

HOPE HOME NEWS

Vol. XLI N^o. 2 February 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
Tues.: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4131 LEHIGH DRIVE | CHERRYVILLE PA 18035 | HOPECHERRYVILLE.ORG

HOPE LEADERSHIP

STAFF

<p>PASTOR The Rev. Jami Possinger pastor@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext. 12 610-799-2449 (h)</p>	<p>ASSISTANT PASTOR The Rev. Paulette Obrecht assistant@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext. 13 610-837-9256 (h)</p>
<p>VISITATION PASTOR The Rev. Jerry Mraz</p>	<p>PASTOR EMERITUS The Rev. Clark W. Kuntz II</p>
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER Mrs. Jane Tretiak office@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203</p>	<p>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Mr. David R. Ziegler organist@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext.11</p>
<p>BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR Mrs. Janet Filchner 610-767-7203 ext. 40</p>	<p>SEXTON Mrs. Bonnie Zmyewski</p>
<p>TREASURER Mrs. Trudy Mertz</p>	<p>FINANCIAL SECRETARY Mrs. Deb Gardner</p>
<p>COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST Nina Weiss communications@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext. 20</p>	

Congregational Council

Linda Mery <i>President</i>	Tim Lockard <i>Vice President</i>	Amy Nichols <i>Secretary</i>
Kasey Frey	Jim Gardner	Tim Moore
Al Rock	Tony Pagotto	Tom Patterson
Bruce Schnabel	Bob Small	John P. Zmyewski

CONTACT INFORMATION

<p>New membership, baptisms, funerals, weddings, change of address, van requests, memorial sponsors, hospital admissions, facility rentals</p>	<p>Call the church office 610-767-7203</p>
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REGARDING	CALL	PHONE. NO
Basket Cmte	Linda Sidor	610-767-8372
Boy Scouts	Mike Weber	570-905-6319
Church Website	Tom Perry	610-261-0743
Confirmation	Pastor Jami Pastor Paulette	610-767-7203
Cub Scouts	Emily Hassler	610-760-1547
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
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 Kwon Do	Rich Mullen	610-760-0958
Yard Sale	Ralph Fisher	610-392-4985

Our Mission



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.

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

From Pastor Jami Possinger



Well... I am writing for the February newsletter and I thought, with Valentine's Day in February, what could be a better topic than love?! Actually... I was inspired to write about love when I read the following quote from the artist, Marc Chagall:

In our life, there is a single color,
as on an artist's palette, which
provides the meaning of art and
life. It is the color of love.

I never really thought about love being a color – but I have often thought that if we want to provide meaning in our lives - then we must learn to love - and to love unconditionally. A seminary professor once said something like this in a lecture: Only when we learn how to love unconditionally can we truly feel the sense of completion that is already within ourselves, but that we keep repressed under the layers of fear and control and feelings of inadequacy. He went on to say this is one of the many secrets of life: when we learn to love unconditionally - we no longer need to fear - and we no longer need to protect ourselves. When unconditional love becomes a true way of life - all the time - then our lives will be so filled with that one color that we'll find that other colors no longer matter.

It is paradoxical but true – we finally learn to *accept love* from others when we've learned to *give love* ourselves. We learn to *feel good about ourselves* when we spend more time *making others feel good about themselves*. We *feel the most peace* when we do our best to *help others find peace* - without controlling or dominating them. And the key in all these situations is to do what we do with love and caring.

I have a friend who always used to feel sorry for herself because there wasn't enough love in her life - because love had somehow passed her by. What she thought was love, though, was actually dependence. She felt that her life had no meaning because she didn't have that "one love," the romantic love that we're taught is so important in our lives. But that's not what brings meaning to us. The love that brings meaning is the love that we give and share, the love between friends and even enemies, the giving of ourselves and our feelings with others who need to feel love.

Most of the people who give their love unconditionally don't even need to use the word "love." It's clear in their actions, in their self-reliance, in their gaze, in their way of being. And when we learn to paint our lives with that color, what a beautiful mixture of colors we'll receive in return as each person shares their own colors of love with us. Happy painting!

Blessings,
Pastor Jami

ASSISTANT PASTOR'S WORD...

