



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR WESLEY: Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

—Matthew 16:22-25

I call it foot-in-mouth syndrome. It’s what happens when you realize you should have stayed silent only *after* hearing your words coming out of your mouth.

Peter had foot-in-mouth syndrome. He could probably have definitively diagnosed himself about the time Jesus told him: **“Get behind me, Satan!”** That’s not what you’d want to hear from the Son of God.

When Peter opened his mouth to rebuke Jesus, he doubtlessly meant the best. What went wrong? Jesus tells him: **“you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but the things of men.... If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself...”**

What does it mean to deny yourself? I imagine that when Jesus told his disciples – including Peter – what would happen to Him, all of Peter’s life experience, all of Peter’s love for his teacher, all of Peter’s understanding of the Messiah, all of this was pushing Peter to open his mouth and rebuke Jesus. We wouldn’t normally think of this as selfish. But, even if he didn’t know it, Peter was limiting what Jesus could do to his own expectations – there was only so much that Peter could imagine that Jesus would do, and dying and rising again was not in Peter’s imagination. How often do we limit God to our own experiences? How often does our own foot-in-mouth syndrome keep us from His promises?

Maybe far more than we’d like to admit. But Jesus could and would do far more than Peter could imagine. Jesus would die, just as He said, but He would rise to life again, just as He said. Despite Peter’s foot-in-mouth syndrome, Jesus would do what Peter could never imagine for him and for the whole world – including us!

Lord, help us to trust you beyond the limits of our imaginations. 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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: The Women's Monthly Bible Study **will resume on Tuesday, September 8th at 1:00 PM.** Every month thereafter, the Women's Bible Study will be the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1:00 PM. We will meet in the conference room. Questions contact Beth Marks 215-279-2950.

A NOTE FROM MISS FAITH: By now, many of you have heard that I have accepted a Call to Woodbury Lutheran Church in Woodbury, Minnesota. My last day at Hope will be on August 31.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Director of Christian Education. I am so thankful for the opportunity to have begun my ministry at Hope. I am thankful for all those who have trusted and supported me along the way. So much of who I am as a DCE was shaped here through the people, experiences, and opportunities God provided.

Hope was my first Call, and that is something I will always treasure. Thank you for letting me be a part of your lives and for being a part of mine. I will carry the relationships, memories, and experiences from these years with me for a long time. I leave with gratitude for what God has allowed us to build together and confidence in what He will continue to do through the ministry of Hope. God is faithful, and I trust that what He has begun here will continue to grow and bear fruit in the years to come.

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!

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	Tom Marks	Rich Gruenhagen
Communion Assistants	Doug Puls and Harry Butler	Tom Schmidt and Rich Gruenhagen

Acolyte	Addy Schoettle	Caitlyn Cook
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Upcoming Events:

August:

- Sunday, August 30 – Blessing of the Backpacks during worship 9:30 AM with Luncheon to follow and Family Sunday 6:00 PM

September:

- Tuesday, September 8 – 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!*

