

The Anchor

March 2018

***The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church
211 Elton Adelphia Road Freehold NJ 07728
Phone (732) 462-7545 Fax (732) 462-9320***

**Worship Services with Holy Communion:
Sunday Worship 8:30 AM and 10:45 AM
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Wednesday Evenings Worship and School 7:00 PM**

Pastor: *The Reverend Doctor Edward E Kropa, Jr*

Church Administrator: *Cheryl Hurd*

Minister of Music: *John Ahern*

Hope Christian School Director: *Judy Canfield*

Communications Director: *Kathryn Johnson*

Bookkeeper/Financial Secretary: *Stephanie Siino*

Hope Lutheran Church Email: HopeLutheran17@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church Website: www.hopefreehold.org

Hope Christian School Email: Judyc08723@yahoo.com

Hope Christian School Website: www.hopechristianschool.org

Counseling Center for Human Development: (908) 276-0590

***Anchored in Christ, Growing in Faith, Love and Service!
We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul....***

3 WAYS THAT CHURCHES CAN GET STUCK

Recently I came across an article written by Carey Nieuwhof, a Canadian pastor who writes about the current state of the Church (capital “C”). In other words, he focuses on the trends facing Christian congregations; primarily in North America.

A recent article of his was entitled: *3 Ways Almost Every Church Gets Stuck*. I shared this article with our Congregation Council, and now I’d like to summarize it for you as well.

The expression “getting stuck,” whether we’re talking about an organization or an individual, usually refers to getting “mired” or “bogged down.” In other words, it’s when things slow down or even grind to a halt, and we’re no longer moving forward or making any progress. Here then are the three ways he feels that congregations often get stuck.

Stuck in the Past...

The first way many churches get stuck is by living in the past; especially if the congregation, back in the day, was larger or stronger or had more of a reputation and presence in the local community. It’s all about still trying to live in the so-called good old days. The problem, of course, is that you can’t go back to the way it was or used to be - ever. The past is the past, and we can never recreate it no matter how hard we try. But some congregations try anyway, and that leads to a great deal of frustration. Moreover, it keeps the congregation from moving forward and discovering who God wants them to be in the present time.

Stuck in the Future...

Believe it or not, this can happen as well. Congregations get stuck in the future when, instead of an idealized past, they focus on an idealized future instead. As Nieuwhof writes: “The talk is always about what *could be*, what *should be*, and what *might be*, but there’s zero plan to get anyone there.” Focusing on the future, he says, become a way to avoid dealing with the present. “Which is why many leaders love to live in the future,” he says, “then they don’t have to deal with anything.”

Stuck in the Present...

Finally, congregation can even get stuck in the present. Those who do, he says, have failed to learn anything from the past and, at the same time, also lack a specific vision for the future. Instead, week after week, month after month, the congregation keeps doing the very same things over and over again. They're not trying anything new. They're not experimenting. And the result of doing the same things over and over again is that the congregation will begin to experience diminishing returns. Things that worked well in the past, even the recent past, no longer seem to be as effective. But the congregation just keeps doing them anyway. There's an old saying, often attributed to Albert Einstein that goes like this: The definition of insanity is doing the same things over and over again, but expecting different results.

So what's the answer? How can congregations get past being stuck, whether it's in the past, or the present or the future?

Nieuwhof says: **Learn from the past. Imagine a better future. And create a plan.**

Instead of idealizing the past, glean lessons from it. Instead of just having a vague vision for the future, set some specific and measurable goals. And finally, develop a plan to get there

Easier said than done, of course. But something worth considering.

Pastor Ed

HOPE STATS					
<u>Sun/Wed</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Sun School</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>-did NOT</u>	<u>+ reached</u>
Jan 28	95	25	\$2851	-\$1957	
Feb 4	103	30	\$4417	-\$391	
Feb 11	101	13	\$3564	-\$1244	
Feb 18	87	17	\$2506	-\$2302	
Feb 25	119	30	\$2217	-\$2591	
<i>Average Offering needed <u>weekly</u> to meet the proposed budget offerings of \$250,000 is \$4808</i>					

Official Acts....

