

# Hope *Home News*

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Vol. XLVII No. 8

[hopecherryville.org](http://hopecherryville.org)



## GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

How long, Lord? That's a phrase that has popped up in my mind this past month. How long, Lord will this virus last? How long, Lord until we can worship together again in our building at Hope? How long, Lord will these protests last? How long, Lord until people realize that wearing a mask is helping us push back the virus? How long, Lord until our country unifies? How long, Lord?

It's a biblical plea but that got me to thinking just how is it used in the Bible and where. So ... I checked. As a petition directly to God, this phrase is used in Psalms 13:1, 35:17, 80:4 and 90:13 and in the first chapter of the book of Habakkuk. In every one of these verses the writer is calling out to God during some time of distress where God feels absent – or at least not responding as the petitioner would like. Does it sound familiar? I mean don't we just want God to come down here and clean up all these messes? Don't we want God to fix this world?

And while you might say yes to that, God does not work that way. God is not a genie in a bottle who gives us three wishes – or a Santa who asks us for our wish lists. Instead, God is expecting us to partner with God to clean up these messes – to fix the world. God gives us the ability to find the vaccine for the virus and to break down the walls that are dividing us. God empowers us to see the humanity in those who are not like us and to act for the common good of all. The question is: are we willing to embrace these challenges and do the will of God?

How long, Lord? It is a common plea when we are in the midst of despair, distress and uncertainty. And until we find a cure and build bridges between all people and look out for each other and put our own needs aside there are ways we can look at this time in our lives in a different way. Here's what I mean ...

The protests are happening – maybe not in

Cherryville or Danielsville or Northampton – but they are happening. Would it be possible for us to open our minds to read more about why some people in the United States feel disenfranchised? Could we try to see their lives from their perspectives instead of our own? Might we sit down with an African American person and take the time to hear their story?

Wearing masks has become a political issue instead of a way to help protect others from a horrific illness and it is dividing our country more and more every day. I wear a mask to protect you and you wear a mask to protect me. Why is that political? Why isn't it just about the Golden Rule – you know treat others as you would like to be treated? What if we all tried that?

We are six months into this pandemic and I can't wait for us all to be worshiping together again. I know it will be different, but right now I miss you all. But until that time we can come together or go shopping safely or eat in a restaurant without a mask - maybe we could look at the things that have changed and see if any of them have been life-giving. For instance, I didn't see my children or grandchildren who live out of state for 6 months – but I gave thanks every day for the many ways we could communicate and literally see each other. This pandemic has made me realize just how important family is.

We have not been in worship since the first weekend in March. I miss it terribly but realize that the church is not confined to a building and that WE are the church and we can DO church wherever (at a drive-in or a parking lot) and whenever we choose (on a Sunday morning or a Monday night.) Who could have ever imagined doing a Vacation Bible School anywhere but IN our building – but we did VBS outside our building this year. And that has

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## GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR (con't)

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been a gift in the sense that it has made us use our creativity in ways we never thought and include people that don't always have a chance to participate.

How long, Lord? I'm not sure but in the meantime take the time to learn and grow – to appreciate the simple things in your life – to embrace God wherever we encounter God – to give thanks in all circumstances.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jami

### **BIBLE STUDY**

With Pastor Jami  
Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM  
Call the office for more information

## **ANNUAL YARD SALE**

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Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 and not knowing what restrictions might still be necessary in September, the Yard Sale Committee and Church Council have decided it would be best to cancel the sale this year. We ask that if possible you store your items for next year.

## **ELECTRONIC GIVING**

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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](http://www.hopecherryville.org) and locate the Online Giving page.

