

Greetings from the Pastor...

'Tis the season of....overload, stress, burnout, the happy holiday season? By the time you receive this newsletter we will be entering the season of Advent. I know for lots of people Advent has nothing to do with church – it means getting everything ready for Christmas – shopping, baking, wrapping, decorating, and on and on. But for Christians Advent is a four-week season of preparation and anticipation of celebrating the coming of Jesus. And while many of us long to move quietly through this season and center ourselves on God's miracle of a baby in a manger who comes to save the world, most times we wind up being harassed by noisy crowds, "consumeristic" clutter and heightened expectations. What's a Christian to do?

Let me offer a few suggestions: **1.** You could simply give in to the secular wonders of Christmas and skip the advent season altogether. **2.** You could ignore the secular world – scoffing at the notion that presents and cookies will satisfy you and wait in Advent expectation – pondering, like Mary, all that is in your heart. **3.** You could recognize that God can be at work in all the many ways you prepare for the birth of Christ - whether it's baking cookies for loved ones, attending worship services or exchanging gifts. It's really up to you!

Personally I choose option number 3. Why? Because I know I will fall victim to some of the consumerism of Christmas but I will also stay faithful to my Advent time of preparing my heart and my life for Jesus' coming – again and again and again. How can you do this? Incorporate God into all you do. Sounds simple doesn't it? And in some ways it is.

- 🌲 The first thing you can do is to make sure you worship – adding the Saturday evening Holden Prayer Service to your schedule.
- 🌲 Add an Advent devotional reading to your day so that you continue to study the word of God and what that means for your life. "Walk with" something that struck you in the reading as you go through your day.

- 🌲 As you shop - pick out a small gift for someone who will be alone this Christmas. Give a silent blessing to everyone who bumps you, cuts in line or acts obnoxious so that you don't fall prey to the frantic pace of the season.
- 🌲 As you bake – say a pray for all those people in our world who will be hungry that day. Make a plateful of cookies for your neighbor AND deliver them!
- 🌲 As you wrap – ponder the gift of the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and give thanks for his birth.
- 🌲 As you decorate – remember to include decorations that symbolize the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Set out your nativity set and retell the story of Jesus' birth.
- 🌲 As you listen to Christmas carols – ask God to show you how to serve God and be in ministry with others. Read the words of a carol carefully and reflect on their meaning in your life.
- 🌲 As you open presents – open your heart and your life to the amazing and awesome power of God. Give yourself the gift of taking time this coming year to put God in the center of your life.
- 🌲 As you eat with your family or friends – give thanks for the gift of the love you share. Forgive someone with whom you are holding a grudge. Take time to share stories and memories of Christmas' past.
- 🌲 As you take down your tree and decorations – remind yourself that the season is NOT over – Jesus is someone you will walk with throughout the year!

So as you prepare this season, make a conscious choice on how you plan to handle the secular and the sacred natures of Advent and Christmas. Keep Jesus in all your planning and celebrate the miracle!

Blessings,
Pastor Jami

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



PASTORAL ACTS

Pastor Jami officiated at the following baptisms.

BAPTISMS

Delaney Mae O'Donnell was baptized on November 6, 2011 during the 10:30am worship service. Delaney is the daughter of Kevin and Tracy (Blöse) O'Donnell.

Nolan Scott Keen was baptized on November 13, 2011 during the 8:00am worship service. Nolan is the son of Scott and Alicia (Bachman) Keen.

Please welcome Delaney and Nolan into our church family at Hope and pray for their growth in faith.



FUNERAL

Clayton A. Miller entered eternal life on October 25, 2011 at the age of 91 years. Services were held at the Hunsicker Funeral Home, Orefield, PA with interment at the Slatedale Cemetery will full military honors.

Pastor David L. Hess officiated.

Our sympathy to family and friends of Clayton. May God continue to be your guide and strength.

ALTAR GUILD

Again this year we will be having 4 worship services on Christmas Eve; 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:30pm and 11:30pm. We could use 2 to 3 people to help our altar guild for each service. The volunteers for the altar guild will help fill the candles with liquid wax and straighten up the pews for the following service. Please call the church office at 610-767-7203 if you can help or look for a sign-up sheet to be posted shortly. Thank you.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends of Hope, Thank you to each of the ladies who cooked for me after my recent shoulder surgery. You have no idea how much I appreciated your thoughtfulness. Everything was wonderful and made my recovery so much easier for not having to cook in those beginning days. God Bless you,
Cathy Fairchild



Members of Hope, I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as a member of the Church Council. I know some of you did not vote for me but I hope that I can meet or exceed your expectations. I know there are many more people to meet here at Hope so feel free to introduce yourself when you have the opportunity. I am looking forward to working with the other members on our Church Council and if there is anything I can do in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you again.

