

HOPE HOME NEWS

Vol. XLIII N^o 12 December 2015



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
Sunday School 9:15 AM

Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday: 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Tuesday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - OCTOBER 31, 2015					
	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship Loan	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$ 65,304.03	\$ 110,899.44	\$ 100,587.66	\$ 104,695.21	\$ (8,021.92)
Income - October	26,083.54	6,461.99	228.33	-	-
Income - Jan.-Sept.	269,516.34	41,270.61	9,047.30	4,950.66	1,085.00
Total Income	295,599.88	47,732.60	9,275.63	4,950.66	1,085.00
Expenses - October	35,270.97	339.00	685.12	875.00	-
Expenses - Jan.-Sept.	278,674.02	31,765.33	1,738.08	8,400.00	1,200.00
Total Expenses	313,944.99	32,104.33	2,423.20	9,275.00	1,200.00
Net Income	(18,345.11)	15,628.27	6,852.43	(4,324.34)	(115.00)
Net Special Appeals	1,283.49				
Balance End of October	\$ 48,242.41	\$ 126,527.71	\$ 107,440.09	\$ 100,370.87	\$ (8,136.92)
SUMMARY:					
Expenses exceeded income in the Regular Fund for the month of October by \$9,187.43, and for the year 2015, expenses exceeded income by \$18,345.11, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$48,242.41. Last year the net income for the same period was \$(34,384.59) with a balance of \$43,245.68.					

*** The current income statement is posted in the narthex. ***

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 (10:00AM start)</u>
January	Thursday, December 18	Monday, December 22
February	Monday, January 19	Thursday, January 22
March	Monday, February 17	Thursday, February 19

Please let the office know if you need to update your delivery method of the Hope Home News. The paper copy contains all the news that's fit to print on six pages. The digital version generally runs longer.

SYNOD NEWS

The December 2015 issue of ***Synod News*** is available online.

Visit <http://nepsynod.org/publications/synod-news/>



GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

Last Friday, the city of Paris was hit with tremendous violence. Terrorists shot and bombed areas of the city – causing many to die and many others to be injured. And, like so many of you, I watched in horror and wondered how people can do these terrible things to each other. What are we – people who believe in Jesus – “good Christians” – to do in the face of such devastation? How can we find a sense of peace in this world? Who is going to lead us out of these turbulent times and into a time that looks more like Jesus’ definition of the kingdom of God?



And that got me to thinking... we can sit around waiting for the second coming of Jesus – who will put the world right again – or we can begin to act. Now I’m not talking about running for Miss America and supporting world peace. And I’m not talking about running for the presidency or any other political office to try to change the world. I am talking about each and every one of us simply “doing the right thing.”

So just what is the right thing? For Jewish people it is following the Law of Moses. For devout Muslims it is following the five pillars of their faith. For Christians it is following the teachings of Jesus. Sounds simple but boy, is it hard sometimes to step outside our comfort zone and do the right thing. Sometimes it seems like we're stepping out into the middle of a crowd with no support – with no defense – and we risk making ourselves look ridiculous by demanding social change – or demanding improvement in our society. But one person can have power... as long as that person is following his or her conscience and doing things for reasons that are pure and true. In other words, they are doing things not for personal gain, but because the person knows in his or her heart that what is being done is needed. As followers of Jesus, we know what the right thing is – Jesus talked about it all the time. And Jesus recognized the power that comes from doing just that – the right thing – because Jesus knew that all of us, in our own way, have influence over others.

Jack Kemp once said, “The power of one man or one woman doing the right thing for the right reason, and at the right time, is the greatest influence in our society.” We may never see the results of our influence. We may never even believe that we've had any influence at all. But that's not important – the important thing is in doing – in facing our fears and going out there and doing something that we feel will benefit others. The truth is... it's not the senators or representatives or the other politicians or businessmen who have the greatest influence on our society – they simply keep things moving, hopefully in positive directions. The greatest influence comes from people who are following their faith and their hearts and their spirits and trying to do what they know to be right.

