



HOPE HOME NEWS

Hope Lutheran Church
Cherryville, PA

Volume XXXVIII No. 6 July/August, 2011

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Please note that worship times are 8 am and 9:30 am during July/August

July 3 Pentecost 3

8:00 am Holy Communion
9:30 am Service of the Word/
Holy Baptism

July 10 Pentecost 4

8:00 am Service of the Word
9:30 am Holy Communion
**VBS Staff Installation at both
Worship Services**

July 17 Pentecost 5

8:00 am Holy Communion
9:30 am VBS Closing Program

July 24 Pentecost 6

8:00 am Service of the Word
9:30 am Holy Communion

July 31 Pentecost 7

8:00 am & 9:30 am
Holy Communion

August 7 Pentecost 8

8:00 am Holy Communion
9:30 am Service of the Word
**Scholarships awarded at
both Worship Services**

August 14 Pentecost 9

8:00 am Service of the Word
9:30 am Holy Communion
**Scholarships Awarded at
both Worship Services**

August 21 Pentecost 10

8:00 am Holy Communion
9:30 am Service of the Word

August 28 Pentecost 11

8:00 am Service of the Word
9:30 am Holy Communion
**"Blessing of Backpacks"
At both Worship Services**

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

It's summertime – and the livin' is easy! Well, maybe not easy but certainly more enjoyable than 20 degree snowy weather – at least as far as I'm concerned. School is out and vacations begin, pools are open and picnics abound. One thing that is always obvious and disappointing to me is the drop in church attendance on a Sunday morning once summer hits full swing.

Ever since my children were little I have preached to them about the importance of Sunday morning worship. They have heard it so often they could probably preach it to you if you ask them! Here's what I would say when they complained that it was their only day off and they could do what they wanted: "Well, it is true that it may be your only day off but it is not YOUR day! It is God's day and after you spend time with God in worship you can do what you want. One hour is not very much to give our Lord after all God has given us."

Most summers as our children were growing up we would take some time off for vacation and always I would look for a church to attend while we were away. I never made the kids and Mitch attend with me but I always invited them. Inevitably they would ask why I insisted on going to church while I am on vacation. And here's what I would say to them: "Imagine that you had a real crisis in your life and you lifted your concerns to God in prayer. Now imagine that God, in God's infinite wisdom, responded to you by saying, 'Sarah (or Abby or Scott), it has been a brutal winter and spring and I'm really tired of all the stuff I have had to deal with. I am on vacation – no time for you and your prayers. When I get back I'll deal with them and your problems. For now...I'm off duty!' It is inconceivable for us to think that God might not be available to us whenever we need God yet we think nothing of cutting off our relationship with God for the summer!

This summer – don't take a vacation from God. This summer I hope that you do not take for granted the blessings that God has showered upon you. This summer I pray that you stay connected to God through worship, prayer and Bible reading. This summer I hope to see YOU in worship – regularly!

God's blessings, Pastor Jami

Please attend worship regularly this summer while at home or on vacation. Also, please remember your church with regular offerings. Hope's expenses continue all summer and it is a season when we get behind with our finances. Incidentally, your envelopes can be dropped directly in the mail with first class postage. Have an enjoyable summer as you take time to appreciate God's wonderful creation.



PASTORAL ACTS

HOLY BAPTISMS

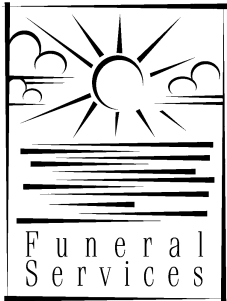
The following children were baptized on Sunday, May 29, 2011 during the 10:30am worship service. Pastor Jami officiated.

Kaitlyn Grace Roth, daughter of Matthew Roth and Tonya Lee.

Jacob Ryan Gibson, son of David and Gwen (Mertz) Gibson.

Sophia Hazel Medei, daughter of Dan and Katie (Kuntz) Medei.

Please welcome Kaitlyn, Jacob and Sophia into our church family at Hope and pray for their growth in faith.



FUNERALS

Pastor Jami officiated at the following funerals.

