

Hope *Home News*

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April 2020
Vol. XLVII No. 4

hopecherryville.org



GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

When I passed a grocery store on my way to the office, I noticed the parking lot was full. At the bank entrance there was a notice on the door that the lobby is closed to the public and all transactions could be done at the drive-thru windows or the ATM. The preschool here at Hope cancelled for two weeks and the senior center closed as of Tuesday. Pastors are not allowed in the hospital for visitations unless someone is in hospice and all the long-term care facilities are closed to visitors. It's eerily quiet in the building as the staff goes about our work – sanitizing, creating a newsletter, answering phones and responding to member needs, doing pastoral care over the phone and writing sermons. The Coronavirus is our new reality for a while.

Yet - as I write this article at my desk in my office - I look outside and see that cars and trucks are still rushing down Route 248. People were filling their gas tanks at the Turkey Hill Mini Mart and I passed some linemen at work on the power lines. In the large planters at the front of the church the sprouts of spring flowers can be seen. The grass is turning green, the air is getting warmer, and the sun still shines. Some things continue to carry on despite the severity of this time.

It seems to me that people are reacting in very different ways to this deadly disease. Some people think we are over-reacting and others have a level of anxiety they have never known before. Only time will tell who is right but, in the meantime, we have choices we need to make – choices as to how we will react as people of faith. When we are filled with fear - anxious and overzealously reactionary - we have limited energy for the consideration of others. The toilet paper incident - two women fist-fighting in a store in Australia captured on video - is proof of that. The hoarding of sanitizer by one individual in Tennessee to make a few bucks as he sells

it to people at an inflated price is egregious.

Here's the thing...the Coronavirus has led to some deaths - but we cannot allow it to cause the death of our compassion. I know that it can be hard to be compassionate and considerate to others when you have your own needs to consider. It can be hard to offer understanding and empathy to others when we are worried that our aging parents or grandparents could contract this virus and possibly die from it. I understand why people are worried - the risk is high and we are all affected – across the globe. But it is critical to remember that in times of crisis, we need to hold on to our faith and reach out to others - in whatever ways we can - with support and compassion.

Why do I say that? The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918, the deadliest in history, infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide - about one-third of the planet's population - and killed an estimated 20 million to 50 million victims, including some 675,000 Americans. As David Brooks pointed out in The New York Times, in his article about the Spanish Flu outbreak, "...One of the puzzling features of the 1918 pandemic. When it was over, people didn't talk about it. There were very few books or plays written about it. Roughly 675,000 Americans lost their lives to the flu, compared with 53,000 in battle in World War I, and yet it left almost no conscious cultural mark...Perhaps it's because people didn't like who they had become. It was a shameful memory and therefore suppressed."

One thing I know – we do not want to emerge from this Coronavirus Pandemic questioning who we have become. We do not want to check our compassion at the door of our homes before we exit to go to the grocery store or the doctor's office or the bank. Being the people of God, even in the

(Continued on page 2)

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

midst of these difficult times, is who we are called to be. So ... lift each other up in prayer. Make a phone call to those you love and those who may be vulnerable physically, emotionally or spiritually. Practice patience whenever you find yourself waiting in a line or being held up from your normal routines. Give thanks in your prayers for those in the medical profession who are caring for the sickest among us. Literally say "thank you" to the people checking you out in the supermarket or checking you in for your doctor visit or delivering your Meals on Wheels. Compassion, gratitude and faithfulness are contagious – as contagious as this insipid virus – so spread them around.

I leave you with the words to one of the hymns I love dearly,

Christ, Be Our Light:

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Blessings,
Pastor Jami

Council Highlights – March 2020

- ◆ At the February meeting of council, the council approved the purchase of a new steeple to replace the current steeple. The steeple has been ordered and will be replaced this spring. To reiterate the problem ... although many may not realize it, our current steeple has cracks in it that causes it to leak during heavy rainstorms. This leakage can be seen on the ceiling of the sanctuary above the altar. The property committee researched a variety of ways to deal with this issue and tried to repair the steeple with a coating of sealing paint but that proved ineffective. Continued leakage will compromise the roof of the sanctuary. The contract was awarded to Steeplejacks of America, Inc at the cost of \$16,000, which will come from the Building Fund. **Council encourages members to remember that they can contribute directly to the Building Fund and help defray the cost of this project.**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Times and place
may change
Check website or call office
to verify**

