

Hope

CHANGES EVERYTHING

Dear Friends at Hope,

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And He (Jesus) said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And He said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." And going a little farther, He fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Remove this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will." (Mark 14:32-36)

I find it very difficult to write about this passage. My mind and heart stand in awe of Jesus' suffering—and of the great love that He has for us, to go through this for our sake. His humanity is on full display in this story. Jesus is fully aware of what's about to happen, and as with any human being, His body and soul are on edge. No wonder He prayed, "Remove this cup from Me." His suffering had already begun.

And there is something else in this passage. Jesus took His friends with Him to pray. Jesus didn't want to be alone as He struggled with what was to come.

This makes me think how important we are to one another. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to be close and pray together. Our faith in God is not a solitary experience. We are made to be together, especially in tough times. And so we come together to worship and pray.

Jesus walked in obedience all the way to the cross. We celebrate His sacrifice and His victory.

Together with you,
Pastor Rich

PRAISE GOD! We have been approved to receive a Director of Christian Education (DCE) Intern from Concordia University in Seward, NE. This is a one-year position. Many prayers have been offered up so we can expand our ministry to youth in our congregation and school. Miss Faith Armor will be joining our team sometime in July. Please pray for this big transition in her life and ours. If you know of an apartment available, please contact Beth Marks at 215-757-1702.

ALL SCHOOL SING is this **Sunday**, April 3! The children from Hope Lutheran School will be performing at 9:30 am. Please come and join us in supporting our young talent.

TULIP ORDERS are due this Sunday, April 3! Make sure that you get your orders in as soon as possible if you plan to purchase Easter flowers.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN SPRING COLLECTION, April 1 – 12, 2022:

Clothing for all seasons and sizes, purses, scarves, belts, linens, bedding, shoes, curtains, table cloths, soft toys, fabrics, sewing supplies, and non-electric medical equipment in clean and good condition will be collected in the school lobby from Friday, April 1 through Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

“Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields.” Mark 11:8

On Palm Sunday, April 10, the congregation will have the opportunity to place their donation of coats and jackets at the altar at the beginning of the service. After the service, the coats will be donated to the Orphan Grain Train as part of their spring collection.

Coats/jackets may also be purchased at local thrift stores at reasonable prices if you prefer to purchase on for donation.



In its Christian humanitarian ministry, Orphan Grain Train-Mid-Atlantic Branch collects these items for shipment and distribution to those places in the world, including in the United States, where the demonstrated need is greatest. This is an opportunity for you to be “stand-ins” for Jesus and to demonstrate His compassion and love to our struggling brothers and sisters wherever they may be. Gifts of cash or checks payable to OGT-MAB may be given as worship offerings during Sunday morning and Wednesday evening worship services or given and designated for OGT-MAB to office personnel during weekdays.

Call Rich Gruenhagen at 215-444-6126 or email him at margeg8577@gmail.com with questions about this collection or special pick-up.

UKRAINIAN AID: Our brothers and sisters in Ukraine are facing a crisis. Their homeland is being invaded, and wartime is causing life-threatening dangers. More than three million are fleeing their homeland to seek safety. You can help provide food, shelter, and medical supplies by donating at Hope Lutheran Church. We are partnering with Lutheran World Relief.

- You can make donations directly to Lutheran World Relief at <https://donate.lwr.org>. A service charge will be added.
- You can also make payments to Hope Lutheran Church with Ukrainian Aid in the memo line.
- For those who have church offering envelopes, use the “Special & Other” portion and mark it Ukraine.

We will be receiving funds for Ukrainian Aid through April 17. Because of the immediate need, we will send our first payment on March 21 and then later. Let’s all pray for peace and that God’s people will deliver practical help to all who stand in need.

DEDICATION APRIL 3: This Sunday, on April 3, we will have a special worship celebration to dedicate the latest achievements of our Fulfilling the Mission Hope campaign. We will dedicate our new Audio and Video systems as well as the new chair lift in our Narthex. Worship will be extra special, and refreshments will follow. Bring your friends!

MEN'S SOFTBALL IS STARTING UP AGAIN! Any man 16 years of age or older is invited to join Hope's softball team. Practice games will begin in mid-April, but the season will start on Tuesday, May 3. The cost to compete will be divided by the number of players we get; the cost is estimated to be in the \$50-70 range per person. Contact Curt Fuller with any questions about this fellowship opportunity! Curt can be reached at 267-580-0129 or via email at RNMICN1@gmail.com

CONVENTION DELEGATE: Are you interested in learning more about our network of Lutheran churches in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)? Come to the Eastern District Convention held in Buffalo, NY June 17 and 18. Lodging and all expenses are already paid for. Travel with Pastor Rich Thursday evening, June 16, and return Saturday the 19. Learn about the exciting ministry of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Contact Pastor Rich for more information. 215-946-3467 Ext 101.

LENT: Join us for Midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays at 7 pm. Lent is a 40-day season of preparation for Easter Sunday. During this time, we examine our sinful human situation and our need for a savior. People often "fast" during this season, either giving up something special (self-denial) or taking on something good (service and devotion). This year's Lenten theme is ***You Meant It For Evil, But God Meant It For Good***. Join us during these special evening services to see how bad experiences can be occasions for God to bring hope and reconciliation.