Alex J. Oncheck entered eternal life on May 21, 2011 at the age of 69 years. Services were held at Hope Church with interment at Indianland Cemetery.

Annamarie B. Kulig entered eternal life on May 31, 2011 at the age of 81 years. Services were held at Schisler Funeral Home.

Our sympathy to family and friends of Alex and Annamarie. May God continue to be their guide and strength.

YOUTH SHORE TRIP

The youth will be going to Wildwood, NJ from Monday, August 15 through Friday, August 19. They will stay at the Luther Inn. The youth will have group time and discussion as well as time at the beach, boardwalk, mini golf and more. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board ASAP. Cost includes room and all meals and will be approximately \$100.00-\$120.00. Questions, please call Wayne Weidner at 610-767-1512.



GRADUATES

We recognized our graduates on Sunday, June 5th during both worship services. Below is a list of graduates that our office knows of from our church. Congratulations to each of you! May God bless all of your future endeavors!



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Rachel Follweiler – Northampton (Marywood University/Art Therapy)

Michael Fronheiser – Northampton (NACC/Auto Collision)

Sarah Galloway – Northampton (Bloomsburg/Speech Language Pathology)

Thyler Hantz – Northampton (NACC/Biotechnology)

Melissa Holland – Northampton (Army Reserves then College)

Douglas R. Lockard – Parkland (Bloomsburg/Computer Science)

Payton Marunich – Northern Lehigh (Elizabethtown University)

Sarah Ninos – Northampton (NACC)

Caitlin Perry – Northampton (Shippensburg Univ./Exercise Science)

Courtney Ann Strohl – Palmerton (NACC)

Mitchell Solt – Northampton (NACC)

Zachary Thomson – Northampton (NACC)

Sarah Ventura – Parkland (University of MD for Business)

Bradley Wagner – Northampton (Wilkes College)

Christian Xander – Parkland (St. Joseph, Philadelphia)

John P. Zmyewski – Northampton (NACC/Teaching/Business Management)

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

Katie Biechy – Kutztown University (*BS Elementary Ed/Special Ed*)

Alexander D. Beers – Princeton University (*Civil Engineer*)

Jarrad Hantz – Northampton Community College (*Radiography*)

Abby Possinger – Muhlenberg (*BA in Spanish and BA in Business Administration*)

Allison Schell – Dickinson College (*BA in History and a Minor in Art History; attending Grad. School at George Washington University*)

Kristin Stephens – Bloomsburg University (*BA in Fine Art*)

Lauren Thompson – Millersville University (*First Grade Teacher, School district of Lancaster, PA*)

Rachel Tretiak – Wilkes University (*BA in History, BA in Psychology with a PA education certificate*)

Tyler Zimmerman – University of Illinois Champagne-Urbana (*Doctorate of Chemistry*)

MEMORIAL GARDEN
“AN ETERNAL GARDEN OF HOPE”

Hope Lutheran Church Memorial Garden will be a sacred place where cremated remains are interred and where generations can go for solitude and to be close to the memories of loved ones who have been interred there.



Located on the grounds of Hope Lutheran Church, Cherryville, the Memorial Garden is a space set aside on the grounds of our campus for families who wish to inter cremated remains in a natural, organic manner – that is, directly into the soil.

The Memorial Garden will be a place that offers dignified beauty, peace, serenity and spiritual renewal for all who visit there and will serve as a place for meditation, fellowship and prayer.

Eligibility – interment of ashes will be open to all members of Hope Lutheran Church and their immediate families, former members and others interested in interring their loved one’s ashes at Hope. The name, birth date, date of death of the interred will be engraved on granite plaques which are attached to the walls of the memorial’s “tower.” More detailed records of the individual will be kept in the church office.

If you desire to give a memorial gift or donation to the Memorial Garden or have questions; please contact the church office at 610-767-7203.

Don’t forget about our “pre-construction special”; the cost will be \$850.00 if paid in full BEFORE August 31, 2011. After this date the cost will be \$1000.00 for each individual thereafter. We are almost a ¼ of the way to our goal, we cannot begin construction until we have 100% of the funds.