Saturday, April 4

7:30 PM

Sunday, April 5

8:00 AM

Palm Sunday

at Becky's Drive-In

April 9

Maundy Thursday

11:00 AM

7:00 PM

April 10

Good Friday

12:00 PM Community Service

7:00 PM Tenebrae

Sunday, April 12

Easter

6:00 AM Holy Communion

8:00 AM Holy Communion

10:30 AM Holy Communion

Sunday, April 19

First Communion

8:00 AM Holy Communion

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion

Sunday, April 26

Lent 5

8:00 AM Service of the Word

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion

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Council Highlights *(Continued from page 2)*

- ◆ Sunday School has planned a Family Easter Celebration Event which will be held on Sunday April 5 in Kuntz Hall. Families of children in our Sunday School program are encouraged to join their children for this interactive event.
- ◆ Hope is still in need of delegates for the 2020 Synod Assembly which has been rescheduled to October 22 – 24 at Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. The event will begin the evening of Thursday, October 22 and conclude late in the afternoon October 24. Hope Lutheran will cover all expenses for registration, rooming, and meals for the duration of the assembly. This is an exciting year when we will elect a new bishop for the Synod. If you are interested or would like more information, please speak to Pastor Jami.
- ◆ Council discussed the outbreak of the Coronavirus and some of the implications for the church and worship. Sanitizers have been ordered and when they arrive, the property committee will install them throughout the building. Posters alerting members to the virus and proper hygiene to handle it will be posted throughout the building. Council will be responsive as the need arises and the virus spreads.
- ◆ The 2019 Church Audit was completed and all paperwork sent to the Synod and ELCA.

EASTER CANDY SALE

Easter Candy will be on sale in the narthex after each service on April 5 and 12. Each box is \$10. Candy will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. We can accept cash or check payable to Hope Lutheran. Available boxes will be peanut butter/milk chocolate, coconut cream/dark chocolate, peanut rolled/dark chocolate, and assorted.



THIRD FRIDAY EVENT

Friday, April 17. Laser tag . . . Please sign up on the bulletin board. Cost is \$21 (\$19 if we have 25 or more people). Please eat dinner before hand. Bring extra money as we may stop for ice cream after.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

* **April 5**
Family Easter Party in Kuntz Hall during the Sunday School Hour. Kids can then participate in the Palm Sunday Procession of Palms at the 10:30 a.m. service.

FIRST COMMUNION

Join us as our fifth graders receive their first communion at both services on Sunday, April 19. A reception in Kuntz Hall will follow the service.



CONFIRMATION REMINDER

Don't forget to keep track of your attendance to Sunday School and Worship Services. You need to make sure you have 25 by the end of the Sunday School Year. Be sure to fill out a worship worksheet whenever you attend a service in order to receive credit. The Weekend Retreat May 8 - 10, and the Parent/Student Conversation Event on May 17 are Mandatory Confirmation events and ***DO NOT*** count for Sunday School credit.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

During this Lenten season, we hope you will consider additional giving 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

STRESS

In today's fast-paced world, and especially now amid the COVID-19 crisis, chronic stress is common, and your mind and body can pay a high price.

Stress is your body's way of responding to any kind of demand or threat. When you sense danger -- - whether it's real or imagined --- the body's defenses kick into high gear in a rapid, automatic process known as the "fight-or-flight" reaction or the "stress response." The stress response is the body's way of protecting you. When working properly, it helps you stay focused, energetic, and alert. In emergency situations, stress can save your life - giving you extra strength to defend yourself, for example, or spurring you to slam on the brakes to avoid an accident. Stress can also help you rise to meet challenges. It is what keeps you on your toes during a presentation

at work, sharpens your concentration when you are attempting the game-winning free throw, or drives you to study for an exam when you would rather be watching TV. But beyond a certain point, stress stops being helpful and starts causing major damage to your health, mood, productivity, relationships, and your quality of life.

If you frequently find yourself frazzled and overwhelmed, it's time to take action to bring your nervous system back into balance. You can protect yourself - and improve how you think and feel - by learning how to recognize the signs and symptoms of stress and taking steps to reduce its harmful effects.

