



HOPEFUL TIMES



A Publication of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church - Reading, PA

Thought for June

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me." John 14:1

From our Treasurer

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support Hope's ministries by donating online or by mailing in your offering. Due to the generosity of members as well as people from the community, Hope's financial well being is currently stable. However, this current environment is far from over. Please continue to support Hope when you can. Know that our leadership will continue to do everything we can to help the community, while being vigilant in making every dollar count.

June Birthdays

Elsie Wolf.....June 5
Thomas Huyett.....June 8
Ann Price.....June 18
George Setley.....June 18
Anna Rodriguez.....June 19
Margaret Wunder.....June 21
Hannah Wolfe Blatt...June 26

Anniversaries

Patrick & Patti Rose....June 10

Dear Hope Members and Friends,

I hope everyone is safe and well. I can't wait until it is safe for us to be together again and I can see your faces (even behind masks), but please know you are all in my prayers. We have included an explanation of our expenses here so you can see where your offerings go. Thanks for continuing to support our work together. God bless you!



Pastor Mary

Our Ministries and Your Giving

Our Ministries	Your Offerings
<p>Our ministry at Hope is centered on listening for God's Word. We do this through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Sunday Worship +Bible study +Summer Faith Formation experiences for children <p>This part of our life together is overseen by the Dove Ministry Team</p>	\$54,366
<p>Our ministry at Hope values listening to each other. We do this through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Pastoral Care +Visitation +Fellowship +Small Group Ministries +Planning for the future <p>This part of our life together is overseen by God's Housekeepers</p>	\$24,030
<p>Our ministry at Hope supports our partners across the church and around the world: We do this through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Reading Lutheran Parish +West Berks Mission District +Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod +Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 	\$6,050
<p>In addition, we receive generous grants from the ELCA, the Northeastern PA Synod, and partnership support from many local congregations in the amount of \$27,803 to support our outreach ministries.</p>	

To make sure we have current birthday/anniversary information for future newsletters, please submit your dates to Margie Wolf at rhsfan@hotmail.com.

We are...

Hope Evangelical

Lutheran Church

Hope For the Neighborhood
All Are Welcome!

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

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

is a community of baptized children of God diverse in nature, united by the Holy Spirit. Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ, in our worship together and in our individual lives.

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ,

we proclaim the Gospel by dedicating ourselves to teaching, preaching, evangelizing, and witnessing to our immediate neighborhood, surrounding communities, and world missions.

We invite all

to share in this expression of the gospel with us.

Rejoice in
hope,
be patient in
suffering,



persevere in prayer.

(Romans 12:12 NRSV)

Café Esperanza Street Eats Newsletter
Submitted by Emily Wolfe - Café Hospitality Manager

In the parking lot on Tuesdays, we serve a hot meal in lieu of the Hope's Table Service that can't currently meet (We have an equally popular sandwich meal on Thursdays). It's a great spot to catch day laborers as they get off the bus and people out on their front porches getting some space from each other and some fresh air. When we first started serving free meals to our community, because of the pandemic, we would encourage people to come and take a meal. Now we have people waiting for us - spaced safely down the block and around the corner or watching from their porches for a good moment.



On Cinco de Mayo, a Tuesday, our chef who is Latinx, decided to make burritos (leaving tacos to the myriad of amazing local Taquerias). As a group of us were offering choices of burritos to our patrons, a group of 6 small children came down the block from a couple of front porches. They were all around 6-8 years old. The little leader, a boy with designs shaved into the side of his haircut that was beginning to grow out, announced, scoffing, that he wanted a beef burrito. All the other children nodded and also asked for beef, but one little girl asked for chicken. They said thank you and began to run back home. Jules called out to them and asked them if they wanted ones for "tu mama" and they all came back for dinners for moms and dads who were working late. The little girl's chest swelled realizing she'd have dinner waiting for her mother when she got home. We continued serving meals, sending extras home for relatives, encouraging some to take an extra for tomorrow's lunch when they hesitated at our offers.

The leader of the little group of kids came running back down the street to me and tucked a folded bill in my hand and quickly blurted, "for what you are doing for our community!", paused, and then went back up to his porch and his friends. I looked in my hand and found a \$50 bill! We looked at each other and teared up a bit. This is every day here in this beautiful neighborhood we are allowed to serve and commune with. Despite the pandemic we can be part of building something beautiful.



To date, we have served 2,611 meals. Our volunteer bakers have baked as many goodies, and we've gotten heaps of donations of time, foodstuffs, and funds from individuals and businesses. A man we have never met stopped by to thank us and give us a donation because he frequently drives by and appreciates what we have been doing. Volunteers deliver 25-35 meals to folks across the city who cannot reach us. A prominent community member drops off enough produce for 40 families twice weekly, so that we can be a little supplement to our community's health. So much of this is due to the energy of our chef and our volunteers. It shows how they interact with the community they are part of and the way we seek to invite our neighbors to dine with us rather than feed them handouts, take-it-or-leave-it style. Because we mean it when we say "You're welcome."

