

Hope *Home News*

December 2022
Vol. XLIX No. 11

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hopecherryville.org



HopeCherryville

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

It's the most wonderful time of the year! At least that's what the song states. For many of us though, that does not ring true. Maybe it's the busiest time of the year – or the most hectic – or the costliest – or, for some, the saddest. Whatever this Advent/Christmas season is for you let me make a suggestion. Take time to take care of YOU. Don't let the hustle and bustle of the season drown out the reason we actually celebrate Christmas.

And how will you do that? By making time in your schedule to pay attention to what is the most important aspect of the season. Join me during the four weeks of Advent for a mid-week series focused on traveling to Bethlehem and - on the way - finding the faith, the promise, the peace and the Christ of Christmas. Each Wednesday beginning on November 30 we will use Holden Evening Prayer and the gospel of Luke to unpack some meaningful scripture and spiritually feed our faith. Here's the lineup:

- November 30 - Mid-Week **Advent 1**: Let Us Go to Bethlehem and Find the Faith of Christmas
- December 7 - Mid-Week **Advent 2**: Let Us Go to Bethlehem and Find the Promise of Christmas
- December 14 - Mid-Week **Advent 3**: Let Us Go to Bethlehem and Find the Peace of Christmas
- December 21 - Mid-Week **Advent 4**: Let Us Go to Bethlehem and Find the Christ of Christmas

I know it may sound like you are adding one more thing to an already crazy season – but taking time for ourselves and our faith life actually puts Advent and Christmas in perspective. Personally, I love singing the beautiful music from Holden Evening Prayer as it brings some peace into the core of my being. Spending some time hearing God's word and exploring what it means for us gives us the opportunity for God to speak in our lives. And sharing the fellowship of a short worship service brings us closer to each other.

So please join me in our mid-week Advent series. And then cap off the season by joining us for Christmas Eve services on December 24 at either 4:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m. or 11:00 p.m.. May God's blessings be with you as you prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Christmas blessings,
Pastor Jami



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS—November 2022

- ◆ Council reviewed the proposed 2023 budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting on November 13, 2022.
- ◆ The Northampton Food Bank sent a note thanking the congregation for the donation of \$2495.38 which was half of the proceeds of the Fall Basket Social. The other half of the proceeds was intended for Hope's Good Samaritan Fund.
- ◆ The Christmas Eve Worship schedule will include three worship services at 4:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.. There will be one service on Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ Council approved the move to begin live-streaming of worship services which will begin as soon as all the pieces are in place and AV people are trained.
- ◆ The October finances for the congregation showed that expenses for the month exceeded our income and left us with a deficit of \$12,106.57 and for the year expenses exceeded our income with a deficit of \$15,006.31. Council encourages members to continue their generosity through the end of the year.
- ◆ The Sunday School Christmas program will be held during the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, December 18.
- ◆ First Holy Communion classes will begin in January. Information letters will be mailed to 5th grade students.
- ◆ There will be no Sunday School on December 25 and January 1.

THE JESSE TREE

The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree. Each symbol represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus.

As part of our journey through Advent each day a volunteer places a symbol on the Jesse Tree in the narthex. The symbol represents someone on Jesus's family tree. A scripture and prayer are included on the back of each symbol for a brief devotion before placing the symbol on the macramé tree. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board when you enter the sanctuary to sign-up for a day.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday,
December 4
8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

Wednesday,
December 7
7:00 a.m.
Advent Service

Sunday,
December 11
8:00 a.m. Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Communion

Wednesday,
December 14
7:00 a.m.
Advent Service

Sunday,
December 18
8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship &
Sunday School Program

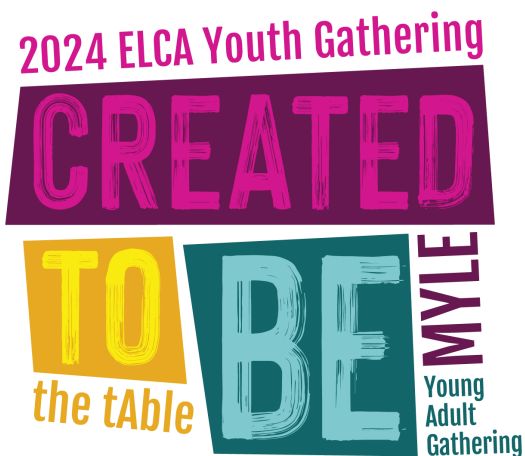
Wednesday,
December 21
7:00 a.m.
Advent Service