Online Giving

## **A NOTE FOR HOPE BASKET COMMITTEE**

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Our Annual Summer Picnic will be held as planned on Wednesday, August 12, 2020. Each member will receive a reminder call. We will wear masks and practice social distancing both inside and outside. Bring a covered dish or dessert to share. We'll meet at 6 and have dinner at 6:30, followed by a brief meeting. Linda

## **A NOTE FROM THE BASKET COMMITTEE**

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Watch your September Newsletter for information regarding the Fall (October) Basket Social.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, August 2**

8:00 AM  
Church Parking Lot

### **Monday, August 3**

Dusk  
Becky's Drive-In

### **Sunday, August 9**

8:00 AM  
Church Parking Lot

### **Monday, August 10**

Dusk  
Becky's Drive-In

### **Sunday, August 16**

8:00 AM  
Church Parking Lot

### **Monday, August 17**

Dusk  
Becky's Drive-In

### **Sunday, August 23**

8:00 AM  
Church Parking Lot  
Holy Communion

### **Monday, August 24**

Dusk  
Becky's Drive-In  
Holy Communion

### **Sunday, August 30**

8:00 AM  
Church Parking Lot

### **Monday, August 31**

Dusk  
Becky's Drive-In



## NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

The ELCA has decided to postpone the 2021 Youth Gathering. The new dates will be July 24–28 2022. Youth must be in 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2021-2022 school year. Please contact Ally Lockard at [alockard313@gmail.com](mailto:alockard313@gmail.com) if:

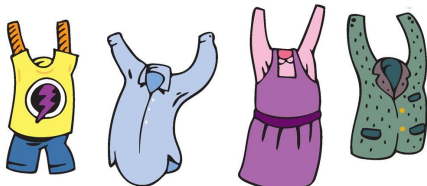


1. Your child was signed up to attend The Gathering in 2021, but no longer wishes to attend or is no longer eligible for 2022 or
2. Your child was not eligible for the 2021 Gathering, but can and would like to attend in 2022.

Ally Lockard  
Youth Ministries Coordinator

### **IT'S CLOTHING DRIVE TIME!**

For all of you who have been cleaning out your closets during the last few months, you're in luck! Youth Group will be holding another clothing drive **OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>** through **16<sup>th</sup>**. Please save any of your bags of clothes for us to help raise money for those attending the Youth Gathering. A POD will be available to drop off your items during this time. We will not be able to store any items inside the church prior to or during this time.



Confirmation  
has been scheduled  
for  
Sunday, August 23.

**Need a smile—visit:**

<http://hopecherryville.org/vbs/dance.html?> and get ready to join the fun! Thanks to the wonderful talent of Stacey Burke.



### **CANDY SALE**

Anyone who ordered candy from youth group can pay for and pick up their order at the church on Sunday, August 16 between 8:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. You will enter the parking lot from Lehigh Street and drive past the front of the church, around the Kuntz Hall side of the building. You will pay at the Adult Sunday School Room door and pick up your order at the kitchen door. Masks are highly recommended. We accept cash and check made payable to Hope Lutheran. Thank you in advance for your order.



## THANK YOU . . .

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The Vasquez Families (Hunter Vasquez, Kylie & Kenzie Vasquez, and Gram Betsy Vasquez) would like to give a big thank you to all of the Vacation Bible School Committee members and all of the Volunteers for putting together this years drive through Vacation Bible School. Everyday was filled with fun! From the start of each day with the morning check in and the friendliness and warmth of all of the personnel, the fun coin toss and trying to decide who would get the pie in their face for the day, and the amazing drive through dress-up themes and bible stories. We also enjoyed the fun-filled crafts to take home and make, the "can we find?" scavenger hunts, and the special daily snacks and drinks and the fun surprises (water guns, the sling whales, sunglasses, etc.). It was nice to be able to donate to local areas of need. We also enjoyed going home and watching the fun online videos of the Bible stories, following the instructions of our daily crafts with Miss B (who always made us smile), and the fun dance moves we learned daily! The online pictures of each day were fun to view too! We had a lot of fun and wanted to say a big "THANK YOU to ALL" for a great week of Vacation Bible School! We appreciate all of you and the time and effort you all put into this years Vacation Bible School. We're looking forward to next years adventures of Gilligan and Family and Vacation Bible School!

