

The Anchor

April 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.hopechristianschoolfreehold.com

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....***

Let's Go To FRANCE

Some years ago, when I was serving a congregation in southeastern Pennsylvania, I would frequently pass by a church overlooking the highway on my way to Philadelphia. It was a large facility that appeared as though it had undergone at least one or more expansion projects. Sprawling parking lots surrounded it and they were typically filled with cars, even during the week. Just before I left the area to accept a new call, I learned that they were on the verge of outgrowing their current building and were in the process of securing a much larger piece of property in order to relocate.

Whether they ever made such a move or not, I do not know. But it was obvious to me that this was a vibrant and growing church. Therefore, I would often find myself asking the question: “What is their secret?”

Unfortunately, I never did learn the secret to their success; not entirely at least. But I did hear a story once that perhaps explains at least part of it. It seems that on Christmas Eve, when nearly every church experiences much larger than average attendance figures, this congregation would not allow their members to park in one of those sprawling parking lots surrounding the church. Instead, their members were asked to park at a nearby school and they were then bused over to the church for worship. The result being, of course, that their own sprawling parking lots were reserved solely for their *guests*.

Imagine that. Their members were willing to inconvenience *themselves* in order that there would be sufficient parking for non-members! Now it doesn't completely explain their obvious success and growth, of course. But it does give us a clue, I think. Apparently this was a church that was *outwardly* not *inwardly* focused. In other words, they cared more about inviting and welcoming others to their worship services than they were about satisfying their own needs. Novel idea, don't you think?

The Easter season is almost upon us. The time of year that is absolutely crucial and essential to our Christian faith. Our worship services will be filled to near capacity, especially on Easter morning itself. So what if we were to take a similar position ourselves? What if we were to think less about ourselves and more about the guests who will be joining us in our house of worship? What if we were to even make a conscious effort to INVITE people to worship with us on Easter morning and then during the entire Easter season as well? In fact, what if we were to go to F.R.A.N.C.E. this year?

F.R.A.N.C.E., you see, is an acronym for the groups and individuals in our lives who can be prime targets of our invitations:

Friends

Relatives

Acquaintances

Neighbors

Coworkers

Everyone else you can think of!

I hope (pun intended!) that you will consider going to FRANCE with me this Easter season. After all, Jesus himself commanded his followers to GO! ...and make disciples. Not “sit” and wait for them to come to us.

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>
March 4	179	31	\$6,417		\$1897
March 11	102	18	\$4,142	-\$378	
March 18	212	25	\$2,976	-\$1,544	
March 25	144	15	\$3015	-\$1505	
<i>Average Offering needed <u>weekly</u> to meet the proposed budget offerings of \$235,000 is \$4520</i>					

Official Acts....

Baptism..... Received into the Church of Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on February 25 were: **Jack** and **Zoe Arraial**. Parents are **RJ** and **Mary Arraial**. Sponsors for **Jack** were **Nanci Arraial** and **Danielle Sisson**, for **Zoe**, **Andre Vold** and **Andria Vold**;

On March 4; **Charlotte Avery Frederick**. Parents are **Christopher** and **Ashley Frederick** and Sponsors are **Rachael Sarkar** and **Nicole Ortiz**.

On March 18, we held First Holy Communion. Congratulations to all of our communicants; **Jackson Behn**, **James Bonevich**, **Juliet Bonevich**, **Olivia Caliendo-Fink**, **Santino Giacobbe**, **Sophia Hernandez**, **Logan Lewis**, **Ella Madden**, **Adrianna Mancini**...

Our Love and Sympathy.... We extend our love and sympathy to the family and close friends of our beloved member; **Carol Casement** who has entered Life Eternal...**Pastor Tom O'Brien** has entered Life Eternal on March 24, 2018...

More News....

Hope's Sunday Nursery Attendant is Anna Marie Sirico...

Her hours begin at 8:15AM and usually last until Noon, although some events may require extra time.

On that note...We need VOLUNTEERS!!!

We need some to fill in for our Easter services PLEASE!! Call the office if you are able to help us out!

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 **LAST HOSTING, 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!



Meet our New Minister of Music...

John Ahern is a PhD candidate at Princeton University studying Medieval music history. He has been playing piano since he was 4 and pipe organ since he was 12. He and his wife Medora and

their son Ransom moved to Princeton, New Jersey from Idaho. Besides music, John enjoys hiking, reading, baking, and programming. His wife Medora is an experienced software account manager and an amazing flower arranger.



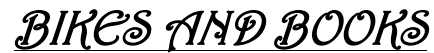
Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM
April 10, 2018



Gathering of Men Breakfast

Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month
at 9AM
April 14, 2018

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.



Catechism Classes

7th & 8th Graders continue their Catechism instruction.

YOU'RE INVITED!

The Kropa Family



Thank you so much to everyone who served this year with the Emergency Housing and Advocacy Program at Hope! The program would not have been a success without your help and generous support! Thank you for your service to our Lord! We truly appreciate it!

Please join us for a THANK YOU Reception on

Tuesday, April 17th@ 7:00 PM

St. Robert Bellarmine Church, 61 Georgia Road, Freehold.

~We hope you can join us in celebrating another successful season!!

May God continue to bless you just as you have blessed so many others through serving the community and our Lord with gladness!

Most Sincerely and Gratefully,

Andrew and Zinke McGeady

Emergency Housing Coordinators for Hope Lutheran Church

Upcoming Youth Fundraisers

APRIL 15 3:15-5:45PM in Fellowship Hall

CELEBRATION 2018 – AGAPE – JOE DAVIS CONCERT!

Join other youth, adults, and people of all ages from around the New Jersey Synod for an afternoon of CELEBRATION!

Celebrate being the Church in these times with so many opportunities to serve and learn and grow and party!