From Pastor Paulette Obrecht



This is the year of Matthew! Each Sunday (well, most Sundays), the gospel reading for this church year is from the book of Matthew. And, during the season of Epiphany in Matthew's year, we always read from the Sermon on the Mount. You know, the chapters that share things like the Beatitudes ("blessed are the poor ..."), you are the salt of the earth, let your light so shine before others, turn the other cheek, and love your enemies. When these words were first spoken to the ordinary

people who gathered on a hill to listen to Jesus, they were amazed. No one had ever made them feel that valuable and important before. No one had ever spoken words such counter-cultural words that truly made sense to them.

Of course, this was not a message that people expected to hear from a messiah. There were a lot of things Jesus asked them to do that were tough to do. They would have to change their ways. They would have to look at those around them in a new way. They would have to put others first, and their wishes and desires would have to be put on a “back burner.”

Welcome to the world of change!!

When I began reading commentaries on the gospel stories for the season of Epiphany, it made me think about the kinds of changes that we all have to deal with when we live together in community. What changes have you noticed lately in the life of the church that may be tough to deal with? Fewer people attending regularly, fewer volunteers and people involved in ongoing activities, changes in dress, in customs, in music, in decorations; new people involved in activities who have new ideas, new methods, new ways of worshipping, new ways of serving. Change, change, change. New. New. New. It’s hard to keep up.

Yet, maybe, that’s why Matthew reminds us: “Those who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.” No matter what the challenges and changes we face in our lives, the words of Jesus travel with us – and so does his Holy Spirit, the Comforter. What an epiphany!

You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world. You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family. – Matthew 5:8-9 (from The Message)

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – JANUARY 2014

↓ Congregation Officers for 2014 are:

President – Linda Mery
Vice President – Tim Lockard
Secretary – Amy Nichols
Treasurer – Trudy Mertz
Financial Secretary – Deb Gardner

↓ Committee Liaison Assignments for 2014 are:

Christian Education – Amy Nichols
Evangelism – John Zmyewski
Finance – Bob Small, Tim Lockard
Mutual Ministry – Linda Mery
Property – Al Rock, Tony Pagotto
Social Ministry – Tim Moore
Stewardship – Tom Patterson,
Jim Gardener
Worship and Music – Bruce Schnabel
Youth Ministry – Kasey Frey

- ↓ Council welcomed two new members – Kasey Frey and Jim Gardner
- ↓ The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and accepted. Council thanks the members of Hope for fulfilling their financial commitments and helping with the year-end appeal. The good news is that we ended the year with a small deficit which did not eliminate our cash reserve. A copy of the financial report resides on the bulletin board for members to review.
- ↓ The Fire Safety system is operational and has been certified. The certification will be sent to our insurance company for consideration of a discount. This is a monitored system so that if there is a fire alarm that goes off in the building the police and fire company will respond.
- ↓ Property Committee reported that the parking lot was sealed by Livengood Excavators so it is in shape for the winter.
- ↓ The Youth Group has a number of upcoming fundraising activities to highlight. Watch the newsletter and bulletins for more information.
 - ✓ Valentine Dinner - Feb. 15th

- ✓ Easter Peanut-rolled eggs for sale during Lent
- ✓ Vera Bradley Bingo – May 10th
- ↓ The limited access security system is almost ready to go live. We will implement this in stages and the congregation will be informed as we do.
- ↓ Devotions for the meeting were based on things we would like to focus on for the next year. More discussion will follow in future meetings. Getting members involved in ministry and using their gifts and passions is our first priority.

COMMUNION IN 2014

As you take communion for 2014, please complete the Hope Hospitality Pad. This will help us keep our records up to date. Remember, you only have to indicate that you have taken communion once every year. Thank you!

STORY WEAVERS - DISCUSSION GROUP

The StoryWeavers group will meet on Tuesday, February 11 at 10 AM (snow date: February 25). The group will be going to the Slatington Diner following the meeting for lunch. Please contact LeAnn Chandler at lachandler7759@hotmail.com or 610-440-0341.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Stewardship New Year's Resolutions

by Grace Duddy

A few years ago I visited [Peace Lutheran Church](#) in Tacoma, WA as part of a research team from Luther Seminary. One of the members of Peace that we met was also staff at the community center housed within their congregation. When asked what stewardship looked like in his life, the man said that he chooses to give the resource that is hardest for him to give, and at that point in his life, it was time.

