

Dear Friends at Hope,

*Psalm 50:3, 14-15 - Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest... Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.*

Psalm 50 is not a gentle psalm. God comes to His people and speaks. He rescues. He calls for justice, and He uses us to be His agents. The Lord calls on us to offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and prayer. "Call upon Me in the day of trouble," God says, "I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." He is the God who delivers and saves, and in that act of deliverance, He is glorified.

As God chooses not to be silent, neither should we. Jesus has come. His victory over death and the grave needs to be declared for all to hear. Deliverance and salvation is here through faith in Jesus.

Yours in Jesus,

Pastor Rich

**WELCOME DEACON PHIL TWIETMEYER** who will be leading us in worship on Sunday. As Deacon, Phil serves on our Elder Board, assists in our praise band and assists in worship. May the Lord bless him as shares God's Good News with us.

**PASTOR RICH** is away on vacation this week and will return on Friday. If you have a pastoral need please call Elder Rich Gruenhagen at 215-444-6126. The Elders stand ready to assist.

**GEARING UP:** This fall we are launching several new ministries for our members and friends at Hope! Please read about them below.

### **Help Needed!**

Calling all men and women, boys and girls, youth and teens **tomorrow**, August 21. Hope Lutheran School teachers will need help getting additional desks and chairs from storage to their classrooms. Can you help out? Meet us at the school by 10 am and help us get the classrooms set up for the new school year!

### **Blessing of the Backpacks & Called Teacher Installation of Maryann Puls**

On Sunday, August 29, at the 9:30 am worship service, we will officially open our 2021-2022 school year with the Blessing of the Backpacks for all children and teens and briefcases for adults, as well as the blessing and re-dedication of the faculty and staff members. A very special addition to this Sunday is the Installation of Maryann Puls as our Called Lutheran School Teacher! We look forward to welcoming many of our school friends and families as well as our own church members, as we celebrate our Lutheran School community.

### **Help Our Veterans on Sock Sunday**

On September 11 the local Hope for Veterans organization is holding their annual day called "Stand Down for Homeless Veterans." They will provide housing assistance, clothing, medical, dental and vision care, and more.

Hope will be collecting new socks for these veterans from now through Sunday, September 5. Collection bags are in the narthex and school lobby. For more information, call Marjie Rodkey (215-949-1695).

### **Church and Sunday School Rally Day!**

Many of us remember the 'old fashioned' Sunday School Rally days of years gone by. You are invited to help us 'resurrect' that great fellowship event here at Hope. On Sunday, September 12, Sunday School and Adult Bible classes will resume. Parents please pick up a Sunday School registration form at the Welcome Center today, fill it out, put it in the box provided, and take one for your friends and neighbors. All kids are welcome at Sunday School! Immediately following Sunday School and Bible Class on the 12th, everyone is invited to stay for a 'last of the summer' fellowship lunch.

If you would like to help with the planning and implementing of this event, please contact Claire and Rich Neagley ([dcsneagley@hopelcs.org](mailto:dcsneagley@hopelcs.org)) at your earliest convenience. We could use help with planning the menu, manning the grills, and running activities for the kids of all ages.

**We are planning to reopen our nursery on Sunday mornings!** We would like to hire a paid attendant and enlist volunteers who may work on a rotating schedule. We're hoping to livestream our service to the nursery for the benefit of our worker and our volunteers. The paid position is for two hours on Sunday mornings. Please share this with your friends! Indicate "Nursery" on your Record of Fellowship or contact Beth Marks (215-279-2950) if you are interested in this ministry!

### **TIME TO THINK ABOUT OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD!**

Hope will be collecting gift-filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, the week of November 15-22. Empty shoeboxes will be available in the narthex in the fall.

Right now, you may want to take advantage of back-to-school bargains. Gift suggestions are school supplies, such as pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks, as well as non-liquid hygiene items, such as toothbrushes, bar soap, washcloth, etc. You can choose a boy or girl (ages 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14) to receive your shoebox.

For more gift suggestions or if you have any questions, please call Marjie Rodkey (215-949-1695).

**FOOD MINISTRY UPDATE:** On August 15<sup>th</sup> over 50 sandwiches were collected! Thank you to everyone who participated! Each 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month members may bring individually wrapped sandwiches to our lobby for distribution to needy people in our area. Later in the morning, they are picked up and distributed immediately to homeless and hungry people in our area. Our next sandwich collection date will be next Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Barbara Veil at 267-799-5944.