Al "Buddy" Rock

On behalf of the Indianland Garden Club, please accept this contribution in the amount of \$175.00 for calendar year 2011. Thank you for your generous support and hospitality of the club's various activities. Sincerely,

Connie Nagy



2011 SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL TAX STATEMENTS

Statements to be used for income tax purposes will be given only to those who request them. Please complete the information below and have your child give this form with their offering, or phone Nancy Creyer at 610-767-8942 (leave message). Statements will be completed in January of 2011.

NAME(S) _____

ENVELOPE NUMBER _____

SHARING THE PEACE – BY PASTOR JAMI

At the annual congregation meeting in November, it was suggested that we discontinue sharing the peace during worship throughout the flu season. This suggestion sparked a lot of conversation until finally someone asked to have a show of hands – who would like to discontinue sharing the peace and who would like to continue it throughout the year. Overwhelming, hands were raised to keep the “peace” in our Sunday worship as ***an option for those who wish to shake hands as they offer God’s peace to others.***

As I thought about this topic over the next few days, I thought it might help us all if we were informed about two things: a) why do we share the peace in the first place and b) what do I do if I don’t wish to shake hands during the flu season? So here is my attempt to answer those questions.

The basis for sharing the peace is biblical. When Jesus appears to his disciples after his resurrection his opening line is almost always, “Peace be with you.” Jesus knew those words can set the tone for being open to him. In Matthew 5:23-24 Jesus told his disciples “So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.” In other words, offer your peace to him or her. According to the *Manual on the Liturgy – Lutheran Book of Worship*, sharing the peace “enables people to live in unity and in the spirit of mutual forgiveness...without the intention to live in such unity, participation in the sacramental celebration is a mockery...The peace is a sign that those who participate in [the sacrament of communion] open themselves to the healing and reconciling power of God’s love and offer themselves to be agents of that love in the world.” Sharing the peace is more than just a time to shake hands and tell people it’s good to see them – it is sacramental in nature.

I know that there are those people in the congregation who would prefer not to shake hands – especially during the cold and flu season. Please feel free to act on your preference by simply verbally offering Christ’s peace or placing your hand over your heart as you offer it. There is no magic in shaking hands – it’s the words we share and the opportunity to put things right between each other that hold the power of forgiveness. May God’s peace be with you always.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY RESULTS BY THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Consecration Sunday Event by filling out an Estimate for Giving Card and returning it to the office. We are truly grateful for your willingness to make a commitment to the ministry of Jesus here at Hope Lutheran Church. As of November 15th we have received a total of 179 commitments totaling \$212,418.55 which amounts to 56.8% of our projected 2012 income. While this is encouraging it does mean that the members who did not make commitments will, hopefully, make up the difference in their giving – a difference of \$161,203.45. Most of us would not put together a budget knowing that we only were assured to receive 57% of the income required to finance that budget. The church is no different. It is not too late to fill out a return YOUR commitment to our ministry. If you have misplaced your Estimate of Giving Card we have extra ones in the church office. Simply complete it, place it in a sealed envelope and either drop off or mail to the church office or place it in the offering plate on a Sunday morning. Thank you, in advance, for your support!

FLOWER CHART

Our new flower chart for 2012 will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex very soon. Two sponsors (***and only two***) are needed each week, at a cost of **\$15.00 per sponsor**. Sponsor envelopes are next to the chart, the sponsor money and the envelope is due in the church office two weeks before the sponsorship. A special thank you to Sis Livermon for making our flower chart.

BULLETIN CHART

Our bulletin chart for 2012 will also be posted on the narthex bulletin board shortly. Three sponsors needed per week at a cost of \$6.00 per sponsor. Thank you to Nancy Creyer for making our bulletin chart.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Why We Give - By Tim Krick

In his book, "Giving to God", Mark Allen Powell wrote, "We are invited to put money in the offering plate on Sunday morning not because the church needs our money but because we want and need to give it."

