

Hope *Home News*

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hopecherryville.org



GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

Well it's that time again – that time when we think about the year that is passing and look forward to a new year with all its possibilities. And it's that time of year when lots of people will make some kind of resolution for the New Year – some change in their life that, hopefully, will make it better – or more fulfilling – or healthier – or...you name it.

And here's what statistics show...80% of New Year resolutions fail by February and only 8% of people actually achieve their resolution. So I have a suggestion for us this year – just to shake things up a bit. Instead of resolving to change something – add something – let go of something – let's ask ourselves the question: What am I going to “be” this year? The answer to this question is found in the many small decisions that we make every day of our lives. What am I going to “be” has everything to do with how we treat others - what kind of relationships we build - and how we represent ourselves.

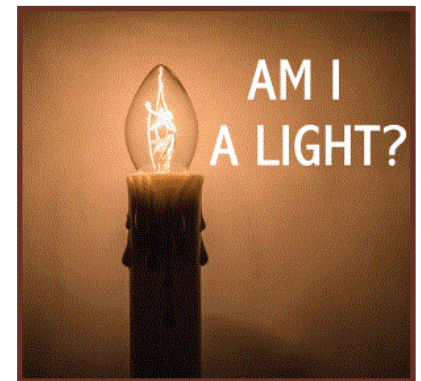
As Christians, maybe the better question to ask is: “Am I a light?” Am I a light that shines for others - or am I someone who keeps them in the dark? Am I a model for Christ-like living - or an example of secular narcissism? Do I build up or break down? Do I encourage or discourage? Do I bring hope or despair? Do I compliment or criticize? Do I stand boldly for justice or meekly bow to injustice? With each thing that I say or do - am I helping to form the human being that God created me to be?

Because here's the thing...if you want to be a light that shines for others, then you have to decide to be a light each time that you're faced with decisions – easy decisions or difficult decisions. If you want to be a light for others, then you have to decide to be a light each time you're faced with doing what's popular rather than doing what's right.

It is a fact that people need light. Light helps our bodies to grow - light helps our immune system to stay strong - light helps to shape our psychological outlook on life. Jesus said in Matthew 5:14, “You are the light of the world.” YOU can provide light. Don't tell me that you can't. One small candle can bring light to a dark room and a 1,000-watt bulb that can light a gym. Light is light, and you can share yours and make this world a brighter place this year.

So what do you say? This year - can we all ask the question: “Am I a light?” It's a new year and I pray that Jesus shines through each one of us as we move about in the world. What am I going to be this year? Why...light of course!

Blessings,
Pastor Jami



CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday, January 6, we will install our Church Council at both services:

Kim Belletti
Lee Creyer
Jim Gardner
Lori Keiper

Allison Lockard
Tom Nichols
Trish Ninos
Matt Sekol

Manfred Steiner
Susan Stephens
J. Szwast
Katie Weiss

Youth Group

Snow Tubing at Blue Mountain and Sleepover at Hope

- ◇ Friday, January 5, 5:00 p.m. to Saturday, January 6, 8:30 a.m.
- ◇ You can do one or both – just indicate that on the sheet.
- ◇ Sign-up list is on the Youth bulletin board or email/call/talk to Pastor Jami



POW – Pizza on Wednesday

- ◇ Wednesday, January 9
- ◇ This will be a joint event with Level 2 students and mentors
- ◇ Sign-up on Youth bulletin board or email/call/talk to Pastor Jami

Ice Skating at Steel Ice Skating in Bethlehem

- ◇ Friday, February 2
- ◇ Meet at church at 6:30 p.m. and return around 10:45 p.m.
- ◇ Sign-up on Youth bulletin board or email/call/talk to Pastor Jami

POW – Pizza on Wednesday

- ◇ Wednesday, February 13
- ◇ Sign-up on Youth bulletin board or email/call/talk to Pastor Jami

Look for emails coming to you with additional information and costs for the events!

CONFIRMATION

Level 1 Students

- Mentor Introduction Brunch in Kuntz Hall
January, 27 at 11:30 a.m.

