

HOPEFUL TIMES

A Publication of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church - Reading, PA

Inspirational Thought for These Challenging Times

God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Psalm 46:1-3

September Birthdays

- Linda Sloss.....Sept. 6
- Evelyn Jones.....Sept. 9
- Ken Schweitzer.....Sept. 10
- Chris Hassler.....Sept. 16
- Ellen Ruppert.....Sept. 21
- John Petroski.....Sept. 25
- Holly Hassler.....Sept. 27

October Birthdays

- Gloria Mengle.....Oct. 5
- Deb Maley.....Oct. 6
- Barbara Hassler.....Oct. 12
- Dave Ramich.....Oct. 20
- John Aulenbach.....Oct. 22
- Fern Aulenbach.....Oct. 30
- Patrick Rose.....Oct. 31

Anniversaries

- Charles & Linda Sloss..Sept. 22
- Mark & Holly Hassler.....Oct. 4
- Ken & Suzanne Sweitzer.....Oct. 19

Dear Hope Members and Friends,

“While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said “Take, eat, this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”



(NRSV Matthew 26:26-48)

From these few lines, everything we have come to understand about the Lord’s Supper has been derived. Is it any wonder that the experience of it is something of a mystery? Certainly, much has been written, and there have been both practical and theological controversies. Wine or grape juice? Common cup? But the deepest questions have revolved around the real presence of God. Most Christians agree that God is truly present to us in the sacrament, and as Lutheran Christians we agree. We receive Jesus when we receive the bread and wine. We also believe that this is not something for us to do privately, a “me and Jesus” moment. Rather, it is *Communion*, only done when gathered with a Christian community. Even home communion is considered an extension of the congregation’s Eucharist. Not unlike home communion, in our gatherings via Zoom, we are making accommodations to an extraordinary circumstance—the Covid-19 pandemic—in order to best care for the congregation’s spiritual health, while acting with the utmost care for the physical wellbeing of the community. It is my belief that our gatherings on Sunday are real community, and that our practice of Holy Communion in the context of those gatherings is also real, and that Christ’s mysterious presence in the bread and wine overcomes our physical separation, binding us to God and to each other, something we so sorely need in these challenging days.

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

All Are Welcome!

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

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

is a community of baptized children of God diverse in nature, united by the Holy Spirit. Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ, in our worship together and in our individual lives.

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ,

we proclaim the Gospel by dedicating ourselves to teaching, preaching, evangelizing, and witnessing to our immediate neighborhood, surrounding communities, and world missions.

We invite all

to share in this expression of the gospel with us.

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

In order to keep our records up to date, please notify the church office of any changes in your status (phone number, address, email, etc.). Thank you!

A Note from Council!

I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and safe. Just a quick update, that although we're not in the church, business of the church continues! Bills and salaries still must be paid, maintenance issues addressed and our congregation must be served. It's been a rough 6 months for us all, but council continues to work at keeping Hope alive. We ALL look forward to the day that we will again be worshipping in our sanctuary! At this time that is our biggest issue, trying to decide when we can return and how to make it as safe as possible! Thank goodness for the technology that has allowed us to have Sunday services. Till we all meet again, stay well and may God Bless you all.

Margie Wolf - Council Vice President

Faces of Hope - Meet Gloria Mengle

Address: 12 Moser Lane,
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

Age: 77

Occupation: Retired from Community General Hospital. Served as secretary at Hope for 7 years.

Family Members: Husband Phil
Brother Kenneth Frankhouser of Centerport



How long have you been a member at Hope? All my life!

How do you serve the congregation, past or present?

In the past, I have participated in the choirs and served as a Sunday School teacher and Church Council member. Currently, I serve as a worship assistant and on altar guild.

What is your favorite worship song?

I enjoy so many songs, but if I had to pick one it would be "O God Our Help In Ages Past".

What is your favorite Bible Verse? 1 Corinthians 13

This was read at our wedding.

What do you enjoy about Hope? I enjoy the friendliness of the people at Hope and the blend of contemporary and traditional worship.

Future Worship

We are all looking forward to returning to inside worship at Hope. Until then, we are planning 3 additional outdoor worship services: Sept. 13, Oct. 4, and 18. These will be held on our grassy lot across the street from the church at 10 AM, weather permitting. Masks and social distancing required.