Thank you!  
The Vasquez Families

Dear Friends,

It's been many years since I attended VBS. This past week has been a real joy!

I loved the familiar stories as they came to life. The cast of "characters" was amazing. The crafts, the dancing (which I lost after the first day) and the singing was fantastic.

You are all to be commended for a "job well done"

It was truly an enjoyable week. Thank you and God Bless

Olive Hawk

To Our Church Family,

Thank you very much for sending all of the wonderful cards for our 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The unexpected abundance of cards added to our knowledge of how blessed we are.

Our family, friends and neighbors added to our joy, letting us know how lucky we are to be surrounded by such loving people.

With sincere thanks,  
Walt & Peg Holler

Dear Pastor Jami, Brothers and Sisters of my Spiritual Family:

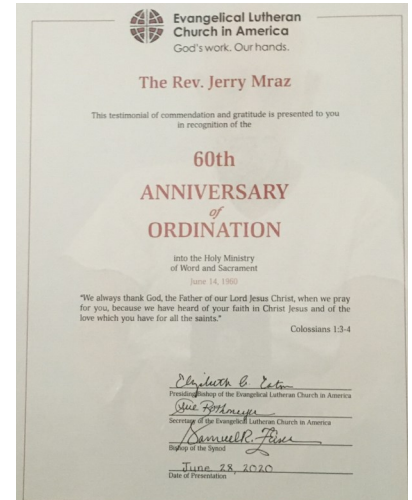
At this moment in life, as God has granted me the opportunity to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of His Invitation to become a Minister of the Word and Sacrament and my acceptance of that invitation, I now thank Him, for His invite and guidance AND now thank all of you, for your recognition of this momentous event, by Pastor Jami's surprise presentation of the magnificent bouquet of flowers and ELCA's certificate of recognition. I especially thank all of you members of my Spiritual Hope Family for your many cards I received.

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I am blessed to be in this Family. May our Lord keep and bless each and one of you as we serve Him at Hope. Stay well and safe in this Pandemic time. The Lord will keep us in our days.

Rev Jerry Mraz



*Pastor Jerry and his family at presentation being recorded for evening service.*



*Flowers given to Pastor Jerry*



*Pastor Jami presents Anniversary of Ordination Certificate to Pastor Jerry at the Sunday service.*

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

I would like to thank you so much for having the services at Becky's Drive In. The Saturday before Easter I attended with my husband, and I keep returning.

The way you had the kid's sermon and kids choir along with the Pastor's sermon made me feel I was at Church.

Thank you for serving your community.

Deb

Dear Hope Church,

Thank you for doing this service. [Becky's Drive-In] It is a blessing!

Unsigned

## BAPTISMS

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**Emma Paige,**  
daughter of Chris and Felicia Hutton  
July 12

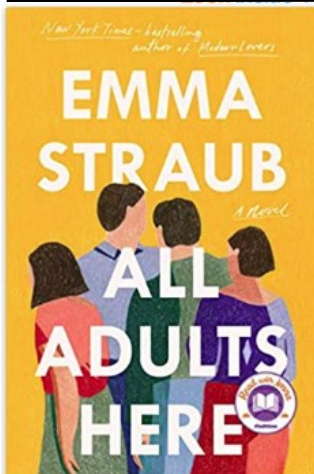
**Liana Grace,**  
daughter of Brad and Jennifer Shelly  
July 19



**Henry Paul**  
son of Andrew and Kailee Knecht  
July 26

## BOOK BUDDIES

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We have selected our next book, **All Adults Here** by Emma Straub. *A warm, funny, and keenly perceptive novel about the life cycle of one family—as the kids become parents, grandchildren become teenagers, and a matriarch confronts the legacy of her mistakes.*

