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### HOPE LEADERSHIP

#### PASTOR

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



#### VISITATION PASTOR

The Rev. Jerry Mraz  
 610-440-3435 (h)  
 610-442-8156 (c)

#### PASTOR EMERITUS

The Rev. Clark W. Kuntz II

*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."*

#### CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Wayne Weidner, President	Linda Mery, Vice President
Al Rock, Secretary	Dennis Biechy
Kris Doncsecz	Tim Lockard
Tom Patterson	John Schuon
Bob Small	Christal Wrenn
John (Johnny) P. Zmyewski	John S. 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

#### COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Mr. Steven Shermetta  
 communications@hopecherryville.org

#### FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Mrs. Deb Gardner

#### TREASURER

Mrs. Trudy Mertz

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding New Membership, Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings, Change of Address, Van Requests, Worship Memorial Sponsors, Hospital Admissions, Room Reservations for Meetings or Social Events...**Call the Church Office at 610-767-7203**

REGARDING	CALL	PHONE NO.
Basket Committee	Linda Sidor	610-767-8372
Boy Scouts	John Demczynsyn	610-767-7749
Church Website	Tom Perry	610-261-0743
Confirmation	Lynn LaBarre Pastor Jami	610-767-0880 610-767-7203
Cub Scouts	Lori Rehrig	610-261-4794
Evangelism	Sharyn Kratzer	610-261-1277
Finance	Bob Small	N/A
Girl Scouts	Karen Zimmerman	N/A
Hope Fest	Wayne Weidner	610-767-1512
Memorial Garden	Barry Ritter	610-428-2320
Mentor Leaders	Trish Ninos	N/A
Mutual Ministry	Charlie Kutzler	610-262-4588
Nursery School	Deb Gable	610-767-7523
Prayer Shawl Min.	JoAnne Creyer	610-262-3204
Property	Ralph Fisher	610-392-4985
SCS/Christian Ed	Lynn LaBarre	610-767-0880
Social Ministry	Marge Zimmerman	N/A
Stewardship	Wayne Weidner	610-767-1512
Vacation Bible School	Kathy Ziegler	610-262-9197
WELCA	Judy Dieter	610-767-9170
Worship Arts	Pastor Jami	610-767-7203
Worship & Music	Janet Filchner	610-262-5215
Youth Group	Steph/Stacey Ziegler	610-262-9197
Senior Center	Edith Knauss	610-767-2977
Tae Kwan Do	Rich Mullen	610-760-0958
Yard Sale	Ralph Fisher	610-392-4985

## Greetings from the Pastor.....

40! It's not my age – at least not anymore. But it is a significant number. It appears time and again in the Bible. It rained for forty days and nights when God cleansed the world with a great flood and saved Noah and his family. Moses spent 40 days on the mountain with God – twice. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness before they entered the Promised Land. Jonah warned the city of Ninevah they had 40 days to repent or God would destroy the city. Jesus fasted 40 days in the wilderness before he began his ministry. Jesus appeared on earth for 40 days after his resurrection and before he ascended into heaven. And 40 is also the number of days in the Lenten season.

40! Lots of folks say that if you can do something or refrain from doing something for 40 days it becomes a new behavior. If you begin to eat more healthy food and you do it for 40 days you are more likely to continue to eat healthily. If you begin to exercise and you do it for 40 days you are more likely to continue to exercise. If you quit smoking and you do it for 40 days you are more likely to kick the habit.

With all that in mind, the Lenten season of 40 days offers us some unique opportunities. Many Christians during the season of Lent practice some kind of Lenten discipline. It may be fasting from something, praying daily, attending mid-week services in addition to Sunday worship or simply paying attention to the voice of God through quiet, meditative time. Lent encourages us to slow down, reflect on our relationship with God and discern God's will for us. And just as eating healthy food for 40 days might start us on the path of lifelong healthy eating habits, spending time with God for 40 days will help us set a pattern of putting God first in our lives.

Lent begins on February 22 – Ash Wednesday. I invite you to worship with me that day and every Wednesday in Lent. I challenge you for 40 days to eliminate something from your life that sucks the life out of you and then add a spiritual discipline for 40 days that will be life-giving to you.

- ❖ Read the Bible or a daily devotional each day.
- ❖ Spend a few minutes in prayer with God.
- ❖ Spend some quiet time listening for what God may be saying to you.
- ❖ Spend some time in service to others.
- ❖ Make a point of being positive for 40 days or smiling at everyone you pass.

Whatever it is – do it for 40 days during the season of Lent – focusing on your

relationship with God and your life of faith. And share what you are doing with me and other people you know. Take the opportunity to talk with others about how your Lenten discipline is affecting you. Who knows...maybe after doing it for 40 days you will find that you want to continue that discipline for a lifetime!

Lenten Blessings,  
Pastor Jami

### STEWARDSHIP CORNER

#### **I Am Grateful**

by Jerry Hoffman, Director of the Center for Stewardship Leaders, Luther Seminary

A number of years ago, although I was serving a good supportive congregation, I was not contended. Instead I was disappointed that I had not been chosen for a new position. During that period I began to earnestly live with Paul's letter to the Philippians. Paul is in prison. His future was dim. And yet among other important faith professions in that letter, he wrote "I have learned to be content with whatever I have" and "Rejoice in the Lord always!"

