



January 2024 ♦ Vol. LI No. 1

HOPE HOME NEWS

Greetings from the Interim Pastor:

Happy 2024 everyone! I feel like it was just Christmas time! But here we are trying to remember to mark 2024 on our correspondence and many memories of 2023 will not be lost! For you, Hope Lutheran Church family and friends, you might look back and remember the good-bye to your beloved pastor as she retired. I can tell she did an amazing job getting ready for her departure with training and equipping you for her absence. Hope LC is in good hands with your leadership teams!

I am happy to be beginning this time as an interim pastor. (I also retired in August). I work less hours than Pastor Jamie but am committed to keeping Hope Lutheran on a forward movement. I will be with you as the process of calling another pastor moves ahead. So far, I've met many of you (still learning names, however!) and am very excited to interact with many more.



I can share a little bit about me. I served 17 years in downtown historic Easton at St. John's Lutheran Church. They are looking for a new pastor, too. We can pray for each other! I've lived in Easton for over 30 years and been active in many community programs when my children were younger. (All four graduated from Easton HS). I worked at Lafayette College coordinating student volunteers in the community (tutoring, sports, nursina home, jail, etc.) It was a great job and I left it to study theology in Philadelphia and was ordained in 2002.

For over 15 years, I have volunteered in Northampton County Jail and teach self-help/healing classes. Prison Ministry is difficult at times but very rewarding when those 'inside' ask about baptism, marriage, worship. I advocate for simple things in life for all people!

My husband of 48 years has decided to study to be a pastor after hearing the desperate need in our synod for leaders. I hope he inspires others!

I will be in the church office most Tuesdays, Wednesday morning, Thursday morning and Friday by appointment. I am also available to chat with you after church on Sundays! Thank you for your patience as I figure everything out at Hope Lutheran and feel free to contact me. pastor@hopelutheran.org; 610-767-7203 or at you can call me at home, 610-253-7878.

Blessings, Pastor Sue

Council Highlights-December 2023

- + We are thrilled to announce that the new Church Council Members for the year of 2024 at Hope Lutheran will be installed on Sunday, January 7th at both early and late services. This is a momentous occasion for our church community, as we welcome these dedicated individuals to their new roles and responsibilities. We invite you to join us in celebrating this special event, as we come together to support and uplift our fellow members. Let us join in prayer for the new council members and for the continued growth and prosperity of our beloved church.
- Our Youth Group is excited to announce that we will be hosting a Valentine's Day Dinner on Saturday, February 10! We invite you to join us for a night of delicious food, fun activities, and great company. We will be selling tickets for the event starting in January, so please keep an eye out for more information on how to purchase them. We hope to see you there and make this event a memorable experience for everyone!
- + The holiday season is always a magical time of the year, but this year our church and sanctuary have been taken to a whole new level thanks to the incredible work of our **Decorating Committee**! From the twinkling lights to the stunning ornaments, every corner of our church looks absolutely breathtaking. We couldn't have asked for a more festive and joyful atmosphere to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Hats off to the Decorating Committee for sprinkling their magic and making our Christmas Eve services truly unforgettable!
- We regret to inform our congregation and community that an incident occurred at our church in December, involving a Lanta Van driving into our carport. As a result of the damage, this area is temporarily not able to be used. For everyone's safety, the doors to the carport have been blocked off until further notice. We understand that this may cause inconvenience to those who typically use this area, and we apologize for any disruption this may cause. However, we must prioritize the safety of our congregation and visitors. We would like to remind everyone that our Community Food Cupboard can still be accessed outside by the middle wooden doors entering the church. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this time. We will provide updates on the situation as they become available.
- + The church council has been listening to your requests and we are thrilled to announce that we are actively looking into including offertory.praise back into our regular worship services. We understand how important this aspect of worship is to our congregation and we want to ensure that we are meeting our congregation's needs. Church council along with the appropriate committees are currently working on the logistics and details of how this will be implemented, and we will provide more information as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we strive to make our worship services as meaningful and uplifting as possible.



