

HOPEFUL TIMES

A Publication of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church - Reading, PA

Prayer for Our Times

*Show us, good Lord,
the peace we should seek,
the peace we must give,
the peace we can keep,
the peace we must forgo,
and the peace you have given in
Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship

May Birthdays

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

June Birthdays

Thomas HuyettJune 8
Ann PriceJune 18
Hannah Wolfe.....June 26

Anniversaries

Matt and Amanda
SchaefferMay 1
Phil and
Gloria MangleMay 2
Tom and
Jessica AlexanderMay 8
Ray and
Linda SnyderMay 25
Patrick and
Patti Rose.....June 10

Sing a New Song

In Psalm 144, David wrote, "I will sing a new song to you, O God." What an interesting meaning this Psalm had for us during the time of a pandemic. Last March, prior to our service, we made the decision that the choir was not able to sing their anthem for the day. Later that morning, we cautiously closed our doors for a week or two to see if it would be safe for us to remain worshipping in person. Now, more than a year later, we are still struggling with opening the sanctuary for worship every Sunday. I am so grateful that even though we were not in person, we decided to offer live worship every week. This was not without its difficulties at first, but we have continued to worship together on Zoom ever since! This was our "New Song"! Every week, I sat physically alone at the piano in my living room so that we could continue to offer praises to the Lord. However, I wasn't alone. Members and friends from everywhere connected together from their homes to "sing their new song", either through their voices or by experiencing the songs in their hearts. Hopefully, we will soon be back together again. Our choirs and congregation will unite in lifting their voices in praises and thanks to our Lord. What a great day that will be. Hallelujah!

Scott Schaeffer - Director of Music

Council Highlights

The Hope Council has continued to monitor the possibility of returning to in-person worship. Following the experiences of Holy Week, we feel that we are on our way to full return, but given the case count in the area, we have opted to return to the church May 2, and June 6. We will continue to follow the guidelines from prior services. All worship services will continue to be shared on Zoom.

There has been some storm damage to the roof and gutters of the church building this winter. The Property Committee is in contact with the insurance company, and getting estimates for the repairs.

The Dove Committee continues to publish the bi-monthly newsletter. Please send us any updates of birthdays and anniversaries of members, so that we can list them. Also, if you would like to submit any items of interest, that are pertinent to the life of the congregation, please send them to Margie Wolf at rhsfan@hotmail.com.

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 all COVID safety guidelines)

Sunday, May 2 - 10:00 am
Sunday, June 6 - 10:00 am

Zoom will continue to be offered during our in-person worship services. If attending at the church, please remember to bring a mask.

We would like to thank:

Rev. Rebecca Knox
Rev. Keith Rohrbach

...for conducting our services during April while Pr. Mary was on vacation.

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

Faces of Hope - William (Bill) Knox

Where do you live? 900 Bedford Ave, Reading, PA 19607

Age: 52

Occupation: Software Engineer at Penske Truck Leasing for the past 15 years developing web applications to support their Truck Rental Business. Have been in the software development industry for 30 years, with previous employment at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals based in Radnor/Collegeville, and Shared Medical Systems in Malvern.



Family members: Wife - Pastor Rebecca Knox, Daughter-Hannah, Son - Benjamin, Father - William J Knox

How long have you been a member? Became a member when Rebecca took the role of Interim Pastor in 2003. Left for a few years when her call was completed and returned back to Hope in 2010.

How do you serve the congregation and/or community:

Presently I serve on Church council in the first year of my second 3 year term. This year I am serving as Vice President. I have been part of the team running the soundboard for the past few years. I have in previous years provided some of the soup for Wednesday evening Lenten services. I am also active on the board of Cafe Esperanza in the capacity of Financial Secretary, and formerly Treasurer.

What is your favorite religious song? Amazing Grace

What is your favorite Bible verse(s)? Corinthians 16:13, Psalms 71:5, Romans 12:2, Phillipians 4:8

What do you enjoy about Hope? The overall worship experience. The congregation size may be small but there is a huge heart beating at the center. Hope is the liveliest and richest worship experience I have found.

What would you like to tell the people of Hope? Thank you for welcoming our family into your midst. I look forward to the ongoing worship experience and any new challenges we may face in light of what we have had to endure during the recent year.

A Special Thanks!

Since the pandemic started and Hope was forced to close its doors, Bill Knox has faithfully worked to bring us our Zoom worship experience. Even when on vacation, Bill ran our Zoom services and made sure that things went as smoothly as possible! During in-person worship, Bill continues to provide the Zoom experience for those worshipping at home. We can't thank him enough!!

