an incredible job making it fun, organized and memorable. See you next year!

Thank you so much for all the hard work into making VBS a truly unforgettable experience. This was the boy's first year, and it was wonderful. All of your time and effort was very much appreciated by us. Thank you!! Sincerely,

Emily Garrison and Braedon Hassler

**THANK YOU NOTES**  
**CONTINUED...**

*Thank You!*

We really had a very nice time, meeting and seeing all the people from Hope Lutheran Church...We feel right at home with all the friendly folks....Thank you for the generous donations both monetary and the food. The group of animals are eating "everything" nothing goes to waste...Rocky, our Great Pyr and Miss Kayla, our other Great Pyr....enjoying the "canned carrots". Thanks again.....Kathy and God Bless You and all the wonderful people at Hope Lutheran Church.

KG(Kathy Gress)

Dear VBS Staff, Thank you so much for collecting the money for Jen and I and honoring us as directors of VBS. You all deserve a big thank you for volunteering to make Bible School such a huge success. We would never be able to pull it all together without the help of all of you, no job goes unnoticed. We are already receiving the new material for next year and the wheels are turning. We hope to see every one of you again next year. Sincerely,

Kathy Ziegler

The Basket Ladies would like to thank all who have either donated or purchased jewelry at Hope Fest. Our total sales were \$985.30. The committee has split the proceeds giving \$500.00 to the Bird family for medical expenses and \$500.00 to the church for a new sound system. Our most unusual jewelry donations this year were a gold dipped marijuana leaf, someone's tooth and three pieces of body piercing jewelry. Thank you again for another successful jewelry sale.

The Basket Committee

Dear Hope Church, thank you all so very much for the prayers, cards, calls and well wishes as I was hospitalized and also while recuperating at home. Thank you to Pastor Kuntz and Ernie for their visits. I appreciated everything very much. Thank you again.

LuAnn Smith

*Thank You!*

**THANK YOU NOTES**  
**CONTINUED...**

Dear Hope Church, thank you for the prayers, calls and cards during my recent hospital stay. Thank you to Ernie for your visits. I am recuperating at home, and look forward to getting back to church on Sunday mornings. God bless you all. Love,  
Georgia Mohrey

These words do not seem to be near enough for the outpouring love, support and prayers that our family has received since we learned Ryan has leukemia. Thank you to Pastor Kuntz and Ernie for the hospital visits and prayers while in Hershey and Lehigh Valley hospital. Thank you to the Vacation Bible School for the generous monetary gift and all the cards that each child made and Kathy Ziegler mailed, all 216 of them. Thank you to the scouts of Hope for the poster and cards that were delivered by Tammy Shupp along with a monetary gift that was collected for Ryan at LTAA playoffs and the games stand at Hope Fest. Thank you to all the members of Hope that sent Ryan cards extending get well wishes and prayers for a full recovery and for the surprises inside some of them. And most recently, birthday cards for his tenth birthday with gifts included as well. We are truly blessed with our church family here at Hope. God Bless,

Jim and Deb Gardner

Ryan, Sarah and Cathy Bird

THANK YOU, Hope Church, for the beautiful rose on the altar in honor of the July 2nd birth of LINCOLN JEFFREY POWERS. Gram (Linda Sidor) would LOVE to show you her "Linc pics"...ask any time!!!

With Love from Apex, NC - Mommy Jill (Sidor) Powers & Daddy Jeff; With Love from Northampton, PA - Gram Linda and Grandpop Tom; With Love from Great Gram & Grandpop - Kathryn and Howard Strohl



**CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES SUMMARY**  
**JULY 2008**

President Mery opened the meeting and Marge Zimmerman led devotions.

Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report for June were read and approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Highlights included the musical at the Roxy, Hope Fest, Vacation Bible School and the Phyllis game.

**Pastoral Assistant's Report:** Highlights included the musical at the Roxy, HopeFest, New Members Class and Vacation Bible School.

**Youth:** the shore trip went very well, everyone had a wonderful time.

**Social Ministry:** 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday party on August 16, 2008. Food is needed for the Food Bank.

**Worship and Music:** David Deiter reported on his musician's conference, as did Shelbey Ziegler and Olivia Eckroth. Outdoor service on August 24<sup>th</sup> was changed to an indoor service.

**Property:** trimmed shrubs and bushes.

**Stewardship:** Annual appeal will be held on November 16, 2008.

**Evangelism:** no report.

**Christian Ed.:** Need teachers for Sunday School.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Leibenguth

**BIBLES FOR THIRD GRADERS**

We will be giving out Bibles to all third graders on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at both worship services. Parents, this is an excellent opportunity to fulfill the promise you made at your child's baptism to "place in their hands the Holy Scriptures."



