

HOPE HOME NEWS

Vol. XXXX No. 5 May, 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 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	610-360-6034
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.....

From Pastor Jami Possinger



So...it's confession time. I don't watch a lot of TV but one of my favorite shows is "Dancing With the Stars." I got hooked on it the very first season. You could even say that I am an aficionado of the show. Now to be honest –

because of evening meetings I don't really get to see it every week – actually I don't see it most weeks. But when I do I am enthralled by these people, who are mostly celebrities of some sort, who learn how to do some of the most complex ballroom dances.

What is it about this show that captures my attention and time? It's people who move out of their comfort zone to try something that is demanding - both physically and emotionally – people who put themselves on the line to be cut because they are not the best of the best – and the way the whole cast seems to support everyone no matter their level of ability. But the thing I admire most is that these famous people, who so often are the leaders in their respective lives, become the followers of the professional dancers. In a dance couple, one person must lead and the other must follow – a difficult task for some!

And that makes me think of our lives as disciples and the church. Every one of us is called to be a disciple, a follower, of Jesus. Innately that means that Jesus is our leader and as we dance the discipleship dance with him – we follow his lead. And we are not the only ones dancing! There is a whole myriad of people who opt to join together as we serve in Jesus name.

Here's the thing though....there are so many competing forces in our lives and in the world that are vying to lead the dance in place of Jesus. Money, fame, peer pressure, sports, family, friends, jobs, health, leisure time – they are just a few that are trying to cut Jesus out of the lead role. So how do we handle it – how do we keep Jesus as our dance partner?

I really watch the dancers in the show and here's what I notice....when they are in a hold – they hold on tightly to each other – allowing their bodies to move almost as one. And when they break their hold they are never far from each other and always move toward each other and into a dance hold again. Doesn't that sound like our relationship with Jesus? Don't we move in and out of holds with him – always coming back so that we can remember to move as one? Isn't that why the church is really vital to our faith lives? The church - Sunday morning worship, opportunities to serve, prayer chains, education, bible study – give us the chance to come together to experience Jesus – to allow Jesus to lead us - communally and individually – so that we can dance into the world in his name.

I will never appear on "Dancing With the Stars" but every day I am given the opportunity to dance with Jesus. So are you!

ASSISTANT PASTOR'S WORD.....

From Pastor Paulette Obrecht



As I look out the window in my office, I am reminded that spring is a time of renewal. The grass has become green. There are buds on the trees and robins sitting on their branches.

Spring also reminds me that I need to take time for renewal myself and become better at practicing my spiritual disciplines. I have to admit that one of the habits I continually struggle with is setting aside time for devotions and prayer. In Luke, Jesus told his disciples to "pray always" and the apostle Paul advised that we should pray without ceasing.

I remember speaking with a classmate in one of my Seminary classes who is a Christian brother de la Salle. He talked about living in the brethren's house on the campus of LaSalle University in Philadelphia, where their day is divided according to worship and work times. They have several specific times each day that are devoted to personal and intercessory prayer. When we had a class together, he told all of us how the brothers prayed daily for each person in

Continued on Page 4...

our class. I was amazed at that. It felt good to know that someone was praying for me, but I was envious that someone could find the time to do that – several times daily. But, Brother Tom said to me, “Well, that’s what we do.”

My friends have often heard me say that the place I seem to pray most frequently, other than in church, is in my car. At those times – on my way to and from appointments or work – my tiny car becomes my “prayer chamber” and I have great conversations with God. Sometimes, you’ll see my lips moving and my hand gesturing, not because I’m crazy or on my cell phone, but because I’m talking – praying – with God. Sometimes, I’m not only focusing on my driving, but I’m also listening for what God might be telling me.

An article I once read said that unceasing prayer actually means having a constant consciousness of God’s presence with us as we go about the tasks of our daily lives, our ordinary activities. The writer suggested that we get in the habit of noticing God’s presence and using these opportunities to speak with God. For instance, in the shower, why not pray “Create in me a clean heart, O Lord.” And as you’re brushing your teeth in the morning, take time to ask God to help you speak kindly through the day. As you get ready for your important meeting at work, ask that the Holy Spirit be with you as you serve God through your vocation.