I prayed for Paul's outlook. I wondered about how I could daily possess that perspective. I became aware that when someone asked me how I was, my standard remark was "I am good." Here is a simple change that I could make that would help me remember Paul's perspective. From then on I endeavor that when

someone asks me "How are you?" I will respond by saying "I am grateful."

I need to add, that it is not that I am always grateful. It is more a prayer, "God help me in all circumstances to be grateful." It is a public confession in a simple way to remember that in my baptism, I am called to be steward of the mysteries of God. It is God who has entrusted everything I have and am. I am not entitled to the life, wife, family, church, time, talent, money and opportunities which God has entrusted for me to steward.

Sometimes this response is sorely tested. When our 39 year old son-in-law had a complete blockage of his right carotid artery causing a major stroke, it challenged that perspective. Eventually, in the midst of fear, grief and anxiety, I was able to mumble "I am grateful that God has provided medical resources to save his life and the support of family, friends and an attentive pastor who prayed prayers we were not able to utter."

In 2006, I told this story to a congregation which I was consulting. I particularly recall looking at Agnes. Her face was filled with as much discontent and disgust as anyone I have ever met. But when I returned to the congregation five weeks later, Agnes came to me. I hardly recognized her for she had a smile on her face. She told me her story, "I work as a dispatcher in our local police department. I get yelled at a lot. But, I decided to accept your challenge. Ever since that time, whenever someone in the department asks me, 'Agnes, how are you?' I give them a smile and tell them, "I am grateful!" They are surprised and look at me. Some say, "What in H\_\_\_ has got into you?"

When you are out and about and someone asks you, I challenge you to respond, "I am grateful!" You will be surprised at some of the responses you will get. Not only that, but it will help you remember you have the privilege and a responsibility to be a steward of all God has entrusted to you.

## **2012 MID-WEEK EVENING LENTEN SERVICES**



If you loved the classic television series “I Love Lucy” you’ll love our evening mid-week Lenten Series! Beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing throughout the Lenten season, we’ll take a look at life through Lucy Ricardo’s eyes. Each week we’ll watch an actual “I Love Lucy” episode and consider how God would have us deal with everyday life situations. Over the course of 6 weeks we’ll look at issues such as truth-telling, coveting, honesty, fairness, greed, justice and putting God first. So...you’re invited...join us each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary for worship (we’ll be using Holden Evening Prayer) and an opportunity to laugh out loud with Lucy during Lent.....

### **2012 Mid-week Morning Lenten Series – Questions ??? for Lent**

This year our morning mid-week Lenten series will have us wrestling with questions Jesus asks during his ministry – questions each of us

must answer as we move closer to the Cross and Good Friday. Join us every Wednesday at 11:00 AM as we consider these questions:

- ?** The Life Question: What Are You Looking For?
- ?** The Grace Question: Are You A Teacher...And Yet Do Not Understand?
- ?** The Wholeness Question: Do You Want To Be Made Well?
- ?** The Discipleship Question: Do You Wish To Go Away?
- ?** The Commitment Question: Will You Lay Down Your Life For Me?
- ?** The Cross Question: Am I Not To Drink The Cup?

### **PASTORAL ACTS**

*Pastor Jami officiated at the following pastoral acts.*

#### **HOLY BAPTISMS**

**Lillian Katherine Rehrig** was baptized on December 4, 2011 during the 10:30am worship service. Lillian is the daughter of Christopher and Susan Rehrig.

**Ava Jayde Kreider** was baptized on December 18, 2011 during the 10:30am worship service. Ava is the daughter of Mark Daptula and Hannah Kreider.

***Please welcome Lillian and Ava into our church family at Hope and pray for their growth in faith.***

#### **FUNERALS**

**Richard R. Hildebrand, Sr.** entered eternal life on December 6, 2011 at the age of 71 years. A memorial service was held at Hope Church.

**Joseph S. Holubowski** entered eternal life on December 30, 2011 at the age of 66 years. A memorial service was held at Hope Church.

***Our sympathy to family and friends of Richard and Joseph. May God continue to be your guide and strength.***

#### **MARRIAGE**

**Sara Rose Zmyewski and Justin Michael Wandler** were married on December 30, 2011 at Hope Church.  
***Congratulations to Sara and Justin. Please pray that they always remember the promises made before God on their very special day.***

