

Hope *Home News*

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hopecherryville.org



GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

We are heading into another year of pandemic life. And here is what I am noticing. For the first year of the Covid19 Pandemic churches seemed to be doing well. And frankly, our church was doing well. Initially, church services at Becky's Drive-In were about the only "social" option people had and the services at Becky's - and later in our church parking lot - were well-attended. Church finances were stable. People were patient about coming back into the facility to worship. Our worship services, in fact, were important for people to connect and worship - even during the times when our world was "locked up." This is not unlike what happened when the Twin Towers fell on 9/11 - people flocked to churches and supported them - for a while.

Now we are approaching another year of pandemic life with all its uncertainty and frustrating inconveniences. And this year - here at Hope - we are seeing a bit of a decrease in our attendance and finances. Nothing alarming - just lower numbers than last year. As we are gearing up with committees, programs and activities I am being asked questions like these:

- Will people come back when we can finally be in the building without masks and distancing?
- Are we losing members during this pandemic?
- Why is our income down from the last year of the pandemic?
- Will our kids come back to Sunday School and Vacation Bible School in the numbers we have had in the past?
- What will church look like next year?
- Are people finding they don't need church because they haven't been coming?

All these questions raise our anxiety levels - create uncertainty - give us a sense of dread and worry. And that is reasonable.

Now - more than ever - we are called by God to be the church. We are charged by God to be a beacon of light and hope in a world that is dark. We are lifted out of our own struggles by God to be a channel of love, forgiveness and community. So - I'm wondering - might we move away from our fear of the future and get back to being the church and doing the business of the church - which just might help us rise above these questions and concerns?

With that in mind, I'd like to announce our Stewardship Emphasis for this year which will refocus our thoughts and resources on Gratitude and Grace. Why Gratitude and Grace? Because the grace of God changes everything. People are changed by gratitude and grace. Relationships are reconciled because of gratitude and grace. Jesus was full of gratitude and grace and built his kingdom with them - encouraging his disciples to practice his way of gratitude and grace and continue his work in the world.

By valuing gratitude, we position ourselves to be conduits of God's grace in the world. All the works of the church - including ministry, Sunday School classes, hospital visits, Nativity displays, worship services, VBS, confirmation programs, sharing meals, and even fundraising - function as opportunities to spread the gratitude and graciousness of the kingdom of Jesus. Someone once said that to practice gratitude is to practice faith. I think the same is true of grace. Wrapped into the seasons of thanksgiving and Advent, we will have the opportunity to gratefully focus on the gifts we have been given and the grace we share as we get ready to celebrate Jesus birth.

(Continued on page 3)

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS—September 2021

- ◆ The 2021 Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 14 at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Hope Lutheran Church. The agenda will include: electing new council members, electing new Nominating Committee Members, approval of the 2021 budget and approval of the Constitution changes that were mailed to the congregation in October.
- ◆ September finances were down in comparison to September 2020. While this may be a result of varied attendance due to the Covid19 pandemic, council is watching this closely. We are grateful to our members who are continuing to keep up with their commitments for 2021 and encourage everyone to be a *regular giver*.
- ◆ Council approved holding a Thanksgiving Eve Service in the sanctuary on Wednesday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m. The liturgy will be Holden Evening Prayer. Masks will be required.
- ◆ Council approved holding Mid-Week Advent services on Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The liturgy will be Holden Evening Prayer. Masks will be required.
- ◆ The Christmas Eve worship schedule will be:
 - * 3:30 p.m. worship in the sanctuary with masks, limited seating and reservations required
 - * 6:00 p.m. worship in the sanctuary with masks, limited seating and reservations required
 - * 8:00 p.m. worship at Becky's Drive-In
 - * All services will include communion and candle lighting
 - * More details regarding reservations will be in the upcoming newsletter and bulletins
- ◆ Council approved a request from the Worship and Music Committee to resume sponsors for flowers, bulletins and the newspaper ads.
- ◆ Council approved a request from the Youth Gathering Leaders to hold a Community Shredding Event with Thrivent Financial on Saturday, November 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There is no charge for the shredding but a donation for the youth would be appreciated.
- ◆ The Evangelism Committee will be delivering fruit baskets to the STAR (Seniors with Transportation and Accessibility Restrictions) members in December.
- ◆ Council wishes to remind people that masks are required in the building regardless of your vaccination status. Please help to keep our children and vulnerable members safe.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday,
November 7**
8:00 a.m.
In-Building
9:15 a.m.
Sunday School
10:30 a.m.
Parking Lot

**Sunday,
November 14**
8:00 a.m.
In-Building
9:15 a.m.
Sunday School
10:30 a.m.
Parking Lot

**Sunday,
November 21**
8:00 a.m.
In-Building
9:15 a.m.
Sunday School
10:30 a.m.
Parking Lot

**Sunday,
November 28**
Communion
8:00 a.m.
In-Building
9:15 a.m.
Sunday School
10:30 a.m.
Parking Lot



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The family and friends of
Jane Fisher, who died October 9
and
Betty Billig, who died October 20..