Our world needs leaders – and not just the elected or appointed kind. We all have the potential to lead others through the power of our convictions, and our dedication to what we believe to be right. And, whether you know it or not, you don't have to be a "person of influence" to be influential. Some of the most influential people in my life are probably not even aware of the things they've taught me. We cannot necessarily change the world as an individual. But what might happen if collectively we – that means all of us – would start by simply doing the right thing? It could be just the revolution for which the world is waiting.

*Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Jami*



From Pastor Brian—

As we approach the end of the church year and the beginning of the season of Advent I have the sense of another new beginning: the start of my first full church year as a pastor. The season of Advent is upon us and I am excited to experience this place anew as we anticipate our Lord's birth together. I am thrilled to be introducing some of you to Centering Prayer this December (starting Wednesday December 2 at 6:00 PM!) and I'm very excited to see all that goes on here in the coming month.



I've enjoyed the past several weeks immensely. My installation service was incredible. My family and friends commented on how welcoming and receptive our congregation was to them. The service was wonderful, the food was amazing, and I can't thank you enough for such a great turnout. It means so much that so many of you were here to celebrate the occasion with me! Thank you so much for welcoming me as your new pastor, I am honored and privileged to be here!

I recently had privilege of visiting Temple Beth El, a synagogue in Allentown, with Rachel and our Level I Confirmation students. It was a very impressive place and one could feel the presence of God there. We will soon have the opportunity to visit Slatington Baptist Church, which I am sure will also be a powerful experience for our youth. Our youth also had a fun time one Sunday afternoon raking leaves at several congregation members' homes and following it with our own Thanksgiving feast! It was a blast to spend time with them and help out some people with raking. In December, our youth will be baking cookies Saturday December 12 from 5:30-8:30 PM and we will join Hope's carolers the next day to deliver our cookies and sing Christmas songs to Hope's homebound members. Should be another fun time!

I enjoyed leading our senior Thanksgiving luncheon service this month as well. It was a fabulous time and I was again reminded of how blessed I am to be at Hope Lutheran Church. Thank you all for your love and prayers as I continue to settle into life in the Lehigh Valley.

Don't forget about my Centering Prayer Group, three Wednesdays during Advent at 6:00 PM. Drop-ins welcome!

Peace, Pastor Brian



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – NOVEMBER 2015

- ⌵ The kitchen renovations are scheduled for December 15th through 18th. During this time the kitchen will be unavailable for use. The completion of the renovations – new flooring – will occur after the new cabinets and appliances are installed at a date to be determined
- ⌵ On Sunday, December 13th, the Sunday School Christmas event, "Follow the Star" will take place from 9:15 to 10:15 AM. Children will follow the Christmas star and meet the characters who take part in the story of Jesus' birth. The adult Sunday School members will be the characters for the nativity activities!
- ⌵ Miah Costanzo has been appointed as the council youth representative to fill the unexpired term of Kasey Frey who left this position to attend college.
- ⌵ Pastor Brian will be offering an introduction to Centering Prayer during the Wednesday evenings of the Advent season (Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th). Sign-ups for this opportunity are encouraged as there is a book to read in conjunction with the prayer times.
- ⌵ Worship and Music committee has announced that there will be **ONE service on Sunday, Dec. 27th at 9:00 AM.** It will be a service of Lessons, Carols and Communion.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – DECEMBER 2015

<p align="center"><u>Wednesday, December 2, 2015</u> 7:00 PM Advent Worship</p>
<p align="center"><u>Sunday, December 6, 2015</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service of the Word</p>
<p align="center"><u>Wednesday, December 9, 2015</u> 7:00 PM Advent Worship</p>
<p align="center"><u>Sunday, December 13, 2015</u> 8:00 AM Service of the Word <i>9:15 AM Sunday School Christmas Program</i> 10:30 AM Holy Communion</p>
<p align="center"><u>Wednesday, December 16, 2015</u> 7:00 PM Advent Worship</p>
<p align="center"><u>Sunday, December 20, 2015</u> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service of the Word</p>
<p align="center"><u>Thursday, December 24, 2015</u> 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service 8:30 PM Christmas Eve Service 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p align="center"><u>Sunday, December 27, 2015</u> 9:00 AM Service of Lessons, Carols & Communion</p>

WELCA

No meeting on Tuesday December 15th but lunch at Blue Mountain Restaurant in Danielsville. Meet there at 11:30 AM.

