



GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

As I sit writing this article we have only two more mid-week Lenten services and then we will be rushing headlong into Holy Week. Starting with Palm Sunday and moving into the Triduum (the three days) which include Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday we walk our way through Lent to Easter Sunday morning. I really do love this season – it is filled with so many images, stories, and good news!

Over the years I have noticed that lots of people don't take advantage of the wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth that Holy Week offers. So many folks I know come to church on Palm Sunday and symbolically wave their palms in praise of Jesus our Lord and go back to their daily lives forgetting that the greatest story ever told is being retold throughout Holy Week. And those same folks show up on Easter Sunday to celebrate Jesus' resurrection without ever recognizing that Jesus had to have died in order to be resurrected. They skip right over the painful moments of his disciples' betrayal, his trail, his beating and his death. And I wonder why that happens.

Maybe we don't intentionally make the time to hear the story again. Maybe we don't want to hear the painful parts. Maybe we just want to experience the high points of the Christian life and pass over the difficult ones.

But if you are one of those folks I mentioned above here's what you're missing....

- ◆ Jesus last supper with his disciples and the "first-ever communion"
- ◆ Jesus washing the feet of the disciples
- ◆ Jesus struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane where he wonders if this is the way it has to unfold
- ◆ Jesus arrest and trial and flogging
- ◆ Peter's denial of Jesus – just as Jesus predicted
- ◆ Jesus journey to Golgotha to be hung on a cross
- ◆ Jesus death, the earthquake and the rending of the curtain in the temple
- ◆ Jesus' body being placed in a tomb and sealed

And how does this get celebrated during Holy week????

- ◆ Holy Communion and the story of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples on Maundy Thursday
- ◆ Stripping of the altar and covering the chancel in black
- ◆ Retelling of the story of Jesus death during Tenebrae (service of the shadows) on Good Friday
- ◆ Prayer vigil during the time Jesus laid in the tomb - from Good Friday to Easter morning

So, you are invited to not just walk through Holy Week but to **LIVE** through Holy Week. You are invited to hear the stories, share the meal, experience the darkness, and be stilled by the silence so that when you arrive on Easter Sunday morning the joy of the resurrection is even more joyful because you lived through it all.

(Continued on page 3)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS—March 2023

- * The Sunday School children will be celebrating Palm Sunday – April 2 – with an Easter Party and Egg Hunt and then joining the congregation to share a song and participate in the Palm Procession during the 10:30 a.m. service.
- * The March 12 *Coffee With Council* notes are posted on the website and on the large bulletin board outside the church office. Council thanks all who attended and asked questions.
- * The Youth who are attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering are holding an Easter candy sale. Orders can be placed after worship services or online.
- * First Communion is scheduled for Sunday March 26 at the 10:30 a.m. services.
- * Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday, May 28 – the Day of Pentecost – at the 10:30 a.m. service.
- * Council is looking for people who would be interested in helping to put a committee together to celebrate Hope's 50th Anniversary. If you like planning for celebrations please contact the church office, talk to a member of council or the Pastor.
- * 2023 marks five years since our last Pictorial Directory. We are looking for people interested in helping with a new directory. Please call the church office or speak to Pastor Jami if you are interested.

ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

During Lent and Easter, we hope you will consider additional giving to your church. It is through the contributions of every member that we are able to fulfill our mission. 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 and locate the Online Giving page.



Sunday, April 2
Palm Sunday
8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

Thursday, April 6
Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m. Worship

Friday, April 7
Good Friday
7:00 p.m. Tenebrae
11:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil
begins

Saturday April 8
Prayer Vigil
con't from Friday
12:00 a.m.—6:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 9
Easter
6:00 a.m. Worship
7–10 a.m. Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Communion

Sunday, April 16
8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

Sunday, April 23
8:00 a.m. Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Communion

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

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is held in Kuntz Hall
at 10 a.m. Thursdays,
April 6, 20, & 27
(not April 13)



In addition Bible Study will
still be offered via Zoom.
Call the office for
more information.

WELCA

Tuesday,
April 25
5:30 p.m.
Kuntz Hall

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

HOPE'S FRIENDSHIP DANCE

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



SOUP GROUP and DELIVERY

Wednesday,
April 5
9 a.m.



