

The Anchor

June 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 9:30 AM**

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....***

PRESERVE THE CORE / STIMULATE PROGRESS

This is a phrase that originated with and was popularized by well-known author Jim Collins, who writes about the keys to organizational sustainability and growth. On his website, Collins defines it in this way:

“Preserve the Core/Stimulate Progress is a concept developed in the book *Built to Last*. Enduring great organizations exhibit a dynamic duality. On the one hand, they have a set of timeless core values and purpose that remain constant over time. On the other hand, they have a relentless drive for progress—change, improvement, innovation, and renewal. Great organizations keep clear the difference between their core values (which never change), and operating strategies and cultural practices (which endlessly adapt to a changing world).”

Of course, the question you may be asking yourself right about now is: What does this have to do with the Christian Church, in general, and Hope Lutheran, in particular? And the short answer is simply this: Mainline denominations (which include the ELCA) have been really struggling in recent decades with these very issues of sustainability and growth that Jim Collins writes about. For example,

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

In 1965, the CC(DoC) had [1,918,471](#) members. In 2012, the membership was [625,252](#), a decline of 67 percent.

Reformed Church in America

In 1967, the RCA had [384,751](#) members. In 2014, the membership was [145,466](#), a decline of 62 percent.

United Church of Christ (Congregationalist)

In 1965, the UCC had [2,070,413](#) members. In 2012, there were [998,906](#) members, a decline of 52 percent.

Episcopal Church In 1966, the TEC had [3,647,297](#) members. By 2013, the membership was [1,866,758](#), a decline of 49 percent. (Those numbers should be even lower, though, since those figures by the TEC include [breakaway churches](#) trying to leave the denomination.)

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (PCUSA)

In 1967, the PC(USA) had [3,304,321](#) members. In 2013, the membership was [1,760,200](#), a decline of 47 percent.

United Methodist Church (UMC)

In 1967, the UMC had [11,026,976](#) members. In 2012, the membership was [7,391,911](#), a decline of 33 percent.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) In 1987, the ELCA had [5,288,230](#) members. In 2013, the membership was [3,863,133](#), a decline of 27 percent. (Note: The ELCA was formally constituted in 1988 as a merger of the Lutheran Church in America, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches and the American Lutheran Church.)

American Baptist Churches

In 1967, the ABC/USA had [1,335,342](#) members. In 2012, the membership was [1,308,054](#), a decline of 2 percent. (Note: The ABC/USA has been able to stem its decline among white congregants by replacing them with African American and Hispanic members.)

(The above figures are from a March 17, 2015 article by Joe Carter for “The Gospel Coalition”)

Given these rather bleak numbers, the issues of sustainability and growth are hot topics these days in mainline churches, including the ELCA. (And it’s hardly comforting that the ELCA’s losses are not as steep as some of these other denominations!)

What went wrong? Even more importantly: How can we stop and reverse these trends?

As you can well imagine, a lot of soul searching has been done in response to these questions; especially the former one. And there are probably a whole host of reasons why these declines have occurred over the past 50 years or so..

But I am much more interested in that second question about stopping and reversing these trends, especially in the ELCA and, of course, here at Hope. And Jim Collins, I believe, has at least part of the answer, again: “Preserve The Core / Stimulate Progress.”

For us, as Christians, the “core” is the gospel, plain and simple; the good news of God’s grace, mercy, love and forgiveness demonstrated in and through Jesus Christ. That’s the core of what we believe and, therefore, who we are. Everything else is secondary. Everything else, even some of our

long-held and most cherished traditions and ways of doing things can and MUST change in response to the rapidly changing world in which we live.

As Collins writes: “Enduring great organizations... have a set of timeless core values and purpose that remain constant over time.” The apostle Paul once made the following observation: “For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified” That’s it, in a nutshell. The bottom line. Jesus Christ and him crucified. Stick to that, and the church will not only survive, but thrive. Why? Because that has always been, and will always need to be, our primary and singular focus. And our only hope as well.

“On the other hand,” as Collins writes, “they (that is, enduring great organizations) have a relentless drive for progress – change, improvement, innovation, and renewal. Great organizations keep clear the difference between their core values (which never change), and operating strategies and cultural practices (which endlessly adapt to a changing world).”

Even when the Church has done a good job of “preserving the core” (which I’m not sure it always has!), it has often failed (sometimes miserably) to “stimulate progress.” But that’s the key, says Collins. That’s the dynamic he discovered in researching great organizations. And, therefore, this perhaps needs to be our goal as well as we seek to reach out to a troubled world with the only good news that really matters; the only good news that can truly make a difference in our lives. In the end, only “Jesus Christ, and him crucified” is central to who we are and what we do... Everything else is up for grabs.