This year, May 2 is designated as a National Day of Prayer. Such a day is a good occasion to remember that God is present with us all the time – and that we can have profound or simple conversations with God wherever we are. It’s always a good time to pray – without ceasing.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” – I Thessalonians 5:16-18



STEWARDSHIP CORNER



Ordinary Stewardship is....

- The regular practice of returning to God a portion of all that God has given us. It involves teaching ourselves how to create a life built upon the notion that all that we have is a gift from God.
- The portion of what God has given us as annual income that we give to God each year through our congregation. In addition to sustaining and expanding the mission and ministry of the church where we worship and are formed and cared for, a portion of this giving goes to fund the mission and ministry of the ELCA.

Are YOU an ordinary steward?

PASTORAL ACTS

HOLY BAPTISM

Edmund Jose Cabrera was baptized on Sunday, April 7, 2013 during the 10:30 AM worship service. Edmund is the son of Jorge and Jillian (Makowe) Cabrera. Pastor Paulette officiated.

Please welcome Edmund as our newest member of Hope Church and pray for his growth in faith.

FUNERALS

Pastor Jami officiated at the following funerals.

Helen M. Romano entered eternal life on March 11, 2013 at the age of 76 years. Funeral services were held at Schisler Funeral Home with interment at Assumption B.V.M. Cemetery-Mausoleum.

Donald D. Saunders entered eternal life on March 11, 2013 at the age of 56 years. Funeral services were held at Hope Church with interment at New Hope Cemetery.

***Dennis K. Hall** entered eternal life on March 20, 2013 at the age of 66 years. Graveside services were held at Assumption B.V.M. Cemetery. **non-member*

Otto L. Hontz entered eternal life on March 21, 2013 at the age of 87 years. Funeral services were held at Schisler Funeral Home with interment at Woodlawn Memorial Park.

Our sympathy to family and friends of Helen, Donald, Dennis and Otto. May God continue to be their guide and strength.

PRAYER SERVICE OFFERED ON MAY 2ND

On Thursday, May 2, at 11:00 AM, Hope Church is offering a Morning Prayer Service in observance of the National Day of Prayer. The brief informal worship service will be held in Kuntz Hall and will be followed by a light lunch, which is being prepared by Hope's Evangelism Committee. Members of Hope and our surrounding community are invited to attend. The National Day of Prayer calls on all people of different faiths in the U.S. to pray for the nation and its leaders. Since the term of Pres. Ronald Reagan, it has been held on the first Thursday of May each year. In last year's proclamation, Pres. Obama called on citizens to remember to give thanks for our democracy, which protects the religious freedom of all people, and to pray for God's help in meeting the challenges that we face as a nation. We also will remember to pray for the strength and safety of the women and men who protect and defend our security and freedom, especially those who serve in the Armed Forces of our country or as police officers and other first responders. We will also offer prayers for people around the world that we all may live together in peace and hopefulness. We invite you to join us on May 2nd for worship, prayer, and fellowship.

NEW MEMBERS CLASSES

If you know someone who is interested in becoming a member of Hope Church, please invite them to our new members classes, which will be held from 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM on April 28th and May 5th. New members will be received on Sunday, May 5th.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

May 12, 2013 – Mother's Day/Father's Day Program will be 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM during the Sunday School hour. The children will report to their classrooms for attendance and offering. Everyone will then gather in the church around 9:30 AM for 30 minutes of music and entertainment. Refreshments will follow in Kuntz Hall. Hope to see you ALL there!
May 19, 2013 – Last day of Sunday School.

Please see Lynn or Nancy in the Christian Ed. office if you are interested in teaching Sunday School next year.

