

## Table of Contents

Hope Leadership.....	3
Contact Information.....	4
Greetings from the Pastor.....	5, 6
Stewardship Corner.....	7, 8
Pastoral Acts/Please Drive Safe!.....	9
What is the Building Fund?/Recent Blood Donors.....	10
Thank You Notes .....	11, 12, 13
2012 Spring Basket Social News .....	13, 14
Prayer Vigil .....	14
Easter Breakfast/Holy Week.....	15
March 2012 Calendar .....	16, 17
Social Ministry News/Prayer Tent/Memorial Blood Drive .....	18
Leave a Legacy/Bear Creek Camp/New Members Classes .....	19
Gracedale Talent Night/Phones Off!/Iron Pigs/Historical Society .....	20
Christian Education/Catechetical Classes Update/Thrivent Choice Dollars.....	21
High School & College Graduates/Swing Into Spring .....	22
VBS 2012/Reading Through the Bible.....	23
March 2012 Council Highlights .....	24, 25
Tentative Newsletter Schedule.....	25
SYNOD NEWS.....	26, 27
Kids Section .....	28
A Look Ahead.....	29
Advertisements/Fliers.....	30, 31
April Worship Schedule.....	See Insert

### 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.....

As I sit writing this article we have only two more mid-week Lenten services and then we will be rushing headlong into Holy Week. Starting with Palm Sunday and moving into the Triduum (the three days) which include Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday we walk our way through Lent to Easter Sunday morning. I really do love this season – it is filled with so many images, stories and good news!

Over the years I have noticed that lots of people don't take advantage of the wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth that Holy Week offers. So many folks I know come to church on Palm Sunday and symbolically wave their palms in praise of Jesus our Lord and go back to their daily lives forgetting that the greatest story ever told is being retold throughout Holy Week. And those same folks show up on Easter Sunday to celebrate Jesus resurrection without ever recognizing that Jesus had to have died in order to be resurrected. They skip right over the painful moments of his disciples betrayal, his trail, his beating and his death. And I wonder why that happens.

Maybe we don't intentionally make the time to hear the story again. Maybe we don't want to hear the painful parts. Maybe we just want to experience the high points of the Christian life and pass over the difficult ones.

But if you are one of those folks I mentioned above here's what you're missing....

- ❖ Jesus last supper with his disciples and the "first-ever communion"
- ❖ Jesus washing the feet of the disciples
- ❖ Jesus struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane where he wonders if this is the way it has to unfold
- ❖ Jesus arrest and trial and flogging

## STEWARSHIP CORNER

### *Open Hands*

Dwight Zscheile

What does it mean to live with open hands, rather than clenched fists? It is a simple gesture, isn't it? Open hands are ready to receive or to give. They are relaxed, but also vulnerable. Clenched fists are closed. You can hide things in them. They can be a formidable weapon. Clenching your fists requires energy and strain.

There is a story about a man who comes to Jesus with a big question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" He's a righteous man, a leader, an upstanding member of the community who has faithfully kept the commandments. Jesus looks at him and gives him an answer that he doesn't want to hear - go and redistribute your possessions to the poor.

Now, this is a challenging text on many levels. It makes me, for one, uncomfortable. Jesus seems to be suggesting here that following the rules of righteous behavior, epitomized by the Ten Commandments, is not enough. The Kingdom of God is about something deeper. It's about a reordering of relationships. As long as the rich man's things separate him from God and other people, they're a problem. Jesus is inviting him into a new kind of relationship with God and others. Now material things are not in themselves bad, of course. They're part of God's good creation. But following Jesus means holding worldly things lightly - not because they are evil, but because they aren't ours anyway. God entrusts them to us to manage.

The point at which the rich man stumbled, and where we often stumble too, is basing his identity upon his wealth and social status. When our identities are caught up in what we have, we mistake a deeper reality, that reality of being children of God within a household of generosity. We are created by the God of the universe to live generous lives.

