

HOPE HOME NEWS

Vol. XL N^o. 12 December, 2013



Published Monthly by:

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
4131 Lehigh Drive, P.O. Box 1030
Cherryville, PA 18035
610-767-7203
hopecherryville.org

Worship Hours

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

Church Office Hours

Mon., Wed., Thurs. and Fri.: 7:30 AM – 4:00 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> Nina Weiss communications@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext. 20	<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 Cmte	Linda Sidor	610-767-8372
Boy Scouts	John Demczynsyn	610-767-7749
Church Website	Tom Perry	610-261-0743
Confirmation	Pastor Jami	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	Earl Snyder	610-703-5166
SCS/Christian Ed	Michelle Hughes	484-547-4585
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	Diane Esch	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



It started even before Halloween this year – before the costumes and the jack o’lanterns and the trick or treat candy. **It** started before Thanksgiving – before the turkey and the cranberry sauce and the pumpkin pie. Every year we seem to see **it** coming earlier and earlier. What is **it**? **It** is the visible preparations for Christmas.

At the rate we are going it won’t be long before we never even take down the Christmas decorations because we’ll be getting ready for Christmas in January! I know that we, who work for the church, often bash the secular preparations for Christmas – seeming like Scrooges in the midst of joyful shopping frenzies. And I also know that whatever we say, we will not change what is happening outside the church when it comes to Christmas. But I do know that we have something to say anyway. Because the world needs to hear the Christmas story – and we need to prepare to tell it. That is why Advent is such an important time of the church year.

The word Advent derives from a Latin word for “coming.” These four weeks, which actually begin the Church year, are set aside to prepare for both the birth of Jesus and also for his final coming in power and glory. Although Advent is not a mini-Lent, it is a time for self-examination and setting aright those things that call us away from following Jesus. We are particularly called to focus on receiving the Christmas gift in humility and wonder.

In Isaiah 40:3 we read, “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” In Isaiah’s era, the coming of a king was announced ahead of time and people literally leveled the road on which the king would travel, getting the rocks out of the way and smoothing the path where it was not level. Notice that Isaiah says to do this in the wilderness and in the desert – in all the places of our lives, not just the ones frequently traveled.

Preparing for the coming of our King means dusting out and opening up our entire lives to receive him. We spiffy up the church during December to prepare for those who will visit on Christmas Eve. But how do we prepare ourselves - our souls and bodies - to receive the gift of the Christ-child? Are you ready for some suggestions? This year.....

- 🌲 Take time to worship – Midweek services will be held on Wednesday evenings, December 4, 11 and 18 at 7:00 PM, Sunday mornings at 8:00 and 10:30 AM and Christmas Eve at 4:00, 6:00, 8:30 and 11:00 PM
- 🌲 Take time with family – The best gift you can give each other is your time and your selves. The rest can be bought at a store and isn’t anywhere near as meaningful!
- 🌲 Take time for prayer – God wants to hear from you and you need to hear from God.
- 🌲 Take time to serve others – This doesn’t have to take all your free time. A batch of cookies for a lonely neighbor, a bag of groceries for the local food bank, a letter to a service person, a blanket for the homeless. Set the example for your children or grandchildren by including them too!
- 🌲 Tell the Christmas story – Don’t let the story become lost in the glitter and the lights. **Be the light** that shines in the darkness by sharing the incredible tale of a God who wants so much for us to know what he is like that he came among us to show us – to guide us – to save us!

This year... celebrate Advent before you celebrate **it** – Christmas I mean!

Blessings,
Pastor Jami

ASSISTANT PASTOR’S WORD...

From Pastor Paulette Obrecht



I don’t know why it seems that Advent entered our lives so suddenly this year. Maybe, it’s because it begins so soon after Thanksgiving (which is later than usual this year). It could also be that the weather seems too warm to be thinking about the shorter days and longer periods of darkness which signals to us that winter is coming.