CATECHETICAL UPDATE

SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS

✓ Learn confirmation duties such as acolyte, crucifer and nursery attendant on either Monday, May 6th at 8:00 PM or Wednesday, May 15th at 6:00 PM. **Each student must choose one of the dates.** Call the church office at 610-767-7203 with your choice. All students currently enrolled in Sunday School should have received a letter with more information about the training. Students will begin being scheduled for their duties on Sunday, June 2nd.

Since we are very near the end of the catechetical year, it is MOST important that you check the progress charts in Sunday School office and make sure that you are up to date on all the requirements.

LEVEL II

✓ Complete Sunday Church School and Church requirements by Sunday, May 19th (*our last day of Sunday School*).
✓ Saturday, May 18th – Confirmation Rehearsal @ 9:00 AM; Mentor potluck lunch @ 11:00 AM.
✓ Sunday, May 19th – Confirmation Pictures @ 9:00 AM; Confirmation Service @ 10:30 AM; Confirmation Reception @ 11:30 AM.
✓ Even if you completed an outreach project, consider helping with our Gracedale Trip on Monday, May 6th or our Nursery School Programs on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, May 21-23.

LEVEL I

✓ Complete Sunday Church School and Church requirements by Sunday, May 12th
✓ Level I parents help with the confirmation reception on Sunday, May 19th.
✓ Even if you completed an outreach project, consider helping with our Gracedale Trip on Monday, May 6th or our Nursery School Programs on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, May 21-23.

CATECHETICAL MENTORS...Thank you for your participation in our Catechetical Program so far this year. Level II Mentors - there is one more event, a potluck picnic on Saturday, May 18th beginning at 11:00 AM.

PRAYER GROUP TO HOLD 2ND MEETING



On Tuesday, May 28, at 1:00 PM, Hope's Prayer Chain Group will hold its second meeting, led by Pastor Paulette. Anyone interested in learning more about ways to develop your

personal spirituality through prayer is invited to join with us. At our meetings, we will learn ways to feel more comfortable with our personal tools for prayer and offer support to those who pray for the people in Hope congregation through the prayer chain. New members for the prayer chain group are always needed and invited. If desired, an evening meeting time can also be offered.

WHAT'S NEW AROUND HOPE!?

Maybe you've noticed the new "mailbox" section on the wall outside of the main office here at Hope. And maybe you've noticed the other new wooden coat racks in the hallway leading down to Hanson Hall and the new wooden coat rack on the wall in Hanson Hall. If you haven't.....take a look. And after you do take a moment and thank Lee Blose for his incredible handiwork. Lee is one of our members with a gift that he has been sharing with Hope for years. His first project was the beautiful table that we use every week in worship on which we set the intinction for communion. Then Lee built the cabinet in the office that holds all the letters and numbers for our new sign on Route 248. And now coat racks and a mailbox system! Many thanks to Lee all the volunteer work he does and for sharing the gifts God has given him!

Another new venture is the conference room which is located next to Pastor Jami's office. The carpet was finally laid and the room is finished. It will serve as an additional meeting place for small groups who meet in the day or in the evening. New carpeting was also added to the Kindergarten Sunday School room.

And finally, you may have noticed the new roof which was completed over the two weeks after Easter Sunday. It certainly freshens up the outside of the facility and we're grateful that insurance

covered most of the cost of replacement. What remains left to be done from the damage Hurricane Sandy caused is the interior painting of the ceiling of the sanctuary which will be completed sometime after Pentecost and Confirmation. So keep looking for what's new around Hope.

TRIP TO NOAH

WELCA is going to see Noah and tour the Biblical Tabernacle on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 in Lancaster, PA. Tickets are still left. The cost is \$55.00. If interested, please see the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in the narthex. Checks are payable to Hope Lutheran Church with WELCA trip in the memo and given to Sharyn Kratzer.

CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Any confirmed youth or adult (men and women) interested in playing in the church softball league, or if you have questions, please call Wayne Weidner at 610-767-1512. Games are on Sunday evenings.

HOPE FEST 2013

Mark your calendars for Hope Fest 2013, to be held RAIN OR SHINE on Friday, June 21st and Saturday, June 22nd. More details to follow.

