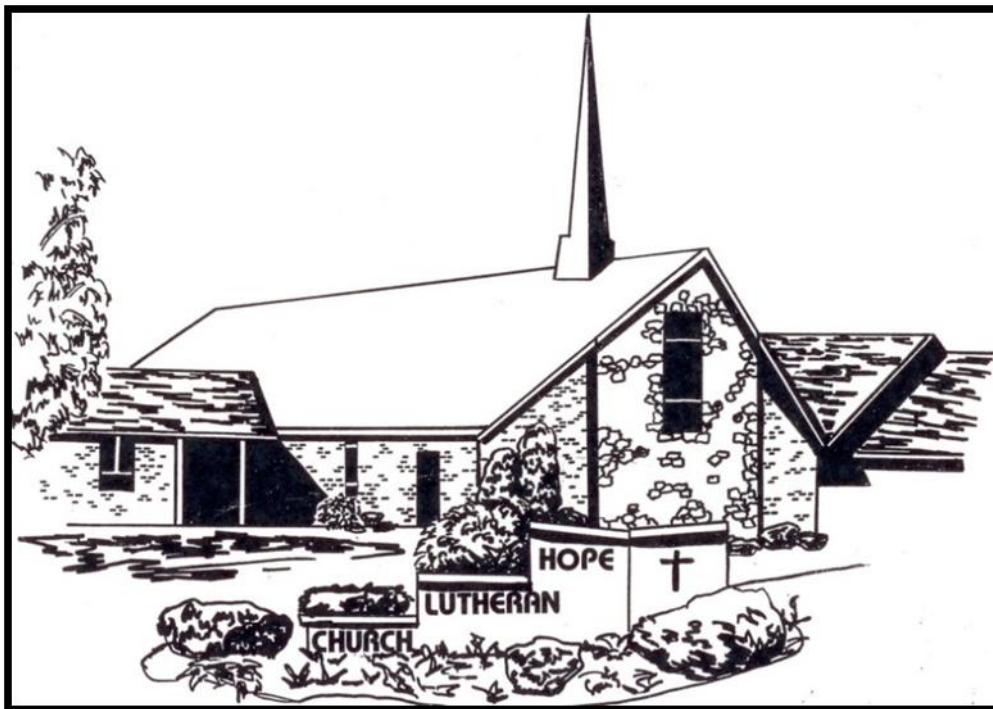


HOPE HOME NEWS

Vol. XXXX No. 3 March, 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 Demczynszyn	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	Steph Ziegler 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.....



March Madness! It's an appropriate term for the challenging, exciting and competitive college basketball frenzy that happens every year at this time. I played basketball in high school and college and have

to admit that it's my favorite sport to watch. And though I don't follow all the college teams as they wind their way to Madison Square Garden – I follow them once they get there.

In the church though, March Madness has a totally different meaning – because March always includes the Lenten season for some period of time. I know a lot of pastors who just dread the Lenten season.

After all, for most of us it involves more worship services, more sermons, more planning meetings – on top of what we normally do the rest of the year. But for me – I love the March Madness in the church even more than I love to watch the basketball games. Here's why I love it so much.....because Lent is a journey.....

- ❖ A journey - that we often don't take for ourselves – of focusing on our relationship with God
- ❖ A journey to come into the presence of the Lord and worship God more often in a structured way
- ❖ A journey toward spiritual health and healing as we put God first in our lives
- ❖ A journey we make in a community of believers who help strengthen our faith as we walk together
- ❖ A journey toward the cross where Jesus will give his life for you and for me
- ❖ A journey into the kingdom of God

March Madness is an appropriate name for this journey too. After all.....

- It is madness that God would stoop down and enter our world as God's beloved son, Jesus
- It is madness that Jesus seemed to challenge the authorities to the point where they want to kill him
- It is madness for 12 men to follow this radical, itinerant preacher through the country for three years – only to watch him seal his own fate

- It is madness that in just one week Jesus was heralded a king and then crucified a criminal
- It is madness that Jesus would be willing to hang on a cross to save someone like me
- It is madness that God would allow it!
- It is madness that people couldn't see the divine love that Jesus came to offer
- It is madness that people still don't!!!!

