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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	610-428-3231
Girl Scouts	Karen Zimmerman	610-760-1887
Hope Fest	Wayne Weidner	610-767-1512
Memorial Garden	Barry Ritter	610-428-2320
Mentor Leaders	Trish Ninos	610-261-4480
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	610-217-8324
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.....

If you would ask people what their favorite season of the church year is, my guess is that most people would name Christmas or Easter. And why not? They are, after all, the high festivals of the church. They are the times when the church is filled with people – when choir anthems and special music fill the air – when we sing some of our favorite hymns or carols - when you see folks you haven't run into for a while because everyone comes out for Christmas and Easter.

If you asked me which season is my favorite, I would probably answer the Lenten season. Now that may not make sense to you because during Lent at Hope we have two additional worship services during the week and the planning and extra services during Holy Week – what pastor wants more work?! Yet, there is something so spiritually important about taking the time and energy to focus on our relationship with God and Jesus. I know we should be doing that all the year through but the reality is that many of us don't and so Lent offers us that gift.

It is no coincidence that Lent usually begins in the dead of the winter when we long for the light and the warmth of the sun. We are tired of the short days and long nights, the barrenness of the trees and the persistent cold. Yet, when you think about it, it is during winter that nature takes the time to rest a bit and begin to nurture itself for new growth in spring.

What a wonderful image for our spiritual lives – to have a season where we step back a bit from the harried pace of the world and allow time for us to nurture our lives for new growth! And we don't have to do it alone. Because we have additional services we have the chance to nurture ourselves and grow with other people who are on the same journey – praying and worshiping and learning and opening ourselves up to the possibilities of the Spirit in our lives.

So this Lent, don't pass on this opportunity this Lenten season. Make it a priority in YOUR life to find time for mid-week

Lenten services. Make a commitment to yourself that you will walk through Holy Week being mindful of Jesus journey to the cross as you attend Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Sign up for a time to be present in the church during the prayer vigil which begins on Good Friday evening and extends through Easter Sunday morning. And give thanks that God continually seeks us in all aspects of our lives as we wait for our SON to shine on Easter morning.

Blessings,
Pastor Jami

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Stewarding God's Gift of Time

By Pastor Tim Coltvet

Probably one of the finest lessons taught to me about time came from a wise and learned friend from Tanzania. As a part of our growing congregational partnership, we were able to spend time together as ordinary people learning from one another and listening deeply to what the other had to share. "You see, Pastor Tim" he would say, "in America you have watches, but in Tanzania we have time!" Implicit in his message was a critique of what he was seeing here in America—busy people with busy looking calendars, living very busy lives. Also found in his words was a call for a new look at life and the measuring of our days—time to live, laugh, mourn, dream, slow down and time to be. In that very moment, as I was basking in the glory of time standing still, I was equally convicted and blessed by my friend's words.

The Bible offers us a helpful distinction when considering the gift of time. In Greek, "chronos" time is quantitative, and has to do with framing the world in terms of minutes and seconds (a very American notion, I would say). "Kairos" time, however, is more qualitative in nature, framing the world in terms of events, special experiences and relationships—a much different way of keeping

time. After thinking on such things, I could not help but see how time is truly a gift from God. How will I, and other Christian parents, steward this gift with our children and teens?

Mark Matlock, executive director of Youth Specialties recently offered a workshop at a Recharge training event in the Twin Cities, in which he highlighted the term "timenomics" as the pressing issue for teens and family today. In short, time is the scarcest of teenagers' resources today, and so helping them understand time as a gift to be understood (e.g. chronos time vs. kairos time), valued and stewarded well, might be the best place for us to start as their mentors in communities of faith.

The late Herb Brokering once spoke of the family calendar as the "paper cross" that families are laying themselves down on every night. Although this expression may seem extreme, one look at the average family's calendar will have even the brightest mathematicians scratching their heads. As families today, in an avalanche of constant demands and a sea of endless information, how might we begin to steward God's gift of time well?

PASTORAL ACTS

HOLY BAPTISM – Chase Eric Spadt was baptized on February 12, 2012 during the 10:30 AM worship service. Chase is the son of Eric and Stacy (Lutz) Spadt.