Sunday, January 7

8:00 AM Worship

9:15 AM Sunday School & Confirmation

10:30 AM Worship

Sunday, January 14

8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion

9:15 AM Sunday School & Confirmation

10:30 AM Worship & Holy Communion

Sunday, January 21

8:00 AM Worship

9:15 AM Sunday School & Confirmation

10:30 AM Worship

Sunday, January 28

8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion

9:15 AM Sunday School & Confirmation

10:30 AM Worship & Holy Communion

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 ONLINE GIVING PAGE.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Wednesday,

January 3

6;30 PM

Hanson Hall



HOPE FRIENDSHIP DANCE

Monday,

January 15

7-9 PM

(SET UP BEGINS AT 6 PM)

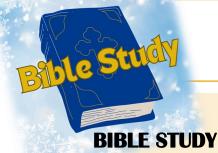
WELCA

Tuesday,

December 12

10 AM

Adult S.S. Room



Bible Study is held in Kuntz Hall at 10 AM Thursdays

JANUARY 4, 11, 18, 25

Please call the church office if more information is needed.

50th Anniversary Committee

Wednesday,

January 17

6 PM

Kuntz Hall



SOUP GROUP AND DELIVERY

Tuesday,

January 10

9 AM

Kuntz Hall Kitchen



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.

Women ELCA

Tuesday,

WOMEN OF FAITH

January 16

6:30 PM

Hanson Hall



STORY WEAVERS

Tuesday,

January 16

10 AM

(Adult S.S. Room)

Lunch @ 12

2brothers

Pizzeria

COMMITTEE SHOWCASE: SOUP GROUP by Rev. Jerry Mraz

In February 2022, I learned about Hope having a "Soup Ladies" group.

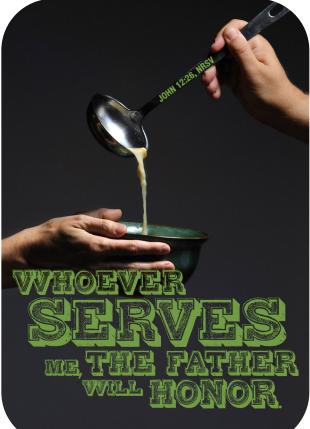
I met them one Tuesday, when they were doing their work of preparing a soup meal, which they then delivered, to the STAR MEMBERS of Hope once a month.

When lifestyle ШV changed in October 2022, due to my body becoming 89 years old, I had to give up driving to Hope for Worship and do, my then volunteer work, of Video-graphing the two Sunday worship services each Sunday. I was forced to stay home as a Hope "STAR" member. Lo and behold shortly after that, my doorbell rang on the first Tuesday of the following month. When I opened



the door, I was greeted by LeAnn Chandler, who was carrying a small brown shopping bag. She told me that the SOUP LADIES wanted to bring me the results of their work. It was filled with a decent size hot cup full of soup, some crackers to go with it, some can-

dy treats and a nice ornament to make the meal festive.



It was a great surprise for me to be honored and remembered by this dedicated group of ladies (most of them already up in years and possibly becoming STAR members Hope members themselves). I really appreciated, not only the good tasting soup this widower had, but more important, that HOPE members were concerned about bringing some joy to me, now a STAR member.

Now over a year from that October 2022, (today 20 days before Christmas), my doorbell rang again. When I opened the door, lo and behold, there was LeAnn again with this basket of cheer and care. She brought me the SOUP LADIES December gifts. Here are some of the items (in addition to pasta in spaghetti sauce, bun and butter and cupcake for dessert).

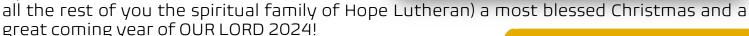
All this is a sign that THEY considered me as a family member of our spiritual family of HOPE. I thank them for this care and sign of love.

