

The Anchor

September 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 11:00 AM (*starting September 9*)

Sunday School 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

Wednesday Worship and School 7:00 PM (*starting September 12*)

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

Minister of Music: *John Ahern*

Church Administrator: *Cheryl Hurd*

Hope Christian School Director: *Judy Canfield*

Communications Director: *Kathryn Johnson*

Congregational Council:

President	<i>Michael Della Rosa</i>
Vice President	<i>Sharryn Papinchak</i>
Treasurer	<i>Erica Driscoll</i>
Secretary	<i>Debbie Unger</i>
Youth Ministry	<i>Tara Zigler</i>
Education	<i>Janet Creech</i>
Fellowship	
Support	<i>John Drager</i>
Maintenance	<i>John Fink & Stefan Martinsen</i>
Social Ministry	<i>Siggy Kuehn</i>
Outreach	<i>Bill Seifert</i>
Worship	<i>Ramona Pappas</i>
Youth	<i>Michael Woods</i>

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....

Sharing the Fragrance of Christ

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us, and gave himself up for us, a **fragrant** offering and sacrifice to God.*
Ephesians 5:1-2

Parents are a child's first teachers. They watch us intently and then learn from our example; every move we make, every look we display, every action we take, every word we speak. I can even see it in my newborn grandson. Now that he is opening his eyes a little more (!), he just looks and looks, and studies everything and everyone around him; again, especially his mom and dad.

In other words, children are fantastic mimics. They imitate what they see and hear. That's how they learn, of course.

A woman once invited some guests to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" The daughter, who was a little shy, replied, "I wouldn't know what to say." Her mom answered, "Just say what you hear Mommy say." So the little girl bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner!"

The writer of Ephesians, as I shared, encouraged his readers – early Christians – to "be imitators of God, as beloved children..." If God is our heavenly Father, then we are God's children, and it is only natural, it's only logical, that – as God's children – we should be *imitators* of God. That we should mimic and copy everything we see and hear from God. That's how we learn too.

So what is it, then, that we see and hear from God, and we should imitate and mimic in our own lives? Most of all, it is love. But it is also patience and kindness and forgiveness and respect. Over and over again in the Old Testament, we read that God is "slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

I mention this only because it seems to me that we are living in a time where there seems to be precious little love, and patience, and kindness, and forgiveness, and respect. We live in a time when we all seem instead to be increasingly *quick* to anger, and utterly *lacking* in steadfast, or enduring, love. Especially in our civil discourse. Especially as we relate to our neighbors and fellow citizens.

As Christians, is this how we are called to live and behave? Does such behavior mimic or imitate the God who is always slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love in response to us and our failings? If not, is there a better way?

The writer of Ephesians thinks that there is. He says: "...live in love, **as Christ loved us**, and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

As Christians, therefore, we are called to a higher standard. We are encouraged to behave, not as those around us may at times behave. Rather we are encouraged to follow God’s example in Christ. And to live in love as Christ loved us. In a sense, to share some of Christ’s **fragrance** with the world.

I told this story in a recent sermon, but it bears telling again. The author Rita Snowden once wrote about her visit to a small town near Dover, England. She was having tea outside, late in the afternoon, when she became aware of an unbelievably pleasant scent filling the air. So she asked her waiter about the source of this scent and was told that it came from the people passing by. He then went on to explain to her that they worked in a perfume factory just down the street, and were on their way home. When they left the factory, he said, they carried with them the fragrance that had permeated their clothing during their day’s work.

Rita Snowden immediately saw this as an illustration of what the church could be when we’re at our very best. We should be a people who similarly allow ourselves to be “permeated” with the fragrance of Christ’s love and presence, she said. Then, as we go forth in the world and in our daily lives, the fragrance of Christ would go *with us*. And all the people we come into contact with might experience something of God’s fragrance *through us*.

That’s the hope, at least. That we might share that fragrant offering of love, and patience, and kindness, and forgiveness, and respect with a troubled world where these things often seem to be in such short supply.

Who we mimic and copy matters. It really does. As Christians, we are called to imitate God and no one else...

Finally, Jeanette and I both want to thank the Hope Family for the wonderfully unexpected, but much appreciated, “grandparent’s shower”! Your kindness will not soon be forgotten. We were truly touched by the gracious gesture.