Purchase Agreement and Authorization for Engraving forms are available in the church office and on the website at (www.hopecherryville.org).

Additional brochures and policies and procedures are available on the table in the narthex next to the model of the Memorial Garden.

HOPE LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Hope Church offers scholarship money to full-time college students. Funds are available for the 2011-2012 school year and all full-time college students who are members in good standing of Hope, Cherryville, and are in their second year (or higher) of study are encouraged to apply. The requirements of eligibility are:

1. **attending an accredited college or university full time**
2. **will be entering second year (or higher) of college in fall of 2011**
3. **is a member in good standing of Hope Lutheran Church, Cherryville, PA**

Applications can be picked up from the church office or can be obtained by phoning 610-767-7203 or by emailing the church office at office@hopecherryville.org. The deadline for applications to reach the church office is **Friday, July 22, 2011**. (Recipients of scholarship awards will be invited to be at either worship service on Sunday, August 7th to receive the first of two checks, the second of which will be **sent** the first week in January 2012).

CONFIRMATION CLASSES UPDATE

Confirmation Classes are completed for this school year. The 28 students in the First Level will move to the Second Level Class beginning in September pending completion of all the requirements.



Catechetical Classes

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION MEETING

An orientation meeting with students and parents of students entering in the first level and second level will be held on Sunday, August 21st at 10:30am. Requirements and schedules will be reviewed for the upcoming school year. This is a VERY IMPORTANT meeting; please mark your calendars now! A letter will be sent to all students with more information.

JULY PRAYER LISTS

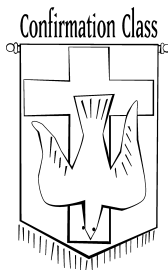
"In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek me." Jeremiah 29:12-13

7/01/11 Michael Emerick and family
7/02/11 Donna Weil and family
7/03/11 Jeffrey, Sara Hall and family
7/04/11 Jean, Reece, Rorie Anderson and family
7/05/11 Beth, Natasha, Katerina Sawickij and family
7/06/11 Richard, Carol Moore and family
7/07/11 Mark, Tracie, Heather, Ryan, Brooke Conway and family
7/08/11 Steven, Monica, Felicia Paly and family
7/09/11 Robert, Joanne Heffelfinger and family
7/10/11 Connie Epinger and family
7/11/11 Christine, Logan Steigerwalt and family
7/12/11 Herman, Kathleen Kunkel and family
7/13/11 Dennis, Nancy, Scott, Katie and family
7/14/11 John, Frieda Weeks and family
7/15/11 Jennifer Hendershot and family
7/16/11 John, Bonnie, Sara, John, Victoria Zmyewski and family
7/17/11 Wendy, Cassidy, Lauren Pitts and family
7/18/11 Jean Hoanzl and family
7/19/11 Leslie, Doug Daniel, Cassie, Brittany Muthard and family
7/20/11 Jessica Skelton and family
7/21/11 Harvey, Althea Handwerk and family
7/22/11 Tammy, Gavin, Preston, Paige Bauer and family
7/23/11 Gary, Susan, Kristin, Kyle Stephens and family
7/24/11 Mandy Hoysan and family
7/25/11 David, Janet Filchner and family
7/26/11 Beth, Christopher, Noah, Jack, Grace Wolfel and family
7/27/11 Clayton Miller and family
7/28/11 Stephanie, Daniel, Carisa Giniewski and family
7/29/11 Charles, Sharon, Matthew Ross and family
7/30/11 Dolores Neff and family
7/31/11 Raymond, Dolores Baker and family

