

# HOPEFUL TIMES

A Publication of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church - Reading, PA

## September Birthdays

Linda Sloss .....September 6  
 Ken Schweitzer .....September 10  
 Chris Hassler .....September 16  
 Ellen Ruppert .....September 21  
 John Petroski .....September 25  
 Holly Hassler .....September 27

## October Birthdays

Gloria Mengle .....October 5  
 Deb Maley .....October 8  
 Barbara Hassler .....October 12  
 Dave Ramich .....October 20  
 John Aulenbach .....October 22  
 John Lucas .....October 28  
 Fern Aulenbach .....October 30  
 Patrick Rose .....October 31

## Anniversaries

Brandon and Amanda  
     Kegerize .....Sept. 15  
 Charles and Linda Sloss .Sept. 22  
 Donald and Michelle  
     Kostival .....Oct. 1  
 Mark and Holly Hassler.....Oct. 4  
 Ken and Susan  
     Schweitzer .....Oct. 19  
 David and Elizabeth Klein.Oct. 21



## Dear Hope Members and Friends,

It has been delightful to see many of you in person again, and to begin to visit those of you who have not been able to join us in person. These long months of the pandemic have been hard, full of suffering for many of us, and I have been so grateful for the faith that has sustained us, and that will, as we move toward brighter days, truly make us stronger. I believe we are on the brink of a new beginning, a time of great change in our world, and the future is full of possibility and HOPE. As we move into the refreshing fall weather, let us find refreshment and renewal in God’s word, and in our communion with each other. In the weeks ahead, we will begin to dream of new ways to strengthen our community through our relationships with God, each other, and our neighborhood. Please plan to join us, in person or by Zoom, following worship on October 10 for a time of dreaming and planning for our bright future full of HOPE!

*Pastor Mary*

## Thought for Our Times

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in the hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5:1-5 NRSV

## Return to Choir *Scott Schaeffer, Director of Music*

As we look toward a fresh start in the fall, I am excited for our choir to begin singing together again. However, in order to be cautious in these uncertain times, I am planning on restructuring how choir rehearsals are conducted. For at least the first part of the fall, rehearsals will be shortened and will held in the sanctuary. Since we will be gathering for a shorter time, rehearsals will take place immediately following each of our Sunday worship services and we’ll start by singing for worship twice a month. I’m hoping that having rehearsals following worship will also encourage some of you who cannot rehearse on a Wednesday to join us and see what singing with the choir is all about. Since many of us have enjoyed going out for a meal following our rehearsals, I hope we can continue this on a Sunday morning! This is not a permanent change, but a way to safely allow us to begin gathering again to sing praises to God.

**First Rehearsal: September 12**

**We are...**

**Hope Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
Hope For the Neighborhood**

601 N. Front St.  
Reading, PA 19601  
610-374-2071  
[www.icishope.org](http://www.icishope.org)

**All Are Welcome!**

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

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**In-Person Worship**

(Following COVID safety guidelines)  
Hope continues to have in-person  
worship every Sunday. Zoom  
worship will also continue to be  
offered.

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Jillian Tinnemeyer is continuing  
to schedule volunteers for Hope's  
Table. If you are interested in  
helping, contact Jillian at:  
**hello\_jillian@icloud.com**

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We Need Your Help at Worship  
on a Sunday Morning!  
If interested in helping in any way,  
please speak to Deb Maley or  
contact Margaret in the church  
office.

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

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**Faces of Hope - Dorothy Shollenberger**

(Interviewed by Pastor Mary)

**Where do you live?** Country Meadows, Room 32, 1800  
Tulpehocken Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610

**Age:** 102

**Family Members:** Husband-Nathan Shollenberger  
(deceased)

**How long have you been a member?** I joined the Easter  
before I turned 16. (87 ½ years)

**How have you been active in the congregation?** I went to  
Sunday School and stayed for church every Sunday. And I  
loved to sing!

**What is your favorite worship song?** I go to church here  
every week, and we always sing a song. Whichever song we  
sing, it's my favorite!

**What is your favorite Bible verse?** Almost every day we  
get one of these (a slip of paper entitled "A Moment in His  
Presence" with a verse). I read it over and over, many times a  
day, and it always has meaning to me. (The verse on the day I  
visited was Ephesians 5:8-10 "For once you were darkness,  
but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for  
the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and  
true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.")

**What do you like about Hope?** Everything!  
(Dorothy has been very grateful for cards received,  
especially from Scott and Judy and from Doris.)

**"Raise the Roof" Update - Christopher Hassler, Treasurer**

As was reported in the last newsletter, we had a June congregational  
meeting to decide whether to repair or replace the flat roof on the  
back of the church as well as the rain gutters. Damage occurred from  
the heavy snow last winter. This was a big decision, since the project  
total is just over \$25,000. It was voted to replace the roof. This  
investment into the property reaffirms that the congregation of Hope  
plans on being part of the community for years to come.

Bachman Roofing was contracted to complete the work. Due to supply  
issues, it took about 2 months, but the roof project is now complete.  
The gutter work should be complete within the next couple of weeks.

Hope will be using existing funds to cover a portion of this project  
along with a loan from the Synod. Members of both the congregation  
and church council have pledged money toward this campaign. We  
will update you on our financial progress in future newsletters.  
Anyone who is able to donate to help cover the costs can do so by  
giving to the "Raise the Roof" fund. Envelopes are available in the  
back of the sanctuary.