At the dawn of a new year, I find myself harkening back to that statement and wondering, **“What is the hardest resource for me to give? What would it look like to give that first? What resource is most difficult for me to steward?”** As I have reflected on these questions, I have the same answer as the man I met in Tacoma. The hardest resource for me to give and to steward is time.

Don't get me wrong, I volunteer for various organizations, including the church. But I still have this underlying belief that my time is mine to keep, to use, to organize or even to waste. There is a dichotomy between the time that I give away, or give to God, and the time that I have for myself. Yet, doesn't God care about how I use all of my time, not just the small percentage that I give away to worship, fellowship, spiritual practices and volunteering?

Like money, time is one of the many resources that God has entrusted to my care to serve both God and my neighbor. In 2014, I do not want to focus solely on the ways that God is calling me to give my time away to the church, but how God is calling me to use all of my time to share God's love and grace with the world. What is God calling me to do with all of my time on earth? How is God calling me to use my time to live into my many vocations: leader, fiancée, daughter, friend, Christian, neighbor, etc.?

I am continually struck by the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke chapter 10. I am convinced that this story is one of the best examples of what stewardship of your whole life looks like. What I find most striking about the story is that the Samaritan stops his journey, on a long, dangerous road, for the sake of his neighbor. He doesn't consider the time, his destination or his to-do list. Instead, he comes near the beaten and robbed man, sees him and is moved with compassion. This compassion alters the course of his entire day. He gives away his day to a stranger in need out of love and compassion.

As a person who organizes almost every day on a post-it note, this is a shockingly high-calling. What does it look like to be available to love your neighbor even when it isn't convenient? What does it look like to live

my life by the small tugs of the Holy Spirit rather than my clearly written to-do list? I resolve this year to listen closely to the ways that God is teaching me how to be a better steward of all of my time and helps me living into my Christian calling at all hours of the week, not just Sundays.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The church, like every other organization to which we belong, has rules we must follow if we wish to maintain our membership. Those rules are found in the constitutions of both the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Hope Church. You and I, and all other Lutherans, are required to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion and make a contribution of record at least once in each calendar year.

For Hope Church to maintain accurate membership records, you must do the following:

- 1) Receive Holy Communion **and complete the Hope Hospitality Pad at least once a year**. If you can't remember if you've done it previously in that year, do it again.
- 2) Make a contribution **of record** at least once a year. "Of record" means you must place your contribution in your giving envelope (or at least use your envelope number so we can identify and credit it to you). We can't credit a contribution of loose cash placed in the offering plate.

Parents and guardians are reminded that young persons who have been confirmed are members of the congregation to whom these provisions also apply. Please encourage and assist them in maintaining their membership.

SYNOD NEWS

If you would like to read the SYNOD News for the month of February, please visit http://www.godslove.org/publications/synod_news.htm and select *February 2014*.



WELCA

Tuesday, February 18: WELCA Meeting at 9:00 AM

SECOND WELCA GROUP FORMING AT HOPE

What is WELCA? It's an easy way to say **Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**. This vibrant and energetic organization includes Lutheran women who gather in over 7,000 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean, for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more! WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support its mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. There is a place for all kinds of women in Hope's WELCA group. And, that's why we are adding one that meets in the evenings – for those who cannot meet with the long-standing WELCA group that meets in the daytime.

Beginning on Tuesday, February 18, at 7:00 PM, an extension of Hope WELCA will meet in Adult Sunday School Room off of Kuntz Hall. Pastor Paulette will lead the group in exploring what types of topics and projects this new group would like to pursue. A brief presentation will be made about the 9th Triennial Gathering – *Women of Many Generations* - to be held in July 2014 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Come and see what opportunities WELCA might offer in your life – and what ideas you might bring to this new group.

SOUP KITCHEN

The Soup Kitchen will meet on Wednesday, February 5 at 9 AM. Help is always needed along with monetary donations which are greatly appreciated. Homebound members should expect delivery that same day and will be called before soup is delivered. For further information, contact LeAnn Chandler at lachandler7759@hotmail.com or 610-440-0341 if willing to help deliver.



