

Hope *Home News*

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November 2018
Vol. XLV No. 12

hopecherryville.org



GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

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

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

The word Advent derives from a Latin word for “coming.” These four weeks, which actually begin the Church year, are set aside to prepare for both the birth of Jesus and also for his final coming in power and glory. Advent is a time for self-examination and setting aright those things that call us away from following Jesus. We are particularly called to focus on receiving the Christmas gift in hu-

mility and wonder.

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

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

- ◆ Take time to worship – Midweek services will be held on Wednesday evenings, Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at 7:00 p.m. Sunday mornings at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. and Christmas Eve at 4:00, 6:00, 8:30 and 11:00 p.m.
- ◆ Take time with family – The best gift you can give each other is your time and your selves. The rest can be bought at a store and isn’t anywhere near as meaningful!

(Continued on page 2)

PASTOR BRIAN’S PREPONDERANT BUSINESS

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Thank you so much for these past 3 plus years of being your pastor. Thank you for the love and support you’ve given me. Thank you for the hugs, the laughs, the tears. Thank you for the home cooked meals and the vegetarian specialties! Thank you for inviting me into your lives and for being such an important part of mine. Thank you for demonstrating God’s love to me and teaching me about friendship, camaraderie, and discipleship. Thank you for being the people of God. This congregation has blessed me more than you’ll ever know. I am deeply grateful to God for calling me to Hope Lutheran Church and I am deeply grateful to all of you. I hope you know how much I love you and how much I will miss you.

(Continued on page 3)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

GREETINGS . . . *(Continued from page 1)*

- ◆ Take time for prayer – God wants to hear from you and you need to hear from God.
- ◆ Take time to serve others – This doesn't have to take all your free time. A batch of cookies for a lonely neighbor, a bag of groceries for the local food bank, a letter to a service person, a blanket for the homeless. Set the example for your children or grandchildren by including them too!
- ◆ Tell the Christmas story – Don't let the story become lost in the glitter and the lights. **Be the light** that shines in the darkness by sharing the incredible tale of a God who wants so much for us to know what he is like that he came among us to show us – to guide us – to save us!

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

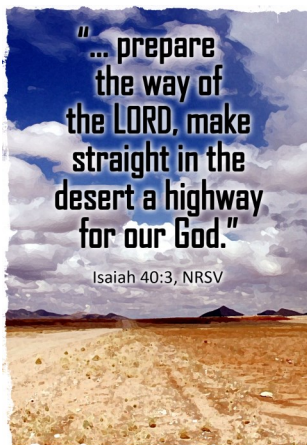
Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Jami

Mid-Week Advent Services “The Christmas Dilemma”

Nobody expected the arrival of a baby to shake up their lives. But when **that** baby is Jesus, plans are rearranged, beliefs are challenged, and ordinary people find their lives upended and forever changed. Join us for mid-week Advent services as we bring some of these Biblical characters to life while they share their dilemmas surrounding the birth of the Savior. Each week we will focus on one figure from the Christmas Story and the dilemma he or she faced. Over the four weeks of Advent we will meet:

- ◆ Joseph – The Dilemma of Doubt
- ◆ Mary – The Dilemma of Saying “Yes”
- ◆ The Wiseman – The Dilemma of Belief
- ◆ The Shepherd – The Joy Dilemma

Mid-week Advent services, using Holden Evening Prayer, will start on Wednesday, November 28 and continue on December 5, 12 and 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come and see that when Jesus enters the picture - our plans can get turned upside down - but God's plan leads to joy, hope, and salvation!



Sunday, December 2

Advent 1

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Service of the Word

Wednesday, December 5

Advent Service

7:00 PM

Sunday, December 9

Advent 2

8:00 AM Service of the Word
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 12

Advent Service

7:00 PM

Sunday, December 16

Advent 3

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Sunday School Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 19

Advent Service

7:00 PM

Sunday, December 23

Advent 4

8:00 AM Service of the Word
9:15 AM Sunday School Program
Snow date
10:30 AM Holy Communion

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Family Service
6:00 PM Family Service
8:30 PM Holy Communion
11:00 PM Holy Communion

Sunday, December 30

Christmas 1

8:00 AM Service of Carols and Communion
10:30 AM Service of Carols and Communion

Youth Group



Youth group is baking cookies for our STAR (homebound) members on Saturday, December 8 starting at 2 p.m.; and will be delivering the cookies and singing Christmas carols after services on Sunday, December 9. This event counts as Confirmation Outreach. Hope you can make it!

December POW will be Wednesday, December 12, 5:30-8:00 p.m. We'll meet for pizza, games, and devotions, and then remain at Hope for our 7:00 p.m. Advent service.