AUGUST PRAYER LIST

8/01/11 Florence Schiffert and family
8/02/11 Arnold, Joanne Kuntz and family
8/30/11 Adelaide Badura and family
8/4/011 Lester Snyder and family
8/05/11 Donald, Loretta Neustadter and family
8/06/11 Bertus, Christina, Danicha Barnard and family
8/07/11 Howard, Susan, Amanda, Scott Bartholomew and family
8/08/11 Curtis, Catherine Renner and family
8/09/11 Joel Ninos and family
8/10/11 Ja'net, Sierra, Antonio Franco and family
8/11/11 Thomas, Lynn Patterson and family
8/12/11 John, Jeanette, Trent, Derek Moyer and family
8/13/11 Laura, Jacob, Jeffrey Graser and family
8/14/11 Brenda, Stephen, Stephen II, Andrew, Julia and family
8/15/11 Joseph, Pamela Holubowski and family
8/16/11 Michelle, Maya, Brandon Costanzo and family
8/17/11 Amy Trone, Dustin Henritzky and family
8/18/11 Nadia Kowalchuk and family
8/19/11 James, Susan, Matthew, Andrew, Jessica Bahnick and family
8/20/11 Ronald, Ina Ritter and family
8/21/11 Cathy Moore and family
8/22/11 Anne Bodish and family
8/23/11 David, Linda, Amanda Zehner and family
8/24/11 Priscilla Oncheck and family
8/25/11 Dave Frenke and family
8/26/11 Nicole, Nicholas, Caleb Young and family
8/27/11 Crystal, William, Hannah Kreider and family
8/28/11 Sandra Glassic and family
8/29/11 Linda Wagner and family
8/30/11 Alverta Kern and family
8/31/11 Jim, Eleanor Black, Theodore, Samantha Ancelitz and family





CONFIRMATIONS – the following youth were confirmed on Sunday, June 12, 2011 at the 10:30am worship service. We rejoice with them and pray for their continued participation and growth in the life of the church. The confirmands were: † Brandon Lee Christman † Michaela Lynn Ebert † Kasey Catherine Frey † Sarah Elizabeth Frohnheiser † Todd Gregory Hetrick † Kyle Alton Kromer † Michael Arthur Rock † Natasha Demeitrovna Sawickij † Amber Nicole Saylor.

The church office will notify you when your confirmation pictures arrive.



FAIR

20th ANNUAL LEHIGH TOWNSHIP COUNTRY FAIR

Sponsored by the Lehigh Township Volunteer Fire Company #1

<http://lehightownshipfire.com>

Friday, August 26th and Saturday, August 26th
Thrivent Financial For Lutherans will match funds raised up to \$800.00

HOPE CHURCH'S YARD SALE

The yard sale at Hope Church will be held on Friday, September 2nd and Saturday, September 3rd. Start cleaning those basements, garages and attics and get your items ready for our annual yard sale. Items will be able to be dropped off **after** Vacation Bible School, which ends with a closing program on Sunday, July 17th. Please no clothing, computers, bedding, or shoes. Large furniture items will be accepted with the condition if it does not sell, you need to pick it back up and discard of it yourself. Any questions, please call Ralph Fisher at 610-262-5076.



GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERT

There will be a Gospel Concert by the Hinkle Family on Friday, August 5, 2011 at 7:30pm at St. John's UCC Church, 15 S. Second Street, Slatington, PA. This traveling musical family from Texas presents their music as a ministry in order to "lead souls to a saving knowledge of Jesus and encourage Christians to a closer walk with God." A free-will offering will be taken.

PENNY PARTY – Sunday, August 21st at Hope Church to benefit the Northampton Area Food Bank. Doors will open at 12:00Noon, the Penny Party begins at 1:00pm. More info. to follow.

SECRETARY'S SUMMER HOURS

Beginning Wednesday, July 6th through Labor Day, Jane Tretiak will be in the church office from 7:30am to 12:00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Friday, she will be in the office from 7:30am-3:00pm, Jane will be off on Tuesdays. *The week of August 22nd Jane will work from 7:30am-3:00pm each day except Tuesday in order to do the next edition of the Hope Home News.* The answering machine is always on, please leave a message and someone will respond as soon as possible. NOTE: the secretarial position here at Hope is a salaried one. The secretary is paid for 30 hours from September through May, and hours worked over that are made up for with time off in the summer months.



SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Our summer worship hours continue through September 4th. The worship services will be at 8:00 and 9:30am, No Sunday Church School.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Snacks and powdered drink mixes are needed for the week of Bible School. Please drop them in the Kuntz Hall kitchen marked VBS.

