

HOPE HOME NEWS

Vol. XLI N^o. 1 January 2014



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	Jim Gardner
		Kasey Frey	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...

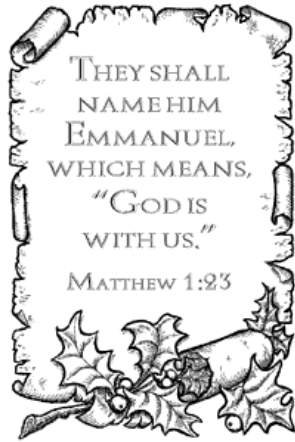
Call the Church Office at 610-767-7203

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 Pastor Paulette	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...

Emmanuel – God with us. That’s what it is all about – Christmas I mean. Emmanuel – God with us.



In the midst of the shopping, the baking, the wrapping, the caroling, the decorating, the gift giving – did you find him? In the wonder of the festivity, the worship, the candlelight, the community – did you find him? In the midst of the silence, the joy, the holiness, the wonder – did you find him? Because Emmanuel – God with us – is what Christmas is all about.

It is not surprising if you answered no to the questions above. After all, two thousand years ago, people missed him. The throngs of people who came to Bethlehem on the night of his birth to be counted in the census missed him. As he grew up, the people from his home town in Nazareth missed him. Many who heard him preach, saw him heal, witnessed his miracles missed him. The scribes and Pharisees who confronted him during his ministry missed him. And yet he was never disguised!

Only those who were open to his presence – only those who trusted his message – only those who dared to believe God was at work among humanity – only those people experienced Emmanuel – God with us.

Emmanuel – God with us – continues to come. Entering the world...in the bright eyes of a child witnessing for the first time the sacredness of Christmas Eve worship...in the grateful heart of the one who has experienced forgiveness...in the open arms of the ones who welcome the rejected...in the wandering feet of the ones who spread the gospel...in the listening ears of the ones who hear acceptance...in the faith-filled voices of the ones who give thanks for his coming.

The New Year is almost here and I pray that this year...may you find him – Emmanuel – God with us. May you be awakened to his presence within you. May you be filled with wonder and awe for the way he works in your life. May you experience joy and hope and gratitude as he touches your soul. May you hear his voice as he whispers your name and calls you to help him enter the world. Because he comes – Emmanuel – God with us.

Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Jami

ASSISTANT PASTOR’S WORD...

From Pastor Paulette Obrecht



Epiphany is the time between the two great feasts of the church year – Christmas and Easter. It’s known as Ordinary Time. But, especially during the year of the gospel of Matthew, this is no ordinary time at all.

Epiphany is also known as a transition time. It’s a time of coming – and going, of ascent – and descent. The wise men arrive and they return. They are led up to the One they have come to see – and they return again to the earthly place from which they came. Jesus goes up on the mountain to preach to the people, and then comes down from the hills to model for us how God wants us to live with each other in community.

Thus, Epiphany is a time of revealing, as we, too, are invited to “come and see.” We attempt to discover who is this one born in a manger? And, who will he turn out to be for us and for the world? God has come to *us* and is revealed to *us* as a human person.

So we get to ask ourselves, where *have* we been able to notice Christ in the midst of our lives? Where have we seen God active in the world? In Vacation Bible School, we often have called these instances “God sightings.” We might see God in the beauty of the sunset on the western horizon. We might notice God as we watch a baby enjoying warm water poured on his head during his baptism. We might be sure God is present as a friend comes to visit on a day when we were struggling with loneliness. Epiphany is the time when we are invited to ask, “Where have you seen God present in your life – or in the lives of someone else?” Then, tell someone about it.

Epiphany – a time to notice God active in our world. There certainly is nothing ordinary about that. And, yet, there most certainly is.

... “The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death, light has dawned.” – Matthew 4:16

WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICE VOLUNTEERS



You may have called the church office in the past month and heard a new voice answering the phone. No... Jane did not take a permanent vacation and no... Nina has not stopped answering the phones. What did happen is that we have some office helpers who will be staffing the office on Tuesdays and during scheduled staff meetings.

