



Dear Friends at Hope,

*1 John 5:9-12 - Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning His Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

There are times when it's difficult to believe in God. We all experience days when we are upset, sad, or disappointed. In these times God still comes to us saying:

"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"  
(Matthew 11:28).

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

God enters all our human experiences with a word of invitation to draw nearer. This has been God's message to us for a long, long time. It's interesting, but true, when God "seems" distant, He is still reaching out to us. Next time you or your friend feels distant from God, invite them to worship with you. Offer a prayer to God and tell your friend you will pray for them. Our God is ready.

Yours in Jesus,

*Pastor Rich*

**LOOK FOR A WORSHIP SURVEY** that was sent to your email on Thursday, May 13th. We are seeking the input of our members and friends to serve the worship needs of all at Hope. Your input is important. If you haven't seen the survey, check your spam folder to see if it is there. Add "Hope Lutheran Church" to your contact list with the email: [info@hopelcs.org](mailto:info@hopelcs.org). If that does not solve the problem, please call our church office to make sure you get added to our email list. If you are receiving this weekly email you are on the list to receive surveys. Paper surveys will be available in the church bulletin for those who do not use email.

**CONCORDIA COLLEGE NEW YORK** will be closing at the end of the spring semester 2021. Concordia has been our East Coast Lutheran Church Missouri Synod college for over 100 years and many of their graduates have served as Pastors and teachers at Hope and at other congregations. The unexpected decision to close Concordia has left

many of the faculty and staff at Concordia with much needed financial assistance. A Concordia Care and Comfort Fund has been established to meet some of their financial needs as they transition to new jobs/careers. We will be having a door offering after today's service as well as on Sunday May 23 and 30 for this Fund. You can also contribute via your offering envelope by writing in Concordia Fund as a special offering. Hope has agreed to match up to \$1,000 the door offerings received. If you have any questions regarding this Fund, please talk to Tom Marks.

**WORSHIP LIVESTREAM:** Go to Hope's website at [www.hopelcs.org/news](http://www.hopelcs.org/news) and follow the instructions to worship via livestream on Facebook or watch on YouTube after noon on Monday after the service.

**STAFF CHANGES:** We have a new Administrative Assistant: Abigail Brothers. Abigail started May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are thankful to God for Carol Frehafer and Karen Buchanan who helped in our office, and to Julia Hutchins who continues to assist with our bulletins and newsletter while Abigail gets a handle on school related duties. Please pray that God will bring us the Organist-Music Director He wants for us. A search is underway. Many thanks to Sandy Chorba for leading us in worship through the end of May.

**FOOD MINISTRY UPDATE:** May 16<sup>th</sup> is Hope's first Sunday participating in a new food ministry. Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, members can bring wrapped sandwiches to our lobby for distribution to needy people in our area. Later in the morning, they will be picked up and distributed immediately to homeless and hungry people in our area. Want more information? Indicate "sandwiches" on your Fellowship Registration or contact Barbara Veil at 267-799-5944.

**MISSIONS:** The mission project for the school's chapel offerings for May is Choice One, a pregnancy center. In addition, the church's Mission Board is collecting new baby items for the new mothers. There are large gift bags in the narthex and school lobby for your baby related donations. You may always contribute to the chapel offering by writing "chapel offering-school" on your offering envelope.

**SAFE WORSHIP PRACTICES:** To facilitate a healthy and inviting environment during worship, we encourage all people to wear masks upon entering the church and to maintain social distance with others. Sanitizing stations are available at our entrances and at the entrance to our worship area. Details are printed in the Sunday bulletin and on our website [www.hopelcs.org](http://www.hopelcs.org). We recognize these procedures are an inconvenience, but we are grateful to hear God's Word, receive Holy Communion and to be considerate and loving towards other worshippers. Your health is important to us. We understand if you choose to delay your return to worship with us physically. You are welcome to worship online.

**DISCIPLESHIP 101** is an invitation to learn and follow Jesus Christ. Explore the basics of the Christian faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Topics include: The Salvation Plan, Baptism and Holy Communion, Prayer, the Bible and Sharing Your Faith. Those interested in First Communion, Adult Confirmation and Membership at Hope are welcome to attend. The seven-session class meets Sundays at 10:45 am in

Room 109. Join us to learn more about being a disciple. On May 16<sup>th</sup> the class is invited to meet with the Revelation Bible Study in Room 109.