CONFIRMATION

Level 2 Confirmation will visit St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church on Sunday December 9th. Please meet at Hope at 9:00 a.m. and expect to be back to Hope around 11:00 a.m.

POST-CONFIRMATION

Post-Confirmation will meet Sunday, December 2 for "Santa vs. Jesus" and will not meet downstairs on Sunday, December 16 for post-confirmation, but will attend the Sunday School Christmas Program together.

CANDLE SPONSORSHIPS

If you would like to help defray the costs of the beeswax candles and the red frill tissue paper, you can sponsor candles in memory of or in honor of someone. Please call the church office for more information.



PREPONDERANT BUSINESS *(Continued from page 1)*

The day I accepted my new call to St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Avon, Connecticut, I remember someone saying "Now that it's official I bet you can breathe a sigh of relief." And I said, "Well, to be honest, the hardest part is just beginning: saying goodbye to the people I love in Pennsylvania." And while I'm happy and excited to begin this new adventure, I'm also sad to leave all of you. I hope you know how much you mean to me and what an incredible blessing you have been to me.

I wish you all the richest blessings this holiday season and in the year to come. May your Advent be hopeful, your Christmas be bright, and your new year filled with the peace and joy of the Lord.

God bless you Hope Lutheran Church, and thank you!

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Brian

CHRISTMAS ADOPT – A – FAMILY

Christmas is a time of year when we look at our lives and – realizing how blessed we are – we reach out to others to share our blessings. This year we are adopting six children from the Northampton School District hoping to make their Christmas brighter. If you are interested in participating, see the display in the narthex – sign out a tag with a specific need for each child. ****Use your cell phone camera – snap a picture to remind you what to shop for.** Return your **unwrapped gift with the tag attached** by Monday, December 17. Then come to the wrapping party Wednesday, December 19 at 5:00 p.m. (before Advent worship). We'll provide the wrap and tape as well as holiday treats and festive music, but definitely BYOS (bring your own scissors)!



POINSETTIAS

Help us to once again have poinsettias adorn the Nave at Christmas. You can order a plant for \$10 each (colors will vary). The deadline for orders is December 9. They will decorate the church for Christmas Eve and December 30. Plants can be picked up following the 10:30 service on the 30th. Watch your bulletin for more information.



HOPE'S HELPING HANDS

Thanks to the support of the members of Hope Lutheran Church for our fundraising events, Hopes Helping Hands has designated a \$1,000 donation to ELCA Disaster Response to help relief efforts due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Michael recently. We have also completed several local projects in the past few months.

Mark your calendars for our next sale of meat pies and apple dumplings in February. These delicious pies and apple dumplings are made by Zook's in Lancaster. New this year, in addition to the 9 inch meat pies, we will be offering smaller 6 inch pies, suitable for 1 person. Specific sale dates will be published in next month's newsletter.



ELECTRONIC GIVING

In this season of thanksgiving and gift giving, we hope you will also consider an additional gift to your church. It is through the contributions of every member that we are able to fulfill our mission. You can use our electronic giving option for both regular offerings and one-time gifts. Help us achieve a more consistent level of funding by setting up a recurring giving plan. Visit the church website at www.hopecherryville.org and locate the Online Giving page.

Online Giving

YEAR-END GIVING

Please catch up with your 2018 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! All 2018 offerings must be received or postmarked on or before December 31, 2018, to receive credit for this year. Any offerings received on or after January 1, 2019, MUST be credited as 2019 contributions.

BASKET COMMITTEE NOTES:

- Special thanks to Carol Kunkle for past help as a Basket Committee Member! Best wishes on all future adventures!
- Upcoming Business Meetings in 2019: Tuesday, February 5 and Tuesday, April 2, both at 6 p.m. in Hanson Hall.
- Spring Basket Social: Friday, April 12, 2019, doors opening at 4 p.m.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP



Centering Prayer group will continue to meet without Pastor Brian. We just started a new book called "The Map of Heaven" by Dr. Eben Alexander. The two groups will combine and meet on Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month. In December this will be December 3 and December 17. Newcomers are always welcome!