Because we will be activating the new limited access entry system in the near future we realized that the office must have a “live person” in it during posted office hours. That meant we needed some extra help so that people needing to gain access to the building can be “buzzed” into the building when our regular office staff is unavailable. Our office helpers will be in the office on Tuesdays from 9 AM – 3 PM and during staff meetings to assist members and guests.

We are grateful to our new office helpers: Leslie Daniel, Nancy Hofmann, Kim Kutzler, Michelle Rock and Nancy Xander. These are the voices and faces you will see sitting at Jane’s desk during their scheduled times. Many thank to these volunteers for their time and support!

Reflections on Dealing with Grief & Loss
REFLECTIONS ON DEALING WITH GRIEF & LOSS

by Pastor Paulette Obrecht

Mourning is the external part of dealing with loss - the actions we take, the rituals and the customs. Grief is the internal part of loss – how we feel. That internal work of grieving is a process, a journey. It doesn’t end on a certain day or date. It’s as individual as each of our lives.

Martha Whitmore Hickman notes that grieving can be habit-forming, providing the security we need to deal with our loss. But, after a while we really need to move on. We begin to realize that retreating into our own small world and its painful security will not protect us from further dangers. In fact, it might keep us from savoring the world – its beauties and relationships, which are also passing us by – and which our loved one would want us to enjoy fully.

As people begin to withdraw their energy from their loss and begin to invest it in the life before them, they often feel as though they are betraying their loved one. Yet, finding acceptance about our loss might just be having more good days than bad ones. We can never replace what has been lost, but we can begin to make new connections, new meanings, new ways of relating to our loved one and to the people around us. We move, we change, we grow, we evolve. When we reach the other side of grief, we notice that we have undergone tremendous growth – emotionally, spiritually, and psychologically. We have learned to incorporate loss and sadness into our lives without being overwhelmed by them.

As we heal, we learn more about who we are and who our loved one was in life, often bringing us closer to the person we loved, but in a new way. We may have learned how to express our feelings in new ways and how to take support and help from others. Some people may have learned how to face life on their own and that they are more able to cope and use their new strengths in new ways that can enhance their lives. Reaching a stage of acceptance, while still painful, offers us a new beginning. In her book *Healing after Loss: Daily Meditations for Working through Grief*, Martha Whitmore Hickman offers this prayer:

“Dear God, my Creator: As I am able, help me remember the world around me with courage and expectation. This is the only day I have for sure. May I use it well. Amen.”



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 check WFMZ.com, listen to the radio station **WAEB** (AM 790), check the website at www.hopecherryville.org or call our church office (610-767-7203).

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – DECEMBER 2013

- ↓ Rev. Dr. Gene Handwerk joined the council for a visit. His purpose was to do a “check-in” with the council because Pastor Paulette has been with us for a year – and generally the synod does a follow-up after one year in a new parish. Gene led the council through a process to look at various aspects of Pastor Paulette’s ministry and the team ministry of Pastor Paulette and Pastor Jami.
- ↓ Council extended a grateful “thank you” to our outgoing council members, Wayne Weidner and Chrystal Wrenn. Their service was recognized and appreciated.
- ↓ 2014 Commitments from Consecration Sunday continue to come in to the office. As of 12/7/2013 the 194 commitments received totaled \$306,220.00. This compares with 187 commitments in 2013 that totaled \$297,566.00. It is still not too late to turn in your Estimate of Giving Card which you should have received in a mailing in October. Additionally, the office staff has extra cards if you misplaced yours. Every commitment to God’s ministry helps Hope fulfill our mission!
- ↓ Property reported that a Boy Scout submitted a proposal for an Eagle Scout Project at their November meeting. The project involves erecting a permanent flagpole near the pavilion which will can be seen and used by scouts and for interments in the Memorial Garden.
- ↓ The Fire Safety System and limited Access system work is being completed and the committees will be working on implementation in the new year. Look for more information in the bulletins and next newsletter.

- ⤵ Council approved the transfers of Sharon Hay-Royer and Kay O'Donnell.
- ⤵ The youth of Hope Lutheran will be holding their annual Valentine Dinner on Saturday, February 15th and a clothing drive the week of March 11th – 14th with pick-up of clothing on Saturday, March 15th. Mark your calendars now for these events!
- ⤵ The Evangelism Committee reported a very successful Nativity Display, including some press coverage! (Posted on the bulletin board)
- ⤵ Council spent time reviewing and reflecting on the annual Congregation Meeting looking at ways that council can be more accessible to the congregation and will continue that discussion next month.