So, Advent has arrived suddenly and now we are expected to wait. In Advent we are called to wait for the coming of God and God's kingdom. Advent also reminds me that most people are not very good about waiting. We live in a world of immediacy: instant messaging, instant gratification, instant replay. I once found an article on developing patience so we can become better at waiting. It was entitled, "Give me patience, but hurry it up." Waiting is often hard for me. One place I've learned about waiting, though, is in my garden.

I dig the ground. I fertilize it. I plant the seeds and water them. Then, I have to wait. I have no choice. No amount of impatience will make the plants grow faster. And, you have to be prepared for anything: too much rain, not enough rain, insects, rabbits and deer, weeds, the neighbor's cat.

I wait and hope for a harvest that I can neither see nor control.

Maybe, that's why Jesus often talked about the harvest and being ready to be gathered with it at the end times. Jesus knew that farming and gardening required waiting – and hoping that the harvest would be plentiful. It required flexibility – and persistence – and willingness to work – and having faith that the harvest will be abundant.

Advent. The waiting time before the coming of the Christ child. Lord God, help us to keep awake and be ready for your birth in our world and in our hearts. Grant us patience in our waiting. Shower us with your peace. Amen.

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise. – from ELW 240

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – NOVEMBER 2013

- ↓ Council reviewed the budget presented by Dale Newhart, Finance Committee representative, and sent it to the congregation for its review at the November 10th congregation meeting.
- ↓ Consecration Sunday commitment cards continue to come in to the office. Council reminds members that it is not too late to return

the Estimate of Giving Cards through the end of the year. Commitments from the Consecration Sunday Event as of November 17th are \$288,436.00.

- ↓ Christian Education announced with regret the "retirement" of Lynn LaBarre as Sunday School Superintendent. Lynn served the congregation in this position for years - leading the Sunday School program through the transition of pastoral leadership. Lynn will continue to be a part of the Christian Education committee and is currently teaching the Third grade Sunday School Class. Michelle Hughes and Nancy Creyer will be serving as superintendents for the program.
- ↓ The Sunday School Christmas program will take a different format this year - moving from an evening program to an intergenerational event during the Sunday School hour. It is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th at 9:15 AM with a brief program in the sanctuary and a family craft activity in Kuntz Hall.
- ↓ The Disaster Response Team held a very successful breakfast on Sunday, November 3rd to raise funds for the group traveling to Tuscaloosa, Alabama the week of November 18th. Enough was raised to cover their costs!
- ↓ Council reviewed the procedures for the congregation meeting and assigned ballot counters for the voting process.
- ↓ The Consecration Sunday Luncheon and Time and Talent Auction was a big hit! Over 150 members attended and bid on the auction items. It was interesting to see the varied talents and gifts people in our congregation have to offer. Proceeds of over \$1,400.00 from the auction were designated for the general fund.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP



Please join us for Holy Communion at 11:00 AM or 7:00 PM on Wednesday, November 27th. "God has given us so much. We pray he might give us one more thing... a grateful heart!"

DID YOU RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION THIS YEAR?

Did you complete the hospitality pad this year indicating you received Holy Communion? Please complete the Hope Hospitality pad next time you receive communion (if you didn't or you're not sure). Our constitution requires active members to receive communion regularly.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

SOME TRUTHS ABOUT FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



**From the Preface to
Second Edition of A
Manual for Stewardship
Development Programs in**

the Congregation

The Rev. J. Hugh Magers

- ❖ The first place to look for money is in the heart, not the wallet. In my experience, about 75% of the annual income of the typical congregation comes from 12 to 15% of the members. These folks also do most of the ministry of the church. They usually can talk about the ways that they have known God in their lives. The amount of giving is not connected to the amount of money that they have. There are rich and poor, stingy people. Generous people come in all economic categories.
- ❖ Most people find it hard to talk about God and money. God and money are both wonderful and powerful. Most people are so afraid of them that they can't talk about them. So we need to create arenas where it is safe to do so... unless this conversation takes place, there will be no basic change in giving patterns.
- ❖ We aren't saved because we give money to God. Salvation is a gift from God's grace that comes through faith (itself a gift from God). We enter life in grace through our Baptisms and our claiming of Jesus as Savior and our submission to his Lordship. We grow in grace through steady participation in worship and ministry. Giving will not affect your salvation. Salvation will definitely affect your giving.
- ❖ Everyone is already doing the very best they can. Everyone is already giving everything they can,

given their spiritual health. In fact, your giving rate is a pretty good indicator of your spiritual health. Whatever you give, give it with joy.

