

Hope *Home News*

February 2023

Vol. L No. 2

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HopeCherryville

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

The Lenten season is often used as a time to focus on our lives – the lives we live day to day and our spiritual lives. All of us have some kind of vision for our lives and we plan our lives around that vision. As I look around me, it's interesting to see that most of us "plan" lives that follow socially acceptable definitions of success - money in the bank; a good job; a home and a mortgage; the admiration of friends, family, colleagues, and business partners; diplomas and certificates on the walls. But life – at least the life God wants us to live – is more than degrees and deposits into a savings account.

Just how much of the life you are leading now is the result of your attempts to "forge" the life you want - versus allowing God to push you in certain directions that would be the best for you as a spiritual being who is having a human experience? I mean...if your focus is on building up your bank account - then your desire to be an artist or a musician may slip aside, and you may never lead the life of an artist or a musician. If you put all your effort into climbing the corporate ladder - then you may never travel and learn about other people, cultures, and ways of life. If you spend your entire Sabbath day of rest working or golfing or playing sports instead of spending some time worshipping God, - your relationship with God may suffer. So... what kind of life would you truly like to be living?

During the Lenten season I would like to address that issue with you through our mid-week Lenten services. Our Lenten theme will be "Open

My Life, Lord" – a six-week series that will focus on how we can better open our whole lives to God's influence and instruction. Beginning with Ash Wednesday our evening topics will be:

Ash Wednesday: The Ashes of Our Lives

Week of Lent 1: Open My Eyes, Lord

Week of Lent 2: Open My Hands, Lord

Week of Lent 3: Open My Ears, Lord

Week of Lent 4: Open My Heart, Lord

Week of Lent 5: Open My Life, Lord

Life, truth be told, is always changing – despite our efforts and desires to plan and control and envision. The comedian Gilda Radner once said, "I wanted a perfect ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment, and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next."

Join us for Lenten worship and see how God is at work shaping you and molding you to be the child of God you are called to be. I can almost guarantee that you will identify with some of the images and characters you will encounter this Lenten season – images and characters who will nudge you to moments of awareness and transformation. Please take time IN your life to think ABOUT your life!

Lenten Blessings,
Pastor Jami

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS—January 2022

- Officers for the 2023 year were elected. The slate of officers is:
 - ◊ President – Kim Roth
 - ◊ Vice President – Tim Moore
 - ◊ Secretary – Matt Sekol
 - ◊ Treasurer – Trudy Mertz
 - ◊ Financial Secretary – Deb Gardner
- Committee Assignments for 2023
 - ◊ Christian Education – Krystina, Kim Roth
 - ◊ Stewardship – Mark Bateman
 - ◊ Property – Doug Daniel, Glenn Wampole
 - ◊ Worship and Music – Annette Frazza
 - ◊ Evangelism – Lori Kerper
 - ◊ Social Ministry – Cindy Kocher
 - ◊ Finance – Tim Moore, Matt Sekol
 - ◊ Youth Ministry – Mikayla Boyer, Megan Smith
 - ◊ Mutual Ministry – Glenn Wampole
- Thanks to member participation and generosity Hope ended the year in the black with an excess of income over expenses totaling \$6,834.47.
- Coffee with the Council has been scheduled. Members are invited to join the council for coffee and refreshments on Sunday, March 12 at 9:15 a.m. in Kuntz Hall. This is an opportunity for members to get to know the council better, ask questions and share insights.
- The Youth Valentine Dinner is back in person this year. Tickets will be on sale in the narthex and online beginning January 15. Look for details in the bulletins, newsletter and Connections of Hope.
- Youth group will be going snowtubing at Blue Mountain on Friday, February 2.
- Council was informed that Troop 242 – Hope’s Boy Scout troop has disbanded and will no longer be meeting.

SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorships for 2023 are now available. You can sponsor **Flowers**, **Bulletins**, and **The Press** in memory of a loved one or to honor/celebrate 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.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday,
February 5
8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

Sunday,
February 12
8:00 a.m. Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Communion

Sunday,
February 19
8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

Ash Wednesday,
February 22
7:00 p.m. Worship

Sunday,
February 26
8:00 a.m. Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Communion

Wednesday,
March 1
7:00 p.m. Worship

YOUTH GROUP



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 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



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.

ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

Thank you for all you do to support our mission throughout the year. As you begin 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

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,
February 14
10:00 a.m.
Kuntz Hall



HOPE'S FRIENDSHIP DANCE

Monday,
February 20
7—9 p.m.
(Set-up begins at 6:00)



STORY WEAVERS

Tuesday,
February 21
10 a.m.
lunch at Seemsville

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,
February 1
9 a.m.



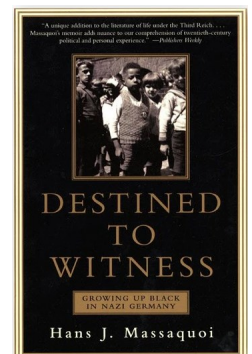
BOOK BUDDIES

We will meet February 23 at 1 and 7 to discuss our latest book, *The Screwtape Letters*.

