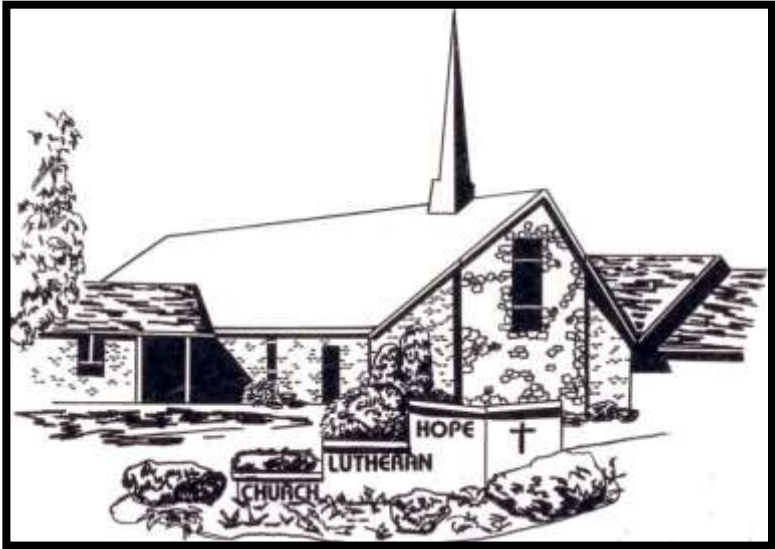


HOPE HOME NEWS

Vol. XXXIX No. 1 January, 2012



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
4131 LEHIGH DRIVE, P.O. BOX 1030
CHERRYVILLE, PA 18035
(610) 767-7203
www.hopecherryville.org

Sunday Worship at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM.
Sunday Church School at 9:15 AM.

Church Office Hours
Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. (7:30 AM – 4:00 PM)
Tues. (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM)

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The Rev. Clark W. Kuntz, II, Pastor Emeritus

Our Mission as a congregation is... "to witness to the love of God through both words and actions so that we may make others aware of God's claim on their lives and in so doing, seek to become more perfectly the Body of Christ in the world."

PASTOR

Pastor Jami Possinger
pastor@hopecherryville.org
610-767-7203 ext. #12
(h) 610-799-2449

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dennis Biechy	Kris Doncsecz, Secretary
Jean Leibenguth	Linda Mery, Vice President
Tim Moore	Dave Roth
John Schuon	Bob Small
Wayne Weidner, President	Christal Wrenn
Stacey Ziegler	John Zmyewski

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. David R. Ziegler
organist@hopecherryville.org
610-767-7203 ext. #11

SECRETARY

Mrs. Jane Tretiak
office@hopecherryville.org
610-767-7203 ext. #10

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR Mrs. Janet Filchner 610-767-7203 ext. #40

SEXTON Mrs. Bonnie Zmyewski

COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

Mr. Steven Shermetta, communications@hopecherryville.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY Mrs. Deb Gardner

TREASURER Ms. Trudy Mertz

Greetings from the Pastor...

Recently my husband and I have been visiting colleges with our son, Scott. It's been fun looking at different campuses in various states. As we travel about, inevitably a college admissions counselor or student tour guide will ask, "What will you major in? What are you going to be after college?"

It's a big question – often too big for a 17 or 18 year old to answer. What am I going to "be"? Most of us think of answering this question in terms of a vocation. I'll be an architect or an engineer or a nurse. I'll be a teacher or a computer technician or a mechanic. But the answer to the question goes so much deeper than what we will do as a career.

What am I going to "be"? The real answer to this question is found in the many small decisions that we make every day of our lives. What am I going to "be" has everything to do with how we treat others, what kind of relationships we build, and how we represent ourselves.

Maybe the better question to be asking is "am I a light?" "Am I a light that shines for others, or am I someone who keeps them in the dark? Am I a model for Christ-like living or an example of secular narcissism? Do I build up or break down? Do I encourage or discourage? Do I bring hope or despair? Do I compliment or criticize? Do I stand boldly for justice or meekly bow to injustice? With each thing that I say or do, am I helping to form the human being that God created me to be?

Because here's the thing...if you want to be a light that shines for others, then you have to decide to be a light each time that you're faced with decisions – easy decisions or difficult decisions. If you want to be a light for others,

then you have to decide to be a light each time you're faced with doing what's popular rather than doing what's right.

It is a fact that people need light. Light helps our bodies to grow; light helps our immune system to stay strong; light helps to shape our psychological outlook on life. Jesus said in Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world." YOU can provide light. Don't tell me that you can't. One small candle can bring light to a dark room and a 1,000-watt bulb that can light a gym. Light is light, and you can share yours and make this world a brighter place.