### **FEBRUARY PRAYER LIST**

- 2/1/12 Helen Romano and family
- 2/2/12 Walter, Diane Beil and family
- 2/3/12 Marney, Alison Lorah and family
- 2/4/12 Eric, Stacy, Chase Spadt and family
- 2/5/12 Ruth Frisch and family
- 2/6/12 Kenneth, Gloria, Jarrad, Thyler Hantz and family
- 2/7/12 John, Donna Pittman and family
- 2/8/12 Heather, Laura, Anna Bealer and family
- 2/9/12 William, Christina, Kyle, Cole McLaughlin and family
- 2/10/12 Rhonda Ward and family
- 2/11/12 Ginger, Jacqueline, Sarah, Carolyn Frohnheiser and family
- 2/12/12 Scott, Cynthia Kocher and family
- 2/13/12 Lonnie Renninger and family
- 2/14/12 Jerry Jr., Molly Binder and family
- 2/15/12 Lee, Jane Meyers and family
- 2/16/12 Amy Weil, Caden Butryn and family
- 2/17/12 Beverly Goll and family
- 2/18/12 Michael, Cynthia, Krista, Sean Koropchak and family
- 2/19/12 Sharon Royer-Hay and family
- 2/20/12 Timothy, Marjorie, Paige Beil and family
- 2/21/12 Brian, Jean Leibenguth and family
- 2/22/12 Dean, Colleen Spadt and family
- 2/23/12 Marian Druckenmiller and family
- 2/24/12 Larry, Lois Hinkel and family
- 2/25/12 Bridgett Reese and family
- 2/26/12 Bert, Naomi Beil and family
- 2/27/12 Larry, Karen, Sam, Emily Koplín and family
- 2/28/12 Mary Rudelitsch and family
- 2/29/12 Jean Fritzingler and family



### **RECENT BLOOD DONORS**

The following members of Hope Lutheran Church have recently donated blood: Daniel Husser, Ann Reinhard, Stanley Royer, and Sharon Schell. 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	<b>32</b>
Number of Donations as of Nov. 2011	<b>86</b>
Number of Donations for Dec. 2011	<b>4</b>
Number of Donations YTD (2011)	<b>90</b>
Number of Donations to Reach Goal	<b>0</b>

### **THANK YOU NOTES**

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

#### ***The Beers Family***

Dear Hope Church, Thank you for thinking of us during the Christmas season. We really appreciated the carolers and enjoyed the fruit basket and ornament that was given to us. We also want to say thank you to the Eucharistic ministers for visiting us and giving us communion. Thank you for thinking of us throughout the year.

#### ***Ted and Lucille Foster***

To Hope Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for the beautiful hand knit scarf. I was very surprised to receive a scarf in the mail at school! I am sure it will come in handy this winter season. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers

#### ***Sarah Galloway***

I want to thank the church congregational council for the monetary gift I received at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. I enjoy my job as your financial secretary and look forward to working with our staff in 2012. God Bless.

#### ***Deb Gardner***

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! My name is Briana, and I am a student of the Caring Place. I am writing this letter to thank you for your help and support for our program, we appreciate your donation. Have a happy holiday.

#### ***Briana Hassan***

Dear Hope Congregation, Thank you for the Christmas gift. I am grateful for everyone's support and appreciation of the bell choirs. I wish everyone a very happy new year of good health, joy, happiness, and peace.

#### ***Janet***

Dear Prayer Shawl Committee, Thank you so much for sending the beautiful handmade scarf to me. It was awesome to be remembered at college and to know that I was in your prayers. I wore it to all my finals. Thank you so much. God Bless.

#### ***Jennifer LaBarre***

Thank you Pastor Jami for the visits and prayers at the hospital and my home and for when you brought me communion. To all of the people who brought me meals when I couldn't make them myself, they were greatly appreciated and delicious. To the people who ran errands for me and took me to my doctors, I thank you. Thank you for the cards I received and the calls that were made to see how I was doing. I thank you for everything from the bottom of my heart.

All was truly appreciated, but most of all for the prayers that were lifted up to the Lord on my behalf. God bless you all!

***Georgia Mohrey***

To Hope Church Carolers and Hope's members, Thank you so very much for thinking of me and stopping by my home to sing your beautiful carols. I enjoyed it very much. Thank you also for the fruit basket and ornament. Your kind words, thoughts, and prayers have meant so much to me all year. Have a very blessed New Year.

***Mary Rudelitsch***

I would like to thank Pastor Jami, the church staff, and the entire congregation for making me feel welcome in my first four months as your Communications Specialist at Hope Lutheran Church. Back in October, Hope offered me this wonderful opportunity in what would be my first job in the "real world." While I never, in my wildest dreams, envisioned working for a church, it has truly been a blessing in disguise. I am so fortunate to have a position where I can make a positive impact each and every day for such a great group of people. It has also had a big influence on my personal faith journey. As Pastor Jami told me, "Steven, I know you're here for a reason." Thank you for the kind introductions, cards, baked goods, and gifts. Your thoughtfulness has made me feel a part of the Hope family. God Bless.

***Steve Shermetta***

Dear Council and Congregation, Thank you so very much for the monetary gift I received at Christmas. I am very lucky to be apart of the church family at Hope and I appreciate your thoughtfulness. Also, to members of Hope who thought of me with cards, gifts, and Christmas wishes, I can't thank you enough for thinking of me and for making me feel so special! Have a happy and healthy 2012!

***Jane Tretiak***

On December 30<sup>th</sup>, our daughter Sara Rose Zmyewski was married to Justin Michael Wandler. A beautiful ceremony was performed

by Pastor Jami and David Zeigler. A reception followed in Kuntz Hall. The reception was a wonderful affair which could not have happened without our family of faith here at Hope. The words thank you cannot express our feelings toward the many people who helped with this affair. The love, respect, and kindness that our family at Hope displayed to the many strangers who visited our house of worship on that day was a true display of God's love and what Hope Church is all about. We are truly blessed to be a part of this community. Thanks and praise to Jesus Christ and thank you to our family of faith at Hope.