CLOTHING COLLECTION



It's time to clean out those closets of unwanted out-grown clothing. Our Youth Group will be collecting clothing and other household items starting Sunday, June 2nd for one week. The truck will pick up the items on the morning of June 8th at 9:00 AM. Place your items in garbage bags and drop off them off during that week in the narthex. Items collected include usable and wearable clothing for all seasons and all sizes, men's, women's, children, infant and shoes. Accessory items include pocketbooks, belts, backpacks, hats, scarves, baby accessories, briefcases, gloves, ties, and handbags. Household items include blankets, tablecloths, bed sheets, drapery, curtains, pillows, towels, small rugs, quilts, and comforters. Proceeds of the drive will benefit the 2015 Detroit Youth Gathering.

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING MEETING



There will be a meeting for general information for the next National Youth Gathering in Detroit, Michigan in 2015

on Sunday, May 5th at 9:15 AM. All Sunday School students in grades six through ten will be attending the presentation during the Sunday School hour. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the meeting as well if your child is interested in attending the next youth gathering. Come out to learn more, and hear from past attendees, parents of attendees, youth leaders, and pastors at this one hour meeting. Hope to see you there!

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.

GRACEDALE TALENT NIGHT

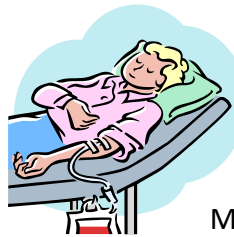
On Monday, May 6th, Hope Church will travel to Gracedale to entertain the residents for “Talent Night”. Everyone is welcome to come along! The residents especially like when **children** visit with their parents. We will leave Hope’s parking lot at 6:15 PM. The program begins at 7:00 PM. Talent and cookies are needed for this evening of fun. To volunteer your talent, please call Marge Zimmermann at 610-760-1602. Cookies may be dropped off on the narthex table before 6:00 PM that evening. Thank you! *Catechetical students – this is a great outreach opportunity if you still need to meet that requirement for confirmation.*

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 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 the Hope Lutheran Church blood bank, which covers all members.



RECENT BLOOD DONORS



The following members of Hope Lutheran Church have recently donated blood: Laurie Christman, Linda Deer, Daniel Husser, Brenda Mack, Paul Mishko, Stanley Royer, 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 March 2013	7
Number of Donations for March 2013	7
Number of Donations YTD (2013)	14
Number of Donations to Reach Goal	22

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

HOPE’S YARD SALE

As you are spring cleaning, don’t forget about Hope’s yard sale this summer. More details to follow.

THANK YOU RALPH FISHER

There are so many people here at Hope who every day – in small and big ways – help this congregation function. Many receive no thank yous and often most of our members don't even realize who is doing the work. But silently and steadily they make sure our ministry is supported. One of those people is Ralph Fisher, who recently stepped down as the Property Chairperson. For many years Ralph has devoted countless hours to making sure the heat was on, the air conditioners were working, the oil tank was filled, the septic system was working properly, the snow was plowed, and the grass was cut – just to name some of the things for which he had oversight. And while Ralph will remain a vital part of the property committee, he has handed over the chair to Earl Snyder. Nothing was too much to ask and Ralph always found a way to get things done. We want to thank Ralph for his service as our property chair for all those years. If you see him walking in the halls extend your thanks as well!

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.)

2013 SPRING BASKET SOCIAL



The 14th Annual Spring Basket Social was held in Kuntz Hall on Friday, April 12, 2013, in loving memory of Michelle “Shelly” Stolz, our co-

worker and friend who passed into life eternal December 12, 2012. Monies raised were divided equally between The Northampton Area Food Bank and Hope Church’s Good Samaritan Fund.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who in some way helped to make this evening successful! The Northampton Area Food Bank thanks everyone who supported this fund raiser and also brought along a canned good or non-perishable item. Hope Church thanks everyone who supported this fundraiser, which helps the Pastors’ discretionary (or Good Samaritan) fund, which in turn helps members and/or persons in our community with special needs. The selling of baked/homemade goods brought in a profit of \$178.50 extra monies for the food bank.

