

Hope *Home News*

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hopecherryville.org



GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

As I write this article, we have just completed our fifth week of worship services at Becky's Drive In. It has been a joy being able to worship with you – from a distance. Waving to you as you enter the Drive In and yelling a greeting through my mask makes my week. I truly miss the opportunity to personally greet you but am so thankful for the generosity of the Deppe family and Becky's for allowing this space to gather. If you have a minute drop them a thank you note or go to Becky's Facebook page and give them a shout out.

Our building is empty with out the sounds of pre-school children in the hallways and the smells of the senior center serving lunch. I miss people dropping into my office as they head to a meeting or stop in at the church office. For me - ministry is not the same when I am unable to visit people in the hospital, nursing facilities or at their homes. I find we are trying to translate a culture that has been built on the value of close, personal relationships with each other to one where our contact is through a phone call or virtually. But we are forging through this together and we will come through this crisis with some new skills and the confidence that we are the Church.

I want to personally say thank you to those of you who own or work for businesses that are struggling to stay afloat and to those who are responding on the front lines - healthcare workers, first responders, researchers, service professionals, store clerks and garage service people. You are my heroes. I invite you to email what you are doing and photos so that we can recognize you at our weekly worship services.

For those of you who are parents with children at home from school - teaching and trying to navigate online learning, instilling discipline and trying to understand common core curriculum - while still nurturing a love of learning in your children - I admire you. Send me pictures and stories of how you are coping so we can recognize you at our weekly worship services.

For those of you who are grandparents separated from grandchildren - reading books out loud and figuring out where to hold the book so that it can be seen onscreen by those listening in rapt attention or facetimeing your little ones – congratulations on learning a new skill! And, for those of you finding new ways to use technology to hold meetings and join interest groups – kudos. Send me pictures of how you are learning so we can recognize you at our weekly worship services.

You can send stories and pictures to pastor@hopecherryville.org and I'll send them along to our worship "producers." To Sam Koplín, who is editing our weekly worship, Stacey Burke, who put together our Good Friday worship, and Shelbey Ziegler, who adds photos and "color" to our services – we thank you for all you are doing to help us keep our faith strong and growing as we are being tested personally and as a country.

For those on the congregation council and others who help to lead our congregation – thank you for the time you are putting in, the creative ideas you offer and the courage to help us maneuver these difficult times. And finally – to our staff – who continue to work diligently to bring worship alive, communicate with our members, send newsletters and financial statements, manage our finances and keep our building in good shape – you are a blessing to us all.

As we continue to work toward a new normal and coming back together in person, please stay safe, practice social distancing and wear a mask in public. Stay courageous, resilient, compassionate and faithful as we respond to this pandemic. We are not alone in this – God is with us.

Easter Blessings,
Pastor Jami

Council Highlights – March 2020

- ◆ Because of the social distancing restrictions, Council met virtually for the first time through a meeting space called Microsoft Teams. It worked well and gives us the option to use this for our upcoming meeting(s) as needed.
- ◆ Council discussed the worship time at Becky's Drive In and affirmed that we should continue to use this format for as long as we are able. We are so grateful to Becky's and the Deppe family for making this available to Hope and other churches.
- ◆ Church finances are holding steady and council thanks all of our members who continue to give generously through this unprecedented time we are going through. This is good news at a time when many churches are experiencing financial hardships.
- ◆ Property Committee reported that the steeple project has been completed by Steeplejacks of America. The steeple is identical to the old one so many members may not even notice it was replaced due to leakage.
- ◆ The Christian Education team reported that we will not be holding Sunday School for the rest of this school year to follow social distancing and keeping our children safe. This decision corresponds to the decision of the Pennsylvania governor to keep children out of school for the rest of the school year.
- ◆ Due to the coronavirus outbreak, First Communion will be postponed until September. This will give the class time to regroup and finish their preparations and joyously celebrate with the congregation.
- ◆ Council is looking into the Paycheck Protection Act for which churches are eligible. Trudy Mertz, treasurer, and Bill Lewis, finance committee chairperson, will take the lead on this application process.
- ◆ Hope's Youth group will have a virtual meeting on Friday, April 17 through a meeting space called Zoom. They will be doing a group Scavenger Hunt.

Youth Group

We will be hosting more Zoom Youth Group events (like our scavenger hunt) throughout the upcoming weeks. Please be on the lookout for emails with meeting times.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will not be meeting together for the remainder of the school year.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Saturday, May 2

8:00 PM

Sunday, May 3

8:00 AM

Services at Becky's Drive In

Saturday, May 9

8:00 PM

Sunday, May 10

8:00 AM

Services at Becky's Drive In

Saturday, May 16

8:00 PM

Sunday, May 17

8:00 AM

Services at Becky's Drive In

Saturday, May 23

8:00 PM

Sunday, May 24

8:00 AM

Services at Becky's Drive In

Pentecost

Saturday, May 30

8:00 PM

Sunday, May 31

8:00 AM

Services at Becky's Drive In

FIRST COMMUNION

Due to the coronavirus, first communion has been rescheduled to September 27.



