

Hope *Home News*

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hopecherryville.org



GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

As I write this newsletter article, Christmas has not even happened yet – we are still preparing for the birth of the Christ child. We are still focusing on the gift of a child who comes for us – to save us – to show us God’s love – to call us to share that love with others. But in many other ways Christmas is already here. Why? How? Because we have shared the spirit of Christmas – we have spread the light of Christ with many people – some who we know and others who are unknown to us.

Let me explain. Every year we participate in the



Sorting donations for Ingathering

Northern Lehigh Mission District Ingathering. The program is just what it sounds like – an ingathering of items from Lutheran congregations in our geographic mission district that are collected for people connected to various institutions and agencies throughout the Lehigh Valley. Hope’s members are always

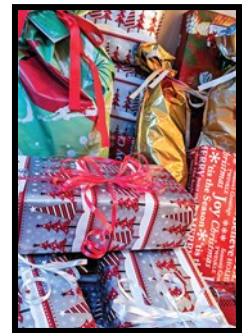
so generous in helping to make the light of Christ shine in the lives of those who receive these gifts.

And for the past few years the group that hosts our Nativity display uses some of the free-will offering that is received to purchase Christmas gifts and provide a Christmas meal for a family from the Northampton School District. The light of Christ shines again.

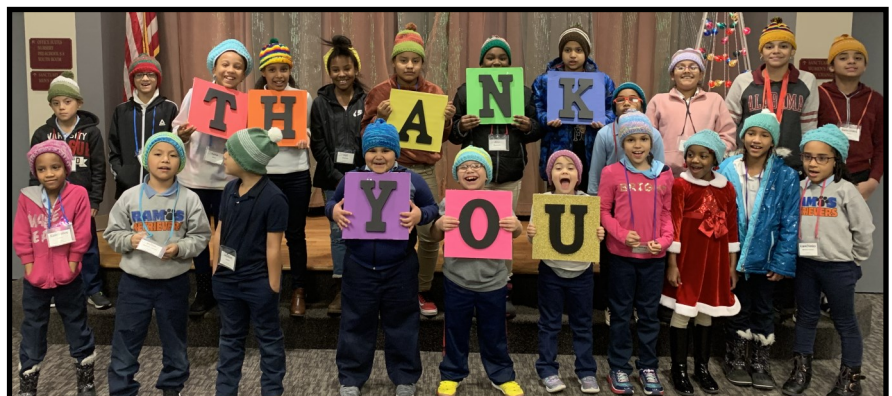
But this year Hope touched even more lives. There is a group of members who travel into downtown Allen-

town once a month – or more – to serve a meal and help at an after-school program at St. Stephen’s Outreach Center. The children love to see them coming with their boxes of food and smiling faces. One of our members knitted hats for each child in the program and the group also purchased presents for every child and brought Santa along to deliver them! It was a joyous celebration and the thank you Hope Lutheran received was heartfelt. The light of Christ is shining.

But that wasn’t all...we heard about other families who needed some help and Hope adopted three families for Christmas. Over 100 tags were placed on the wall for members to take and purchase practical items – and a few toys - for these families. The gifts came piling in and we set a date for anyone who wanted to help wrap them and load them to be delivered. Again, our members were incredibly generous – often buying something extra to help the family. The light of Christ is shining and shining and shining!



What I’m trying to say is that the light of Jesus – the light that shines in the darkness and the dark-



Children from St. Stephen’s Outreach Center and their new hats.

Greetings from the Pastor *(Continued from page 1)*

ness cannot overcome – the light we lift high on Christmas Eve as we sing “Silent Night” – THAT LIGHT – is spilling out of the doors of Hope Lutheran Church and shining on so many lives in our community and beyond. And that is happening because YOU – the members of Hope Lutheran Church understand what Christmas is all about and are ready, willing and able to share the message through acts of love and service to others. Thank you for all you do!

Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Jami



Hats by Olive Hawk



Special visitor to St. Stephen’s Outreach Center

CHURCH COUNCIL

Sunday, January 5, we will install our Church Council at both services:

Kim Belletti
Lee Creyer
Doug Daniel
Lori Keiper

Samantha Lambert
Allison Lockard
Tom Nichols
Trish Ninos

Matt Sekol
Manfred Steiner
Susan Stephens
J. Szwast

NEXT COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL—January 12—9:15 a.m.

SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER (SAD)

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that's related to changes in seasons - SAD begins and ends at about the same times each year.

If you are like most people with SAD, your symptoms start in the fall and continue into the winter months, sapping your energy and making you feel moody. Less often, SAD causes depression in the spring or early summer. Treatment for SAD may include light therapy (phototherapy), medications and psychotherapy. Don't brush off that yearly feeling as simply a case of the "winter blues" or a seasonal funk that you have to tough out on your own. Take steps to keep your mood and motivation steady throughout the year. Find out how on the Bulletin Board.



