



HOPEFUL TIMES



A Publication of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church - Reading, PA

Thought for Our Times

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the human he had formed.

Genesis 2:8

July Birthdays

Jonetta Printz.....July 6
 Madilyn PapoutsisJuly 13
 Bill KnoxJuly 25

August Birthdays

Leanna HasslerAugust 1
 Hannah Knox..... August 1
 Elizabeth KlineAugust 3
 Trela ErnstAugust 19
 Jaliyah JonesAugust 25
 Emily Jean.....August 28

Anniversaries

John and Louise
 PetroskiJuly 3
 Mike and Mary Wolfe...August 30



Dear Hope Members and Friends,

Finally, it is summertime! The earth is blooming again! Things are blooming on North Front Street, too! A few weeks ago, 30+ volunteers from The One Love Project, a local service organization, showed up at our garden lot and built raised beds, planted trees and flowers, shrubs and bushes, and installed a new garden bench. Just as God planted a garden as the first gift for the new human God had just created, so we are offering our garden as a gift to the people in our neighborhood. Already it has been a joy to watch children playing there, families sitting at the tables to share a meal, and neighbors watering the flowers. The garden is a work in progress; grass needs to be planted, and a pollinator garden installed. We have plans for a little free library filled with children's books and are hoping to add some art to the space as well. Just another way we are "Hope for the neighborhood"!

Pastor Mary

Happy Summer from Church Council!!!!

What a great way to kick off the summer and be back in person at Hope! Such a joy to see people again and hear Scott tickle the ivories. Just a few friendly reminders that we still want to follow CDC guidelines regarding Covid 19. In addition, we'd like to request that people continue to wear a mask when arriving, departing and walking around the church. Once you are seated it's up to you whether to continue to wear your mask. We want everyone to feel comfortable until we are positive that Covid is well under control. We will continue to offer Zoom for those who can't attend in person, but hope to see many of you back in the pews Sunday mornings!!!

Margie Wolf - Council President

The "Raise the Roof" Fund

Thank you to all of you who attended the congregational meeting to approve the replacement of the flat roof. You demonstrated confidence in our future! As we noted, we have some of the funding available to us now, but need to raise an additional \$12,000 to pay off a low-interest loan from our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Your leaders on Council have already pledged \$6,000 towards that effort. On Sunday, July 11, you will have an opportunity to join us and make your pledge.

We are...

**Hope Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

Hope For the Neighborhood

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

All Are Welcome!

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

In-Person Worship

(Following COVID safety guidelines)

Hope has now returned to in-person worship every Sunday. Zoom worship will also continue to be offered.

Jillian Tinnemeyer, a member of Atonement Lutheran Church, has graciously volunteered to do the scheduling for Hope's Table. If you are interested in helping, contact Jillian at:

hello_jillian@icloud.com

We Need Your Help at
Worship on a Sunday
Morning!



Be sure to check out the clipboards in the back of the church for opportunities to serve our congregation!

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

Cooking for Hope - Judy Schaeffer

By now, many of you have heard about Hope's Table, whether through the wonderful faith stories that emerge from that worshipping congregation, during Church Council, committee, or congregational meetings, or just in passing when talking about Hope's ministries in the community. Well, like many of you, during the shutdown because of the Covid19 Pandemic, I found myself re-evaluating some things in my life and looking for ways that I can better serve others, especially through the church. Sure, I did the typical getting my house in order, learning a new craft, doing jigsaw puzzles, etc., but that just wasn't fulfilling enough. I was being very cautious and not going outside of my home, except to be with my immediate family, so I was a bit limited. I knew that the folks from the Cafe' and volunteers from Hope and the neighborhood were still doing the food ministry. So I decided to offer to make a meal for Hope's Table. I asked some friends to help out with the first one, was able to get an Action Team Grant through Thrivent, and we provided meals for almost 100 people. It felt SO GOOD to be doing something to help others. Since then I have made the commitment to myself to do the cooking every 6-8 weeks. There are so many volunteer opportunities at Hope! I urge you to find something that suits you, or step outside of the box and try something new. It truly is rewarding.

Faces of Hope - Betty Spencer

Address: Auburn, PA

Age: 81

Occupation: Retired as a Welder for Dana Corp. (30 years) and a security guard for Reading School District (6 years)

Family Members: Husband John (deceased 2001)

Maxine, (living in NJ), Herman, Aaron, Johnny, Kim (all deceased)

8 grandchildren and 7 great-grand children

How long have you been a member at Hope? 52+ years

How do you serve the congregation, past or present? Pantry, Sunday school/VBS, Hangout

What is your favorite worship song(s)?

"How Great Thou Art" and "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"

What is your favorite Bible Verse? Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Also, Isaiah 41:10-13.

What do you enjoy about Hope? It's like home and family... seeing people grow in the church from children on up! Everyone gets to know each other. Also, I appreciate the hardworking church leaders.

What would you like to tell the people of Hope? It's the most warm and friendly church in Reading. Hope people need to stay active. By inviting and welcoming children into our church, the adults will follow. That's how I came to Hope.