**BEAR CREEK SCHOLARSHIP FUND**



Any youth that attended Bear Creek Camp is entitled to a small scholarship to help with the expense of going to our church's camp. Please let the church office know if your child attended Bear Creek Camp this summer. The camperships will be awarded on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at both worship services. Please note: this does **not** include the Bear Creek Day Camp that was held here at Hope Church.

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

At one of the worship services on August 10<sup>th</sup> the following members of Hope, meeting all requirements of eligibility, received a scholarship check from Hope Church. Students in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year or higher who are full time and have applied for a scholarship are:

- |                   |                    |                 |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Kevin Bailey      | Amanda Bartholomew | Jonathan Bednar |
| Erika Belletti    | Katie Biechy       | Joshua Graver   |
| Brittany Grube    | Aaron Lamparter    | Marisa Lehr     |
| Michelle Meyers   | Allison Schell     | Kate Steiner    |
| Nicholas Steiner  | Kristin Stephens   | Lauren Thompson |
| Rachel Tretiak    | Ryan Wilson        | Stacey Ziegler  |
| Stephanie Ziegler |                    |                 |



*Congratulations to all!*

*May God bless these young people in their studies!*

### RECENT BLOOD DONORS

The following members of Hope Church have recently donated blood to the Miller Memorial Blood Center; Brenda Mack, Bill Fritzing, Trudy Mertz, Raymond Swinger, Wilson Beers, Sandra Fuquay, Daniel Husser and Lynn Patterson. *Thank you to all of our faithful donors. Please help by calling the blood center today at 610-691-5850 or 1-800-223-6667.*

### WEIGHT GROUP

Our weight class here at Hope Church will meet on **Wednesdays again this year** beginning on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. They will meet in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom downstairs. **ALL ARE WELCOME.** For more information, please contact Sharyn Kratzer at 610-261-1277.

### RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

The following members from Hope Church were hospitalized from June 31<sup>st</sup> through August 25<sup>th</sup>: Ann Sassaman, Connie Nagy, Ryan Bird, John LaBarre, Bonnie Zmyewski, Joyce Itterly, Krysta Wagner, Linda Fisher, Karen Leibenguth, Anna Gardner, Jerry Binder, Samantha Lambert, Georgia Mohrey, Richard Silfies and Raymond Baker.

*Please keep these persons in your prayers.*



### NATIVITY DISPLAY



Even though it is only the end of summer, mark your calendars now for the nativity display, which is held here at Hope Church. The display will be held this year on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have never seen this beautiful display of various nativity sets (brought in by our church members and neighbors), you will definitely want to start out the Advent Season by

stopping by and viewing this wonderful display. Also, enjoy beautiful Christmas music and delicious goodies! Get your displays ready!

### CONGRATULATIONS PASTOR TONY PAGOTTO!

Pastor Tony recently accepted a call to be pastor at Dinkey Memorial Lutheran Church in Ashfield. He and his family as well as the members of Dinkey Church are excited and looking forward to this new call. May God bless Pastor Tony, Erica, Elijah and the congregation in this time of transition.

### NORTHAMPTON AREA FOOD BANK

Our food supply for the Northampton Food Bank is very low. All types of items are needed. Please consider donating items to our food pantry. Items can be dropped off in the wagon in the narthex anytime. Thank you! Also, Lynn LaBarre was just elected to the Food Bank Board of Directors. Help is always needed! Please speak to Marge Zimmermann or Lynn LaBarre with any questions.



### SENIOR CENTER NEWS

#### FLU SHOTS

Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 12:15pm.

#### DRIVER'S TRAINING

Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-5:00pm. The cost is \$10.00. Must attend both classes to qualify for insurance discounts.

Call Edith Knauss, director of the Cherryville Senior Center at 610-767-2977 with questions.

### TAE KWON DO

Tae Kwon Do classes are as follows:

- Wednesdays** - 6:00-7:00pm (all belts, all ages)  
7:00-8:00pm (red and black belts, all ages).
- Sundays** - 3:30-4:30pm (children 12 and under, all belts)  
4:30-5:30pm (adult 13 and older, all belts).

Questions, contact Rich Mullen at 610-760-0958.



### CHURCH DIRECTORIES

If you had your picture taken, you are entitled to a free directory. They are available in the church office. Please make sure to pick up your directory by **September 15<sup>th</sup>**. **After that date, the books will be sold to anyone who would like them.**

### CHURCH COOKBOOKS

Each copy is \$10.00. You can purchase one by stopping in the church office. They are beautiful cookbooks, with many wonderful recipes. They also make great gifts! They are going very fast; get your copy today!