Reflections on Dealing with Grief & Loss

by Pastor Paulette Obrecht

No matter how emotionally strong and stable we believe we are, none of us is accustomed to the emotional upheaval that accompanies the loss of a loved one. People normally experience a wide variety of emotions after a loss – from not caring to relief to being on edge or to feeling angry or sad about everything. We can have mood swings that are hard for those around us to understand – and we often don't understand them ourselves. One minute we're okay, and the next minute we're in tears. This is how grief works.

Part of the process of grieving is realizing that we can only deal with the sadness and pain directly for so long – and then we need a break from it. We need to give our emotions a rest. And, it's good to realize this and accept it.

Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross in her book *On Grief and Grieving* recommends figuring out what rests your emotions – and then do it – without guilt or judgment. If you find getting lost in movies, TV, music, a change of scenery, a trip away from it all, being outdoors, exercising, or just having *nothing* to do – then do it! At first, this break may feel forced or awkward, but stick with it. Since your life has changed its balance, it will take time to regain a sense of equilibrium.

Another good thing to try is spending time with others – with old friends or with new acquaintances. This effort to break away from our emotional states might be a good time to connect with a support group. Often, support groups can bring new people into your world. Many times, they are people who have been through the same things you have just experienced and they understand just what you are going through.

In next month's article, look for news about a grief support that will begin meeting here at Hope Church. We will wait until late March, when the weather will not interfere with meeting times, to begin our group. Anyone interested in learning more about a grief support group should contact me: Pastor Paulette (610-767-7203 or pkobrecht@gmail.com) for more details.

I have entered a new country. I will be patient with myself. I will look for companions of the way. – A prayer from Martha Whitmore Hickman in her "Daily Meditations for Working through Grief"

LENTEN BOOK STUDY: **HELP, THANKS, WOW! BY ANNE LAMOTT**

HELP
THANKS
WOW

THE THREE
ESSENTIAL PRAYERS

ANNE
LAMOTT

If you've ever read anything by Anne Lamott, you'll know that she has a gift for writing about her faith questions in a funny, yet insightful way. This year, as a way to add Lenten discipline to your weekly routine, we will be offering a "Dinner Table Discussion" book study series based on Anne Lamott's book *Help, Thanks, Wow! – the three Essentials of Prayer.*

The group will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:15 PM in Hanson Hall, from March 11 through April 15. It will begin with a simple meal – soup, salad, and bread (no dessert – it's Lent). Then, Pastor Paulette will lead a dinner table discussion of this easy to read, humorous book that can help us get through the day by learning to ask for assistance, noticing the good that we witness daily, and feeling awe at the world in front of us – all because of God in our lives. Everybody will be asked at the first session if they are willing/able to contribute for the series - and everybody will be asked to help with cleanup as we leave refreshed and ready to face the week that lies ahead. Try something new and different this Lenten season. Please sign up at the Narthex bulletin board so we know

how much food to prepare (indeed you are welcome even if you forgot to sign up). We invite you to study with us for one or all of these sessions during Lent, a time of penitential reflection and renewal of our baptismal relationship with God and God's Son given for us.

HOPE HOME NEWS

The monthly newsletter will be getting a makeover as the months go by. This month, you'll notice the colored insert is the calendar and the contact list – the handiest of references. Also as a reminder... please let us know if you can do with just the online version of the monthly newsletter. We mail about 530 paper copies every month, while 225 receive the online version. To sign up, click on "Publications" on <http://hopecherryville.org/>.

IS THERE CHURCH?

If the weather is extremely bad on any given Sunday 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).

RECENT BLOOD DONORS



The following member of Hope Lutheran Church recently donated blood: Brenda Mack. Thank you to our faithful blood donors; **our 2013 goal was 36 and we closed the year with 70!** Let's see what we can give in 2014 – *Miller Keystone is currently in need of all blood types.* If you would like to give the gift of life, please call the Miller Blood Center at 610-691-5850.

PASTORAL ACTS

HOLY BAPTISMS

Pastor Jami officiated at the following baptisms:

Sunday, January 5, 2014:

Charlotte Rose O'Brien (April 2012), daughter of Timothy and Lauren (Macri) O'Brien.

Zachary Davis Haydt (November 2001), son of Brian Haydt and Jill (Schwartz) Neff. **Ashley**

Grace Neff (December 2008) and **Makayla Rose Neff** (April 2011), daughters of Daniel and Jill (Schwartz) Neff.