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible **AmazonSmile** purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

AmazonSmile donates to Hope Lutheran Church when you do your holiday shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1948837

This holiday, make a difference while you shop

Shop for holiday gifts and supplies at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates

You shop. Amazon donates.
amazon smile



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 2018

- Council discussed logistics for the Annual Congregation Meeting to be held on November 11th
 - ◊ Reviewed the process for voting and tallying votes
 - ◊ Assigned council people to registration table and vote tabulators
- Council did an in-depth review of the 2019 budget which will be presented at the annual meeting for adoption.
- Property Committee reported that they are still pursuing bids for the large concrete project at the Kuntz Hall entrance to the building. It is difficult to get people to bid on it – some say it's too small of a project and others say it is too big of a project. The committee has a drawing for any bidders with the goal to either rebuild the steps as they are now or adding a handicap ramp in addition to the steps.
- Property Committee is working on a five-year plan to address future repairs and upgrades to the facility so that they can prioritize them and present them to the council at a later meeting.
- Council voted to support Bear Creek Camp with the \$300.00 that was not spent on camp scholarships this year.
- Council discussed possibilities for a transition after Pastor Brian leaves Hope. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Classes for folks interested in joining Hope Lutheran Church will be held on at 9:15 a.m. on January 13, 20, and 27. If you know of someone interested in joining Hope, please pass on the information about our upcoming new member classes.

JESSE TREE

Each day during Advent a volunteer places a symbol on the Jesse Tree in the narthex. The symbol represents a Bible Story leading to the birth of Jesus. A scripture and prayer are included on the back of

each symbol for a brief devotion when placing the ornament on the macramé tree. The Jesse Tree and sign-up sheet will be in the narthex soon.

INGATHERING WISH LIST

Our collection of items for our yearly Ingathering has begun. These items will be given to local organizations such as the Allentown Rescue Mission, Sayre Child Center, Gracedale, and Kidspace. Your **NEW** unwrapped gifts will need to be brought to the Narthex by **Tuesday, December 4**. Also, the mitten tree is up and ready for your donations of knit or store bought hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves which may be placed right on the tree.

SAYRE CHILD CENTER (children's items only)

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; diapers and wipes; batteries - AA, C, D; colored pencils, plain paper for drawing, glue sticks, board books and washable books, computer software (ages 4-10); puzzles (25, 50 & 100 piece), construction paper, watercolors, finger paint, stickers, Playdoh, tissues, waterproof markers, and crayons.

GRACEDALE

Male: Socks, Search-A-Word Books, Small Combs, Talcum, Handkerchiefs, After Shave Lotion, Pens/Pencils,

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**Ministry at
St. Stephen's Outreach Center
Christmas Party**



Wednesday,
December 12
Time to be announced



Monday, December 17
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Kuntz Hall

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Thursday,
December 13
10:00 a.m.



BIBLE STUDY

Evangelism Bible Study continues Thursday evenings at 6:30. Everyone is welcome. We are currently using the four gospels to study the miracles that Jesus preformed.

WESTON VILLAGE

Evangelism travels to Weston Village the second Wednesday (December 12) of each month to lead the residents in worship. Anyone wishing to join us is welcome.

WEEKLY SPONSORS NEEDED

Sponsors are need for the weekly altar flowers, bulletin and press. If you are interested, check the charts on the bulletin board for available dates.

STORYWEAVERS

and lunch

Lunch at the Shack, Slatington,
Tuesday, December 11, 12 noon

No meeting

For more information call
LeeAnn Chandler,
610-440-0341.

WELCA

Tuesday, December 18
at 9:00 a.m.

in the Adult Sunday
School Room

Christmas Lunch will
follow meeting



**SOUP GROUP
AND DELIVERY**



Wednesday,
December 5
9:00 a.m.
in Kuntz Hall kitchen.

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
PARTICIPANTS**

Sign-up Genius will be used for all worship participant opportunities during our Christmas Eve services. Watch for an email providing the link in the coming weeks. If you do not have access to the Sign-Up Genius, and would like to volunteer, please contact Jennifer in the church office.

LIHEAP

If you need help paying your heating bills, or have a heating emergency LIHEAP (*Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program*) may be able to help you. You can find a brochure and application on the rack

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING BALLOT RESULTS

Congratulations to our elected Council members:

- * Lori Kerper
- * Tom Nichols
- * Matthew Sekol
- * A. J. Szwast

Congratulations to our elected Nominating Committee members:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| * Michelle Costanzo | Tim Lockard |
| * Linda Mery | Stephanie Patterson |
| * Bob Small | A. J. Szwast |

IS THERE CHURCH?

Find out by tuning into WFMZ T.V. or check their website to find out. You can also check our website at www.hopecherryville.org.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE

If you did not turn in a 2019 commitment card, it's not too late. You will find them in the Narthex along with a box in which to deposit them.