Please welcome Chase into our church family at Hope and pray for his growth in faith



MARCH PRAYER LIST

- 3/1/12** John Livermon and family
- 3/2/12** Loretta Weil and family
- 3/3/12** Trevor Fronheiser and family
- 3/4/12** William, Eileen Lewis and family
- 3/5/12** Karen Grube and family
- 3/6/12** Kristen, Jade, Kaira, Emily Zamadics and family
- 3/7/12** Sonya, Henry, Benjamin Newton and family
- 3/8/12** Karen Derr and family
- 3/9/12** Dale, Barbara, Jeffrey Schaeffer and family
- 3/10/12** James Kramer and family
- 3/11/12** Richard, Carol Becker and family
- 3/12/12** Kyle, Emma Porvaznik, Gina Soldridge and family
- 3/13/12** David, Shirley Hartley and family
- 3/14/12** Duran Flickinger and family
- 3/15/12** Cindy, Curtis Weber and family
- 3/16/12** James, Maribeth Murphy and family
- 3/17/12** Cathy, Ryan, Sarah Bird and family
- 3/18/12** Dawn, David, Eric Riso and family
- 3/19/12** Otto, Karline Hontz and family
- 3/20/12** Danny, Diane, David, Devin Deiter and family
- 3/21/12** John Schaadt and family
- 3/22/12** Paul Haydt and family
- 3/23/12** William, Carla, Andrew Green and family
- 3/24/12** Floyd, Irene Williams and family
- 3/25/12** Dolores Neitz and family
- 3/26/12** Denice Budihas, Jessica, Tyler Medina and family
- 3/27/12** Nancy Lincini and family
- 3/28/12** Ramar Bunce and family
- 3/29/12** Leonard Steigerwalt and family
- 3/30/12** Cynthia Snyder and family
- 3/31/12** Lee, Georgene Blose and family



RECENT BLOOD DONORS

The following members of Hope Lutheran Church have recently donated blood: Jeffrey Barber, Denice Budihas, Linda Derr, Charles Kutzler, Brenda Mack, Paul Mishko, 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	32
Number of Donations as of Dec. 2011	0
Number of Donations for Jan. 2012	7
Number of Donations YTD (2012)	7
Number of Donations to Reach Goal	25

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,
 Once again I would like to express my gratitude for the scholarship money that you awarded me this month. I have already used the money to purchase the last textbook that I will need in my college career. I plan to graduate with my Masters degree in Mechanical Engineering this May. After I'm done with school I intend to take a short break before entering the workforce. In the interim, I'll be writing my thesis paper, attending class, working, and volunteering with the local Boy Scout troop. I very much appreciate the help that you have given me during my time in college, and plan to pay the charity forward when I am able.

Best Regards,

Jonathan Bednar

I am again compelled to express my gratitude in response to a generous gift from the Hope Scholarship Fund. Your continued support of my education is greatly appreciated by my fellow recipients and me. Best wishes to all in the New Year!

With Thanks,
Andrew Green

Dear Hope Kitchen Staff,
Thank you for all your help with the food after the service for my husband, Richard.

Susan Hildebrand & Family

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,
I find great comfort in your gift of the shawl. I use it often. Thank you very much.

Susan Hildebrand

Thank you to Arnie Kuntz and Stanley Royer for your skilled labor and time to enlarge our Youth Group bulletin board. It looks great!

Hope's Youth Group



This may be late in coming, but it is heartfelt nonetheless. Thank you for the Christmas gift! And...thank you – members of Hope, congregational council, and staff – for another wonderful year of ministry! In many ways, it seems like I have been here forever and that is due to your openness and acceptance of me and the ministry we do together in Jesus' name. This is an exciting place to be because we are poised and eager to discern the ways God will use us and our gifts in the coming year. I am really looking forward to the surprises that are in store for us, the opportunities to continue to spread the good news and touch people's lives, and to watch the ways you are all growing in your spiritual lives.

Blessings,
Pastor Jami

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. It is an honor and privilege serving as your Treasurer. I have been very blessed with the kindness and support from the staff and members of Hope throughout the years. Thank you and blessings to everyone in the New Year.

Trudy Mertz

Dear Wayne,
Please extend my sincere thanks to our Congregational Council for the most generous Christmas gift. It is a joy to be a new-bee of Hope and to have so many caring members to do our God's work. May our Lord guide us in our works and continue to guide our leaders and Pastor Jami to keep us in this work.