SENIOR BIRTHDAY PARTY

On Saturday, August 13th, there will be a Birthday Party for any senior member (the age has changed, no longer need to be 75+) of Hope Church. The party/picnic will begin at 11:30 am in Kuntz Hall. There will be food, fellowship and entertainment. Mark your calendars now.

Watch for more information and a sign-up sheet soon!





CONFIRMATION THANK YOU

Ladies and gents, I just wanted to thank you all for the help and support which made the confirmation reception a success. Everything went great!!!!

Bakers - everything was delicious!!!! There were enough sweets for the confirmation class, their families and congregational members to enjoy -- and such a

huge variety I don't think there were any duplicates!

Set up crew - even though our job was easy thanks to the 2 gentlemen who had the majority of it finished by the time we got there, I appreciate all of you just being there and coming to help.

Servers - great job cutting the cake, filling the snacks and pouring the drinks - it made the line go quickly.

Clean-up crew- it went very smoothly and didn't take much time at all thanks to your hard work.

So again, thank you. I know that all the help and support was greatly appreciated by the families, the Evangelism Ccommittee, the Christian Education committee and by Pastor Jami.

Have a wonderful summer and see you all in September :)

Robin Zamadics

The Evangelism Committee would like to congratulate the confirmation class of 2011 for completing this latest step in your Christian journey of life. We hope you will continue to be an active member of your church family here at Hope. God's Blessings to you all.

Our committee would like to thank everyone who helped make the confirmation reception such a nice event for our confirmation class, their families and our congregation. It was such a pleasure to have extra hands in getting the job well done. A huge thank you to Robin Zamadics for organizing all of our volunteers. You did a great job Robin. And thank you to everyone who shared those delicious baked goods; the goody trays went down pretty quickly. It was a wonderful opportunity for our committee to work side-by-side with so many of our first level confirmation parents. Thank you for all your help. And next year will be your turn to relax and enjoy confirmation from a different view point!

And a special thank you to the Evangelism committee for all you do to share God's love with our church family and our community. What a great committee you are and what a pleasure it is to serve God with all of you.

Thank you everyone. God's blessings to all,

Sharyn Kratzer

A FEW MORE THANK YOU NOTES...

Dear Hope Church...the girls, leaders and parents of our Girl Scout Service Unit have collected items we thought might be helpful to the churches that so kindly donate a roof over our heads. Thank you for making "Girl Scouts" possible for our girls!! We could not do it without you! *The scouts donated cleaning supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, etc...Thank you to the scouts!*



Thank You

A very big thank you to all of the women who took me out for secretary's day. I can't believe I was the only man with all of the beautiful women!

Wayne Weidner

CORRECTION FROM THE FRONT COVER

Oops...the front cover has the scholarships will be awarded on two Sundays. The correct date is Sunday, August 7th (not August 14th) Sorry for the error!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

A few new teachers and helpers will be needed in September. Please call Lynn LaBarre at 610-767-0880 or Nancy Creyer at 610-767-8942 if you can help. The next Christian Education meeting will be held TOMORROW, Monday, June 20th at 7:00pm.

USHERS NEEDED

For both worship services. Please consider helping. Get family and friends together and make your own team! We especially need a few new volunteers before our next schedule which will begin August 7th. Training will be provided. Please call the church office at 610-767-7203 as soon as possible if you can help.





Please note: We need your help with regular giving *especially* during the Summer. Finances are usually “slow” during these months. Expenses for our mission and ministries continue even during the summer. Please, do not fall behind while you’re away on vacation.

If you are behind or you can give an extra gift, use the envelope enclosed in the center of this *Newsletter*. Thank you! Have a GREAT Summer!!

(cut ✂ here and insert in envelope with offering)

SUMMER OFFERINGS

←←←← Please use the envelope attached to this *Newsletter* for...

- Summer offerings that were (or will be) missed because of vacations, etc.
- An extra gift for the summer expenses (*example-Our heating oil for next year is paid in June and continues to climb – as you know from auto and household expenses*)
- A special gift in (circle) memory or in honor of ...

