

HOPE HOME NEWS

Vol. XXXX No. 2 February, 2013



Published Monthly by:

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4131 Lehigh Drive, P.O. Box 1030

Cherryville, PA 18035

610-767-7203

hopecherryville.org

Sunday Worship at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Sunday Church School at 9:15 AM

Church Office Hours

Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., (7:30 AM – 4:00 PM)

Tues. (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM)

HOPE LEADERSHIP

<u>PASTOR</u> The Rev. Jami Possinger pastor@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext.#12 610-799-2449 (h)	<u>ASSISTANT PASTOR</u> The Rev. Paulette Obrecht assistant@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext.#13 610-837-9256 (h)	<u>CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL</u>	
		Linda Mery <i>President</i>	Tim Lockard <i>Vice President</i>
		Al Rock <i>Secretary</i>	Tim Moore
		Amy Nichols	Tony Pagotto
		Tom Patterson	Bruce Schnabel
		Bob Small	Wayne Weidner
		Christal Wrenn	John P. Zmyewski
<u>VISITATION PASTOR</u> The Rev. Jerry Mraz	<u>PASTOR EMERITUS</u> The Rev. Clark W. Kuntz II		

<u>SECRETARY</u> Mrs. Jane Tretiak office@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext.#10	<u>COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST</u> Mr. Steven Shermetta communications@hopecherryville.org	<u>SEXTON</u> Mrs. Bonnie Zmyewski
<u>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC</u> Mr. David R. Ziegler organist@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext.#11	<u>BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR</u> Mrs. Janet Filchner 610-767-7203 ext.#40	<u>FINANCIAL SECRETARY</u> Mrs. Deb Gardner
		<u>TREASURER</u> Mrs. Trudy Mertz

OUR MISSION AT HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission as a congregation is... "To witness 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 doing so, seek to become more perfectly the Body of Christ in the world."

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding the following: new membership, baptisms, funerals, weddings, change of address, van requests, memorial sponsors, hospital admissions, room reservations for meetings or social events...

Call the Church Office at 610-767-7203

REGARDING	CALL	PHONE. NO
Basket Com	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

REGARDING	CALL	PHONE. NO
Prayer Shawl	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
VBS	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	StephZiegler 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 February begins I am trying to get my bearings again. December and January were incredibly busy months - with the start of a new pastor and the many activities of the Christmas season and preparations for Lent.

It is exciting to be working with Pastor Paulette - in a team once more – sharing ideas, insights and responsibilities.

For Pastor Paulette the introduction to Hope was fast-paced and furious. She really got the chance to “jump in” but it was also difficult to have lots of time to just walk her through things because of the business of the season. However, she handled it all with grace and patience. And many thanks to you – the congregation – you have been open and welcoming as she orients herself in her new position!

But after almost two months the rubber is hitting the road and I thought you might be interested in how we plan to really move forward in ministry as a pastoral team. According to her job description, two of Pastor Paulette’s areas of responsibility will be Christian Education – especially the confirmation program – and serving as the liaison to Youth Ministry. Additionally we have identified some other areas in which she has expertise and passion and Pastor Paulette will start working with those areas as well. They are: Outreach/Evangelism, Advocacy/Social Ministry (this includes disaster response efforts) and working with Young Adults – all to build upon and expand on the ministries which are already in place. Additionally Pastor Paulette will be assisting in worship and preaching about once a month as well as doing hospital and homebound visitations.

It takes time to become familiar with all the aspects of life in a large congregation and Hope is a large congregation with a wide variety of committees, groups and ministries. You can help Pastor Paulette by reminding her of your name when you see her, telling her about the ministries in which you are

involved inside and outside of the church and keeping an open mind to new ideas and programs she might bring to Hope. These are exciting times in our life together! Let’s continue to be the people God is calling us to be doing the ministry that matters to God!

Blessings,
Pastor Jami

ASSISTANT PASTOR’S WORD.....

From Pastor Paulette Obrecht



February is such a great month! It’s short. It’s funny to pronounce – feb-brew-air-ee. And, it has an odd variety of holidays! There’s Groundhog Day for celebrating the middle

of winter and hoping it will end sooner rather than later. There are all those presidential birthdays – Lincoln and Washington – and Ronald Reagan. And, don’t forget William Henry Harrison (who?). Sometimes, there’s Chinese New Year (February 10, the “Year of the Snake”) and every 4 years we have Leap Year Day. Oh! There’s also Valentine’s Day, the day of love.