A Blessed New Year to All,

Pastor Mraz

Dear Congregational Council,
Thank you for the monetary Christmas gift I received from the council and congregation. It is always appreciated and nice to be remembered in such a special way at this time of year. Of course since Kathy is such a vital part of my ministry at Hope we will decide together on how to spend this gift. Thanks again and maybe we'll run into you at the Longhorn Steakhouse (hint, hint!)

Dave Ziegler

INDIANLAND CEMETERY

The Indianland Cemetery's annual plowholder's meeting will be held at Hope Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 4, 2012 at 2:00 PM. The snow date for this meeting will be Sunday, March 11, 2012.

DAFFODIL SUNDAY

Daffodil Sunday will be held on Sunday, March 25, 2012. Thank you for supporting the American Cancer Society's programs of education, patient services and cancer research! March is National Colorectal Cancer awareness month.

INDIANLAND GARDEN CLUB

With March around the corner - thinking of spring? The Indianland Garden Club will begin their new season on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at Hope Lutheran Church. Members are looking forward to spring and flowering bulbs. Suzanne Allen will speak about "pollinators."

The doors will open at 6:00 PM. There will be refreshments from 6:45 to 7:15 PM, with the program beginning at approximately 7:00 PM. After a short break, a business meeting will be held. Garden Club meetings are held from March to December. Members may bring specimens and plants to the monthly meetings for judging. During the meetings, many gardeners share helpful hints with each other. Throughout the year, there are interesting programs and activities. New members are welcome. For more information, call 610-767-8420.

NUT AND FRUIT ROLLS

We will be selling nut and fruit rolls for Easter. The proceeds from the sale will benefit the youth going to the National Youth Gathering this summer. Please see any youth member or stop by the table in the narthex to place your order on Sunday mornings. Deadline to order will be Sunday, March 11th. Each roll costs \$14.00 and they will be delivered on Palm Sunday, April 1st.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Fifth Grade Class has started their preparation for First Holy Communion, which will be held on March 25th at the 10:30 AM worship service. Please make every effort to attend Sunday school each week for this very important instruction time.

SYMBOLIC FOOT WASHING

Twelve persons are needed to volunteer for foot washing on Maundy Thursday, April 5th at 7:00 PM. Please look for a sign-up sheet to be posted in the back of the church.

PRAYER VIGIL

Again this year, we will have a prayer vigil from **11:00 PM** on Good Friday until **5:00 AM** on Easter Sunday morning. This means we need volunteers to spend an hour in the church sanctuary during these hours in prayer and reflection. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the rear wall of the nave. Any questions, please call the church office at 610-767-7203. Thanks for your help!

EASTER BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 8th from 7:00-10:00 AM. Join us in Kuntz Hall on Easter morning. A suggested \$3.00 per person would be appreciated (6 years old and up); baskets will be available in the center of each table for your convenience. Donations of baked items would be appreciated. Any help would be appreciated on Saturday, April 7th to help set up and also for food preparation. Please call Wayne Weidner at 610-767-1512 for more information and times of set up. *Catechetical students and parents – helping the night before, or the morning of the breakfast would count as a social outreach event.*

HERALD BIBLICAL THEATRICAL COMPANY

The Herald Biblical Theatrical Company brings its Lenten Season presentation of "His Last Days" at Hope Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 31, 2012 at 6:00 PM. This presentation brings a living reality to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The production takes you from the praises of Palm Sunday to his glorious resurrection on Easter. This is visually depicted in the form of song, dance, and drama. Herald is an inter-denominational group of people from all walks of life and every age group whose only desire is to serve the Lord as witnesses of His love, tender compassion, and gentle understanding. Herald evangelizes this message and brings to reality the blessings of a close, deep, and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Please join us on this evening for a powerful message, soothed by the gentleness of His love.

CATECHETICAL CLASSES SCHEDULE

Please let Lynn LaBarre or the Sunday School teachers know if there are any problems or concerns. Attendance needs to be monitored by each student/parent. Missed assignments must be made up at the initiative of the student. Lent/Easter with extra worship is a good time to get to church to worship!

LEVEL I

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

LEVEL II

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

Sunday, March 23rd - Mentor/Student movie night from 6:30-8:30pm.