Sunday, December 22, 2013:

Jack Joseph Musser (August 2013), son of Nicholas and Erika (Belletti) Musser

Please welcome Charlotte, Zachary, Ashley, Makayla and Jack into our church family at Hope and pray for their growth in faith.

FUNERALS

Pastor Jami officiated at the following funeral:

Jean M. Filchner entered eternal life on January 7, 2014 at the age of 80 years. Funeral services were held at Bensing Funeral Home.

Our sympathy to family and friends of Jean; may God continue to be their guide and strength.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Social Ministry met on January 7th. Pastor Paulette led the group with some interesting questions... like what would each one bring to the Christ child for a gift like the three wise men? The different responses were very thoughtful and interesting.

The Soup Kitchen is going along nicely. Our soup for January was chili, which we hope everyone enjoyed. We haven't decided what February's soup will be, but it will be delicious! The ARC Dance is Monday February 17th at 6 PM. Please members, join us for a night of fun and dancing with some neat kids. Hope to see you there.

HOPE DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM EVENTS

On Sunday, February 9th, Hope's Disaster Response Team will make a presentation about their recent mission trip to help with tornado recovery in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The group of five people who travelled with other volunteers from Breinigsville, Pennsylvania, and Appleton, Wisconsin, will host a coffee hour at 9:15 AM in Kuntz Hall. They will share their slides and stories and talk about their upcoming plans for helping with local and long-distance recovery projects. The group will also make a brief presentation during both worship services that day, to thank Hope congregation for their spiritual and financial support. Everyone is welcome to attend the coffee hour to enjoy fellowship, food, and tales of their experiences from that week.

The Disaster Response Team is also sponsoring a breakfast on Sunday, March 9th, from 8:30 to 10:30 AM in Kuntz Hall as a way to continue supporting the team's mission work. The breakfast will be available to all interested people – and a free-will donation will be accepted to help support the team's efforts.

The next meeting of the team will be on Tuesday, February 19 at 6:30 PM. in the Conference Room. A speaker from the local Habitat for Humanity will make a presentation describing how Hope's team can link with them on local repair and recovery building projects. Anyone wanting to learn more about the team's mission and ministries are invited to attend this meeting.

SPONSORS NEEDED

Please check the charts!

- ✓ **FLOWER CHART** – Two sponsors (only two) are needed each week at a cost of \$15.00 per sponsor.
- ✓ **BULLETIN CHART** – Three sponsors are needed each week at a cost of \$6.00 per sponsor.
- ✓ **PRESS CHART** – One sponsor is needed each week at a cost of \$6.00 per sponsor.

Payment is due to the church office 2 weeks before any of the above sponsorships. Thank you.

NEW MEMBERS

Please join in welcoming our newest members...

- ❖ Clair Larkin
- ❖ John & Lynda Kaspern
- ❖ Harley-Day Hallman and children Douglas & Mason Schaedel

CATECHETICAL CLASS NEWS

LEVEL I

Saturday, February 22nd – Mentor/Student Game Night/Ice Cream Social from 7:00-8:30pm.

Saturday, March 8th - Mini-Retreat on the Lord's Prayer from 8:30am-12:30pm.

LEVEL II

Saturday, February 22nd - Mentor/Student pizza and game night from 5:00pm – 6:30pm.

Saturday, March 2nd - Mini-Retreat on the Lord's Prayer from 8:30am-12:30pm.

Mentors and students if you have any conflicts with any of the upcoming mentor events, please call Trish Ninos at 610-360-6034 ASAP.

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. 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.

**Redner's
WAREHOUSE
MARKETS**

REDNER'S SAV-A-TAPE PROGRAM

Hope Church continues to participate in the Redner's Sav-A-Tape program. You must use a Sav-A-Tape card in order for your receipts to qualify. The church receives 1% of all receipts submitted. Sis Livermon organizes and totals all of the register tapes, and takes them to the store. (Thank you Sis!) Redner's then sends the church a check. Receipts that do not have the Sav-A-Tape card information do not qualify and have to be discarded. You must turn in the whole receipt for the receipt to qualify, please do not cut your receipt and turn in just the small slip with the Sav-A-Tape information on it. Please continue to bring in your register tapes, and if you don't have a card, they are available in the church office or you can pick one up at the store. Call Jane Tretiak in the church office at 610-767-7203 with any questions.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – FEBRUARY 2014