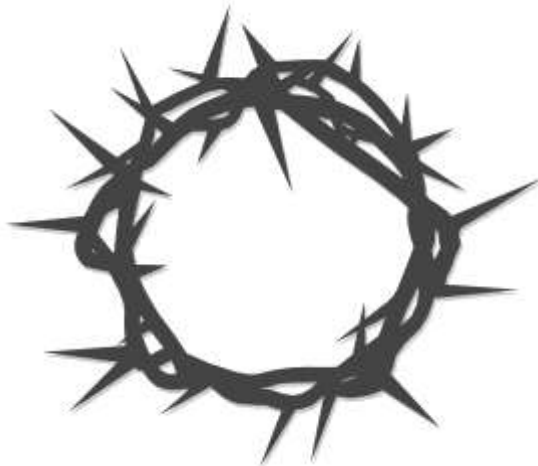
- ❖ Peter's denial of Jesus – just as Jesus predicted
- ❖ Jesus journey to Golgatha to be hung on a cross
- ❖ Jesus death, the earthquake and the rending of the curtain in the temple
- ❖ Jesus' body being placed in a tomb and sealed

And how does this get celebrated during Holy week????

- ❖ Holy Communion and reenactment of foot washing on Maundy Thursday
- ❖ Stripping of the altar and covering the chancel in black
- ❖ Retelling of the story of Jesus death during Tenebrae (service of the shadows) on Good Friday
- ❖ Prayer vigil during the time Jesus laid in the tomb - from Good Friday to Easter morning

So, you are invited to not just walk through Holy Week but to **LIVE** through Holy Week. You are invited to hear the stories, share the meal, experience the darkness and be stilled by the silence so that when you arrive on Easter Sunday morning the joy of the resurrection is even more joyful because you lived through it all.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jami



God lives with open hands. God gives freely to us, creating and sustaining everything that is, providing all that is necessary for human flourishing. God's hands are open in vulnerability to us, the vulnerability of an embrace that we do not always return, but sometimes reject. These are the open hands of the cross.

We are created in God's image to be givers. We are to live with open hands, receiving and giving, rather than closing off our hearts and hands from one another out of fear and scarcity. Jesus invites the rich man to accept a reality that will befall him anyway—you can't take your wealth with you into eternity. When you die, it all goes back in the box. We might as well start sharing it now so as to draw closer to our fellow humans in need.

How can we live into our identities as givers, as those who participate in God's generosity? Money and possessions, like anything else in our lives, are opportunities for spiritual growth - not things to be excluded from our spirituality.

How does this work? Over the years, giving has become one of the most important spiritual disciplines in my life. Like going to the gym or praying, there are some days in which I really don't feel like doing it. I get worried about money and have the impulse to clench my fist. But this is a practice I've committed to in response to God's generosity to me. I have not given away all my money and possessions; but giving away at least 10 percent of my income each year keeps me in closer relationship with God and those in need.

God has come to us in Jesus with open hands, wide open hands. May we open our hands and hearts in turn.



## PASTORAL ACTS

### ***HOLY BAPTISMS***

*The following children were baptized on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30am worship service.*

**Madelyn Leigh Binder**, daughter of Jerry and Jessica Binder.

Madelyn was born on October 26, 2011.

**Alaina Nicole Minarovic**, daughter of Jeffrey and Nicole (Smolick) Minarovic. Alaina was born on August 19, 2011.

**Jenele Irene Vadelund**, daughter of Jens and Michele (LeHeup) Vadelund. Jenele was born on December 9, 1999.

**Lucas Dane Vadelund**, son of Jens and Michele (LeHeup) Vadelund. Lucas was born on March 6, 2006.

*Please welcome the above named children into our church family at Hope and pray for their growth in faith.*

### ***FUNERAL***

**Priscilla Louise Oncheck** entered eternal life on February 21, 2012 at the age of 72 years. Funeral services were held at Hope Church with interment at Indianland Cemetery.

*Our sympathy to family and friends of Priscilla. May God continue to be their guide and strength.*

## PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY!

**Hope has lots of children.....but none to spare.....please drive safely in the parking lots.** What a busy place this is on a Sunday morning! What a blessing that is too! If you walk outside on as Sunday School is letting out you will notice a lot of children walking through the parking lot and many cars lined up along the sidewalk to pick them up. This past Sunday there was a slight accident as a car was going the wrong way in the lot and another car backed into it. **PLEASE observe and follow the arrows that mark the flow of traffic in the parking lot. Drive slowly and stay alert.** Because.....Hope has lots of children.....but none to spare.