✓Weekend Retreat is April 13-15 as announced last September. This is a mandatory retreat in preparation for confirmation on May 27.

Remember, these are part of your scheduled and required events for your catechetical year.

CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Any confirmed youth or adult (men and women) interested in playing in the church softball league should call Wayne Weidner at 610-767-1512. Games start the beginning of April....Sunday evenings. Watch weekly bulletins for practice times.



KNOEBELS TRIP

It's time to look ahead to summer! Saturday, August 4th 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 until 10:00 PM. Lunch will be served at about 2:00pm; we'll have burgers, hot dogs, salads, dessert and drinks. The cost is \$12.00 per person, children 4 and under are free. Included in the \$12.00 cost is drinks and snacks that will be available all day long or as long as they last.

Knoebel's has free parking, free admission and free entertainment all day long. The park is handicapped accessible. They also have stroller, wheelchair, scooter, and wagon rentals. There are numerous exhibits, a coalmine 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! Look for the sign up sheet 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.

Your Evangelism Committee

PRAYER TENT

The Evangelism Committee will again sponsor the prayer Tent which is held in support of National Day of Prayer. This year it will be on Thursday, May 3, 2012. You may either pray by yourself or ask a prayer partner to pray with you. Though there are some in our country that would try and fight such a wonderful thing as prayer, we must prove that prayer and Christianity is part of this country where we live.

Come out and pray! Stay as long as you need to do. More information about the prayer tent will follow in future newsletters and bulletins.

2012 SPRING BASKET SOCIAL NEWS

You are invited to attend the 13th Annual Spring Walk-in Basket Social on Friday, April 13, 2012 to be held in Kuntz Hall at Hope Lutheran Church, located along Route 248 in Cherryville. Proceeds will be divided equally between The Northampton Area Food Bank and The Hope Lutheran Church Good Samaritan Fund. Everyone is also invited to bring along a canned good or nonperishable item for The Food Bank.

Doors Open at 4:00 PM and tickets may be purchased until 7:15 PM. The drawing begins at 7:30 PM. Winners will be notified via phone that same evening. Each card holds 25 tickets or chances to win theme baskets. Cards are sold for \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. Delicious homemade foods, baked goods, and refreshments will be sold. As always, there is also a Special Drawing (strip tickets = \$1.00 ea. Or 6 for \$5.00) of prizes valued at \$50.00 and up.

You are welcome to help with this event by donating a theme basket, gift certificate, bottled water, canned soda, or baked good. Any of these items may be dropped off in the fellowship hall the evening before the social (Thursday, April 12th from 6:30 – 8:30 PM).

The Basket Committee takes this opportunity to thank Shelly Stoltz for the many years she gave of her time and talent making baskets and supporting Hope Church. As Shelly struggles with health issues, we ask that you join us and keep her in your prayers. One of our basket co-chairs, Jean Leibenguth, is taking a leave of absence from the Committee, also due to health issues. We again ask that you join us and also keep Jean in your prayers.

Sometimes when ticket sponsors are requested for the Socials, more sponsors contact us than needed. When this happens, the person(s) who would have liked to sponsor tickets are contacted prior to the next Social and asked if they remain interested in a sponsorship. Only one sponsorship was needed for the Spring

Social, and we take this opportunity to thank Judy and Vince Dieter for their kind contribution.

Questions may be directed to the Hope Lutheran Church Office by calling (610) 767-7203. Thank you! The Basket Committee looks forward to seeing you on April 13th!

Sincerely,

Kathy Fogel and Linda Sidor, Co-Chairs for the Spring Basket Social, and The Basket Committee of Hope Lutheran Church

MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

On Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM the Miller Keystone Blood Center personnel will be available to accept blood donations in Hope's Kuntz Hall for the 18th annual blood drive in loving memory of Doug Gable. To help meet the need for blood products especially at this time of year, it is important for everyone to seriously consider sharing this valuable gift. To make an appointment, please call Sharon Hornyak at 610-760-9891. The blood donated that day will be credited to Hope Lutheran Church blood bank, which covers all members.

