

HOPEFUL TIMES

A Publication of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church - Reading, PA

*I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you
not perceive it? I will make a
way in the wilderness and
rivers in the desert.*

(Isaiah 43:19)

April Birthdays

David Hassler.....April 1
Lillie RauchApril 1
Elizabeth Epler.....April 2
Scott Schaeffer.....April 2
Mark HasslerApril 4
Bobby ZiskaApril 6
Josephine Torres.....April 11
Phillip MengleApril 14
Sue Vlaro.....April 15

May Birthdays

Nancy Taylor.....May 9
Eugene Frymoyer.....May 10
Susan SchweitzerMay 20
Mary Wolfe.....May 14
Alyra Parker.....May 16
Violet SchaefferMay 16
Margie WolfMay 21
Amy GruberMay 25
Joanne KegerizeMay 25
Betty SpencerMay 26

Anniversaries

Judy & Scott SchaefferApril 22
Matt & Amanda Schaeffer ..May 1
Phil & Gloria Mengle.....May 2
Tom & Jessica Alexander ...May 8
Ray & Linda SnyderMay 25

Dear Hope Members and Friends,

After what feels like a two-year long winter, it feels as if Spring is about to arrive. There are some really hopeful signs on the horizon. After a pancake breakfast to raise money for improvements to the Garden of Hope, folks from the One Love Project will gather with church members and other members of the community on Sunday, April 10 after Palm Sunday worship to clean up the garden and to prepare it for planting.

It has been such a joy to gather again in person, for those who have been able. The last two years we have kept our Holy Week gatherings to a minimum. This year we will gather again around tables to celebrate Maundy Thursday at 7pm. Good Friday we will gather at noon by Zoom for the Stations of the Cross. At 7pm we will gather for a service of Tenebrae. Our Easter morning celebration will be held at 10:00 am, both in person and on Zoom

The café continues to thrive. We will hold a party celebrating our opening Friday, May 20. We will be open all day, and into the evening until 7pm. There will be food, music and activities for all ages, with the intent to invite all our neighbors to join us in making our community all it can be.

Hope's Table continues to thrive. We are so grateful for the generous contributions of members of Atonement Lutheran Church, Reformation Lutheran Church, the community at large and, of course, of Hope. We are currently in the process of transitioning back to a model centered on a meal together including the celebration of Holy Communion.

What new things are you seeing on the horizon? What is giving you hope as the world begins to reopen? I pray that, along with me, you are hopeful that together we are making a difference and participating with God and what God is doing in our midst. We are encouraged that there are new things that bring us all hope that there is a way in the wilderness for us, a way past the trials of the pandemic, a way past the seemingly endless winter, a way forward to an Easter way of being in the world.

Easter Blessings,

Pastor Mary



We are...

**Hope Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
Hope For the Neighborhood

601 N. Front St.
Reading, PA 19601
610-374-2071
www.icishope.org

All Are Welcome!

Pastor: The Rev. Mary Wolfe
Music Director: Scott Schaeffer
Secretary: Margaret Wunder
Sexton: David Troche

If your birthday or anniversary has not appeared in our newsletter and you would like it to be listed, please contact Margaret in the church office or email Margie Wolf at Rhsfan@hotmail.com to update your information.

Also, if you have information that you would like to be considered for a future newsletter, please let us know your ideas.

Ways to support our ministries:

*If you purchase items on Amazon, consider using Amazon Smile. For the buyer, it is exactly the same as using Amazon, but a portion of all sales can be donated to Hope! Go to smile.amazon.com for more details.

*If you are a Thrivent member, consider directing Choice Dollars to Hope. Also, all Thrivent members can write 2 Action Team Grants each year.

These grants can be used to supplement our own funds in carrying out our ministries. Grants have been used for such projects as providing meals for Hope's Table.

For more information, speak to Pastor Mary or Scott.

**Rejoice in hope,
be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.**
(Romans 12:12 NRSV)

Faces of Hope - Philip K Mengle

Address: Leesport, PA
Birthday: April 14
Occupation: Retired
Family Members: Wife, Gloria
How long have you been a member at Hope? 30 years
How do you serve the congregation, past or present? Member of Council, Dove Committee, and usher
What is your favorite worship song(s)?



"Blessed Assurance"

What is your favorite Bible Verse? Mark 6: 32-34 *So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.*

What do you enjoy about Hope? I enjoy the music and enthusiasm of the people.

What would you like to tell the people of Hope? My hope is that we all maintain our diversity and commitment!

One Love Project

One Love Project is a local group that promotes love and acceptance by helping to improve the quality of life in our community. Among their many projects, they have chosen to help create and maintain Hope's Community Garden. Along with a host of volunteers, the members of One Love gathered last year to create a beautiful space located on our vacant lot located on Front Street.



On April 3, 2022, they held a pancake breakfast at Hope and raised around \$400 so that they can continue work on the garden. During the afternoon on April 10, volunteers will again gather to work in the garden and prepare it for the spring and summer season. Thank you so much to our volunteers and especially the members of One Love Project for your hard work and dedication to making our community a better place to live!!!