Pastor Ed

HOPE STATS					
Sun/Wed	Attendance	Sun School	Offerings	-did NOT	+ reached
July 22	91		\$3,367	-\$1,153	
July 29	98		\$2,173	-\$2,347	
Aug 5	96		\$3,979	-\$541	
Aug 12	67		\$3,382	-\$1,138	
Aug 19	90		\$3,112	-\$1,408	
Aug 26	64		\$1,917	-\$2,603	
Sept 2					
Average Offering needed <u>weekly</u> to meet the proposed budget offerings of \$235,000 is \$4520					

Official Acts....

Baptism..... Avery Rose Quackenbush was baptized Sunday, August 19, 2018 by Pastor Kropa. Her mother is ***Amy Quackenbush*** and godparents are ***Jessica*** and ***Matt Somodi*** and also ***Rob*** and ***Lisa Scott***. Welcome to the Hope Family ***Avery Rose!***

Membership.... Amy Quackenbush also became a member with us May 20, 2018. Let's welcome ***Amy*** to the Hope Family as well! ***Matthew and Marisa Sapiezynski*** officially joined our Hope Family on August 19, 2018. Their blessed son, Jackson, will be joining us shortly through baptismal celebration in October. We are ***SO*** happy to have you all here! We have also been so incredibly blessed by having the ***Raguseo*** family join our congregation. It will be official September 2. A warm welcome to ***Kate, Mike, Madeleine, Olivia, and Nathan!!!***

Our Love and Sympathy.... Mary Jane Schaeffer; a former member of Hope that moved out of state has sadly passed on into Life Eternal; Mary Jane was involved in Social Ministries while at Hope, including Open Door and the Monmouth County (drug) hotline. She was also an artist and sang in our Senior Choir; Our beloved member ***Sid Bensen*** has also passed on into Life Eternal recently; He will be remembered for his smile and quick wit.

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!

We are still looking for someone to take over Saint Peter's Meals as the coordinator! The time is coming to start up again! Please call Cheryl in the office if you are interested. You will have TONS of help, support and guidance in this position.



Gathering of Men Breakfast

**Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month
at 9AM**

September 8, 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.**

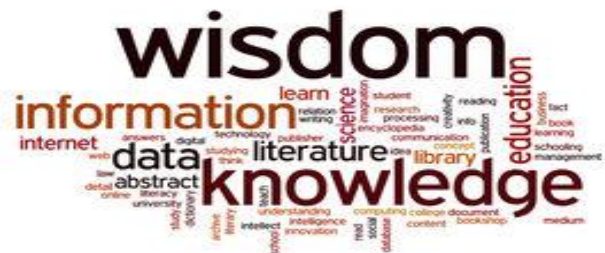
Women of Hope

**Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month
at 7:30PM**

September 11, 2018

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

September 20, 2018



Meets the Third Monday of every month at 7PM

September 17, 2018

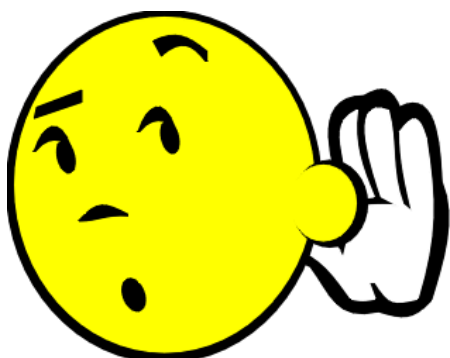
The Manor Worship Service

Sunday, September 23rd 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.*



***HAS ANYONE SEEN OUR
LISTENING DEVICES???? LET
US KNOW! WE WOULD LIKE
TO HAVE THEM AVAILABLE
AGAIN FOR OUR SERVICES!***



Hope's Sunday School begins Sunday, September 9 and Wednesday, September 12 and we have some exciting changes:

Sunday Morning Sunday School time is changing – 9:45AM – 10:45AM

Wednesday Evenings – 7:00PM – 8:00PM

Sunday Morning Worship Times – 8:30AM and 11:00AM **note the late service time change!**

Wednesday Worship Time – 7:00PM

Format Changes – There are 2 main changes to Sunday School:

1. 7th/8th Grade Confirmation classes will be taught by Pastor Ed Sunday mornings during the 9:45AM SS hour (instead of Sunday evenings).

2. One Sunday/Wednesday per month, from September – May, there will be NO SS class and all children will worship with their families at our regular worship services. These services will be planned with the children in mind. This is NOT meant to be a Sunday or Wednesday “OFF”, but a chance for families who cannot fit both SS class and worship into their weekly schedules to be able to bring their children to both.

Sunday, September 23 and Wednesday, September 26 – No SS class, attend worship as a family.