For many of us, this may fly in the face of our typical notion of giving our offering. We may have been brought up thinking we give because the church has bills. There is a building that has upkeep and expenses, staff needs to receive a salary and there is the larger church that receives our support also. In essence, we give because of the need of others.

While this is true, this is not the primary reason why we receive an offering during our worship service. If we simply view giving as a way to meet budget needs then we most likely will not find a whole lot of joy in giving, we will view it as we view paying our gas or electric bill for our home.

As Powell We Give points out, if giving is simply to meet the budgetary expenses, then why is this part of the service at all. We should simply have dues and let everyone know their share. But if we give because we recognize our need and desire to give, then offering becomes an act of worship and it changes our motivation for giving. We turn from meeting an obligation to "expressing our love of God in the purest way imaginable, by giving up something that we value."

This is, in essence, why we receive an offering during our worship service. Yes, it helps to pay the bills, but more importantly, it is a way for us to actively participate in and recognize and express our emotions to God. This is why it is part of our worship service.

Tim Krick is Pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Combined Locks, Wis.



DECK THE WALLS

All can help decorate the church at **2:30 pm** on Saturday, **December 17th** followed by a Soup Supper (a variety brought by participants), and then Advent Evening Worship in the newly decorated nave at 5:00 pm. ****Catechetical Students – this would count as a social ministry/outreach event!***

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

All ages are invited to go caroling on **Saturday night, December 17th at 6:00 pm**. We go visit as many homebound members as possible. We will leave following the Advent Worship Service that evening. The homebound members especially like to see the children caroling. ****Catechetical Students – this would count as a social ministry/outreach event!***



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00 pm and 6:00 pm - A family/young children service of Candlelight, Carols and Communion.

This service will feature our Junior Choir.

8:30 pm and 11:30 pm - The Festival Communion Service with Candlelight and Carols.

Special music by our Youth and Senior Choirs and Hope's orchestra.



Christmas Eve
SERVICES

JESSE TREE FOR ADVENT

Each day during Advent a volunteer places a symbol on the Jesse Tree in the narthex. The symbol represents one of the Bible Stories, which leads to the birth of Jesus. A scripture and prayer are included on the back of each symbol for a brief devotion before placing the symbol on the macramé tree. If you can help with this, please sign the list in the narthex.



SATURDAY EVENING ADVENT WORSHIP - We will prepare for the Christmas season with an additional opportunity for weekly worship – Saturday evenings at 5:00pm on November 26, December 3, 10 & 17. Our worship will be approximately 30 minutes in length and will use the beautiful contemporary setting of Holden Evening Prayer. Please come join us for this special worship on these four Saturdays.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - Our annual Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 18th at 6:00pm. There will be refreshments after the program in Kuntz Hall. Any donations of finger food items would greatly be appreciated. They can be dropped off in Kuntz Hall up to the start of the program.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE -Christmas Communion Worship for our shut-in members and members unable to get to a Christmas Eve service will be held at 11:00am on **Wednesday, December 21st**. A light luncheon will follow. Please call the church office if you need a ride.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE – there will be one service on Sunday, December 25, 2011 at 9:30am. This will be a service of lessons, carols and communion. No Sunday School.

AFTER CHRISTMAS CLEAN-UP - Please come out on Monday, December 26th at 8:00am to help clean up the church and also put some of the Christmas decorations away. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WATCH NIGHT SERVICE –has been cancelled due to the service being held on New Year's Day.

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE - there will be one service on Sunday, January 1, 2012 at 9:30am. This will be a regular service with communion. No Sunday School.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH NURSERY

The nursery will be open for all of the worship services on Christmas Eve; however the nursery will **not** be staffed. If you feel your child needs a little break from any of the services, please feel free to use the nursery as long as needed. Thank you!

WREATHS FOR SALE TO DECORATE HOPE CHURCH

On Saturday, December 17th, when we decorate Hope for the holiday season, wreaths will be hung. Anyone wishing to sponsor a wreath in honor of or in memory of a loved one is asked to call the church office at 610- 767-7203.



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

The Senior Choir is selling poinsettias for Christmas Eve. The DEADLINE to order your poinsettias is Sunday, December 11th. Please see order form on the next page.