In addition to the Concert, we will also engage in activities celebrating the following ministries:

~* *Bosnia 1st!! Hear inspiring stories, participate in Home Team activities and learn how to become more involved.*

~* *Houston Gathering! Join in the excitement of the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering with trivia, giveaways and more!*

~* *Lovestruck! Experience the thought-provoking, empowering Love Struck exploration of Race, Community & God.*

music * party * food * fun * friends * faith * exploration * hope

Who: ALL!! Youth, Adults, Children.... ALL!

Where: Hope Lutheran Church 211 Elton Adelphia Road Freehold NJ07728

Cost: Suggestion donation of \$10

Sign-up: njsynod.org/youth-events (opened March 15)

HOPE here, there, and everywhere!

Event: Beef 'N' Ale *Food, Music and Love for Everyone!*

When: Saturday, April 21, 2018 6:00PM – 9:00PM

Where: Hope Lutheran Church – Fellowship Hall

Help Spread Peace and Hope Everywhere!

Cost: Ticket is \$20, 12 and under is \$15

All proceeds from the event will go towards supporting the Youth traveling to Houston for the Gathering and the Bosnia Mission Trip!

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!

Registration for the NJ Synod Washington DC Servant Trip for Middle School youth is filling up, there are only a few spots left. If you plan to attend please email me **and** register on line at:

<http://www.njsynod.org/dc-servant-trip>

Details for the trip: Nicole Seitz – Chaperone

Cost \$250 includes food, transportation, and lodging (scholarships available)

Date: July 16-20, 2018

This five-day trip is an excellent opportunity for youth to serve Jesus in the people of Washington, DC! The group will see some of the sights of our nation's capitol and engage in a variety of community service projects. Take a look at the photo on the NJ Synod website for the DC trip - who do you see: HOPE YOUTH!! We have had several Hope youth attend this fantastic trip, don't miss out. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Tara Zigler

Progressive Dinners
beginning
Saturday, April 28...
more details to follow..



We are still looking for stewards to volunteer for our 7PM Maundy Thursday service and 7PM Good Friday service! Call/email the office and let Cheryl know what you are able to volunteer for over those two days please!! You are always appreciated!!



IHS / "In His Service"

In the Latin-speaking Christianity of medieval Western Europe (and so among Catholics and many Protestants today), the most common Christogram became "IHS" or "IHC", denoting the first three letters of the Greek name of Jesus, IHΣΟΥΣ, iota-eta-sigma, or IHΣ.

The Greek letter *iota* is represented by **I**, and the *eta* by **H**, while the Greek letter *sigma* is either in its lunate form, represented by **C**, or its final form, represented by **S**. Because the Latin-alphabet letters *I* and *J* were not systematically distinguished until the 17th century, "JHS" and "JHC" are

equivalent to "IHS" and "IHC". English-language interpretations of "IHS" have included "In His Service".

IHS or JHS Christogram of western Christianity.

Holy Spirit descending on Jesus like a dove

The depictions have ranged from nearly identical figures that **represent** the three persons of the **Holy** Trinity to a dove to a flame. The **Holy Spirit** is often depicted as a dove, based on the account of the **Holy Spirit** descending on Jesus like a dove when he was baptized in the Jordan.

There is also a cloud when God descends in Luke 9:34 when Jesus is transfigured on the Mount. ... At the Baptism of Jesus, Matthew 3:16, the **Holy Spirit** takes the form of a **dove** and descends upon Jesus. A **dove** is also a symbol of peace and purity, which signifies the purity and peace the **Holy Spirit** brings.

THANK YOU!!!

BILL UNGER for making the awesome stained glass shown and explained above. **TOM TYRELL** for helping him display it safely up high in our Narthex.

WOMEN OF HOPE for helping put together a wonderful celebration in honor of **Erika Bondo**.

BILL AND JANICE SEIFERT for their generous donations to the Women of Hope Scholarship Fund, dedicated in loving memory to **Erika Bondo** and **Wolfgang Kuehn**.

WANDA NEBIOLO for her generous donation to the Women of Hope Scholarship Fund, dedicated in loving memory to **Erika Bondo**.

MARK BONDO contributing a large amount of donations to our Samaritan Fund to honor his angel, **Erika Bondo**.

COUNTLESS MEMBERS who donated and contributed towards the purchase of an altar cloth, purchased and inscribed in memory of **Erika Bondo**.

GERRY BERGH who donated to the Samaritan Fund in honor of **Erika Bondo**.

JOE TOTH for his donation in memorial of **Carol Casement**.

ART CASEMENT for his donation to the Samaritan Fund in honor of his beloved wife, **Carol Casement**.

ERICA DRISCOLL and **PAM TAYLOR** for their dedication and help filling

in for our bookkeeper, **Stephanie Siino** who is courageously dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

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....

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.

Ralph Werner
Thomas Tyrrell Jr
Mark Bondo
Carolyn Gibson
Robert Faint
Laura Stewart
Christina Krause
Joan Stefani
John Carroll
Tyler Carroll
Tucker Clayton
Carmen Alessi
Linda Grayzel
Jayden Kane
Carrie Ruegger
Joshua Afiriye
Erica Bastry
Paul Stewart
Robert Taylor
Connor Bertsch
Dominick DeVivo III

Roberta Spatzer
Scott Page Jr
Ashley Frederick
Jamie Faint
Connor Brand
Joshua Cottrell
Janet Creech
Serena DeFelice
Cassidy Trojan
Paige Trojan
Laura Weiss
Robert Hering
Theodore Horton
Ashley Bayles
Dennis Duvelsdorf
Jacob Cottrell
Anne Marie Denney
Chris Frederick
Alysa Seitz
Emily Vandenakker
Valerie Rodriguez

