

Hope *Home News*

January 2023

Vol. L No.1

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hopecherryville.org



HopeCherryville

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

It's the season of New Year Resolutions and you may be thinking about your resolution for 2023. Will it be losing weight? Eating healthier? Looking for a new job? Getting fitter? Joining a gym? Reconnecting with old friends? Spending more time with family? There are so many possibilities – aren't there. So, if you are in need of a suggestion – let me offer one.

Make a resolution that answers the question - what am I going to "be" in 2023? The answer to this question will be found in the many small decisions that we make every day of our lives. What am I going to "be" has everything to do with how we treat others - what kind of relationships we build - and how we represent ourselves to the world.

Now that I think of it - maybe the better question to ask is "am I a light?" Am I a light that shines for others - or am I someone who keeps them in the dark? Am I a model for Christ-like living - or an example of secular narcissism? Do I build up - or break down? Do I encourage - or discourage? Do I bring hope - or despair? Do I compliment - or criticize? Do I stand boldly for justice - or meekly bow to injustice? With each thing that I say or do, am I helping to form the human being that God created me to be? Because here's the thing - if you want to be a light that shines for others, then you have to decide to be a light each time that you're faced with decisions – easy decisions or difficult decisions. If you want to be a light for others, then you have to decide to be a light each time you're faced

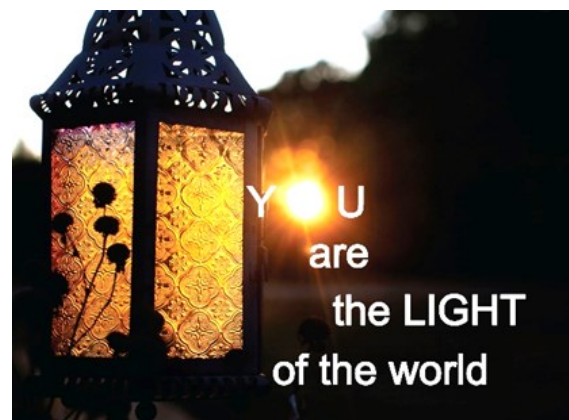
with doing what's popular rather than doing what's right.

It is a fact that people need light. Light helps our bodies to grow. Light helps our immune system to stay strong. Light helps to shape our psychological outlook on life. Jesus said in Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world." YOU can provide light. Don't tell me that you can't. One small candle can bring light to a dark room and a 1,000-watt bulb that can light a gym. Light is light - and you can share yours and make this world a brighter place.

I pray that in 2023 we are helping each other to be light. I pray that we are being light to others. I pray that Jesus shines through each one of us as we move about in the world.

What am I going to be in 2023? Why - light of course!

New Year Blessings,
Pastor Jami



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS—December 2022

- ◆ The Youth Group is excited to be bringing back the Valentine Dinner in 2023. It will be held on Saturday, February 11. The menu offerings will be Beef Short Ribs, Chicken Oscar, Chicken Marsala, Vegetable Lasagna and hot dogs and macaroni and cheese for children. Tickets will be on sale after services beginning January 15.
- ◆ First Communion classes will begin in January for all youth 5th grade and older. First Communion for those students will be celebrated on Sunday, March 26 at the 10:30 service.
- ◆ Youth Group fundraiser results are: Nut roll sale netted \$899.00 and the Clothing Drive netted \$823.01.
- ◆ Council members will be installed on Sunday, January 8 at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services.
- ◆ Hope continues to need worship volunteers – ushers, greeters, lectors, communion assistants, altar guild members. Volunteers schedule themselves according to their availability. If you are interested in helping on a Sunday morning, please call the church office.
- ◆ Watch for a date for Coffee with the Council. This is an opportunity for members to meet with council members over coffee and some goodies and share comments, ideas for ministry and concerns about the congregation.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday,
January 1**
8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

**Sunday,
January 8**
8:00 a.m. Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Communion

**Sunday,
January 15**
8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

**Sunday,
January 22**
8:00 a.m. Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Communion

**Sunday,
January 29**
8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

INSTALLATION OF 2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Our Congregational Council will be installed on January 8 at both worship services:

Krystina Adams (2026)

Doug Daniel (2026)

Annette Frazza (2025)

Mikayla Ninos (2025)

Kim Roth (2024)

Megan Smith (2026)

Mark Bateman (2026)

Cindy Kocher (2024)

Lori Kerper (2025)

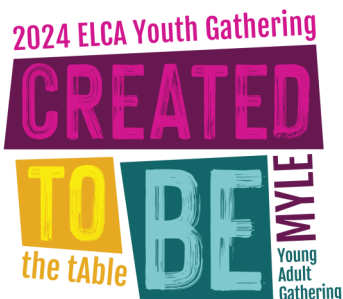
Tim Moore (2024)

Matthew Sekol (2025)

Glenn Wampole (2024)



YOUTH GROUP



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.