MILLER MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE



Sunday, January 12; 7:30 a.m.—noon
Kuntz Hall
Sign up: January 5

You may sign up on-line or after Sunday services

Thank you for your support.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 5

Christmas 2

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

Sunday, January 12

Baptism of Our Lord

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

Sunday, January 19

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

Sunday, January 26

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

POW

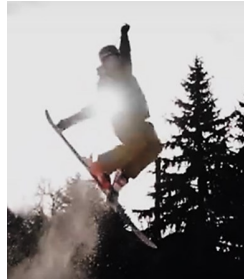
January 8
6:00 p.m.

This is mandatory for Level 1 Confirmation and their mentors.
Any other youth are welcome to attend,
please sign-up on the Youth Bulletin Board.

Snowtubing

January 17

Please watch for an email
for more information on
sign-ups and purchasing tickets.



National Youth Gathering

Easter candy making
for ADULTS ONLY

January 11 and January 18.

Please watch for an email for sign-up information.

Youth Leader meeting

January 6
6:00 p.m.



Saturday, February 15

(snow date February 16)

Tickets on sale January 19, 26,
February 2, and 9 after both services

CONFIRMATION

Thank you to everyone who has checked in with me to make sure your student's records are correct and informing me of any omissions, it is greatly appreciated! December was a busy month for some of our level 2 students visiting St. Nick's Catholic Church and volunteering at the Northampton Food Bank.

This month our Level 2 students have a mentor event on Wednesday, January 8 and our Level 1 students have their first mentor event on Saturday, January 25! We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteered to be mentors this year for our Level 1 students, and everyone who is continuing to volunteer as a Level 2 mentor this year. You all play a very important role in the confirmation journey of our students, thank you! New Level 1 mentors will be inducted on Sunday, January 19 at both services.

Many of you have been asking me about outreach opportunities. There are Friendship dances that occur monthly on the third Monday. If any other opportunities arise, I will let you know. Just as a reminder, volunteering for the Valentines Dinner or Easter Candy making, etc. **does not count** toward your outreach commitment for confirmation because it counts towards youth gathering.

Please see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks! Laura

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 2019

- ◆ The next Coffee with the Council will be held on January 12 at 9:15 a.m. in the area off the Hanson Hall kitchen. This is an occasion for church members to meet with council members, have financial reports reviewed, ask questions, share concerns and – of course – have coffee and goodies! Council members want to hear from you and create an opportunity for open communication outside an annual meeting format. So if you’ve been dying to learn or share something, please make time on January 12 to enjoy some coffee and conversation.
- ◆ Hope’s bi-annual blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, January 12 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Kuntz Hall. The Wellness Team will be making appointments after worship on December 22, December 29, and January 5.
- ◆ On behalf of the congregation, Council thanked outgoing member, Jim Gardner, for his 6 years of service on council.
- ◆ As of December 13, we received 118 Estimate of Giving Cards totaling \$229,616.00. This number includes 31 new commitments to our ministry. Our 2020 budget is \$440,834. The amount we have received on the Estimate of Giving Cards for 2020 represents less than half of the 2020 budget. In 2019 we received a total of 131 Estimate of Giving Cards totaling \$241,549.00 which means the difference between 2019 and 2020 commitments (to date) is \$11,933. It is not too late to return your Estimate of Giving Card. There is a box in the narthex to deposit your completed card. Extra cards are available there as well. Thank you to all who responded so far.
- ◆ The annual Valentine Dinner hosted by Hope’s Youth Group is scheduled for Saturday, February 15 with a snow date of Sunday, February 16. Look for more information in the January bulletin and future newsletters.
- ◆ Hope is hosting a new ministry – Hope’s Book Buddies. This is a chance for a group of interested people to read the same book and gather to talk about it. The first book choosing is “Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again” by Rachel Held Evans. The group will meet on January 21 – with one group meeting at 1:00 p.m. and another at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ It was reported that the lights in the Memorial Garden were not lit at night. Property committee checked this out and corrected the issue.

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 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.

A green rectangular button with the text "Online Giving" in white.

2019 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 2020.

IT’S NOT TOO LATE:

if you did not turn in a 2020 commitment card. You will find them in the Narthex along with a box in which to deposit them.

IS THERE CHURCH?

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

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



Monday,
January 6
Depart at 2:30 p.m.
for 3 Kings Celebration

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

Wednesday, January 15
Depart at 2:30 p.m.
Snow date: January 22



Monday, January 20
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Kuntz Hall

WELCA

Tuesday, January 21
at 9:00 a.m.
in the Adult Sunday
School Room



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Thursday,
January 19
10:00 a.m.