WELCA

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

PASTORAL ACTS

HOLY BAPTISMS

Pastor Paulette officiated at the following baptism on Sunday, December 15, 2013:

Colten Samuel Bachman of Matthew Bachman and Tara Heffner. He was born on October 9, 2013.

Please welcome Colten into our church family at Hope and pray for his growth in faith.

MARRIAGES

Katie Biechy and Andrew Czekner were united in marriage on November 23, 2013. Pastor Jami officiated.

Kimberly Rice and Glenn Eberwein were united in marriage on November 30, 2013. Pastor Jami officiated.

Congratulations to Katie & Andrew and Kim & Glenn and please pray that they will always remember the vows made before God on their very special days.

FUNERALS

Pastor Jami officiated at the following funerals:

Rose Marie Fritz entered eternal life on November 18, 2013 at the age of 97 years. Funeral services were held at Bensing Funeral Home.

George Larkin entered eternal life on November 29, 2013. Funeral services were held at Thomas Funeral Home.

Irene C. Oplinger entered eternal life on December 5, 2013 at the age of 90 years. Funeral services were held at Bensing Funeral Home.

Ray Edelman entered eternal life on December 12, 2013 at the age of 93 years. Funeral services were held at Bensing Funeral Home.

Our sympathy to family and friends of Rose, George, Irene and Ray. May God continue to be their guide and strength.

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.



by Pastor Paulette

So, here I sit at my desk at Hope Lutheran Church in beautiful downtown Cherryville, thinking about how quickly the year has gone by. It's amazing how different it is to serve in a large multi-staffed church compared to a small parish. Yet, I am reminded of the lyrics composed by our organist Dave Ziegler for the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the ELCA, where he noted that I "did my own thing." As Assistant of Hope Church, that has described what I have been able to do this past year. Since there are so many people involved in managing so many programs, how does one insert their own style of ministry and offer new ministries and ideas? And, the answer is – by "doing her/his own thing."

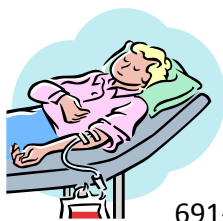
And, here's a snapshot of *some* things I've been able to invest energy in and accomplish through God acting in my life to "do my own thing" – in partnership and with the support of the people of Hope Church:

- ❖ Planned and led special worship services, such as the "Thanksgiving Feast," National Day of Prayer, and the "Senior Picnic"
- ❖ Worked with Cub Scouts on badges related to faith practices, plus seeking ways for them to be "servants of the Lord" at our church
- ❖ Helped lead and participate with activities of the Social Ministry, Evangelism, and Christian Education committees and with Youth Group
- ❖ Visited hospitalized and homebound members on a regular basis
- ❖ Helped the Confirmation program by with retreats and mentor activities
- ❖ Filled in/substituted for any Sunday School needing help (loved working with the 3rd graders!)
- ❖ Helped with the revival of the Disaster Response Team
- ❖ Met with the Prayer Chain Group
- ❖ Ran the "Buck-A-Chick" program and began writing newsletter articles to raise funds for ELCA World Hunger
- ❖ Coordinated collection of materials for Lutheran World Relief personal care
- ❖ Offered a workshop on "The New Evangelism"

As assistant pastor, I have the chance to get involved in many things – and encouraged to "do my own thing" – which is often something behind the scenes and without fanfare. Yet, that is part of serving where God needs me. I can become less, so Christ can become more. And, that is a good thing.

Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. – Genesis 33:11

RECENT BLOOD DONORS



The following members of Hope Lutheran Church have recently donated blood: Jeffery Barber, Peter Chandick, Rudy Christman, Wendy Clowes, Debra Leibenguth, Christine Rinker, and Raymond Swinger. Thank you to our faithful blood donors; our annual goal was 36 and our YTD is 69, with one month to go! If you would like to give the gift of life, please call the Miller Blood Center at 610-

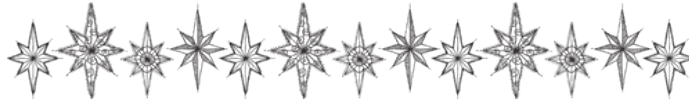
691-5850.