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.

Our March read will be *Destined to Witness* and we will meet March 27 at 1 and 7 for discussion.

Destined to Witness is a story of the unexpected. In *Destined to Witness*, Hans Massaquoi has crafted a beautifully rendered memoir -- an astonishing true tale of how he came of age as a black child in Nazi Germany. The son of a prominent African and a German nurse, Hans remained behind with his mother when Hitler came to power, due to concerns about his fragile health, after his father returned to Liberia. Like other German boys, Hans went to school; like other German boys, he swiftly fell under the Fuhrer's spell. So he was crushed to learn that, as a black child, he was ineligible for the Hitler Youth. His path to a secondary education and an eventual profession was blocked. He now lived in fear that, at any moment, he might hear the Gestapo banging on the door -- or Allied bombs falling on his home. Ironic,, moving, and deeply human, Massaquoi's account of this lonely struggle for survival brims with courage and intelligence.



Good News for Seniors Over 70-1/2 - A Tax-Free Gift With Your IRA Rollover

Are your required minimum IRA withdrawals greater than you need, or care to receive? Would you like to reduce the taxable income from your IRA?

The IRA charitable rollover is a terrific way to make a tax-free gift to Hope Lutheran Church ministries. Your gift from your IRA can satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution without increasing your Federal income taxes. Although you don't get an income tax charitable deduction for the gift, you don't pay taxes on your IRA withdrawal. In effect, the IRA charitable rollover is a tax-reducing and tax-free way to make a gift.

If you are 70-1/2 or older, you can tell your IRA administrator to transfer your gift directly from your Traditional or Roth IRA account to Hope Lutheran. We can put your gift to use right away in providing financial support to our ministries throughout the Church.

Consider these important requirements to make an IRA charitable rollover:

- * You must be 70-1/2 or older when the gift is made.
- * The gift must come from a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA account. Other retirement accounts such as 401(k) or 403(b) Plans are not eligible.
- * The gift check must come directly from your IRA administrator to Hope Lutheran.
- * Total IRA charitable rollover gifts in any one year cannot exceed \$100,000.
- * The IRA rollover gift can count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) if you have not already taken your RMD for the year you make your gift.
- * The gift from your IRA will be excluded from your taxable income.
- * The gift from your IRA will not be available as an income tax charitable deduction.

If you are interested in making such a gift or if you just want more information, please contact your IRA administrator, tax preparer or the Church Treasurer.

THANKS . . .

Church Council,

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift, it is truly appreciated. I am so blessed to call Hope home and be able to work with our youth.

Ally Lockard

Dear Hope Council,

Thank you so much, for the monetary Christmas gift. I appreciate your generosity. Looking forward to another year as financial secretary for Hope church.

Deb

Dear Council,

Thank you for the end of the year Christmas bonus! I have plans for it. I have been here for 4 ½ years. The best part of working at Hope are the people, I am blessed to be here!

Thank you,
Lance

THANKS . . . *(Continued from page 5)*

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. It is an honor and privilege serving as your treasurer. I have been very blessed with the kindness and support from the staff and members of Hope throughout the years. Thank you and blessings to everyone in the New Year.

Sincerely,
Trudy Mertz

Dear Hope Lutheran Church Council,

Thank you for the very generous Christmas gift! I plan to pay it forward through a donation to Meals on Wheels in honor of my brother who passed away this past year. Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year!

Julie Sekol

Dear Hope Council,

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. I have donated the money back to the church. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. I enjoy working here with everyone at Hope. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas.

Jenn Knouss

Dear Council,

Many, many thanks for the awesome Christmas bonus. While it is never expected, it gives me the opportunity to share with others. This year I used it to make a donation to Phoebe Ministries Clinical Pastoral Education Fund. This will assist seminary students to defray the cost of the CPE unit as they go through seminary.

Blessings,
PJ

Church Council,

Thank you all so much for your thoughtful Christmas gift. Your kindness and generosity is deeply and greatly appreciated.

It means so much to be able to work for and with such an amazing group of people. Thank you again!

Happy Holidays to all,
Jennifer Sommers

Dear Council,

Thank you for the Christmas gift. It is a pleasure to work at a place where not only is appreciation shown at holidays, but regularly throughout the year. New Year blessings to all.

Peace,
Laurie

Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

We appreciate your donation of \$265 from your social ministry committee's Thanksgiving Feast on November 15, 2022. Thank you for this generous donation.

Very Sincerely,

S. Kratzer

Northampton Area Food Bank

MEMBERS OF HOPE ADDRESSING HUNGER

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.

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.



ELCA YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION

The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program invites ELCA young adults ages 21-29 into a transformative, year-long journey in international service. As they offer themselves in service, ELCA young adults are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors. They share in the journeys of companion churches and organizations in one of nine countries around the world.