Baptism..... Received into the Church of Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on February 11 was: **Paisley Rose Jasinski**. Parents are **Daniel and Carlie Jasinski** and sponsors are **Thomas Caballero** and **Kim Colonna**.

Our Love and Sympathy.... We extend our love and sympathy to the family and close friends of our beloved member; **Erika Bondo** who has entered Life Eternal; The **Kuehn family** in their loss of **Wolfgang Kuehn**.

Prayer Shawls.... **Cheryl** and **Erica Driscoll** are working on getting this ministry going again! Please if you are interested, reach out and let the office know so we can start as soon as possible!! 732-462-7545

More News....

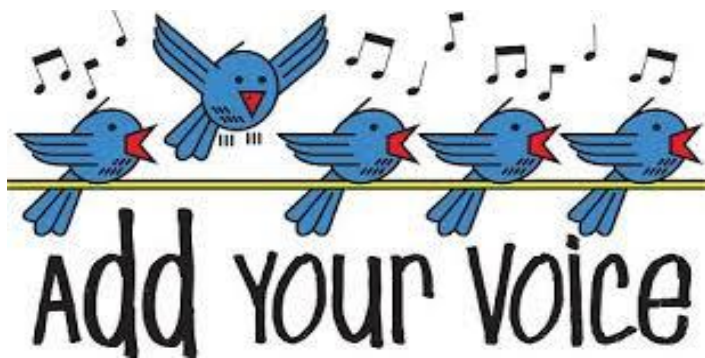
Hope's NEW Minister of Music is John Ahern! John grew up in Colorado, and now lives in Princeton, NJ with his beautiful wife, Marissa, and adorable son, Ransom... Let's give them all a warm welcome to OUR family!

Hope's Nursery School Attendant is NOW Anna Marie Sirico...She has come HIGHLY recommended from Hope Christian School where she volunteers two days a week to help with the After-Care Program. Please welcome her!! Her hours begin at 8:15AM and usually last until Noon, although some events may require extra time.

On that note...We need VOLUNTEERS!!! Any members that would be willing to fill in as needed for Anna Marie in the event she is ill or can not make it to Church that day. We are looking for as many volunteers as possible, please email or call Cheryl at the office and make your preference known if you would like to cover the early or late service.

Saint Peter's Meals....

Our current coordinator **Karen DonMoyer** is unfortunately stepping down from overseeing our Saint Peter's Meal hostings after this year. If anyone has interest in taking over for her, **NOW** would be a great time to do so and you can work side by side with her through our next two hostings, **March 23** and **April 27**. It would be a great opportunity to help with the transitioning process. Please if you are interested, kindly let Cheryl know as soon as possible!! This really is a great commitment to be a party of. Thank you so much for your anticipated consideration!



JUNIOR CHOIR -

Hope will begin to have "Junior Choir" practices each Wednesday from 6:30-7:30, starting January 17. Parents are welcome to attend the service

while children practice in the rear Sunday School hallway. Younger siblings are invited to attend Sunday School. Praise Songs will serve as our warm up from 6:30-7 and at 7, we will spend a half an hour learning sheet music/anthems for upcoming church services. If you would like to sing traditional choir anthems in church on Palm Sunday and Easter please join us on Wednesdays at 6:30PM! For questions, call or text Rebekah Heilman at 862-755-6868.



***Don't forget!! Saturday, March 10
NIGHT into Sunday MORNING at
2:00AM...clocks AHEAD!! Spring
is coming!!***



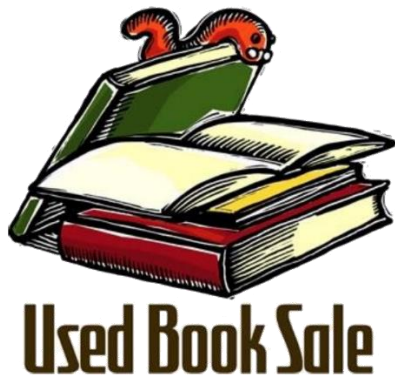
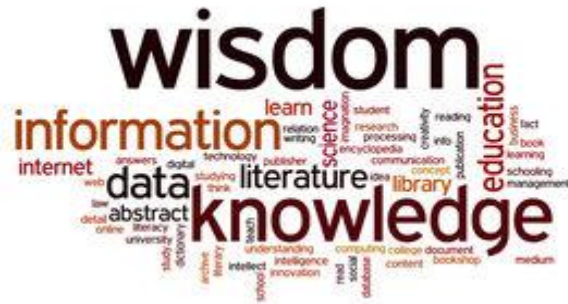
Gathering of Men Breakfast

***Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month
at 9AM (March 10)***

Join the Gathering of Men for breakfast, fellowship and sharing. We'll have breakfast and conversation.

Any questions may be directed to: Gerry Bergh, 732-972-2799.

***Wisdom Club meets
Thursday, March 15 at
11:30AM in the Church
Narthex. Third Thursday
of every month!!***



BIKES AND BOOKS

The Freehold Area AAUW is again collecting books for its used book sale in June. Please drop off any hardback or paperback fiction and non-fiction (no text books or readers digest condensed books) at the church at any time between now and mid May. Joan Drager will take it from there. Also, John Drager will take any used bicycles to the Ministry in Asbury Park.

First Holy Communion

***First Holy Communion classes begin Wednesday, February 21 at
7:00PM for 3rd grade students and up.***

Following class dates will be: February 28, March 7 and 14

***First Holy Communion is scheduled for Sunday, March 18 at the
10:45AM service***

Catechism Classes

Sundays @ 6:30 PM to 8 PM

7th & 8th Graders continue their Catechism instruction.

March 4, 11, and 18, 2018

April 8, 15, and 22, 2018

Emergency Housing Program at Hope: Volunteers Needed!



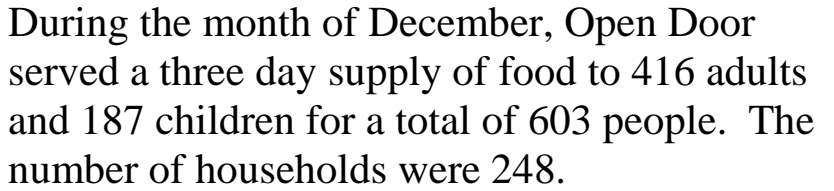
The Emergency Housing Program, a project of the Freehold Clergy Association is **now in home stretch and nearing the finish line, concluding on March 31st!**

****Please note that because of our Easter Egg Hunt at Hope on Friday March 23rd, Emergency Housing will take place at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold.**

Please make note of this location change for March 23rd only.**

We have opened our doors to local homeless gentlemen on Friday nights at Hope Lutheran. Volunteers are needed to help, either by bringing a meal, hosting the men, or volunteering to be a driver for transportation between St. Peter's and Hope. Please look for sign-up sheets in the narthex.

For more information, please contact ***Andrew or Zinke McGeedy*** at **732-363-8520**. Thank you for your anticipated support!



Church and Dwight gave an additional \$10,000 donation at the end of the year in addition to the \$10,000 grant that was received in November.

A local businessman who also plays in a band will hold a food drive on Saint Patrick's Day at Our Hour Restaurant in Farmingdale.

Erika, our advocacy director, has seen about 20 clients in December.

Erika also helped 5 families for a total of \$6,300 with EFSP funds, FAOD 10 families for utilities, total of \$2,399.33 funds and also rent for two families, total of \$600.

Thank you for all your continued support.

Sandra Taylor, Trustee and Vice President

SUPPORT COMMISSION REPORT

FEBRUARY 2018

- ~* You should have your annual statement of contributions.
- ~* You are encouraged to talk to Cheryl when you are looking to enlist volunteers for the various ministries we perform. She will probe the database.
- ~* The finance committee will meet, probably in February to review 2017 Year End Actuals.
- ~* The Pastoral Support Committee continues to meet bi-monthly, we will report as appropriate.
- ~* A brief analysis of our offerings for 2017 shows a total of ~\$240,000 Close to our budget projection. Our spending plan for 2018 estimates ~\$240,000.
- ~* 195 giving units gave offerings in 2017, ranging from ~\$5/year to over \$10,000/year. The median (i.e number 98 out of the 195) contributor gave about \$400. The support committee will discuss \$ stewardship, as well as program participation during the spring of 2018.
- ~* Our new treasure is fully credentialed, with signature and on line permissions to do the job. We will continue to consult with her as requested.