Level 2 Students

- POW with your mentors
Wednesday, January 9 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Hindu Temple Visit
Friday, January 18 from 5:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Please dress appropriately

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 6

Epiphany of Our Lord

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

Sunday, January 13

Baptism of Our Lord

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

Sunday, January 20

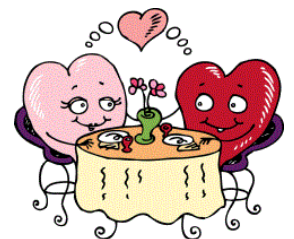
- 8:00 AM Holy Communion
- 9:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Service of the Word

Sunday, January 27

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

SAVE THE DATE

Valentine's
Day Dinner
Saturday,
February 16



**Valentines
Dinner**

POST-CONFIRMATION

The Post-Confirmation group will meet on the first and third Sundays of every month during the Sunday School hour (from 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.) in the lower level lounge room. All confirmed youth are invited for some fun, sometimes food and faith sharing. The January dates are January 6 and 17.

HOPE'S HELPING HANDS

Hope's Helping Hands will again be selling delicious meat pies and apple dumplings to help everyone get through the post-holiday blues and the cold days of winter. Helping Hands members will be in the narthex after church services on **January 6, 13 and 20** to take orders. The homemade meat pies and apple dumplings are made from scratch by Zook's Homemade Pies in Lancaster, PA. New this year will be the addition of 6-inch individual meat pies that will sell for \$5.50. The 9-inch pies will still be only \$10.00 each. Both the 6-inch and the 9-inch pies can be ordered in either chicken, beef or sausage. The apple dumplings can be purchased in either single or twin packs. Single apple dumplings sell for \$3.50 and the twin pack is \$6.00. Order pickup will be on **Saturday, February 9** at the church from **9 a.m. to 11 a.m.** Unable to make it to church on the order dates, no problem, just call Leslie Daniel at 610-216-1340 to place your orders. This will be the only opportunity this year to purchase these delicious meat pies and apple dumplings so don't miss this sale! Thank you in advance for your continued support of Hope's Helping Hands Mission Team.

Hope's Helping Hands has changed the day of their monthly meeting. The Hope's Helping Hands group will now meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the conference room beginning **January 28**. Anyone interested in joining our group, feel free to attend one of our monthly meetings or contact any Helping Hands member for additional information on what the members of our committee do.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Classes for folks interested in joining Hope Lutheran Church will be held 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.

PASTORAL ACTS

Juliette Gail Thuma, daughter of Casey and Jacob Thuma, was baptized on Sunday, November 25. Pastor Jami officiated.

Rylea Cora Grube, daughter of Melissa and Bradley Grube, was baptized on Sunday, December 2. Pastor Jami officiated.



Please welcome **Juliette** and **Rylea** as the newest members of our church family.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP



Centering Prayer group will meet January 7 & 21; the first and third Monday. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. in the Sunday School Room off Hanson Hall. Newcomers are always welcome!

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Thank you for all you do to support our mission during the holidays and throughout the year. As you plan for the year's end and look forward to a new year, please consider additional giving to your church. For your convenience, we offer electronic giving options for one-time gifts and recurring contributions. Visit the church website at www.hopecherryville.org and locate the Online Giving page.

Online Giving

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 2018

- ◆ Council discussed possibilities for the transition we find ourselves in with the departure of Pastor Brian. Some of the considerations are to hire some part-time people to assist with various programs. The Mutual Ministry committee will be working further on these considerations and make some recommendations to council in January.
- ◆ Church Security came up at the annual meeting and council discussed it further. Members will be exploring information about active shooter type training for the congregation at the January meeting.
- ◆ Beginning in January 2019 the nursery during both worship services will be open and available but not staffed. There have been few families taking advantage of the nursery and we encourage families of all ages to worship together.
- ◆ The congregation is encouraged to save the date for the **Youth Group Valentine Dinner** – Saturday, February 16. Details in the new year.
- ◆ The Youth Group has some activities planned for January and February. January 4 will be a night of snow tubing at Blue Mountain with a sleepover to follow. On Friday, February 1 the youth group will go ice skating at Steel Ice Skating Center in Bethlehem. They will also have POW on Wednesday, January 9 and February 13.
- ◆ The Stewardship Committee has a double feature movie night scheduled for Saturday, February 2 beginning at 3:00 PM. They will be showing Hotel Transylvania and Hotel Transylvania 2.