STORY WEAVERS - DISCUSSION GROUP

Story Weavers will meet on Tuesday, January 14th at 10 AM. Lunch will follow at A Ca Mia's. Please contact LeAnn Chandler at lachandler7759@hotmail.com or 610-440-0341 if planning to attend the luncheon. December's question will be discussed. Snow date – January 28th.

SOUP KITCHEN

Soup Kitchen will meet on Wednesday, January 8th at 9 AM. Since the committee provides all necessary ingredients, donations are always welcome to help defray costs. Persons willing to help prepare the soup and/or deliver are also welcome and do not need to be part of this committee to participate. The shut-ins will receive a phone call before delivery. Snow date – January 15. Please contact LeAnn Chandler (610-440-0341) lachandler7759@hotmail.com if willing to help deliver.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 22 at 9:15 AM

This year, Hope Sunday School offers a different kind of Christmas program... *one for 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.



SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

On December 5, Hope Church Social Ministry Committee was host to the Northern Lehigh Valley Mission District Ingathering, where boxes and boxes of gift items were packaged to share with local social service organizations – and children's books were collected for St. Stephen's Church Neighborhood Outreach program. It was great to pool resources with other Lutheran churches to serve so many people in the Lehigh Valley. The ARC dance, held on the 3rd Monday of the month, was surprised by a visit from Santa, who had a present and a hug for everyone, including helpers. Join the ARC crowd next month, on January 20, at 7:00 pm – for great fun hosting young adults with developmental disabilities. Your help is always appreciated.

The "Soup Group" continues to meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month (next meeting: January 8 at 9:00 am) to prepare soup and deliver soup for our homebound members. Call LeAnn Chandler if you might be interested in helping with the deliveries (extra drivers are needed).

Thank you to everyone who helped with activities this past year. As we celebrate the New Year, we look forward to another great year of service to others in the community – and the world.

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 8½ 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).



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.

ALTAR GUILD ****STILL NEEDED!**

Choose from 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.

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.

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.

14th ANNUAL NATIVITY DISPLAY



Nativity
Display

Hope's Evangelism Committee would like to thank EVERYONE who helped make our annual Nativity display another successful one. Our goals for the annual event are to reinforce that Christmas is Christ and to provide Christian fellowship to both our church family and to our community. Thanks to so many of you, our goals were certainly reached.

First of all, thank you to everyone who shared your nativity scene with us we had **471 nativities**, each one more beautiful than the next. It is hard to imagine that of all these nativities, there are very few duplicates. Yet each one reminds us of that special Christmas gift we were all given.

Many people helped to set up and clean up; this is a huge job which we could never accomplish without all of you. Others donated their time during the display working in the kitchen and welcoming our many visitors to Hope. Still others shared their musical talents, which enhance our Nativity display.

We appreciate the many donations of foods and beverages. During the weekend, we had over 400 guests from our church family, many communities in the Lehigh Valley and out of state visitors from Maryland, Tennessee, South Carolina, and New York. While some were first time visitors, many

were repeat visitors and everyone leaves with the warmth of Christmas and gratitude to Hope for this display.

Your offerings were very generous and we will be providing a brighter Christmas to several people with that money – recipients include a family from Hope, a young boy from Lehigh Township, a family from Northampton School District and toys for children from Northern Lehigh School District.

Our children's craft center was again well received and had many children busy enjoying and making a craft.

We wish you all a very Merry Blessed Christmas and a healthy Happy New Year. Help us to keep that Christmas spirit alive at Hope all year through. Remember, wise people still seek Him!

~ Hope's Evangelism Committee

COAT DRIVE



Ice Cream Lab in Walnutport is collecting coats for area residents in need. Any unwanted coat or jacket in clean and good condition would be greatly appreciated. For each coat donated you will receive \$1.00 gift certificate for Ice Cream Lab. Please drop them at the Ice Cream Lab, 350 S. Best Avenue, Suite E, anytime until December 31st. Thank you.