Of course, everyday should be a day filled with love, as far as I’m concerned – and not only the kind associated with Cupid, but the kind associated with Christ. “Love one another,” he told us. “Love your enemies...” “Love the Lord your God, with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

It is interesting when I read these phrases and think about love, I recognize that love is often a difficult thing to offer. It’s hard to love one’s enemies. Often, we would rather ignore our neighbor than love her or him. Sometimes, we don’t love God with our whole heart. Sometimes, we don’t even love ourselves. Love can also be a difficult thing to receive, for many people feel they don’t deserve love. They might feel unworthy of love. But, the love that is associated with Christ is for everyone,

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whether we want to believe it or not. God's love, through Christ, is always there and is God's gift to us, despite our imperfections and our difficulties. When we have faith enough to believe in God's love for us, it is ours and, then, it becomes awesome to acknowledge that love and to spread it around.

February is also the month we often observe the beginning of Lent (on February 13 this year). Lent was originally a time of preparation for new believers for baptism at Easter. For us, those already baptized into the faith of the church, Lent can be a season of baptismal renewal. Lent can be a time for us to reflect on what it means to be baptized into the life and death of Jesus, God's only Son given for us out of God's everlasting and enduring love. Lent is a time to reflect on what it means to be baptized and to live differently because of the love of God through Christ.

Yes, February is the shortest month of the year but it is packed with many special events for us to think about, to celebrate, and to fill us with appreciation – with love – for the gifts that God has given us so richly to enjoy and to share with others.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. – John 3:16 (NRSV)

PASTOR PAULETTE'S INSTALLATION SERVICE

Pastor Paulette's Installation Service will be held on Sunday, February 17, 2013 at the 10:30 AM worship service. A reception will follow in Kuntz Hall. Help is needed for the reception; please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the narthex.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Stewards of God's Abundance

By Michele Hermansen



Vibrant stewards embrace financial health as an expression of faith. We allow money to flow to and through our lives in ways that nourish us and our world.

We recognize that our capacity to give is defined by our hearts, not our pocketbooks.

Personal finances can be a touchy subject, so I feel it's important to say upfront that there is no judgment intended in this article. We are each in different places financially for different reasons. Many among us are struggling financially, and the causes may be of our own doing or may be due to a misfortune over which we had no control. Others among us have more than sufficient financial resources.

Money and even wealth is not in itself bad, no more than food is bad. The biblical prophets rail against the rich, not specifically because they are rich, but because they are rich and oblivious. The rich man in Jesus' parable in Luke 16:19-31 is doomed to eternal torment because he was luxuriously rich and completely oblivious to the destitute Lazarus lying just outside. One wonders how things would have turned out if just one of those at the rich man's feast had called his attention to the poor man at the gate.

Over the past several years, I have been fortunate to work in a community foundation. Through extensive study of private, community and corporate foundations, I have come to understand and appreciate the great things that have been and are being accomplished when people use their wealth for the good of all.

There are countless real-life examples of allowing money to flow to and through our lives in ways that nourish us and our world. The challenge for us imperfect humans, wherever we are on the spectrum, is to maintain a balanced relationship with money.

God calls us to be disciples as whole persons, all the time, engaged in all aspects of life on earth. And in this day and age, life on earth involves money. Our personal financial health is an important dimension of our overall health in faith. To put our finances in order, we have to order our lives and priorities, as well.

Craig Ford is a former missionary who shares thoughts on debt-free living, frugality, generous

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giving and simple living. He explained, "As I look into financial issues, the more I realize it is about more than math. In fact, I've been surprised how often the emotional and spiritual components of a financial decision outweigh the mathematical."

Personal financial health is best achieved in the same way as personal physical health: develop good daily habits and have an annual check-up. Good habits include basics like preparing a budget so that we live within our means, saving, giving, paying debts on time and continuing to learn about financial issues.

Our annual financial check-up includes making a personal balance sheet. We record all the details of personal assets: bank accounts, investments, retirement accounts, real estate, cars and furnishings. Then we record all the details of personal liabilities: credit card debt, mortgage and student loan debt. Does the ratio of debt-to-assets indicate that we are living within our means? We review property and life insurance coverage to ensure that it is accurate and adequate. Have we developed the discipline of saving for emergencies as well as saving for retirement? At any stage in our lives, we should have a will and/or estate plan that provides for any dependents and distributes our assets in a positive manner.

