

# HOPEFUL TIMES

A Publication of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church - Reading, PA

*Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children, because they are no more.  
(Jeremiah 31:15)*

## June Birthdays

Thomas Huyett .....June 8  
Ann Price .....June 18  
Hannah Wolfe .....June 26

## July Birthdays

Jonetta Printz .....July 6  
Madilyn Papoutsis .....July 13  
Bill Knox .....July 25

## August Birthdays

Leanna Hassler .....August 1  
Hannah Knox ..... August 1  
Elizabeth Kline .....August 3  
Trela Ernst .....August 19  
Jaliyah Jones .....August 25  
Emily Jean .....August 28

## Anniversaries

Patrick and  
Patti Rose .....June 10  
John and Louise  
Petroski .....July 3  
Mike and Mary Wolfe...August 30



Make Hope a  
part of your  
summer!

## Dear Hope Members and Friends,

Lord, have mercy. Just as summer begins, 19 students and two teachers, on their last day of school, were murdered in their classroom in Uvalde, Texas. This cowardly act of terror, following the hate inspired shooting in Buffalo, New York followed by a church shooting in Laguna Woods, California has left us asking "How long, O LORD? Will you hide yourself forever?" (Psalm 89:46) All this as we just passed the second anniversary of the violent murder of George Floyd. It seems like hate is winning. It feels like we should just hug our loved ones more often. All this in the midst of a pandemic that just passed its million death landmark. Is there nothing we can do?

We must find a way to act. Until we have done **Everything**, we can't stop. Prayer, yes! Learning about what has worked in other places (Australia, Canada)! Meeting with elected officials, writing to federal representatives, rising up as God's people to demand sanity once again.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them." (Luke 18:16 ) Jesus was a protector of children. Let's be followers of Jesus in word and in deed and figure out how to protect our children. How to be agents of love. How to change this country.

Peace, *Pastor Mary*

## Did You Know?

On Sunday, June 5, Scott Schaeffer, our beloved Minister of Music-- and so much more-- will mark 45 years of official ministry with the people of Hope! It is entirely fitting that this anniversary falls on the Feast of Pentecost, the day we celebrate the Spirit of Wind and Fire that stirred up the disciples to begin the work of the church. Scott has been the spirit that has bound us together, and has inspired us to be all that we can be! Please join us on June 5 to celebrate Scott and all that he has done and continues to do for Hope and for the community!

## Café Esperanza News

A few months ago, just as the café was getting underway, our vintage espresso machine caught fire! Thanks to the generous donation of a home espresso machine by Pastor Drew and Sara Neidig, we were able to continue to function as a café. Just last week, our beautiful new professional machine was installed. Come see us and meet our new barista, Jonell, whose charming smile will warm your heart. We are excited to continue to serve the neighborhood, and to begin to serve the children of the community as they start their summer vacation.

We are...

**Hope Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

**Hope For the Neighborhood**

601 N. Front St.  
Reading, PA 19601  
610-374-2071  
[www.jcishope.org](http://www.jcishope.org)

**All Are Welcome!**

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

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**Raise the Roof Update**

Last year, the congregation voted to invest in the future of our building, and therefore our ministry by making some necessary and expensive repairs to the roof and the to the interior damage that was caused by the roof issues. A \$15,000 loan was secured from the synod, with the understanding that through intentional directed giving, we would repay that loan. In 2021, \$7,045 was repaid by the congregation. As of April of 2022, \$1,370 was additionally paid. We thank those who donated money toward this campaign and encourage everyone to continue contributing toward the repayment of this loan and other future property needs.

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Please remember to contact Margaret in the church office or email Margie Wolf at [Rhsfan@hotmail.com](mailto:Rhsfan@hotmail.com) if we are missing your birthday or anniversary.

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

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**Faces of Hope - Doris Epler**

**Address:** Milmont section of Reading

**Age:** 88

**Occupation:** Retired from AT&T Marketing Management

**Family Members:** Husband Oliver (deceased)

Son; William; lives in Ill., wife Kathy

Son: Jim; lives in Reading, wife Karen

Daughter: Susan lives in Reading

Daughter: Liz lives in Delaware

Daughter: Linda lives in Delaware, Son in-law Chuck

**How long have you been a member at Hope?** 87 years; I was 1 year old when my parents moved to Gordon Street and decided to attend the closest Lutheran Church which turned out to be Hope.

**How do you serve the congregation, past or present?** I serve as chairman of the Endowment Committee at Hope for many years. I was Church Council President, helped serve food to the local shelter and I still help to count money on a Sunday with daughter Sue.

**What is your favorite worship song(s)?** "Jesus Loves Me"

**What is your favorite Bible Verse?** 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm

**What do you enjoy about Hope?** I love Hope and its people. We are an accepting congregation and willing to do whatever is necessary to do God's work in our neighborhood. It is not always easy to get things accomplished. We are so fortunate to have had amazing pastors who have led us.

**What would you like to tell the people of Hope?** Keep the Faith, follow God, and try to do God's will. Remember He loves us and watches over us.

**Hope...A Walk Through Time**

•Hope Lutheran Church was started as a Chapel project of Trinity Lutheran Church on April 19, 1885. Hope was one of the three chapels started at the time. The other two were Peace and Faith.

•The cornerstone for the Hope Chapel, located on Schuylkill Avenue, was laid on May 21, 1885. The building was dedicated on September 20, 1885 with a construction cost of \$2,100.00. This building still stands today, and remains a church.

**Feeding Others**

Hope's Pantry continues to provide food to over 250 families each month. This ministry has not missed a beat, even throughout the pandemic. Volunteers from the congregation as well as the community (often including some Reading Police Officers) work to serve those who struggle with food insecurities. Helping Harvest (formerly the Berks Food Bank) provides the food, free of charge, and the West Berks Mission District provides for the delivery of the food to Hope. We are thankful for all of our many partners in ministry.