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

Envelope Number (if known) _____

Amount enclosed...\$ _____ \$250.00 \$100.00
 \$75.00 \$50.00 \$25.00

Please make checks payable to: “Hope Lutheran Church”.
THANK YOU!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Each year when Sunday School ramps up for the fall we take time in worship to bless the teachers as they begin a new year of teaching. This year, as summer draws to a close and the new school year begins for our youth we’d like to take the time to bless their endeavors as well. **So on Sunday, August 28 we invite all children to bring the backpacks they will be using for school in the 2011-2012 academic year to church and have them blessed during worship!**

We’ll be offering this opportunity at both the 8:00 AM and the 9:30 AM services. Parents and other adults are invited to bring along their laptop bags, briefcases or folders and have them blessed as well! We will also include bus drivers, cafeteria workers, principals, teachers and all who work in the school systems in our prayers so we hope you will all join us for worship! Let’s all start off a new school year with God’s blessings.



Blessing of Backpacks

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

All committees, groups and persons submitting information for the church newsletter should follow the schedule for the next few months listed below.

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Deadline for Articles</u>	<u>Collate</u>
September	Mon., August 22	Thurs., August 25
October	Mon., September 19	Thurs., September 22
November	Mon., October 19	Thurs., October 22

*Deadlines can change due to other priorities in the church office. Check the weekly bulletins for updated newsletter deadlines. Please email your articles to Jane at office@hopecherryville.org. Also, to all the wonderful volunteers who help collate the newsletter, please mark these dates on your calendar. Thanks!

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

The following persons were hospitalized from May 24th to June 23rd: Clayton Miller, Otto Hontz, Karline Hontz, Harold Itterly, Clara Haydt, James Murphy, and Naomi Beil. ***Please keep these persons and their families in your prayers.***



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED

- 1) When being admitted give our Church Code #251
- 2) **Give your permission** for the hospital to release your admittance information to the church when we call.
- 3) Have someone call the church office 610-767-7203 when being admitted to the hospital if you desire a visit.

MILLER MEMORIAL BLOOD CENTER



Needs our help. The summer months are historically a critical time for our community blood center. Since so many people are out of town, it is difficult to recruit an adequate number of donors to meet patient needs.

Please call 610-691-5850 or 1-800-223-6667 to give the gift of life!
Thank you! ***Thank you to all of our faithful donors.***

SUMMER HYMN SING

a.k.a. "SING-ALONG WITH DAVID"

begins on Sunday, July 3rd

The all-request time

Weekly on Sunday Mornings

7:45 am and 9:15 am



GRACEDALE VISIT – Sunday, July 24th a group from Hope will go to Gracedale to attend their worship service. Volunteers are needed to help get the residents to the service. We will leave from Hope at 9:00am to travel to Gracedale. Questions, please call Margie Zimmermann at 610-767-8901.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council members mark your calendars for Monday, July 11th at 6:00pm. This picnic will be held at Pastor Jami's home. Also, on Monday, August 8th a regular council meeting at 7:00pm.

PHILLIES BUS TRIP with FIREWORKS

July 28, 2011 – WAITING LIST ONLY AVAILABLE



Thursday, July 28th Hope Church will once again go to the Phillies. The game is between the Phillies vs. the San Francisco Giants followed by the fireworks. The game begins at 7:05pm and we will leave the Hope Church parking lot at 4:00pm that afternoon. Cost for the game and bus trip is \$45.00. Any questions call Wayne Weidner at 610-767-1512. Payment is due by June 30th. Checks can be made payable to Wayne Weidner.

KNOEBELS TRIP

Saturday, August 6th we have a pavilion reserved for you at Knoebel's Amusement Park and Picnic Grove in Elysburg, PA. We have the pavilion from 10:00am until 10:00pm. Lunch will be served at about 2:00pm; we'll have burgers, hot dogs, salads, dessert and drinks. The cost is \$12.00 per person, children 4 and under are free. Included in the \$12.00 cost is drinks and snacks that will be available all day long or as long as they last. Knoebel's has free parking, free admission and free entertainment all day long. The park is handicapped accessible. They also have stroller, wheelchair, scooter, and wagon rentals. There are numerous exhibits, a coal mine museum and much more. Knoebel's has something for every one of all ages. There are over 50 rides, from kiddie rides up to 2 world-class wooden roller coasters! The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Money can be paid as soon as possible. Make checks payable to Hope Lutheran Church and please specify Evangelism outing on the memo line. Call Ernie Doncsecz at 610-767-6339, John Zmyewski at 610-767-7260, or the church office at 610-767-7203 with questions. See you on Sunday!