I pray that we are helping our children to be light – no matter what they decide to do in life. I pray that *we* are being light to *them*. I pray that Jesus shines through each one of us as we move about in the world.

What am I going to be? Why.....light of course!

Blessings,
Pastor Jami

A New Year Prayer

For the New Year, I would wish to have strength enough to battle with difficulties and overcome them;

love enough to move me to be useful and helpful to others;

faith enough to make real the things of God;

and hope enough to remove all anxious fears concerning the future.

-Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Stewardship Corner

As we move into a new year we often make resolutions that have to do with our personal lives – we diet to lose weight, join a gym to get in shape, promise to eat healthier or spend more time with the family. The New Year is a good time to look at our attitudes about giving as well. So this year as you make your resolutions consider this article by Chick Lane called “**Give First**”

I recently had two very interesting conversations on the same day. The first was with a pastor who asked, "Why has stewardship work gotten so much more difficult in recent years?" The second was with a different pastor who reported a conversation with a parishioner this way, "I was talking with a woman in the congregation recently, and she brought up her giving. She reported that their family was giving \$20 each week to the church and she felt this was about all they could afford to give. Their household income is well in excess of \$100,000, so they are giving less than one percent of their income, and they feel they are maxed out."

Obviously, these two conversations are connected. One reason stewardship work has gotten so much more difficult is that our culture of consumerism has enticed many people to make long term financial commitments that render generous giving almost impossible. For someone to report that giving less than one percent of their income has them maxed out, is, of course, absurd. What people should acknowledge is the choices they have made about the house(s) they will live in, the cars they will drive, the clothes they will wear, the lifestyle they will live. After all these choices have been made first, then there is nothing left to give to God's work in the world.

William T. Cavanaugh writes powerfully of this in "Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire". In two particularly powerful sentences, he writes, "Rather than turning away from material things and toward God, in consumer culture we plunge ever more deeply into the world of things ... One can always send a check to help feed the hungry, but one's charitable preferences will always be in competition with one's own endless desires."

When we think of Stewardship do we think about the importance of giving to God first, and living on the rest? In the face of our culture of consumerism, if people give what they have left after they have taken care of all their needs and wants, generous giving will simply never happen. The Bible speaks clearly of the importance of giving to God first. When Moses is on Mount Sinai (for the second trip), God says, "The best of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring to the house of the Lord your God." (Exodus 35:26) Just before the people enter the promised land, God says to the people, "When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground ... and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name." (Deuteronomy 26:1-2)

Thank You Notes

I would like to thank Jean Leibenguth, Tim Moore, Dave Roth, and Stacey Ziegler for their service on council these past years at Hope Lutheran Church. No one knows what it is like to serve on a congregation council until you have had the opportunity to be elected. You have been a part of a council that was faced with some daunting issues and

decisions. Many thanks for your thoughtful work and your dedicated service to Hope. I know I feel blessed to have you as active members and look forward to working with you on other ventures!

Pastor Jami

I would like to extend a big thank you to Hope Lutheran Church. First, to the church council for allowing us to use Kuntz Hall for our basket social benefiting the MDA Muscle Walk. Also, to the church members who donated baskets and bought tickets. Because of your generosity, we raised \$2487.00 toward our pledges for the walk in February

Jane Meyers

Hope Lutheran Church Council, We understand that as the chartered organization for the troop of one of the Church's responsibilities is to provide us with adequate facilities, but we do not take our use of the space for granted. Recently we held our annual Italian Dinner fund raiser in Kuntz Hall. This is the only fundraiser we hold where the proceeds are used by the troop and not only the individual scouts. Therefore, we are enclosing a donation to help defray any additional expenses the church might have incurred that day (i.e. electricity, heating). As always, we appreciate Hope's support of the Boy Scouts of America.

Susan Demczynszyn

Members of Hope, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you who sent cards at the passing of my husband, Bob. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated. A very special thank you to Pastor Jami for her prayers, visitations,

and simply being there at a time when we really needed her. She is certainly a very special asset to Hope Lutheran Church. It is nice to know that so many people care about the people in Hope's congregation. God bless all of you.

Elaine Sheetz

Thank you for serving a beautiful meal for our friends and family in celebration of our mother.

The Beers Family

The family of George Binder would like to thank Pastor Jami and Members of Hope Church for their many prayers, cards, and visits during his recent hospitalization and this difficult time of our loss.

Community News

Living With Loss Support Group

When someone we love dies, we often feel overwhelmed, frightened and lonely. Sharing our thoughts and feelings with others who have experienced a loss can alleviate our sense of aloneness and can give us needed encouragement.