2015 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 2016.

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 15th are 108 pledges totaling \$214,372.00.

2015 OFFERINGS

Please catch up with your 2015 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!! 2015 offerings must be received or postmarked on or before December 31, 2015 to receive credit for this year. Any offerings received after January 1, 2016 MUST be credited as 2016 contributions.



HOPE FRIENDSHIP DANCE

Monday, December 21

7:00 to 9:00 PM

Kuntz Hall

WOMEN OF FAITH



Our December event will be held on **Monday, December 21st**. We will be Christmas caroling at the Lovelight House (Personal Care Home) in Treichlers. We will meet at the church at 6:00 PM and travel together to Treichlers. We will then return to the church to enjoy a small Christmas party with cookies, hot chocolate, and fellowship. All are invited to attend. Please watch the bulletin board for a sign-up sheet. If you are attending, we ask that you bring cookies or a snack to share.

On **Monday, January 25th**, we will have a movie night here at Hope Church. Watch future bulletins and next month's newsletter for more details on this event. Questions about the Women of Faith? Please contact Jane Tretiak at 610-767-7203.

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM AT HOPE

The Outreach Ministry Committee has the following activities on the calendar for December:

- Wednesday, December 9th at 4:30 PM depart for Bethlehem Emergency Services dinner
 - Wednesday, December 16th at 2:00 PM depart for Christmas party at St. Stephen's. Snow date December 17.
- Anyone interested in finding out more about our Outreach Ministry and their activities should attend. For more information, contact LeAnn Chandler at 610-440-0341.

FLOWER SPONSOR CHART

The flower chart for 2016 will be available soon. Two sponsors (*and only two*) of \$15.00 each are needed each week. Sponsor envelopes are next to the chart, and are due to the office two weeks before the sponsorship. Thank you to Sis Livermon for making our flower chart.

BULLETIN SPONSOR CHART

The bulletin chart for 2016 will also be posted on the narthex bulletin board shortly. Three sponsors are needed per week at a cost of \$8.50 per sponsor.

PRESS SPONSOR CHART

The press sponsor chart for 2016 will be posted on the narthex bulletin board shortly. One sponsor is needed per week at a cost of \$6.00 per sponsor.

HOPE'S HELPING HANDS

Thanks to everyone who has supported the fundraising efforts of HHHs, especially the recent crab patty sale. The support allows our group to serve others that need our assistance. One of our members recently returned from a trip to Tuscaloosa, where she spent a week working with Habitat for Humanity building a new home. Others in our group have recently completed an extensive local rehab project. Yet another member works every week with Habitat for Humanity Lehigh Valley. We are always looking for additional members to join our group and welcome all to our meetings. Next meeting will be January 28th. Also in January, we are planning a sale that includes delicious meat pies (chicken or beef) and apple dumplings from Zook's Market in Lancaster. Comfort food for those cold, wintery nights! Watch for sign-ups on January 10 and 17.

STORY WEAVERS - DISCUSSION GROUP

StoryWeavers will meet on Tuesday, December 8 at 10:00 AM with lunch following at Assante's. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact LeAnn Chandler at 610-440-0341 or lachandler7759@hotmail.com.

HOSPITALIZED – if you or a family member are hospitalized, please remember to give our church code which is 251. Also, please call the church office in addition to giving our code. We do not always receive your information when calling the hospitals. Also, if you are moved to a rehab center, please let us know that as well. We can only visit you if we know where you are! Thank you

SOUP GROUP

The Soup Group will meet and deliver soup on Wednesday, December 2 at 9:00 AM. All are welcome to help with the cooking and/or delivering of soup and visit with homebound members of our church. Any food or monetary donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, contact LeAnn Chandler 610-440-0341.



