

Hope *Home News*

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June 2020
Vol. XLVII No. 6

hopecherryville.org



GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

As I write this article it is Memorial weekend – the opening volley of the summer months. We expected to be able to participate in picnics and fireworks – family gatherings and remembrance services for fallen heroes. But not this year. At least not in the ways we have celebrated in the past. Although many of us have hoped for a neat finale to this pandemic, I am coming to realize that there will be no quick return to life the way it was before March 2020. I'm sure you have come to that realization as well.

I am asking myself questions like: How do we move forward when so many decisions are based on the unknown of this virus? How do we find ways to cope as Covid19 continues to loom over us? How do we continue to be the church beyond our building? There are no easy answers – which can lead to heightened anxiety, increased frustration and loss of hope. It is important to keep “readjusting our horizons” according to Dr. Amelia Aldao, a psychologist specializing in anxiety. Let me share what she has to say about coping in this pandemic.

“Some of us have our hopes fixed to an event in the future – a July wedding we half-expect to attend, or a September getaway we think just might work out – and that can be problematic. The way things are shaping up, there's a lot of uncertainty – what's going to open? Is there going to be a second wave of outbreaks? We just don't know.”

Looking forward is a positive approach psychologically because it keeps us engaged in life. But given the current circumstances, “Either focus on the right here, right now, the immediate days and weeks – we all have a lot of control over the next week,” says Aldao, “Or try focusing on the more distant future – maybe a year from now.”

Her advice sounds a lot like the words of wisdom from the US Navy Vice Admiral, James Stockdale, who spent seven years as a prisoner of war in

Vietnam. He is credited with articulating what is known as “Stockdale's paradox” – a “hope for the best, prepare for the worst” philosophy. During his time as a POW he observed his cellmates and their response to captivity. The “optimists,” as he classified them, who believed they would be free by Christmas, then, when that didn't happen, by Easter, and so on – became demoralized and “died of a broken heart.”

Now we are not prisoners of war - but his wisdom on how to cope with uncertainty still resonates. The truth is that we cannot afford to spend our time during this pandemic expecting normalcy when it is over just because that is what we want. How do we then muddle our way through this without getting totally bogged down in the misery of it?

One way is to make contingency plans – what you will do if someone in your family gets sick – what you will do if you must work from home one more month – what you will do if you cannot take your summer vacation at the beach. Grasping hold of what you can control helps us to allow this time not to be a constant source of sadness.

Another coping mechanism is to imagine sharing the story with your grandchildren or great-grandchildren 30 or 50 years from now when they ask you what it was like during the great Covid19 pandemic. What things will you tell them brought you hope? Who was instrumental in keeping your spirits up? What funny stories can you share about the time you spent sheltering at home? Which pictures will you share with them – ones of wearing face masks and gloves – ones of walking in the rain – ones of cozy game playing – ones of zoom family gatherings? What are the things that are happening right now that will create memories for you to share when all this is over?

(Continued on page 3)

Council Highlights – May 2020

- ◆ Council approved the recommendation from the Worship and Music Committee to begin offering Holy Communion once a month while we are worshipping outside of the building. This will begin the weekend of May 23.
- ◆ Hope will continue to worship at Becky's Drive In as long as it is feasible for them to host us.
- ◆ Council discussed the movement to eventually reopening the church for activities and worship. The decision is that the building will remain closed for all worship and social events until the church is in the green zone in accordance with Pennsylvania State government guidelines. The exceptions would be "life-altering" events (funerals, weddings, baptisms) in which cases social distancing and masks will be enforced with a maximum limit of 10 people in the gathering.
- ◆ VBS – Virtual Bible School – will be held the week of July 6 – 10 and will involve a "drive thru" portion where families will drive through the parking lot to learn the theme and story of the day, pick up craft supplies, meet the VBS characters and play car games. Registration is now open at vbs.hopecherryville.org.
- ◆ Church finances are holding steady and council thanks our members for their generous support during this time of great disruption in our worship life.
- ◆ Confirmation classes are being held via Zoom meetings through May. Confirmation has been postponed until August 23. We would add an additional service that Sunday for Confirmation. This is the tentative date based on the opening of the state into the "green" zone and the ability to safely distance in the sanctuary.
- ◆ The Youth Group is doing virtual events through Zoom meetings in May and June.
- ◆ Book Buddies, Hope's book club, is reading a new book called *Where the Crawdads Sing*. The next virtual meeting via Zoom will be held on June 30 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Books are available in the church office for a cost of \$10. Participants may choose the meeting time that works for their schedule. A Zoom link will be posted in the bulletin in June.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is hosting Zoom Game Night events so we can stay connected throughout this time. Our upcoming dates are June 5 and June 19. Links will be sent to parents through email. Hope to see everyone there!