I invite you into some March Madness with me. Come and worship with us on Wednesdays at either 11:00 AM or 7:00 PM. Join us for the kingly parade on Palm Sunday. Then walk with us through Holy Week as we experience Jesus last meal with his disciples on Thursday, his agonizing death on the cross on Friday and his triumphant resurrection on Easter Sunday. March Madness – don't miss it!

Blessings,

Pastor Jami

ASSISTANT PASTOR'S WORD.....

From Pastor Paulette Obrecht



When my children were each preschoolers, as we walked up and down a set of steps, we would count out loud. I don't know why I started it. Perhaps, it was the "teacher" in me,

using repetition to teach counting. Or, maybe it was because I was bored with having to walk so slowly with a little one at the end of my arm. But, it offered a kind of structure and security to a tough task for a toddler as a way to focus and walk carefully down – or up – a set of gigantic steps.

As I prepared materials for our Lenten Bible studies on the psalms, I learned that there were 15 psalms called "Ascent Psalms." They were associated with the 15 steps of the Temple in Jerusalem leading from the Court of Women to the higher level of the Court of Israel. It was believed that one ascent psalm was recited on each step as the pilgrims who had traveled to worship in Jerusalem climbed to the top of the steps. I think they had the rule, stay right if you are reciting psalms, so the faster travelers could

Continued on Page 4...

pass on the left, just like in the airport moving walkways (sorry, I couldn't resist saying that). If you look at each of the 15 Ascent Psalms, which are very short psalms, you'll notice that they almost narrate the history of Israel's relationship with God. Psalm 120 is a prayer for deliverance from enemies, followed by 121 which is a psalm of trust. Psalm 122 is a song of praise for Jerusalem, followed by another prayer for deliverance from enemies, then a thanksgiving for national deliverance and another psalm of trust. The last ascent psalm, Psalm 134, is only three verses and is called a doxology.

As we travel the road to the cross during our Lenten journey, I wonder what songs or prayers we might raise up at each step along the way.

Lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the Lord. – Psalm 134:2

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

One has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when one plants trees under which one knows full well he or she will never sit.

D. Elton Trueblood



This is a beautiful statement on giving. So much of the giving that we witness in life comes with the expectation of some sort of gratification in return, either in the form of thanks or recognition,

that sometimes we lose sight of what true giving is meant to be. But there is in our hearts a concept of true giving, and that's giving with absolutely no conditions or expectations attached. If I plant a shade tree today that won't mature for forty or fifty years, I can almost guarantee you that I won't be around when others are enjoying its shade--and that should matter to me not one bit.

But it doesn't stop there. Trueblood here tells us that this giving is "a start on discovering the meaning of human life." Can he really be saying that giving is behind the meaning of life? Perhaps it could be true, for unconditional giving can be the result only of unconditional love and respect for our fellow human beings, and in giving without conditions we are

contributing to the good of the collective whole of humanity. And perhaps that's what life and love are all about.

There are many things that we can give today for which we'll never see any results. A compliment here, a bit of encouragement there, a smile over there, and I'll be planting seeds of positiveness, seeds that I won't see grow into whole trees or even tiny flowers, but which most certainly will be positive parts of this world in which we all live.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – March 24, 2013

8:00 and 10:30 AM

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

Maundy Thursday – March 28, 2013

11:00 AM and 7:00 PM

✘ Soup Luncheon follows the 11:00 AM service

✘ Holy Communion

✘ Symbolic Washing of Disciples Feet (7:00 PM)

Good Friday – March 29, 2013

✘ 7:00 PM Tenebrae Worship at Hope Church

Easter Sunday- The Resurrection of our Lord

March 31, 2013 – 6:00, 8:00 & 10:30 AM

✘ Holy Communion at every service

✘ Breakfast in Kuntz Hall (7:00 –10:00 AM)

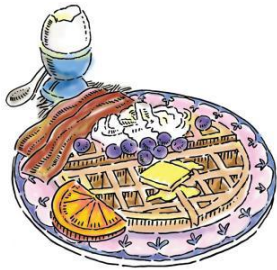
SYMBOLIC FOOT WASHING

Twelve persons are needed to volunteer for foot washing on Maundy Thursday, March 28th 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



Join us in Kuntz Hall on Easter morning Sunday, March 31st from 7:00-10:00 AM. 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, March 30th 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.