CONGREGATIONAL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Maybe you noticed the homework assignment in the last bulletin, challenging you find out the date of your baptism. Or maybe you didn't. Well? How's your research going? You still have time... ask your family or unearth those baby books. What was the date you became a child of God?



GIANT A+ SCHOOL REWARDS



Hope Lutheran Nursery School is participating in the Giant A+ School Rewards Program. 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/aplus and use our ID #06640. Thank you for supporting the Nursery School. (*Annual registration is required)

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 3 years of age by September 1st in order to register.

BIBLE STUDY

Evening Bible Study will begin again on Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30 PM and continue for at least 12 weeks. We will be studying Ecclesiastes. A small fee will be charged for each participant to receive a book. All are invited to attend.

FLOWER SPONSOR CHART

Our new flower chart for 2014 is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. 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 is also posted on the narthex bulletin board. 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 is posted on the narthex bulletin board. One sponsor is needed per week at a cost of \$6.00 per sponsor.

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 share this information with them.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – JANUARY 2014

<p><u>Sunday, January 5, 2014</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM New Member Class 10:30 AM Service of the Word/Baptism</p>
<p><u>Sunday, January 12, 2014</u> <i>Evangelism's Come Back to Church Sunday</i> 8:00 AM Service of the Word 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM New Member Class 10:30 AM Holy Communion</p>
<p><u>Sunday, January 19, 2014</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion/Reception of New Members 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM New Member Reception 10:30 AM Service of the Word/Reception of New Members <i>** Level I Installation of Mentors at both services</i></p>
<p><u>Sunday, January 26, 2014</u> 8:00 AM Service of the Word 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion</p>

VERA BRADLEY BINGO

Need a Christmas gift idea? How about a ticket for the Vera Bradley Bingo to be held on Sunday, February 2nd. Proceeds benefit the Northampton Area Food Bank. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the narthex or see Linda Sidor for tickets.

BRING THOSE BABIES TO CHURCH

(borrowed from a friend's newsletter)

My heart goes out to the parents of small children. I know first-hand the kind of problems they face. Training up a toddler in the way he should go is a constant job, a continuous battle, seven-day-a-week task, not to mention an awesome responsibility. After six days of their whining chorus at home and three hours of embarrassment while shopping, the last thing some young mothers want to face is an hour of agony and humiliation at church.

Many young mothers have asked herself, "Why do I keep bringing them to church?" As she enters the auditorium she utters a silent prayer that the kids will be good and the sermon short. The service begins. While mother is picking up toys, drying eyes, wiping noses, swatting, scolding, trying to sing, listen, and pray, the toddler is pouring juice on her dress. To the toddler, church is an exciting adventure. Songbooks are a challenge to take, stuffed toys make great missiles to launch over four or five rows, and the collection plate would make a great hat.

Young parents take heart! Let me assure you of this:

1. Your children do not disturb others nearly as much as you think they do.
2. If people without children are determined to sit at the back of the church, then they deserve any distraction they get.
3. Most people really do understand your plight and remember back to the days when their children were infants and toddlers.
4. Remember that you are both wanted and needed in the worship service.
5. Have faith that the hand, which now hurls crayons, will one day spread the seeds of the Kingdom.

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.



For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. – Matthew 25:35

God richly provides for daily bread — the earth can produce enough food for everyone. Yet, many of our sisters and brothers still go hungry. Here are some facts provided from the ELCA World Hunger web-site (elca.org/hunger):

- 868 million people – that's 1 in 8 – are chronically hungry and cannot lead active daily lives.
- 1.4 billion people live in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.25 per day.
- In the US, more than 50 million people don't know where their next meal will come from.
- 46.2 million Americans are living in poverty.

By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, ELCA World Hunger aims to meet basic needs and recognize the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. By helping connect people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care and sources of income, long-term, sustainable change *can* be accomplished.

Working through ELCA congregations, global companion churches, The Lutheran World Federation and other partners like Bread for the World, Church World Service, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Lutheran World Relief, the ELCA reaches more places more effectively than they could ever do alone. In addition to funding relief and development projects that assist our sisters and brothers in need, they engage members of the ELCA in education and advocacy to help change the systems that perpetuate poverty.