- ❖ Yes, we really do need to sign pledge cards. At one level, a pledge card is merely an act of kindness to the vestry and treasurer since it enables them to plan a budget. But at a deeper level, people who pledge feel like they belong to the Church. So pledging is an identity or community statement. At the deepest level, a pledge card is the only document that most of us sign every year saying that we claim Jesus as Savior and submit our lives to his Lordship.
- ❖ If you are not smiling when you sign your pledge card, you have filled in the wrong amount. You have pledged too much or too little. Give a happy amount!

PRAYER CHAIN GROUP

The next meeting for the Prayer Chain Group will be on Tuesday, November 26, at 11:00 AM, in Kuntz Hall. Anyone interested in joining our discussion about ways to become more comfortable at personal prayer – and then taking time to offer prayers for the needs of others – is welcome to join us at this time.



SYNOD NEWS

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

WELCA

Tuesday, December 17: WELCA Meeting at 9:00 AM

CONSECRATION SUNDAY RESULTS

Consecration Sunday commitment cards continue to come in to the office. Council reminds members that it is not too late to return the Estimate of Giving Cards through the end of the year. Commitments from the Consecration Sunday Event as of November 17th are \$288,436.00.

Reflections on Dealing with Grief & Loss

by Pastor Paulette Obrecht

As we approach a major holiday season, loss and depression is a tough subject to address, but depression – deep sadness – is one of the stages of loss that needs to be talked about. Our society, however, almost seems to be involved in a “stamp out depression” campaign. Sometimes intervention is vital, but many times, we don’t allow the normal depression that comes with grief be explored and worked through.

In her book *Praying Our Grief*, Linda Perrone Rooney writes that, in simple terms, depression is anger turned inward and often occurs when we aren’t able to control our environment. It can take a mild form, like feeling “down in the dumps,” or it may be more severe and cause us to isolate ourselves from others. In any form, it causes us to look at our world from a negative viewpoint, including being down on ourselves.

When you enter this stage of grieving, it is a good time to talk about what bothers you and to share your experience and feelings with others as a way to take the edge off the depression so it does not become more severe. It helps to let the inner gloom out into the light where it can heal and place you on a more positive course. If it does become severe, don’t be afraid to seek medical treatment to help you through this tough stage of grieving.

As difficult as it is to endure, our depression has elements that can be helpful in grief. It slows us down and allows us to take stock of the loss. According to Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, it makes us rebuild ourselves from the ground up – and clears the deck for growth. It takes us to a deeper place in our soul that we might not normally explore. It is the stage of grief that helps us to move on to a state of acceptance – next month’s topic.

“Dear Jesus, when you wept in the garden, were you experiencing depression? Did you feel the same desolation and emptiness I feel? You used prayer, and pouring out your heart to your Father, and then

you found peace... Help me to pray in confidence for the strength to meet life’s challenges, to surround myself with others who will support me, and to seek help when I need it. Be my light whenever darkness threatens to overcome me. Amen.” – Linda Perrone Rooney

STORY WEAVERS - DISCUSSION GROUP

The Story Weavers will have their next meeting on Tuesday, December 10th at 10:00 AM with lunch to follow at A Ca Mia. All are welcome! Any questions, contact LeAnn Chandler at 610-440-0341 or lachandler7759@hotmail.com.