SOUP GROUP AND DELIVERY



Wednesday,
January 8
9:00 a.m.
in Kuntz Hall kitchen.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

Centering Prayer group will meet January 6 and 20; 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!



STORYWEAVERS and lunch

Tuesday, January 14
10:00 a.m.
For more information call
LeeAnn Chandler, 610-440-0341

**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.

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.

**Northampton Area Food Bank
Super Bowl Purse & Gift Card Bingo**

Sunday, February 2
Doors open at noon;
Games begin at 2 p.m.
Good Shepherd Catholic School, Northampton
Tickets are \$20 for 20 games
See the flyer on the Community Bulletin Board
in the narthex for more information,
including additional ways
you can help with this fundraiser.

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

Dear Hope Church,

Thank you so much for the scholarship money that you awarded me. I used it towards my text books for this semester. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Sincerely,

Molly Laury

Pastor Jami and Congregation,

Thank you very much for the lunch bags you provided to our students at Peters Elementary School. They are very much appreciated and brought many smiles to the children who needed them. We sincerely are so grateful that you care about our students. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Peters Elementary School Principal, Faculty plus the "Kiddos"

EVANGELISM

The annual nativity display was held November 30 and December 1. This was our 20th display and was quite successful. Saturday was rather busy and filled with many visitors throughout the day. Sadly, however, the Sunday weather was not good and many folks were not able to be with us this year. This was the first year of the 20 displays that the weather really was bad enough to interfere with our display. This year's display had 300 beautiful nativity scenes to admire and served to remind all of us that the true meaning of Christmas is about the birth of Christ. We had many children on Saturday who enjoyed making crafts.

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped in any way to make the 20th annual display so beautiful and so successful. There were many wonderful desserts, beautiful nativity scenes, talented musicians - willing and able hands and bodies that contributed to the success. Several of our boy scouts and several confirmation students were on hand and were a huge help. We had many monetary donations during the weekend which were divided equally between Peters Elementary School of Northern Lehigh and Siegfried Elementary School of Northampton to make Christmas a little brighter for families from each school. So again, a huge thank you to all for the sharing of your time and talents. More information about the Nativity display will be made available in the next news letter

A few people have asked when/if the Thursday evening Bible study will be restarted. Yes, it can be—if enough people express a desire for it to continue. It would not necessarily have to be on a Thursday, but it would be a majority decision if it were to be restarted and when—just some food for thought!

The next Evangelism meeting will be on January 2, at 5:45 p.m., snow date will be January 9. This committee welcomes new people and new ideas of how to better serve our God, our church, and our community. Please join us. For more information about Hope's Evangelism Committee, please contact Sharyn Kratzer.

The Evangelism Committee wishes all of you a new year filled with much peace, joy, contentment, health, and happiness.

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 5, 12 and 19 to take orders. The 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 **Sunday, February 2nd** at the church from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. Unable to make it to

(Continued on page 7)

Hope's Helping Hands (Continued from page 6)

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 next meeting date will be January 27, 2020 at 6 p.m. in the conference room next to Pastor Jami's office. Anyone is welcome to join us!



Level 2 conformation class with mentors volunteering at Northampton food bank

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On Sunday, December 22 during the 10:30 Worship Service the Sunday School presented: a



The Christmas Story



More pictures on page 8



FINANCIAL SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 30, 2019

	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$102,873.22	\$146,144.08	\$139,489.65	\$ 95,612.84	\$ (4,061.92)
Income - November	37,814.88	4,139.65	2,380.44	1,551.27	-
Income - Jan.-Oct.	321,583.41	40,482.90	6,526.06	2,340.16	2,000.00
Total Income	359,398.29	44,622.55	8,906.50	3,891.43	2,000.00
Expenses - November	27,610.07	99.00	-	-	-
Expenses - Jan.-Oct.	302,369.24	48,244.18	6,447.78	5,400.00	-
Total Expenses	329,979.31	48,343.18	6,447.78	5,400.00	-
Net Income	29,418.98	(3,720.63)	2,458.72	(1,508.57)	2,000.00
Net Special Appeals	1,834.77				
Balance End of November	\$134,126.97	\$142,423.45	\$141,948.37	\$ 94,104.27	\$ (2,061.92)

SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of November by \$10,204.81, and for the year 2019, income exceeded expenses by \$29,418.98, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$134,126.97. Last year the net income for the same period was \$(19,161.00) with a balance of \$73,830.55.

** 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 12	Thursday, January 30 @ 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 2020 issue of *Synod News* is available online.
Visit <http://nepasynod.org/documents/synod-news/synod-news-2020-1.pdf>

HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251