Won't you consider making a New Year's resolution to do your part to stamp out hunger in the US – and the whole of God's world?

YOUTH GROUP

Upcoming Events:

January 8: POW 5:30 – 8 PM

January 23: Snow tubing 6:30 - 9:00 PM



Valentine's Dinner

Bring your sweetheart to the youth group's annual **Valentine's Dinner** on **Saturday, February 15**. Dinner options this year will be prime rib, chicken marsala, or chicken oscar (chicken with asparagus and crab). All meals are served with mashed potatoes, vegetables, soup, roll and butter, and dessert. Junior portions and child meals are also available. Adult tickets are \$12, junior portions are \$7, and children's meals (hotdogs and macaroni and cheese) are \$2.50. Tickets will be available in January after each service or by calling the church and leaving a message on the youth group mailbox. 610-767-7203 ext. 9.



**Valentines
Dinner**

Mark your calendar

The youth group is holding a **clothing drive** this March. Start saving spare clothing in garbage bags. Drop off dates will begin Sunday, March 9th through Friday, March 14th. Help will be available in the evenings to unload cars and the hours for assistance will be posted as March approaches.

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, January 8, 5:30 pm – Level 2 Students/Mentors - Come to POW (Pizza on Wednesday) – for food, fellowship, a discussion topic, and then travel to Emmanuel Church for contemporary worship (counts as a church attendance) – a required event.

Sunday, January 19 – Level I Mentors will be installed at both worship services. Then, at 11:45 am, Mentors and Students will meet for breakfast and discussion (a required activity).

Sunday, January 19 – Level 2 students and parents – during Sunday School hour – will gather for questions and conversations – What would you like to ask your parents about their understanding of faith and the church? Letters of invitation to parents will go out the first week in January.

Coming in February – on the 22nd – Mentor Game Nights (for both levels) – more details in next month’s newsletter!

A Stewardship Poem
Giving is living, the angel said,
Go feed the hungry sweet charity’s bread.
Must I keep giving and giving again?
my selfish quarrelsome answer came.
No, said the angel, whose eye pierced me through,
just give till the Lord stops giving to you.

THANK YOU NOTES

To The Workers in the Soup Kitchen,

Thank you so much for the delicious soup and cookies. We appreciate everyone who helps make time for giving their talents.

Anna and Robert Taschler

<u>NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE</u>		
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 <u>12:00 PM</u> on the deadline date. Thank you.		
<u>Edition</u>	<u>Article Deadline</u>	<u>Collation Date</u>
February	Monday, January 20	Thursday, January 23
March	Monday, February 17	Thursday, February 20
April	Monday, March 17	Thursday, March 20

**New Photos... from the auction, memorial garden dedication and basket raffle posted...
<http://hopecherryville.org/photos/>**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 30, 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 - November	35,066.10	2,417.73	428.37	-	-
Income - Jan.-Oct.	289,779.94	147,460.52	20,359.37	12,183.78	3,272.64
Total Income	324,846.04	149,878.25	20,787.74	12,183.78	3,272.64
Expenses - November	30,549.23	6,280.00	-	-	-
Expenses - Jan.-Oct.	334,199.04	178,059.06	7,945.64	4,700.00	45,419.05
Total Expenses	364,748.27	184,339.06	7,945.64	4,700.00	45,419.05
Net Income	(39,902.23)	(34,460.81)	12,842.10	7,483.78	(42,146.41)
Net Special Appeals	313.00				
Balance End of November	\$ 49,101.38	\$ 82,096.09	\$ 90,153.59	\$ 103,109.55	\$ (13,046.92)
SUMMARY:					
Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of November by \$4,516.87, and for the year 2013, expenses exceeded income by \$39,902.23, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$49,101.38. Last year the net income for the same period was \$17,390.94 with a balance of \$69,318.98.					
Budget Comparison--Total Regular Fund Budget for 2013 is \$413,068.00. 47/52 of that figure is \$373,349.92. Our receipts in the Regular Fund for the eleven months were \$324,846.04. So, we are behind in income by \$48,503.88.					