<p><u>Sunday, February 2, 2014</u> SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY 8:00 AM Holy Communion – Noisy Offering! 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service of the Word – Noisy Offering! Boy Scout Sunday</p>
<p><u>Sunday, February 9, 2014</u> 8:00 AM Service of the Word 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion Disaster Response Breakfast 8:30 – 10:30 AM</p>
<p><u>Sunday, February 16, 2014</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service of the Word</p>
<p><u>Sunday, February 23, 2014</u> 8:00 AM Service of the Word 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion</p>

YOUTH GROUP

Valentine's Dinner: Bring your sweetheart to the youth group's annual **Valentine's Dinner** on **Saturday, February 15th**. Dinner options this year are prime rib, chicken Marsala, or chicken Oscar (chicken with asparagus and crab). All meals are served with mashed potatoes, vegetables, soup, roll 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 & cheese) are \$2.50. Tickets are available after each service (until February 9th) or by calling the church and leaving a message on the youth group mailbox, ext. 9.



**Valentines
Dinner**

Clothing Drive: The youth group will be collecting clothing from Sunday, March 9 (9 AM - Noon) through Friday, March 14. You can drop off your clothing during daily office hours in the Narthex or Monday through Friday through our drive thru drop-off service. The drive thru service will have youth group members available to assist you with unloading your vehicle. Look for signs for the drive thru door where the youth will be waiting. The door will be on the side of the church closest to the parsonage.



Mon 3/10, Fri 3/14, Thurs 3/13:

7:30 AM – 4 PM **AND** Drive Thru 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Tues 3/11:

9 AM – 3 PM **AND** Drive Thru 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Wed 3/12:

7:30 AM – 4 PM **AND** Drive Thru 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Easter Candy: We will be selling peanut roll eggs fresh and homemade by the youth group in early April. Look for sign-ups in March to pre-order your peanut roll eggs so we can be sure we don't run out!

Other Events for the Youth

- ✓ POW - February 12*
- ✓ Valentine's Dinner – February 15
- ✓ Bounce U or Laser Tag – March 29

** Please note there is no POW in March or April due to Lenten services on Wednesday nights*

NORTHAMPTON AREA FOOD BANK

Hope Lutheran Church is responsible for providing volunteers to work at the Northampton Area Food Bank during the month of March. Volunteers are needed to assist with unpacking the food delivered to the food bank, packing of orders for distribution to needy families and distribution at the food bank of packed orders. Volunteers are needed on the following dates and times:



DAYS/DATES	TIMES	DUTIES
Monday March 3	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Un-packing of food delivery from Second Harvest (need to be able to lift cases of food)
Wednesdays: March 5, 12 and 19	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Packing of food orders
Thursdays: March 6, 13 and 20	5:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Packing of food orders
Fridays: March 7 and 14	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Packing of food orders
Saturdays: March 8 and 15	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Distribution of food orders

A sign up list is located on church bulletin board. The Northampton Area Food Bank is located at 1601 Canal Street, Northampton. For additional information or to sign up to volunteer, contact Leslie Daniel at 610-216-1340.

A LOOK AHEAD

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes will be offered at two worship services on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014, either 11:00 AM or 7:00 PM.



MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICES WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Worship at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM each Wednesday in Lent. More information on our Lenten theme will be published in the weekly bulletins. Come join your friends at Hope this Lenten Season – a powerful, life-changing journey that calls to prayerful and honest repentance. Wednesdays in Lent are... March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 9.

WEDNESDAY MORNING LENTEN SERVICE SERIES

Is the Bible one big story or a bunch of little ones? And what does it have to do with you? Come find out how you fit into God's story during our Wednesday morning mid-week Lenten services. Each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. (an additional worship service is also offered at 7:00 pm) Hope Church will offer worship and a message based on the series by Jacob Armstrong entitled "The God Story." Here are the weekly titles and readings:

- **Wed., March 5 – Ash Wednesday** – with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion
- **Wed., March 12 – Lent 1 – Gen. 1:1-2, 26-24** – *Introduction: Life as a Story*
- **Wed., March 20 – Lent 2 – Gen. 18:1-15** – *Suspension of Disbelief: I Didn't Think My Life Would Look like This*
- **Wed., March 27 – Lent 3 – Exo.:2-4,13-16** – *Rising Action: Dramatic Rescue*
- **Wed., April 2 – Lent 4 – I Sam. 16:1-13** – *The Inciting Incident: An Unlikely Choice*
- **Wed., April 9 – Lent 5 – Zeph. 3:14-17** – *Soundtrack: A Prophet's Voice*
- **Wed., April 16 – Lent 6 – John 12:12-19** – *Waiting for Resolution: The Waiting Is Over*

We hope you will set aside time to join us for mid-week Lenten services – and hear the story of God's love – and how you fit into the story, too.