GREETINGS FROM . . . *(Con't from page 1)*

Here are some questions to help you focus on gratitude and grace. What if, instead of spiraling into complaints or criticisms, we intentionally took time to express our gratitude to God for what we have and see and are? Can we find examples of who has heard the good news of the gospel and returned to God's embrace? Where have powerful conversations about faith occurred around us? Who has been set free from crippling bondage so that we can share freely? The power of Jesus is at work in our lives and in our church. We must stop, pay attention and give thanks. When we do – our attitude completely changes – and our ministry does too.

Beginning November 28 we will take three weeks to focus on Gratitude and Grace as we prepare to make our financial commitment to the ministries of Hope Lutheran Church. The first week we will focus on the story of the 10 Lepers from the gospel of Luke – recalling the one who returned to give thanks. On December 5, we will hear the story of the crippled woman – realizing that we are sometimes crippled in our gratitude and generosity

and need to be freed. And on December 12 we will listen to the story of the feeding of the 5000 as we see how God's grace empowers us for ministry.

On that Sunday – December 12 - we will also have the opportunity to return our Generosity Cards as our financial commitment to Hope Lutheran's church family, mission and ministry. Additionally, the Stewardship Committee is busy preparing some "gratitude and grace" projects you will have the opportunity to participate in immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service that will benefit our community. This will provide some time to be in fellowship and service together.

I hope you will take time to join us on these three Sundays, complete and return your Generosity Card and participate in one of the "gratitude and grace" service projects we offer. Let's all get back to doing the work God has called us to as a church – gratefully sharing the grace of God with all those around us.

Blessings,
Pastor Jami

ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

As our congregation looks forward to a new year and prepares the 2022 financial budget, it is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. By knowing what we are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis. Visit the church website at www.hopecherryville.org and locate the Online Giving page.

Online Giving

WORSHIP SERVICE AVAILABLE ONLINE

If you can't make it to either worship service Sunday morning, you can still view a condensed service on our website: hopecherryville.org. Worship services are usually posted to our website early the following week.

GIFT CARD RAFFLE

Youth Group Gift Card Raffle tickets are now on sale! Regular tickets are \$10 each and includes one chance for each of the twenty \$50 packages, one chance for each of the two \$100 packages and one chance in the 4 pack Kalahari Resort ticket package. Specials tickets are \$5 and includes once chance for each of the two \$100 packages and one chance in the 4 pack Kalahari Resort ticket package. You can purchase tickets after each worship service, by seeing a youth member attending The Gathering, or by visiting:



<https://www.hopecherryville.org/news.php>

to fill out the ticket request form. At this time we can only accept cash or check for payment. For questions, you can email Ally Lockard at alockard313@gmail.com. We are also accepting sponsorships for this event!

Winners will be announced on November 13 on our Facebook page. Winners will also be called.

SHREDDING EVENT

Youth Group will be hosting a FREE shredding event on Saturday, November 6 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. in the church parking lot. Bring any documents you need shredded (limit 3 boxes or bags per person) and load them into the shred truck, quick and easy! To help raise money for The Gathering, we will be accepting monetary donations at the event. There will also be a baked goods table and a raffle for gift cards. Thank you to Thrivent for sponsoring the shred truck and the gift card raffle!



Cradle roll - 6th grade Sunday school classes will meet in Kuntz Hall for a movie day on November 14 do to the congregation meeting taking place at 9 a.m.

There will be no Sunday school on November 28 for cradle roll - 6th grade.

Sunday School is now on the Remind App! These are for text messaging updates related to Sunday School, grades Cradle Roll—6th. If you did not receive a Remind App Communication, please email:

sundayschool@hopecherryville.org to be added to the list.

CONFIRMATION

A Confirmation Mini Retreat is being held at the church on Saturday, November 20 from 9 a.m. to noon. This retreat is for all Level I and Level II students. All students must be present for the entire morning or make-up the content (no early pick-ups or late drop-offs during the day). If you are unable to attend, please contact Jennifer Knouss, Confirmation Coordinator, at jknouss@verizon.net for make-up work.



Confirmation Retreat

Soup Group
and
Delivery

Wednesday,
November 3
9:00 a.m.



STORYWEAVERS

Tuesday, November 9
10:00 a.m.

