

Dear Friends at Hope,

Lack of faith blocks us. It robs us of trusting in God to help us and to help others. When you take a look at the Gospel of Mark in particular, faith is absolutely crucial. When faith is absent, little good happens. When faith is present, doors are opened and people are blessed.

In Mark 9 a father questioned Jesus if He might be able to heal his son. Jesus said to the man, "All things are possible for one who believes." Then the man cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:23, 24).

That man describes our predicament. We believe oftentimes, but sometimes our unbelief gets in the way. We need help. This is where our God comes to the rescue. God's Word and what we call the Sacraments, convey the gift of faith to us. That's one reason why worship is so, so important. In worship we find strength to believe in our Savior, Jesus.

Yours in Jesus,

*Pastor Rich Mokry*

**GUEST ORGANIST:** We extend a welcome back to William Riley who is playing the organ and leading us in worship today. Please be sure to greet William again this week and say "thank you" after the service.

**CONSTRUCTION IS HERE** in Hope's Narthex. Improving the handicapped ramp and installing a lift will require some reconstruction of the stairway area. Please be careful. All praise to God, we are Fulfilling the Mission of Hope by making much needed renovations which will assist people who are trying to get into the church! In addition, we will experience an upgrade to our audio system, and installation of video screens on either sides of the stained glass window. Thank you for your contributions to the Fulfilling the Mission of Hope Campaign.

**CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY!** Members and friends from Hope Church and School are invited to join in a special fellowship event today at 11:15am to kick off the beginning of our Sunday School year. Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided. Bring a dish to share. We will meet in the Dufendach Center.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL MEET IN ROOM 108 AT 10:45AM AND END EARLY FOR THE PICNIC.** Children meet in Room 108. Parents may pick up a Sunday School registration form at the Welcome Center, fill it out, put it in the box provided. All kids are welcome at Sunday School!

**CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION MEETS TODAY 10:45AM IN ROOM 102.** 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. Families will meet to learn about the program and choose the best class time. Classes meet during the school year. Interested? Join us today!

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** begins today 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!

**THE PARABLES** is an Online Bible Study, taught by Pastor Rich which will be starting today 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 are provided for downloading a study guide and to give access to the online class. Invite your friends near and far!

Study Guide PDF

[https://hopelcs.org/images/Teachings/Parables\\_Study.pdf](https://hopelcs.org/images/Teachings/Parables_Study.pdf)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73320428089?pwd=enAzMytjZFFTMGJwM2RDdkxyRTh1QT09>

**LUNCH BUNCH** will be meeting again soon! They will meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Garden of Eatin' for a time of fellowship and fun. The next meeting will be on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Please call Sandy Scott at 215-943-6094 so they can get an accurate head count or if you have any questions about joining!

**NURSERY TO OPEN SOON:** We are looking 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.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Barbara Veil at 267-799-5944.

**THE WOMEN'S AFTERNOON** Bible Study will start up this 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 the book, there are extras available! Please contact Beth Marks with any questions at 215-757-1702.

**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).

**RESULTS OF SOCK SUNDAY COLLECTION:** Thanks to your generosity, we delivered 88 pairs of socks to the Annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Additionally, with the grant received from Thrivent Financial's Action Team Program, we were able to purchase 77 sets of underwear. Thank you for caring for our veterans!

**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).

**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>
	10:45 am	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>	Room 109
	10:45 am	<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	Room 108
	10:45 am	<b>Confirmation Class Meeting</b>	Room 102
	11:15 am	<b>Rally Day Picnic</b>	Dufendach Center
	11:45 am	<b>AA at Hope</b>	Outside
	7:00 pm	<b>The Parables Bible Study</b>	Zoom
<b>Monday</b>	7:15 pm	<b>Church Council</b>	Room 109
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00 pm	<b>Elder's Meeting</b>	Room 102
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 pm	<b>Celebrate Recovery</b>	Room 108
<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>
	10:45 am	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>	Room 109
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