“Delivers a Dose of Normal Life, Right When We Need It. . . Straub cements her status as a master of the domestic ensemble drama.”—*TIME*

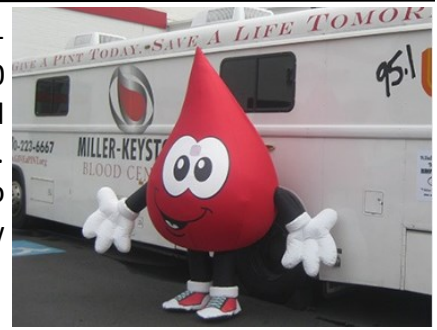
"*All Adults Here* is a novel about how we try and fail at every age and yet somehow survive. It is brimming with kindness, forgiveness, humor and love and yet (magically) is also a page turner that held me captive until it was finished. This is Emma Straub's absolute best and the world will love it. I love it."—Ann Patchett, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Commonwealth*

The books are in and you can pick-up your copy from the church office. The cost of the book is \$16.50. The next Book Buddies ZOOM meeting will be on Tuesday, August 11 at 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. – you choose the time that works for you. Hope to see you there!

**BOOKS AVAILABLE:** We have two copies left of “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owen. The cost is only \$10.00. If interested, please contact the church office at 610-767-7203.

# BLOOD DRIVE

Miller Keystone Blood Mobile will be at Hope in the parking lot on Saturday, September 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a donor every 20 minutes. Your sign-in will be inside the church through the handicapped entrance by Kuntz Hall. There you will stay until called into the mobile unit. All sign-ups will be done online only. If you would like to sign-up, please do so online at [www.giveapint.org](http://www.giveapint.org). Please seriously consider giving. Below are the top 10 reasons for not giving—is one of them yours?



## 1. I'M AFRAID OF NEEDLES

Often times, the hardest part about deciding to donate blood is overcoming the fear of the needle stick. Many people actually decide to donate to help get over their fear of needles. The actual drawing process should cause very little, if any, discomfort. The finger prick during the preliminary interview process (required to test your iron level) is usually the only slight discomfort encountered by a blood donor.

## 2. OTHERS ARE DONATING ENOUGH

40% of the US population is eligible to donate blood, yet less than 5% of those eligible do. Blood centers nationwide typically run into blood shortages at various times throughout the year.

In our region alone, over 450 units of blood are needed each day by transfusion patients in area hospitals. Blood is perishable – whole blood can be stored safely for 42 days, while platelets (which are used to treat cancer patients and burn victims) have a shelf-life of only 5 days! Therefore, it is vitally important to maintain a steady stream of blood donors, to ensure the safety and availability of the blood supply for all of us.

## 3. MY BLOOD TYPE IS NOT IN DEMAND

Blood centers often run short of type O, A and B blood, but shortages of all types occur during the summer and winter holidays. If all eligible donors gave at least twice a year, it would help prevent blood shortages.

## 4. THEY WOULDN'T WANT MY BLOOD BECAUSE OF THE ILLNESSES I'VE HAD

Many health conditions do not prevent people from donating blood, and the deferral criteria for blood donors is constantly changing, which means that if you were turned down for donation in the past, you may now be eligible to donate.

## 5. I'M AFRAID OF CATCHING A DISEASE

Donating blood is safer today than it has ever been before. Blood centers follow five layers of safety procedures:

- Careful blood donor eligibility standards
- An individual screening process
- Laboratory testing of all blood samples
- Confidential exclusion of all ineligible donations
- Donor record checks

During the actual donation process, all donors are given a mini-medical check-up, and asked a series of questions to ensure that they are eligible to donate for our community blood supply. All questions asked during this process are required by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA). All equipment used in the blood donation process is sterile and disposable (used only once). The needle and all related equipment are disposed of in a specially marked biohazard container immediately following the donation. Therefore, there is no chance of contracting AIDS or any other disease by donating blood.