SOUP KITCHEN



The Soup Kitchen crew will meet on Wednesday, December 11th at 9:00 AM. All are welcome. For more information, please contact LeAnn Chandler at 610-440-0341.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 15 at 9:15 AM

This year, Hope Sunday School will offer a different kind of Christmas program... *one that involves the whole family!* We will begin in the Sanctuary with special songs presented by the children – and an enactment of the Christmas story. Then, we will travel to Kuntz Hall for craft time. Each family will work together to assemble a Nativity Scene to take home with them. We hope you will join us that morning for a special family activity. Everyone is asked to wear something red or green in honor of this festive event.



** Snow Date is December 22nd at 9:15 AM

POINSETTIA SALE

Order forms are available in the narthex and the church office. Plants are \$8 each, order by 12/8.



REMINDER TO POINSETTIA SPONSORS

It is appreciated if all plants could remain in the sanctuary for all four Christmas Eve services. Plants may be taken immediately following the 11:00 PM Christmas Eve worship service, or they may be picked up on Christmas Day between 9:00 AM and Noon.

JESSE TREE FOR ADVENT

Each day during Advent, a volunteer places a symbol on the Jesse Tree in the narthex. The symbol represents one of the Bible Stories, which leads to the birth of Jesus. A scripture and prayer are included on the back of each symbol for a brief devotion before placing the symbol on the macramé tree. If you can help with this, please sign the list in the narthex.



WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT WORSHIP

We will prepare for the Christmas season with an additional opportunity for weekly worship – Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM on, December 4, 11 and 18. Our worship will be approximately 30 minutes in length and will use the beautiful contemporary setting of Holden Evening Prayer. Please come join us for this special worship on Wednesdays during Advent.



WREATHS FOR SALE TO DECORATE HOPE CHURCH

On Sunday, December 22nd, when we decorate Hope for the holiday season, wreaths will be hung. Anyone wishing to sponsor a wreath in honor of or in memory of a loved one is asked to call the church office at 610- 767-7203.

DECK THE WALLS

All can help decorate the church at 2:30 PM on Sunday, December 22nd.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLES WITH RED FRILLS

Again this year we are making red frills for Christmas Eve candles. If you can help, kits will be available in the narthex shortly. Please return completed candles no later than Sunday, December 15th.

CANDLE SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED

You can also sponsor the candles and the red frills in honor of or in memory of a loved one by calling the church office at 610-767-7203.

SOUP SUPPER



Will be held after our decorating is completed beginning approximately at 4:30 PM. There will be a variety brought by participants.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

All ages are invited to go caroling on Sunday night, December 22nd following the soup supper at approximately 5:30 PM. We go visit as many homebound members as possible. *** The homebound members especially like to see the children caroling.*



Christmas Caroling

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

Christmas Communion Worship for our shut-in members and members unable to get to a Christmas Eve service will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, December 23rd. A light luncheon will follow. Please call the church office if you need a ride.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00 and 6:00 PM – A family service of lessons, carols, communion and service of lights.
8:30 and 11:00 PM – A service of lessons, carols, communion and service of lights.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH NURSERY

The nursery will be open for all of the worship services on Christmas Eve; however the nursery will not be staffed. If you feel your child needs a little break from any of the services, please feel free to use the nursery as long as needed. Thank you!

ALTAR GUILD

Again this year we will be having four worship services on Christmas Eve: 4:00, 6:00, 8:30 and 11:00 PM. **We could use two to three people to help our altar guild for each service.** The volunteers for the altar guild will help fill the candles with liquid wax and straighten up the pews for the following service. Please call the church office at 610-767-7203 if you can help or look for a sign-up sheet to be posted shortly. Thank you.

AFTER CHRISTMAS CLEAN-UP

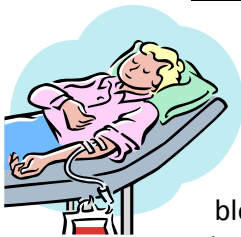
Please come out on Thursday, December 26th at 8:00 AM to help clean up the church and also put some of the Christmas decorations away. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

IS THERE CHURCH?