***The Zmyewski Family***

**THE 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIVITY DISPLAY**

The Evangelism Committee would like to thank EVERYONE who helped in any way to make the 12th annual Nativity display a successful one. This display is a wonderful outreach for our church but it could never be done so well without the help of all of you.

At this year's display, we had approximately 343 nativities plus many wall hangings. Many people thought that we did not have as many as usual; however, we were able to space out the nativities in a different manner thanks to the carpentry of Lee Blose who made us four more risers for our display. Also we were able to use the risers normally used by our choirs and these gave us extra spaces.

The weather was beautiful which served as encouragement for our visitors to come out and enjoy the display. There was a constant flow of visitors from Saturday morning at 10:00 A.M. when we opened our doors until we closed our doors at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday. At the children's center we had 31 children who enjoyed making a Christmas craft.

Many delicious desserts, beverages, and snacks were donated by you and enjoyed by our many guests. Hope Church again proved to be an excellent host and we certainly made visitors to the display feel welcome.

Our offerings this year were used in two ways. First, we adopted a family from Northampton and provided them with food gifts and Christmas gifts. Second, we gave money to Hope Church's Good Samaritan Fund. Thank you all for your generous offerings.

So again, thank you to everyone who helped with the 12th annual nativity display. This display is done yearly the first weekend of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. It sets the tone and reminds of the real reason for the season -the birth of the Christ child. Remember, wise people still seek Him.

If you missed the display in 2011, hopefully you will be able to be a part of the display in 2012! God's blessings to you.

### **THE CHRISTMAS JAR**

The gifts have all been opened and by now most everyone has taken down their trees, lights and decorations and put them into storage for another year and now the winter doldrums begin. Looking for a way to keep that Christmas spirit alive all year-why not start a Christmas Jar! After hearing a radio talk show host speak about the book, Christmas Jars by Jason Wright, and the tradition that his family adopted after reading this book, we decided that we too would give this tradition a try.

The concept is very simple: just place a jar, can or container somewhere in your house that is accessible to everyone. At the end of each day or week, family members put their loose change in the jar. The change is collected throughout the entire year. Not only is Christmas about the birth of Jesus but a part of Christmas should be about giving to others that are less fortunate than ourselves.

As Christmas approaches family members can decide who will be the recipient of the Christmas Jar and all of its contents-it could be a neighbor, friend, family member, or other person or family who is having a difficult time. The Christmas Jar is given anonymously. It's such an easy way to bring joy to others and takes so little effort.

Most of us would never miss that little bit of change that is placed in the jar each day, yet it becomes so meaningful to others. This year we converted the change in our Christmas Jar to gift cards and gave them to Pastor Jami to distribute as she deemed fit. Some people just take their Christmas Jar and place it on the doorstep of someone in need. As the parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us, we should give to those in need regardless of who they are....I challenge all of you to start your own Christmas Jar this year. We have already begun throwing change in our 2012 Christmas Jar!

***Doug and Leslie Daniel***

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes will be offered at two worship services on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012, either 11:00 AM or 7:00 PM. Again this year you will have an opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes from 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM the morning of Ash Wednesday.

### **MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICES**

#### **WEDNESDAYS IN LENT**

Worship at 11:00am and 7:00pm each Wednesday in Lent. More information on our Lenten theme will be published in the weekly bulletins. Come join your friends at Hope this Lenten Season – a powerful, life-changing journey that calls to prayerful and honest repentance.

Wednesdays in Lent are...February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28.

### **CATECHETICAL CLASS NEWS**

#### **LEVEL I**

**Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** - Mentor/Student crossword puzzle/dessert afternoon @ 3:00pm

**Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Mini-Retreat on the Ten Commandments from 8:30am-12:00Noon.

#### **LEVEL II**



**Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** - Mentor/Student pizza and game night @ 5:30pm.

**Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Mini-Retreat on the Ten Commandments from 8:30am-12:00Noon.

***Mentors and students if you have any conflicts with any of the upcoming mentor events, please call Trish Ninos at 610-261-4480 ASAP.***

### **SPONSORS NEEDED**

**Please check the charts!**

**FLOWER CHART** – Two sponsors (only two) are needed each week at a cost of \$15.00 per sponsor. Money is due to the church office two weeks before your sponsorship. Thank you.

**BULLETIN CHART** – Three sponsors are needed each week at a cost of \$6.00 per sponsor. Money is due to the church office two weeks before your sponsorship. Thank you.

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

The church, like every other organization to which we belong, has rules we must follow if we wish to maintain our membership. Those rules are found in the constitutions of both the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Hope Church. You and I, and all other Lutherans, are required to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion **and** make a contribution of record at least once in each calendar year.

**For Hope Church to maintain accurate membership records, you must do the following:**

- 1) Receive Holy Communion **and complete the Hope Hospitality Pad at least once a year.** If you can't remember if you've done it previously in that year, do it again.
- 2) Make a contribution **of record** at least once a year. "Of record" means you must place your contribution in your giving envelope (or at least use your envelope number so we can identify and credit it to you). We can't credit a contribution of loose cash placed in the offering plate.

Parents and guardians are reminded that young persons who have been confirmed are members of the congregation to whom these provisions also apply. Please encourage and assist them in maintaining their membership.