BECOME A FAIR HOUSING TESTER

The Fair Housing Council of Suburban Philadelphia (FHCSF) is in need of Fair Housing Testers to assist in uncovering housing discrimination in the Eastern PA region. FHCSF is a private non-profit organization that educates consumers and providers about Fair Housing laws and investigates complaints of housing discrimination in the City of Philadelphia and Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Northampton, and Montgomery Counties.

Trained testers pose as home seekers and visit housing providers to collect information to assist with regional monitoring and investigations. Testers document their experiences objectively – attention to details and excellent writing skills are required. FHCSF

relies on fax and/or email to notify testers, set up scenarios, and submit tests. Qualified applicants will have access to a reliable form of transportation. Accepted applicants must attend a 3-4 hour training, permit FHCSP to conduct a PA state criminal background check, and complete a paid practice test. Testers are paid a small stipend (\$20.00 - \$90.00) for their efforts and are reimbursed for mileage, tolls, and postage.

For more information about this opportunity, contact FHCSP Test Coordinator, Emma Ward, at ward@fhcsp.com or (267) 419-8918 ext. 3. For more information about housing discrimination, visit the FHCSP website at www.fhcsp.com.

HELPING VETERANS FIND JOBS

As it is everywhere in the country right now, the unemployment rate for veterans in the Lehigh Valley is significantly higher than it is for non-veterans. Project JOVE (Job One – Veterans Employment) has been created to help address this inequity. Project JOVE is a volunteer-run program designed to provide training for military veterans, especially recent ones, in every aspect of finding a job. The program consists of nine sessions, each dealing with a different aspect of the job-search, with time to address and practice each skill. Classes will include translating military job-skills into civilian ones, writing resumes and cover letters, interviewing successfully, and, most importantly, networking for life.

Project JOVE is an outreach of the Veterans Affairs Committee of the Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council (LVMAC), and is reaching out to the community to help identify veterans who would benefit from attending these classes. There is no cost – JOVE is a service of the community in gratitude to our country's best. If you know someone who you feel would benefit from the services of Project JOVE, please contact the JOVE Committee at (484) 602-JOB1 (5621) or JOVE@lvmac.org.

LEHIGH TOWNSHIP RAILS TO TRAILS

Lehigh Township Rails to Trails (LTRT) would like to recognize the recent contributions of Dean Hower and Innovative Design and Publishing (IDP). Dean Hower is a Lehigh Township resident and avid bicyclist. He is the volunteer coordinator of the Northern Lehigh Trail Tenders, on the board of directors of the Lehigh Wheelmen Association and a director of Lehigh Township Rails to Trails. Dean made a contribution and Innovative Design and Publishing, a printer and publisher of several magazines and newspapers, located on Freemansburg Avenue in Palmer, matched Mr. Hower's contribution. LTRT would like to recognize both parties as seeing the importance of supporting community and non-profit groups such as LTRT.

LTRT's goals for 2012 are to complete the section of trail located behind the municipal building, to continue to garner support for the first ever walking, biking, and horse trail in Lehigh Township, and to begin expanding the trail to connect to the D&L Trail in Slatington, PA. LTRT has awarded another grant from Northampton County DCED and intends to use the funds to further these goals.

LTRT recently held elections for 2012. President is Meg Schell, vice-president is Nancy Thatcher, treasurer is Dave Altrichter and acting secretary is Laurie Shabbick.

The Lehigh Township Rails to Trails committee is solely a volunteer organization which is recognized and accepted by our local Board of Supervisors. It meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Lehigh Township Municipal Building located at 1069 Municipal Road in the township. Interested individuals from Lehigh Township and surrounding areas are encouraged to attend. For more information about the Lehigh Township Rails to Trails group or any our events, please contact Meg Schell at (610) 760-1117 or mschell12@yahoo.com. You can also visit us at www.ltrt.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2012

Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held Monday, July 9, 2012 through Friday, July 13, 2012 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM. New this year, the closing program will be on Friday, July 13, 2012 at 7:00 PM. Our theme this year is “Shake It Up Café.” It’s easy to register by going online at vbs.hopecherryville.org or from your mobile phone using the same URL. Children ages 3 (potty trained) through 6th grade (completed 2012) are eligible to register. Many volunteers are also needed. So come see what’s cooking and spice up your summer by attending our VBS where you can learn about Jesus and his disciples. Paper registration forms are also available in the narthex.