**COOKBOOK CORRECTION** – the recipe for zucchini bread from Betty Krupa found on page 107 in the cookbook was missing an ingredient. Please add 2 cups of sugar to your recipe.

### BELL CHOIRS



Rehearsals will resume early in September. If anyone is interested in learning more about our bell choirs, please talk to Janet Filchner. See the church calendar for rehearsal dates.

### LEHIGH VALLEY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Lehigh Valley Lutheran School offers a comprehensive, challenging, and academic program in a nurturing, supportive Christian environment. Each child is an individual at LVLS, and is encouraged to fully develop his or her individual strengths. Lehigh Valley Lutheran School had implemented the Core Knowledge Curriculum, which is based on solid, sequenced, specific and shared learning. Core Knowledge Curriculum is academic excellence with greater fairness, and high literacy. Lehigh Valley Lutheran School is accepting registrations for K-8. Please call 610-351-8331.

### LEHIGH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS POTTERY PITCHERS

In order to raise funds to renovate St. Paul's School House, Indianland, the Lehigh Twp. Historical Society is taking orders for pottery pitchers.

These pitchers can be companion pieces of the preserve jars that we sold last year. They will be gray with green detailing and will stand about 7" high. On the front will be a picture of the schoolhouse; on the back will be the name of the historical society. The pitchers will be made by Westerwald Pottery of western Pennsylvania. People who pre-pay their order now will pay \$27. Later, the price will be \$30. To order, call Beverly at 610 767-3634 or Nancy at 610 767-0676.

### ART BY THE PARK Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, Noon-3:00PM

The Lehigh Township Historical Society is looking for **Lehigh Valley artists** who would like to display their work on the porch of the Historical Centre at Indian Trail Park, Pennsville, during two of our summer open houses. We are looking for people who wish to display and sell paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, sculpture, pottery and the like. The porch is covered and electricity is available for fans, should it be hot. Each artist must supply her/his own tables, display boards and fans. Tables no more than 8 feet long can be accommodated. Registration is free but a donation is requested should you make a sale. Forms can be obtained by calling Sean (610 760-1814) or Nancy (610 767-0676). Registrations must be received no later than one week before the event.

### MUM SALE September 20<sup>th</sup>

9:00am until sold out. 1 mum for \$6.00, 3 mums for \$15.00

All events are held at the Historical Centre at Indian Trail Park, Pennsville. For more information, call 610-767-0676 or 610-760-1814.

## PASTORAL ACTS

*Pastor Kuntz officiated at the following baptisms.*

### HOLY BAPTISMS

Henry Albert Newton, son of Henry and Sonya (Xander) Newton was baptized on June 15, 2008 during the 8:00am worship service.

Olivia Lucille Thomas, daughter of Gregory and Jennifer (Hummel) Thomas was baptized on July 27, 2008 during the 9:30am worship service.

Ayden Ryan Tice, son of Marc Tice and Amanda Ferreira was baptized on July 27, 2008 during the 9:30am worship service.

Devany Nichole Berger, daughter of Kyle and Robin (Confer) Berger was baptized on July 27, 2008 during the 9:30am worship service.

Emily Ruth Koplin, daughter of Larry and Karen (Kuehner) Koplin was baptized on August 17, 2008 during the 9:30am worship service.

Kasidy Rose Mahalick, daughter of Thomas and Samantha (Wisniewski) Mahalick was baptized on August 17, 2008 during the 9:30am worship service.

Aiden Michael Bonser, son of Michael and Vicki (Blöse) Bonser was baptized on August 17, 2008 during the 9:30am worship service.

Marcelus Justin Solt, son of Marcus and Kristen (Stone) Solt was baptized on August 24, 2008 during the 9:30am worship service.

Alesha James-Mary Pruzinsky, daughter of Troy Pruzinsky and Christine (Kimbrell) Pruzinsky was baptized on August 24, 2008 during the 9:30am worship service.

*Please welcome these children into our church family here at Hope Church and pray for their growth in faith.*



## MARRIAGES

*Pastor Kuntz officiated at the following marriages.*

Barry Edwin Grube and Chris Ann Miller exchanged wedding vows on July 25, 2008 at Hope Church.

Thomas J. Kunkle and Patricia Ann Flammer exchanged wedding vows on August 22, 2008 at Liberty Nursing and Rehab Center.



Marriage

*Congratulations to Barry and Chris and Thomas and Patricia. Please pray that they may always remember the promises made before God on their very special day.*

## BENEFIT FOR THE BAYOU 2

Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at Emmanuel's Lutheran Church. A benefit will be held to help raise enough funds to build a house in Mississippi. Many activities will be held that day, including a horseshoe tournament and a rib sale. Please see the narthex bulletin board for more information on all of these events. The benefit will be held from Noon until 8:00pm. Please come and support this very special event.