There will be a Youth Leader meeting June 4 at 7 p.m.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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



Confirmation has been scheduled for Sunday, August 23.

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

It is so easy to keep our focus on what is not right. But there are so many things that are good in our lives. This pandemic certainly has rebooted our lives and maybe we needed to be rebooted a bit so that we can appreciate and reground ourselves in those things that are most important to our well-being. Keeping a sense of gratitude instead of con-

stant grumbling keeps our focus on the gifts God has given us despite what has been taken away through the coronavirus. Give thanks for food, family, friends – your home, your health, your faith. Give thanks that God walks through these times with us – that we are not alone.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Jami

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

To find out time (and place) of worship:

check our website:
www.hopecherryville.org

call the office:
610-767-7203

or visit our facebook page
Hope Cherryville



The Holy Trinity
Sunday, June 7

BIBLE STUDY

With Pastor Jami, via Zoom
Thursdays at 10:00 AM
Call the office for more information

SPRING BASKET SOCIAL = TRIVIA

There's something I've been thinking about for awhile now, and what better time to revisit recorded amounts, tally them, and give you a report of total contributions made to the Northampton Area Food Bank and Hope's Good Samaritan Fund.

Spring socials began in 1999 and ran for 21 years, ending in 2019.

In those 21 years a total of \$56,061.90 was donated to the Northampton Area Food Bank and a total of \$48,030.90 was donated to Hope's Good Samaritan Fund.

Note that profits were split equally, however, you see an increased amount to the Food bank because of Thrivent's Matching Fund program during a good portion of that time, whereby the monies were to be added to the community event funds; also for a good part of that time cake monies were being donated to the Food Bank.

In Christian Love,
Linda Sidor and Hope's Basket Committee

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

COME JOIN US AT HOPE'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FROM JULY 6-10!



It's going to be a fun, exciting time and one you won't want to miss. We are having a drive-thru adventure each morning which will include Bible characters, fun and games, water day, a "stay in your car egg hunt", and lots of other creative experiences. Each day will have different challenges. You will receive snacks, take home crafts, and surprises.

Time slots for the drive-thru start at 9:00 a.m. and will be every 15 minutes. As you sign up you will be filled into a slot. You will be given your assigned time when we send out our information letter just before VBS starts.

When you return home, you can go on our website at your leisure and view an instructional video for your craft of the day, see a Bible lesson with our returning Gilligan's Island crew*, sing along with some of our favorite songs, recreational activities, and experiments!

We hope you can join us to learn Bible stories and share in the joy of God's love even through these challenging moments of our lives. Visit our website to register for our free Vacation Bible School today: vbs.hopecherryville.org

For faster registration, use the QR code to the right.



***LOOK WHO WE'LL BE SEEING AT VBS:**



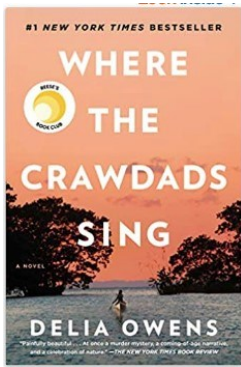
SKIPPER MR. & MRS HOWELL GINGER PROFESSOR MARY ANN GILLIGAN

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**.

BOOK BUDDIES

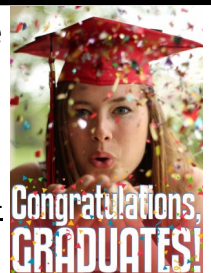


Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

Anyone who is interested can either order the book on your own or stop by the church office to pick-up a copy. The cost of the book is \$10. We read the entire book and then meet for a lively discussion. The next Book Buddies meeting, via Zoom, will be on Tuesday, June 30 at 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. – you choose the time that works for you.

GRADUATES, LET US HEAR FROM YOU

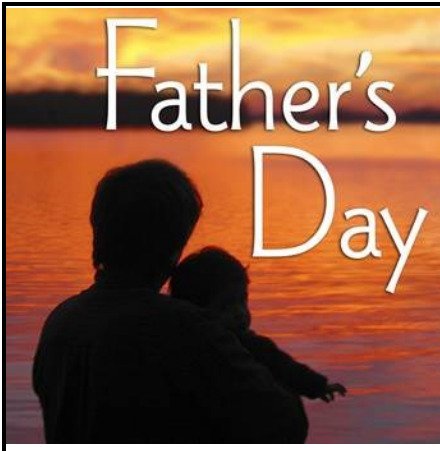
So many things are different right now, but the one thing you can be certain of is—we are proud of our members who are graduating! During the month of June we will acknowledge all our graduates. Record yourself, or find someone to record you, telling: your name, where you graduated from, degree (if college), future plans, and what has been the hardest for you during the stay-at-home order. Send your videos to communications@hopecherryville.org by June 7 and we will share your videos during our June services.



