

Dear Friends at Hope,

Do you ever feel alone? As people of faith we can sometimes feel alone. But God has a special word for us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1–2

We are not alone. There is a cloud of witnesses who are our cheerleaders and companions who are praying for us. Some of these companions are in heaven. Some are here at Hope. There are other Christians in different places, too, who are our brothers and sisters in the faith. Once we are in Christ, we are never alone. We have God with us, and we have a cloud of witnesses who are beside us.

The journey of faith and sharing the Good News of Jesus is not always easy, but we are not alone.

Yours in Jesus,

Pastor Rich

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.

GEARING UP: This fall we are launching several new ministries for our members and friends at Hope.

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, 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) 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: Each 3rd Sunday of the month members may bring individually wrapped sandwiches to our lobby. 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 19th. For more information, contact Barbara Veil at 267-799-5944.

CONSTRUCTION COMING SOON to Hope's Narthex. Improving the handicapped ramp will require some reconstruction of the stairway area. 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.

THE WOMEN'S AFTERNOON Bible Study will start up on Wednesday, **September 15**, 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 12th 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 12th 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 12th 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.

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 7th 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 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. 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.

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

Sunday	9:30 am	Backpack Sunday: In Person	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Installation of Maryann Puls	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Backpack Sunday & Installation: Livestream	www.hopelcs.org/news
	11:45 am	AA at Hope	Outside
Tuesday	9:00 am	First Day Of School 2021-2022 & Chapel	Sanctuary
Thursday	7:00 pm	Celebrate Recovery	Room 108
Sunday	9:30 am	Worship: In Person	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Worship: Livestream	www.hopelcs.org/news
	11:45 am	AA at Hope	Outside