ELECTRONIC GIVING

We know that supporting your Church is important to you. Our mission has not stopped because of this public health crisis. We hope you will consider additional giving to your Church. It is through the contributions of every member that we will be able to support our members and community. 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

WOMEN OF FAITH

Meetings for April and May have been postponed. Our Prayer Wall will be put away for this year and we will complete it next year during Lent

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Bakers needed for
ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE
Tuesday, June 2, 2020

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

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL


Hope Nursery School is accepting new registrations for the next school term. Activities include: language arts, crafts, music, field trips, gym, painting and so much more! Four-year-old classes meet every Monday-Wednesday-Thursday from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and 3-year-old classes meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Ms. Deb Gable at 610-767-7523 for more information on enrollment.



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**.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, the ELCA churchwide organization is here to support its members, congregations, synods and partners. Call 800-638-3522 and press #4 or email HereToServe@ELCA.org for prayer, support and answers to questions.

#ELCACHURCHTOGETHER

Resources to help leaders and members stay connected and resilient during COVID-19



“I arise early in the morning and I cry out to you, I hope for your word.

My eyes are open in the night watches, that I may meditate upon your promise.” (Psalm 119:147-148)

During this time of pandemic many are seeking resources to support daily prayer in the home. As we are physically separated from supportive Christian communities, it becomes increasingly important to mark our days and hours with prayer. As noted in *Keeping Time*, “Prayer is a gift of access for all the baptized and those seeking to live in a relationship with the God who has spoken, is speaking, and has promised to speak through Jesus, the living Word, and the Spirit, who helps us pray with sighs too deep for words as we ponder the scriptures, which still speak to us” (*Using Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Keeping Time*, p. 148).

To support prayer practices in the home, we have provided these simplified forms of Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer*. In addition to these three times of day we have provided Responsive Prayer, a simple order that may be adapted to a variety of times and contexts. Each of these services are adapted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. In addition, a resource of other Prayers and Blessings for Daily Use including a collection of table prayers and prayers for various situations is also available.



It is our prayer that these resources can be an aid to your daily prayer time. May the Spirit fill you with the peace of the Risen Christ in these days and always.

*Full article and resources at—<https://blogs.elca.org/worship/2044/>

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL . . . COMING JULY 6–10



“Knights of 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 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.

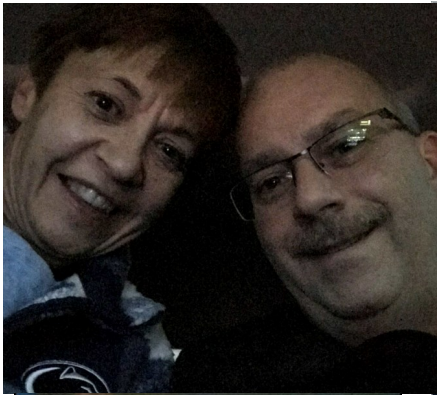


NEW STEEPLE INSTALLED



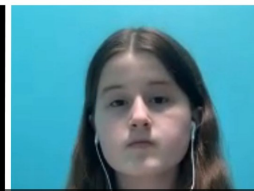
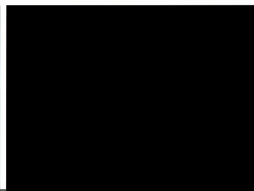
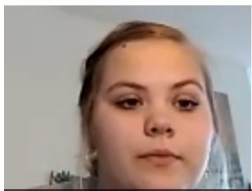
Something to color while you wait for *Knights of North Castle Vacation Bible School*.





SELFIES FROM THE DRIVE IN

MORE PHOTOS FROM THE DRIVE IN SERVICES



FINANCIAL SUMMARY - MARCH 31, 2020

	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$161,499.08	\$146,206.85	\$143,349.81	\$ 95,238.49	\$ (2,061.92)
Income - March	39,317.08	(5,449.94)	(5,306.36)	(4,662.83)	-
Income - Jan.-Feb.	67,104.37	4,773.99	1,947.93	1,896.99	-
Total Income	106,421.45	(675.95)	(3,358.43)	(2,765.84)	-
Expenses - March	27,956.96	8,116.98	8.96	-	-
Expenses - Jan.-Feb.	64,976.19	8,198.00	-	3,200.00	-
Total Expenses	92,933.15	16,314.98	8.96	3,200.00	-
Net Income	13,488.30	(16,990.93)	(3,367.39)	(5,965.84)	-
Net Special Appeals	988.00				
Balance End of March	\$175,975.38	\$129,215.92	\$139,982.42	\$ 89,272.65	\$ (2,061.92)

SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of March by \$11,360.12, and for the year 2020, income exceeded expenses by \$13,488.30, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$175,975.38. Last year the net income for the same period was \$9,268.04 with a balance of \$113,234.56.

*** 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>
June	Tuesday, May 19	Thursday, May 28 @ 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 May 2020 issue of *Synod News* is available online.

Visit <http://nepasynod.org/documents/synod-news/synod-news-2020-5.pdf>

HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251

