

HOPE HOME NEWS

Vol. XXXX No. 4 April, 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>ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER</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 Demczyszyn	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.....



As I am writing this article it is March 25th and it is snowing. Spring has arrived but the forecast says to expect 4 -6 inches today. And I have to tell you.....I am sick of winter weather. I also have to admit that the snow looks beautiful - white and fresh and cold – coating the ground like a fluffy blanket. As it falls so gently to the earth I am reminded that I am not in control of the weather, or the seasons, or any of creation for that matter. All of that is God’s doing.

By the time you read this Easter will be upon us and we will be reflecting on another thing that God is doing through the death and resurrection of Jesus – God is saving the world. I know we like to think that we are in control of our lives and of the world. But the Easter story reminds us that it was God’s action that sent God’s Son to a world so in need of a savior. It was God’s action that empowered Jesus to heal and perform miracles and reframe what God expects in the kingdom Jesus came to create. It was God’s action that gave Jesus the strength and determination to walk the road to the cross and to death. And it was God’s action that raised Jesus up on that first Easter Sunday.

We cannot save ourselves. We cannot do ministry on our own. We cannot know and share the gospel with wisdom and discernment by our own efforts. We need God’s action in our lives for that to happen. So the question for all of us is: Do we open ourselves to God’s action in our lives – in our relationships – in our ministry?

The Easter event was not a one-time event. Every day God is doing a new thing. Every day God is calling us to do that new thing together. Every day God is empowering us to act in God’s name. Because without US God cannot accomplish all things. We are partners with God in a resurrection experience that spans the ages and God is doing great things through us. If we are open. If we are

willing. If we remember that WE ARE NOT GOD. If we allow God to be the Lord of our lives.

Look around you and take notice what God is doing. Then ask yourself: How can I be part of this new thing? And then, with God’s help, act!!! Because God is creating and saving and healing and growing and teaching and serving through me and through YOU!

Blessings,
Pastor Jami

ASSISTANT PASTOR’S WORD.....

From Pastor Paulette Obrecht



It always intrigues me when I hear the Easter story read out loud on Easter morning – no matter from which Gospel it is read – that either people often didn’t recognize the risen Jesus, or that there are remarks that he appeared “in a different form” (see Mark 16, the second ending, for example). And, that’s why I enjoy hearing the gospel stories from John that are read in the weeks after Easter. They expand on the theme of ways to recognize the risen Jesus – so we might be counted among believers. These stories help us reflect on the many ways the risen Jesus appears in our lives today.

We encounter Jesus wherever two or three are gathered in his name. We might meet him as we work, serving God in our daily vocations, whether we are fishermen or teachers or carpenters or computer operators or whatever our call to serve might be. We meet him at the table of the Lord’s Supper, as we gather with our sisters and brothers in our church family – those who are believers, too.

But, we also need to realize that we can view the risen Jesus in the face of the other – the one who might be very different from us, the one who seeks a kind word or a helping hand, the one who needs *our* mercy and love. And, the risen Jesus is there to walk with us when we have not done all that is asked of

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us, when we have questions and doubts. He is there to be present with us, and to tell us, "Peace be with you." That's what Easter is all about. That's the real joy of Easter! Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord – John 21:12b

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

What does stewardship mean to you?

By Grace Duddy and Chick Lane



Grace: Before I began working at the Center for Stewardship Leaders two and a half years ago, I really had no idea what the word "stewardship" meant, even though I have been in the church

all of my life. Since I started working at the Center, I have found that this word has a deep theological meaning. I love the quote, "Stewardship is everything you do after you say 'I believe.'"

Stewardship is an act of gracious discipleship founded upon the premise that all that we have and all that we are belongs to God. We are to be good managers of all that God has entrusted to our care. When stewardship is looked at holistically, taking into account all of what God has entrusted to our care, young adults feel much more enlivened to participate. This sort of stewardship invites young adults to look at all that they have—time, talents and treasure—be grateful to God and learn how they might share these gifts with their neighbor.

