DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR WESLEY: The righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
– Romans 3:21-26

I have written a lot of reports in my life. The first essay I can remember writing was a biography of William Henry Harrison, the 9th president of the United States, that I wrote in grade school. Since then, I've written more essays than I can remember, over many subjects that I may have forgotten.

There is a moment I experienced every time I finished an essay. It was a combination of relief (that I had finished my writing) and dread (that my work was going to be graded). Somehow, no matter how well-written my essay seemed while I was writing, I always felt at the moment of grading that my writing wasn't good enough.

Just as there was a time of grading for my writing, the Bible says that there is a time when our lives will also be judged. How can we be confident that our lives are good enough?

We can't. If we had to rely on the things that we could do, there would be no hope for us. Our lives would never be good enough.

But even if we can't rely on our lives, we can rely on something else: we can rely on our Judge. See, our Judge doesn't grade us on whether we're good enough. He knows we aren't, but He loves us anyway. That's why He sent His Son Jesus to die for us, and to take away our sin.

This is the reason we say that we are saved by grace alone. In Jesus, God did what we could not do for ourselves: He made us worthy of a passing grade, so that we are now worthy of Him.

Lord, grant us the grace we cannot earn for ourselves. 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.

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: The Hymnal Campaign has been a HUGE success! Thank you to everyone for your contribution/gift. Anyone wishing to still dedicate or donate to our hymnal campaign, can pick up forms from the Hope Church/School office or contact Claire Durkin at 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**	

	This Sunday	**Next Sunday**
Reader	Tom Marks	Rich Gruenhagen
Communion Assistants	Harry Butler and Tom Marks	Rich Gruenhagen and Chris Moss
Acolyte	Addy Schoettle	Caitlyn Cook

Upcoming Events:

October:

- Sunday, October 25 – Heart & Hands (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
- Sunday, November 22 – Eagles Game Watch Party Heart & Hands (Family) Sunday 4:00 PM
- Sunday, November 29 – Advent Family Night 5:00 PM

December:

- Thursday, December 3 – Kindergarten Open House 3:45 – 6:00 PM
- Sunday, December 6 – 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; Family Service (no communion) 5:30 PM and Candlelight Service (with communion) 8:00 PM
- Friday, December 25 – Christmas Day Service; The Nativity of Our Lord 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

Personal Care Items

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

Games & Activities

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

Clothing

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

Toys

- Balls
- Toy Cars
- Plastic Animals

COLLECTION DATES: OCTOBER 28 *thru* NOVEMBER 10

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN **LOCATION: HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

Mid-Atlantic Branch

Considerations for Donors

All items MUST be clean, in good repair, and only gently used

We NEED:

- Men's, women's, children's and infant's clothing and shoes in all sizes and for all seasons
- Purses, handbags, reusable shopping totes
- Accessories — scarves, gloves, belts o New (packaged) underwear

We ALSO ACCEPT these non-apparel items:

- Domestic goods
  - Curtains, drapes, tablecloths
  - Sheets, blankets (no used bed pillows)
- Towels and washcloths
- Sewing fabric and supplies
- Children's needs
  - Soft and hard toys in good condition
  - School supplies (no books)
- Personal Care
  - Hygiene Kits — see Special Projects under What We Do at www.ogt.org
  - Toothbrushes
  - Bath-sized bar soap
  - Sturdy Combs
  - Diapers (packaged) — Adult incontinence and infant
- Medical items — Canes, crutches, commodes, shower chairs, orthopedic supplies (e.g. boots, shoes), and wheelchairs
- Bibles, hymnals

We CANNOT ACCEPT these items:

- Heavily worn, damaged* or stained clothing
- Used underwear — e.g., underpants — and used swimwear
- Glass, ceramic, electric, or battery-powered items

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18

Thanksgiving

Food Drive



Hope is collecting canned goods and other non-perishable food items for families in the congregation and school community.

Tables will be set-up in the school lobby starting the week of October 12th.

Food items will be collected once the tables are set up through Thursday, November 19th.

"Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to." Deuteronomy 15:10