Saturday,
December 24
Christmas Eve
4:00 a.m. Worship
8:30 a.m. Worship
11:00 p.m. Worship

Sunday,
December 25
9:00 a.m. Worship

YOUTH GROUP:

Youth Group will be volunteering with **Wreaths Across America** on Saturday, December 17. We will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. We will return to the church when the event is over. Confirmation students will receive outreach credit for attending this event. Please email Ally Lockard at alockard313@gmail.com, if you would like to attend.



Youth Gathering News: Every 3 years the ELCA hosts a Youth Gathering for our high school students. This is an exciting opportunity for our young members to experience being around other people their age while embracing and growing in their faith. Over the years Hope Lutheran has been lucky enough to send around 20 youth to each Gathering. Our youth members and adult leaders work hard during our time together to raise funds so our students can attend at a minimum cost to the family. Our group typically budgets around \$1,500 per person to go on this trip. It is through the generous support of you, our church family, that we have been able to send so many young people to this life-changing event. Our youth are the future of our church and we appreciate your commitment and generosity towards helping to grow our youth programs. We hope and pray that our loving congregation will continue to

show their support for our young people in our future endeavors.

As we start our new round of youth who are getting ready to attend The Gathering in New Orleans in the summer of 2024, we would like to thank those who participated in the clothing drive and our recent nut roll sale. The clothing drive raised \$823 and the nut roll sale raised \$899. Thank you again for your support through these two fundraisers, and we hope to see you at our Valentine's dinner on February 11, 2023.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School Christmas program will be held during the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, December 18 during the sermon time. Family and friends are welcome.



First Holy Communion classes will begin in January. Information letters will be mailed to 5th grade students.



There will be no Sunday School on December 25 and January 1.

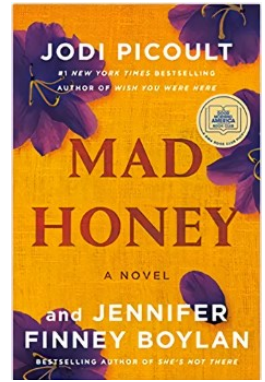
TOYS FOR TOTS



Women of Faith are collecting for Toys for Tots again this year. Your new and unwrapped toys (*Toys for Tots prefers not to accept realistic looking weapons and gifts with food. If donated, such items will **NOT** be distributed*) can be dropped off in the Toys for Tots boxes from Sunday, November 27 through Sunday, December 11. The boxes will be located in the narthex. 2022 marks the 75th anniversary of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. Please help us provide every child a little Christmas.

BOOK BUDDIES

The next book is *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult. The cost will be \$17.00 and we will meet on December 6 at 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.



Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. Her picture-perfect life—living in Boston, married to a brilliant cardiothoracic surgeon, raising their beautiful son, Asher—was upended when her husband revealed a darker side. She never imagined that she would end up back in her sleepy New Hampshire hometown, living in the house she grew up in and taking over her father’s beekeeping business.

Lily Campanello is familiar with do-overs, too. When she and her mom relocate to Adams, New Hampshire, for her final year of high school, they both hope it will be a fresh start.

And for just a short while, these new beginnings are exactly what Olivia and Lily need. Their paths cross when Asher falls for the new girl in school, and Lily can’t help but fall for him, too. With Ash, she feels happy for the first time. Yet at times, she wonders if she can trust him completely. . . .

Then one day, Olivia receives a phone call: Lily is dead, and Asher is being questioned by the police. Olivia is adamant that her son is innocent. But she would be lying if she didn’t acknowledge the flashes of his father’s temper in Ash, and as the case against him unfolds, she realizes he’s hidden more than he’s shared with her.

Mad Honey is a riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves.

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.



END OF THE YEAR COMMITMENTS

Please catch up with your 2022 commitment or intended giving by the end of December or give an extra gift before the end of the year. Let’s keep Hope’s ministries strong! All 2022 offerings must be received or postmarked on or before **December 31, 2022**, to receive credit for this year. Any offerings received on or after January 1, 2023 MUST be credited as 2023 contributions.