REMINDER TO POINSETTIA SPONSORS

It is appreciated if all plants could remain in the sanctuary for all four Christmas Eve services. Plants may be taken after the **11:30 pm** Christmas Eve worship service. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLES WITH RED FRILLS

Again this year we are making red frills for Christmas Eve candles. If you can help, kits will be available in the narthex shortly. **Please return completed candles no later than Sunday, December 18th. Thank you!**



12th ANNUAL NATIVITIES ON DISPLAY

The 12th annual nativities on display will be held at Hope Lutheran Church on Saturday, November 26 from 10 AM -8 PM and Sunday, November 27 from 8 AM -5 PM. This is a great way to welcome in the Advent Season as we prepare to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. During this weekend we will welcome 400-600 visitors to Hope Church. Last year's display was filled with the beauty of more than 450 nativities that were shared for your enjoyment by members of Hope and the community. In addition to the many different nativities that you will see, we will again have a children's Nativity center where younger children will have an opportunity to learn about the birth of Christ by making a nativity craft

You can help us make the display another successful one by:

1. Sharing a nativity (or nativities) with Hope Church for this weekend. Even if your scene has been at the display before, please bring it back again. The more Nativities, the prettier our display becomes. A gentleman from our church has made four more risers, so we will have plenty of room for your scene (scenes). Nativities may be brought to the church on Friday, November 25th from 12 noon to 7 PM. You may wish to write a short note to explain what makes your scene special to you.

2. Because of the many visitors and the Sunday school children that we will welcome, we need donations of baked goods, snacks and beverages. Hope Church has a wonderful reputation for being hospitable so help us maintain that.

3. We need people to help serve as hosts and greeters. As a host, you will help with keeping refreshment area clean and refreshments filled. Greeters serve to welcome our many guests. Any time you can share with us during this weekend would be appreciated.

4. Some help with setting up and cleaning up would be great. Setting up will begin at 9:00 AM on Friday and cleaning up will begin at 6:00 PM on Sunday. From 5:00 until 6:00 will give people sharing nativities a chance to safely package up their scenes before we begin clean up.

If you can help with any of the above, please contact the church office or any member of our Evangelism committee. Helping at the display is a wonderful opportunity for our confirmation students to earn community service requirement. It is a free event away from the noisy malls and it is a wonderful experience to help you remember the "real reason for this beautiful season."

A blessed Christmas to ALL!

Hope's Evangelism Committee

MEMORIAL GARDEN – “AN ETERNAL GARDEN OF HOPE”

We hope to begin interring cremains in the Hope Lutheran Church Memorial Garden in spring of 2012. The cost of the interment of cremains is \$1000.00. Purchase agreement and authorization for engraving forms are available in the church office, on the website at hopecherryville.org or on the table by the crossometer. If you desire to give a memorial gift or a donation to the Hope Lutheran Church Memorial Garden or have questions please contact the church office at 610-767-7203.

FREE EYE EXAMS

The Lehigh Township Lions Club is offering FREE eye exams to residents of Lehigh Township, regardless of age, who are not covered by Eye Care Insurance. The eye exam will be performed by Walnutport Family Eye Care. To take advantage of this important and FREE opportunity, which ends Dec. 31, 2011, please contact Wayne Benninger, Community Action Chairman for the Lehigh Township Lions Club, at 610-349-3596 or any other Lehigh Township Lions Club member. As part of a public service project, the eye exam fees will be paid by the Lehigh Township Lions Club...serving Lehigh Township since 1951. This offer is limited to the first 200 qualified respondents.

CHRISTMAS SHARING AT TOPTON

Christmas Sharing is a “store” set up with donated items at which residents shop (free of cost) for gifts to give to family members and friends. Items are also chosen for each resident to receive from Santa later on. Every gift is wrapped for the residents to present to their loved ones. Volunteers from congregations and communities assist throughout the week in transporting, shopping and wrapping. This event is one that relies on the donations of church members and individuals, and has been an ongoing tradition for over 35 years. A list of items needed is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