Lunch
Noon
at Olive Garden



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study with Pastor Jami, via Zoom is held
on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Meeting link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/190993558?
pwd=TnJUNG91TEtRMUtaVnErM0pEZFI3UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/190993558?pwd=TnJUNG91TEtRMUtaVnErM0pEZFI3UT09)



Meeting ID: 190 993 558

Passcode: 031745

Call the office for
more information.

Don't Forget!
Daylight Savings Ends.



November 7

Turn your clocks back
1 hour
before you go to bed on
Saturday, November 6

BOOK BUDDIES

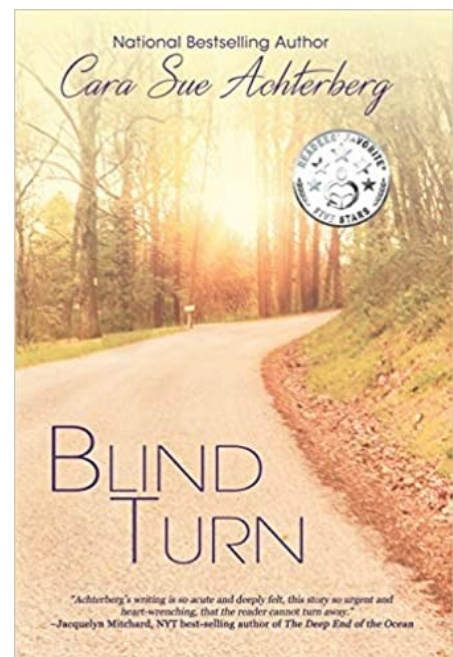
is reading: ***Blind Turn.***
by Cara Sue Achterberg

In the aftermath of a fatal texting and driving accident, a mother and daughter must come to terms with the real meaning of forgiveness.

Liz Johnson single-handedly raised an exemplary daughter. Jessica is an honor-student, track star, and all-around good kid. So how could that same teenager be responsible for the death of the high school's beloved football coach? This is Texas, where high school football ranks right up there with God, so while the legal battle wages, the public deals its own verdict.

Desperate for help, Liz turns to a lawyer whose affection she once rejected and attempts to play nice with her ex-husband. Jessica faces her angry peers and her own demons as she awaits a possible prison sentence for an accident she doesn't remember.

The cost of the book is \$21. The book club meeting is Monday, November 29 at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. Any questions, please contact the church office: 610-767-7203.



BASKET SOCIAL

The 26th Fall Basket Social was held in Kuntz Hall on Friday and Saturday, October 8 and 9. This Social was In Loving Memory of Craig Reenock, our faithful friend who each year helped us with advertising by placing signs at all the local intersections throughout the township.

THANK YOU to everyone who in some way helped make it a successful fund raiser.

A special shout out to Thrivent Financial for the Community Impact Cards they approved, which paid for paper products, food, etc.

Monies raised were divided equally between The Northampton Area Food Bank and Hope Good Samaritan Fund. Monies from the sale of baked goods, along with jar donations, amounted to \$518.00; a check will be presented to our adopted family who is struggling with finances because of an ill family member.

Ticket and Advertising Sponsors have been listed in church bulletins and in October's Newsletter. Thank you to ALL!

\$3,915.50 was the total profit raised. A check for \$1,957.75 will be sent to The Northampton Area Food Bank and \$1,957.75 has been deposited into Hope's Good Samaritan Fund.

THE TENTATIVE DATE OF THE 27th ANNUAL FALL BASKET SOCIAL IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
The Basket Committee of Hope Lutheran Church

***Basket Committee Notes:**

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Kathryn Strohl and Jeannie Leibenguth, for their dedication and hard work throughout the years as members of the Basket Committee. Thank you also to Linda Sidor for her leadership throughout the past 27 years.



The editor of the newsletter would like to echo the feelings of the basket committee and express sincere thanks to Linda Sidor for her years of dedication, working with her group to provide a high quality, extremely enjoyable, and profitable basket social. This leadership role will be a challenge to fill, but we can expect the committee and Linda to be a great support to whomever steps up.



SAVE THE DATE

Annual Congregational Meeting



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held
Sunday, November 14; 9:00 a.m.

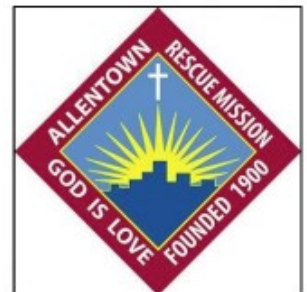
In the church parking lot.

We will have elections for church council and approve required changes to the congregational constitution (please bring along the copy that was mailed to you).

Thank you to Thrivent Financial who is providing coffee and goodies for the meeting.