COMMITTEE SHOWCASE: SOUP GROUP by Rev. Jerry Mraz (cont. from pg. 4)

It was these ladies who also prepared the Thanksgiving Dinner for Seniors held last

month. One of them made this statement to me "It was these ladies who are very close to becoming senior STAR MEMBERS of Hope Lutheran that did the cooking when it should have been the young members of Hope doing it for their elders!" How true a statement is that. How about the younger members doing that? The elders of Hope need to be awarded similar courtesy's the elders have done to them.

My thanks to the members of HOPE'S SOUP LADIES who are: LeAnn Chandler, Elana Lalik, Nancy Xander, Toni Snyder, Loretta Weil, Judy Dexter and Carol Droller. I wish them (and





A GRATEFUL HEART

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.

HEBREWS 12:28, ESV

I wish to express my sincere thanks to **Sharyn Kratzer** and her Evangelism Committee for the beautiful and delicious Christmas Fruit basket and the greeting cards they brought to me. I especially thank them, because I miss being able to attend church on Sunday mornings, but having lumbar back problems makes it impossible to attend. I do, however, join all of you in worship, by watching the video streaming each Sunday.

I am glad that now Hope has an AV Committee. I am glad that Hope finally has this program for our "STAR" members, which I had tried having, in the years of my doing video work on Sunday Mornings. I thank the AV volunteers for doing this caring ministry.

In addition, I would like to thank Hope's **Evangelism Committee** for the Christmas Fruit Basket delivered for Hope's "STAR" members.

I also wanted to take a minute to give a shoutout to **Kady Maurer**, daughter of Justin and Stephanie Maurer, for creating an amazing Christmas card for me. I was blown away by her creativity and attention to de-

tail. This card, along with many others made by Hope's Sunday School children, were given to our STAR members to spread some holiday cheer. Thanks again, Kady, for your amazing work!

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Jerry Mraz

Get ready to lace up your skates and join us for an exciting evening of ice skating! Hope Lutheran's Youth Group is thrilled to announce our upcoming ice skating event on Saturday, January 20th. We will be meeting at the church at 7 pm and returning around 10:30 pm times subject to change. The cost is only 10 per person, so bring your friends along too!

Whether you're a seasoned skater or a beginner, we welcome everyone to join in the fun. To secure your spot, please RSVP to Ally Lockard at <u>youthgrouphopecherryville.org</u> by Friday, January 19th. We can't wait to see you there!



Love is in the air! Hope Cherryville's Youth Group is excited to announce our Valentine's Dinner on Saturday, February 10, 2024. Join us for a night of delicious food and love and laughter. Tickets for the event will be on sale from January 14th to February 4th in between worship services. You can also reserve your tickets online by visiting www.youth.hopecherryville.org or by scanning the QR code below. Order forms will also be available in the bulletins on January 14th and in the Narthex in the following weeks.

Seating times are every half hour from 4:30pm - 7:00pm. Please note that seating is limited, so book your spot early! We have a variety of meal options to choose from, including chicken Oscar, beef tips, chicken marsala, or vegetable lasagna. Kids meals include 2 hotdogs and mac & cheese. Additional meal selections and information are provided on the order forms. Adult meals are \$20, junior meals are \$10, and kids' meals are \$5. If you have any questions or need more information, please email Ally Lockard at youthgroup@hopecherryville.org.



2024 YOUTH GROUP VALENTINE'S DINNER

Hey there youth!

Ready to rock the gathering? We're excited to announce a Getting Ready meeting on January 7th in Kuntz Hall from I 1:30am - I pm. Make sure to mark your calendars and come prepared to have some fun! We can't wait to see you there.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

We are excited to announce that first communion classes will begin on **January 14th**. Eligible families have already been sent letters with more information.