**CONSTRUCTION COMING SOON** to Hope's Narthex entrance area heading towards the offices. All praise to God, we are Fulfilling the Mission of Hope by making some much needed renovations which will assist people who are trying to get into the church! We are so excited about this project. Be on the lookout as we proceed in the coming weeks!

**OUR OUTDOOR SIGN** needs a committed volunteer to change the message on a bi-weekly basis. The letters and key will be provided as well as the message to be displayed. Changing out the letters on the sign helps us to reach people in our community, especially the ones who

drive by frequently! If you have an interest in serving in this ministry indicate “church sign” on your record of fellowship or contact the church secretary at [info@hopelcs.org](mailto:info@hopelcs.org).

**THE WOMEN’S AFTERNOON** Bible Study will start up on Wednesday, September 12, at 1:00pm in room 102. Meetings will be held monthly. They will continue with their study, “God Loves Moms,” picking up in chapter 6, which will be about Ruth. If you do not have a book to follow along with, there are extras available! Please contact Beth Marks with any questions at 215-757-1702.

**THE PARABLES** is an Online Bible Study, taught by Pastor Rich which will be starting Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We will take a closer look at several parables. No prior experienced is needed to take this class. Links in the weekly newsletter will allow for downloading a study guide and access to the online class. Invite your friends near and far!

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** begins September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am in Room 109. Come explore the book of Revelation, taught by Pastor Rich Neagley. All are welcome and no prior Bible study experience is needed!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN** begins September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am. All children Preschool 4 through Grade 6 are welcome. Parents should register their children as soon as possible! We are also looking for teachers who can work on a rotating schedule. Please indicate “Sunday School” on the Record of Fellowship or contact Karen Barton at 610-202-9238 for more information.

**TECH MINISTRY TEAM:** Ten people attended an organizational meeting where we talked about several ways we can use technology to honor God and His people. The following areas were identified: Web Design and Maintenance, Worship Audio and Visual, On-line worship, Social Media and Photography. There will be hands-on training for anyone interested in learning about any of these areas. Volunteers can schedule their time and not be “on call” every Sunday. Interested? Indicate “Tech Ministry” on your Record of Fellowship or contact Josh Smith at [joshua.owen.smith@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.owen.smith@gmail.com).

**GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:** Do you have a heart for gardening or flowers? We need volunteers to help us beautify and maintain our outdoor plant life and grounds. If you have an interest to serve in this way, please indicate “Landscaping” on your Record of Fellowship or contact Karen Barton at (215-262-6283).

**CONFIRMATION** is a two-year program of instruction leading to that time when students make their personal confession of faith in Christ as their Lord and Savior. Students in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and older are welcome to attend. The families involved will meet to choose the best class time. Classes meet during the school year. Interested? Please indicate “Confirmation” on the Record of Fellowship or contact the Church Office at 215-946-3467.

**WORSHIP LIVESTREAM:** Go to Hope’s website at [www.hopelcs.org/news](http://www.hopelcs.org/news) and follow the instructions to worship livestream on Facebook. You can also access worship services on YouTube. Sunday worship services are posted after noon on Mondays.

**SAFE WORSHIP PRACTICES REVISED: We are glad you are here.** As COVID conditions improve, we at Hope are continuing to provide a safe and worshipful environment. Sanitizing stations are still available in the narthex and lobby. We are no longer “encouraging” masks, but they may be worn by those who choose to. Offering plates remain at the rear of the sanctuary for offerings and Record of Fellowship slips. We will continue, for the time being, to utilize continuous distribution of Holy Communion. Following the service, please introduce yourself to one another and enjoy some refreshments outside of the worship area.

**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 7am on several local station including 107.3FM, 97.1FM, and 91.7FM. 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 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. The bank will pay the postage.

#### **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</b>	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	<b>Worship: Livestream</b>	<a href="http://www.hopelcs.org/news">www.hopelcs.org/news</a>
	11:45 am	<b>AA at Hope</b>	Outside
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 pm	<b>Celebrate Recovery</b>	Room 108
<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 am	<b>Backpack Sunday: In Person</b>	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	<b>Installation of Maryann Puls</b>	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	<b>Backpack Sunday &amp; Installation: Livestream</b>	<a href="http://www.hopelcs.org/news">www.hopelcs.org/news</a>
	11:45 am	<b>AA at Hope</b>	Outside