Chick: I'm amazed at the number of people for whom stewardship is a code word that means, "What the church does to try to get some of my money from my pocket into the offering plate." That is amazing, because it is exactly the opposite of how the Bible defines stewardship. Stewardship begins with an understanding that everything belongs to God, and



God has entrusted some of what is God's into my care. That caring is stewardship.

One encouraging sign in the changing church is that people are starting to get this new/old way of thinking about stewardship. It isn't about the church getting enough money to pay the bills. It is about how I, as a follower of Jesus, integrate all of life with my faith.

PASTORAL ACTS

HOLY BAPTISMS

The following children were baptized on Sunday, March 3, 2013 during the 10:30 AM worship service.

Carter Andrew Higgins, son of Mark Higgins and Heather Muhr. He was born on May 6, 2012.

Amelia Marie Holencik, daughter of Adam and Rachel (Tretiak) Holencik. She was born on December 28, 2012.

Please welcome Carter and Amelia into our church family at Hope and pray for their growth in faith.

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 April 12th – 14th. This is a mandatory retreat in preparation for confirmation on May 19th.

✓Campton Funeral Home Visit, Sunday, April 21st from 11:30 AM-2:30 PM.

LEVEL I

✓Mentor Movie Night, Friday, April 5th from 6:30 PM-8:30 PM.

✓Campton Funeral Home Visit, Sunday, April 21st from 11:30 AM-2:30 PM.

HOPE FEST 2013

Mark your calendars for Hope Fest 2013, to be held RAIN OR SHINE on Friday, June 21st and Saturday, June 22nd. Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



The following 5th grade students have completed their instruction for First Holy Communion and received it on Sunday,

March 10th. Paige Bauer, Preston Bauer, Laura Bealer, Jordan Demko, Sierra Franco, Gavin Garcia, AnnaMarie Gaugler, Jack Heffelfinger, Miranda Heffelfinger, Sean Koropchak, Gavin Lalik, Lauren Lalik, Alison Lorah, Alexis McDonald, Brady Rimple, Brooke Rockovits, Autumn Row, Catherine Shelly, Alexis Soltis, Robert Smith, Alyssa Tonetti and Danielle Weaver. A special thank you to their teachers, Robin and Andrew Zamadics and Katie Biechy. The students also received a study Bible as a gift from the church. Thank you to Sis Livermon for doing the beautiful bookplates with calligraphy for the students.

HOPE LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Hope Church offers scholarship money to full-time college students. Funds are available for the 2013-2014 school year and all full-time college students who are members in good standing of Hope, Cherryville, and are in their second year (or higher) of study are encouraged to apply. The requirements of eligibility are:



1. **Attending an accredited college or university full time**
2. **Will be entering second year (or higher) of college in fall of 2013**
3. **Is a member in good standing of Hope Lutheran Church, Cherryville, PA**

Applications can be picked up from the church office or can be obtained by phoning 610-767-7203 or by writing to PO Box 1030, Cherryville, PA 18035. The deadline for applications to reach the church office is **Friday, July 26, 2013.** (Recipients of scholarship awards will be invited to be at either worship service on August 4th to receive the first of two checks, the second of which will be **sent** the first week in January 2014.)

HAVE "HOPE HOME NEWS" SENT TO YOUR EMAIL



Starting last summer, members of the congregation were given the option to receive Hope's monthly newsletter via email rather than a printed hard copy. I am happy to report that, to date, **over 90 families** have removed their address from the hard-copy mailing list in favor of email. Their decision has had a positive impact on both the church and the environment. In addition to reducing the amount of office paper that is used each month, Hope has been able to save money on postage and the cost of materials.

If you have not yet considered receiving the newsletter via email, we encourage you to do so. Page restrictions were recently imposed on non-profit mailings by the U.S. Postal Service, limiting the number of pages we can publish each month. The email version of the newsletter will give you access to additional content in the event we exceed our limit on the printed version.