STORY WEAVERS

Tuesday,
April 18
10 a.m.
lunch at



GOPLAY EATERY
- since 2021 -

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.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

April 5
6:30 p.m.
Hanson Hall

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR *(Continued from page 1)*

Think about joining us as we live through Holy Week at our services on:

- ◆ Palm Sunday – **April 2 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**
- ◆ Maundy Thursday – **April 6 at 7:00 p.m.**
- ◆ Good Friday – **April 7 at 7:00 p.m.**
- ◆ Easter Vigil from **11:00 p.m. Good Friday through 6:00 a.m. Easter Sunday** – sign up sheet is in the rear of the church or call the church office (610-767-7203) to take an hour spot.
- ◆ Easter Sunday Celebration – **April 9 at 6:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**

I look forward to sharing this holy week with you!

Blessings,
Pastor Jami

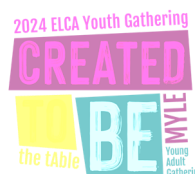
YOUTH GROUP

Youth group will be hosting an Easter candy sale through Tara's Treats and Goodies. There are various items for purchase, flyers and order forms can be found in the Narthex after services. We will be collecting orders and payments through March 26. You can also purchase your items online at <https://www.pahomemadechocolate.com/hlyg>. All orders will be available for pick up on Sunday, April 2 after services. Youth Group will receive 25% of all gross sales. If you have any questions, please email Ally Lockard at alockard313@gmail.com.



Youth Group will be hosting an Out All Night event for students in 6th - 12th grade. We will be participating in various activities beginning the night of March 31 - the morning of April 1 (sleeping is discouraged!). Details are still being planned, but there will be a lot of fun! Parents, please be on the lookout for an email with specifics. If you would like to join, please email Ally at alockard313@gmail.com.

Youth Gathering: Every 3 years the ELCA hosts a Youth Gathering for our high school students. This 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 to raise funds so our students can attend at a minimum cost to each 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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Palm Sunday, April 2, Sunday School will be participating in the 10:30 a.m. service . Parents we would like your child to stay with our group from 9:15 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. We will take everyone to the sanctuary for the beginning of worship. You will be able to pick up your child in the narthex after the opening hymn.



Cradle roll - 6th grade will enjoy an **Easter Party** and we are looking for donations of pre-filled Easter eggs for an Easter egg hunt. If you would like to donate any supplies, we will be accepting them through April 1. You can drop them off in the Sunday school office or during the week in the church office. Thank you for your help.

LEVEL II CONFIRMATION (ONLY)

Level 2 students will be spending the weekend at Spruce Lake Retreat Center the weekend of April 21 - 23. Please be at Hope by 6:30 p.m. on Friday evening April 21. We will need time to pack the van and speak with parents before we leave.

You should pack:

- BIBLE!
- Sleeping bag & Pillow (bed linens are not provided by Spruce Lake)
- Towel & Toiletries

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"Totally Submerged" ... coming July 10-14.



Come dive into the Bible with the Gilligan Crew on the adventure of a life time. They will be exploring the wet and wild stories from the ocean floor.

Classes will be held from 9 a.m. until noon, with a closing program on Friday, July 14@ 7 p.m. Ages include 3 year olds (potty trained) to children completing 6th grade in June 2023.

Registrations can be made at vbs.hopecherryville.org or by completing a registration form located in the narthex. A t-shirt is provided for each student registering by Sunday, June 18. A donation of \$15 is suggested for each student which includes the price of the t-shirt. This is collected during vacation bible school.

Lots of help will be needed so please consider volunteering. A staff nursery is provided for volunteers if you have younger children who are not old enough to attend. Volunteers need to register as well. Volunteers can order a t-shirt as well for \$6 also payable during VBS.

Water you waiting for,

Sign up now!

Registrations open now!

For faster registrations, use the QR code below.



EASTER PRAYER VIGIL

This year we will have a prayer vigil from 11:00 p.m. on Good Friday until 5:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning. We need volunteers willing to spend an hour in the church sanctuary in prayer and reflection. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the back of the church. Please remember to include your name and email address so that a code can be sent to you for the door. Additionally, Prayer Request sheets are located in the Narthex for special prayer requests during this time.



EASTER BREAKFAST

Breakfast will be served on Easter Sunday, April 9 from 7 – 10 a.m. in Kuntz Hall. Donations of baked goods would be appreciated. If you are able to volunteer to assist in making and serving the breakfast, please contact Wayne Weidner at 610-767-1512. .