Your Evangelism Committee

From the Stewardship Committee...

Exuberant Giving in Exodus 35-36

Grace Duddy

What does God desire from us? What does it mean to give enough? Both pastors and lay people struggle with this as they consider their charitable giving. The story of the Israelites building the tabernacle in Exodus 35:4-36:7 helps reframe some of these questions.

We encounter the Israelites shortly after Moses descends from Mount Sinai the second time with the two tablets. At the beginning of the text, Moses commands the people saying, "From what you have, take an offering for the Lord" (36:5 NIV). Moses asks the people to give of their possessions, particularly their gold and jewelry. Those who were once slaves can now freely give out of their abundance in response to God's liberation, covenant and promise to them. Moses invites those who have generous hearts to give, a term referring to an offering "that is spontaneous and unrequired."

After Moses asks for the gifts, the people withdraw and later return with their offerings. The givers are described as each person whose "heart was lifted and whose spirit incited him." The Israelites do not merely choose to give, but rather are stirred and compelled to give by God's Spirit within them!

One of the many remarkable aspects of this passage is who gives and what they give. Moses asks both for gifts of material wealth, as well as time and talent, particularly from those who are skilled artisans. The text tells us that the women give their gold and work at spinning linen and goat's hair. This is a movement of the entire Israelite community to build a dwelling place for God. After all of this, the workers tell Moses that the people have given more than enough. So Moses commands the people to stop working and bringing their gifts for the tabernacle.

Continued on the next page...

From the Stewardship Committee Continued...

So, what can we learn from this text, which presents a far different approach to giving than our culture today? The Israelites lived in a mindset of grace, rather than law. They did not ask, "Am I giving enough?" as if they were giving only to appease their own guilty conscience. Instead, they gave freely. Gifts flowed exuberantly out of a heart overflowing with gratitude for what God had done, is doing and will continue to do in their midst.

From this we can see that "enough" is an earthly not a heavenly term. Enough refers to the limits of the job to be accomplished rather than the limits of God's work within us. The Israelites, like the church today, had the opportunity to celebrate God's presence in their community. They understood that they could not limit themselves to what they considered "enough."

We should not seek merely to give enough so that we fulfill the task, but rather obey the leading of the Spirit to give extravagantly, knowing that God's work expands beyond the limits of our human understanding.



THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Members of Hope Lutheran, Just a short note to THANK everyone for their prayers and cards for our dad, Norman A. Flick. He loved everyone at Hope Church, he just did not get there because of his hearing problems (even with the hearing aids) and health problems. Peace be with everyone. Thanks, Love and Prayers,
Carol, Don, Matt, Tam, Chad, Josh, Corinne, Art and Elaine

Dear Hope Lutheran Prayer Shawl Ministry, We wanted to thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl that was presented to us in honor of Jacob's baptism. It is a beautiful reminder of God's presence and love, which just like this shawl, surrounds us with warmth and comfort. We feel very honored to have received this special gift and will treasure it always. May God's peace also be with you. Thank you again. Sincerely,
Gwen and Dave Gibson

Hope Lutheran Church
Summary of Congregational Council Minutes
June 13, 2011

Roll Call: Wayne Weidner, Jean Liebenguth, John Zmyewski, Dennis Biechy, Linda Mery, Tim Moore, Stacey Ziegler, David Roth, Pastor Jami, Christal Wrenn and Kris Doncsecz

Absent: Donald Saunders and Bob Small

Secretary's Report: *Motion to accept secretary's report by Dennis Biechy, motion seconded by Jean Liebenguth.*

Treasurer's Report: The Finance Committee has recommended that we go with Chase Bank for the church credit card. Only three staff member's will have access to this card with that being Pastor Jami, Jane Tretiak and David Ziegler.