Pastor Ed

HOPE STATS					
Sun/Wed	Attendance	Sun School	Offerings	-did NOT	+ reached
April 29	97	17	\$2,425	-\$2,095	
May 6	105	36	\$3,827	-\$693	
May 13	104	27	\$3,123	-\$1,397	
May 20	153	29	\$4,307	-\$213	
May 27	95	11	\$2,554	-\$1,966	
<i>Average Offering needed <u>weekly</u> to meet the proposed budget offerings of \$235,000 is \$4520</i>					

Official Acts....

Confirmation... On Pentecost Sunday, May 20, we had 6 new Hope Confirmands. Congratulations to **Augie Daesener Jr., Ryan Michael Hart, Mark Page, Naeem Reuben, Katie Weiss, and Sydney Wolven!**

Baptism..... **Alexander David Seitz** was baptized Wednesday, May 23 by Pastor Kropa. His parents are **David** and **Jennifer Seitz** and godparents are **Kristine Elkins** and **Sean Elkins**. Welcome to the Hope Family **Alexander!**

Our Love and Sympathy....

More News....

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

Her hours begin at 9:15AM and usually last until the end of our service, although some events may require extra time.

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

*We need some to fill in for services **PLEASE** in the event Anna Maria cannot make it... Call the office if you are able to help us out!*

ALWAYS GRATEFUL....

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

JOHN FINK for coordinating and helping make Work Day so very productive and successful.

SHARRYN PAPINCHAK and **SUZY COULTER** for their assistance in trying to get all of our groups and building rentals in order with updated information.

KAREN DONMOYER for all her time and dedication with making sure the Saint Peter's Meals run smoothly! She will be very hard to replace, but we are **STILL IN NEED** of a new coordinator!



Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM
June 12, 2018



Gathering of Men Breakfast

Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month
at 9AM

June 9, 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.

Wisdom Club meets
Thursday, June 21 at
11:30AM *in the Church*
Narthex. Third Thursday
of every month!!



The Wedgwood Gardens Worship Service
First Thursday of every month June 7th at 3:30PM

3419 US Highway 9 North in Freehold

Worship Service with Holy Communion

*You are invited to join Pastor Kropa for assistance with this Nursing Home service,
please arrive at 3:15PM.*

The Manor Worship Service
Sunday, June 24th at 2:00PM

689 West Main Street in Freehold (right in front of CentraState)

Worship Service with Holy Communion

*You are invited to join Pastor Kropa for assistance with this Nursing Home service,
please arrive at 1:45PM.*



It is creeping up on us!! The meeting is [Sunday, June 24th at 10:45AM.](#) The time to get started on reports and submitting them is [NOW!!!](#) Last day for reports will be [Friday, June 18th](#)!

Upcoming Youth Trips

CONFIRMATION CAMP

JULY 8 - 14, 2018

Cost \$465

CONFIRMATION CAMP IS A ONE-WEEK EXPERIENCE OF CAMPING AND LEARNING FOR YOUTH CURRENTLY IN THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS WITH CONGREGATIONS.

YOUTH GATHER TO LIVE AND EXPLORE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT UNDERSTANDS THE REALITIES OF TEENAGE LIFE.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE IMMERSSED IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST INTELLECTUALLY, RELATIONALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY.

CAMPERS WILL:

- Encourage a safe environment for healthy play
- Enjoy God's creation
- Deepen faith commitment
- Establish new friendships
- Build connections with youth and their leaders
- Engage in daily learning activities
- Participate in camp activities: canoeing, archery, high/low ropes, arts and crafts, sports, swimming, and more.

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



Vacation Bible School

July 30, 2018 – August 3, 2018

***Have a fun filled, active week, very
rewarding!***

Guides – Helpers – Game People

***Contact Diane ladydijacks@optimum.net
or Debbie debbill@optonline.net***

***If you have not signed up yet to attend VBS, applications are
available through the Church Office and in the Narthex!!***

? What's New ?

The ***Altar Committee***, after 50 years, decided to replace the “white table cloth” used for funerals with an actual Funeral Pall and Urn Pall. Both are made of linen and polyester jacquard with a cross covering the full length of the Pall; accented with gold metallic orphreys.

The ***Church Council*** purchased a new altar cloth with a Jerusalem Cross design in memory of ***Erika Bondo***, wife of ***Mark Bondo***, former Council Treasurer.