If the weather is extremely bad on any given Sunday or Wednesday this winter, and you are wondering if Sunday Church School or worship services are cancelled, please listen to the radio station WAEB (AM 790), check the website at www.hopecherryville.org or call our church office (610-767-7203).



RECENT BLOOD DONORS



The following members of Hope Lutheran Church have recently donated blood: Linda Derr, Arline Fasching, Brenda Mack, Trudy Mertz. Thank you to our faithful blood donors; our annual goal was 36 and our YTD is 62! If you would like to give the gift of life, please call the Miller Blood Center at 610-691-5850.

2013 SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL TAX STATEMENTS

Statements to be used for income tax purposes will be given only to those who request them. Please provide your name and envelope number with your child's offering, or phone Nancy Creyer at 610-767-8942 (leave message). Statements will be completed in January of 2014.

2013 OFFERINGS

Please "catch up" with your 2013 commitment or "intended" giving by the end of December or give an extra gift before the end of the year. Let's keep Hope's ministries STRONG!! THANK YOU! 2013 OFFERINGS

must be received or postmarked on or before December 31, 2013 to receive credit for this year. Any offerings received after January 1, 2014 MUST be credited as 2014 contributions.

FLOWER SPONSOR CHART

Our new flower chart for 2014 will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex very soon. Two sponsors (*and only two*) are needed each week, at a cost of \$15.00 per sponsor. Sponsor envelopes are next to the chart, the sponsor money and the envelope is due in the church office two weeks before the sponsorship. A special thank you to Sis Livermon for making our flower chart.

BULLETIN SPONSOR CHART

Our bulletin chart for 2014 will also be posted on the narthex bulletin board shortly. Three sponsors are needed per week at a cost of \$6.00 per sponsor. Thank you to Nancy Creyer for making our bulletin chart.

PRESS SPONSOR CHART

Our press sponsor chart for 2014 will be posted on the narthex bulletin board shortly. One sponsor is needed per week at a cost of \$6.00 per sponsor.

CATECHETICAL CLASSES

LEVEL I

- ✧ Sunday, December 1st – Visit to First Baptist Church
- ✧ Saturday, January 19th – Mentor Breakfast

LEVEL II

- ✧ Sunday, December 1st – Visit to St. Nicholas Catholic Church
- ✧ Saturday, December 21st – Volunteer at Food Bank with Mentors

A great Outreach event during December is Decorating/Caroling on Sunday, December 22nd. Also, there are extra worship services during December - Wednesdays @ 7 PM and Christmas Eve.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

All members of Hope Lutheran Church planning a wedding in the coming year(s) are encouraged to attend the Marriage Preparedness Workshops offered through Lutheran Congregational Services. More information and a schedule for 2014 are available from the church office or by calling Lutheran Congregational Services at 610-770-9205. Also, please let the church office know of your marriage date as soon as you decide and make an appointment to speak with Pastor Jami or Pastor Paulette.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The Social Ministry held their monthly meeting on Tuesday November 19th. It has been a busy month with holiday activities. On November 16th, a luncheon of turkey and all the fixin's was served to about 60 senior guests. The event was a great success. On November 18th, the church had its monthly ARC dance. The guests and their helpers had a lot of fun, especially because the Iron Pigs mascot, Ferrous, was there to entertain! On December 5th, Hope Church will host the Mission District Ingathering where gift items will be prepared to share with local social service organizations. *All church members are welcome to come help – and enjoy lunch with us.* The "Soup Group" will meet again on December 11th to prepare soup and cookies for our homebound members. Then, on December 23rd, after morning Christmas worship, a festive lunch will be served. Social Ministry Committee always has something fun to do – and remember, there is usually good food involved! Please feel free to help with our events.

PASTORAL ACTS

HOLY BAPTISMS

Pastor Jamie officiated at the following baptisms on Sunday, November 17, 2013:

Brayden Jude Keyser, son of Lucas and Brittany Nicole (Diehl) Keyser. He was born on April 7, 2012.