THANK YOU BECKY'S DRIVE IN

In these last three months of uncertainty we have been blessed to be able to gather and worship with each other at Becky's Drive In. This has only been possible by the generosity of Becky's owners and management. And they continue to care for our church as they work with us on ways to allow our services to continue at their property even after they open for movie viewing. We will be forever grateful to Becky's for how gracious they have been in allowing us this opportunity. Many of you have asked how you can be a part of Hope Lutheran Church's "Thank You" to Becky's Drive In. Here are several suggestions:

- First a monetary gift will be given, and you are invited to participate by placing your donation in an envelope marked "In thanksgiving for Becky's" and place it in the offering basket or drop it off at the church office.
- We want to verbally express our thanks, so fire up your phone, iPad, or whatever equipment you use to make digital recordings. Put on your Sunday best, or go silly if that's your bit, and let the "thank yous" flow, but keep it to 30 seconds or less, we want everyone to have a turn. We'll put all the videos together and play it on the big screen. We'll also see that they get a copy to keep. Let's see if we can make them laugh, and cry, better than any other movie they've shown on their screens has!! Send your videos to: communications@hopecherryville.org
- If you're a youth (high school/college age) and you've dreamt of being a princess, superhero, or a big screen animated character, Becky's can use your help. They are looking for people to dress up on Saturday, June 20, Noon – 2:00 for a character drive through. If you are interested in a few hours of smiling, cheering, waving, and sharing joy, call or email Pastor Jami for all the details.
- Last but not least we can all show our support of Becky's and their presence in our community by visiting when they open and spreading the word about a great place to spend a fun night.



“Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, story-tellers, and singers of song.”

Pam Brown

At our weekend services on June 21, we want to honor our fathers and those special men in our lives that have made us the people we are today. Take a selfie with your dad, or send us your favorite dad photo (digital) from the past and we’ll share them (how depends on where we will be worshipping). Send your pictures to communications@hopecherryville.org by Wednesday, June 17.



FOOD INSECURITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

We will be having a non-perishable food drive on June 21. Watch for details in your bulletin, or call the church office, on how to make your donations. All food will be delivered to the Northampton Area Food Bank.

If you know of anyone who is in need of food assistance, particularly ages 18 and under here are some resources in addition to the food bank:

Greater Valley YMCA Youth Meal Sites; free Grab and Go Meals for all community members ages 18 and under. Catasauqua Pool, 501 American St., Catasauqua; 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., Monday and Thursdays. (Y-Membership is not required, and Catty site distributes free meals for adults as well). Other YMCA sites are participating as well go to: www.gv-ymca.org for more information.

Northern Lehigh School District will begin their summer feeding program on Tuesday, June 16 and continue through Thursday, August 13, 2020. Meals will be available for all children aged 0-18 suffering from food insecurity. Pick up will be in front of the Middle School on Tuesdays (2 breakfasts and 2 lunches) and Thursdays (3 breakfasts and 3 lunches) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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-Friday 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.

A Message from Bishop Zeiser about Opening Church Buildings

As we go through this Memorial Day weekend and begin to experience how it feels for some of us to live under relaxed restrictions, along with the heightened spirits that go with the first holiday weekend in the pre-summer weeks, I hope you have a safe and settled Memorial Day observance. It is important for all of us to recognize the significance of this holiday, and to offer thanks to God for those who made supreme sacrifices for the sake of our liberties.

As the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic continues, even in the midst of this holiday, I also want to reiterate my counsel about when and how to open church buildings for worship and other purposes. We cannot allow illusory hope or misguided enthusiasm to push us to unwise decisions about opening, assembling for worship, or gathering for meetings.


The phased and deliberate process of relaxed restrictions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and in states across the country, requires that we be patient for the sake of those most vulnerable to the coronavirus. Some of the most vulnerable are likely among the members of our congregations, as well as among those who visit our churches or participate in the ministries carried out by our congregations. Love of neighbor, central to the understanding we hold of our discipleship role as followers of the Risen Jesus, draws to act in ways that are sacrificial of our own needs and desires.

I encourage all rostered ministers and congregations of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to abide by the guidelines established by Governor Wolf and to employ the suggested approaches to opening buildings offered by the ELCA Churchwide Office and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. As these guidelines and suggestions have seemed well informed and demand a high level of rigor, I have provided copies of them in previous communications similar to this message. I know, too, that some of you have had access to other helpful and wise resources; I commend your attention to their direction.