### **IS THERE CHURCH??**

If the weather is extremely bad on any given Sunday (or Wednesday) this winter and you're wondering if Sunday School or worship services are cancelled, please check the church website ([www.hopecherryville.org](http://www.hopecherryville.org)), call the church office (610-767-7203), listen to radio station WAEB (AM790), B104 or watch the WFMZ television station.

### **MEMORIAL GARDEN CROSSOMETER**

SPRING is just around the corner! Help us make our monetary goal of \$40,000.00 which will allow us to begin construction of the Memorial Garden near the outdoor chapel area of our campus. Money that is prepaid for the interment of cremains as well as other monetary donations or memorials will help us reach that goal. If you are someone – or know of someone – who is interested in placing their ashes in our garden please remember the cost to inter ashes in the Memorial Garden is \$1,000.00 which includes the interment as well as having one's name engraved on the plaques. Purchase agreements and Authorization for Engraving forms are available on the website ([hopecherryville.org](http://hopecherryville.org)) *look in sharing pages of Hope* or in the church office.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Hope Lutheran Church is responsible for providing volunteers to work at the Northampton Area Food Bank during the month of March. Volunteers are needed to assist with unpacking the food delivered to the food bank, packing of orders for distribution to needy families and distribution at the food bank of packed orders. Volunteers are needed on the following dates and times:

**Monday, March 5 – 1:00 to 3:00 PM** - Un-packing of food delivery from Second Harvest (need to be able to lift cases of food)

**Wednesdays, March 7 and 14 – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** - Packing of food orders

**Thursdays, March 1, 8 and 15 – 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM** – Distribution of food orders

**Fridays, March 9 and 16 – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** – Packing of food orders

**Saturdays, March 10 and 17 – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** – Distribution of food orders

A sign up list is located on church bulletin board. The Northampton Area Food Bank is located at 1601 Canal Street, Northampton. For additional information or to sign up to volunteer, contact Leslie Daniel at 610-216-1340.

#### **INK AND TONER RECYCLING**

Recycle your empty ink and toner cartridges and Hope Church gets \$2 back in Staples Rewards®. Not only do we earn Rewards to use at Staples, but we are also reducing landfill waste and saving resources. Now that's rewarding for both us and the planet! Please place your cartridges on the table in the narthex. *Did you know in 2010, Staples U.S. customers recycled more than 63 million cartridges?*

#### **REDNER'S SAV-A-TAPE PROGRAM**

Hope Church continues to participate in the Redners' Sav-A-Tape program. You must use a Sav-A-Tape card in order for your receipts to qualify. The church receives 1% of all receipts submitted. Sis Livermon organizes and totals all of the register tapes, and takes them to the store. (Thank you Sis!) Redners then sends the church a check. Receipts that do not have the Sav-A-Tape card information do not qualify and have to be discarded. **You must turn in the whole receipt for the receipt to qualify, please do not cut your receipt and turn in just the small slip with the Sav-A-Tape information on it.** Please continue to bring in your register tapes,

and if you don't have a card, they are available in the church office or you can pick one up at the store. Call Jane Tretiak in the church office with any questions. Thank you.

#### **BASKET BINGO**

The Northampton Area Food Bank is sponsoring a Basket Bingo on February 5, 2012 at Good Shepherd Catholic School (formerly Our Lady of Hungary School), 1320 Newport Avenue, Northampton. Tickets are \$20 for 20 regular games with 5 specials for \$5 available for purchase at the door. Doors and kitchen open at 12:00 pm with Bingo beginning at 2:00 pm. For tickets and information contact Barbara Budnik, 610-262-6156.

#### **EVANGELISM BIBLE STUDY**

A new Bible Study entitled "FORGIVENESS--Making Peace with the Past" written by Douglas Connelly will began on January 18, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. This is designed to be an 8 week study/discussion. Within those 8 weeks Part I will discuss how God forgives us and Part II will be discussion on how we forgive others. You do not have to be a Bible scholar to join in the study; we will learn and grow in God's Word together. We would love to have you come every week, but if you can't you can still benefit from the study because each weekly study uses a different scripture. The cost of the study will be \$6.80 which covers the price of the study guide. Everyone is welcome and we hope you will join us as we study God's Word.

#### **LUTHERAN MANOR SECURITY COUPLE NEEDED**

Lutheran Manor, a vibrant senior living high-rise on Westgate Drive in Bethlehem, is looking for a responsible couple who would serve as security after hours (including weekends and holidays). Security includes being the contact person for fire or emergency needs, minor maintenance problems, as well as insuring that the building entrance doors and lighting are maintained. The job includes free rent of a two bedroom apartment and a small negotiable salary. Please call Lutheran Manor's Property Manager, Courtney Donohue,

at 610-866-6010/email: [Courtney@lutheranmanor.com](mailto:Courtney@lutheranmanor.com) or speak with Pastor Jami.

### **KNOEBEL'S TRIP**

It's time to look ahead to summer! Saturday August 4, 2012 we have a pavilion reserved for you at Knoebel's Amusement Park and Picnic Grove in Elysburg, PA. We have the pavilion from 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM. Lunch will be served at 2:00 PM; 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***

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

We had a terrific turnout for the December 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday school service. Thanks for coming out to see and hear the children perform their holiday program. A great big thank you for all the wonderful bakers that provided delicious treats for the Sunday school program in December. We are blessed to have so much tasty talent at Hope Church.