December Prayer List

- 12/01/11 Jennifer, Jarod, Evan Knouss and family
12/02/11 Carol, Michael Peters and family
12/03/11 Linda Derr and family
12/04/11 David, Jennifer, Alexis, Aislinn, Xander McDonald and family
12/05/11 Larry, Kathleen Creyer and family
12/06/11 Gladys Werley and family
12/07/11 Susan Dougherty and family
12/08/11 Kevin, Nicole, Colin, Rylee, Brady O'Donnell and family
12/09/11 Dennis, Louise, Benjamin Santee and family
12/10/11 Kyle, Karen, Michaela Ebert and family
12/11/11 Richard, Susan Hildebrand and family
12/12/11 Lynn, Tyler Ujvary and family
12/13/11 Catherine Hetherington and family
12/14/11 Jeremy Benninger and family
12/15/11 Bruce, Debora, Sara, Samantha Schnabel and family
12/16/11 Esther Maiatico and family
12/17/11 Barbara Duraso and family
12/18/11 Jeffrey Ritter and family
12/19/11 Elizabeth Kuntz and family
12/20/11 Gregg, Nicole Beers and family
12/21/11 Rachel Holencik and family
12/22/11 Merion, Jane Marsh and family
12/23/11 Antoinette Beers and family
12/24/11 Dawn, Alisha, Rachel, Julie Wainwright and family
12/25/11 Richard, Rita Hulsizer and family
12/26/11 Andrew, Jordan, Morgan Chandler and family
12/27/11 Laurie Weidner and family
12/28/11 Kevin, Kelly, Kyle Kromer and family
12/29/11 Frank, Carol Groller and family
12/30/11 Jessica, Christian Yost and family
12/31/11 Lloyd, Loretta Moats and family

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Hope members who were hospitalized from October 19th through November 16th were: George Binder, *Clayton Miller, Bob Scheetz, Mildred Gardner, Jane Wescott, *Estella Beers, Georgia Mohrey, Richard Hildebrand and Joseph Holubowski. ***Please keep these persons in your prayers. *deceased***



IS THERE CHURCH?

If the weather is extremely bad on any given Sunday this winter, and you are wondering if Sunday Church School or worship services are cancelled, please check the website at www.hopecherryville.org or call our church office (610-767-7203), or listen to the radio station WAEB (AM 790).

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

All members of Hope Lutheran Church planning a wedding in the coming year(s) are encouraged to attend the **Marriage Preparedness Workshops** offered through Lutheran Congregational Services. More information and a schedule for 2012 are available from the church office or by calling Lutheran Congregational Services at 610-770-9205. Also, please let the church office know of your marriage date as soon as you decide and make an appointment to speak with Pastor Jami.

DID YOU RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION THIS YEAR?



Did you complete the hospitality pad this year indicating you received Holy Communion? Please complete the Hope Hospitality pad next time you receive communion (if you didn't or you're not sure). Our constitution requires active members to receive communion regularly.

CATECHETICAL CLASSES AND MENTOR UPDATE



LEVEL I

COMING UP-

- ✧ Saturday, January 14th – Mentor Breakfast
- ✧ Saturday, February 4th – Crossword puzzles/ice cream night with Mentors

LEVEL II

COMING UP –

- ✧ Sunday, December 4th – Visit to St. Nicholas Catholic Church
- ✧ Saturday, December 17th – Volunteer at Food Bank with Mentors
- ✧ Saturday, February 4th – Pizza/game night with Mentors

A great Outreach event during December is Decorating/Caroling on Saturday, December 17th. Also, there are extra worship services during December- Saturdays @ 5 pm and Christmas Eve.

Thanks for
being a
Mentor



MENTORS

The mentoring program is designed to pair an adult member of our congregation with a student for various meetings/activities during the school year. The purpose of the mentoring program is to broaden the learning opportunities for our students. It is one way of helping young people to become committed followers of

Christ. Effective learning often takes place through relationships. We think our young people can benefit from relating to another adult member of our faith community. It is not designed to teach a body of knowledge or information. While young people need to know the doctrines of faith, they also need someone who can help them understand what it means for baptized people of God to love one another, to encourage one another, to pray for one another and to build up one another in faith. Our mentoring program starts halfway through the Level I year, so we will be starting to look for Level I mentors very shortly. If you are interested in volunteering to mentor one of our students, please call the church office.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE: This committee is responsible for overseeing all aspects of our church's worship and our music. The following are this committee's responsibility: weekly Sunday services with Holy Communion; services during other seasons (Lent, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas); additional services throughout the year (Blessing of Backpacks, Animals); acolytes; crucifers; ushers; lectors; altar guild; greeters; communion assistants; Eucharistic ministers; nursery; taping of services; and all our music groups (Senior, Youth, Junior and Cherub choirs; orchestra; bell choirs). We meet once a month on the third Wednesday of the month. Our members are Janet Filchner (chair), Marilyn Keenly, Karen Koplin, Linda Mery, Pastor Possinger, Dolores Reenock, Dave Roth, Ann Sassaman, Vicki Steiner, and David Ziegler.