Lillian Jade Keyser, daughter of Lucas and Brittany Nicole (Diehl) Keyser. She was born on August 9, 2013.

Kane David Kehr, son of Devin and Tuasha Lehr. He was born on November 27, 2012.

Please welcome Brayden, Lillian and Kane into our church family at Hope and pray for their growth in faith.

FUNERALS

Pastor Jami officiated at the following funeral:
Paul H. Haydt entered eternal life on October 29, 2013 at the age of 90 years. Funeral services were held at Bensing Funeral Home.

Pastor Paulette officiated at the following funeral:
Phyllis E. Spadt entered eternal life on October 25, 2013 at the age of 87 years. Services were held at Harding Funeral Home. (*non-member)

Our sympathy to family and friends of Paul and Phyllis. May God continue to be their guide and strength.

GIANT A+ SCHOOL REWARDS

Hope Lutheran Nursery School is participating in the Giant A+ School Rewards Program again this year. If you shop at Giant you can help earn CA\$H for our Nursery School by registering your Bonus Card and presenting it each time you check out! To register visit www.giantfoodstores.com/aplusand use our School ID #06640. If you prefer, we can register your card for you. Please write your name, 11 digit bonus card number and e-mail address and place it in the Nursery School mailbox and we will register for you. Thank you for supporting the Nursery School. (*Annual registration is required)



NURSERY SCHOOL DISCOUNT CARDS

The Nursery School will be selling Discount Cards offering 10% off or a special offer at area business for \$10 each. Discount cards will arrive in time for the holidays and make great gifts! For more information or to order cards, please see the flyer on the Nursery School bulletin board or contact Erica Szwast @ (610)653-5392 or eszwast@hotmail.com or anyone affiliated with the Nursery School. Thank you for supporting the Nursery School.

HOPE LUTHERAN NURSERY SCHOOL

... is now accepting registrations for next year (2014-2015). 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 Deb 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. Thank you.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE – DECEMBER 2013

<p><u>Sunday, December 1, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service of the Word</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, December 4, 2013</u> 7:00 PM Advent Worship Service</p>
<p><u>Sunday, December 8, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Service of the Word 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion/Baptism</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, December 11, 2013</u> 7:00 PM Advent Worship Service</p>
<p><u>Sunday, December 15, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Family Sunday School Program 10:30 AM Service of the Word/Baptism</p>
<p><u>Wednesday, December 18, 2013</u> 7:00 PM Advent Worship Service</p>
<p><u>Sunday, December 22, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Service of the Word 9:15 AM Family Sunday School Program Snow Date 10:30 AM Holy Communion/Baptism</p>
<p><u>Tuesday, December 24, 2013</u> 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 8:30 PM Christmas Eve Service 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p><u>Sunday, December 29, 2013</u> 8:00 AM Service of Lessons, Carols & Communion 10:30 AM Service of Lessons, Carols & Communion</p>

NEW MEMBERS CLASSES

Will be held on the following Sundays: January 5, 12 and 19 from 9:15-10:15 AM. The last class (January 19) will be a reception and the new members will also be received during the worship services that morning. If you know of someone who is interested in joining our church, please give them this information.

YOUTH GROUP

Christmas Ornaments: Ornaments will be on sale starting the end of November. Don't miss out on these limited addition ornaments. See our youth group board in the narthex or our Facebook page (Youth Group Rocks) for more information and a sneak peek at upcoming events. Hope to see you there!!