What if our financial health isn't good? Fortunately, there are many resources to help us get on track. Our personal financial health matters. Being financially healthy frees us to live a productive and joyful life in service to God. We are stewards, on behalf of God, of all that we have and all that we are. Stewardship is not a program. It is a way of life!

COMMUNION FOR 2013



As you take communion for 2013, please complete the Hope Hospitality Pad. This will help us keep our records up to date. Remember, you only have to indicate that you have taken communion once every year. Thank you!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes will be offered at two worship services on Ash Wednesday, February 13, 2013, either 11:00 AM or 7:00 PM.

MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICES - WEDNESDAYS

There will be worship at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM each Wednesday in Lent. Wednesdays in Lent are: February 20th, 27th and March 6th, 13th, 20th. Come join your friends at Hope this Lenten Season – a powerful, life-changing journey that calls to prayerful and honest repentance.

LENT 2013

During the 40 day season of Lent we take the time to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, when we have the mark of ashes placed on our foreheads reminding us of our humanity, we move through the days toward Holy Week, when we recall Jesus' death and resurrection. Lent creates an opportunity for all of us to focus on our lives of faith. This Lent, Hope Lutheran will be offering many opportunities for worship, bible study and prayer. Here's what the schedule looks like....



Our mid-week daytime services, held at 11:00 AM, will focus on the hymn "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" -exploring what it means for us to abide at the foot of the cross, cling to the rock of salvation, dwell in the house of the Lord, and confess our sins and receive forgiveness. Paired with scripture readings and hymns this 30 minute service will help worshipers see Lent from the foot of Jesus' cross.



Each Wednesday morning immediately after the service, Pastor Paulette will host a brown-bag lunch and Bible Study centering on the Psalms. Just bring along your own lunch - we'll provide the drinks - and a willingness to listen to the psalms anew and share in some conversation. This group will meet in Kuntz Hall.

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During the mid-week evening services we will be introducing a new setting of Evening Prayer and jumping into Rob Bell's NOOMA videos. NOOMA is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus - offering us an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. NOOMA films give us a fresh and compelling look at the teachings of Jesus. Over the 6 weeks we will cover a variety of topics:

- ❖ **Ash Wednesday – “Luggage”** - Why is it sometimes so hard to forgive? Maybe a friend turned their back on you. Maybe someone you loved betrayed you. We all have wounds and we end up carrying around these things that people have done to us for weeks, months, and sometimes even years.
- ❖ **February 20th – “Breathe”** - Is our physical breath actually a picture of a deeper spiritual reality? With everything that we've got going on every day, how many of us ever think about our breathing, about the meaning of breathing? Yet, for thousands of years, people have understood that our physical breath is a picture of a deeper spiritual reality.
- ❖ **February 27th – “Whirlwind”** - A lot of us have gone through times in our lives that are difficult. Some have been small and hard to understand and some have been big and overwhelming. During these times we want answers, don't we? We want to know why.
- ❖ **March 6th – “Sunday”** - Do we get so wrapped up in religion that we miss out on what's important to God? Why do we do the things we do? Why do we go to church or give money away? Because we're supposed to or because we think God needs it?
- ❖ **March 13th – “Dust”** - What does God see in us? Believing in God is important, but what about God believing in us? Believing that we can actually be the kind of people we were meant to be.
- ❖ **March 20th - “Open”** - Does prayer really help? Many of us have experienced situations where we've prayed and it felt like God wasn't listening. And yet other times we've prayed or known someone that prayed and the situation changed. Does God answer prayer?

And don't forget Pastor Jami's 30+ week Bible study which begins on February 14th – running through Lent and beyond! This is a comprehensive exploration of the whole Bible - **the people, places and stories**. Over the course of 30 sessions we will work our way through major events in the Old and New Testaments - **discovering where *The Story* meets *our story* and what it all means for our daily living**. Sign up for this in the hallway or call Pastor Jami at the church office 610-767-7203.

Lent only comes once a year – so take the time. Renew your soul. Revive your spirit. Rediscover your relationship with Jesus.

IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY - JUST IN TIME FOR LENT!

Beginning on February 14, 2013 Pastor Jami will lead a new Bible study called “Discovering the Bible.” This is a comprehensive exploration of the whole Bible - the people, places and stories. Over the course of 30 sessions we will work our way through major events in the Old and New Testaments. Participants will discover where *The Story* meets *our story* and what it all means for our daily living. “Discovering the Bible” is a study for those who might be brand-new to Bible study, and those who have had long familiarity with Scripture. It is an exciting course of study for adults ready to reflect deeply on the Scriptures, faith and life.

Classes will be held every Thursday morning from 10:00 – 11:15 AM starting on February 14th in the adult Sunday School room behind Kuntz Hall. Don't worry if you will miss a few classes – there are 30 to attend so we'll be meeting for quite a while! The cost of the workbook for each participant is \$30.00 (scholarships are available – just talk to Pastor Jami). Checks can be made payable to Hope Lutheran Church. If you are interested in registering for this course, please contact Pastor Jami at the church office (610-767-7203) or sign up on the bulletin board so we can pre-order your workbook.

MONTHLY PRAYER LIST

Due to the newsletter page restrictions, we will have copies of the monthly Prayer List available in the narthex at the beginning of each month. Thank you.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Sharing the Road to the Cross with the Psalms

During the Lenten season we will offer a “Brown-Bag” Bible Study series entitled “Sharing the Road to the Cross with Songs from the Psalms,” led by Pastor Paulette. Bring your own “brown-bag” lunch and join us in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday in Lent, from 11:45 AM -12:45 PM (after morning mid-week Lenten worship), for an engaging discussion of some well-known Psalms. Hope Church will supply the drinks.

The psalms served as the songs and hymns of ancient Israel and their poems of deep sadness and anguish. The psalms served as the prayers that Jesus prayed. The psalms and topics we study will be as follows:

- February 20** – Psalm 121 – *A Traveler’s Psalm*
- February 27** – Psalm 95 – *A Psalm fit for a King*
- March 6** – Psalm 23 – *A Beloved Psalm*
- March 13** – Psalm 130 – *A Hopeful Psalm*
- March 20** – Psalm 31 – *A Psalm of Desperation*

We invite you to study with us for one or all of these sessions during Lent, a time of penitential reflection and renewal of our baptismal relationship with God and God’s Son given for us.



CATECHETICAL CLASS NEWS

LEVEL I

Friday, February 1st – Mentor Trivial Pursuit/Ice Cream Social from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Saturday, March 2nd – Mini-Retreat on the Ten Commandments from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM.

LEVEL II

Saturday, February 2nd – Mentor/Student pizza and game night at 5:30 PM.

Saturday, March 2nd – Mini-Retreat on the Ten Commandments from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM.

Mentors and students if you have any conflicts with any of the upcoming mentor events, please call Trish Ninos at 610-360-6034 ASAP.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

New member classes will be held on the following Sundays; January 27th, February 3rd, and 10th from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM in Kuntz Hall. If you or someone you know is interested in joining Hope Church, please call the church office at 610-767-7203.

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.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

If you did not have your picture taken for the church directory; but would like to purchase a directory, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex or call the church office at 610-767-7203. Copies will be \$5.00 each, and only enough copies will be ordered that are needed for those who have signed up. Members who had their pictures taken will receive a free directory.

WELCA NEWS

The WELCA group of Hope is hosting an event on Saturday, March 16, 2013, here at our church. The theme is "Choose God Choose Joy" and all women in the Northeast Pennsylvania region are invited. Registration is \$20 and includes lunch. It begins at 9:00 AM and will last until 2:30 PM. Deadline is March 1st to register and all women of Hope are welcome to attend. There is more info in the WELCA box on the Bulletin Board or call Judy Dieter 610-767-9170 with any questions.

DAFFODIL SUNDAY

Daffodil Sunday will be on Sunday, March 24th. Flowers will be delivered Friday, March 22nd. Prices are the same as prior years. The last Sunday to order is February 17th. We will physically be in the narthex to sell daffodils on Sunday February 3rd.



HOPE DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM UPDATE!