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 your special name. The real chicks will be purchased through 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 how many chicks will fill our walls before we reach Easter Sunday. This is a great way to reach out to our neighbors in need during Lent.



BROWN-BAG BIBLE STUDY TO CONTINUE

Our study of the Psalms will continue each Wednesday at 11:45 AM, right after the Mid-week Morning Lenten Service. Bring your lunch (drinks are provided) and join us in the Fellowship Hall as we listen to & discuss a few more of the songs and hymns of ancient Israel:

March 6 – Psalm 23 – A Beloved Psalm

March 13 – Psalm 130 – A Hopeful Psalm

March 20 – Psalm 31 – A Psalm of Desperation

DAFFODIL SUNDAY

Daffodil Sunday will be held on Sunday, March 24, 2013. *Thank you for supporting the American Cancer Society’s programs of education, patient services and cancer research! March is National Colorectal Cancer awareness month.*

HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR HOPE CHURCH



“We Google for our church.” You

can help raise funds for Hope Lutheran Church by simply using www.goodsearch.com as your homepage. Just follow the instructions on the web-site and insert Hope Lutheran Church (Cherryville, PA) as the organization to receive your donations. Every time you do an internet search, the church gets a one-cent donation. And – if you use their “Goodshop” link for on-line shopping, Hope Church will receive 2-5% of your purchase. Check it out! And, thanks for your efforts to help our church.

MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

On Saturday, May 11, 2013 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 19th 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 at 610-760-9891. The blood donated that day will be credited to Hope Lutheran Church blood bank, which covers all members.

VACTION BIBLE SCHOOL 2013



For a Rip Roaring, Rootin’ Tootin’ Time... Join us for our 2013 Roundup at VBS July 8th through July 12th 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon.

VBS is offered for children ages 3 (potty trained) to children completing 6th grade in June. Registrations will open soon at vbs@hopecherryville.org

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 2nd - Mini-Retreat on the Ten Commandments from 8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon.
 Friday, April 5th – Mentor/Student movie night from 6:30-8:30 PM.

LEVEL II

Saturday, March 2nd - Mini-Retreat on the Ten Commandments from 8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon.
 ✓Weekend Retreat is April 12-14 as announced last September. This is a mandatory retreat in preparation for confirmation on May 19th.

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

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!

THANK YOU NOTES

Hope Lutheran Church received thank you notes from the following individuals/families in the month of February: The family of Donald Benninger Sr. Sarah Galloway, Andrew Green, and Trudy Mertz Thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board.

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. The prayer list will also be listed on a weekly basis in the Sunday worship bulletin. Thank you.

RECENT BLOOD DONORS



The following members of Hope Lutheran Church have recently donated blood: Jeffrey Barber, Rudy Christman, Paul Mishko, 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 January 2013	0
Number of Donations for January 2013	4
Number of Donations YTD (2013)	4
Number of Donations to Reach Goal	32

WELCA NEWS

The WELCA group of Hope Lutheran Church 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. For more information, please take a sheet from the WELCA box on the bulletin board or call Judy Dieter 610-767-9170 with any questions.

WOMEN OF HOPE

The women of Hope Lutheran Church are invited to participate in a weekend retreat with the women of Emmanuel’s Lutheran Church, Bath, on Friday May 17th and Saturday, May 18th. The retreat will be held at Kirby Episcopal House in Mountain Top, PA – the former summer home of the Kirby family (who used to own McCrory's 5 & 10 stores). The group would leave Hope Church about 6:00 pm on Friday and return about 4 pm on Saturday. Your two days would be filled with Bible Study centered around a fun discussion topic, plus you get to have fellowship with a great bunch of friends from Emmanuel’s. The cost for the 1-1/2 day retreat is \$40. See Pastor Paulette if interested.