On Thursday evenings, March 15th to April 26th, from 6:30-8:00 PM, a six-week grief support group will meet at Hope Lutheran Church, 4131 Lehigh Drive, Cherryville, PA. There will be no group session on April 5th.) Led by a counseling professional, the group will share experiences and coping strategies. This group is made possible by the generous sponsorship of Schisler Funeral Homes and is free to participants. Advanced registration is required. For more information or to register, please call Diakon Family Life Services at 610-682-1337 or 1-888-499-2699 (toll free).

January Prayer List

- 1/1/12 Stacey Miller and family
1/2/12 Tom, Connie, Caitlin, Jennifer Perry, Ryan Wilson
and family
1/3/12 Verna Biege and family
1/4/12 Rodney, Catherine, Nicholas, Lucas Miller and
family
1/5/12 Janet, Joseph Pauker and family
1/6/12 Wilmer, Donna, Andrew Bachman and family
1/7/12 Gail Handwerk and family
1/8/12 Markie Trone and family
1/9/12 Craig, Mary, Nathaniel, Leana Carvin and family
1/10/12 David Kromer and family
1/11/12 Robert, Muriel Wescott and family
1/12/12 Bryan, Anna, Alexander Freed and family
1/13/12 Thomas, Amy, Emily, Thomas III and family
1/14/12 David, Kathleen, Stephanie, Stacey, Shelbey
Ziegler and family
1/15/12 Bradley, Melissa, Cole Grube and family
1/16/12 Cheryl Kocher and family
1/17/12 Stanley, Doris Royer and family
1/18/12 Miriam Borger and family
1/19/12 Eileen Miller and family
1/20/12 Kristy Weidner Hove, Maxwell Hove, Mackenzie,
Dominic Gonzalez and family
1/21/12 Thomas, Carol, Sarah, David Galloway and family
1/22/12 David Kuntz and family
1/23/12 Marguerite Samuels and family
1/24/12 Francis Jr., Holly, Hailee Bloch, Nikolas, Ryan
Carr and family
1/25/12 Nancy Miller and family
1/26/12 Manfred, Vicki, Nicholas, Kate and Cory Steiner
and family
1/27/12 John, Jane Grason and family

- 1/28/12 Michelle Meyers and family
- 1/29/12 Lori Ann Wisser and family
- 1/30/12 Mary Gallagher and family
- 1/31/12 Barry Krock and family

Recently Hospitalized

Hope members who were hospitalized from November 17th through December 14th were: Robert Heffelfinger, Joseph Holubowski, Richard Hildebrand*, Russell Kromer, James Murphy, and Bob Scheetz. ***Please keep these persons in your prayers.*** *Deceased

Recent Blood Donors

The following members of Hope Lutheran Church have recently donated blood: Rudy Christman, Doug Hetrick, Charles Kutzler, Brenda Mack, and Paul Mishko. Thank you to our faithful blood donors. If you would like to give the gift of life, please call the Miller Blood Center at 610-691-5850.



Donor Group Activity Report (Hope Lutheran Church):

Annual Donation Goal	32
Number of Donations as of Oct. 2011	81
Number of Donations for Nov. 2011	5
Number of Donations YTD	86
Number of Donations to Reach Goal	0

Choir FAQs

Q: What happened to the choir loft?

A: The choir loft was removed to provide more flexibility in the use of the space up front. Having the floor space all on the same level allows us to do more with that space like moving the bells to the front of the nave and keeping the entire orchestra together.

Q: When will the choir loft be put back?

A: At the current time, we're not certain the choir loft will return. We are experimenting with various configurations to see what works best for us.

Q: Why does the choir stand around the piano to sing?

A: This formation allows the singers to hear across the choir and to hear the other voices. This permits better blending of the voices and more accurate pitches because of being able to hear better. Plus, this moves the choir out of the corner which is an acoustical vacuum. Anyone who sat in the corner of the choir loft can tell you it is impossible to hear anything in that corner. This is an acoustical abnormality in the design of that corner and moving the choir out fixes that problem. We've been told by people in the congregation that the choir sounds better that way, too.

Q: The choir is sitting in my pew. How do I get my seat back?

A: Join the choir! (You knew that was coming!) See next question. There may be hope.

Q: Will the choir always sit in the front pews?

A: Hopefully not. The choir should assist in the musical leadership of the assembly both visually and aurally. By having the choir sing away from the assembly makes it

difficult to hear them and for them to lead in song. Conversely, the choir should not face the assembly either as they are not a performing group but are a subset of the worshipping assembly. We are still experimenting with the choir.