SAFE WORSHIP PRACTICES UPDATED ONCE AGAIN: It is our desire to provide a safe environment so members and friends can worship the Lord. Sanitizing stations are available in the Narthex and lobby. Masks may be worn by those who wish. Offering plates are placed 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. We remember David, who said, "I was glad when they said to me, let us go the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1) Following the service, please introduce yourselves to one another and enjoy some refreshments outside of the worship area.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR COKE AND SPRITE bottle caps, as well as the 12 pack soda box codes for Hope Lutheran School! We collect these bottle caps and trade them in to raise support. You can leave bags of collected caps with the secretary at the front office. Thank you for supporting Hope!

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

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 bringing your petitions and requests before our Lord.

HOW TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION: We are offering Holy Communion at all Sunday worship services. If you cannot attend worship, please call the church office at 215-946-3467 to schedule a time to receive it here at church, privately, or at your home.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL BIBLE STUDY: Explore how Daniel was a victim of the sins of others and his attempts to remain faithful in a foreign land. Taught by Pastor Rich. No prior experience is needed to take this class. Follow links to download free study materials and meet Sundays at 7 pm online by Zoom.



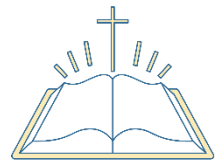
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73320428089?pwd=enAzMytjZFFTMGJwM2RDdkxyRTh1QT09>
Study Guide PDF <https://hopelcs.org/images/Teachings/Daniel Bible Study.pdf>

Another way to download the study guide is to go to Hope's website, www.hopelcs.org/education, and click on "Daniel study guide." To join the meeting, you can open the Zoom app and click on "Join Meeting" using the following information:

Meeting ID: 733 2042 8089

Passcode: 6wU4nc

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Join in to take "A LONGER LOOK AT THE LESSONS" (the Sunday readings). Deepen your understanding of Scripture and how to apply your faith throughout the week. We will meet at 10:45 am in Room 109. The class will be taught by Deacon Phil Twietmeyer.



GROWING IN FAITH: At 10:45 am, join us for an 8-session class taught by Pastor Rich called "The Discipleship Journey." Learn about the life of faith, following Jesus in today's world, the Bible, prayer, exploring ways you can serve Jesus, ministry, and membership at Hope.

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 entire church calendar may be found on the web at www.HopeLCS.org.

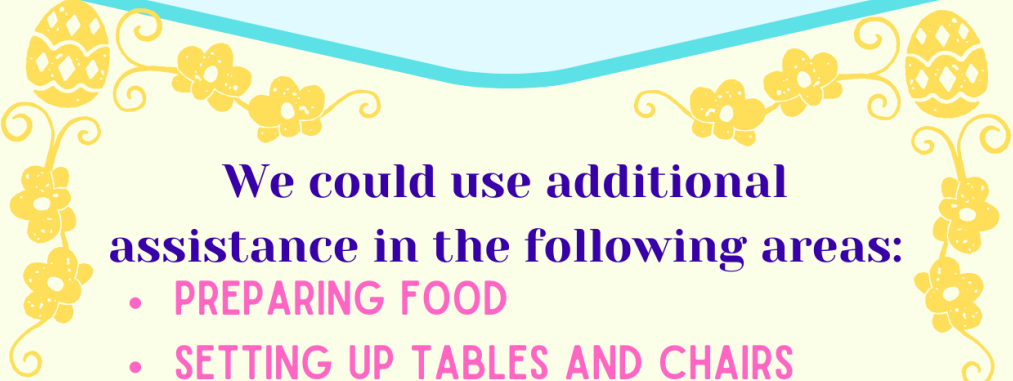
Sunday	9:30 am	Worship: In Person	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Worship: Livestream	www.hopelcs.org/news
	10:45 am	Bible Class-A Longer Look at the Lessons	Room 109
	10:45 am	Discipleship Journey: New Members' Class	Room 102
	10:45 am	Children's Sunday School	Room 108
	11:45 am	AA at Hope	Dufendach Center
	7:00 pm	Bible Study: The Book of Daniel	Zoom
Tuesday	4:00 pm	Confirmation	Room 102

Wednesday	6:30 pm	Girl Scouts	Dufendach Center
	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Service	Sanctuary
Thursday	7:00 pm	Celebrate Recovery	Room 108
Sunday	9:30 am	Palm Sunday Worship: In Person	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Palm Sunday Worship: Livestream	www.hopelcs.org/news
	10:45 am	Bible Class-A Longer Look at the Lessons	Room 109
	10:45 am	Discipleship Journey: New Members' Class	Room 102
	10:45 am	Children's Sunday School	Room 108
	11:45 am	AA at Hope	Dufendach Center
	7:00 pm	Bible Study: The Book of Daniel	Zoom



Easter Breakfast

CAN YOU HELP US OUT?



We could use additional assistance in the following areas:

- **PREPARING FOOD**
- **SETTING UP TABLES AND CHAIRS**
- **SETTING UP A HOT BEVERAGE TABLE**
- **PICKING UP A BALLOON ORDER**
- **CLEANING UP AFTER THE BREAKFAST**
- **PUTTING AWAY THE TABLES AND CHAIRS**

Set up day will be on Saturday, April 16 between 10 a.m. and approximately 1:30 p.m.

Clean-up will begin after breakfast on Sunday at 11 a.m.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE ABLE TO HELP...

We'll see you there!

Contact Eileen Durnin if you can help!
eurogirl@verizon.net or (267) 795-8297