



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR WESLEY: If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
– Philippians 3:4–8.

There were few people more good than Saul in his own time. He was a man that stood out from his peers in the tribe of Benjamin. He seemed to be the most eager to do the kinds of things that would get him on the good side of God. Because to Saul, there were few people more good than he was.

It's curious that there are two Sauls in the Bible. I imagine that the description above could apply to both of them. Both Sauls hailed from the tribe of Benjamin. Both Sauls seemed to be the best of the Israelites in their own time. Both seemed very eager to get on the good side of God, whether by reserving goods and livestock for sacrifice (as with King Saul in the Old Testament) or by zealously defending the laws and traditions of the religious authorities (as with Saul the Pharisee in the New Testament).

Yet both Sauls learned (and one learned too late) that God isn't looking for works that would get you on His good side. God has enough goodness in Himself. He doesn't need your favors.

When Paul, formerly Saul the Pharisee, is listing his reason for confidence in the flesh, he's listing all his qualifications for being on God's good side. He's listing all the reasons why God should find him likable.

But listen to what Paul thinks of his likability now: **whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.** Paul found that He was not someone who could ever make himself likeable to God. But He was someone God loved anyway. Paul was someone for whom Jesus died. For that reason, Paul is someone whom we will see on the last day living with the God who loves him. Not because he got on the good side of God, but because God's good Son died and rose again for him.

That same good Son, Jesus Christ, died and rose again for you, too.

Lord, help us to be confident not in the flesh, but in Christ. Amen.

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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.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS: Pastor Phil will be conducting a new members class beginning Sunday, October 4th. The class will consist of six sessions on what we teach and believe as Lutherans, the history of our congregation, and the various ministries happening at Hope. The classes will be held at 11:00 AM after worship in the conference room. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Phil, 267-738-8103 or call the church office, 215-946-3467.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: 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.

LUNCH BUNCH: Lunch Bunch is back on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM at the Garden of Eatin Restaurant. If you will be attending or have any questions, please call Sandy Scott at 215-932-4664 (Sandy will need an accurate count of attendance each month).

SANDWICH MINISTRY: Each 2nd Sunday of the month, Hope participates in a sandwich ministry made up of churches in the area. Many of the locations where the homeless and less fortunate go for meals are not open on the weekends. Bring in your sandwiches and leave them on the windowsill in the school lobby before the start of service. The sandwiches will be picked up and distributed.

SHADYBROOK FARMS FALL FEST PTL FUNDRAISER: Support our fundraiser at Shady Brook Farms Fall Fest! From September 11 – October 30, every ticket purchased supports Hope Lutheran School. To purchase tickets, please visit shadybrookfarm.com/fallfest and use the PROMO CODE: HLS2026.

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 Hearts & Hand (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.

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 2868 5443 **Passcode:** 901730

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	Doug Puls	Harry Butler
Communion Assistants	Chris Moss and Tom Schmidt	Doug Puls and Harry Butler
Acolyte	Caitlyn Cook	Addy Schoettle

Upcoming Events:

October:

- Wednesday, October 7 – K2 Club 3:30 PM
- Friday, October 9 – Harvest Bake Off 6:30 PM
- Sunday, October 11 – Sandwich Ministry before service
- Wednesday, October 14 – Women's Bible Study 1:00 – 2:30 PM
- Friday, October 16 – Student Council Bake Sale during school hours
- Tuesday, October 20 – Lunch Bunch 1:00 PM at Garden of Eatin
- Saturday, October 24 – Fall Vendor Fair 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- Sunday, October 25 – Hearts & Hand (Family) Sunday 6:00 PM
- Monday, October 26 – 345 Club 6:00 PM

November:

- Friday, November 6 – 87-6 Club 7:00 PM
- Sunday, November 8 – Sandwich Ministry before service
- Wednesday, November 11 – K-8 Grade Thanksgiving Luncheon & Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
- Sunday, November 15 - Rake and Run 11:00 AM
- Monday, November 16 – Nativity Interest Meeting 6:30 PM Narthex
- Tuesday, November 17 – Lunch Bunch 1:00 PM at Garden of Eatin
- Saturday, November 21 – Bristol Township Holiday Parade 12:00 PM – hot cocoa and school tours after parade

December:

- Thursday, December 3 – Kindergarten Open House 3:45 – 6:00 PM
- Sunday, December 6 – Advent Family Night and Hanging of the Greens 5:00 PM
- Wednesday, December 9 – Women's Bible Study 1:00 – 2:00 PM and K-8th Grade Christmas Concert 6:30 PM
- Sunday, December 13 – Sandwich Ministry before service and Advent Family Night 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, December 15 - Lunch Bunch 1:00 PM at Garden of Eatin
- Thursday, December 17 – Preschool Sing 6:30 PM (gym)
- Sunday, December 20 – Advent Family Night 5:00 PM
- Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Services 5:30 PM and 8:00 PM
- Friday, December 25 – Christmas Day Service 10:30 AM

Operation Christmas Child



Our annual collection of gift-filled shoeboxes for *Operation Christmas Child* will be the week of November 16-22. Starting October 5th, empty shoeboxes will be available in the Narthex and School Lobby.

All collected shoeboxes will be blessed in Chapel on Wednesday, November 18th.



If you're unable or prefer not to pack a shoebox yourself but would still like to help, we would love your support! We are collecting items to fill shoeboxes for our **Shoebox Packing Party on Sunday, October 25th.** Every donation helps us share the joy of Christmas and the love of Christ with children around the world. Thank you for helping make this special outreach possible! Below is a list of items that would be greatly appreciated.

"WOW" Items

- Small Backpacks
- Stuffed Animals
- Soccerball & Pump

Games & Activities

- Puzzles
- Jump Ropes
- Stickers
- Note Pads
- Chalk



Clothing

- T-Shirts
- Socks
- Underwear
- Flip Flops
- Slippers

Personal Care Items

- Toothbrush
- Comb & Brush
- Nail Clippers
- Flashlight
- Washclothes

Toys

- Balls
- Toy Cars
- Plastic Animals



Hope Lutheran Bake-Off

BRING IT ON! BAKE YOUR
BEST FALL/AUTUMN
THEMED BAKED GOOD
AND ENTER IT IN OUR
BAKE-OFF!

Come to eat some
delicious treats and to
see who will win!

OCTOBER 9TH
6:30PM | FRIDAY
2600 HAINES RD.
LEVITTOWN, PA

Some Categories Include:
Pies, Muffins, Cakes,
Brownies and more!

PLEASE BRING ALL DESSERTS PRECUT FOR SERVING PURPOSES.