SOCIAL MINISTRY DATES

<p>Monday, March 5, 2012 <i>Craft Night at Gracedale</i> <u>Time:</u> Leave Hope at 6:00 PM. <u>Needed:</u> Cookies for residents.</p>	<p>Saturday, March 31, 2012 <i>Easter Baskets for Gracedale</i> <u>Time:</u> Meet at Hope 10:30 AM, leave Hope for Gracedale at 12:30 PM. <u>Needed:</u> Cookies, crackers, pretzels, Jello (Diet & Regular), pudding (Diet & Regular), bananas, and oranges.</p>
<p>Holy Thursday Soup and sandwiches after 11:00 AM Service</p>	<p>Monday, May 7, 2012 <i>Talent Night at Gracedale</i> <u>Time:</u> Leave Hope at 6:00 PM <u>Needed:</u> Cookies</p>

2012 WOMEN’S RETREAT OPENS FOR REGISTRATION

Created by God – Designed for Grace

We can envision our lives as sacred space in which God’s Spirit dwells and that indwelling transforms us.

“We have received from God the power and grace necessary for embracing a life that reflects God’s presence in the world.” (Inez Torres Davis)

How we care for ourselves is of utmost importance to living faithfully for and with God for the sake of the world, our communities, and our families. In this contemplative retreat, we will encounter spiritual practices that will help us focus on the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives, explore simple ways to create sacred spaces, and encourage one another to go deeper into our commitment to be a reflection of God’s merciful love and healing grace for the world.

Led by the Rev. Donna M. House, the retreat will be held April 27-29, at Mariawald Renewal Center, Shillington. Cost for the retreat, lodging, and all meals is \$160. Deadline for registration is April 4.



For more information or registration materials, contact Diakon Family Life Services at fls@diakon.org, 610-682-1337, 1-888-499-2699 (toll free), or visit the Events section of our website at <http://www.diakon.org/fls/NPEvents.asp>.



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY – April 1st

8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

✘ *Children involved in a Palm Sunday parade at the 10:30 AM worship*

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 5th

11:00 AM and 7:00 PM

✘ *Soup Luncheon follows the 11:00 AM service*
 ✘ *Holy Communion*
 ✘ *Symbolic Washing of Disciples Feet (7 PM)*

GOOD FRIDAY - April 6th

✘ *7:00 PM Tenebrae Worship at Hope Church*

EASTER SUNDAY- THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

April 8th – 6:00, 8:00 & 10:30 AM

✘ *Holy Communion at every service*
 ✘ *Breakfast in Kuntz Hall (7:00 –10:00 AM)*

TENTATIVE NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

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

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Deadline for Articles</u>	<u>Collation Date</u>
April	Monday, March 19	Thursday, March 22
May	Monday, April 23	Thursday, April 26
June	Monday, May 21	Thursday, May 24

These dates are subject to change. More dates will be added in upcoming newsletters. Please email your articles to Steve Shermetta at communications@hopecherryville.org. Thanks!



**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 EASTER FLOWER SALE – 2012**

**(PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM
 FOR EACH PLANT!!!)**

_____ LITTLE CROCUS - \$4.00 _____ AZALEA - \$10.25
 _____ LITTLE IRIS - \$4.00 _____ HYACINTH - \$6.50
 _____ TULIP - \$6.50 _____ LILY - \$8.75

IN LOVING MEMORY OF: _____

BY: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

BY: _____

Please check here if you **will not** be picking up your plant – all plants left will be taken to homebound or hospitalized members.

Orders will be taken after the worship services in the narthex.

Please make checks payable to Hope Lutheran Church.

Any questions should be directed to Deb Gardner at 610-767-8421.

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER
DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2012
(after the late service). Thank you!

CONGREGATION COUNCIL 2012

Hope Lutheran Church would like to introduce you to the members serving on the Congregational Council for the year 2012.



Wayne Weidner, President



Linda Mery, Vice President



Al Rock, Secretary



Pastor Jami



Dennis Biechy



Kris Concsec



Tim Lockard



Tom Patterson



John Schuon



Bob Small



Christal Wrenn



John (Johnny) P. Zmyewski



John S. Zmyewski



FEBRUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Council selected Bartush Sign company to create the new sign for our front lawn. Next steps are to approach the township for approval and make final decisions on the sign design.
- ❖ Pastor Mraz has begun a CD ministry to our homebound members. Copies of worship services are being sent to them on a regular basis to keep them involved in church although they can no longer attend. Council supports this ministry with the additional funding that may be necessary for CDs and postage.
- ❖ Giving is up over January of 2011. Although it is early in the year council thanks our members for their financial support and encourages generous giving throughout the year.