## WHAT IS THE BUILDING FUND?

**By Pastor Jami**

Recently a new member asked me why there is a line on our envelopes for contributions to a Building Fund? Great question – thanks for asking! The building fund initially was set up to help fund the original building of Hope Lutheran and the 1993 addition. We continue with a building fund today because every church has to attend to its building – making sure there is funding for emergencies (like the air conditioning crashing), building maintenance (like the replacement of carpets and repainting projects) and large projects (like replacing the roof – we’re due soon). Regular contributions to that fund are encouraged to assure that we have enough reserves to take care of these property issues without having to run major campaigns when something breaks. So thank you for asking insightful questions AND supporting the building fund.

## RECENT BLOOD DONORS

The following members of Hope Lutheran Church have recently donated blood: Trudy Mertz, Steven Paly, Stanley Royer, and Kenneth Silfies. 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>36</b>
Number of Donations as of Jan. 2012	<b>7</b>
Number of Donations for Feb. 2012	<b>4</b>
Number of Donations YTD (2012)	<b>11</b>
Number of Donations to Reach Goal	<b>25</b>

## THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends,

I wish to thank all of you for remembering me with the lovely birthday cards. I’m doing well and I enjoy my apartment. The folks are very nice and thoughtful. I’ve been living here for 11 years.

Blessings,

**Marian Burkhardt**

One Sunday, February, 19, 2012, Hope’s Bell Ensemble played three anthems at both services. We, the Bell Ensemble members, shared a significant and profound experience that morning. It happened during the prelude at the 10:30 AM service. While we were playing, we became aware that the congregation gradually became quieter and quieter, until everyone in the congregation had stopped talking and were silently listening to the prelude. We had the coveted experience that any musician who prepares music for any part of a service hopes to achieve, and that is the quiet listening by the congregation, of music intended to expand and enrich the spirituality and sacredness of the service. Thank you, Hope congregation, for listening, and for giving us a chance to “give our music to you.” We hope it touched you in a special way. That is the hope all of us, including the organist, vocal choirs, bell choirs, orchestra, and vocal and instrumental soloists share. We work hard to prepare our music so that you can hear and feel God in a way that only the art of music makes possible.

**Bell Ensemble**

To the Congregation and Pastor of Hope Lutheran Church, Our appreciation goes out to members and friends of the church family for their care and consideration during our hospital stays. Visits from pastors and friends, prayer shawls made with loving hands, and cards have helped us to know how much people care. Pastor Jami, you are the best!

**Bob & Donna Laschler**

Hope's handbell tables have recently been updated with a brand new accessory-custom-made "skirts" for each table. The skirts wrap around each table to create a professional, tasteful appearance. Karen Zimmerman made the skirts and it is important to note that she donated all her time to make them and created the pattern for them herself. When questioned about time, she said it took her three days to make the skirts, one working session each day, for measuring, cutting out and sewing. This doesn't include her previous time to measure the tables, determine the amount of fabric needed, and then shop for the fabric. We are blessed to have her talent and ability as a resource, and we are eternally grateful for her willingness to devote so much of her time, experience, and talent to create items of quality to make our sanctuary and our bell tables beautiful. Stop by and take a moment to look at our new skirts. Thank you, Karen, for everything!!!

***Bell Ensemble***

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,  
The Volunteers and board members of the Northampton Area Food Bank would like to thank you for your recent donation for our Seventh Annual Basket Bingo, on Sunday, February 5, 2012 at Our Lady of Hungary Regional School Gym, 1320 Newport Avenue, Northampton. The Basket Bingo has become our largest fundraiser for the year. Previous years have brought in over \$7,500.00 which is used throughout the year to support our Food Bank in distribution of food to the needy in our area. We have had a noticeable increase in the numbers of families that we currently serve. This contribution, along with the donations of food and monies we continue to receive from the community and our participating churches, will help us in the coming months to purchase the additional foods we provide for our families monthly and during the holidays. We want to thank everyone in the community, area businesses, our wonderful Fundraising Committee and all volunteers who take part in making this bingo the huge success it always is.

***Fundraising Committee Northampton Area Food Bank***

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,  
Thank you all, once again, for the education scholarship. It was put towards buying books for the spring semester of graduate school! I am always appreciative of the support of Hope no matter where I am in the world. Thank you once again and God bless.

***Allison Schell***

**2012 SPRING BASKET SOCIAL NEWS**



You are invited to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 PM).