ANNUAL NATIVITY DISPLAY



Our annual Nativity Display is **Saturday, November 30, from 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM and Sunday, December 1, 8:00 - 5:00 PM.**

You can help your Evangelism committee by:

1. Bringing in your nativities and perhaps you can include a short note telling us what makes your nativity special to you.
2. Donating bake goods, snacks or beverages
3. Helping with set-up on Wednesday November 27 9 - 12 and finishing up set up on Friday November 29 at 9:00 AM
4. Clean-up will be Sunday at 5:30 PM
5. Helping during the display in kitchen, welcoming visitors and reminding people to "Please do not touch"
6. If you have a musical talent (Singing, instrumental) and will share it for at least ½ hour during the display, that would be greatly appreciated and enjoyed by our visitors

The nativity display is a great way for our confirmation students to earn some of needed requirements. But please remember that to earn these requirements a student **MUST** be working at Nativity display at least 2 hours during the weekend. A sign up board is in the Narthex.

Merry Christmas from your Evangelism Committee Help us to keep Christ in Christmas.

2013 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE BY JAN 15, 2014

Each group or committee meeting at Hope Church is expected to submit an Annual Report by January 15th. The report should be submitted on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper and should include past accomplishments and future goals. (The BEST way to submit your report is by email. Please send it to Jane in the church office at office@hopecherryville.org)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - OCTOBER 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 - October	30,216.80	52,592.65	3,511.43	5,179.19	2,200.00
Income - Jan.-Sept.	259,563.14	94,867.87	16,847.94	7,004.59	1,072.64
Total Income	289,779.94	147,460.52	20,359.37	12,183.78	3,272.64
Expenses - October	34,755.34	198.00	-	-	6,429.00
Expenses - Jan.-Sept.	299,443.70	177,861.06	7,945.64	4,700.00	38,990.05
Total Expenses	334,199.04	178,059.06	7,945.64	4,700.00	45,419.05
Net Income	(44,419.10)	(30,598.54)	12,413.73	7,483.78	(42,146.41)
Net Special Appeals	1,110.28				
Balance End of October	\$ 45,381.79	\$ 85,958.36	\$ 89,725.22	\$ 103,109.55	\$ (13,046.92)

SUMMARY:

Expenses exceeded income in the Regular Fund for the month of October by \$4,538.54, and for the year 2013, expenses exceeded income by \$44,419.10, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$45,381.79. Last year the net income for the same period was \$15,347.10 with a balance of \$67,273.14.

Budget Comparison--Total Regular Fund Budget for 2013 is \$413,068.00. 43/52 of that figure is \$341,575.46. Our receipts in the Regular Fund for the ten months were \$289,779.94. So, we are behind in income by \$51,795.52.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

All committees, groups and persons submitting information for the church newsletter should follow the schedule listed below. Your articles may be edited so we do not exceed the Post Office guidelines. Please email your articles to Nina Weiss (communications@hopecherryville.org) by **12:00 PM** on the deadline date. Thank you.

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Article Deadline</u>	<u>Collation Date</u>
January	Monday, December 16	Thursday, December 19
February	Monday, January 20	Thursday, January 23
March	Monday, February 17	Thursday, February 20



THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends of Hope Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your contribution to the SJNRS 8th Annual Golf Tournament (in memory of our son Michael). This is a large fundraiser for the school and this year, as a direct result of your contribution, an additional \$3,000 was donated to the school and \$5,000 was donated to the Michael E. Kulp Scholarship Fund. Thank you for honoring our son and helping to make this event a huge success.

As well, most sincere thanks for all the cards and prayers during our journey to support us along the way. The cards from the children in the Confirmation class were so beautiful and yes so very helpful! As we approach the one year anniversary of our loss, we ask that you continue to pray for our family.

Many blessings to all,

Mike, Tamar (Michael in Heaven) and Mikell Kulp

LEHIGH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

If you need a unique special gift for the holidays, consider shopping at the LT Historical Centre. The historical centre will be open on Sundays, December 8 and 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. Visit and browse. We have many items to choose from for that special someone.

After December, the historical centre will not be open on a regular basis until spring of 2014. Anyone interested in a tour of the historical centre or St. Paul's Schoolhouse may contact Ken for an appointment @ 610-767-5989.

Remember to visit us at www.lehightownshiphistoricalsociety.org. You will find informational links to all of the villages in Lehigh Township and more information about the historical society.