Awesome turn out for the Blood Drive!! A HUGE thank you to **Jeanette Kropa** for helping with the hosting! 13 units were taken total, the numbers would have been higher but unfortunately, everyone is SICK!! Thank you to everyone for making this event possible!



**March 4, 2018 at 10:45AM
SERVICE**

**CROSS ROADS MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT
7TH AND 8TH GRADE
“HUMAN KIND, BE KIND”
April 20-22, 2018**

Registration is \$95, Contact Tara Zigler at tzigler2@gmail.com

*We will focus on what it means to be called by God to be kind to ourselves,
our neighbors and our world. The weekend retreat will be filled with
games, bible study, awesome food and laughter!*

Save  Please!

Every Clip counts



*Hope Christian School receives 10 cents for every one
of these that we hand in. They come on the packaging
of many products (Ziploc bags; Motts products; etc).*

*You do not have to be affiliated with the school in anyway to participate,
simply drop them off in the container on the table right inside our entry/exit
doors. Thank you for your support!!*

TOM TYRRELL for keeping up with our rock salt supply, and keeping our walkways clear and safe all winter; also for finding coverage when he goes away and taking care of all of us here at the Church and School....

BARBARA, OUR PAPER ANGEL, for dropping off reams and reams of paper and sparing us that expense by keeping us well stocked all year....

JOHN FINK for always being available and helpful to all of our concerns here in the office....

TOM KENDRICK who is also always flexible and helpful as far as always finding the time to come here and fix things, buy supplies, running around, and never complaining....

SUZY COULTER for her knowledge and expertise with insurance....

JEFF SMITH for his help with implementing the new program to keep track of times, abilities, and attendance....

GERRY BERGH for his weekly dedication and input on editing and proofreading the Weekly bulletin you all receive via email....

KAREN ALESSI, CHARLOTTE SHAW, AND SANDY SANDOR for their consistent help and dedication coming to Church and helping assemble the Anchor and get it ready to mail each month...

EVERYONE for the love, support, and patience I receive every day, week, and month getting acclimated in my new position, it does not go unnoticed and is always very appreciated!!!

Easter Lilies will be placed on our Chancel area for Easter Worship Services. If you would like to order lilies, please complete the form and return it to the church office before Sunday, March 18. Plants may be taken home any time after the second service on Easter Sunday, April 1.

Price: \$7.00 each for 6 inch plants.

The forms will be available in the office, Narthex, and also by the flower chart on the Sacristy closet door, beginning the first week of February for your convenience.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

If we have missed you, we apologize – it's probably because our records are incomplete. Please give us a reminder so we can place your name in this column next month & proper month next year.

Shannon Neilan
David Lynch
Dawn Mulcahy
Jenna Platt
John Platt
Allison Fink
Erin Behn
Danielle Knoell
Doris Green
Michelle Koester
Ray Vender
Katie Hudak
Nicole Seitz
John Fink
Nicholas D'Angelo
Chuck Mineer
Joanne Quinn
Carolyn Gibson
Nila Peterson
Anthony Russo
Hannah Robinson
Jeffrey Strandberg
Ann Marie Hagemann
Kayla Brand
Sonja Dennis
Lorraine Cain
Sue Hu

Brandon Paasch
Daniel Spicuzza
Gary Devine
Molly McMillin
Sally Russo
Ann Finkbeiner
Maia Cardelfe
Dolores O'Brien
Landen Rosenberg
Henry Sprunger
Nicolette Birnbaum
Michael Souter
Lucas Becce
Cindy Lynch
Santino Giacobbe
Andrew Bayles
Amanda Lashenick
Brenda Johnson
Kim Shimko
Matthew DeFelice
Janice Seifert
Heather McGinn
Mackenzie Miller