SEE the Bulletin Board for more information!

SHE NAILED IT

"She Nailed It" is an all-women nail hammering competition founded by Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley in 2012 as a way to raise funds and empower women. This one-of-a-kind event brings together teams of women from all industries and walks of life to raise vital funds for Habitat's Homeownership Program, and address the affordable housing crisis faced by women and single mothers both locally and globally. Each team is comprised of four women who will attend the event on **July 20** and compete relay-style against the clock to hammer one nail per person, per round into a 2x6 board suspended across sawhorses. **Hope's Hammering Hands** is comprised of four women from Hope Lutheran Church, who are members of the mission team, Hope's Helping Hands. Over the past few years, we have worked on the Faith Build projects sponsored by Thrivent and Lehigh Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Please join us in our fundraising as we participate in Habitat for Humanity's "She Nailed It" competition on July 20. Donations can be made by going to the following website and click on the **DONATE** button: <https://www.mightycause.com/team/Hammeringhands>. Tickets may also be purchased to attend the fast-paced fun on July 20 and cheer on the women of **Hope's Hammering Hands**.

THANKS

To my friends of Hope Lutheran Church:

Thank you for helping me celebrate my 95th birthday with your cards and well wishes. It was an exciting day—one I will long remember.

God Bless,
Olive Hawk

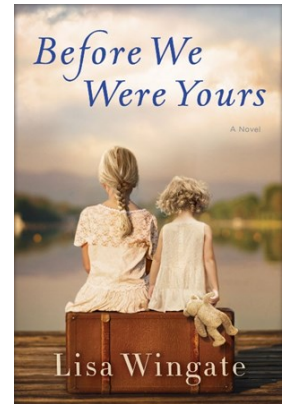
HOPE'S BOOK BUDDIES

We have selected our third book, **When We Were Yours** by Lisa Wingate. This story is based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country.

Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shanty boat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents—but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility's cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty.

Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it

all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé, and a lavish wedding on the horizon. But when Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family's long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption.



We would invite anyone who is interested to either order the book through Pastor Jami or on your own. The cost of the book is \$10.50. A sign-up list is on the bulletin board. We read the entire book and then meet for a lively discussion. The next Book Buddies meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21 at 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. – you choose the time that works for you. Hope to see you there!

TAX SCAMS ARE IN FULL SWING

Tax fraud, such as scams involving phone calls, phishing, identity theft and dishonest accountants, often picks up early in the tax season, according to the IRS. Phone scams, one of the most prevalent types, have cost victims more than \$72 million since October 2013, according to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

Here's how to protect yourself:

- Don't ever give out personal information to anyone you don't know over the phone.
- The IRS will **never** make initial contact with taxpayers via an unsolicited phone call or e-mail. (The agency generally only contacts people by mail.) It doesn't call about unexpected refunds, ask for personal information like credit or debit card numbers over the phone or make threatening payment demands. If suspicious, taxpayers can request that the caller send a letter.
- Beware of e-mails or other communications posing as the IRS, promising a big refund or personally threatening you. Don't open attachments or click on links in suspicious e-mails.
- If a tax refund promised by a tax preparer seems too good to be true, it probably is. Ask some questions: Why is the refund coming out this way? Why am I getting such a large refund?
- Do research on tax preparers before working with them. Visit the [Better Business Bureau's website](#) to run a check. Look for disciplinary actions and the license status for credentialed preparers. (For CPAs, check with your state's Board of Accountancy. For attorneys, check with the state's Bar Association. For Enrolled Agents, you can [contact the IRS](#) or check the [directory](#).) The IRS also [has some tips](#) on how to choose a tax professional

**MINISTRY AT
ST. STEPHEN'S OUTREACH CENTER
EASTER CELEBRATION**

Saturday, April 4
11:00 a.m.



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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Thursday,
April 9
10:00 a.m.



CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

Centering Prayer group will meet April 6 & 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!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Bakers needed for

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

NURSERY SCHOOL

Is accepting registrations for the next school term.

Please contact Deb Gable at 610-767-7523 for more information on enrollment.