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email and discontinue receiving it as a printed hard-copy, please let me know by sending me an email at... communicaitons@hopecherryville.org. Thank you!

God Bless,
Steve Shermetta

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

CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Any confirmed youth or adult (men and women) interested in playing in the church softball league should call Wayne Weidner at 610-767-1512 for more information. Games start in April and will be held on Sunday evenings.



KNOEBELS TRIP

It's time to look ahead to summer! Saturday August 3, 2013 we have a pavilion reserved for you at Knoebels Amusement Park and Picnic Grove in Elysburg, PA. We have the pavilion from 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM. Lunch will be served at 2:00 PM; we'll have burgers, hot dogs, salads, dessert, and drinks. The cost is \$12.00 per person, children 4 and under are free. Included in the \$12.00 cost is drinks and snacks that will be available all day long or as long as they last.

Knoebels has free parking, free admission and free entertainment all day long. The park is handicapped accessible. They also have stroller, wheelchair, scooter, and wagon rentals. There are numerous exhibits, a coal mine museum and much more. Knoebels has something for every one of all ages. There are over 50 rides, from kiddie rides up to 2 world-class wooden roller coasters! The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Money can be paid as soon as possible. Make checks payable to Hope Lutheran Church and please specify Evangelism outing on the memo line. Call John Zmyewski at 610-767-7260, or the church office at 610-767-7203 with questions.

Your Evangelism Committee

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.



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

SIGN UP TO BIKE FOR WORLD HUNGER

It's baaack! Remember how Hope Church used to raise a whole lot of funds for ELCA World Hunger by participating in the "Bike for World Hunger" event at Nazareth Speedway? In fact, wasn't Hope Church known for being one of the largest fundraising groups? Well, now is your chance to do it again!! **Bike for World Hunger** is coming on Saturday, May 18th, from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, at Bob Rodale Fitness & Cycling Park in Trexlertown. Check out the informational flier on the bulletin board in the Narthex, and get more information **and** your registration/t-shirt forms from Pastor Paulette. Deadline for registering – and getting your t-shirt – is Monday, April 15th. (Although you can get sponsors until the date of the event.)



HELP THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE SANDY

The Hope Disaster Response Team will be taking a special offering on Sunday, April 14th at both worship services to help with relief and recovery efforts for New Jersey victims of Hurricane Sandy. Some of the funds raised will be used to help sponsor several members of the Hope team as they travel to a site outside of Atlantic City during the week of May 19-25. Lee and Georgene Blose, Pete and Doris Zellers, and Wayne Weidner will join a group from Ziegels Union Church in Breinigsville as they work on rebuilding and repairing neighborhoods devastated by the hurricane. Any remaining funds will be used to purchase supplies, plan for future recovery trips, or contribute to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response as we help our neighbors in New Jersey. If you have not had an opportunity to contribute to recovery efforts, here is your chance to make a difference.

LUTHERAN DAY AT THE CAPITOL – WANT TO GO?

This annual event will be held on Tuesday, May 7th, from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Camp Hill (just outside Harrisburg). Here's your chance to learn how to speak up and advocate for social justice issues. Join with Lutherans from across the state as they attend workshops, hear well-informed speakers, visit with legislators, and spend time in worship to seek God's guidance as they seek to give "a voice to the voiceless."

Pastor Paulette will be leaving the church parking lot at 6:30 AM – if anyone is interested in car-pooling to this event. Look for the flier on the bulletin board in the entryway – or talk to Pastor Paulette – for more information. Come and get involved in making a difference with your voice and your vote.

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 4:00 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.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP TO HELP ANIMAL SHELTERS

Did you notice the two small boxes in the entryway by the "community bulletin board"? Daisy Girl Scout Troop 8787 (kindergarten-aged girls) is collecting items to share with local animal shelters. Those items include: dog and cat food, cat litter, blankets, collars, leashes, and toys. You can help support this Scout project by bringing in any of the listed items. Help support our Girl Scouts – and animals in shelters.