- ❖ Mutual Ministry committee presented a job description for a part-time Assistant Pastor which council approved. The job description has been sent to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod office to begin the search.
- ❖ The church security ad hoc committee continues to meet and is narrowing down the focus as to how we will keep our building more secure. This is a challenge because so many groups meet here and use the building throughout the week.
- ❖ Council voted to begin advertising in the Lehigh Valley Press on a weekly basis in the church directory section. The cost is just under \$6.00 per week and we will offer the congregation the opportunity to sponsor our listing each week as we do with bulletins and flowers. The Press group of community papers reaches 64,000 people in Northampton, Bethlehem, Parkland, Catasauqua, Whitehall, East Penn, Northwestern, and Salisbury areas.
- ❖ Council approved a nut roll fundraiser for the Youth Group which will continue to assist them to earn funds to attend the National youth Gathering in New Orleans this July.
- ❖ The date for the next council meeting has been moved to Monday, March 19th at 7:00 PM.



FINANCIAL REPORT - JANUARY 31, 2012

	YEAR 2012		YEAR 2011	
REGULAR FUND				
Equity Beginning of Year		\$ 51,591.04		\$ 6,895.69
Income - January	\$ 28,114.65		\$ 24,705.96	
Expenses - January	26,008.18		22,350.13	
Net Income	2,106.47		2,355.83	
SPECIAL APPEALS				
Income - January	\$ 570.00		\$ 120.00	
Expenses - January	570.00		120.00	
Net Special Appeals	-		-	
Equity End of January		\$ 53,697.51		\$ 9,251.52
BUILDING FUND				
Equity Beginning of Year		\$ 129,840.65		\$ 100,974.91
Income - January	\$ 4,376.80		\$ 4,463.82	
Expenses - January	625.00		-	
Net Income	3,751.80		4,463.82	
Equity End of January		\$ 133,592.45		\$ 105,438.73
MEMORIAL FUND				
Equity Beginning of Year		\$ 88,274.75		\$ 77,040.44
Income - January	\$ 2,575.24		\$ 3,263.29	
Expenses - January	397.98		-	
Net Income	2,177.26		3,263.29	
Equity End of January		\$ 90,452.01		\$ 80,303.73
SCHOLARSHIP LOAN/CAP IMP FUND				
Equity Beginning of Year		\$ 84,119.44		\$ 88,786.77
Income - January	\$ 5,573.33		\$ 6,322.93	
Expenses - January	1,700.00		1,300.00	
Net Income	3,873.33		5,022.93	
Equity End of January		\$ 87,992.77		\$ 93,809.70

SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of January by \$2,106.47, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$53,697.51.
 Last year the net income for the same period was \$2,355.83 with a balance of \$9,251.52.
 Budget Comparison—Total Regular Fund Budget for 2012 is \$373,622.00. 5/53 of that figure is \$35,247.36. Our receipts in the Regular Fund for one month were \$28,114.65. So, we are behind budget by \$7,132.71.

SYNOD NEWS

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

March 2012

Celebrating Our Faith Through the Arts: the Psalms

April 28, 2012

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



- Become part of a supportive network of people who are interested in a specific art (if desired).

An art exhibit with Psalms as the theme is a significant part of the event. The principle objective of the exhibit is to share spiritual knowledge, inspirations and experiences from the book of Psalms. Artists are invited to submit up to three pieces for inclusion in this juried exhibit.



This event is open to those who are in 8th grade through adults. For more information, click the link on the synod website home page

(www.godslove.org). Participants may register by completing and mailing in the form or by **registering online**. Also available are the guidelines for submitting art work and a submittal form.

The cost for the event is \$10. Bring your own lunch and a lawn chair to enjoy your lunch outdoors at the Lutheran Center.



"In the beginning, God created..."

The salvation story begins with a wonderful act - God's creation of the world. In that story, God creates us in the image of God's self - and so we are creators, too!