WELCA

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



**SOUP GROUP AND
DELIVERY**



Wednesday,
April 1
9:00 a.m.

in Kuntz Hall kitchen.

**STORYWEAVERS
and lunch**

Tuesday, April 14
10:00 a.m.

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

**EVANGELISM COMMITTEE
MEETING**

Thursday, April 2
5:45 p.m.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Saturday, May 2
9:00 a.m.

The property
committee thanks
you in advance
for your help



Due to possible COVID-19 restrictions, please check with the church office or Hope's website regarding any activities.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL . . . COMING JULY 6—10

“Knights of the North Castle”. Your children will assume the role of brave Knights, be challenged to “armor up”, be made strong in the Lord, and learn about the strength of God’s power. Classes will be held from 9 a.m. until noon, with a closing program on Friday, July 10 at 7 p.m. Ages include 3 year olds (potty trained) to children completing 6th grade in June 2020. Registrations can be made at vbs.hopecherryville.org or by completing a registration form located in the narthex. A t-shirt is provided for each student registering by Sunday, June 14. A donation of \$15 is suggested for each student which includes the price of the t-shirt. This is collected during vacation bible school.

Lots of help will be needed so please consider volunteering. A staff nursery is provided for volunteers if you have younger children who are not old enough to attend. Volunteers need to register as well. Volunteers can order a t-shirt as well for \$5 also payable during VBS.

So come join Gillian and his crew at North Castle. For faster registration, use the QR code to the right.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



HOPE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Through your continued support we have been able to assist over 100 students in the Northern Lehigh and Northampton School Districts fight hunger by providing breakfast on school days and lunch on weekends! This program plays an integral part in providing children with much needed food as well as creating a healthy environment for them to learn and nurture their education. Thank you!

Containers are located in the narthex for your donations. Food items should be healthy snacks (individually wrapped). Please remember due to allergies within the school all donations should be peanut butter free and nut free.

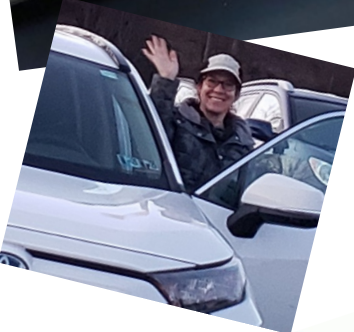
Some suggested items:

Pop Tarts	Mini-Cereal Boxes	Fruit Snacks	Breakfast Bars
Teddy Grahams	Gold Fish Crackers	Pretzels	Cheeze-its
Graham Crackers	Granola Bars	Shelf-stable Yogurt	Trail mix
Shelf-stable milk	Mac-n-cheese	Canned soups/stews/pastas	

WOMEN OF FAITH

Mark your calendars for Monday, April 27. Pastor Jami will join the Women of Faith for a prayer workshop. We will all be making a prayer jar! Look for a sign up sheet to be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex!

Our First Drive In Service
March 21, 2020



FINANCIAL SUMMARY - FEBRUARY 29, 2020

	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship Loan	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$161,499.08	\$146,206.85	\$143,349.81	\$ 95,238.49	\$ (2,061.92)
Income - February	35,449.35	(512.68)	(1,473.26)	(1,062.85)	-
Income - January	31,655.02	5,286.67	3,421.19	2,959.84	-
Total Income	67,104.37	4,773.99	1,947.93	1,896.99	-
Expenses - February	35,190.94	8,099.00	-	-	-
Expenses - January	29,785.25	99.00	-	3,200.00	-
Total Expenses	64,976.19	8,198.00	-	3,200.00	-
Net Income	2,128.18	(3,424.01)	1,947.93	(1,303.01)	-
Net Special Appeals	533.75				
Balance End of February	\$164,161.01	\$142,782.84	\$145,297.74	\$ 93,935.48	\$ (2,061.92)

SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of February by \$258.41, and for the year 2020, income exceeded expenses by \$2,128.18, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$164,161.01. Last year the net income for the same period was \$809.43 with a balance of \$104,346.95.

*** 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>
May	Tuesday, April 14	Thursday, April 23 @ 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 April 2020 issue of *Synod News* is available online.

Visit <http://nepasynod.org/documents/synod-news/synod-news-2020-4.pdf>

HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251