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.

Tickets have been purchased and dedicated **To The Glory of God** by LeAnn Chandler and A Friend of Hope Church. Thank you! The Committee has applied with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for monies for the Food Bank through their “Care Abounds in Communities” program.

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

Please note that all Co-Chairs met in Kuntz Hall on Monday, February 11th, to discuss concerns that have been raised in regard to seating capacity and to improving kitchen procedures. We are excited to report that there will be some major changes to both formats at the Spring Social and we’ll be anxious to see and hear your responses. We truly believe you will like the new ideas!

The Basket Committee extends sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Pearl Beers. Pearl was a huge help to us in the kitchen or wherever needed. We will miss her warm smile and friendliness.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

INDIANLAND GARDEN CLUB

Meetings for the new year will begin on Tuesday, March 12, at 7:00 PM at Hope Lutheran Church in the Kuntz Fellowship Hall. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. Members are thinking of spring and looking forward to flowering bulbs and the growing season. New members and visitors (men and ladies) are welcome. For more information, call 610-767-8420.

SYNOD NEWS

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



LEHIGH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The program with the LT Fire Company was rescheduled for Monday, March 25th at 7:00 PM at Hope Lutheran Church. The January program was cancelled due to icy conditions. There will also be items for sale by the historical society and we invite you to look over the sale table.

We would like to remind everyone that LTHS once again has a website that can be viewed at www.lehightownshiphistoricalociety.org. Visit the site and learn more about the society's work and upcoming events. There is also some interesting information about the five villages that compose Lehigh Township and the two buildings maintained by the society.

Taking a look ahead, be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, April 7th for the annual Basket Social at LT Volunteer Fire Company in Cherryville. It will be held from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM with drawings at 4:00 PM. Food will be available throughout the day. For more information please contact Ken at 610-767-5989.

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.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – FEBRUARY 2013

- ⚓ Council awarded the contract for the removal and replacement of the roof to Holencik Roofing. Holencik has tentatively set early April as the time for this project.
- ⚓ The Youth Group sold 248 tickets for their Valentine Dinner to be held on February 15th.
- ⚓ Two new “rewards” programs were approved.
 - Pathmark Community Rewards Program which donates 1% of purchases by members who use their registered PERKS card. The 1% is paid annually to the charitable organization.
 - Good Search – an internet search engine that donates 1 cent to a charitable organization every time that search engine is used.
 - More information about these programs will be in the newsletter and future bulletins
- ⚓ Easter breakfast will be offered again this year on Easter Sunday morning from 7AM to 10AM.
- ⚓ Pastor Paulette is organizing the “Buck-A-Chick” program to raise money for ELCA good gifts program. Money is used to purchase chicks for families in third world countries so they can raise them to provide eggs for the family and to sell.
- ⚓ The pictorial directory will be submitted within a few weeks. After proofs are returned and reviewed the directory will be printed.
- ⚓ The constitution task group will be meeting to begin updating the constitution.
- ⚓ New members were approved:
 - Norman and Gloria Kern
 - Robert, Stacey, Blake and Cannon Morrow
 - Stephanie Patterson
 - Matthew, Julie, Nora, Anna and Liam Sekol
 - Gina, Daedra and Abigail VanLuvanee



WATCH OUT FOR CHICKS!

This past week Hope Church launched its “Buck-A-Chick” campaign as a way to participate in the Lenten discipline of helping those in need. Any monies raised will be given to ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts program. Remember to hang up your “chick” and display it throughout the Narthex area. But – wouldn’t it be even more exciting to see what our dollars will be buying. So – watch out for the chicks!

Over the years, eggs and chicks have become associated with Easter and the new life given to us when Christ came back to life after death. The chick hatching out of the egg certainly symbolizes new life. And, taking care of an egg that will turn into a baby bird reminds us of the way God watches over and cares for all of us.