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A LETTER OF HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US AT SUNDAYSCHOOL@HOPECHERRYVILLE.OFB. PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS MUST BE IN AT LEAST 5TH BRADE TO ATTEND. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ON SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024, AT THE 10:30 AM SERVICE. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The season of Christmas is all about spreading joy and happiness, and at Hope Lutheran Church, we were fortunate enough to witness just

that on Sunday, December 17.

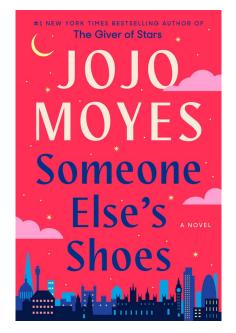
Our Sunday school children led the congregation in worship and showcased their talent and dedication by opening special Christmas Greeting Cards that conveyed the true meaning of Christmas. They reminded us all that "Oh what a beautiful night" it was when baby Jesus was born, and helped us relive that moment by telling the story through a video gospel read-



ing and drawings created by the children themselves.

It was truly heartwarming to see the children spreading the joy of Christmas with their teachers, and we invite everyone who missed out on this wonderful celebration to check out the <u>video</u> on our Facebook Page - Advent 3 (Sunday School Children's Service). Let's all continue to spread the joy and happiness of Christmas all year together!





Someone Else's Shoes by JoJo Moyes-Wed, January 24 at 1 PM Submit questions to Leslie Daniel

This inspirational New York Times bestseller chronicles the lifelong friendship between a busy sales executive and a disadvantaged young boy, and how both of their lives were changed by what began as one small gesture of kindness. Stopping was never part of the plan...

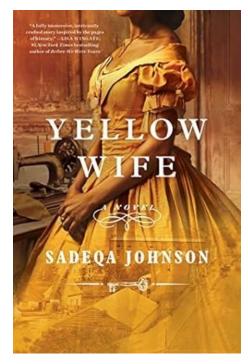
She was a successful ad sales rep in Manhattan. He was a homeless, eleven-year-old panhandler on the street. He asked for spare change; she kept walking. But then something stopped her in her tracks, and she went back. And she continued to go back, again and again. They met up nearly every week for years and built an unexpected, life-changing friendship that has today spanned almost three decades.

Whatever made me notice him on that street corner so many years ago is clearly something that cannot be extinguished, no matter how relentless the forces aligned against it. Some may call it spirit. Some may call it heart. It drew me to him, as if we were bound by some invisible, unbreakable thread. And whatever it is, it binds us still.

The Yellow Wife by Sadeqa Johnson-Wed, February 21 at 1 PM Submit questions to Annette Frazza

Born on a plantation in Charles City, Virginia, Pheby Delores Brown has lived a relatively sheltered life. Shielded by her mother's position as the estate's medicine woman and cherished by the Master's sister, she is set apart from the others on the plantation, belonging to neither world.

She'd been promised freedom on her eighteenth birthday, but instead of the idyllic life she imagined with her true love, Essex Henry, Pheby is forced to leave the only home she has ever known. She unexpectedly finds herself thrust into the bowels of slavery at the infamous Devil's Half Acre, a jail in Richmond, Virginia, where the enslaved are broken, tortured, and sold every day. There, Pheby is exposed not just to her Jailer's cruelty but also to his contradictions. To survive, Pheby will have to outwit him, and she soon faces the ultimate sacrifice.





Zoom Meeting Details:

https://usO2web.zoom.us/j/87605892517? pwd=WFdsZmFBMnNDRVB1N1JiT1ZjNmdTQT09

BOOK BUDDIES ZOOM

Please use the link above for the Book Buddies Meeting via Zoom

Members of Book Buddies will be sharing the responsibility of developing questions to discuss; each member will submit two questions for each book and the person who recommends the book will lead the discussion. So, put on your thinking cap and join us for some fun-filled, thought-provoking discussions! Please note, that all members will be responsible for purchasing their own copies of the books. But, if you need help finding or ordering the book, don't worry - we've got you covered! Just reach out to Jen in the church office for assistance at office@hopecherryville.org or 610-767-7203.



