

HOPEFUL TIMES

A Publication of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church - Reading, PA



November Birthdays

Edith RuppertNovember 4
Larry MohnNovember 19
Dorothy Shollenberger ...Nov. 30

December Birthdays

Matt SchaefferDecember 4
Corbin WalkerDecember 13
Justin SetleyDecember 24
Elizabeth Hassler ...December 26

Baptismal Anniversaries

Hannah KnoxDecember 2

Birth Announcement

Rhett KegerizeOctober 15
Parents: Brandon and
Amanda Kegerize

Important

A special Congregational meeting has been planned for **Sunday, November 20** Following the **10:00 AM** worship service

This meeting is needed to discuss a major problem with our heating system and to get congregational approval on necessary repairs.

Hope we will see you there!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phillipians 4:6-7

Did you know that the word "Eucharist", another name for Holy Communion, means thanksgiving? This practice of gathering and receiving the bread and wine in which Christ is present is central to our identity as Christians. As we are joined in this communion with God and with each other, we are reminded that it is right to give God our thanks and praise. Having an attitude of gratitude is essential to our own well-being, and also makes us better able to care for those people God places in our lives. During this season of Thanksgiving, why not develop a practice of gratitude. Perhaps you might keep a gratitude journal, and end each day by writing a few things for which you are thankful. Or you might simply remind yourself to thank God for the good things in your life. Consider these words of Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

"In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich."

Among the many things for which we can be grateful here at Hope is the generous support of our church and community partners. Did you know that each year Hope's Table receives \$12,000 from the Northeastern PA Synod, \$9,000 from the ELCA, \$6,000 from St. John's Lutheran Church in Reading, \$1,200 from Trinity Lutheran Church in Wernersville, and numerous other gifts from time to time from other congregations. In addition, Café Esperanza just received a \$5,000 grant from the synod, a \$5,000 grant from The United Way, and a \$20,000 grant from The Wyomissing Foundation. We are truly blessed to have the support of so many partners.

Christmas Schedule



On Christmas Eve we will celebrate with a festival candlelight service at 7:00 PM.



Christmas falls on a Sunday this year! Please join us Christmas morning at 10:00 in person or by Zoom. Feel free to come in your favorite Christmas jammies!

We are...

**Hope Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

Hope For the Neighborhood

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

All Are Welcome!

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

Congratulations!

Hope Church would like to congratulate our own

Will Johnson

for being awarded the **Community Impact Award** presented by the NAACP. Will is an important part of our Pantry program!

**Coffee Sale to support
Café Esperanza**

Looking for a Christmas gift that will help support our Café? Café Esperanza will be holding a sale on its bags of coffee in time for Christmas delivery. More



details on how to purchase coffee will be available during announcements at Sunday Morning Worship!

**Rejoice in hope,
be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.**

(Romans 12:12 NRSV)

Faces of Hope - Barbara Hassler

Where do you live? Reading

Occupation: Taught School (35 years) Currently work at Santander arena and RHS sporting events

Family Members: Margaret Wunder, Taylor Wunder, George Setley, Justin Setley, Mark Hassler and Family

How long have you been a member? 66 years

How do you serve the congregation and/or community?

Alter Guild, Home visitor, SS Teacher, Bible School, Choir, Church Council, Communion to Shut-ins, Cook for pantry/Hope's Hangout, Pantry Helper, Worship Asst., Synod Evaluations

What is your favorite worship song? *Here I Am, Lord*

What do you enjoy about Hope? Openness and willing to help where needed

What do you enjoy about Hope? Hope is home and everyone's help is needed.

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Thank You!

On Sunday, October 2, I was surprised with a celebration of my 45 years as musical director at Hope Lutheran Church! I did not see this coming at all!! It was a wonderful day of stories, food, gifts, and just being together with so many people who mean so much to me.



There are so many people I want to thank. First, my wife Judy, and my entire family for all their support during the past 45 years....the Dove Committee, Church Council, and Council president Margie Wolf for all of their support and planning for this day...all the Pastors and staff members I have had the pleasure to work with, especially Pastor Mary Wolfe and Pastor Keith Rohrbach, whose partnership and friendship means so much to me...my Praise Team "kids" for always making singing a fun and enjoyable experience... to everyone who has ever had a part of our music program in any way....and finally, to all the members of Hope, whose faith and love for this church make it a joy and inspiration to gather in worship each and every Sunday. It is a pleasure to be a part of this wonderful place!!!! - Scott Schaeffer

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Hope...A Walk Through Time - Gloria Mengle

Some of the senior members may remember Sister Millicent Drake. Sister served Hope as organist and choir director for years. After serving Hope she went to St. John's in Boyertown until her retirement. (Let's not forget her Christmas rum balls!)

She was one of the most faithful people I ever met. She was not a fan of the choir being off during the summer, and the same could be said for a break for Sunday School. Although choir and organist was her main focus, she was also in charge of almost any other thing relating to the Christian Education programs at Hope.

In the beginning of her career she was not able to become a pastor, because females were not allowed. As time went on, other things stood in her way, but she never gave up hope.

Sister Millicent now resides in a nursing home because of dementia.