## 6. I DON'T HAVE ANY SPARE BLOOD TO DONATE

Blood makes up about seven percent (7%) of your body's weight, and the average adult has approximately two pints of blood for every 25 pounds of body weight. The body is constantly manufacturing blood. After your whole blood donation, you will not be eligible to donate for 56 days (or eight weeks), during which time your body will completely replenish the blood you have so generously donated. You can give platelets every two weeks, up to 24 times per year, plasma every four weeks, and automated red cells every 112 days.

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**BLOOD DRIVE** (Continued from page 7)

**7. MY BLOOD ISN'T RICH ENOUGH**

The minimum hematocrit (iron) level to donate blood is 12.5 for females and 13.0 for males. If you are deferred for low hemoglobin, your collections specialist can review ways in which to increase your iron level. In many cases, your iron level can be increased significantly by some simple changes to your diet.

**8. I'M AFRAID OF BEING TURNED DOWN**

There are many reasons why you might be deferred from donating blood. Some of these deferrals are permanent, while many of them are only temporary. The deferral criteria for blood donors is constantly changing, which means that if you were turned down for donation in the past, you may now be eligible to donate! Click here for our general eligibility guidelines.

**9. THEY'LL TAKE TOO MUCH BLOOD AND I'LL FEEL WEAK**

Immediately after your blood donation, you will also be asked to spend a few moments in our canteen area, where you will be served refreshments, cookies, and other snacks. This will help replenish some of the sugar and liquids in your body and help us to ensure that you are feeling well after your donation.

**10. I'M TOO BUSY**

If you, a family member, a co-worker, a neighbor or a friend were in need of a blood transfusion, would you want to hear this excuse? Donating blood is safe and easy, and takes less than an hour. A single blood donation can help as many as three different people! In what other activity can so little time do so much?

**YOUTH GROUP HELPS AT BECKY'S DRIVE IN CHARACTER PARTY**



Members of the youth group donned costumes to assist Becky's in raising money for THE LITERACY CENTER





## FINANCIAL SUMMARY - JUNE 30, 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 - June              | 23,381.74           | 5,881.92            | 3,256.35            | 2,742.67            | -                    |
| Income - Jan.-May          | 171,935.16          | 4,013.62            | (6,613.40)          | (6,693.83)          | -                    |
| <b>Total Income</b>        | <b>195,316.90</b>   | <b>9,895.54</b>     | <b>(3,357.05)</b>   | <b>(3,951.16)</b>   | <b>-</b>             |
| Expenses - June            | 27,323.92           | 139.71              | 8.64                | -                   | -                    |
| Expenses - Jan.-May        | 155,132.98          | 22,349.61           | 8.96                | 3,200.00            | -                    |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>      | <b>182,456.90</b>   | <b>22,489.32</b>    | <b>17.60</b>        | <b>3,200.00</b>     | <b>-</b>             |
| Net Income                 | 12,860.00           | (12,593.78)         | (3,374.65)          | (7,151.16)          | -                    |
| Net Special Appeals        | 3,469.00            |                     |                     |                     |                      |
| <b>Balance End of June</b> | <b>\$177,828.08</b> | <b>\$133,613.07</b> | <b>\$139,975.16</b> | <b>\$ 88,087.33</b> | <b>\$ (2,061.92)</b> |

### SUMMARY:

Expenses exceeded income in the Regular Fund for the month of June by \$3,942.18, and for the year 2020, income exceeded expenses by \$12,860.00, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$177,828.08. Last year the net income for the same period was \$24,278.99 with a balance of \$128,275.51.

\*\* 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](mailto:communications@hopecherryville.org)). Thank you.

| <u>Edition</u> | <u>Article Deadline</u> | <u>Collation Date</u>          |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| September      | Monday, August 17       | Thursday, August 27 @ 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 August 2020 issue of *Synod News* is available online.  
Visit <http://nepasynod.org/documents/synod-news/synod-news-2020-8.pdf>

**HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251**