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH 4131 LEHIGH DRIVE | CHERRYVILLE PA 18035 | HOPECHERRYVILLE.ORG

HOPE LEADERSHIP

STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER INTERIM PASTOR Rev. Susan Ruggles Jennifer Sommers pastor@hopecherryville.org office@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext. 12 610-767-7203 ext. 10 **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST** David R. Ziegler Krystina Adams organist@hopecherryville.org communications@hopecherryville.org 610-767-7203 ext. 20 610-767-7203 **CLEARANCE COORDINATOR TREASURER** Trudy Mertz Julie Sekol treasurer@hopecherryville.org clearances@hopecherryville.org **CONFIRMATION PROGRAM** YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM **COORDINATOR COORDINATOR** Jennifer Knouss Allison Lockard iknouss@verizon.net youth@hopecherryville.org **SEXTON** FINANCIAL SECRETARY Deb Gardner Lance Sandner **PASTOR EMERITUS** The Rev. Clark W. Kuntz II

2023 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Krystina Adams Christian Education	Annette Frazza Worship and Music	Kim Roth President Christian Education
Mark Bateman Stewardship	Lori Kerper Evangelism	Matthew Sekol Secretary Finance
Mikayla Ninos Boyer Youth Ministry	Cindy Kocher Social Ministry	Megan Smith Youth Ministry
Doug Daniel Property	Tim Moore Vice President Finance	Glenn Wampole Property Mutual Ministry

CONTACT INFORMATION

New membership, baptisms, funerals, weddings, change of address, van requests, memorial sponsors, hospital admissions, facility rentals

Call the church office 610-767-7203

REGARDING	GARDING CONTACT	
A/V Committee	avteam@hopecherryville.org	-
Basket Committee	Kathryn Fogle	610-767-5095
Church Website	webmaster@hopecherryville.org	-
Confirmation	Jennifer Knouss	610-767-7203
Evangelism	Sharyn Kratzer	610-261-1277
Finance	Bill Lewis	610-442-5212
Girl Scouts	Karen Zimmerman	610-760-1887
Hope's Helping Hands	Leslie Daniel	610-767-7918
Memorial Garden	Church Office	610-767-7203
Mutual Ministry	Leslie Daniel	610-767-7918
Nursery School	Amy Krug	610-767-7203
Outreach / Soup	LeAnn Chandler	610-440-0341
Prayer Chain	Dolores Reenock	610-767-6698
Property	Charlie Kutzler	610-844-4342
SCS/Christian Ed	Allison Lockard Stephanie Maurer Shelbey Ziegler	610-216-5384 610-392-7857 610-262-9197
Senior Center	Karen Ferraina	610-767-2977
Social Ministry	Cindy Kocher	610-762-2389
Stewardship	Wayne Weidner	610-349-2654
VBS	Kathy Ziegler	610-262-9197
WELCA	Judy Dieter	610-767-9170
Women of Faith	Jane Meyers	484-934-6031
Worship Arts	Karen Lockard	610-216-9679
Worship & Music	Janet Filchner	610-262-5215
Youth Group	Allison Lockard	610-216-5384



Follow us on Facebook—HopeCherryville



People of Hope: working together, with God, to love and serve others...