Q: Why did the bells move to the front of the nave?

A: Handbell ringing is both a visual (sight) and aural (sound) art so it is important to see as well as hear the ringers. In addition, the human ear was designed to pick up sounds from the front and not the rear of the person listening. The listener can therefore better hear the bells when ringing in front of them rather than from behind.

Q: Why is the organ facing the congregation? It's too loud that way.

A1: The organ console, like the choir loft, was moved to provide more contiguous flat space. This enables the orchestra and bells to function as one unit. Previously the percussion (or drum section) of the orchestra was always behind the angled wall. This location always provided a challenge to those players because they were hearing the rest of the orchestra sound bounce off the back wall and would always be "behind the beat." We compensated for this by using a sound system within the orchestra which allowed the drummers to hear the front of the orchestra through a speaker. The speaker, of course, took up more valuable space.

A2: In the past when the organ was occasionally in the rear of the sanctuary, people commented it was too loud in the back. The organ console, the part with the keyboards, does not produce sounds. Where it is located or the direction it faces does not affect the amount of sound it produces.

Q: The organ sounds distorted. Is my hearing going bad?

A: While we can't assess your hearing, we can tell you the organ had some subtle problems over the past few months; one of which was distorted sound then the MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) stops were used or the heavy reed stops, like trumpets and krumhorns. There were also very high notes that did not work. We had Allen Organ service the instrument just before Christmas and everything was fixed. In fact, this is the first service call since we've had the new instrument which is over ten (10) years. Not a bad track record.

FINANCIAL REPORT - NOVEMBER 30, 2011

	YEAR 2011		YEAR 2010	
REGULAR FUND		\$ 6,895.69		\$ 46,847.44
Equity Beginning of Year				
Income - November	\$ 29,722.55		\$ 28,890.38	
Income - Jan.-Oct.	269,145.86		238,550.34	
Total Income	298,868.41		267,440.72	
Expenses - November	25,220.93		32,629.55	
Expenses - Jan.-Oct.	250,454.38		293,455.63	
Total Expenses	275,675.31		326,085.18	
Net Income		23,193.10		(58,644.46)
SPECIAL APPEALS				
Income - November	1,709.56		25.00	
Income - Jan.-Oct.	14,482.58		7,491.40	
Total Income	16,192.14		7,516.40	
Expenses - November	1,709.56		-	
Expenses - Jan.-Oct.	13,988.58		7,095.40	
Total Expenses	15,698.14		7,095.40	
Net Special Appeals		494.00		421.00
Equity End of November		\$ 30,582.79		\$ (11,376.02)
BUILDING FUND		\$ 100,974.91		\$ 76,574.81
Equity Beginning of Year				
Income - November	\$ 1,756.32		\$ 2,343.95	
Income - Jan.-Oct.	32,212.46		41,103.67	
Total Income	33,968.78		43,447.62	
Expenses - November	557.25		-	
Expenses - Jan.-Oct.	7,405.81		23,461.03	
Total Expenses	7,963.06		23,461.03	
Net Income		26,005.72		19,986.59
Equity End of November		\$ 126,980.63		\$ 96,561.40
MEMORIAL FUND				
Equity Beginning of Year		\$ 77,040.44		\$ 72,619.18
Equity End of November		\$ 88,180.04		\$ 76,021.94
SCHOLARSHIP LOAN/CAP IMP FUND				
Equity Beginning of Year		\$ 88,796.77		\$ 84,443.70
Equity End of November		\$ 84,119.44		\$ 88,736.77

SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of November by \$4,501.62, and for the year 2011, income exceeded expenses by \$23,193.10, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$30,582.79. Last year the net income for the same period was \$(58,644.46) with a balance of \$(11,376.02).

Budget Comparison--Total Regular Fund Budget for 2011 is \$344,923.00. 48/52 of that figure is \$318,390.47. Our receipts in the Regular Fund for the eleven months were \$298,868.41. So, we are behind budget by \$19,522.06.

JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day First Sunday after Christmas (White) <i>No Sunday School</i> 9:30 AM-Worship Service</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Church Office Closed 6:45 PM-Boy Scout Committee Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 PM-Youth Choir 6:30 PM-Alleluia Ringers 7:00 PM-Venture Crew</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Baptism of Our Lord 1st Sunday after the Epiphany (White) 8:00 AM-Service of the Word 9:15 AM-Sunday School 10:30 AM- Holy Communion 6:00 PM-Godspell Jr. Rehearsal 8:00 PM-Tae Kwon Do</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:15 PM-Finance 7:00 PM-Council</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00 PM-Youth Choir 6:30 PM-Alleluia Ringers 7:30 PM-Bell Ensemble</p>
<p>15</p> <p>2nd Sunday after the Epiphany (Green) 8:00 AM-Holy Communion 9:15 AM-New Members Class (Kuntz Hall) 9:15 AM-Sunday School 10:30 AM-Service of the Word 6:00 PM-Godspell Jr. Rehearsal 8:00 PM-Tae Kwon Do</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Martin Lutheran King Jr Day (Observed) 5:30 PM-ARC Dance 5:30 PM-Eucharistic Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00 PM-Youth Choir 6:30 PM-Alleluia Ringers 7:00 PM-Boy Scout Committee Meeting 7:00 PM-Venture Crew 7:30 PM-Bell Ensemble</p>
<p>22</p> <p>3rd Sunday after the Epiphany (Green) 8:00 AM-Service of the Word 9:15 AM-New Members Class (Kuntz Hall) 9:15 AM-Sunday School 10:30 AM-Holy Communion 6:00 PM-Godspell Jr. Rehearsal 8:00 PM-Tae Kwon Do</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 PM-Lehigh Township Historical Society Meeting</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00 PM-Youth Choir 6:30 PM-Alleluia Ringers 7:00 PM-Cub Pack Meeting 7:30 PM-Bell Ensemble</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Healing Service 4th Sunday after the Epiphany (Green) 8:00 AM-Holy Communion 9:15 AM-New Members Class (Kuntz Hall) 9:15-Sunday School 10:30 AM-Holy Communion 6:00 PM-Godspell Jr. Rehearsal 8:00 PM-Tae Kwon Do</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:00 PM -Youth Choir 6:30 PM-Alleluia Ringers 7:30 PM-Bell Ensemble</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:00 PM-Tae Kwon Do 4	6:00 PM-Junior Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM-Lioness Group 7:00 PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal 5	The Epiphany of our Lord 6	Men's Group Hockey Game 7
6:00 PM-Junior Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM-Tae Kwon Do 7:00 PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal 11	10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Meeting 6:30 PM-Prayer Shawl Meeting 7:00 PM-Cub Committee Meeting 7:00 PM-Mutual Ministry Committee 12	6:30 PM-Level II Confirmation Trivia / Dessert Night 13	8:30 AM-Level I Confirmation Mentor Breakfast 14
<i>The Confession of St. Peter</i> 6:00 PM-Junior Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM-Tae Kwon Do 7:00 PM-Worship and Music 18	19	20	21
<i>The Conversion of St. Paul</i> 6:00 PM-Junior Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM-Tae Kwon Do 7:00 PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal 25	7:00 PM-Boy Scout Committee Meeting 26	6:00 PM-Pine Wood Derby Set Up 27	8:00 AM-Pine Wood Derby 28
		DECEMBER	FEBRUARY
		S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
		1 2 3	1 2 3 4
		4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
		11 12 13 14 15 16 17	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
		18 19 20 21 22 23 24	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
		25 26 27 28 29 30 31	26 27 28 29

New Member Classes

If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a member of Hope Church, please invite him or her to our new member's classes. Classes will be held from 9:15–10:15 AM on the following Sundays: January 15, January 22, January 29, and February 5. New members will be received on Sunday, February 5.

Fall 2011 New Members Class

Hope Lutheran Church would like to welcome the "Fall 2011 New Members Class" to our congregation

Anderson

William Anderson – Bill is one of our Cub Scout leaders.

Anderson

Mary Anderson – Mary's grandchildren, Reese and Rorrie, are glad she joined Hope.

Arndt

Sherri Arndt – Sherri loves spending time with her family, especially outdoors and camping.

Gaugler

Gregory Gaugler – Gregory is a master chef in the kitchen and on the grill.

Donna Gaugler – Donna loves to read and write in her spare time.

AnnaMarie Gauler – AnnaMarie is currently singing in the Junior Choir.

Hayn

Rev. Donald Hayn – Pastor Hayn is a former Pastor at Jordan Lutheran Church and the Interim Executive Director

at Bear Creek Camp. He loves the outdoors and Duke Basketball.

Horn

Sue Horn – Sue has a strong skill-set in problem solving, conflict management, and relationship building.

Laudenbach

Stephanie Laudenbach – Stephanie’s granddaughter, Taylor, led her to Hope!

Mery

Helene Mery – Helene’s two children, Wayne Mery and Kim Belletti, are members of Hope.

Meyer

Kathryn “Kitty” Meyer – You’ll recognize Kathryn by her distinct “Brooklyn” accent.

Miller

Robert Miller – Bob and MaryAnn’s daughter suggested they visit Hope, now they are proud new members.