Valentine's Dinner is back! The Youth Group will once again host a full sit-down Valentine's Day Dinner on Saturday, February 11. Seating times begin at 4:30 p.m., every half hour with the last seating at 7 p.m. Our menu includes: Chicken Marsala, Chicken Oscar, Short Ribs, Vegetable Lasagna and a Kids Option (2 hot dogs with mac & cheese). Adult tickets are \$20, Junior tickets are \$10 and Kids tickets are \$5. Adult and Junior tickets include soup, sides and dessert. The Kids ticket includes dessert. Ticket sales and pick up will be after each service January 22 - February 5. Online ticket reservations (youth.hopecherryville.org) will begin January 15th. Only cash or checks accepted, payment is due at time of ticket pick up. If you have any questions regarding the Valentine's Dinner, please email Ally Lockard at alockard313@gmail.com. All proceeds benefit those youth attending the Youth Gathering in 2024.



Youth Group will be hosting an **ice cream bar party** on Saturday, January 20 from 6-9 p.m. in Kuntz Hall. We will be playing games and making our own sundaes with all the fixings. Friends are welcome to join. Cost is free. Please email Ally Lockard at alockard313@gmail.com

Youth Group will be going **snow tubing** at Blue Mountain on Friday, February 3. We will meet at the church around 6 p.m. and return around 9:30 p.m. Cost will be dependent on the amount of people signed up; a range of \$15-\$25 per person is expected. In order to meet the group rate, we will need a minimum of 20 people to purchase tickets. Therefore, we will be opening this event to younger youth and/or families that would like to attend. An email will be sent with more information. If you have any questions, or know you would like to attend, please email Ally Lockard at alockard313@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School on January 1.

We will resume classes on January 8, 2023.

Have a wonderful New Year!

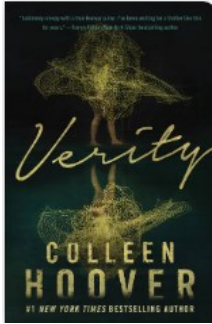
First Holy Communion classes will begin in January for 5th grade students. If you did not receive an information letter, please contact the church office.



BOOK BUDDIES

The next books we will read are *Verity* (\$11.25) by Colleen Hoover and *The Screwtape Letters* (\$10.00) by C.S. Lewis. We will meet January 23 at 1 and 7 and February 23 at 1 and 7.

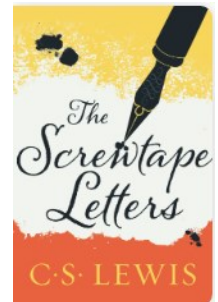
Verity: Lowen Ashleigh is a struggling writer on the brink of financial ruin when she accepts the job offer of a lifetime. Jeremy Crawford, husband of bestselling author Verity Crawford, has hired Lowen to complete the remaining books in a successful series his injured wife is unable to finish.



Lowen arrives at the Crawford home, ready to sort through years of Verity's notes and outlines, hoping to find enough material to get her started. What Lowen doesn't expect to uncover in the chaotic office is an unfinished autobiography Verity never intended for anyone to read. Page after page of bone-chilling admissions, including Verity's recollection of what really happened the day her daughter died.

Lowen decides to keep the manuscript hidden from Jeremy, knowing its contents would devastate the already grieving father. But as Lowen's feelings for Jeremy begin to intensify, she recognizes all the ways she could benefit if he were to read his wife's words. After all, no matter how devoted Jeremy is to his injured wife, a truth this horrifying would make it impossible for him to continue to love her.

The Screwtape Letters is a classic masterpiece of religious satire that entertains readers with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from the vantage point of Screwtape, a highly placed assistant to "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters* is the most engaging account of temptation—and triumph over it—ever written.



ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

Thank you for all you do to support our mission during the holidays and throughout the year. As you plan for the year end and look forward to a new year, please consider additional giving to your church. For your convenience, we offer electronic giving options for one-time gifts and recurring contributions. Visit the church website at www.hopecherryville.org and locate the Online Giving page.

Online Giving

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

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.

WELCA

Tuesday,
January 10
10:00 a.m.
Kuntz Hall



HOPE'S FRIENDSHIP DANCE

Monday,
January 16
7—9 p.m.
(Set-up begins at 6:00)



STORY WEAVERS

Tuesday,
January 17
10 a.m.
lunch at American Grill

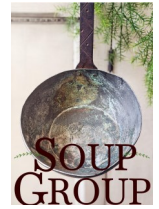
EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Wednesday,
January 4
6:30 p.m.
All are welcome!



SOUP GROUP and **DELIVERY**

Wednesday,
January 4
9 a.m.



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.



ANNUAL REPORT

Committee reports are due to communications@hopecherryville by January 31, 2023.

NATIVITY DISPLAY

The Nativity Display returned this year after two years and was held the weekend of November 26 and 27. A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make this a successful event. Perhaps you helped by setting up and cleaning up, or perhaps you donated to the refreshments enjoyed by many, or maybe you shared your beautiful nativity with us for the weekend. You may have been one of the many people who helped during the weekend keeping refreshment trays full. Maybe you just came and enjoyed the many nativities and the display.

(Continued on page 6)

NATIVITY DISPLAY *(Continued from page 5)*

Thank you to Robin Zamadics who designed and made the green shirts for us to wear during the weekend.

There were approximately 230 beautiful nativities shared with Hope for the weekend as we tried to remind you that Christmas is about Christ! And there were many visitors that came to Hope to enjoy the display.

Our offerings this year were in honor of Laura Bealer, a young woman from our church with a cancer diagnosis. She still has a long road ahead of her and our offerings will be forwarded to her.

So, thank you to everyone who helped make the 2022 Nativity display so successful. It could never be accomplished without the help of so many of you. Hope Church members always come through to make events at Hope so successful and enjoyable!

God Bless and merry Christmas to all!
Hope's Evangelism Committee



SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorships for 2023 are now available. You can sponsor **Flowers**, **Bulletins**, and **The Press** in memory of a loved one or to honor/celebration a loved one or occasion. You'll find signup sheets and payment envelopes on the bulletin board in the narthex. Sign up by an available date on the appropriate sheet, take an envelope fill it out and enclose the correct payment. Flowers are \$30, bulletins are \$8.50, and The Press is \$6.00. Your sponsorship and message will be printed in the bulletin. Please be sure to turn in the envelope before your requested Sunday so that your message will be received in time for printing.

FOOD BANK, COMMUNITY CUPBOARD, AND HOPE FOR OUR COMMUNITY BACKPACK FOOD

You have three ways to help address food insecurity in our community through avenues here at Hope. You will find in the narthex three places to contribute non-perishable food items.

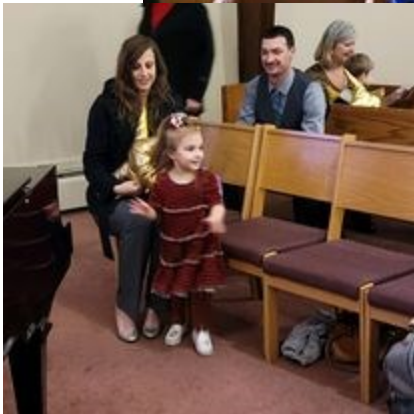
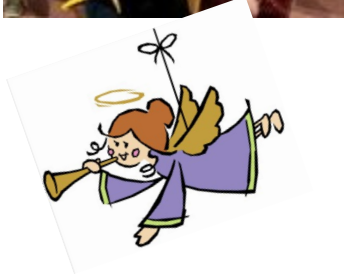
If you choose to contribute to the **Northampton Area Food Bank** place your items in the wagon. If you wish to contribute to our **Community Cupboard** under the portico place your items in the boxes under the narthex bulletin board. To assist area School Districts with breakfast and weekend meals through **Hope for Our Community** food items can be placed in the cloth bin at the rear of the narthex.