2011 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE

BY JANUARY 15, 2012

Each group or committee meeting at Hope Church is expected to submit an Annual Report by January 15th. The report should be submitted on an 8 1/2 X 11 sheet of paper and should include past accomplishments and future goals. (The BEST way to submit your report is by email. Please send it to Jane in the church office at office@hopecherryville.org)



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2011 OFFERINGS – Please “catch up” with your 2011 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!! THANK YOU! 2011 OFFERINGS must be received or postmarked on or before December 31, 2011 to receive credit for 2011. Any offerings received after January 1, 2012 MUST be credited as 2012 contributions.



EVANGELISM REQUEST

Our Evangelism Committee is asking our members if they might have a usable CD Disc Walkman or a CD Boom-box that you no longer are using, but is still in working condition that you would be willing to donate to Hope. We would like to start a CD ministry for our shut-ins, where we provide them with a CD recording of the Sunday Worship Service so that they could be inspired by our worship and Pastor Jami's inspiring sermons. This would make it possible for them to be strengthened spiritually and to feel as a part of our worship experience. While most of us have fancy CD players at home, some of our elderly shut-ins do not have the equipment to listen to the CD'S. If you have any of the requested equipment you no longer use, we would be appreciative if you would donate it for this ministry. If you would like to make such a donation, please contact our Visitation Pastor Mrasz at 610-440-3435. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

HOPE LUTHERAN NURSERY SCHOOL

Is accepting applications for next year (2012-2013). The school's structured learning environment helps to prepare the children for their formal school experiences. Activities include: music, crafts, gym, painting, language arts, field trips and much more. Please call Debbie Gable at 610-767-7523 for more information or to register your child for Nursery School. Your child must be either 3 or 4 years of age by September 1st in order to register. Thank you.

SANTA NEEDED - Hope Lutheran's Nursery School is looking for a "Santa" to help with their Christmas programs. If you can help, please call Deb Gable at 610-767-7523.



BEAR CREEK WINTER CAMP

DECEMBER 26-28, 2011

(For youth in grades 7-12)

Catch up with camp friends and make new ones as you experience Bear Creek Camp under a blanket of snow (hopefully). Enjoy lots of your favorite camp activities and try some you will never do at summer camp, like snowball fights with counselors and playing on the lake. Don't make Frosty mad, call your friends and make plans today to spend part of your Christmas break at Winter Camp 2011. More information and registration forms available at www.bearcreekcamp.org

MILLER MEMORIAL BLOOD CENTER

As the holiday season approaches, it gives us the opportunity to give thanks for family, friends and many other blessings we enjoy. Many of us are especially thankful for the blessing of good health. The Miller Memorial Blood Center is very thankful for the many donors who are committed to donating blood because it is your generosity that saves lives. During the holiday when so many people are out of town, recruiting an adequate number of donors to meet the patient's needs is very difficult. If you can help this holiday season, please call the Miller Memorial Blood Center at 610-691-5850 or 1-800-223-6667. Thank you! A very special thank you to our faithful donors from Hope Church; thank you to Linda Derr for donating blood in October.



WELCA

The new WELCA news is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please take one! Also; all women are invited to attend our next meeting (our Christmas meeting), which will be held on Tuesday, December 13th at 11:30am.

Hope Lutheran Church

Summary of Congregational Council Minutes
November 14, 2011

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *Motion to accept secretary's report by Stacey Ziegler, motion seconded by John Schuon.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Proposed 2012 budget approved at congregational council meeting.
Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Jean Leibenguth, motion seconded by Bob Small.

Correspondence/Transfer:

OUT: Suzanne Kutzler requested to be removed from the rolls.

IN: Rudy and Judy Christman from Emmanuels
Motion to accept In/Out made by Kris Doncsecz, motion seconded by Bob Small.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Summary of October 2011:
Worship – 11 services (preached 11) – includes Blessing of the Animals
Weddings – 4
Reception of New Members- 19 members/13 families
Counseling – 4
Pre-Marital Counseling – 2
Pre-Funeral Meetings – 1
Hospital Visits – 20
Home/Shut-in Visits – 2
New member classes – 4

Continued on the next page...

Summary of Congregational Council Minutes Continued...