"FORE THE STUDENTS" GOLF TOURNAMENT



The 8th Annual St. John Neumann Regional School "Fore the Students" Golf Tournament will be held, rain or shine, on Friday, May 17th, at the Blue Ridge Country Club in Palmerton. This year's event will be held in loving memory of Michael E. Kulp. Funds raised will benefit students at St. John Neumann and the Michael E. Kulp Scholarship Fund. The four man scramble tournament will hold registration at 7:30 AM and start at 9:00 AM.

NORTHAMPTON AREA FOOD BANK

On behalf of the Northampton Area Food Bank, I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to all of the members of Hope Church who volunteered their time during the month of March to work at the food bank. Once again the members of Hope have stepped forward and represented our church well. I know the board of the food bank always looks forward to March as Hope is one of the few churches that is able to provide enough volunteers to staff the packing and distribution days. A special thanks goes to Chip Hunsicker who has joined our group of "regulars" at the food bank since his retirement and to "the ladies" (you know who you are) of Hope who I can call at a moment's notice to assist when we are short volunteers during other months. There is always a need for additional volunteers so don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to become more involved in the food bank.

Leslie Daniel (610-216-1340)

GRACEDALE TALENT NIGHT

On Monday, May 6th, Social Ministry will travel to Gracedale to entertain the residents for "talent night". Everyone is welcome to come along! 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 speak to Marge Zimmermann. Cookies may be dropped off on the narthex table before 6:00 PM that evening. *Catechetical students – this is a great outreach opportunity.*

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

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.

RECENT BLOOD DONORS



The following members of Hope Lutheran Church have recently donated blood: Sharon Schell 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 February 2013	4
Number of Donations for February 2013	3
Number of Donations YTD (2013)	7
Number of Donations to Reach Goal	29

LEAVE A LEGACY

Have you given much thought about the Legacy you would like to leave after you join the Church Triumphant? Even with uncertainty about the future, you can and should make plans about your estate especially if you want charitable gifts to be part of your estate plan.

There are many ways to make a gift that does not jeopardize your financial wellbeing. For instance, the most used gifting method is a will. Eighty percent of the gifts received by congregations come from estates via a will. However, 60% of the people who die each year die without a will. Furthermore, less than 10% of the Lutherans who die each year remember their congregation in their will. The beauty of a will is that it does not require that you give up any of your assets while you are alive. The cost to write a will is minimal and a will is changeable if your charitable interests change. The place to start is by having a conversation with your pastor, an ELCA Charitable Gift Planner, and of course your attorney.

Another easy way to make an estate gift, which does not affect your current financial situation, is changing the beneficiary statement on an insurance policy, IRA, 401k, 403b, other retirement accounts and/or investment accounts. Simply call the plan administrator or account manager and ask for a

change of beneficiary form. Generally, there is no cost to make this change. IRA, 401k, and 403b accounts create an ordinary tax liability for the inheritor of these accounts. So, using them to make charitable gifts can save on taxes for those who will benefit from your estate. For more details about how you can structure your estate to save your beneficiaries taxes, contact and ELCA Charitable Gift Planner for the details.

There are other ways to arrange your estate to make charitable gifts including gifts that may increase your income. It all depends on your financial situation, the assets you have, and the ministries you want to support. A good place to start is to have a conversation with an ELCA Charitable Gift Planner. ELCA Charitable Gift Planners are not advisors nor do they have anything to sell. However, they can provide you with information and the appropriate questions to ask your legal and financial advisor to help you support the ministry of your congregation or other ministries of the church.