The ***Women of Hope*** purchased a Palm Sunday Banner in memory of ***Wolfgang Kuehn, Siggy*** and ***Angelika's father***, and also a music banner, inscripted with the words “Great is Thy Faithfulness” in memory of ***Jacqueline Fitzpartick, Kim Jones***’ mother.

Lastly, we purchased another banner celebrating music embellished with the words “Tune the Words to Sing Thy Grace” this is in honor of ***Hope's Senior Choir*** and recognizing ***Marsha Pratt*** for her 50 years of service. Let us all raise our voices to the Lord.

Suzy Coulter and Diane Kless



June 20-23, 2018

Used Book Sale!

45th Year!! 1973 – 2018

Book sale Location is at the *First United Methodist Church 91 West Main Street Freehold NJ 07728*

Wednesday is Preview Sale Day! \$10 Admission Hours are 1PM to 8PM

Thursday, June 21 FREE Admission Hours are 9AM to 8PM

Friday, June 22 FREE Admission Hours are 9AM to 8PM

Saturday, June 23 FREE Admission BAG SALE!! \$5 per bag Hours are 9AM to 3PM

Prices range from \$2 - \$0.25

Visit their websites or call with any questions!

www.facebook.com/BookFreeholdNJ

www.freeholdarea-nj.aauw.net

(732) 501-9415

WORK DAY!!!

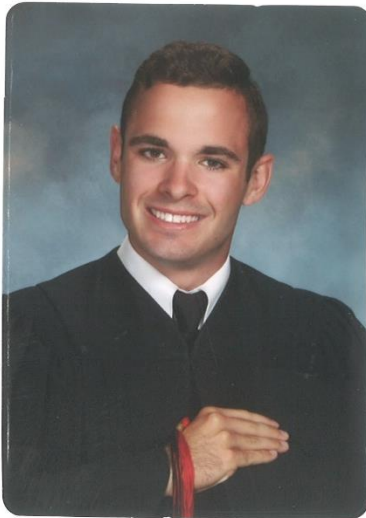
Work Day was a **GREAT success**... a **HUGE** thank you to everyone that came out and contributed!! And a special thanks to the [Gathering of Men](#) who not only provided everyone with breakfast, but sacrificed their meeting time to help and volunteer!

*Tom Landes, Tom Tyrrell, Keith Jones, Nicole Seitz, Andrew McGeady, Rich Rifenburg, Bill Seifert, Janice Seifert, Wanda Nebiolo, John Black, Mark Bondo, Bill Unger, Debbie Unger, Vivian Goldenberg, Chuck Mineer, Diane Kless, Veronica Krause, Siggie Kuehn, Kelly Kuehn, Julie Kuehn, Tanya Hedderman, Joe Hedderman, John Drager, and **JOHN FINK FOR COORDINATING AND MAKING THIS ALL POSSIBLE!!!***

Congratulations! And Good Luck!



Jenna Platt will be graduating from Freehold Township High School and will be attending Widener University – School of Nursing in the Fall!!



John Platt will be graduating from Freehold Township High School and will be attending Norwich University – Corp of Cadets in the Fall!!



Douglas Kneipher will be graduating from Freehold Township High School and will be attending Monmouth University in the Fall!!

Laura Noseworthy is also graduating from Freehold Township High School this month.... **Thomas Mezaros** has graduated from COLLEGE!!! **Avery Clarke** recently won Wrestling District 24 for Freehold Township High School! Congratulations to everyone in our Hope Family for all of their accomplishments! We are all so proud of you!!

**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.

Sid Bensen
Kyle England
Jack Bonevich
Jackie Daesener
Matt Somodi
Emily Driscoll
Kira Noseworthy
Bryan Platt
Shannon Mulcahy
Jennifer Rinker
Scott Weiss
Jessica Cottrell-Langley
Daniel Hudak
Neil Rifenburg
Michelle Ward
Jeanette Finnla
Elaine Mineer
Emily Ruegger
Jane Wilber
Sarah Woode-Afiriye
Laura Becker
Sean Bresnahan
Joan Drager
Jessica Free
Madison Spicuzza
Lori Starsinic

Shea Bresnahan
Karin Frueh
Robert Lithgow Sr
Matthew Rosenberg
Brady Mulcahy
Renee DiGregorio
June Sprunger
Christina DiGregorio
Ben Lynch
Deloris Laub
Jennifer Stenard
Aidan Sweeney
Robert Wilber Sr
Sean Bertsch
Joseph Papinchak
Karen Alessi
Melissa Dey
Jennifer Miller
Robert Robinson
Julian Alessi
Grace Burrows
Patricia King
Alexis Barr
Grace DeFelice
Ryan Fischer
Mark Jackson