In the last weeks of Lent, the Worship Arts Team will sponsor an incubator full of eggs – so we might witness the miracle of new life – as we await our gift of new life celebrated at Easter. By the time Easter arrives, we should be able to see some real chicks – the kind to be purchased through ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts.

Eggs...chicks...new life... helping others. Yes, Hope Church is truly a confident imaginative and celebratory congregation.

HOPE LUTHERAN NURSERY SCHOOL

The Hope Lutheran Church Nursery School is still accepting applications for next year (2013-2014). The school’s structured learning environment helps to prepare the children for their formal school experiences. Activities include: music, crafts, gym, painting, language arts, field trips and much more. Please call Debbie Gable at (610) 767-7523 for more information or to register your child for Nursery School. Your child must be either 3 or 4 years of age by September 1st in order to register.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE – MARCH 2013

<p><u>Sunday, March 3, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service of the Word</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, March 6, 2013</u> 11:00 AM Lenten Worship 7:00 PM Lenten Worship</p>
<p><u>Sunday, March 10, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Service of the Word 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion/First Communion</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, March 13, 2013</u> 11:00 AM Lenten Worship 7:00 PM Lenten Worship</p>
<p><u>Sunday, March 17, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service of the Word * <i>*Girl Scout Sunday</i></p>
<p><u>Wednesday, March 20, 2013</u> 11:00 AM Lenten Worship 7:00 PM Lenten Worship</p>
<p><u>Sunday, March 24, 2013</u> <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:00 AM Service of the Word 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion</p>
<p><u>Thursday, March 28, 2013</u> <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 11:00 AM Maundy Thursday Service & Lunch 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service</p>
<p><u>Friday, March 29, 2013</u> <i>Good Friday</i> 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Community Service 7:00 PM Good Friday Service 11:00 PM Prayer Vigil Begins</p>
<p><u>Saturday, March 30, 2013</u> Prayer Vigil Continues (All Day)</p>
<p><u>Sunday, March 31, 2013</u> <i>Easter Sunday</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> 5:00 AM Prayer Vigil Ends 6:00 AM Holy Communion Easter Service 8:00 AM Holy Communion Easter Service 10:30 AM Holy Communion Easter Service</p>

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - JANUARY 31, 2013

	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship Loan	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$ 88,690.61	\$ 116,556.90	\$ 77,311.49	\$ 95,625.77	\$ 29,099.49
Income - January	25,651.39	73,049.49	1,158.77	2,415.45	22.14
Expenses - January	32,291.38	12,097.42	300.00	1,300.00	-
Net Income	(6,639.99)	60,952.07	858.77	1,115.45	22.14
Net Special Appeals	-				
Balance End of January	\$ 82,050.62	\$ 177,508.97	\$ 78,170.26	\$ 96,741.22	\$ 29,121.63

SUMMARY:

Expenses exceeded income in the Regular Fund for the month of January by \$6,639.99, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$82,050.62.

Last year the net income for the same period was \$2,106.47 with a balance of \$53,697.51.

Budget Comparison--Total Regular Fund Budget for 2013 is \$413,068.00. 4/52 of that figure is \$31,774.46. Our receipts in the Regular Fund for one month were \$25,651.39. So, we are behind budget by \$6,123.07.

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.

Edition

Article Deadline

Collation Date

April

Monday, March 25

Thursday, March 28

May

Monday, April 22

Thursday, April 25

June

Monday, May 20

Thursday, May 23



THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Hope Kitchen Staff,

Thank you for all your help with the food after the service for our father-grandfather Donald Benninger Sr.

The Family of Donald Benninger Sr.

To the Congregation of Hope Lutheran Church,

I would like to sincerely thank you for your continued efforts to support the continuation of my education. I received the second portion of the scholarship award funds and cannot tell you how grateful I am for your monetary support. I hope that I may one day repay the generosity and kindness the community has shown me through dedication for my future profession.

Sarah Galloway

Hope Family,

Thank you again for the support through the scholarship fund. I appreciate the year of help you have provided and look forward to starting a career after graduation this spring. With any luck, I will soon be able to help others as you have helped me.

Andrew Green

Dear Members of Church Council and Congregation,

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