MaryAnn Miller – MaryAnn and her husband are returning home to Pennsylvania after living in Ohio.

Snyder

Earl Snyder – Earl enjoys carpentry and working in the yard.

Toni Snyder – Toni likes scrapbooking, sewing, and gardening.

Stoudt

Cindy Stoudt – Cindy’s kitchen often smells of fresh baked goods.

Gary Stoudt – Gary stays active by running and playing golf.

Hope Lutheran Church
Summary of Congregational Council Minutes
December 12, 2011

Roll Call: Wayne Weidner, Jean Liebenguth, John Zmyewski, John Schuon, Bob Small, Tim Moore, David Roth, Pastor Jami, Stacey Ziegler, Christal Wrenn and Kris Doncsecz and guest John P. Zmyewski

ABSENT: Linda Mery and Dennis Biechy

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *Motion to accept secretary's report by Jean Liebenguth, motion seconded by Bob Small. All in favor.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by John Schuon, motion seconded by Tim Moore.*

Correspondence/Transfer:

IN: Richard, Eileen, Stephanie and Samantha Saffron.
Motion to accept in/out made by David Roth, motion seconded by Christal Wrenn.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Summary of November 2011:
Worship – 11 services (preached 11
Baptisms – 2
Funerals – 2
Weddings – 1
Reception of New Members-
Counseling – 4
Pre-Baptismal Meetings - 2
Pre-Marital Counseling – 2
Pre-Funeral Meetings – 2
Hospital Visits – 22

Home/Shut-in Visits – 5
New member classes –

A motion has been made by Bob Small and seconded by Kris Doncsecz to approve the requested vacation time by Pastor Jami for the following dates:

December 26 – December 31, 2011

February 7- February 11, 2012

February 23-February 26, 2012

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

SOCIAL MINISTRY: No meeting.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Healing Service – January 29, 2012

PROPERTY: Security Update- Dave Ziegler is finishing work on request for information. It is expected to be completed by the end of December, at which time the committee will gather information from companies so that they can develop a request for proposal.

Tim Moore is still gathering information for new church sign.

STEWARDSHIP: No meeting.

EVANGELISM: Nativity Display – \$580.00 raised will be given in part to the church and also a local family in need. Bible study will be continued.

CHRISTIAN ED: Learning Ministries Day set for January 28, 2012 at Union Lutheran Church in Schnecksville
First Holy Communion – March 25, 2012
Mother’s Day/Father’s Day Program – May 13, 2012
Confirmation – May 27, 2012

PERSONNEL/MUTUAL MINISTRY: Working on preliminary job description for assistant pastor.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Contribution News – money raised to date \$25,820.62

CONSTITUTIONAL TASK FORCE: Constitution has been reviewed and checked against the model constitution. We just received from the Synod the changes to the model constitution that was approved at the 2011 Church wide Assembly. The next step is to incorporate suggestions from this ad hoc group.

NEW BUSINESS: *A motion has been made by David Roth, effective January 1, 2012, with the exception of the rentals in place, the usage of our facilities for fundraising activities will be restricted to Hope Lutheran Church Groups and church related functions and predetermined list approved by council. This motion has been seconded by John Zmyewski. All in favor.*

Request from Northampton HS Diamond Baseball Booster Club Italian Dinner and Basket Bingo – February 24, 2012. Request denied.

Zumba Class fundraiser for Lehigh Elementary on the 1st or 2nd Saturday or Sunday in March. Request denied.

Request for April 14, 2012 made by the Boy Scouts Minsi Trail Council Recognition Dinner has been approved.

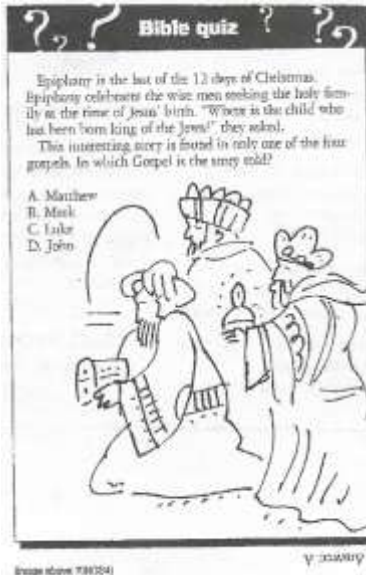
2012 will mark 5 years since our last pictorial directory was published. We have significant changes in membership over those years. If anyone has an interest in being a part of this committee, please see Wayne Weidner.

A motion has been made by Kris Doncsecz and seconded by Jean Liebenguth to accept David Ziegler's request to carry over his remaining two weeks vacation time into 2012, with January 8, 2012 being his first week.