Pastor Paulette and Wayne Weidner have been in touch with several local churches and agencies to "team" with them for responding to recent hurricane disasters – and Ziegels Church in Breinigsville would like us to join them for a week-long event! From **May 19th through 25th** a group will be travelling to **Atlantic City** to work with a group called Fuller Center Jersey Pines. The cost will be \$160.00 per person – and the group will need to cook their own meals. If you are interested in this mission event, please call or e-mail Pastor Paulette as soon as possible so enough spaces can be reserved for us: assistant@hopecherryville.org.

2013 SPRING BASKET SOCIAL NEWS



YOU ARE INVITED to attend the 14th Annual Spring Walk-in Basket Social on **Friday, April 12th**, to be held in Kuntz Hall at Hope Lutheran

Church, located along Route 248 in Cherryville. This Social is dedicated in **Loving Memory of Michelle "Shelly" Stolz**, a member of the Basket Committee

for approximately 15 of the 18 years since the Socials have been in existence. Shelly entered life eternal in December, 2012. **Proceeds** will again be divided equally between The Northampton Area Food Bank and Hope Church Good Samaritan Fund. Everyone is also invited to bring along a canned good or nonperishable item for The Food Bank.

Ticket sponsors are LeAnn Chandler and A Friend of Hope Church. Thank you! 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 each or 3 for \$10. Delicious homemade foods, baked goods & refreshments will be sold. As always, there is also a special drawing (strip tickets = \$1 ea. Or 6 for \$5) of prizes valued at \$50 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 11th from 6:30-8:30 PM).

Guidelines to follow when preparing theme baskets:

- Use only NEW/UNUSED items
- No single wrapped candy, breakfast bars, etc. Do not open bagged or boxed food items; they must remain in their entirety for gift-giving
- Be sure to check the expiration dates on all canned goods or packaged foods

Questions may be directed to the Hope Church Office by calling 610-767-7203. Thank you! The Basket Committee looks forward to seeing you on April 12th!

Sincerely,

Kathy Fogle & Linda Sidor, Co-Chairs for the Spring Basket Social, and The Basket Committee

SPECIAL NOTE TO BASKET COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Our business meeting is scheduled for Monday evening, April 1st at 6:30 PM in Hanson Hall.

THANK YOU NOTES

Hope Lutheran Church received thank you notes from the following individuals/families in the month of January: Hope Lutheran Church staff members, Ann & Bob Taschler, and Julie Wainwright. Thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board.

Thank You from the Staff...

Many thanks to the congregation and Church Council for the Christmas bonuses we received in December. We are all appreciative for the cards and recognition that accompanied them. As we continue to serve the congregation and do the ministry we are called to in the coming year, we are grateful for your support!

Janet Filchner, Deb Gardner, Trudy Mertz, Pastor Jami, Pastor Jerry, Pastor Paulette, Steve Shermetta, Jane Tretiak, David Ziegler, and Bonnie Zmyewski

RECENT BLOOD DONORS



The following members of Hope Lutheran Church have recently donated blood: Daniel Husser and Raymond Swinger. 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	36
Number of Donations as of November 2012	90
Number of Donations for December 2012	2
Number of Donations YTD (2012)	92
Number of Donations to Reach Goal	0

VERA BRADLEY BINGO

The Northampton Area Food Bank is sponsoring a Vera Bradley Bingo on February 3, 2013 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.

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 4 – 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM** - Unpacking of food delivery from Second Harvest (need to be able to lift cases of food)
- Wednesdays, March 6, 13, and 20 – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** - Packing of food orders
- Thursdays, March 7, 14, and 21 – 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM** – Distribution of food orders
- Fridays, March 8 and 15 – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** – Packing of food orders
- Saturdays, March 9 and 16 – 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.

5th ANNUAL YOUTH GROUP VALENTINE DINNER



The 5th Annual Youth Group Valentine Dinner will be held at Hope Lutheran Church on Friday, February, 15th. Admission to this event is through reservation only with seatings every half hour starting

at 4:30 PM until the last seating at 7:00 PM. Reservations must be made by Sunday, February 10th and seating is limited. Tickets are \$10.00 per person with a “Junior Portion” ticket available for \$7.00. Tickets will be sold after each service in the narthex. Reservations can also be made by calling the church at (610) 767-7203 and pressing 9. For more information and menu items, please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board or check your January “Highlights” email for the flyer attachment.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – JANUARY 2013