**JOIN US JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> AS WE BID FAREWELL TO MARK SHOCKEY AND HIS FAMILY.** Mark has served us faithfully as our Organist and Music Director for the past 10 years. Please join us in the Activity Center as we extend God's blessing on all in their family, wish them well and enjoy some refreshments.

**BIBLE STUDIES AT HOPE:** No prior experience is expected for any of our Bible studies. New friends are always welcome:

**Sundays at 10:45 am**, in room 109, The book of Revelation, taught by Pastor Neagley.

**Sundays at 7 pm** by Zoom: Thessalonians, taught by Pastor Rich Mokry.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84090410661?pwd=emxKMTRpUEZ6dTJkWXliRTk2dEpaQT09\\_Meeting ID: 840 9041 0661 Password: 2YS6bk](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84090410661?pwd=emxKMTRpUEZ6dTJkWXliRTk2dEpaQT09_Meeting+ID%3A84090410661+Password%3A2YS6bk) [Click here for Bible Study notes attachment.](#)

**Wednesdays at 6:30 pm** by Zoom: Our Women's Bible Study is studying Malachi. Contact Julia Hutchins at [jhutchins@hopelcs.org](mailto:jhutchins@hopelcs.org) for more information.

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS AND ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANTS ARE NEEDED.** This is a service to God and His people here at Hope. Communion Assistants help distribute the communion elements. Altar Guild member prepare and clean the communion trays and set up the altar. Men and women are needed for both, but you can do one or the other. Training will be provided and you can serve on a rotating basis along with others. Interested? Call Glenn Holmes at 215-932-9754 or email [holmesgbman@gmail.com](mailto:holmesgbman@gmail.com)

**HOW TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION?** We are offering Holy Communion weekly at each worship service. If you cannot attend worship, please call the church office (215-946-3467) to schedule a time to receive it here at church, privately, or at your home. Pastor Rich is very happy to share this faith strengthening gift with you.

**WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU.** You can call Pastor Rich (215-584-1262), our church office (215-946-3467), or email us at [prayerchain@hopelcs.org](mailto:prayerchain@hopelcs.org). We have a team of people who are committed to bring your petitions and requests before our Lord.

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR RADIO, PODCAST, AND DEVOTIONALS.** The Lutheran Hour Ministries broadcasts sermons on Sundays at 7 am on several local radio stations including 107.3 FM, 97.1 FM, and 91.7 FM. See their website for more radio listings, podcasts, and daily devotionals at [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org).

#### **FROM OUR FINANCIAL OFFICE**

Your regular offerings help us greatly to continue our ongoing ministry at Hope. Mail your offerings to Hope Lutheran Church, 2600 Haines Road, Levittown, PA 19055.

Visit our Website at <https://hopelcs.org/giving/online-giving>.

Use Bill Pay options with your local bank for one-time or recurring offerings. They pay the postage.

If you have not picked up your 2021 offering envelopes and would like to have them, please contact the Hope office at 215-697-3467 or email us at [finance@hopelcs.org](mailto:finance@hopelcs.org)

## **THIS WEEK AT HOPE**

The full church calendar may be found on the web at [www.HopeLCS.org](http://www.HopeLCS.org)

<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 am	<b>Worship: In Person and Livestream</b>	Sanctuary <a href="http://www.hopelcs.org/news">www.hopelcs.org/news</a>
	10:45 am	<b>Bible Study: Revelation</b>	Room 109
	10:45 am	<b>Discipleship 101 meets with Revelation Bible Study</b>	Room 109
	11:45 am	<b>AA at Hope</b>	Dufendach Center
	7:00 pm	<b>Bible Study: Thessalonians</b>	Zoom
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30 pm	<b>Women's Bible Study</b>	Zoom
<b>Thursday</b>	3:45 pm	<b>Confirmation</b>	Room 102
	7:00 pm	<b>Celebrate Recovery</b>	Room 108
<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 am	<b>Worship: In Person and Livestream</b>	Sanctuary <a href="http://www.hopelcs.org/news">www.hopelcs.org/news</a>
	10:45 am	<b>Bible Study: Revelation</b>	Room 109
	10:45 am	<b>Discipleship 101</b>	Room 102
	11:45 am	<b>AA at Hope</b>	Dufendach Center
	7:00 pm	<b>Bible Study: Thessalonians</b>	Zoom