Christian Ed meeting – Monday February 27, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the church.

Confirmation students, please continue to check the attendance charts and inform the Sunday school office if any attendance is incorrect. Also, for Mentor events, please contact Pastor Jami or Trish Ninos if you are unable to attend anything for the Mentor Program

### ***Lynn***

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

- ⚓ The following people were elected as officers for 2012:
  - Wayne Weidner, Council President
  - Linda Mery, Council Vice President
  - Al Rock, Council Secretary
  - Trudy Mertz, Treasurer
  - Deb Gardner, Financial Secretary
- ⚓ Council members' committee assignments are as follows:
  - Christian Education – Dennis Biechy
  - Evangelism – John S. Zmyewski
  - Finance Committee – Tim Lockard, John P. Zmyewski
  - Mutual Ministry – Linda Mery
  - Property – Al Rock
  - Social Ministry – Kris Doncsecz
  - Stewardship – Tom Patterson
  - Worship and Music – Bob Small
  - Youth – John Schuon, Christal Wrenn
- ⚓ The council reviewed the Treasurer's Report and noted that 2011 was a good year financially for Hope Lutheran. Giving increased and expenses decreased so that we ended the year with a surplus. While this is great news it was also noted that at the current level of giving we cannot afford another full-time pastor – at best we can afford a ½ time pastor. The council would like to thank the congregation for

their financial support and encourage members to continue to fulfill their financial commitments to Hope.

- ⚓ Update on Consecration Sunday 2011: 212 commitments cards were returned for a total of \$228,302.55 in commitments. This compares with 221 cards in 2010 for a total of \$215,900.00 in commitments. The increase in total dollars committed is up by 6% for 2012. Thank you to everyone who made a commitment for 2012!
- ⚓ Council approved the following people to be reinstated as active members of the congregation: Jessica Skelton, Linda Kates and the Spadt family (Brian, Kelli, Makenzie and Dylan Mabe).
- ⚓ Tim Moore presented updated information regarding a new church sign for the front of the church (Route 248). Two bids have been proffered from sign companies out of state and council asked Tim to seek at least two more bids from local sign companies.
- ⚓ 2012 marks the fifth year since our last pictorial directory. It is time to consider doing a new one. Council suggested names of people who might be willing to coordinate the work of putting a new pictorial directory together. Pastor Jami will begin making contacts.
- ⚓ New Member classes are being held in January with a reception for those members on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:15. Council members are encouraged to attend that reception and welcome the newest members of our family of faith. We are blessed to be a growing congregation.



# ◆ SYNOD NEWS ◆

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

February 2012



**Be Who You Are!  
See What You Have!  
DO WHAT MATTERS!**

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod staff is discovering where God is on the move!

The synod staff is committed to doing what matters in their work.

At least once a month now, staff meetings begin with an hour of Bible study for the entire staff. Using a method similar to the traditional approach called *lectio divina*, staff members take turns reading the lesson aloud. After a period of silent reflection, everyone is invited to share what they hear God saying to them in this passage.



Presently we are working our way through the book of Acts. Participants in the November *Do What Matters* workshops were given a congregational toolkit to help them look at who they are, what they have, and how they can do what matters. One section of the toolkit is a guide for reading the Book of Acts together.



Reflecting on how the first Christians became the church is helping us to understand what it means to be the church today.

It's a big time commitment for busy people, but if we don't have time to read the Bible together, something is wrong.

You and your congregation can strengthen your focus on doing what matters by watching the synod website for more resources and ways to be involved with this emphasis.



**NOTE:** If your congregation did not receive a copy of the congregational toolkit or you want a copy for yourself, click the link on the synod website, [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org), to download a copy.



**Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## Supporting Leaders for the Church



Leadership matters in a church that is sent to make a difference in the world. Our leaders are called to serve, to inspire, and to proclaim the gospel. Well-prepared leaders are vital to the future of the ELCA.

The ELCA Fund for Leaders provides support to all qualified students preparing for ordained or rostered lay ministry through one of the eight ELCA seminaries. Since 2000, the Fund for Leaders has awarded approximately 700 full and partial tuition scholarships totaling over \$5.9 million in tuition assistance. The offering from the synodical All Saints Day service went to this fund.



One of this year's recipients is Samantha Wertz, a member of Trinity, Pottsville, and a student at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, S.C.

Samantha is shown here with Bishop Zeiser.

You can help shape the leadership of this church by making a contribution to the Fund for Leaders. It's also a great way to honor a pastor who has been important in your life. For information on donating to this fund, go to <https://community.elca.org/ssioage.aspx?pid=389>.



**Family Faith Challenge**

Take part in the monthly family faith challenges developed by the synod's Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team!

**Family faith challenge guidelines for the year** include worshipping God together once a week, gathering together around a table six times a week, placing an empty chair at the table to represent God's presence; making sure each person has his/her time to speak without interruption, and reading from an age-appropriate Bible.

Here are February's challenges under the theme, *Love*. We challenge you to notice how God's love is being shared in the world around you.

**Week one:** Make and distribute Valentine cards to a neighbor in need, the shut-ins at your congregation, college students or someone who needs to hear a loving word.