YOUTH GROUP

POW – Dec 9th 5:30 – 8:00 PM
POW – Jan 13th 5:30 – 8:00 PM



Christmas Cookies and Caroling – December 12th from 5:30 – 8:30 PM Come help us bake cookies for the homebound and spread Christmas cheer! This event starts off with a spaghetti meal before we get busy baking and wrapping cookies. Samples encouraged! Continuing the next day, Sunday December 13th following the late service for a soup luncheon and Christmas caroling to deliver our cookies. It is a fun day and a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. Come to only one or both events – they count as an outreach event for confirmation.

Save the date!

Snow Tubing – Sunday, January 31st 12:00 – 5:00 PM

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING 2018 INFORMATIONAL MEETING – There will be a meeting on Sunday, January 17th at 9:15 AM during the Sunday School hour for anyone interested in attending the next National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. The gathering will be late June of 2018. All youth currently in grades 6 through 10 will be eligible to go to Houston and those Sunday School classes will be attending the meeting during Sunday School that day. Parents of those students are encouraged to attend as well.

DID YOU RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION THIS YEAR?

Did you complete the hospitality pad indicating you received Holy Communion? If you didn't or you're not sure, please complete the Hope hospitality pad next time you receive communion. Our constitution requires active members to receive communion regularly.



IS THERE CHURCH?

If the weather is extremely bad and you are wondering if Sunday School or worship services are cancelled, please check WFMZ (web/TV), radio station WAEB (AM 790), or check the website at www.hopecherryville.org.



CONFIRMANDS

Be sure you attend at least 13 worship services before the end of the year – remember Advent Services (Wednesdays at 7 PM) count!

Level 1: Take a break! Get your services and Sunday School classes in – and take a look at the outreach events, if you still need one!

Level 2: Mandatory POW with Mentors Wednesday, December 9th at 5:30 PM & Visit to St. Nicks, December 13th at 9 AM, meet in your SS room

Outreach events:

- Baking Christmas Cookies for the Homebound, December 12th at 5:30 PM
- Christmas Caroling, December 13th at 12:30 PM
- Hope Friendship Dance, December 21st at 7 PM

Rachel Holencik, Confirmation Coordinator

NORTHAMPTON AREA FOOD BANK

Vera Bradley bingo on Sunday, February 7th
More info to follow!



Do you shop online with Amazon? Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to **Hope Lutheran Church** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at **smile.amazon.com**.



16TH ANNUAL NATIVITY DISPLAY

Saturday, November 28 - 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Sunday, November 29 - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM



Merry Christmas to all and God's Blessings.

Hope's Evangelism Committee



YOUTH GROUP VALENTINE'S DINNER

Find your dinner date and put us on your calendar now. The 8th Annual Youth Group Valentine's Dinner is on Saturday, February 13th with a snow date of Sunday, February 14th. Check your January newsletter for the menu and more details.

PASTORAL ACTS

Pastor Jami and Pastor Brian officiated at the following:

HOLY BAPTISMS

Owen Thomas Dovico, son of William and Laurie (Scholl) Dovico, was baptized on Sunday, November 15. He was born in July 2015.

Brooklyn Olivia Paniagua, daughter of Brayan and Emily (Kernan) Paniagua, was baptized on Sunday, November 15. She was born in February 2014.

Matthew Joshua Hahn, son of Joshua and Sherie (Fritzinger) Hahn was baptized on Sunday, November 15. He was born in October 2015.

Please welcome Owen, Matthew, and Brooklyn as the newest members of our church family.

Thanks for the Memories...

13 years ago, Hope Lutheran Church made room for Rich Mullen, one of our members, to begin a TaeKwon Do school – giving young and older people the opportunity to learn a sport and develop great discipline. It didn't take long for the school to take on a life of its own – eventually growing to 70 students. Over the years, the school has given back to the church and the community by donating a vacuum cleaner, a carpet shampooer and LCD projectors as well as many financial donations and volunteer hours. Recently, Rich made the decision to close his school and they celebrated their last class on November 8th. Rich and the members of Hope TaeKwon Do would like to express their gratitude to Hope Lutheran Church for allowing this wonderful community outreach program to exist.