For more information about using wills for charitable giving or other ways to make gifts to your congregation and other ELCA ministries, please call Pr. Greg Kramer at the Lutheran Planned Giving Office 570-374-2044 or contact the ELCA Foundation

THANK YOU NOTES

Hope Lutheran Church received thank you notes from the following individuals/families in the month of March: Pastor Paulette, Ella & Ray Edelman, and Allison Schell. Thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS-MARCH 2013

- ✚ Council approved a special Sunday morning appeal for our Disaster Response Team to fund a rebuilding project in New Jersey due to Hurricane Sandy. Currently we have 6 members signed up to participate in this trip. Disaster Response envelopes will be placed in the bulletins on Sunday, April 14th for members to support this endeavor.

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- ⚓ Roof repairs to the church facility are scheduled for the beginning of April. The project may take up to 3 + weeks. The repainting of the sanctuary ceiling will be scheduled sometime after Pentecost and confirmation.
- ⚓ The Evangelism committee's Picnic at Knoebels Grove is set for Saturday, August 3rd. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the main bulletin board for people to reserve their tickets.
- ⚓ Council approved the final staff job description for the Senior Pastor. Many thanks to the Mutual Ministry Committee for their diligent work in completing all the job descriptions.
- ⚓ Property Committee announced a new committee chair – Earl Snyder. Council recognized the work of Ralph Fisher, former Property chair, for the many years he served in that position.
- ⚓ Hope's Youth Group has scheduled a trip to Wildwood, NJ – June 29th to July 2nd. Sign-up and fund-raising have already begun for youth planning to attend.
- ⚓ Council approved the transfer of Tabitha Walters to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Dallas, PA.

SYNOD NEWS

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – APRIL 2013

<p><u>Sunday April 7, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service of the Word</p>
<p><u>Sunday April 14, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Service of the Word 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion</p>
<p><u>Sunday April 21, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service of the Word</p>
<p><u>Sunday April 28, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Service of the Word 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion</p>

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. 2013 (IF KNOWN)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - FEBRUARY 28, 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 - February	28,929.36	2,241.15	28.82	25.00	20.11
Income - January	25,651.39	73,049.49	1,158.77	2,415.45	22.14
Total Income	54,580.75	75,290.64	1,187.59	2,440.45	42.25
Expenses - February	33,165.73	13,100.00	1,294.00	-	-
Expenses - January	32,291.38	12,097.42	300.00	1,300.00	-
Total Expenses	65,457.11	25,197.42	1,594.00	1,300.00	-
Net Income	(10,876.36)	50,093.22	(406.41)	1,140.45	42.25
Net Special Appeals	-				
Balance End of February	\$ 77,814.25	\$ 166,650.12	\$ 76,905.08	\$ 96,766.22	\$ 29,141.74

SUMMARY:

Expenses exceeded income in the Regular Fund for the month of February by \$4,236.37, and for the year 2013, expenses exceeded income by \$10,876.36, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$77,814.25. Last year the net income for the same period was \$6,733.99 with a balance of \$58,325.03.

Budget Comparison--Total Regular Fund Budget for 2013 is \$413,068.00. 8/52 of that figure is \$63,548.92. Our receipts in the Regular Fund for the two months were \$54,580.75. So, we are behind in income by \$8,968.17.

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

May

Monday, April 22

Thursday, April 25

June

Monday, May 20

Thursday, May 23

July

Monday, June 24

Thursday, June 27



MEMORIAL GARDEN GROUND BREAKING

Ground breaking for the Hope Lutheran Church Memorial Garden will follow the 10:30 AM worship service on Sunday, April 14th.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Hope Congregation,

Thank you for all you did to make the celebration of my instillation so special. I appreciate everything you do as Christ's loving disciples

Pastor Paulette

Pastor Jami & Pastor Paulette,

We want to thank you for the visit and prayers for Ray when he was in the hospital, he really appreciated it.

Ella & Ray Edelman

Dear hope Lutheran Community, the Family of Rev. Floyd Shupp, and Olive Jacobs,

Thank you all, once again, for the generous scholarship funds. As I am in my final semester of graduate school, I can say that Hope Lutheran Church has provided me with financial assistance throughout my college & graduate schooling. Once again, thank you for your continuous support with both my religious and educational growth.

Allison Schell