GENEROSITY CARDS

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Intergenerational Carnival last Sunday. It was a fun way to spend fellowship time together. It is not too late to return your Generosity Cards for 2023, if you have not done so. There is a box in the narthex to deposit your completed card. Extra cards are available there as well. Thank you to all who responded so far.

BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study is held in Kuntz Hall at 10 a.m. every Thursday. In addition Bible Study will still be offered via Zoom. Call the office for more information.

WOMEN OF FAITH

Tuesday,
December 20
6:00 p.m.
Hanson Hall

HOPE'S FRIENDSHIP DANCE

Monday,
December 19
7—9 p.m.
(Set-up begins at 6:00)



WELCA

Tuesday,
December 13
10:00 a.m.

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

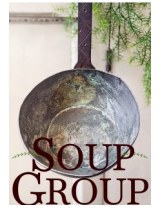
KUNTZ HALL AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL



Visit Hope's website: hopecherryville.org for the *Church Use Policy* and the *Facility Rental Form*. If you have any questions, call the church office, 610-767-7203.

SOUP GROUP and **DELIVERY**

Wednesday,
December 7
9 a.m.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

December 24
Christmas Eve

Worship: 4:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

December 25
Christmas Day

Worship: 9:00 a.m.
Communion and Lessons & Carols



DECORATING COMMITTEE

The Christmas Decorating Committee can use your help! If you are available on any of the following dates to lend a hand, it would be greatly appreciated.

- Sunday, November 27 at 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, November 30 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 4 at 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 18 at 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, December 21 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, December 23 at 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, January 2 at 9:30 a.m.



The mitten tree is in the Narthex beginning the first Sunday in November. You can bring your mittens, hats, and scarves for children and adults and place them on the tree.



INGATHERING ITEMS FOR GRACEDALE (being collected through November)

Men

- After shave lotion
- Small combs
- Talcum powder
- Tube socks

Women

- Hair brushes
- Socks
- Perfume/colognes
- Body powder
- Scarves

NO CROSSWORD BOOKS or BAR SOAP

Either

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| ankle socks | markers- washable | adult Coloring books |
| nail polish & remover | change purses | tissue packets |
| lg. print search a word | playing cards | crayons |
| body spray | moisturizing lotion | velvet coloring posters |
| slippers with sturdy bottoms | Chapstick | deodorant |
| lg print reading books | postage stamps | writing paper |
| body wash | colored pencils | |
| pens/pencils | small tablets | |

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

Women of Faith are monitoring and filling the community cupboard with the generous food donations given by our church members. We have assigned a member of our group to cover one month at a time, and sometimes the cupboard needs to be stocked weekly. Our pantry is getting low and with the holidays right around the corner, we are asking you to consider donating food for the community cupboard (located right outside our church)! Items especially needed are . . . **peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, canned meats, spaghetti sauce, cereal and canned/cups of fruit.** Thank you!



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

The new links have been sent out for our weekly Sunday Service and Mid-week Advent Services as well as Christmas Eve Worship. If you did not receive the email but you would like to volunteer for one of our worship opportunities, please contact Jennifer in the church office.

THRIVENT

Looking forward to 2023, New Year, New Goals? Now Scheduling financial reviews for the New Year! To set up an appointment contact Amy through Amy.Nichols@thrivent.com or (610) 871-3456.

Amy Nichols – Thrivent

<https://connect.thrivent.com/Amy-Nichols>

Offering solutions that will provide clarity about where you're at and confidence about where you're headed. Helping you to use money as a tool to reach your goals, your dreams, your values.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Thrivent Choice Dollars as of 9/30/2022 a total of \$3,872 was directed to Hope Lutheran Church by 46 members.

Thrivent Action Teams as of 9/30/2022 a total of 55 Action Teams was used with Hope Lutheran Church listed as the associated congregation equaling \$13,750 in seed money used.