*Easter
Breakfast*



NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Classes for those wishing to become members of Hope Church will be held on Sunday, April 23 and Sunday, April 30. Reception of New Members will be Sunday, May 7 at both services. Classes are held in Kuntz Hall at 9:15 a.m. Please advise the Church Office if you will be attending (office@hopecherryville.org or 610-767-7203).

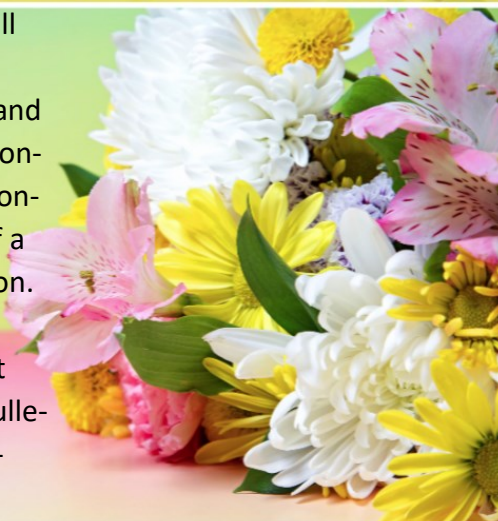
50TH ANNIVERSARY

We are looking to put together a committee to organize the celebration of Hope's 50th anniversary. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please contact the Church Office (office@hopecherryville.org , 610-767-7203).

CHURCH
Anniversary
PREPARATIONS

SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorships are still available for 2023. **Flowers, Bulletins, and The Press** can be sponsored in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one or occasion. You'll find signup sheets and payment envelopes on the bulletin board in the narthex.



AVAILABLE



WELCOME ALL

Speaker: John Eckhart

Congregational Hiker: Appalachian Trail

Hope Lutheran Church, Kuntz Hall

Cherryville, PA

April 25, 2023 6:30 P.M.

Light Refreshments will be served.

Free will offering for: Troopers Helping Troopers Foundation

Appalachian Trail: Maine to Georgia

BOOK BUDDIES

The next book we will be reading is:

Spare by Prince Harry – meeting April 24 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; cost of the book is \$22.50

Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex, is a husband, father, humanitarian, military veteran, mental wellness advocate, and environmentalist. He resides in Santa Barbara, California, with his family and three dogs.



LEVEL II CONFIRMATION *(Continued from page 4)*

- Warm Clothes and Sneakers (must have sneakers for the Adventure Course), extra pair of shoes in case they get wet
- A Nice Shirt for Pictures (for the Confirmation Bulletin)
- A Snack and Drink to Share (bag or box of snacks; or pack of juice boxes/case of soda/water)
- Pictures/decorations for stole

(We will be decorating stoles for confirmation day. We provide some decorations and puff paint/fabric markers. Please send some items/stickers/photographs or patches for your child to customize their stole. One side will be their Christian life (maybe photos from their baptism, stickers of doves or crosses, etc.) and the other will be their life outside the church - could use stickers that represent sports or other activities they're involved in, photos of their family, etc. This is their chance to be creative! The stoles are about 4 inches wide.)

Please provide a check for \$90 per child to pay for the weekend stay. Please make the check out to Hope Lutheran Church with "Confirmation Retreat" in the memo. Our church is paying the remainder of the balance for the weekend, but to help with the total cost we ask families to contribute. If you are experiencing financial hardship please speak to Pastor Jami and/or Jenn and we will work with you. Please turn in checks as soon as possible, or no later than Sunday, April 16, one week before the retreat.

This retreat is the culmination of your child's Confirmation experience. It is very important that everyone attend this event.

Jennifer Knouss
Confirmation Coordinator

THANKS . . . (a copy of the complete letter can be found on the narthex bulletin board)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$246.00 to Lutheran World Relief! And thank you for sharing your compassion with your neighbors who have the very least through your generous Gift of Love.

The love you share is circling the globe as God's hands and feet on earth, helping our neighbors in hard-to-reach places around the world find solutions to the specific needs of their communities. Your love is helping families build resilience so they can survive and thrive in the places they call home.

For 75 years, the love and generosity of people like you has helped families lift themselves out of poverty and hunger and save lives. Today your gift of faith, hope and love is reaching children and families in some of the most forsaken places on earth with lasting solutions to address life-threatening challenges.

Thank you again, and God bless you!