The Basket Committee has applied for matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. As part of their Community Outreach Program, money is available when raising funds for local non-profit organizations. Please watch future bulletins and The Hope Home News newsletter for further information.

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.

The Basket Committee will meet on Monday, April 2, 2012 at 6:30 PM, in Hanson Hall, to discuss the upcoming Social.

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 13<sup>th</sup>!

Sincerely,

***Kathy Fogle and Linda Sidor, Co-Chairs for the Spring Basket Social, and The Basket Committee of Hope Lutheran 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.*



#### **HOLY WEEK**

##### **PALM SUNDAY – April 1<sup>st</sup>**

8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

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

##### **MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 5<sup>th</sup>**

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 6<sup>th</sup>**

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

##### **EASTER SUNDAY- THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

**April 8<sup>th</sup> – 6:00, 8:00 & 10:30 AM**

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

### **SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS: GRACEDALE EASTER VISIT**



Gracedale Easter  
Visit

On Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> a group from Hope Lutheran Church will travel to Gracedale to deliver Easter baskets. Donations of the following would be greatly appreciated to fill the Easter baskets for the residents of Gracedale; small individual packets of crackers, pretzels, and cookies. Also, individual servings of Jell-O and pudding, bananas and oranges. All are invited to go along. We will meet at Hope Church at 10:30 AM. We should return to the church about 2:30 PM. *Catechetical students – this is a great outreach opportunity.*

### **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.

### **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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **LEAVE A LEGACY FOR MINISTRY AND MISSION**

Now that your tax returns are completed, it would be a good time to review all of your financial accounts. Were there changes to your situation in 2011: loss of a spouse, divorce, and/or marriage or remarriage, etc.? Do the beneficiary statements and your will reflect these changes? Is the executor information still relevant and correct? How about the charitable beneficiaries? Did you remember your congregation and other ministries of the church in your will or as a beneficiary of your other financial accounts? Remember, if you do not have a will, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a will for you and that will does not consider your charitable interests. For more information about how to make charitable gifts using a will or other ways to make charitable gifts from your estate, call Pr. Greg Kramer at the Lutheran Planned Giving Office at (570) 374-2044 or call the ELCA Foundation, (800) 638-3522, ext. 2970 or visit our website at [www.elca.org/fo](http://www.elca.org/fo).

### **BEAR CREEK CAMP**

You can register now for summer camp. Remember you qualify for discounts if you have Pastor Jami sign your registration form and an additional discount for a Bear Creek Ambassador (Kim Roth) attending the annual meeting. Please contact Kim Roth (610) 820-0587 with any questions, for a registration form, or for more information. You can register online at [www.bearcreekcamp.org](http://www.bearcreekcamp.org)



### **NEW MEMBERS CLASSES**

If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a member of Hope Lutheran Church, please invite him or her to our new members classes, which will begin in April. Classes will be held from 9:15 – 10:15 AM in Kuntz Hall on the following Sundays: April 22, April 29, and May 6. New Members will be received on Sunday, May 6.



### **GRACEDALE TALENT NIGHT**

On Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> we will travel to Gracedale to entertain the residents for “talent night”. Everyone is welcome to come along! The residents especially like when children visit with their parents. We will leave Hope’s parking lot at 6:00 PM. The program begins at 7:00 PM. Talent and cookies are needed for this evening of fun. To volunteer your talent, please call Marge Zimmermann at (610) 217-8324. Cookies may be dropped off on the narthex table before 6:00 PM that evening. *Catechetical students – this is a great outreach opportunity.*

### **PHONES OFF DURING WORSHIP**

Please be considerate and turn off your cell phones and electronic equipment during worship. We strive to provide a sacred and reverent worship space and a respect for other worshippers.

### **IRON PIGS GAME**

If you are signed up to go to the Iron Pigs game on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, money is due to Wayne Weidner as soon as possible. The cost per ticket is \$40.00. If you are signed up for the game on Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> the cost per ticket is \$45.00.