Matters for the Good of the Congregation

A special thank you to Jean Liebenguth, Tim Moore, David Roth and Stacey Ziegler for your time, talent and dedication to serving as council members.

Next meeting – Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7:00pm



SYNOD NEWS

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

January 2012



**Be Who You Are!
See What You Have!**

DO WHAT MATTERS!

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod congregations are discovering where God is on the move!

On four days in November, a total of 68 congregations participated in the follow-up to the first round of *Do What Matters* workshops. Led by Kelly Fryer and Tana Kjos of "A Renewal Enterprise," these workshops helped us open ourselves to working in renewable ways in a world that's changing more rapidly than we can imagine.



At the heart of a renewable approach are these three principles:

Be who you are. See what you have. Do what matters.

Participants in the workshops were given a congregational toolkit to help them look at who they are, what they have, and how they can do what matters. There are five parts to this toolkit:



1. A guide for reading the Book of Acts together (as a congregation council, church committee, or possibly as an entire congregation!)
2. A fun way for people in congregations to practice paying attention to what God is up to in their everyday lives – at home, work, school.
3. An idea for getting congregational members to join in with what God is doing in the community and through their neighbors, and to

partner with other organizations to do what matters to God.



4. A challenge to STOP doing something in congregational life that has stopped being fun or effective – something that is "sucking the life out of you."
5. A challenge exercise – a suggestion of a new way of "doing business" – letting God set the agenda for your congregation.

At the November events, congregations began working on these five tools and shared some of their hopes. The synod staff is digging into this, too. The entire staff has begun to study the Book of Acts together and staff meetings are devoted to sharing places where God is on the move. They are starting to look at places where they can partner with other organizations to do more effective ministry.



If your congregation did not receive a copy of this toolkit or you want a copy for yourself, click the link on the synod

website, www.godslove.org, to download a copy. And **please** share your stories of how God is on the move in this renewable way of doing ministry so that we can learn from one another and celebrate the ministry that is being done through you! Send your stories to synod vice president Dawn Baxter at dawn@westberksmissiondistrict.org or West Berks Mission District, 1015 Windsor St., Reading, PA 19604-2358.

2012 Synod Assembly
June 15-16, Sovereign Center,
Reading PA.





Family Faith Challenge

Families come in all shapes and sizes. *Family* means

different things to different people. Keeping this in mind, the synod's Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team is developing monthly "Family Faith Challenges." Whether you are single, married, divorced, someone's grandparent, someone's child, someone's relative – you are a member of God's family.

Take part in these monthly family faith challenges with other member of your family. (For those who are single, invite a friend to walk with you on your faith journey!)

Family faith challenge guidelines for the year:

- Worship God together once a week
- Gather together around a table six times a week
- Have an empty chair at the table to represent God's presence
- Make sure each person has his/her time to speak without interruption
- Read from an age-appropriate Bible



Here are January's challenges, *Glimpses of God*. We challenge you to notice God's presence/movement in the world around you.



Week one: Go outside at night and look at the stars. Talk about how stars guided the wise men to see Jesus. How many stars can you see? Think about how big God's creation is.

Week two: Gather around a table and turn out all the lights in your house. Light one candle and talk about where you saw God this week.

Week three: Go outside and walk around your neighborhood. Look for signs of God's creation in the air and on the land. Do you see any animals or plants?



2012 Learning Ministries Day

Saturday, January 28, 2012

Faith Formation 2020: Making and Teaching Disciples in the 21st Century

Keynote presenter: John Roberto, author and founder of Lifelong Faith Associates

Location: Faith Lutheran Church, Whitehall

Cost: \$25

More information may be found on the synod website, www.godslove.org.

Farm Family Appreciation Celebration Saturday, March 17, 2012

Come celebrate the annual farm family appreciation celebration with friends and families across the synod.

For more information or to register, call 610-378-1327 and ask for Donna or go to www.godslove.org/calendar.



Kindness and Compassion

Northeastern PA Synod Women of the ELCA Spiritual Growth Retreat

March 17, 2012 (snow date, March 24)
Nativity Lutheran Church, Allentown

Guest: Bruce Becker, author of *Kindness and Compassion*, the story of the Nickel Mine tragedy.

Registration-\$20.00 (includes lunch)
For more information and to register, see the December *Flame* at www.godslove.org.



Week four: Gather around a mirror. Look in the mirror! You are one of God's amazing creations. Talk about how God is working in your life, your family's life, your church family's life. What unique gifts and talents has God given you?