Ticket sponsors were “to the Glory of God” by LeAnn Chandler and by a “Friend of Hope Church”. Craig & Diane Reenock hit all the hot-spot intersections with signs & spinners as they continue helping each year with publicity. Steven Shermetta does an outstanding job getting the word out to local media. Boy Scouts & Leaders of Troop 242 set up tables/chairs, unload cars, and set up baskets and bags the evening prior to the social. They do an awesome job! At each social more volunteers come forward to help sell tickets, serve in the kitchen area, and/or help with clean-up. You know who you are and we appreciate you!

\$5,138.50 WAS RAISED AT THE 2013 SPRING BASKET SOCIAL! (\$3,008.50 = Food Bank monies include \$2130.00, \$178.50 cake \$, + \$700.00 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Care Abounds in Communities Program), AND (\$2130.00 to Hope’s Good Samaritan Fund).

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EVERYTHING needed for this fund raiser was graciously donated. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! *New to this Social was “Rita’s homemade bread & potato filling”, which was a BIG hit!

THE 2013 FALL BASKET SOCIAL IS ON OCTOBER 11, 2013 (all basket proceeds to a designated area of Hope Church & proceeds from sale of baked/homemade goods to be announced upon Committee decision at their summer picnic).

THANK YOU NOTES

Hope Lutheran Church received thank you notes from the following individuals/families in the month of April: Howard Strohl and Family. Thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS-APRIL 2013

- ✚ The “Buck-A-Chick” program raised \$230.00 which will be used to purchase chicks for villages in third world countries.
- ✚ Groundbreaking for the Memorial Garden will be held on April 14th following the 10:30 service. The actual construction project will take weeks to complete so a dedication date will be considered later.
- ✚ The replacement of the roof on the entire church will began April 1 and be completed within 2 weeks by Holencik Roofing.
- ✚ A special offering will be received on April 14th to help fund the Disaster Response team as they set out for a rebuilding project in New Jersey during the week of May 20th. Envelopes will be available that week in the bulletin and after that on a table in the narthex.
- ✚ The Evangelism Committee has scheduled a Prayer Service and lunch to be held on Thursday, May 2nd at 11:00 AM in Kuntz Hall. The congregation is invited and encouraged to participate.
- ✚ Council gave approval for the Youth Group to hold sandwich sale and clothing drive to begin raising money for the ELCA National Youth Gathering to be held in July 2015. With the potential for many youth participating it is never too early to begin this process.

- ✚ Council extends their thanks to Ralph Fisher who has served as Property chairperson for many years. Ralph has recently stepped down as chairperson but will continue to be a member of the committee. Earl Snyder will now chair the Property Committee.
- ✚ The new conference room and the Kindergarten Sunday School room have been carpeted and look great.
- ✚ Council approved the final staff evaluation form presented by the Mutual Ministry committee for the Pastors.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 24th annual synod assembly of the Northeastern PA Synod is scheduled to be held at the Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes Barre, PA on June 14-15, 2013. More info can be found at www.godslove.org.

SYNOD NEWS

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – MAY 2013

<p><u>Sunday May 5, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM New Member Class 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Youth Group Presentation 10:30 AM Service of the Word</p>
<p><u>Sunday May 12, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Service of the Word 9:15 AM Mother and Father’s Day Program 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion</p>
<p><u>Sunday May 19, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:00 AM Confirmation Pictures 9:15 AM Last Day of Sunday School 10:30 AM Service of the Word (Pentecost/Confirmation)</p>
<p><u>Sunday May 26, 2013</u> <i>Summer Worship Hours Begin</i> 8:00 AM Service of the Word 9:30 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)



GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST – SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2013

Geraniums will be placed near the altar on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2013. Their beautiful red flowers will help us remember the "fire" of that first Pentecost. Sponsors are needed (Cost = \$5.00 per sponsor) to help with the cost of purchasing and planting these flowers around the church (hopefully that same day). If you would like to remember a loved one or honor a family member or friend by being a sponsor, ***(CONFIRMATION PARENTS, WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO CELEBRATE YOUR CHILD'S SPECIAL DAY, WE WOULD LIKE ALL CONFIRMATION STUDENTS TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE FLOWER SPONSORED)***, please fill out the form below by Sunday, May

12th. Money must accompany orders and orders and money should be placed in a plain white envelope marked "Geraniums" and placed in the offering box or locked box in the narthex. Thank you!