A motion has been made by David Roth to approve the requested vacation time by Pastor Jami on December 11, 2011. This motion has been seconded by Kris Doncsecz.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH: POW (Pizza on Wednesday) December 14, 2011 (5:30-8:00pm) Christmas Eve Skit- Dec. 24 (4:00 & 6:00 Services)

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Thanksgiving Eve- Two services 11am and 7pm-Table communion at the 7pm service.
Advent Saturday services, 5pm
Decoration of church and caroling- December 17, 2011.
The 11am Christmas Service will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 21.
There will be four services on Christmas Eve; 4:00, 6:00, 8:30 and 11:30pm.
Christmas Day and New Year's Day Service – one service at 9:30am.
Healing Service – January 29, 2012

PROPERTY: *A motion has been made by Pastor Jami that we instruct Tim Moore to consult with Stewarts Sign Company to construct a comparable sign, just as the Announcer 510 sign, but to have the appearance of a digital sign and to inquire about the cost for this.*

EVANGELISM: Nativity Display – November 26, 10:00AM-8:00PM and November 27, 8:00AM-5:00PM. Set up will be on November 25, 2011 beginning at 9:00AM

PERSONNEL/MUTUAL MINISTRY: Preparing job description for the part time position to help the pastor. Areas of ministry Pastor Jami feels help is needed are; preaching and delivering the sacraments, confirmation ministry, supporting the youth program, visitation and ministry to seniors.

Continued on the next page...

Summary of Congregational Council Minutes Continued...

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Newly elected members are: Dolores Reenock, Pat Amey, Arnold Kuntz, Dennis Biechy, Tim Moore and Jean Leibenguth.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Contribution News – money raised to date approximately \$26,000.00

CONSTITUTIONAL TASK FORCE: Constitution has been reviewed and checked against the model constitution. The next step is to incorporate suggestions from this ad hoc group.

OLD BUSINESS: Pastor Kuntz's 40th Anniversary of Ordination. – Celebration Nov. 20, 2011.

NEW BUSINESS:

Building usage: A motion has been made by Bob Small to restrict building usage to church related and Christian Education related events up until 1:00pm on Sundays, this motion has been seconded by Christal Wrenn. An amendment has been made by David Roth that any church group needing to use any area has their event listed on the church calendar.

A motion has been made by Pastor Jami that special events cannot be booked or approved by council until six months prior to the event. This motion has been seconded by Christal Wrenn.

-Sunday, Dec. 4 – Baptism Luncheon, Kuntz Hall

-Saturday, Dec. 10 – Birthday Party, Kuntz Hall

-Sunday, Dec 18 – Family Christmas Party

-A Sunday in the month of January to be made at the discretion of the Church office for Northampton Boys Basketball Team.

-The request for January 15, 2012 rental of Kuntz Hall is pending with the need for additional information.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 12, 2011 at 7pm

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BECAUSE WE CARE

Please help our Daisy Troop. This year we are collecting donations for a charity called "Because We Care." They are a group that makes blankets for babies and children in the hospital, the Red Cross, Turning Point and other shelters. They have made approximately 5700 since they started. We are collecting the following items: yarn (please no wool due to the babies having an allergic reaction, they prefer red heart yarn), fabric and thread. There is a box located in the narthex until December 8th. Any questions, please contact Mandy @484-629-9010. We appreciate any help. Daisy Troop 8787

ROAD TO RECOVERY PROGRAM

Cancer patients need your help! Lend a helping hand in your community by becoming a volunteer driver for the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program. As a volunteer, you will offer cancer patients safe and friendly access by transporting them to and from the treatments they need. The program offers flexible hours and free training. Join this meaningful program and make a positive difference in the lives of those around you. If you are interested in offering your services, contact Pat Long at the American Cancer Society at 610-921-2329 or pat.long@cancer.org.

KREIDERSVILLE COVERED BRIDGE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The Kreidersville Covered Bridge will hold their annual tree lighting ceremony on Saturday, December 10, 2011 (rain date is Sunday, December 11) from 4:30-5:30pm. The Covered Bridge is located at 100 Covered Bridge Road, Northampton. ALL ARE WELCOME! Visit their website at www.KreidersvilleCoveredBridge.org for more information.

COAT DRIVE

Ice Cream Lab in Walnutport is once again collecting coats for area residents in need. Any unwanted coat or jacket in clean and good condition would be greatly appreciated. For each coat donated you will receive \$1.00 gift certificate for the Ice Cream Lab. Please drop them at the Ice Cream Lab anytime until December 31st. Thank you.