A Look Ahead

January 2012

Hope Men's Group Hockey Game (Phantoms vs. Bears)
Saturday January 7, 2012
7:00 PM (Van leaves Hope Lutheran Church at 4:15 PM)

Snow Tubing at Blue Mountain Ski Area
Wednesday January 11, 2012
6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Learning Ministries Day
Saturday January 28, 2012
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Union Lutheran Church

February 2012

Youth Group Valentine's Dinner
Friday February 10, 2012
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

March 2012

Living With Loss Support Group
Thursday Evenings (March 15th, March 22nd, March 29th)
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Hope Lutheran Church



SNOW TUBING

The Hope Lutheran Church Youth Group will be running a snow tubing trip to Blue Mountain Ski Area on

Wednesday January 11, 2012.

- Leave Hope at 6:30 PM
- Arrive at Blue Mountain Ski Area at 7:00 PM
- Arrive at Hope at 9:00 PM

Cost is currently TBA. We expect the cost to roughly be between \$10.00 - \$20.00.

If you are interested, please sign up on the youth group bulletin board in the church or on the youth group Facebook page.

Blue Mountain
Ski Area



Dress Warm! It will be Cold!



PHOEBE ALLENTOWN

A tradition of excellence. A passion for caring.

1925 Turner Street
Allentown, PA 18104

Phoebe is now recruiting volunteers to provide Montessori programming to adults with dementia.

Through the use of Montessori principles we can:

- Create meaningful, sensory “hands-on” activities
- Engage residents in a dignified environment
- Preserve their skills
- Stimulate recognition and memory
- Care for Resident as a “whole” – their physical, social, aesthetic, spiritual and cognitive needs

*Can you
volunteer your
time and
talents
to help with
this innovative
new program?*

**Contact our
Volunteer Department:**
610-794-5362
jwickel@phoebe.org
Or visit www.phoebe.org
for more information or to
complete an application.

Affiliated with the United Church of Christ

*Can you spare some time to
brighten a senior's day?*

The Bridgeways neighborhood on the Phoebe Allentown campus has been recognized by state and national organizations for its innovative programming for residents with dementia related conditions.

One of the elements that sets Bridgeways apart is the use of Montessori Principles in daily activities. Engaging residents in meaningful "hands-on" tasks by using visuals inspires their recognition and develops individual connections.

Recently several women assembled a collage of photos taken at an old fashioned birthday party in the neighborhood. The residents offered to contribute to various parts of the project; cutting photos, collecting trimmings, adding a lace border and placing photos on the picture board.

During the activity, conversation was reminiscent of their social and professional lives and their personal interests. Such group activities can help to form bonds between residents just as a family dinner table creates a feeling of cohesiveness.

Ultimately, these women were not only productive in their task, but they also created a serene environment to nurture their creativity while recollecting memories.

Your help is needed in order to facilitate meaningful interactions between our residents in our memory support neighborhoods such as Bridgeways. Won't you consider joining us?





LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY
Saturday, January 28, 2012
Union Lutheran Church, Schnecksville, PA



FAITH FORMATION 2020: MAKING AND TEACHING DISCIPLES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and refreshments
(Check out the bookstore! NO CREDIT CARDS – only checks and cash will be accepted).
- 9:15 a.m. Opening devotions, welcome, overview of the day
(Today's offering will go to the ELCA Malaria Campaign; help us meet our goal of supplying four villages with mosquito nets. We would like to challenge LM Day participants to raise \$4,000 to reach this goal! Make checks out to Northeastern PA Synod with a note "ELCA malaria")
- 9:45 a.m. Keynote address: **John Roberto**
Author and coordinator for the "Faith Formation 2020 Initiative"
- 10:45 a.m. Break (Bookstore open)
- 11:00 a.m. Workshop 1
Select from the workshops described here
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Break (Bookstore open)
- 1:15 p.m. Workshop 2
Select from the workshops described here
- 2:30 p.m. Closing devotion/worship
- 3:00 p.m. Evaluation and departure

***NEW!* See workshop descriptions AND register online! OR**
Print a copy of the registration form.
Print a copy of workshop descriptions for others to read.
Directions to Union, Schnecksville

YOUTH GROUP VALENTINE'S DINNER AT HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Friday February 10, 2012

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Adult Meals: \$10.00

Jr Meals: \$7.00

Children's Meal: \$5.00

- Tickets will be sold after each worship service starting in January.
- Tickets **will not** be sold at the door before the event.
- Please reserve a time when purchasing tickets. Time slots are every 30 minutes.
- The snow date for this event will be **Saturday February 11.** Please refer to the church website or call the church office on Friday to confirm the cancellation.