

HOPEFUL TIMES

A Publication of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church - Reading, PA

May Birthdays

Nancy TaylorMay 9
 Eugene FrymoyerMay 10
 Susan SchweitzerMay 20
 Mary WolfeMay 14
 Alyra ParkerMay 16
 Margie Wolf.....May 21
 Amy Gruber.....May 25
 Joanne Kegerize.....May 25
 Betty Spencer.....May 26

June Birthdays

Thomas Huyett.....June 8
 Ann PriceJune 18
 Margaret Wunder.....June 21
 Hannah WolfeJune 26

July Birthdays

Jonetta PrintzJuly 6
 Madilyn PapoutsisJuly 13
 Bill KnoxJuly 25

August Birthdays

Leanna Hassler.....August 1
 Hannah Knox August 1
 Elizabeth KlineAugust 3
 Trela Ernst.....August 19
 Jaliyah Jones.....August 25
 Emily JeanAugust 28

Anniversaries

Matt and Amanda Schaeffer.....May 1
 Phil and Gloria MangleMay 2
 Tom and Jessica Alexander.....May 8
 Ray and Linda SnyderMay 25
 Patrick and Patti RoseJune 10
 John and Louise Petroski.....July 3
 Mike and Mary WolfeAugust 30

*Make Hope A Special Part
 Of Your Summer!*

Dear Hope Members and Friends,

Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. John 12:24

Good Friday and Easter are now behind us, but they still give us our identity as people of the resurrection. 78 years ago, on April 9, 1945, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor and theologian, was hanged for his resistance to the Nazi regime. As they prepared him for his death, he preached a final sermon for his jailors and fellow prisoners. His words were remembered and later retold by a captured RAF pilot: "This is for me the end, the beginning of life."

Good Friday: The forces of oppression and evil put an innocent man, the embodiment of God, to death for his resistance to the way of domination. Jesus, from the cross forgives his murderers and tells another condemned man that he will join him in paradise.

Easter Sunday: Jesus appears to his friends, restoring their peace and hope and commissions them to bring the same message of love and forgiveness to the ends of the earth, and promises to be with them.



Even in the midst of shootings, suffering and hatred, God's spirit is with us if we come out of our tombs of grief and fear, and go to the places of suffering knowing Jesus is there. This is our hope: That in resisting the forces of evil we meet Jesus who gives us the courage and love to bring new life to our world. Friends, let's be all in.

Practice Resurrection. Love your enemies. Be generous without expectation of return. Do not be afraid. Peace be with you.

Pastor Mary

Cafe Esperanza News

The café is expanding! Thanks to a generous grant from the Wyomissing Foundation, we are renovating the second and third floors of The Preisser Center (the building Hope owns that houses the café). The front room on the second floor will be an all-purpose space for meetings, classes and other group use. The second room will be a space for people to work and read with a counter for computers, a printer, and a comfortable sofa. The upstairs bathroom is being renovated, and all the electric has been brought up to code. We are replacing several windows, and everything is getting a fresh coat of paint. Soon we will invite you all to come check out our new space!



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. Wolfe
Music Director: Scott Schaeffer
Secretary: Margaret Wunder
Sexton: David Troche

Raise The Roof Income Update

Start of 2023\$10205.00
Jan.-March 2023.....\$240
Total to Date\$10,445.00

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

Our choir has been rehearsing and singing at selected services on a



Sunday morning. Rehearsals take place immediately following worship. I would like to thank everyone for giving their time to this important ministry. If you would like to give singing with the choir a try, please see me for more information. Scott

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

Faces of Hope - Ben Knox

Where do you live? 900 Bedford Ave, Reading, PA 19607

Age: 20

Occupation: Camp counselor at Bear Creek Camp

Family members: Rebecca, William, Hannah Knox

How long have you been a member? 13 years

How do you serve the congregation and/or community?

I have helped serve the congregation as a member of the Praise Team and as a percussionist. I also help with the sound board during worship. I serve the community as a volunteer at Cafe Esperanza.

What is your favorite religious song? "Lord I Lift Your Name on High"

What is your favorite Bible verse(s)? Romans 8:24-25

What do you enjoy about Hope? I enjoy the passion of the people at Hope which creates a unique and great way to worship and grow in faith.

What would you like to tell the people of Hope? I would like to thank the people of Hope for helping me learn and grow in my faith throughout the years and for giving me the opportunity to find talents to share



Hope...A Walk Through Time - Gloria Mengle

When working as Hope's secretary I found a book with information about the beginning of Hope:

- The first person listed was Adam Kissinger, Elder, (not council...I wonder when it changed) It was January 5, 1890.
•Annie Ahrens is the first member listed, April 5, 1887.
•First Baptism is Howard Kissinger on November 29, 1885.

These books are large and heavy, all hand written, of course. Details for these folks also include parents names for the infants, and date of death for members.

As surprising as it seems, the secretary also kept a hand written record of members receiving communion .

Did You Know???

We still have an active ministry through Zoom on a Sunday morning. On most Sundays, 6 or more join us online, many times from states other than Pennsylvania. Please encourage any friends or family members to join us if they can't be here at Hope. A continued thanks to all who help us with this important ministry.