On April 28, Lutherans from across the synod will gather at the Lutheran Center in Northeastern Pennsylvania to *Celebrate Our Faith through the Arts*. This event will give participants an opportunity to observe and experience how faith can be deepened and enriched through art -- our creations. *Celebrating Our Faith through the Arts* will focus on Psalms through drama, music, visual arts, creative writing, and liturgical dance.

Participants will—

- Experience ways that using the arts can help bring them in a closer relationship with God;
- Create and/or observe and/or experience the visual arts (photography, sculpture, paintings, sketches, etc), auditory arts (music, drama), written art (poetry, stories), and physical art (liturgical dance);
- Get ideas for implementing a day like this for their own congregations (if desired); and



Bishop Talks about Synod Budget

The synod council met on January 18. A major item was wrestling with how to balance the synod budget in the face of declining income. Bishop Zeiser talks about the difficult decisions they made on his webpage at www.godslove.org/bishop.



Family Faith Challenge

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

Family Ministry Team!

Here are March's challenges under the theme, **Telling the Story**: We challenge you to notice how God's story and your story connect.

Week one: Gather around the table and allow each family member to tell a five-minute uninterrupted story.

Week two: Read Genesis 1-2:4a.

Draw a picture to illustrate the creation story. Hang the pictures on your refrigerator.



Week three: Google "Saint Patrick" on your computer or visit your local library and borrow a book about Saint Patrick. Talk about one new thing that you learned about St. Patrick.

Week four: Share your favorite story about Jesus. Post it on your Facebook status. Find your favorite story about Jesus in the Bible.



For a list of all the family faith challenges, click the link on the synod home page at

www.godslove.org.

2012 Synod Assembly

June 15-16, Sovereign Center,
Reading PA



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.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA; 2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101; info@nepssynod.org; www.godslove.org



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.

Back to
BASICS



Register now for the *Back to Basics* event, two popular workshops that will be presented at two different times and two different locations this year. *Lutheran Basics* (led by Cheryl Statham, Betsy Frey, and associates in ministry Marlane Druckenmiller and Leesa Wimmer) and *How the Bible Came to Be: From Papyrus to iPad* (led by Pastor Greg Frey) will be held March 17 at the



Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus, and August 25 at Christ's United, Ashland. The cost is only \$10.

For more information and a registration form you can **download and print**, or to register online, click the link on the synod website, www.godslove.org.



2012 Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly

June 22-24, 2012' Muhlenberg College

Leaning, Lifting, Leading, the 2012 LYM Assembly, will be held at Muhlenberg College June 22-24. The cost for the event is \$120. Scholarship money is available. Youth completing 8th through 12th grades are invited to register. A **registration form**, **medical release form**, **poster**, and **scholarship form** can be found on the synod website.

Looking for support?

“Living with Loss” Grief Support Group

Feeling
sad and
alone?

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 and sign up online, or contact: PA Directors, Fred & Julie Schamber at 724-325-3166 or email: 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**

"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



Mark Your Calendars Now!

DIAKON
Many Hands. One Heart.

a retreat for women

Created by God
Designed for Grace

April 27 to 29, 2012

Mariawald Renewal Center, Shillington, PA
Fee: \$160/person (register by April 4)

"Know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you!"

1 Corinthians 3:16



We can envision our lives as sacred space in which God's Spirit dwells and that indwelling transforms us. "We have received from God the power and grace necessary for embracing a life that reflects God's presence in the world." (Inez Torres Davis)

How we care for ourselves is of utmost importance to living faithfully for and with God for the sake of the world, our communities, and our families.

Retreat leader:
The Rev. Donna House



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

For information: Call 1-888-499-2699
or visit "Events" at www.diakon.org/fls
for downloadable registration brochure

1 South Home Avenue • Topton, Pennsylvania 19562 • 610-682-1337 • 1-888-499-2699 (toll free)

18th Annual Memorial Blood Drive



MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER

Date: Saturday, May 12, 2012

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Kuntz Hall at Hope Lutheran Church

Miller Keystone Blood Center personnel will be available to accept blood donations in loving memory of Doug Gable. The blood donated that day will be credited to the Hope Lutheran Church blood bank, which covers all members. To make an appointment, please call Sharon Hornyak at (610) 760-9891.

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



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