### **LEHIGH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Come to the society’s Spring Basket Social on Sunday, April 1, 2012, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, at the Lehigh Township Fire Company in Cherryville. Winning tickets will be drawn at 4:00 PM. Tickets will be sold at the door and you must be present to win. There will be many baskets, gift cards, and other items. The kitchen will be open. If anyone would like to donate a basket/item or help, it would be appreciated. Call (610) 767-5989 for more information. Bring your friends to the Basket Social and support a good cause! The next meeting of the society will be held on Monday, April 9, 2012 at 7:00 PM. It will be held in the rear of the historical center in Pennsville. Anyone who is interested in the history of Lehigh Township is welcome.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

#### ***EASTER SUNDAY***

This is a reminder that **there is no Sunday Church School on Easter Sunday**. Classes will resume the following week on April 15th.



#### ***DATES TO REMEMBER***

**April 8, 2012** – Easter Sunday, No Sunday School

**May 13, 2012** – Mother’s Day/Father’s Day Program

**May 20, 2012** – The Last day of Sunday School

**May 27, 2012** – The Day of Pentecost–Confirmation at 10:30 AM

#### **CATECHETICAL CLASSES UPDATE**

Please let 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.

#### **LEVEL II**

✓ Weekend Retreat is Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a **mandatory retreat** in preparation for confirmation on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

✓ Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Rehearsal and Mentor Lunch

✓ Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation at 10:30am followed by reception

#### **LEVEL I**

✓ Campton Funeral Home scheduled for Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. Watch for a new date for this retreat.

#### **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

If you have not already designated your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Hope Church, it is not too late. You have until March 31<sup>st</sup> to do so. This is for your 2012 dollars. Thank you to all of the members who have designated our church as their choice!

**HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES**

We need names of high school/college/university graduates from Hope’s members who are graduating this spring! They will be included in our July/August issue of The Hope Home News. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office as soon as possible! Thanks!

**STUDENT’S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADUATING FROM** \_\_\_\_\_

**FUTURE PLANS** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEGREE** \_\_\_\_\_

**EARNED** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS AS OF SEPT. 2012 (IF KNOWN)**

\_\_\_\_\_

.....

**SWING INTO SPRING WITH THE INDIANLAND GARDEN CLUB**

The next meeting of the garden club will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at Hope Lutheran Church. Doors will open at 6:00 PM and the program will begin at 7:00 PM. Speaker Michael Balik will discuss composting. Get into the swing of spring! It is time to put on your gloves and find those digging tools to begin your spring gardening chores. Come out to the meeting and learn about composting and share some good gardening tips with others. There will be light refreshments, the program, and a brief business meeting. For more information, call (610) 767-8420.

**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](http://vbs.hopecherryville.org) or from your mobile phone using the same URL. Children ages 3 (potty trained) through 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



**READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

If the Lenten season has inspired you to strengthen your daily faith, here is a plan to read through the Bible in one year. These are the readings for the month of April.

	<b>Sunday <i>Epistles</i></b>	<b>Monday <i>The Law</i></b>	<b>Tuesday <i>History</i></b>	<b>Wednesday <i>Psalms</i></b>	<b>Thursday <i>Poetry</i></b>	<b>Friday <i>Prophecy</i></b>	<b>Saturday <i>Gospels</i></b>
<b>Week 1 April 1-7</b>	Romans 1-2	Genesis 1-3	Joshua 1-5	Psalms 1-2	Job 1-2	Isaiah 1-6	Matthew 1-2
<b>Week 2 April 8-14</b>	Romans 3-4	Genesis 4-7	Joshua 6-10	Psalms 3-5	Job 3-4	Isaiah 7-11	Matthew 3-4
<b>Week 3 April 15-21</b>	Romans 5-6	Genesis 8-11	Joshua 11-15	Psalms 6-8	Job 5-6	Isaiah 12-17	Matthew 5-7
<b>Week 4 April 22-28</b>	Romans 7-8	Genesis 12-15	Joshua 16-20	Psalms 9-11	Job 7-8	Isaiah 18-22	Matthew 8-10
<b>Week 5 April 29-30</b>	Romans 9-10	Genesis 16-19					

### **APRIL 2012 PRAYER LIST**

The April 2012 Prayer List was not available for print in the April newsletter. Please check future bulletins for updates.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The April 2012 Financial Report was not available for print in the April newsletter. Please check future bulletins for updates.