**Week two:** Donate a food that you love to your local food bank.

**Week three:** Gather around the table, light a candle, tell each member of your family what you love about them.

**Week four:** Read 1 Corinthians 13 and talk about love. What words in the Bible passage are meaningful to you?

For more information on the family faith challenges, click the link on the synod home page at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org).

**Celebrating Our Faith through the Arts: Psalms**

April 28, 2012

The Lutheran Center; 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the synod's Faith Formation Resource Team, the purpose of the event is to bring together 7<sup>th</sup> graders through adults to explore a variety of ways to express our faith through the arts.

- We will be focusing on—
- ✓ visual arts
  - ✓ music
  - ✓ liturgical dance
  - ✓ drama
  - ✓ creative writing

Watch for more information!

**Farm Family Appreciation Celebration**

Saturday, March 17, 2012

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](http://www.godslove.org/calendar).

**Kindness and Compassion**

NEPS WELCA 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.

For more information and to register, see the December *Flame* at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org).

**Leaning, Lifting, Leading**  
Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly

June 22-24, Muhlenberg College, Allentown PA

**2012 Synod Assembly**

June 15-16, Sovereign Center, Reading PA



**FINANCIAL REPORT DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	YEAR 2011		YEAR 2010	
<b>REGULAR FUND</b>				
Equity Beginning of Year		\$ 6,895.69		\$ 46,847.44
Income - December	\$ 50,198.07		\$ 44,428.69	
Income - Jan.-Nov.	298,868.41		267,440.72	
Total Income	349,066.48		311,869.41	
Expenses - December	28,710.82		25,700.98	
Expenses - Jan.-Nov.	275,675.31		326,085.18	
Total Expenses	304,386.13		351,786.16	
Net Income		44,680.35		(39,916.75)
<b>SPECIAL APPEALS</b>				
Income - December	1,032.75		1,858.00	
Income - Jan.-Nov.	16,192.14		7,516.40	
Total Income	17,224.89		9,374.40	
Expenses - December	1,511.75		2,314.00	
Expenses - Jan.-Nov.	15,698.14		7,095.40	
Total Expenses	17,209.89		9,409.40	
Net Special Appeals		15.00		(35.00)
Equity End of December		\$ 51,591.04		\$ 6,895.69
<b>BUILDING FUND</b>				
Equity Beginning of Year		\$ 100,974.91		\$ 76,574.81
Income - December	\$ 2,860.02		\$ 4,264.51	
Income - Jan.-Nov.	33,968.78		43,447.62	
Total Income	36,828.80		47,712.13	
Expenses - December	-		(149.00)	
Expenses - Jan.-Nov.	7,963.06		23,461.03	
Total Expenses	7,963.06		23,312.03	
Net Income		28,865.74		24,400.10
Equity End of December		\$ 129,840.65		\$ 100,974.91
<b>MEMORIAL FUND</b>				
Equity Beginning of Year		\$ 77,040.44		\$ 72,619.18
Equity End of December		\$ 88,274.75		\$ 77,040.44
<b>SCHOLARSHIP LOAN/CAP IMP FUND</b>				
Equity Beginning of Year		\$ 88,786.77		\$ 84,443.70
Equity End of December		\$ 84,119.44		\$ 88,786.77

**SUMMARY:**

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of December by \$21,487.25, and for the year 2011, income exceeded expenses by \$44,680.35, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$51,591.04. Last year the net income for the same period was \$(39,916.75) with a balance of \$6,895.69.

Budget Comparison—Total Regular Fund Budget for 2011 was \$344,923.00. Our receipts in the Regular Fund for the twelve months were \$349,066.48. So, we were ahead of budget by \$4,143.48.

## A LOOK AHEAD

### **February 2012**

*Youth Group Valentine's Dinner*

Friday February 10, 2012

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Hope Lutheran Church

*Surviving and Thriving (Through Separation or Divorce)*

Tuesday Evenings (February 21<sup>st</sup> – March 27<sup>th</sup>)

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

### **March 2012**

*Living With Loss Support Group*

Thursday Evenings (March 15<sup>th</sup> – April 26<sup>th</sup>\*)

\*No group session on April 5<sup>th</sup>

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Hope Lutheran Church

*PA Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends*

➤ See advertisement for dates & details

*LTSP Women's Day: Rest, Refreshment, and Renewal 2012*

Saturday March 17, 2012

### **April 2012**

*Spring Basket Social at Hope Lutheran Church*

Friday April 13, 2012

Doors open at 4:00 PM, drawings begin at 7:30 PM



**VALENTINE'S DINNER**

**MENU**

MAIN DISH (PICK 1)	SIDES
CHICKEN MARSALA	POTATO
PRIME RIB	VEGETABLES
CHICKEN OSCAR <small>(GARNISHED WITH ASPARAGUS &amp; CRAB)</small>	SOUP
	ROLLS
	DESSERTS
	COFFEE, TEA, ICED TEA

**COST**

\$20.00 PER COUPLE  
\$10.00 PER PERSON  
JR. PORTIONS \$7.00  
CHILD'S PRICE \$2.50  
CHILDREN'S MENUS ARE AVAILABLE.

**SERVING**  
5:00PM-8:00PM

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2012**

SEE A YOUTH GROUP MEMBER TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS.

*Many Hands. One Heart.*

Are you feeling...

Confused?  
Angry?  
Afraid?  
Lonely?  
Hopeless?  
Unsure about your future?