THE WELLNESS TEAM

The Holiday Season is a Time for Giving... What's a gift you can give that costs you nothing? Well... you may think of others but here's one you may not have considered. A pint of blood. That's all – a pint of blood. Did you know?

- The gift of blood is the gift of life – there is no substitute for blood – and the only way to get it is from a donor.
- Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood.
- Only 5% of the eligible population donates blood.
- 4.5 million American lives are saved each year by blood transfusions.
- Blood is perishable – red blood cells have a usable lifespan of 42 days and platelets must be used within 5 days of donation.
- Approximately 450 donors are needed every day to meet the transfusion needs of our community hospitals.



Our Wellness Team is offering you an opportunity to give this free gift at our January Blood Drive. Why January you ask? ***Because there is traditionally a shortage of donated blood in the winter months.*** So the Wellness Team will be hosting a Miller Memorial Blood Drive here at Hope **on Sunday, January 10th from 8:00 AM through 1:00 PM in Kuntz Hall.** We are making it conveniently easy for you to donate before or after church – without leaving the building!

Wellness Team members will be setting appointments for blood donations on Sunday, **December 20th, 27th and January 3rd** before and after worship services. If you are unsure whether or not you are an eligible donor the team members will have additional information about who qualifies. Please stop by their table to make an appointment. Additionally we will be looking for people to bake and share goodies with our donors and you can sign up on the list on the bulletin board. Please consider giving the gift that costs you nothing and just may save a life!





HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4131 LEHIGH DRIVE | CHERRYVILLE PA 18035 | HOPECHERRYVILLE.ORG

HOPE LEADERSHIP

STAFF

<p><u>PASTOR</u> The Rev. Jami Possinger pastor@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext. 12 610-799-2449 (h)</p>	<p><u>ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER</u> Mrs. Jane Tretiak office@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext. 10</p>
<p><u>ASSISTANT PASTOR</u> The Rev. Brian Rajcok asstpastor@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext. 13</p>	<p><u>PASTOR EMERITUS</u> The Rev. Clark W. Kuntz II</p>
<p><u>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC</u> Mr. David R. Ziegler organist@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext.11</p>	<p><u>BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR</u> Mrs. Janet Filchner 610-767-7203 ext. 40</p>
<p><u>TREASURER</u> Mrs. Trudy Mertz</p>	<p><u>FINANCIAL SECRETARY</u> Mrs. Deb Gardner</p>
<p><u>COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST</u> Nina Weiss communications@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext. 20</p>	<p><u>SEXTON</u> Mrs. Bonnie Zmyewski</p>

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Jim Gardner <i>President</i>	Trish Ninos <i>Vice President</i>	Amy Nichols <i>Secretary</i>
Kasey Frey	Greg Gaugler	Linda Mery
Tim Moore	Tony Pagotto	Bruce Schnabel
Bob Small	Manfred Steiner	John P. Zmyewski

CONTACT INFORMATION

New membership, baptisms, funerals, weddings, change of address, van requests, memorial sponsors, hospital admissions, facility rentals

**Call the church office
610-767-7203**

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	Rachel Holencik	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	Bonnie Zmyewski	610-767-7260
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
OutreachMinistry	LeAnn Chandler	610-440-0341
Prayer Chain	Dolores Renock	610-767-6698
Prayer Shawl	JoAnne Creyer	610-262-3204
Property	Earl Snyder	610-703-5166
SCS/Christian Ed	Michelle Hughes	484-547-4585
Senior Center	Karen Ferraina	610-767-2977
Social Ministry	Marge Zimmerman	610-217-8324
Stewardship	Jim Gardner	610-767-8421
Tae Kwon Do	Rich Mullen	610-760-0958
VBS	Kathy Ziegler	610-262-9197
WELCA	Judy Dieter	610-767-9170
Women of Faith	Jane Tretiak	610-767-7203
Worship Arts	Pastor Jami	610-767-7203
Worship & Music	Janet Filchner	610-262-5215
Youth Group	Steph Ziegler Stacey Ziegler	610-262-9197
Yard Sale	Doris Zellers	610-703-8550

Our Mission

STATEMENT
STATEMENT
STATEMENT

People of Hope:
working together, with God,
to love and serve others...

