

HOPEFUL TIMES

A Publication of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church - Reading, PA

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O
Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the
morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

Psalm 92: 1-3

November Birthdays

Edith RuppertNovember 4
Larry MohnNovember 19

December Birthdays

Matt SchaefferDecember 4
Corbin Walker.....December 13
Elizabeth HasslerDecember 26

January Birthdays

James Otto.....January 2
Kelsi Kegerize.....January 4
Becky Walker.....January 8
Catherine PriceJanuary 10
Taylor WunderJanuary 16
Carter Schaeffer.....January 20
Daniel VilardoJanuary 25
John Printz.....January 27
Linda SnyderJanuary 29

Baptismal Anniversaries

Hannah KnoxDecember 2

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Missing your event, please give the
information to Margie Wolf.



Dear Hope Members and Friends,

Hope Lutheran Church bid Happy Retirement to Pastor Mary Wolfe on the last Sunday of September. More than 90 people came to wish her well as she retires as the Pastor of Hope. Mary will continue to operate Café Esperanza. In



October and November, she is resting from leading Hope's Table but will return to help out. On Christmas Eve, Pastor Mary will lead worship at Hope. Please come to worship that evening and bring your family.

More than 6 months ago, Pastor Mary and I began thinking about this coming transition. Mary and I have worked together for the past 25 years here in Reading. Because there is a severe shortage of ordained pastors across the country and in our Berks County area, we knew that we needed to come up with a pastoral plan. There is also a severe shortage of supply pastors for Sunday mornings. I am 64 years old. I currently am serving in a one year term call with the people of Bethany, West Reading, 10 hours per week. I am the Contracted Pastor of Christ, Reading (in Glenside) 13 hours per week. If you are familiar with the city, you know that Hope Church lies right in between those 2 churches via the Buttonwood Street Bridge.

Bethany, West Reading worships on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Christ, Reading worships at 11 a.m. Hope worships at 10 a.m. What to do? While most Sundays, I can not physically be at Hope to lead worship, I can schedule the supply pastors and have done so for this Interim Period of October 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024. This Designated Pastor arrangement (10 hours per week) gives us 4 months to figure out what the next steps will be for both a pastor and the 3 congregations.

During the week, I am working with the Hope Congregation Council to provide pastoral care to members, attend meetings, support the staff, and keep the congregation's ministry life going. The Hope's Table Outreach on Tuesday evenings and Cafe

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!

Designated Pastor: The Rev.
Bruce Ousterhout
Music Director: Scott Schaeffer
Secretary: Margaret Wunder
Sexton: David Troche

Raise The Roof Income Update

Start of 2023..\$10205.00
YTD (as of 9/30)\$850)
Total to Date\$9355

This is an ongoing campaign to pay for building repairs. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.



Christmas
Eve
Worship
Morning
Worship
10:00 AM

Candlelight
Service
7:00 PM

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

Esperanza (across the street) are a big part of the outreach ministry of Hope. One HopeFUL thing has already happened as the Berks County Conservation District (berkscd.com) wants to help Hope Church manage the Community Garden in the next growing season. BerksCD is expanding its urban gardening program that includes a Farm-to-Table Component which will work well with Cafe Esperanza's close proximity.

On Monday, October 30, representatives of the 3 congregations that I work with, met together to help figure out what the next step will be come February 1, 2024. Your worship presence, your financial support and your prayerful encouragement are needed at this time, in this period of transition.

Hope Church has been a vital part of the NW Reading community for many years. It is an neighborhood anchor congregation that needs to continue its presence at Front and Greenwich Streets. I am committed to working on making that happen. I Hope that you are, too. We Hope to see you at church sometime soon.

Meet Pastor Bruce Osterhout

Pastor Bruce began serving as Hope Lutheran Church's Designated Pastor. He is coordinating the Sunday worship life of the congregation and working with the people of Hope during the week. He has served as a Pastor here in the City of Reading since 1990. He is familiar with Hope Church and its neighborhood. He has been a partner in its ministries over all of these years. Pastor Bruce and his wife, Pastor Julie Osterhout, have 6 children and 11 grandchildren. He is an avid Reading Fightin' Phils fan, enjoys gardening, and is a native to upstate NY.



**You may contact him directly at 610-914-2795 and
bgosterhout@gmail.com**

Current Council Members

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|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Margie Wolf - President | Joanne Lucas |
| Gloria Mengle - Vice President | Phil Mengle |
| Judy Schaeffer - Secretary | Jonetta Printz |
| Chris Hassler - Treasurer | Joyce Snook |
| Mark Hassler | |