EVANGELISM NEWS

Weekly Bible Studies; Evangelism sponsors a weekly Bible Study which is held each Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. This study is a very informal study/discussion group. We first read and study a scripture and then discuss it by trying to relate the particular study to events of today. Please do not feel you must be an expert in scripture knowledge, because we are learning and growing in God's Word together. This is a very small congenial group of people that looks forward to welcoming new members to our group. Currently, we are studying the miracles performed by Christ which are discussed in the four Gospels of the New Testament. We have taken a break from our Bible studies over the holiday season. However, we will resume our studies in January (date to be announced in future weekly bulletins). We hope you have an interest in studying God's word and will join our group in January of 2019. For more information, please call Sharyn Kratzer at 610-261-1277

The 19th Annual Nativity display was held over Thanksgiving weekend and was another successful event. Hope's Evangelism Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make it another great year. Many compliments about this year's display were given. Additions to this year were the balloon angels made by Robin Zamadics; these angels greatly enhanced our display. We were very fortunate to have musical talents shared by Audrey and Sarah Fritz, Vicky Steiner, Jeanette Moyer and her son, and Katelyn Graver, what a great talent you all have! Andrea Fritz did a terrific job of organizing our children's center. And so many of you contributed baked goods, nativities, and time to help make this a successful display. This is a wonderful ministry and a great outreach to our community. I was able to talk with some of our visitors and they were so very impressed with the nativity display and plan to return next year. A few asked to see our church sanctuary and one family questioned when our services are and stated they were planning to visit Hope more often, including our Christmas Eve service.

There are many pros and cons about the continuing of the nativity display which will be discussed at the next

(Continued on page 6)

Ministry at St. Stephen's Outreach Center



Wednesday,
January 23
2:30 p.m.

STORYWEAVERS and lunch

Tuesday, January 8, 10:00 a.m.
For more information call
LeeAnn Chandler,
610-440-0341



**Hope
Friendship
Dance**
Monday, January 21
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Kuntz Hall

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Thursday,
January 10
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 performed.

WELLNESS TEAM

There will be a Keystone-Miller Blood Drive held here at Hope Church on Sunday, January 20th from 7:30 am – 1:00 pm in Kuntz Hall. Walk-ins are welcome!



Your Blood. Their Hope.
**MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER**

WEEKLY SPONSORS NEEDED

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

WELCA

Tuesday, January 15
at 9:00 a.m.
in the Adult Sunday
School Room
Lunch will
follow meeting



SOUP GROUP AND DELIVERY



Wednesday,
January 2
9:00 a.m.
in Kuntz Hall kitchen.

BASKET COMMITTEE NOTES

- 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, doors opening at 4 p.m.

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 in the Narthex.

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.

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.

WITH THANKS . . . (you can see these notes on the bulletin board)

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

Our Garden club would like to thank you and your congregation for allowing us to have our monthly meetings in Kuntz Hall. We appreciate your support of our club.

Sincerely,

Indianland Garden Club



Evangelism News *(Continued from page 4)*

Evangelism meeting. One pro is that the message of the birth of Christ is delivered each year and we as Christians are always reminded that Christ is the reason we celebrate Christmas. If we are able to reach out to one person during each year's display, then we as Christians have done our job to spread God's word and to keep the message of Christ ever present. A huge con is that this is a big project and we definitely need more help to accomplish this annual display so hopefully more of our church family will give yourselves to help make 2019 another successful year if it is voted to continue this yearly event.