NAME _____

- CIRCLE ONE**
- IN CELEBRATION OF...**
 - IN HONOR OF...**
 - IN MEMORY OF...**



BY: _____

ENVELOPE # _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

I CAN HELP PLANT GERANIUMS: _____

PHONE # _____

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - MARCH 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 - March	45,979.52	2,076.27	164.30	-	69.84
Income - Jan.-Feb.	54,580.75	75,290.64	1,187.59	2,440.45	42.25
Total Income	100,560.27	77,366.91	1,351.89	2,440.45	112.09
Expenses - March	34,625.11	811.58	467.50	-	15,000.00
Expenses - Jan.-Feb.	65,457.11	25,197.42	1,594.00	1,300.00	-
Total Expenses	100,082.22	26,009.00	2,061.50	1,300.00	15,000.00
Net Income	478.05	51,357.91	(709.61)	1,140.45	(14,887.91)
Net Special Appeals	-				
Balance End of February	\$ 89,168.66	\$ 167,914.81	\$ 76,601.88	\$ 96,766.22	\$ 14,211.58

SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of March by \$11,354.41, and for the year 2013, income exceeded expenses by \$478.05, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$89,168.66. Last year the net income for the same period was \$8,993.17 with a balance of \$60,584.21.

Budget Comparison--Total Regular Fund Budget for 2013 is \$413,068.00. 13/52 of that figure is \$103,267.00. Our receipts in the Regular Fund for the three months were \$100,560.27. So, we are behind in income by \$2,706.73.

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>
June	Monday, May 20	Thursday, May 23
July	Monday, June 24	Thursday, June 27
August	Monday, July 22	Thursday, July 25



THANK YOU NOTES

To Our Christian Family at Hope,

Thank you, Pastor Jami and Pastor Paulette, for your visits and prayers during my recent hospitalization. And thank you to the Prayer Group and to Hope Congregation for lifting me up in prayer and continuing to pray for my recovery. Thank you to all who have visited, sent cards or expressed their care & concern in other ways (birthday cake/cookies!) Each day is a blessing as I see the grace of God at work through you.

Howard Strohl and Family

P.S. Thank you, Dolores Reenock & WELCA Ladies for the walker travel bags for me and my sister-in-law, Ruth, who is a resident at Mahoning Nursing. My family & I are blessed to be part of a Church Family who reaches out with so many wonderful ministries to Members and Community.

LEHIGH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mark your calendar for the first Open House at the historical centre in Pennsville for Sunday, (Mother's Day) May 12, from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Bring your mother to the Open House on her special day. A visit to the LT Historical Centre will bring back memories. For more information, call 610-767-5989.

INDIANLAND GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION

The public is invited to the next meeting of the Indianland Garden Club on Tuesday, May 14th, at Hope Lutheran Church, Cherryville. The doors open at 6:00 PM. The auction will begin at 7:00 PM. This meeting is a popular and well-attended meeting and you are invited to join in the fun. You won't want to miss the chance to bid on plants for your gardens.

Members of the garden club will be bringing in many plants; last year, there was a large variety of houseplants and outdoor plants for the bidding. There will also be sale tables with reasonably priced small plants and a raffle. If possible, bring boxes for your purchases.

Each member will be bringing refreshments so there will be various food items to choose from for a snack while the auction continues. For questions concerning the plant auction, call Dave at 610-767-5519.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 14th. Meet your friends and the garden club members at the garden club's May meeting. It is an opportunity to acquire new plants and support your local garden club, too. You are guaranteed to enjoy the evening!

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 baaaack! 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.)

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.

"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.

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

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