The warm personal interaction; the inspired worship; the satisfying mission work in our communities and across the globe; the meaningful opportunities for faith development and spiritual growth; and the unexpected encounters of grace that occur because we step inside beloved church buildings: all of these occasions and more make being part of a congregation life-giving and faith motivating. They are important to me and at the heart of why I am committed to the life and mission of the church; and I know that the same is true for you, too.

I have been so impressed by the creative ways in which congregations and rostered ministers of this synod have directed the faith and the energies of their zeal for compassionate ministries during this awful pandemic. In fact, I have observed a level of enthusiasm, surprise, and renewal in ministers and congregations as they have found new ways to witness to their love of God. The Holy Spirit has stirred in you during this challenging time and you have shown the resilience of your faith. God is at work, and God will continue to do new things for the sake of all people and for all creation no matter how long this pandemic is in effect. Please, don't be drawn into making a premature decision about opening your building.

With gratitude for your partnership in ministry,
Bishop Samuel Zeiser



HereToServe@elca.org
1-800-638-3522 ext. 4

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.



Just for KIDS

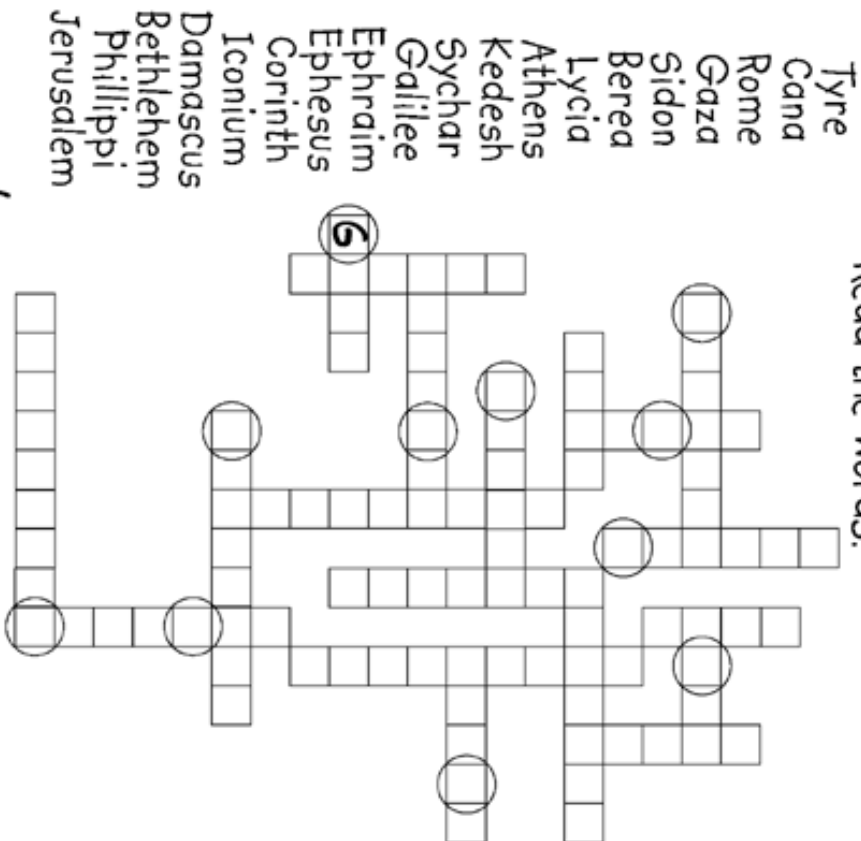
Celebrate Your Citizenship!

When we look at a globe or map, we see many different cities and countries. We are citizens of the place where we live. But we also hold another citizenship! Where?

Fit the names of these Bible-time places in the puzzle.

Write the circled letters on the lines below, in the order found.

Read the words!




Just for KIDS

Fruit of the Spirit

In the summer we watch flowers, vegetables and fruit grow from tiny seeds and buds. That is also how we grow as children of God – from tiny beings. And as we grow, we need to grow “fruit of the Spirit.” In Galatians 5:22-23 we read about those “fruit of the Spirit.”

Find the “fruit of the Spirit.”

Write the letter from each fruit onto the numbered lines below.



1 2 3 4

5 2 6

7 4 8 9 4

7 8 10 11 4 12 9 4

13 4 14 15 9 2 12 10 16 2 1

17 11 12 18 12 4 13 13

19 2 2 18 12 4 13 13

15 8 11 10 20 15 21 14 12 4 13 13

19 4 12 10 14 4 12 4 13 13

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