## Surviving & Thriving through Separation or Divorce

For women and men ending or who have ended a long-term, committed relationship.

Tuesdays, February 21 to March 27, 2012, 6:30-8pm  
New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church, 6804 Weiss Road, New Tripoli, PA  
**FREE!**

Thanks to the sponsorships of New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church & Diakon Family Life Services.

A relationship separation, whether stemming from a marriage or other long-term committed relationship, is a wrenching experience which can happen to anyone at any time for a variety of reasons. Sharing feelings with others in similar situations can help us gain a better perspective on the process of separation, learn healthy coping skills, and develop resources to begin to build a new life. A counseling professional guides discussion. Group size is limited.

For more information or to register, call:

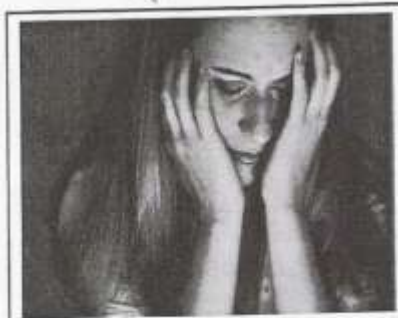
 **DIAKON** FAMILY LIFE SERVICES  
A LUTHERAN FAMILY & COMMUNITY MINISTRY

(610) 682-1337 or (888) 499-2699 (toll free)

  
an end is also a new beginning...

Looking for support?

Feeling  
sad and  
alone?



## “Living with Loss” Grief Support Group

Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:00 PM  
March 15, 22, 29, April 12, 19, 26  
(No group session April 5)

at  
**Hope Lutheran Church**  
4131 Lehigh Drive  
Cherryville, PA 18035

When someone we love dies, we often feel overwhelmed, frightened, and lonely.

Sharing our thoughts and feelings with others who have also experienced a loss can alleviate our sense of aloneness and can give us much-needed encouragement.

If you have experienced the death of a loved one, please consider registering for this **free** six-week support group.

This support group is sponsored by  
Schisler Funeral Homes, Inc.  
and  
Diakon Family Life Services.

There is no fee for participants.

A counseling professional will facilitate the group.

Group size is limited and pre-registration is required.

**To register or for more information, call  
Diakon Family Life Services  
at 610-682-1337 or  
toll free at 1-888-499-2699**

## 2012 PA Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends

*Providing enrichment for ALL Marriages!*



**March 16-18, 2012**  
Toftrees Golf Resort & Conference Ctr.  
State College, PA  
Peaceful resort nestled within 1500  
wooded acres in the center of PA



**April 20-22, 2012**  
Park Inn by Radisson-Sharon, W. Middlesex  
One hour north of Pittsburgh  
Tropical atrium, deluxe guest rooms  
featuring king beds and in-room hot tubs



**September 14-16, 2012**  
Olmsted Mansion & Retreat Center  
Ludlow, PA, in Allegheny National Forest –  
20 miles southeast of Warren. A 1917 manor  
with a beautiful modern retreat center



**October 19-21, 2012**  
The Mountain Laurel Resort & Spa  
White Haven, PA  
In the beautiful Pocono Mountains—just off  
Interstate 80 – 2 hrs. north of Philadelphia

Costs are: a \$45.00 per couple registration fee plus a contribution of whatever amount you choose to make at the end of the Weekend toward the continuation of the program. Weekends run from Friday evening at 8 PM to Sunday afternoon at 5 PM, and all faith expressions are welcome. For questions or to register for a Weekend, go to: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) and sign up online, or contact: PA Directors, Fred & Julie Schamber at 724-325-3166 or email: [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net). **Registrations are limited** so sign up now for this special and beautiful weekend experience designed to have you fall in love with your spouse all over again.

## LTSP Women's Day

### *Rest, Refreshment, and Renewal 2012*

**Saturday March 17, 2012**

**"A Great Cloud"** is the theme for LTSP's annual Rest, Refreshment and Renewal Women's Day 2012

- Our day will center on the celebration of the 300th birthday of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the patriarch of the Lutheran church in North America, and the great cloud of women witnesses from Katie Luther and Anna Muhlenberg to all women who will gather on Saturday, March 17, 2012
- Brochures will be sent to those who have participated before and to congregations. Open to women of all faiths! **Registration deadline is Monday, March 12th.**

**To register or for more information go to:**  
**[www.ltsp.edu/restrefresh](http://www.ltsp.edu/restrefresh)**

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us" Hebrews 12:1*



# The Spring Basket Social at Hope Lutheran Church

Friday April 13, 2012  
Doors open at 4:00 PM  
Ticket drawings begin at 7:30 PM  
Tickets are \$5 per strip (3 strips for \$10)  
Each strip gives you 25 chances to win!



Proceeds will be divided between The Northampton Area Food Bank  
and The Hope Lutheran Church Good Samaritan Fund



Northampton Area  
Food Bank

All are invited to bring a canned-  
good or nonperishable item for  
The Northampton Area Food Bank

Hope Lutheran Church  
4131 Lehigh Drive, P.O. Box 1030  
Cherryville, PA 18035-1030  
(610) 767-7203  
[www.hopecherryville.org](http://www.hopecherryville.org)



**Mark Your Calendars Now!**