INGATHERING WISH LIST

The annual Christmas gift Ingathering of the Northern Lehigh Mission District is Thursday December 3rd here at Hope Church. Please stop by the narthex and take a slip(s) of paper from the Ingathering Tree or the basket. Your **NEW** unwrapped gifts are needed by **Sunday, November 29th**.



Also, the mitten tree is up and ready for your donations of knit or store bought hats, scarves, mittens and gloves can be placed right on the tree.

LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

Kitchen Box, Bedroom Box, Bathroom Box, Personal Care Box, Cleaning Box, School Kit – we'll be packing items in the appropriate box, anything you can think of from these categories.

SAYRE CHILD CENTER

No stuffed animals. Bibs; toddler size forks and spoons; single fruit or vegetable foods - stage 2; Infant cereal - rice or oatmeal; wash cloths for classroom use; kitchen cloths and dish rags; art & craft supplies; tissues; sidewalk chalk and bubbles; playground balls; books - all ages up to age 10; puzzles - 25-100 pieces; computer software for ages 4-10; diapers and wipes; batteries - AA, C, D; pencils, pens, markers, crayons, notebooks; drink mixes.

GRACEDALE

Male: Socks, Search-A-Word Books, Small Combs, Talcum, Handkerchiefs, After Shave Lotion, Pens/Pencils, Writing Paper, Change Purses, Stamps, Playing Cards, Small Tablets

Female: Perfume, Panty Hose, Socks, Baby Powder, Small change purse, Jewelry, Scarves, Hair Brushes, Handkerchiefs, Knee Highs.

HAMBURG CENTER

Male: Knee/ankle socks, diabetic socks, sweatpants, sweatshirts, rain ponchos, mittens

Female: PJs, nonskid booties, nail polish and remover, chapstick, costume jewelry, stretchy rings and bracelets, barrets, headbands, fashion hats, twin beadspreads and fitted sheets.

For All: Posters, coloring books, puzzles 25 pieces, mild scents, toiletries and bags, jumbo crayons, balls, wooden toddler puzzles, body/hand lotion, anything to stimulate the senses.

ALLENTOWN RESCUE MISSION

Mens Items Only – Sweatshirts, T-Shirts (colors and white), underwear and socks in sized L and XL, winter hats (beanies) and gloves of all sizes

KIDSPEACE

Crayons, markers, coloring books, sketch pads, clay, paints, brushes, pajamas, socks, underwear, scarves, hats, mittens, red sweatshirts and pants (L, XL, XXL), shower gels, shampoo, deodorant, flavored lip balm, scented lotions, gift cards (all kinds – book stores, tunes, movie theaters, Target, K-Mart, etc.), personal diaries (no wire bound).

**Recap of 2016 Budget portion of the Congregational Meeting – November 8, 2015 –
by Doug Daniel and Tim Lockard**

To our members,

First and most important, we wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for the many years Dale Newhardt has provided his financial insight and guidance to our congregation. It will be a tall order to fill your shoes Dale, but please know we will do our very best to maintain the fiscal soundness of Hope Lutheran Church.

Given our limited ability to master the paper and pencil as competently as Dale, the finance team opted to rely on a good ole fashioned computer power to analyze our church finances. The intent of our mission was to determine where we stand today with church finances and lay the groundwork for the 2016 budget. We chose to dig deep and look into the past to review how the basic accounting elements of income and expense have tracked over time. We assume by now that most have reviewed the proposed and/or final 2016 budget. The presentation of charts below will show some of the analysis we used to achieve our goals for the 2016 budget and provide insight and critical information regarding our income relative to expense.

In Chart 1 below, you will see a history of Pledge Giving from 2004 to 2015. This relates to envelope giving only. Here are the definitions of each column:

1. Year
2. Number of Pledges – This the total number of pledge cards turned in on consecration Sunday
3. Amount Pledged – The amount pledged from the pledge cards turned in
4. Amount Given – Of the Amount Pledged, this is the actual amount given for the year
5. Difference – The difference between Amount Pledged vs Amount Given expressed as a percentage
6. Non-Pledged Giving – This column represents the envelope giving by those who did not turn in a pledge card for that year.