- ✍ Council Officers for 2013 are:
President – Linda Mery
Vice President – Tim Lockard
Secretary – Al Rock
Treasurer – Trudy Mertz
Financial Secretary – Debra Gardner
- ✍ The end of the year financial report was “healthy” – regular envelope giving was up 5.1% from the previous year and expenses were under what was budgeted by \$43,022. Thank you to all our members who helped to support our ministries in 2012. Please continue to give generously so we can continue to do what matters to God.
- ✍ Pastor Paulette is researching disaster response events and opportunities for those who might be interested and available. More information will be made available as dates and trips are scheduled.
- ✍ Council approved Korpics Construction to repaint the ceiling of the sanctuary (which is covered by our insurance for damage due to the hurricane) and to repaint the walls of the sanctuary and replace the paneling in the front with drywall which will also be painted. The work will not be completed until the new roof is replaced on the building.
- ✍ The youth group is hosting their Valentine Dinner on Friday, Feb. 15th. This event has grown due to the wonderful efforts of the youth and leaders and through word of mouth.
- ✍ Council approved the transfer of Pastor Paulette, John and Peter Obrecht; the reinstatement of Krysta Wagner, Jennifer Heffelfinger and the Weighknecht family (Tim, Wendy and Tanner) and the request to be removed from the rolls by Barbara Tobisch.
- ✍ The proposal from MJ Construction to complete the construction of a new conference room on the main level was approved. This room will utilize about ½ of the current Kindergarten Sunday School room and provide a space for small meetings during the day or evening.
- ✍ Some new computer equipment will be purchased to replace older equipment in the main office and Pastor Jami’s office.

✍ The Pictorial Directory committee is diligently working on the completion of the directory so that it can be submitted, proofed and printed. Look for more information about availability in the bulletins.

SYNOD NEWS

If you would like to read the SYNOD News for the month of February, please visit http://www.godslove.org/publications/synod_news.htm and select *February 2013*.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – FEBRUARY 2013

<p><u>Sunday, February 3, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM New Member Classes 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service of the Word</p>
<p><u>Sunday, February 10, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Service of the Word/ Receive New Members 9:15 AM New Member Reception 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion/ Receive New Members</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, February 13, 2013</u> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 11:00 AM Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service</p>
<p><u>Sunday, February 17, 2013</u> <i>Bishop to Preach/Reception</i> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service of the Word/ Pastor Paulette’s Installation 11:30 AM Pastor Paulette’s Reception</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, February 20, 2013</u> 11:00 AM Mid-Week Lenten Service 7:00 PM Mid-Week Lenten Service</p>
<p><u>Sunday, February 24, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Service of the Word 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, February 27, 2013</u> 11:00 AM Mid-Week Lenten Service 7:00 PM Mid-Week Lenten Service</p>

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - DECEMBER 31, 2012

	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship Loan
Balance Beginning of Year	\$ 51,591.04	\$ 129,840.65	\$ 88,274.75	\$ 84,119.44
Income - December	53,205.82	2,210.42	398.55	-
Income - Jan.-Nov.	313,494.44	48,061.06	12,623.38	15,606.33
Total Income	366,700.26	50,271.48	13,021.93	15,606.33
Expenses - December	33,497.19	9,345.00	541.98	1,100.00
Expenses - Jan.-Nov.	296,103.50	54,210.23	23,443.21	3,000.00
Total Expenses	329,600.69	63,555.23	23,985.19	4,100.00
Net Income	37,099.57	(13,283.75)	(10,963.26)	11,506.33
Net Special Appeals	-			
Balance End of November	\$ 88,690.61	\$ 116,556.90	\$ 77,311.49	\$ 95,625.77

SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of December by \$19,708.63, and for the year 2012, income exceeded expenses by \$37,099.57, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$88,690.61. Last year the net income for the same period was \$44,680.35 with a balance of \$51,591.04.

Budget Comparison--Total Regular Fund Budget for 2012 is \$373,622.00. Our receipts in the Regular Fund for the twelve months were \$366,700.26. So, we were behind in income by \$6,921.74.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

All committees, groups and persons submitting information for the church newsletter should follow the schedule listed below. These dates are subject to change. Your articles may be edited so we do not exceed the newsletter page limitations. Please email your articles to Steve Shermetta (communications@hopecherryville.org) by **12:00 PM** on the deadline date. Thank you.