InGathering Wish List *(Continued from page 5)*

Writing Paper, Change Purses, Stamps, Playing Cards, Small Tablets, Knee/ankle socks, medium weight rain ponchos, medium weight elastic pants, diabetic socks, sweatshirts, sweaters, T-shirts (all clothing Med-XL)

Female: Perfume, Panty Hose, Socks, Baby Powder, Small change purse, Jewelry, Scarves, Hair Brushes, Handkerchiefs, Knee Highs, cardigan sweaters, flannel pjs, cotton nighties, nonskid booties (size 6 and up), nail polish and remover, costume jewelry (no pins); barrettes, headbands, fashion hats, fitted twin bed spreads (all clothing Med-XL)

For All: Posters, adult (mosaic) and child coloring books, puzzles (25 pieces or less), toiletries and toiletry bags, regular and jumbo crayons, balls, wooden toddler puzzles, body/hand lotion, mild scented cologne/body sprays, washable markers, Crayola model magic, playdough, greeting cards, soft baby dolls or any kind of soft toys, porcupine style Legos, nature books (grade school level), deodorant, removal wall decals, window decals, anything to stimulate the senses, for example: musical things or music boxes, textured books, framed moving sand art/water.

ALLENTOWN RESCUE MISSION

Men's Items Only – Sweatshirts, T-Shirts (colors and white), underwear and socks, jeans or khakis (new or gently used, 32-34 waist, 30-34 length), deodorant, winter hats (beanies) and gloves of all sizes, belts, casual wear, jelly, cereal, travel size toiletries, razors (2-3 per pack); personal size shaving cream and Q-tips.

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).

TRUTH FOR WOMEN

BBQ sauce, brown sugar, cereal, coffee, crackers, dishwasher detergent, flour, grape jelly, ketchup, mayo, mustard, pasta, pretzels, sauce, sugar, toilet paper

Sunday School “Flight Plan”



A huge thank you to all who helped with October’s **Monthly Mission Project** for the Chemo Bag. It was truly amazing to see all the donations that everyone brought to church. All the items will help cancer patients and be so appreciated.

In November, we will be participating in the **Toys for Tots** campaign - donation request is a new un-wrapped toy.



Christmas Program - This year we will be doing a program called “Sing a Song of Christmas”. The program will be held **December 16 at the 10:30 a.m.** worship service. If there is a snow day that morning, the program will be moved to the following Sunday - December 23 at 9:15 a.m. (Please note the time changes for these Sundays).

If your child has come home with a letter and script, please make sure they will be at Sunday the next few weeks for practice. If there is a conflict with your child being at either of the assigned pageant dates please let Robin Zamadics or Ally Lockard know as soon as possible.



Reminder: **No Sunday School on December 30.**

Blessing,

Ally Lockard and Robin Zamadics



Family Movie Night

Mark your Calendars

Saturday, January 26

Double Feature

Hotel Transylvania (PG)

and

Hotel Transylvania 2 (PG)

Showing in Kuntz Hall

Doors open at 3:00 p.m.; First show at 3:30 p.m.

Intermission with food

Second show begins about 6:00 p.m.



2018 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 2019.

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.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - OCTOBER 31, 2018

	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship Loan	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$ 90,211.44	\$118,773.68	\$126,841.49	\$ 96,378.33	\$ (4,461.92)
Income - October	28,290.05	8,091.84	2,828.71	1,916.88	-
Income - Jan.-Sept.	294,746.12	36,413.44	9,400.46	2,517.63	1,000.00
Total Income	323,036.17	44,505.28	12,229.17	4,434.51	1,000.00
Expenses - October	32,752.57	99.00	-	-	-
Expenses - Jan.-Sept.	308,137.42	19,350.12	1,174.90	5,200.00	600.00
Total Expenses	340,889.99	19,449.12	1,174.90	5,200.00	600.00
Net Income	(17,853.82)	25,056.16	11,054.27	(765.49)	400.00
Net Special Appeals	2,780.11				
Balance End of October	\$ 75,137.73	\$143,829.84	\$137,895.76	\$ 95,612.84	\$ (4,061.92)

SUMMARY:

Expenses exceeded income in the Regular Fund for the month of October by \$4,462.52, and for the year 2018, expenses exceeded income by \$17,853.82, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$75,137.73. Last year the net income for the same period was \$(16,098.75) with a balance of \$65,105.25.

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

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

All committees, groups and persons submitting content for the church newsletter should follow the schedule listed below. Articles may be edited so we do not exceed Post Office guidelines.

Please email your articles to Laurie Christman (communications@hopecherryville.org). Thank you.

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Article Deadline</u>	<u>Collation Date</u>
January	Thursday, December 20	Thursday, December 27 @ 10:00 AM

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

SYNOD NEWS

The December 2018 issue of *Synod News* is available online.

Visit <http://nepasynod.org/documents/synod-news/synod-news-2018-12.pdf>

HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251