Warm Regards,
Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (ret.)
President and CEO



Upcoming Events



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Campfires & Cocktails Gala

Saturday, April 29 6:00pm

The Bear Creek Camp Gala is an opportunity for community building, fun, fellowship, and fundraising. We're excited to present the 4th Annual Campfires and Cocktails Gala on April 29th at the Homewood Suites in Center Valley, PA. In addition to individuals purchasing tickets for this evening, your congregation can participate in this event and show your support for campers and families.

Become a Sponsor, Donate an Auction Item or Raffle Basket, Financial Support

Visit bearcreekcamp.org/gala to purchase tickets and sponsorships



Summer Camp Registration

One God and Creator of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

—Ephesians 4:6

Bear Creek Camp's overnight camping program, for all children who have completed grades 1-12, is a traditional camp program centered on spiritual growth, outdoor living and small group development. Each age group experiences a mix of small-group and all-camp activities throughout their week to meet their group's spiritual, social and developmental needs.

Most camp sessions begin on Sunday afternoon and end Friday afternoon. Campers spend their time living and playing together: swimming, boating, hiking, worshipping, playing games, discussing their faith, camping, making arts and crafts, learning about the environment, singing and much more

Visit bearcreekcamp.org/summer-camp for more information and to register

May Play Day

May 6th, 2023

- 11 AM- 12 PM** - Exploring Camp / Hiking
- Nature Center Open
- Rec Hall Open for Carpetball, Ping-Pong, and Foosball
- Campfire in Birchfield
- 12 PM** - Lunch in Dining Hall
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and Veggie Burgers with Sides and Drink - Free!
- 1 PM** - Q&A about BCC Summer Camp
- NEPA Synod Youth Update
- 1:30 PM- 3PM** - Exploring Camp / Hiking
- Arts 'n' Crafts in Courtyard
- Camp Store Open
- Rec Hall Open for Carpetball, Ping-Pong, and Foosball
- Boating in Lake
- Campfire in Birchfield
- 3 PM** - Closing Words and Songs

*Schedule is subject to change and all activities are weather permitting

May Play Day & Spring Work Day

Saturday, May 6

We're getting ready for summer with a giant celebration of all things BCC.

May Play Day is an open house-style event open to anyone. An excellent opportunity to see camp for the first time or get an early dose of a familiar space, camp staff will be present to answer questions, give tours, and share about BCC. Hiking and boating will also be available throughout the day and everyone is invited to share in a delicious cookout meal.

Registration and lunch are free for May Play Day!
bearcreekcamp.org/mayplayday

Spring Work Day

You and your congregation can be a part of getting camp ready for Summer 2023! A perfect day for families and/or church workgroups, projects will be available for all skill levels.

Project time is planned from **9am until noon**. Lunch will be provided! Overnight housing is available if needed.

This can also be an excellent opportunity to utilize a Thrivent Action team as some supplies such as wheelbarrows, rakes, and other landscaping tools are needed.

To let us know you plan to attend and to discuss specific projects and donation needs, please contact **Charissa Berryman, Office Manager- 570.472.3741** or bcccamp@bearcreekcamp.org.

Any questions regarding any of the information above can be directed to Stacey Burke, BCC Synod Representative stacey@nepsynod.org 610-266-5101 ext. 10

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - FEBRUARY 28, 2023

	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship Loan	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$252,235.16	\$148,738.04	\$167,705.65	\$ 94,136.96	\$ 5,907.23
Income - February	31,393.92	7,288.25	8,088.23	4,958.04	4,000.35
Income - January	34,068.13	2,749.88	(295.06)	(2,026.66)	100.39
Total Income	65,462.05	10,038.13	7,793.17	2,931.38	4,100.74
Expenses - February	30,913.51	99.00	181.01	-	-
Expenses - January	31,088.78	99.00	-	1,800.00	-
Total Expenses	62,002.29	198.00	181.01	1,800.00	-
Net Income	3,459.76	9,840.13	7,612.16	1,131.38	4,100.74
Net Special Appeals	-				
Balance End of February	\$255,694.92	\$158,578.17	\$175,317.81	\$ 95,268.34	\$ 10,007.97

SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of February by \$480.41, and for the year 2023, income exceeded expenses by \$3,459.76, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$255,694.92. Last year the net income for the same period was \$5,327.55 with a balance of \$251,602.74.

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>
May	Monday, April 17	Thursday, April 27

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

Visit <http://nepasynod.org>

HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251