### **MARCH 2012 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

- ! The Memorial Garden fund has reached its construction goal of \$40,000! The committee is working to begin construction of the Memorial Garden very soon.
- ! All information has been submitted to the township for approval for our new church sign which will be placed in the front yard – Route 248 entrance.
- ! Hope is in need of a female delegate to the Synod Assembly which is being held June 15-16, 2012 in Reading. Costs for this assembly are covered by the congregation. Council is encouraged to speak to people who might be interested.
- ! Hope has been blessed with wonderful Sunday School staff some of who will be “retiring” May. Council thanks those individuals for their service and notes that new teachers are needed. If members are interested they should speak to Lynn LaBarre (610-767-0880).
- ! Giving continues to grow thanks to the commitment of our members! Now that’s something to celebrate!
- ! The synod contacted Hope to say that there may not be a part-time person available as an assistant pastor and asked if we might be open to a full-time candidate. At a council special meeting the members of council agreed to consider

this option. We are currently waiting to hear from the synod office.

- ! Council responded to a request from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia for a contribution to help with their scholarship fund by approving a contribution of \$250.00.
- ! Jane Tretiak’s new job description was approved. Her new title will be Administrative Manager primarily because her duties entail much administrative work beyond the scope of a parish secretary.
- ! Until the Security Task Force completes their recommendation regarding church security, the decision was made to lend a building key to members who are renting Kuntz Hall for a function. When the key is returned and the room checked for cleanliness deposits will be returned as well.
- ! Council approved Youth Group fund-raisers: Joe Corby’s sale, Mother’s Day Buffet and “Help the Saints Go Marching” an envelope fund-raiser.

### **TENTATIVE NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE**

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

<b><u>Edition</u></b>	<b><u>Deadline for Articles</u></b>	<b><u>Collation Date</u></b>
May	Monday, April 23	Thursday, April 26
June	Monday, May 21	Thursday, May 24
July	Monday, June 18	Thursday, June 21

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](mailto:communications@hopecherryville.org). Thanks!

# SYNOD NEWS

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA April 2012

## It's BACK!!

### Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Bike for World Hunger

Saturday, May 19, 9 AM-3 PM, Rain or Shine  
Bob Rodale Cycling and Fitness Park



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Bike for Hunger is back!  
This enormously popular and successful event was discontinued after the Nazareth Speedway closed and other venues were not available.  
Now the synod Hunger Team has brought it back in a new location: The Bob Rodale Cycling and Fitness Park near Rtes 100 and 222 in Tredertown.



All monies raised will be sent to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Checks should be made out to NEPS (write World Hunger on the memo line). **One hundred percent of your donations will go to feed hungry people!**

Be sure to visit the **Bike for Hunger Facebook page**, **NEPS Bike for World Hunger**, for pictures, comments, and updates about the event.



Join Lutherans and others from across the synod for this wonderful event. Collect pledges and spend the day riding, walking, or rollerblading to raise money for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Check-in will begin at 8:30 am and riding/walking/rollerblading will begin at 9:00 am.  
Participants must supply their own water and meals. There are plenty of grassy areas surrounding the bike path for setting up tents as a place to rest, get out of the sun, and have a bite to eat – and for “cheering sections” to gather.



Registration materials were mailed to every congregation in early March. The materials are also available on the synod website, [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org).  
Congregational registrations are due by **Monday, May 7**. Individual registrations and pledges should be turned in the day of the event.



### 2012 Assembly of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod June 15-16, 2012

Sovereign Center, Reading



The 25th annual assembly of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will celebrate *God's People Doing What Matters Together*.  
For more information, go to [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org) and click the link on the home page.

#### Did You Know?

Confirmed youth may serve as voting members to the synod assembly. Synods are encouraged to see that 10% of voting members are youth and young adults (under the age of 30). How about inviting a youth or young adult to attend as one of your congregation's voting members?

### 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 April's challenges** under the theme, **Bless Our Growing**: We challenge you to notice how God brings new life and growth to the world around you.
- Week one:** Grow in faith by attending a Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday service.
  - Week two:** Try on last year's spring clothing. How have you grown? Donate your outgrown clothing to a local charity.
  - Week three:** As a family take a walk around your neighborhood and discuss what new spring growth you see.
  - Week four:** Plant a few seeds – watch them grow.
  - Week five:** Make and hang paper butterflies around your home to celebrate new life. Butterflies began as caterpillars, then seem to be dead in their cocoons before emerging as butterflies. Discuss with your family things that seem to be dead but come alive!
- For a list of all 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: The Psalms

April 28, 2012, 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM  
The Lutheran Center



Join Lutherans from across the synod 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.