A motion has been made by David Roth to approve the obtaining of this credit card with the three people allotted to use the card. The motion has been seconded by Linda Mery. All in favor. .

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Stacey Ziegler, motion seconded by Christal Wrenn. All in favor.

Correspondence/Transfer:

Out: Brad, Sharon, Julia and Grant Dokian (moved to Hamburg-joining Zion Lutheran, Hamburg)

In: Jennifer Shelly and daughter Catherine
Lori Tonetti and daughter Alyssa
Anna Schaller

PASTOR'S REPORT: Summary of May 2011:
Worship – 8 services (preached 8)
Baptisms – 4
Funerals – 1
Reception of New Members
Counseling – 5
Pre-Baptismal Meetings -3
Pre-Funeral Meetings – 1
Hospital Visits – 13
Home/Shut-in Visits – 4
New member classes – 2

What's coming up?

Work on Staffing needs / Visioning for our future.

Updating of Hope's Constitution.

Women's Retreat for 2011

Vacation Bible School – July 11-18, 2011

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH: Clothing Drive – resulted in profits of \$962.49
Shore Trip – Aug. 15-19, 2011

STEWARDSHIP: -Consecration Sunday will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2011. We will invite Rev. Pastor Herb Gifford to speak at our October 16, 2011 and October 23, 2011 services. We will also plan for a breakfast for Consecration Sunday. -Next meeting June 27, 2011. *Continued on the next page...*

Summary of Congregational Council Minutes Continued...
June 13, 2011

WORSHIP & MUSIC:

-Christmas Scheduling- Most people who were surveyed preferred one service that day. The committee decided that 9:30am would be the best time since the congregation is used to that time for summer worship.

-Christian Education has moved the Sunday School Christmas program to the evening of December 18, 2011 with a reception following.

-Nursery- the committee has decided to schedule confirmation students to staff the nursery during the summer.

-Bell Choir- Janet has reported that there will be two bell choirs – an audition and a non-audition bell choir. The auditions will be taking place in the next month or so.

-Next meeting: July 13th at 7pm

PROPERTY: Committee has been set up to look at security issues. This will be discussed at their next meeting.

EVANGELISM:

-Knoebel's Family Outing – August 6, 2011. Money due as soon as possible. The cost is \$12.00 per person. Children under 4 are free. 50 people needed to reserve pavilion.

-Bible Study – runs through June 28, each Thursday at 6:30.

-Hosted new member's reception as well as a reception for the confirmands.

PERSONNEL/MUTUAL MINISTRY:

-Forms to be sent to Hope's committee by the end of May and ask that they be returned by August 1, 2011.

-Updating the staff job descriptions.

MEMORIAL GARDEN:

-Seven applications have been requested and sent out.

-Donation received by Sis Livermon to purchase four benches and also for construction of the garden.

-Fundraising: Yard Sale Stand, Hope Fest 50/50 raffle tickets, Oldies Dance

-Next meeting: Tuesday, June 14 at 7pm

OLD BUSINESS: Martha Hontz Trust Money - *A motion has been made by David Roth to take \$1,500.00 of the Martha Hontz Trust Money and tithe 10%, which would go towards the youth group and the remaining balance to the church musical with the intention that we do the same thing next year should we commit the Martha Hontz Trust Money towards the musical. This motion has been seconded by Pastor Jami. All in favor.*

Pastor Jami has made a motion that the terms of David Ziegler signing a contract for the next musical, that council will support the musical and not to exceed \$2,500.00 without the approval from council. This motion has been seconded by Linda Mery. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: Building Usage

-Sunday, August 21, 2011-Penny Party for Northampton Area Food Bank.

-Donald Saunders has requested that he be relieved from his council duties. John Schuon has been appointed by council to fill Donald Saunders seat. Thank you Donald for your commitment and service to the Congregational Council.

A motion to accept has been made by Linda Mery, this motion has been seconded by Christal Wrenn.

Next Meeting:

Monday, August 8, 2011 at 7pm