To explain Chart 1 let's use the year 2013. In 2013 there were 185 pledge cards (Number of Pledges) turned in for a total pledge of \$293,194.00 (Amount Pledged). To be clear, if a person turned in a pledge card, pledged using their assigned envelope or pledged using a blank envelope that could be related back to their envelope number, credit was given for that donation towards their pledge. In the 2013 Amount Given column, you will see the total amount given was \$214,722.00. The difference between the Amount Pledged and the Amount Given is -27% or \$78,472.

For our current year 2015, the Amount Pledged is \$235,881.00. The highlighted cells in year 2015 represent data as of 10/31/2015. That indicates there is still \$55,600.00 in donations we will need to collect in November and December to meet the amount pledged. We hope that by the time you read this we are well on our way to achieving the full amount pledged for 2015.

Chart 1

Year	# of Pledges	Amount Pledged	Amount Given	Difference (%)	Non-pledged Giving
2004	203	\$ 147,302.00	\$ 128,341.00	-13%	\$ 70,690.00
2005	235	\$ 164,404.00	\$ 144,610.00	-12%	\$ 67,689.00
2006	282	\$ 197,694.00	\$ 173,459.00	-12%	\$ 75,132.00
2007	259	\$ 206,497.00	\$ 185,976.00	-10%	\$ 69,744.00
2008	248	\$ 208,072.00	\$ 183,114.00	-12%	\$ 72,590.00
2009	195	\$ 178,201.00	\$ 162,951.00	-9%	\$ 78,756.00
2010	157	\$ 145,602.00	\$ 142,578.00	-2%	\$ 101,457.00
2011	201	\$ 211,560.00	\$ 194,728.00	-8%	\$ 78,868.00
2012	192	\$ 230,737.00	\$ 205,769.00	-11%	\$ 83,974.00
2013	185	\$ 293,194.00	\$ 214,722.00	-27%	\$ 85,289.00
2014	162	\$ 285,548.00	\$ 223,895.00	-22%	\$ 80,460.00
2015	155	\$ 235,881.00	\$ 180,281.00	-24%	\$ 60,730.00
2016	102	\$ 182,246.00			
As of 11/03/2015					
As of 10/31/2015					

To further analyze our income, we took a look back at Total Envelope Giving from 2012-2015. Total Envelope Giving includes pledged and non-pledged envelope donations received. In Chart 2 below you will see envelope income by month, totaled by quarter for each year. Also, you will see the percentage for a particular month's envelope receipts as part of that total year. Chart 2 shows data collected through October 2015. The highlighted cells for the last months of 2015 represent *estimated* envelope giving for November and December, based on the historical contributions for those months in prior years. The highlighted cells in larger bold print indicate a trend we should all be concerned about as it shows relatively flat envelope income, especially in years 2013-2015.