For more information and to register, go to [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org).



### Synod Ministry Teams An Invitation from God: Spirituality Ministry Team

I just thought it was a normal card. An invitation, perhaps. My name emblazoned on the front with no return address. I was curious. I opened the envelope. As I pulled out the card, confetti covered my lap and the floor around me. A surprise, indeed. I felt my heart leap in gratitude for the sparkle on a not-so-sparkly day. Then, I tried to gather it all up and put it back in the envelope. Sparkles cannot be gathered. For days I noticed them on that spot on the floor and smiled every time.

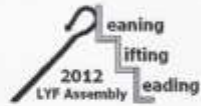


The Spirituality Team extends an invitation to all who hunger and thirst for a deeper connection with God. The invitation is one that may contain sparkles and other unexpected gifts from God. The only way to find out is to start on the journey and open the invitation.

Our team currently offers *days apart*, a time away for rostered leaders to connect with God through contemplative prayer and reflection. These *days apart*, held at different locations throughout the synod, offer rostered leaders time for refreshment and renewal.



Our blog, [SpiritSpinning.wordpress.com](http://SpiritSpinning.wordpress.com) is a place for us to keep in regular contact with you. We will post a variety of information and reflections that may enhance your spiritual life. Do visit our blog.



### 2012 Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly

June 22-24, 2012, Muhlenberg College  
*Learning, Lifting, Leading*, the 2012 LYM Assembly, will be held at **Muhlenberg College June 22-24**. 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.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA; 2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101; [info@nepsynod.org](mailto:info@nepsynod.org); [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org)



# Just for KIDS

## Easter

Easter is a special day for Christians. The days before are dark and sad, but on that special day – we celebrate!  
Why do we celebrate?

Write the word to fit each definition. Transfer the numbered letters to the corresponding boxes. Read the answer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----



14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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great happiness

a place where plants grow

opposite of evening

a shape that means love

it rises every morning

a close companion

Jesus was nailed to it

it blocked the door of Jesus' tomb



Jesus rose from the dead!

joy, garden, morning, heart, sun, friend, cross, stone

### A LOOK AHEAD

#### April 2012

**2012 Spring Basket Social**  
Friday, April 13, 2012  
Doors open at 4:00 PM, the drawing begins at 7:30 PM  
Hope Lutheran Church

**2012 PA Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends**  
Friday, April 20, 2012 – Sunday, April 22, 2012  
Park Inn by Radisson-Sharon, W. Middlesex, PA

**2012 Diakon Women's Retreat**  
Friday, April 27, 2012 – Sunday, April 29, 2012  
Mariawald Renewal Center  
Shillington, PA



#### May 2012

**Memorial Blood Drive**  
Saturday, May 12, 2012  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Hope Lutheran Church



#### June 2012

**Hope Fest 2012**  
Friday, June 22, 2012 – Saturday, June 23, 2012  
Hope Lutheran Church



**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



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!

**2012 PA Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends**

*Providing enrichment for ALL Marriages!*



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



April 20-22, 2012  
Park Inn by Radisson-Harvey, 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  
Ladysburg, PA, in Allegheny National Forest -  
20 miles southwest 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 \$40.00 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 1 PM, and all faith expressions are welcome. For questions or to register for a Weekend, go to: [www.pa.lutheranmarriage.org](http://www.pa.lutheranmarriage.org) and sign up online, or contact: PA Director, Fred & Julia Schreyer at 324-325-7196 or email: [DLSchreyer@lutheran.org](mailto:DLSchreyer@lutheran.org). 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.

**18<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**Share this Valuable Gift!**

**DIAKON**  
*Merry Christmas Give Heart!*


a retreat for women

**Created by God  
Designed for Grace**

April 27 to 29, 2012  
Marlowald Renewal Center, Shillington, PA  
Fee: \$180/person (register by April 4)

*"Know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you!"*  
1 Cor. 3:16





Retreat leader:  
The Rev. Donna Houser




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

For information: Call 1-888-499-2690 or visit "Events" at [www.diakon.org](http://www.diakon.org) for downloadable registration brochure

**DIAKON FAMILY LIFE SERVICES**  
4130 BROADWAY • SUITE 100 • CHERRYVILLE, PA 18035