Some suggestions for the Food Bank or Cupboard are: peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, canned meats, spaghetti sauce, cereal, canned/cups of fruit, dried pasta, and canned vegetables.

For the backpacks: Pop Tarts, Graham Crackers, shelf-stable milk, mini cereal boxes, granola, mac-n-cheese, shelf-stable yogurt, breakfast bars. (all items should be peanut and nut free.)

Also if you find yourself in need please know that you, your family, and your friends are welcome to visit our Community Cupboard – no questions asked.

REHEARSAL FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



THRIVENT

Action Teams

Let's talk about how you can use your 2023 Action Teams!!!

To apply for your Action Team go to <http://thrivent.com/actionteams>. Thrivent members get up to \$250 twice a year 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?" Be sure to invite me to your project! I'd love to help!!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program that gives eligible Thrivent members the power to recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable funds each year. Members are invited to direct Choice Dollars® among thousands of enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches, camps, schools, seminaries, campus ministries and more. There is still time to donate your 2022 Choice Dollars!

Upcoming Events

Budgets and Bourbon - Financial Foundations: Your Blueprint to Thrive

Join me *in person* for a drink and appetizers as we learn a little about Bourbon and how you can deal with setbacks and continue to move toward your financials goals – every day.

- Manage your savings, expenses and credit
- Build a plan to handle setbacks
- Give your family direction about your end of life decisions.

Sunday, January 15, 2023 2 – 4pm

Long Branch Distillery,

199 Westwood Ave, Long Branch, NJ 07740

RSVP by 1/13 to Amy.Nichols@Thrivent.com

Paychecks and Playchecks: Retirement Solutions for Life presented by Retirement Income Expert, Tom Hegna

This online webinar will be presented, led and executed by Thrivent Member Network within the East Division in partnership with the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast and Ohio Valley Thrivent Member Networks. This webinar series is comprised of 3 identical sessions. Please see dates and times below.

- ◇ Tuesday, January 17 at 7:30pm EST
- ◇ Thursday, January 19 at 12:30pm EST
- ◇ Thursday, January 19 at 7:30pm EST

Registration Link: [https://thrivent.zoom.us/webinar/register/2916709876682/WN_MHPwpAwbQ_-D8Jt46nfftw?timezone_id=America%2FNew York](https://thrivent.zoom.us/webinar/register/2916709876682/WN_MHPwpAwbQ_-D8Jt46nfftw?timezone_id=America%2FNew+York)

The 3 Steps to Building a Winning Mindset presented by Bestselling Author And Self-Identified "Goal-Nerd", Jon Acuff

This online webinar will be presented, led and executed by the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast and Ohio Valley Thrivent Member Networks. Please see date and time below.

- * Tuesday, January 10 at 7:30pm EST

Registration Link: https://thrivent.zoom.us/webinar/register/1916704157646/WN_7O4IlejR3qKKVE9dDK7HA

Amy Nichols and the Thrivent Member Network are working to keep bringing you in person and virtual events. Don't forget to check out the upcoming events at <https://connect.thrivent.com/amy-nichols/events>. New events are being added all the time.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 30, 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 - November	30,499.16	6,409.55	4,603.05	2,691.51	25.37
Income - Jan.-Oct.	314,924.20	(10,912.42)	(13,856.76)	(16,796.82)	7,878.40
Total Income	345,423.36	(4,502.87)	(9,253.71)	(14,105.31)	7,903.77
Expenses - November	29,220.01	99.00	380.07	-	1,500.00
Expenses - Jan.-Oct.	329,930.51	40,231.05	17,219.54	3,800.00	-
Total Expenses	359,150.52	40,330.05	17,599.61	3,800.00	1,500.00
Net Income	(13,727.16)	(44,832.92)	(26,853.32)	(17,905.31)	6,403.77
Net Special Appeals	(574.50)				
Balance End of November	\$231,973.53	\$143,919.37	\$160,867.19	\$ 89,403.26	\$ 5,906.85

SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of November by \$1,279.15, and for the year 2022, expenses exceeded income by \$13,727.16, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$231,973.53. Last year the net income for the same period was \$33,831.05 (which included PPP Loan Forgiveness of \$36,872.23) with a balance of \$222,177.75.

*** 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>
February	Monday, January 16	Thursday, January 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 January 2023 issue of *Synod News* is available online.

Visit <http://nepasynod.org>

HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251