Chart 2

Month	Year 2012		Year 2013		Year 2014		Year 2015	
	Env Giving	%	Env Giving	%	Env Giving	%	Env Giving	%
January	25,028.50	8.42%	22,189.00	7.08%	20,756.00	6.64%	19,358.00	6.19%
February	23,034.50	7.75%	22,921.00	7.31%	22,886.50	7.32%	21,080.00	6.74%
March	21,437.50	7.21%	32,255.00	10.29%	30,527.00	9.76%	33,425.50	10.69%
First Qtr	69,500.50	23.37%	77,365.00	24.67%	74,169.50	23.72%	73,863.50	23.62%
April	28,568.00	9.61%	20,000.50	6.38%	26,953.50	8.62%	23,567.00	7.54%
May	21,365.00	7.19%	23,227.00	7.41%	22,214.00	7.10%	27,941.00	8.94%
June	18,321.80	6.16%	29,082.50	9.27%	29,066.50	9.30%	21,792.50	6.97%
Second Qtr	68,254.80	22.95%	72,310.00	23.06%	78,234.00	25.02%	73,300.50	23.44%
July	27,112.00	9.12%	20,910.75	6.67%	22,250.50	7.12%	22,628.25	7.24%
August	21,007.50	7.06%	20,531.00	6.55%	25,444.51	8.14%	28,801.50	9.21%
September	27,390.25	9.21%	26,217.70	8.36%	23,751.00	7.60%	20,185.25	6.46%
Third Qtr	75,509.75	25.39%	67,659.45	21.57%	71,446.01	22.85%	71,615.00	22.90%
October	21,917.00	7.37%	23,511.00	7.50%	23,893.00	7.64%	22,896.45	7.32%
November	23,063.00	7.76%	30,071.50	9.59%	31,857.00	10.19%	33,885.00	10.84%
December	39,105.00	13.15%	42,689.60	13.61%	33,065.00	10.58%	37,104.55	11.87%
Fourth Qtr	84,085.00	28.28%	96,272.10	30.70%	88,815.00	28.41%	93,886.00	30.03%
Total	297,350.05	100.00%	313,606.55	100.00%	312,664.51	100.00%	312,665.00	100.00%
<i>Estimated</i>								

Finally we must point out that over the past three years we have pulled money from our reserves to settle the year end deficit. The projection for year end 2015 will also be very tight. A simple thing as another snow storm that interferes with Christmas services and adds snow removal cost will most likely leave us with another year-end deficit.

The aforementioned data and research brings light to a very concerning situation...

- Pledge commitments are typically not met
- Envelope giving over the last three years is flat
- We have drawn from our reserves the past three years.

Given the cost of almost everything increases year to year, all this makes it very challenging to bring a reasonable new budget to the congregation each year.

So why did the finance committee decide to bring this information forward to you at this time? Very simply, to provide advance notice and raise awareness of a trend in contributions that may result in a reduction of our ability to provide Christian services to our congregation and support to our community. Unfortunately, that is the business side of our faith-based initiatives at Hope Lutheran Church.

Hope Lutheran is an awesome congregation – serving our members and people in our community – striving to be the hands and feet of our Lord Jesus Christ – working to be the people of God we are called to be. Let us all work together to keep our church functioning as we all want it and need it to be.

People of Hope: working together, with God, to love and serve others...

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERIES:

Mid-Week Advent Worship – “Christmas Is Not Your Birthday!”

“Christmas is Not Your Birthday” is the theme of our mid-week Advent worship – a theme that moves us toward a more Jesus-centered holiday that focuses not on all the material gifts we’ll give and receive, but on how we can bless others in Jesus’ name. Join us on the three Wednesdays in December (Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th) at 7:00 PM for worship using Holden Evening Prayer and exploring whose birthday it really is. Here is the line-up:

Week 1 (December 2nd) – “Christmas Is Not Your Birthday!”

Week 2 (December 9th) “This Year... Expect a Miracle”

Week 3 (December 16th) – “What’s on Jesus’ Wish List?”



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’d like to help with this, please sign the list in the narthex.

SOUP LUNCH

... will be held after the 10:30 AM worship service on Sunday December 13th at about 11:30 AM.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

And then... everyone is invited to go caroling on Sunday afternoon, December 13th following the soup lunch, at approximately 12:30 PM. Bring your family and spread the Christmas cheer to as many of our homebound members as possible.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

Christmas Communion Worship for our homebound members and members unable to get to a Christmas Eve service will be held at 11:30 AM on Tuesday, December 22nd. A light luncheon will follow. Please RSVP on the bulletin board or call the office 610-767-7203; also let the church office know 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

For the four worship services on Christmas Eve (4:00, 6:00, 8:30 and 11:00 PM)... **altar guild help is needed** to 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 13th at 9:15 AM



On Sunday, December 13th, the Sunday School Christmas event, “Follow the Star” will take place from 9:15 to 10:15 AM. Children will follow the Christmas star and meet the characters who take part in the story of Jesus’ birth, with adult Sunday School members as the characters for the nativity activities!

POINSETTIA SALE: The last day to order poinsettias is December 13th. Order forms are available in the narthex.