A year of service through the Young Adults in Global Mission program invites young adults to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, providing critical support to ministries and projects in communities of need. It also invites volunteers into a journey of self-reflection, providing space to consider their sense of identity, God’s work in the world, and their place within it all.

Young adults serve in the spirit of accompaniment, walking alongside global companions in a manner that practices mutuality, interdependence and solidarity. Areas of service include, but are not limited to, health and development, congregational ministry, human rights, education, homelessness, addiction recovery, women’s issues and children and youth. All site placements provide opportunities for young adults to confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith.

Candidates for Young Adults in Global Mission apply to the program at-large rather than to a specific country. Applicant preferences are taken into account but the final decision about where volunteers serve is made by Global Mission staff and YAGM country coordinators in mid-April. Current YAGM country programs include: [Argentina/Uruguay](#), [Jerusalem/West Bank](#), [Mexico](#), [Senegal](#) and [United Kingdom](#)

Applications for the 2023-2024 YAGM service year will be open from November 1, 2022 through February 1, 2023.



We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together. Come, imagine yourself in the world!

For more information contact YAGM at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2861 or visit www.elca.org/yagm.

COMMISSION FOR A RENEWED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Open Nomination: January 9 – March 9, 2023

At the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, voting members adopted a memorial concerning restructuring the ELCA's governance. The assembly adopted 738-72 the following action:

To direct the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church comprised of leaders of diverse representation from all three expressions that, working in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, shall reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism, and will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention to be called under the rules for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly. [CA22.01.06]

The Church Council discussed the churchwide assembly action at its November 2022 meeting. It authorized the establishment of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) to consist of no more than 35 voting members and directed the Executive Committee of the Church Council to initiate the process of forming the commission. [CC22.11.38.]

The nomination process is open until March 9, 2023. More information about the commitment and expectation of serving on the CRLC can be found at www.elca.org/crlc. Interested individuals who wish to be nominated or to nominate another person should complete and submit the **nomination form** which can be found on the website. The Executive Committee of the Church Council will serve as the nominating committee and will present a slate of nominees to the Church Council at its April 20, 2023 meeting for appointment to the CRLC.

ELCA INTRODUCES JOURNI

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is pleased to introduce Journi, a web-based tool designed to help people discern their call to leadership in the ELCA.

"Journi encourages all of us to seek out and inspire gifted people in our congregations and communities to consider a call to ministry of the gospel," said the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop.

Journi.faith is an online tool that connects people with programs and ministries from across the ELCA. By creating a free account with Journi, a person can take the ELCA Spiritual Gifts Personality Quiz, which will identify their top five spiritual gifts, and receive content recommendations based on those gifts.

"Journi is for anyone who wants to explore how they might follow Christ in love and service," said the Rev. Philip Hirsch, executive for ELCA Christian Community and Leadership. "For those who feel they are called to make the world a better place but don't know exactly what they want to do, Journi will help them find a next step."

Users can also check out upcoming leadership events in the ELCA on the calendar and have access to nine different paths that are similar to small courses that showcase programs and ministries from across the ecology of the ELCA, along with dozens of articles, videos, podcasts, and other resources for users to learn from. Those nine paths are: Called to Lead, Chaplaincy, Choosing the Right Seminary, Connecting Faith & Public Life, Finding Faith on Campus, Get a Scholarship: Fund for Leaders, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Young Adults in Global Mission, and Youth Leadership.

"Journi is for everyone, not just those who want to become pastors or deacons in the church," Hirsch said. "God calls everyone to love and serve."

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - DECEMBER 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 - December	52,150.10	5,639.74	6,948.69	4,733.70	0.38
Income - Jan.-Nov.	345,423.36	(4,502.87)	(9,253.71)	(14,105.31)	7,903.77
Total Income	397,573.46	1,136.87	(2,305.02)	(9,371.61)	7,904.15
Expenses - December	31,588.47	821.07	110.23	-	-
Expenses - Jan.-Nov.	359,150.52	40,330.05	17,599.61	3,800.00	1,500.00
Total Expenses	390,738.99	41,151.12	17,709.84	3,800.00	1,500.00
Net Income	6,834.47	(40,014.25)	(20,014.86)	(13,171.61)	6,404.15
Net Special Appeals	(1,074.50)				
Balance End of December	\$252,035.16	\$148,738.04	\$167,705.65	\$ 94,136.96	\$ 5,907.23

SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of December by \$20,561.63, and for the year 2022, income exceeded expenses by \$6,834.47, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$252,035.16. Last year the net income for the same period was \$57,928.49 (which included PPP Loan Forgiveness of \$36,872.23) with a balance of \$246,275.19.

*** 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>
March	Monday, February 13	Thursday, February 23

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 February 2023 issue of *Synod News* is available online.

Visit <http://nepasynod.org>

HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251