Action Teams

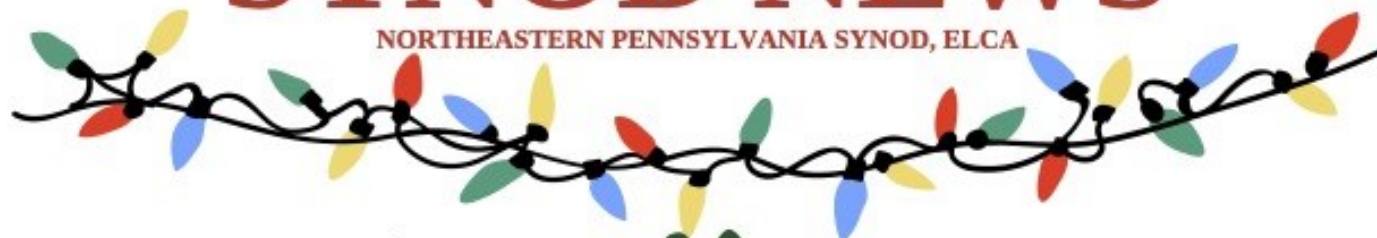
There is still time to use your 2022 Action Teams!!!

To register: <http://thrivent.com/actionteams> Thrivent members, do you know that Thrivent will give you up to \$500 to do community service projects every year? Thrivent Action Teams make it easy to live generously. It starts with a simple question: "Who can I help and how?" Check out this link for ideas and examples of projects that are going on right now, all over the country >>> <https://thrivent.cotribute.co/community/thrivent-action-teams/detail> Learn more and apply here >>> <http://thrivent.com/actionteams> Be sure to invite me to your project! I'd love to help!



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



Merry Christmas

Dear Friends and Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Creator and from Jesus Christ! On behalf of the Northeastern PA Synod Staff and Bishop Christopher deForest we wish you the merriest Christmas and a blessed and fruitful new year!

This year the NEPA Synod accomplished a cornucopia of ministry in all corners of the NEPA territory. Your love for God in Christ fed the hungry, built relationships with the downtrodden and outcast, diapered babies, shared the love of God in Christ, and much more...

Christmas reminds us of the length God goes to build relationships with us. God comes all the way down to a dirty stable in Bethlehem... an unexpected, messy beginning for the Messiah. Jesus is exactly the Messiah we needed without understanding why we needed him.

Christmas is an opportunity to reflect on the ways God comes to us unexpectedly -- It's an opportunity to meditate on the reality that Christ comes to us as an infant, totally reliant on his parents... Christ comes in the most usual way, and yet he's the one foretold in the prophets of old, he saves the people from sin and death, and he keeps coming to us. Jesus comes to us in bread and wine, in baptism, through prayer and thanksgiving, and when we gather together around God's Word.

Continue to be the Body of Christ in the world. Keep serving, preaching, proclaiming, worshipping, and sharing the good news of what God has done for us!

Yours in Christ,
NEPA Synod Staff



FINANCIAL SUMMARY - OCTOBER 31, 2022

	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$246,275.19	\$188,752.29	\$187,720.51	\$107,308.57	\$ (496.92)
Income - October	32,058.73	(3,834.45)	(7,302.95)	(6,393.85)	3,450.39
Income - Jan.-Sept.	282,865.47	(7,077.97)	(6,553.81)	(10,402.97)	4,428.01
Total Income	314,924.20	(10,912.42)	(13,856.76)	(16,796.82)	7,878.40
Expenses - October	44,165.30	99.00	-	-	-
Expenses - Jan.-Sept.	285,765.21	40,132.05	17,219.54	3,800.00	-
Total Expenses	329,930.51	40,231.05	17,219.54	3,800.00	-
Net Income	(15,006.31)	(51,143.47)	(31,076.30)	(20,596.82)	7,878.40
Net Special Appeals	(946.00)				
Balance End of October	\$230,322.88	\$137,608.82	\$156,644.21	\$ 86,711.75	\$ 7,381.48

SUMMARY:

Expenses exceeded income in the Regular Fund for the month of October by \$12,106.57, and for the year 2022, expenses exceeded income by \$15,006.31, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$230,322.88. Last year the net income for the same period was \$37,072.90 (which included PPP Loan Forgiveness of \$36,872.23) with a balance of \$225,419.60.

*** 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>
January	Monday, December 19	Thursday, December 29

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 December 2022 issue of *Synod News* is available online.

Visit [SYNOD NEWS DEC 22 \(nepasynod.org\)](http://nepasynod.org)

HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251