Thanks to you and your monetary donations, we were able to send a check to Peters Elementary School in Northern Lehigh School District and we were also able to buy gifts for a family with 2 children from Siegfried Elementary School in Northampton. We would like to thank Thrivent for the generous funding that helped with this program. The "seed money" was so appreciated and quite helpful as we planned our annual display. There were many new and beautiful Nativities shared with us for the weekend. Again, a huge thank you to EVERYONE who helped make our 19th Annual Display a very successful year. Please remember that this display is more than a lot of nativity figurines on a table; the display has a purpose: for you to prepare to welcome Christ into your life. Wise people still seek Him!

Monthly worship at Renaissance Village (formerly Northampton or Weston) is provided for the residents the second Wednesday morning of each month. Anyone wishing to join us as we bring a worship service and communion to the residents is welcomed. However, please note we are not going there in January, but will resume our monthly worship in February.

Evangelism meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. There is much work to do to spread God's Word to our church family and community. Our committee is in need of more people and more ideas to make this ministry even more successful. Consider joining and supporting our committee. We certainly need your help!

Submitted by Sharyn Kratzer

Sunday School “Flight Plan”



Christmas Program On December 16, 2018, we held our Sunday School Christmas Program called Sing a Song of Christmas. All the speakers and singers did a fantastic job! Kudos to you all of you!

Huge thank you goes to Vicky Steiner and Janet Filchner who generously gave their musical talent to help teach, direct, and play the beautiful songs and to the teachers who helped each week getting the children prepared for the program. It really takes a lot of help and support to have such a wonderful program. Thank you for showing us what the real reason for the season is.



Monthly Mission Project Thank you to all who generously donate items each month to the Sunday School Mission Projects. It is truly amazing to see all the donations that everyone brings to church. Please don't feel you have to give to each cause. Give when you can and what you can. We are trying to teach the value and importance of giving and not just getting/wanting things.

October we collected so many items for patients undergoing chemotherapy for a cause called The Chemo Bag. We definitely were able to help many people and filled a lot of bags.

November was Toys for Tots – 126 toys were collected and donated to the Marine's annual toy drive. In January, a Marine will be speaking during our Sunday School hour about the importance of the cause.

December – we collected non-perishable items for the Northampton Food Bank

January – will be an opportunity for everyone to *PAY IT FORWARD*. We will be lending our helping hands wherever and whenever possible. Watch out for our helping hand chain and see all the “Good Stuff” coming from Hope.



1st Holy Communion 1st Holy Communion Classes will begin January 6th. Holy Communion classes are open to current 5th grade students and any student in 6th or 7th grade who did not receive the Communion Preparedness Classes.

Classes will be held each week from January 6 through March 24. 1st Holy Communion will be on March 31 at the 10:30 service.

There will be a reception with cake and beverages following the service in Kuntz Hall.

Rehearsal will be held March 30 at 9:30 until 11:00 in the sanctuary.

There is a \$15.00 fee requested for each student to help defray material cost and can be given directly to the teachers.



Family Movie Night

Mark your Calendars

Saturday, February 2

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.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 30, 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 - November	34,110.06	2,540.86	151.61	-	-
Income - Jan.-Oct.	323,036.17	44,505.28	12,229.17	4,434.51	1,000.00
Total Income	357,146.23	47,046.14	12,380.78	4,434.51	1,000.00
Expenses - November	35,417.24	406.00	-	-	-
Expenses - Jan.-Oct.	340,889.99	19,449.12	1,174.90	5,200.00	600.00
Total Expenses	376,307.23	19,855.12	1,174.90	5,200.00	600.00
Net Income	(19,161.00)	27,191.02	11,205.88	(765.49)	400.00
Net Special Appeals	2,780.11				
Balance End of November	\$ 73,830.55	\$145,964.70	\$138,047.37	\$ 95,612.84	\$ (4,061.92)

SUMMARY:

Expenses exceeded income in the Regular Fund for the month of November by \$1,307.18, and for the year 2018, expenses exceeded income by \$19,161.00, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$73,830.55. Last year the net income for the same period was \$(13,784.55) with a balance of \$67,447.64.

*** 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>
February	Tuesday, January 15	Thursday, January 24 @ 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 January 2018 issue of *Synod News* is available online.
Visit <http://nepasynod.org/documents/synod-news/synod-news-2019-1.pdf>

HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251