## HOPE FEST

This year's Hope Fest, which was held on Friday, June 27th and Saturday, June 28th, was a great success. Thank you to everyone who supported the Hope Fest in any way. A special thank you to all of the volunteers. This event could not happen without all of the wonderful volunteers.

Total Income = \$7551.70

Total Expenses = 4023.44

Total Profit = \$3528.26

Hope Fest donated \$3000.00 to Ryan Bird for his ongoing medical expenses. The Basket Committee gave Ryan Bird an additional \$500.00 from their jewelry sale, which was held at Hope Fest.

Thank you again!

*A complete financial report of the expenses and income for Hope Fest can be found on the narthex bulletin board.*



## SOCIAL MINISTRY

A “BIG” THANK YOU to all the people who made the 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party a success. We had donations of food, money and time. Thank you to all who attended – we all had a great time together.

### SOCIAL MINISTRY CALENDAR

**Tuesday, September 9** – Social Ministry/Ingathering Meeting – 7:00pm

*This meeting is a combination meeting for Social Ministry and the Ingathering, which will be held here at Hope Church in December.*

**Sunday, September 21** – Good Shepherd Home Visit – after late church; stop for lunch then the visit. Everybody welcome to attend.

### BASKET SOCIAL NEWS

The Basket Committee is preparing for the **Friday, October 10th** fall social. Mark your calendars NOW!!!

Doors open at 4 p.m. for this WALK-IN social. Cost is \$5 at the door and \$3 for kindergarten youth thru sixth grade. Your initial ticket card gives you 25 chances to win theme baskets/prizes and entitles you to free dessert. Extra ticket cards may be purchased after the initial card at a cost of \$3 each (2 for \$5; 4 for \$10; etc.) The kitchen will be open for food and drink purchases.

Three ticket sponsors are needed at a cost of \$30/sponsor. If interested in sponsoring tickets, please call Linda Sidor at 610.767.8372.

Profit from the fall basket social will be donated to the Hope Lutheran Church Building Maintenance Fund.  
Hoping to see you on October 10th!

Co-chairs, Rita Hulsizer and Jean Leibenguth,  
and the Basket Committee of Hope Lutheran Church

P.S. Any questions can be directed to the church office by calling 610.767.7203.

**When:** Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm through Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm

**Where:** Hope Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall

**What:** A weekend full of competitive events, bible studies, and youth fellowship! Take a look at the pictures on the youth bulletin board for a glimpse of last year's survivor event.

**Cost:** \$10.00 for food (Friday: dinner and snack; Saturday: breakfast, lunch and snack)

Friends are welcome!! They also need a permission slip and must be signed up, so plan ahead!

Chaperones needed! Please sign up on the chaperone survivor sheet (located on the youth bulletin board) for a shift if you are able!!

Permission slips are also available on the youth bulletin board.

Youth group is for any youth in 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup>



## **FROM THE PASTORAL ASSISTANT**

My wife and I returned home last evening following a mini-vacation driving through the beautiful mountains of northern Pennsylvania and southern New York. From the scenic Finger Lakes of New York to the Allegheny National Forest, the Kinzuas Dam, and finally to historic Chataqua, New York. As I travel through these areas, I am always amazed at the tremendous expanse of forests in these two states.

Deb and I have spent a lot of time in these mountains and probably should not have been surprised to find the leaves of the hardwood trees already showing a change of color, forecasting in their own way the end of summer and the coming of winter.

Nature's ways mimic life itself as we pass through cycles of change. This, of course, brings to mind again the huge change Hope Lutheran Church is about to undergo. It is likely that by the time you read this newsletter, Pastor Kuntz will have led worship and preached the Good News for the final time as our pastor. After 37 years of ordained ministry, 22 of them here at Hope, this faithful spiritual leader and servant of God has claimed a well-deserved retirement.

It will be quite a while until a new full-time pastor comes to Hope Lutheran. Unlike the trees of the forest which go through a dormant time and return to life in spring, this congregation cannot allow itself to become dormant during the pastoral vacancy. Pastor Kuntz has laid a rock solid foundation for the future, and that future now depends on each of us working with God. It is critically important at this time that we commit to regular worship, faithful financial support, and by offering our help wherever and however it is needed. The programs and ministries of the congregation need you now. Please don't wait to be asked; step forward and offer your help. There is no better way to honor Pastor Kuntz for his dedication and faithful ministry than to continue to build on his work and offer to a new pastor a strong and vibrant congregation.

May God grant abundant blessings to Pastor Kuntz and his family and may He continue to bless Hope Lutheran Church in its ministry.