INGATHERING

It's time for the annual Ingathering. Our church is collecting for the Allentown Rescue Mission. Your NEW unwrapped gifts will need to be **returned** to the church by **Sunday, November 7**. Please place your items in the bin marked "In-Gathering" that is in the narthex.



Items being collected (all items are for men):

Supermarket gift cards
Disposable razors
Granola and cereal bars
Trash bags (45 & 55gal.)
Single serve beverages
Liquid laundry soap
Shaving cream
Salad dressing
Ketchup
Sweeteners

Shampoo
Whole grain cereal
Toilet paper
Canned vegetables
Window cleaner
Coffee creamers
Pump hand soap
Cooking spray/PAM
Barbeque sauce
Pine Sol

Fruit juice
Paper towels
Pancake syrup
Scouring cleanser
Coffee
Liquid bleach
Deodorant
Mayonnaise
Sugar

CONGRATULATIONS

Two familiar names appeared in the October 21 edition of the Morning Call. The article reported that Mitch Possinger and Rev. Jami Possinger were presented with the distinguished Rev. Dr. Grant Harrity Award of Exemplary Service at the 2021 Phoebe Institute on Aging Generations Un-Gala last month. Congratulations Pr. Jami and Mitch. (The full article is posted on the bulletin board under Hope News.)



ADOPT A FAMILY

It's that time of year when we look at our lives , count our blessing and perhaps decide to share with ours from our abundance. This year we are adopting four children (two families) from the Northampton School District hoping to make their Christmas just a little brighter. If you are interested in participating, see the display in the narthex and sign out a tag with a specific need for each child. Return your **unwrapped gift with the tag attached** by December 12 (Sunday). We will see that the gifts are wrapped and delivered to the families.



SPONSORSHIPS



Altar flowers, bulletin, and press sponsorships are back as of October 31. The sponsorship charts are located on the bulletin board in the narthex. Write your name and message next to your desired date, take and complete an envelope, enclose the appropriate payment and place it in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office.



FOOD BANK NEEDS

The Northampton Food Bank has posted that their supplies are diminishing and they are in need of the following goods for distribution immediately:

Canned Soup
Spaghetti & Sauce
Tuna fish

Canned or Boxed Potatoes
Canned meats
Baked Beans

Peanut Butter & Jelly
Beef Stew

You can bring your donations to a church service, or drop them at the church during office hours.

HOPE FOR OUR COMMUNITY CONTINUES

We continue to assist the Northern Lehigh and Northampton School Districts in their fight against hunger. Their programs provide breakfast on school days and lunch on weekends for their students in need. Full stomachs lead to students being on task more often, can increase math test scores, possibly increase reading test scores, and increase attendance.

Food items can be dropped off at any service or in the church during office hours. Please remember due to allergies within the school all donations should be peanut and nut free.

Some suggested items:

Pop Tarts
Teddy Grahams
Graham Crackers
Shelf-stable milk

Mini-Cereal Boxes
Gold Fish Crackers
Granola Bars
Mac-n-cheese

Fruit Snacks
Pretzels
Shelf-stable Yogurt
Canned soups/stews/pastas

Breakfast Bars
Cheez-its
Trail mix

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$188,561.70	\$157,128.02	\$166,927.83	\$ 99,114.98	\$ (2,496.92)
Income - September	24,573.55	1,119.23	950.32	816.22	2,000.00
Income - Jan.-Aug.	289,542.32	43,338.15	21,447.26	13,722.17	-
Total Income	314,115.87	44,457.38	22,397.58	14,538.39	2,000.00
Expenses - September	33,892.98	163.75	14.04	-	-
Expenses - Jan.-Aug.	242,864.04	19,518.95	1,471.01	4,600.00	-
Total Expenses	276,757.02	19,682.70	1,485.05	4,600.00	-
Net Income	37,358.85	24,774.68	20,912.53	9,938.39	2,000.00
Net Special Appeals	(215.00)				
Balance End of September	\$225,705.55	\$181,902.70	\$187,840.36	\$109,053.37	\$ (496.92)

SUMMARY:

Expenses exceeded income in the Regular Fund for the month of September by \$9,319.43, and for the year 2021, income exceeded expenses by \$37,358.85, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$225,705.55. Last year the net income for the same period was \$3,846.60 with a balance of \$166,850.65.

Note: The 2021 Regular Fund Total Income includes PPP Loan Forgiveness of \$36,872.23.

*** 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>
December	Monday, November 15	Friday, November 26

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 may run longer.

SYNOD NEWS

The November 2021 issue of *Synod News* is available online.
Visit <http://nepasynod.org/documents/synod-news/synod-news-2021-11.pdf>

HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251