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	L Church Office Closed New Year's Day	2 6:00pm Girl Scouts - Lower Level Rm 005	3 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Evangelism Meeting - Hanson Hall	9:00am Church Undecorating 6:00pm 2: Totoir Rehearsal 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - Hanson Hall 7:00pm Sr Choir Rehearsal		6 Epiphany
Installation of Council (Both Services) St.00am Worship 11:30am Worship 11:30am Youth Gathering Getting Ready Meeting	6:00pm Finance Committee 6:00pm Meeting 7:00pm Congregational Council Meeting	6:00pm Girl Scouts - Lower Level Rn 005 6:30pm Girl Scouts Troop 8066 Lower Level Rm 004	9:00am Soup Group - Kuntz Hall 10 Kitchen 7:00pm Worship and Music 6: Meeting - Pastor's Office 7:	J. D. Obom Bible Study - Adult SS m 00pm Jr Choir Rehearsal 00pm Sr Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 Start of First Holy Communion Classes Start of First Holy Communion 9:15am Worship & Holy Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Confirmation Class 10:30am Worship & Holy Communion	tin L. King, Jr. Day pm Friendship Dance - z Hall (set-up 6 pm)	116 10:00am Story Weavers - Adult SS Rm 6:00pm Girl Scouts - Lower Level Rm 005 6:30pm Women of Faith Meet- ing - Hanson Hall	1.7 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm S0th Anniversary Com- mittee Meeting - Kuntz Hall	118 10:00am Bible Study - Adult SS Rm Rm 6:00pm Jr Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm 4H Club Meeting - Hanson Hall 7:00pm Sr Choir Rehearsal	19	20 6:00pm Youth Group Ice Skat- ing (Van Use)
2.1 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Confirmation Class 10:30am Worship	22	23 9:00am Nursery School Gym 9:00am Nursery School Gym Day - Kuntz Hall 6:00pm Gir Scouts - Lower Level Rm 005 6:30pm Gir Scouts Troop 8066 - Lower Level Rm 004	24 9:00am Nursery School Gym Day - Kuntz Hall 1:00pm Book Buddies (Zoom Only)	10:00am Bible Study - Adult SS 10:00am Bible Study - Adult SS Rm 6:00pm Jr Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Sr Choir Rehearsal	26	27 10:00am Temp Hold - Kuntz Hall
28 8:00am Worship & Holy Communion 8:00am Sunday School & Confirmation Class 10:30am Worship & Holy Communion	29	30 6:00pm Girl Scouts - Lower Level Rm 005	3.1 10:00am Staff Meeting	1		೯

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 30					
	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$252,235.16	\$148,738.04	\$167,705.65	\$94,136.96	\$5,907.23
Income - November	23,587.80	2,128.41	(1,752.73)	(1,866.49)	1,003.00
Income - JanOct.	323,066.78	26,676.37	14,202.86	3,505.97	6,124.62
Total Income	346,654.58	28,804.78	12,450.13	1,639.48	7,127.62
Expenses - November	20,563.57	7,097.41	764.70	-	2,243.00
Expenses - JanOct.	330,980.83	18,270.20	11,358.04	4,400.00	982.42
Total Expenses	351,544.40	25,367.61	12,122.74	4,400.00	3,225.42
Net Income	(4,889.82)	3,437.17	327.39	(2,760.52)	3,902.20
Net Special Appeals	-				
Balance End of November	\$247,345.34	\$152,175.21	\$168,033.04	\$91,376.44	\$9,809.43

SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of November by \$3,024.23, and for the year 2023, expenses exceeded income by \$4,889.82, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$247,345.34. Last year the net income for the same period was \$(13,727.16) with a balance of \$231,973.53.

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 Krystina Adams (communications@hopecherryville.org). Thank you.

Edition	<u>Article Deadline</u>	Collation Date
February	Monday, January 15	Thursday, January 25

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 can run longer.

SYNOD NEWS

The January 2024 issue of *Synod News* is available online. Visit http://nepasynod.org





^{**}The current income statement is posted in the narthex. **



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HOPE HOME NEWS Vol. LI No. 1 JANUARY 2024





Published Monthly by:

HOPE LUTHERAN ČHÚRCH

4131 Lehigh Drive, P.O. Box 1030 Cherryville, PA 18035 610-767-7203

hopecherryville.org
HopeCherryville

Worship 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday School at 9:15 AM

Church Office Hours 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM Mon – Fri