

# HOPEFUL TIMES

A Publication of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church - Reading, PA

## Inspirational Thought for These Challenging Times

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 NRSV

## November Birthdays

Edith Ruppert.....	Nov. 14
Larry Mohn.....	Nov. 19
Doris Epler.....	Nov. 28
Dorothy Shollenberger.....	Sept. 16

## December Birthdays

Matt Schaeffer.....	Dec. 4
Corbin Walker.....	Dec. 13
Elizabeth Hassler.....	Dec. 26

## Anniversaries

Eugene and Jane Manmiller.....	Nov. 18
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On Sunday, November 22, we will be having our second in-person worship service at Hope. The service will begin at 10:00 am. In order to make it as safe as possible, all members attending will be required to both social distance and wear a mask for the entire service. Sanitizer will be provided. The church will also be marked off as to where members may sit in order to remain at a safe distance from each other. More information on our safety procedures will be posted for your reference when arriving at the church.

The service will also be streamed via Zoom. Please consider continuing to worship in this way if you do not feel comfortable worshiping at the church.

**A December schedule will be made available as soon as plans are in place.**

## Dear Hope Members and Friends,

**Hallelujah!** We were able to do a hybrid worship service last Sunday with 27 of us in the church, and 17 of us on Zoom. Thanks to the Dove Ministry Team, Bill Knox, and to Chris Hassler and Brandon Kegerize for all your work making this a safe and beautiful event. We will be gathering again Sunday, November 22 for Christ the King Sunday.



This coming Sunday is All Saints Sunday. This celebration dates back to about the year 610 A.D. as a day to commemorate all the martyrs who were killed in Rome. Today we celebrate our mysterious connection with all the saints who have gone before us, and all the saints now living. This

includes you! On this Sunday we will read the names of those you wish to remember aloud, and give thanks for their faithful lives. You are invited to

have a candle ready to light in memory of your loved ones who have died.

This year, All Saints Day seems particularly poignant, given all the loss of life from the pandemic, and the division and unrest in the world around us. We remember that this world can not separate us from the love of God--or from each other, and that through loss and death comes resurrection. May this hope sustain you.



Peace,  
Pastor Mary

## 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

#### Café News

Emily Wolfe

After having served over 7,000 take-out meals over the course of the pandemic, over the last few weeks, Café Esperanza employees and volunteers began to set up additional tables so that some of our patrons, who wish to stay and eat together and also take communion as part of Hope's Table's mission, are now able to spend time together. The late September



cookout (which was rained out twice) showed us this need for a little slice of community togetherness. The cookout was quite an undertaking, and the café staff appreciate all the help we got in pulling off the event, serving at least 250 meals (patrons came up for seconds!) Our little neighborhood has also been enjoying the free farmers' markets that have been made possible through the generosity of Rodale's organic farm and The Kula Kumala Ashram and Foundation's big organic garden, and we at the café couldn't be happier at their excitement for fresh local ingredients. During a pandemic, we all count our successes differently, and Café Esperanza has been a wild success in giving their neighbors a sense of security in a chaotic world. Thank you all for your support!



## Faces of Hope - Meet Joanne Kegerize

**Age:** 54

**Address:** 42 Adams Street, Reading, PA 19608

**Occupation:** QC Tech at Sweet Street for over 30 years

#### Family Members:

Significant other-John Lucas  
Daughter-Kelsi, Sons-Jimmy/wife Amanda,  
Brandon/wife Amanda  
Granddaughters- Kennedy Hope,Zaylee Sage and Madison.  
Grandson-Connor Mother-Anita Evans  
Furbabies- Duke and Bam Bam



**How long have you been a member at Hope?** Since baptism, so all my life!

#### How do you serve the congregation, past or present?

Past years: I was a member of the Senior Choir, Voices of Hope, Live the Love, the stewardship committee, Sunday School helper, then teacher and Bible School helper. I also played on the Hope dart baseball team. Present: I am on the Altar Guild.

**What is your favorite worship song?** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", and "My Jesus My Savior", plus many more

**What is your favorite Bible Verse?** Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through him who strengthens me". God has strengthen me in many way over the years

**What do you enjoy about Hope?** I love the friendliness as you walk into the church and Hope's acceptance of everyone. No matter who you are, what you have done, or where you came from, Hope is always welcoming. I enjoy the hugs (which are missed tremendously right now) and of course the music, which is awesome!!

#### What would you like to tell the people of Hope?

God is good! Keep praising his name! Hope is the best church around!!!! Let's keep it going for many years to come!

## From Our Treasurer

GOD IS GOOD! As many of you are aware, Hope has struggled in recent years to cover all of the expenses needed to run our congregational and community programs. I am happy to announce that all of our expenses have been covered to date. Thank you to everyone who has continued generously giving. Your support has been critical to the livelihood of the congregation and its surrounding community. The greater Reading and Lutheran communities have come together and are continuing to support the ministries of Hope. The Synod has been working closely with Pastor Mary to help us secure grant money (\$9,500) and money through the PPP Loan program (\$17,000). We have also received support from a handful of Lutheran Congregations throughout Berks County. All of this has allowed our programming to run at full capacity when people need help the most. Keep Hope in your prayers as we begin the loan forgiveness process.

Chris Hassler