



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR WESLEY: A Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.”

He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire.”

Matthew 15:22, 24–28.

I’ve been skiing since I was 9 years old. In that time, I’ve picked up a lot of habits, some good, and some bad. One of the bad habits I had early in my skiing was going to the side of the run when it was too steep. Everywhere that I skied before, the side of the run was ungroomed and full of unpacked snow, so it was easier to slow down. One day, when I was skiing in Western Pennsylvania, my Dad warned me not to ski on the side of the run. I ignored him, because what he said conflicted with my experience. When I tried to ski on the side of one particular run, I found it was all ice. I lost control and nearly crashed into a tree!

There are a lot of times when we might feel conflicted with God’s Word. We have experiences that might be different from what the Bible seems to say to us. We might not understand what our God plans for us.

When the Canaanite woman in Matthew encountered a difficult Word from Jesus, she did not try to justify herself or change what Jesus said. Her response was remarkable: **“Yes, Lord.”** She trusted Jesus, even in a time when trusting him was difficult. Even when His words seemed to conflict with her needs. The Canaanite woman trusted in Jesus because she knew the promise that He was sent to accomplish was much bigger than her.

So what about Israel? What about their lost sheep? Look at the words of St. Paul: **“For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so [the lost sheep of Israel] too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy.”** (Romans 11:29-31) This mercy through Jesus is always God’s message for *all* of us.

Thank you, Lord, for your Word of mercy for us. Amen

APPOINTMENTS WITH PASTOR WESLEY FOR PASTORAL CARE NEEDS: Pastor Wesley’s current office hours are as follows:

Sunday: 12:00 – 5:00 PM

Monday: 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Tuesday: 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Thursday: 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Please note that Pastor Wesley’s office hours are subject to change depending on his weekly schedule and/or the needs of the congregation. If you would like to book an appointment with

Pastor Wesley, please do so by visiting the following link:

<https://calendar.app.google/mkiMjBcq6cZgRvaC9> If you wish to meet with Pastor Wesley outside of the office hours provided, please contact Hope's office directly at 215-946-3467.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR AND MRS. NEAGLEY: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. We want to thank you for the kind words and gift given last Sunday. I have enjoyed serving you through Word and Sacrament these past years. You are in our thoughts and prayers as you work together with Pastor Wesley and Pastor Phil to strengthen and grow the church and the school. Blessings always, Pastor Neagley and Claire

BLESSINGS OF THE BACKPACKS: Please join us on Sunday, August 30th, at 9:30 AM (during worship) for Blessing of the Backpacks and Staff Installation. If you choose to attend this wonderful event, **please make sure your students bring their own backpacks to be blessed**. After worship, students may visit their classrooms and drop off any supplies they have for the 2026-2027 school year. Afterwards, we will have a luncheon in the gym for parents and students. If the weather permits, children may also play on the playground. We hope to see you there!

NEW LSB HYMNAL ORIENTATION: Our new hymnals have arrived! Our time together in church is the center of our Christian community, so let's join together to learn about the new resources that will enrich our worship. Join Pastor Wesley for a time of fellowship and discussion with the new hymnals Sunday, August 16th at 5:00 PM.

HYMNAL SPONSORSHIP CAMPAIGN: *Be Part of a New Chapter in the Life of Our Church* – As we refresh our sanctuary and prepare to welcome a new pastor, we invite you to sponsor a hymnal for our pews. Hymnals may be dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one. In the upcoming weeks, more information will be available. Questions please call, text, or see Claire Durkin 215-499-6527.

WORK DAY: Get together with fellow members of our community to do light cleanup work (sweeping, mopping, etc.) for our school and church every **third Saturday of the month**. For more information or to sign up contact **Bill Durnin by email durninbill0@gmail.com or call 267-393-2297**.

SAVE THE DATE – LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH: Please join us for our Family Sunday service! We will be having them the last Sunday of each month, unless otherwise noted. Please consider joining us for the service and dinner in the narthex at 6:00 PM. See the flyer at the end of the bulletin.

STITCHERS OF HOPE: If you love to crochet or would like to learn, please feel free to join us for fellowship on Saturdays from 2-4pm in the Church Narthex. Park in the front parking lot off Haines Road and we are right inside the double red doors. We hope to see some new faces!

IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE? Pastor Wesley Johnson (215-946-3467) and Pastor Phil Twietmeyer (267-738-8103) are available for your pastoral needs. Private confession and absolution are available. Contact Pastor Wesley or Pastor Phil for an appointment.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY: Join us on Sunday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for a Bible study using CPH's book, *One God, many gods: A Study of World Religions* by Adam Francisco, taught by Pastor James Eckert of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Croydon. Join us from the comfort of your home and enjoy the fun fellowship. Pastor Eckert will send emails to everyone containing pages from the book with additional material from other sources. These are free for participants, however, please send your email address to Pastor Eckert at jaestm96@aol.com to receive your materials.

No prior Bible study experience is necessary. Use the following links:

Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82028685443?pwd=UWc0VWdFOE91MWgrTHNEbnJVOXNYQT09>

Another way to join the meeting is to open the Zoom app and click on "Join Meeting" and use the following information: **Meeting ID:** 820 868 5443 **Passcode:** 901730

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Join in and take a look at "A Study of the Apostle's Creed" after the worship service in Room 109 with Pastor Phil. Deepen your understanding and how to apply your faith throughout the week.



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.

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. Use Bill Pay options with your local bank for one-time or recurring offerings. The bank will pay the postage. Online giving options are available via PayPal by visiting our website at <https://hopelcs.org/giving/online-giving>, or by using the QR code.



THIS WEEK AT HOPE:

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

Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday Worship Service	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Sunday Worship: Livestream	www.hopelcs.org/news
	10:45 am	Adult Bible Study	Room 109
	11:00 am	Sunday School	
	11:45 am	AA at Hope	Dufendach Center
	7:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study	

	<u>This Sunday</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Reader	Harry Butler	Tom Schmidt
Communion Assistants	Tom Marks and Doug Puls	Chris Moss and Tom Schmidt
Acolyte	Addy Schoettle	Caitlyn Cook

Upcoming Events:

August:

- Sunday, August 16 – New Hymnal Orientation 5:00 PM
- Saturday, August 22 – Back to School Block Party 4:00 PM
- Saturday, August 29 – Prayer Walk Around the School 11:00 AM
- Sunday, August 30 – Blessing of the Backpacks during worship 9:30 AM with Luncheon to follow and Family Sunday 6:00 PM

September:

- Wednesday, September 9 – Women's Bible Study 1:00 – 2:30 PM
- Saturday, September 12 – Back to School Picnic & Bonfire 6:30 PM
- Sunday, September 13 – Sunday School Kickoff 11:00 AM
- Sunday, September 20 – Women's Prayer Partner Lunch 11:00 AM
- Sunday, September 27 – Family Sunday 6:00 PM

October:

- Wednesday, October 14 – Women's Bible Study 1:00 – 2:30 PM
- Friday, October 16 – Bake Off 6:30 PM
- Saturday, October 24 – Fall Vendor Fair 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- Sunday, October 25 – Family Sunday 6:00 PM

Operation Christmas Child Collection Bin

**We will also have our annual collection of gift-filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child the week of November 16 – 22. Empty shoeboxes will be available in the Narthex starting October 5.*

In the narthex, you'll find a bin where we're collecting donations for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, which will be packed this fall by Sunday School. Each month, we'll highlight a different category of items from the full donation list, but you're welcome to contribute any approved items at any time.

Below, you'll find both the items we are focusing on for August and September, and a list of items we are unable to accept.

August: Monthly Focus – School Supplies

- Pens
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Pencil Bags
- Crayons
- Markers



September: Monthly Focus – Miscellaneous

- Puzzles
- Play-Doh
- Activity Books & Coloring Books
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Sunglasses
- Socks

DO NOT INCLUDE:

- soap; candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Scan the QR code to view the full list of accepted items on the Operation Christmas Child Website. The full list is also posted in the narthex.

Family Sunday

*How God Connect with
Our Everyday Lives*



**Last Sunday
of Every
Month at**

6:00 P.M.

(Exception for holiday
weekends when it will
be the Sunday before
the holiday weekend)



**August - The
Struggle is Real**

**September - When
It Rains It Pours**

**October -
Consider What Joy**



What to Expect?

**Dinner, Activities,
Scripture, Songs,
Time Spent with
Family**



Questions?

Email Faith Armer at
farmer@hopelc.org or
call the office
215.946.3467

***You're
invited!***