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Article Deadline</u>	<u>Collation Date</u>
March	Monday, February 18	Thursday, February 21
April	Monday, March 25	Thursday, March 28
May	Monday, April 22	Thursday, April 25

A LOOK AHEAD



Valentine Dinner

Friday, February 15, 2013
4:30 PM – 7:00 PM (Reservation Only)
Hope Lutheran Church

Bishop to Preach/Reception

Sunday, February 17, 2013
Both Services (Hope Lutheran Church)
****Pastor Paulette's Instillation at the 10:30 Service***

THANK YOU NOTES

Council and Congregation,

Thank you so much for the Christmas bonus. It is unnecessary and unexpected but very much appreciated. I used it to add to my yearly contribution to the ELCA Malaria campaign in the hope that we can continue to keep children and adults alive and healthy!

Pastor Jami

Dear Hope Congregation,

Thank you for all your thoughtfulness and gifts as you welcomed me during the Advent and Christmas seasons – for my personalized hymnal, for the generous Christmas gift, for the cards and other goodies. I appreciate all you do in the name of Christ.

Pastor Paulette

To Members of Hope Lutheran,

Please accept my sincere thanks for your most generous gift for Christmas. It is a joy to be a member of Hope and ever more so to be able to serve with Pastor Jami in service as Visitation Pastor. May our Lord guide all of us in proclaiming His love to all.

Pastor Jerry

Dear Congregation and Council,

Thank you very much for the \$50 bonus check for 2012. After the hectic pace of the holidays are over, it will be nice to use this to get away for a day or two to someplace quiet for reflection and meditation with Kathy. Your thoughtfulness is always appreciated.

Dave Ziegler

Church Council at Hope,

I appreciate the Christmas bonus and card I received this past December. It has been a pleasure to serve this wonderful church and all of its members.

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 a part of the church family at Hope and I appreciate your

thoughtfulness. I will have lots of fun shopping! Have a Happy and Healthy 2013!

Jane Tretiak

Dear Members of Hope and Congregational Council,
Thank you for the monetary gift you gave me for Christmas. Your gift is generous and your blessings are many. I am grateful for your support of the bell program and I appreciate all your kind and supportive words (“the bell choir sounded good today!”) and actions (“can I help you move those tables??”) I wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

Janet Filchner

Thank you so very much for the beautiful prayer scarf I received during finals week. I appreciate all the prayers and support.

Julie Wainwright

Thank you to Pastor Jami and many of the members of Hope Church for their get well cards while both of us were hospitalized and for the Christmas greetings, and sympathy cards after the death of my brother, Dick Heiney. Hope’s carolers were a pleasant surprise and we enjoyed having them sing for us. Thank you so much!

Anna and Bob Taschler

BUY A CHICK FOR EASTER, AND HELP END HUNGER!



For just \$1.00 (a “Buck a Chick”) – you can “buy” a paper Easter chick – and give it a special name. The real chicks will be purchased through the ELCA Good Gifts – and be given to families around the world who are living in poverty as a way to provide them a source of food and income.

Just fill in a “Chick” with the name you choose – put a dollar in the collection jar – and hang your “Chick” on the wall in the narthex. Let’s see if we can fill the wall with at least 400 chicks before Easter Sunday! Supporting our neighbor in need is a great thing to do in Lent!

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 at 610-767-7203 with any questions.

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR MINISTRY AND MISSION

The beginning of the year is always a good time to review the beneficiary statements of your financial accounts and your will. Were there changes to your situation in 2012: 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? 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, 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.

LEHIGH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On Monday, January 28, at 7:00 PM in Kuntz Hall, members of the Lehigh Township Volunteer Fire Company will present a special program explaining their role in the community and talk about their work. You are invited to attend this special program and show your support.

On Monday, February 25, at 7:00 PM in Kuntz Hall, township resident Dave Schneck will present a program to explain what life was like as a professional baseball player 40 years ago. Test your baseball terminology. Team managers are invited to bring their team to hear what Dave has to say. Call 610-767-5989 to reserve for groups.

These two programs are sponsored by the LT Historical Society. Please come out for these two informative programs and bring your friends! LT Historical Society has launched a new web site this month. To learn about the society and its work, upcoming events, township historical information, etc. visit us at...

www.lehigtownshiphistoricalsociety.org