HOPE CHURCH AND ELCA WORLD HUNGER

The questions below are part of a "hunger quiz" offered by the Souper Bowl of Caring organization.

True or false: The U.S. has the highest wage inequality of any other industrialized nation?

True. People can work full-time at minimum wage and still not make enough money to maintain a basis standard of living – buying food, paying rent and medical bills, buying clothes for their children, and affording a car to enable them to travel to work.

Q: What % of children live in hungry or food insecure households?

- a) 5% b) 11% c) 17% d) 25%

A: C - 17% - The US has the highest child poverty rate of any other industrialized nation.

Q: How much money did it cost to purchase a 30-second commercial during the 2010 Super Bowl?

- a)1.5 million
- b) 2.2 million
- c) 2.6 million
- d) 3 million

A: C – 2.6 million – Super Bowl Sunday is a day when millions of dollars are spent to enjoy the Super Bowl experience. It’s also a day that we can choose to turn our thoughts and dollars towards those without a bowl of soup to eat.

Please support Hope’s “noisy offering” on Sunday, February 2 – and bring your coins and loose change to make a contribution to ELCA World Hunger. If you are not able to attend church that Sunday – and you wish to help fight hunger, you can send in your check to Hope Church – and designate that it goes to ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for sharing what you have with those who truly need our help.



THANK YOU NOTES

To Carolers,

Thank you for stopping by.

Ken Beers

Thank you Hope Carolers,

Bill and I enjoyed your singing so much. It was a wonderful start to Christmas for us. Thank you also for the fruit basket. We are so grateful to have such great friends.

God Bless you all,

Betty & Bill Krupa

Thank You from the Staff...

Many thanks to the congregation and Church Council for the Christmas bonuses we received in December. We are all appreciative for the cards and recognition that accompanied them. As we continue to serve the congregation and do the ministry we are called to in the coming year, we are grateful for your support!

Janet Filchner, Deb Gardner, Trudy Mertz, Pastor Jami, Pastor Jerry, Pastor Paulette, Nina Weiss, Jane Tretiak, David Ziegler, and Bonnie Zmyewski

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - DECEMBER 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 - December	58,837.71	3,452.57	1,102.63	-	-
Income - Jan.-Nov.	324,846.04	149,878.25	20,787.74	12,183.78	3,272.64
Total Income	383,683.75	153,330.82	21,890.37	12,183.78	3,272.64
Expenses - December	30,964.50	1,567.40	423.11	-	-
Expenses - Jan.-Nov.	364,748.27	184,339.06	7,945.64	4,700.00	45,419.05
Total Expenses	395,712.77	185,906.46	8,368.75	4,700.00	45,419.05
Net Income	(12,029.02)	(32,575.64)	13,521.62	7,483.78	(42,146.41)
Net Special Appeals	-				
Balance End of November	\$ 76,661.59	\$ 83,981.26	\$ 90,833.11	\$ 103,109.55	\$ (13,046.92)

SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of December by \$27,873.21, and for the year 2013, expenses exceeded income by \$12,029.02, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$76,661.59. Last year the net income for the same period was \$37,099.57 with a balance of \$88,690.61.

Budget Comparison--Total Regular Fund Budget for 2013 is \$413,068.00. Our receipts in the Regular Fund for the twelve months were \$383,683.75. So, we are behind in income by \$29,384.25.

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.

Edition

March
April
May

Article Deadline

Monday, February 17
Monday, March 17
Monday, April 21

Collation Date

Thursday, February 20
Thursday, March 20
Thursday, April 24



You'll find some subtle changes in layout and format in this edition. The colored insert might be the only page you pull out and hang up monthly, so I've made that the calendar and contact list. HOPEfully, that's helpful! ~Nina