Sunday, October 14 and Wednesday, October 17 – No SS class, attend worship as a family... Also celebrating ***Bible Sunday*** at the worship services.

At-Home Devotions – To help facilitate faith in the home, I am suggesting a daily practice for your family, based on Pastor Rich Melheim's “Faith5”:

Sharing Faith at Home:

1. Share your daily highs and lows with each other.
2. Talk about where you might have seen God's presence in your day.
3. Pray for one another's highs and lows, for your family, and the world.

4. Bless one another by tracing the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads or palms.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Loretta Hart and John Black very much for their many years of teaching Sunday School and their devotion to Hope's children, as they take a well-deserved break! I would also like to welcome Kate Raguseo and Matthew Sprunger to our staff as 5th/6th grade teachers!

Do not hesitate to contact me about any questions or concerns you might have regarding Sunday School. We are truly excited about our program here at Hope. We invite you to join us in learning about God on your faith journey!

Sincerely,
Cindy Lynch
Hope's Sunday School Coordinator



FUN – FUN – FUN VBS UPDATE

Another year of VBS has been successfully completed! We can't thank our teaching staff enough for their outstanding job of bringing the word of God to life each day. Our Bible Story teachers were ***Sue England*** and ***Jessica Somodi***; Science teachers were ***Nancy Page***, ***Leslie Rifenburg***, and ***Erin Fischer***; Craft teachers were ***Karen Donmoyer*** and family friend, ***Ali***; Music teachers were ***Lauren Platt*** and ***Debbie Crawford***; Dance teachers were ***Jordan*** and ***Kelsey Donmoyer***; and finally the Games teachers were ***Joseph*** and ***Vincent Mendes***; ***Mark Page*** and ***John Platt*** stopped by to give a hand whenever they could (now that is dedication!). All of you have answered God's calling – going above and beyond what is expected. Your service is deeply appreciated.

Each year our youth surprise us with their hard work and dedication. Most of our youth have started out participating in our VBS. It gives me great personal pride as I watch them grow and become anxious and excited to become a volunteer. Because of their involvement with VBS they have bonded together and have formed lasting friendships... WOW! So if you see any of the youth listed below, THANK them and share God's blessings:

Kayla Brand, Kelly Kuehn, Julie Kuehn, Tanya Hedderman, Joey Hedderman, Madeleine Raguseo, Olivia Raguseo, Gianna Chusiano, Alex Goldin, Lauren Platt, Jenna Platt, Joseph Mendes, Vincent Mendes, Mark Page, Mackenzie Miller, Caitlyn Vitale, Julianna Gannon, Emily Kreuger...

We also need to thank ***Doris Green, Bill Unger, Janet Creech, Jeanette Kropa***, and ***Wayne Kless***.

Blessings to All,

Debbie and Diane



Sunday, September 9

This day is filled with ***SO MUCH*** celebration! We start **TWO** services again, with a slight late service time change, beginning NOW at **11:00AM**.

There will be a Blessing of the Backpacks, and the Installation of the Sunday School Teachers at

BOTH services!

Following Worship Services, we have our **CPR CLASS!!!** It is being taught by Letty Topp, ***FREE OF CHARGE***. This is scheduled for about ***12:15PM*** and ***light refreshments will be provided***. This class is open at this time to those that have already signed up **ONLY**...

Wednesday, September 12

Is also **RALLY DAY!!!** This will kick off both our Wednesday night Worship and School! Starts at **7:00PM**



Join the Choir...
**You'll Be Glad
You Did!**

Choir restarts: Thursday, September 13 at 7:30PM

We are looking to roughly double choir's current size, so consider joining! We would welcome anyone, especially male voices, to come and give choir a try. No audition is necessary and, in fact, a

choral background is not required either. If you have any questions about commitment, difficulty, or anything else, feel free to call or email John Ahern (970-433-3316, johnrahern@gmail.com).



Tom Landes will be doing another very helpful and informative talk **September 30, 2018** at Noon in Fellowship Hall. ***Angel Medicine: Can angels help us with our help problems?***
You won't want to miss it!



Article submitted by Wanda Nebiolo

Women of **Hope** Spring Fling was attended by many! We enjoyed the pool and backyard, and great food and sistership. Prizes were given among those who attended, to the person who has been the member of Hope the longest, **Siggy Kuehn**; **Kailyn Kropa** as a 'newbie' and the youngest.

We continue the following ministries:

Shawl Ministry: a few members knit or crochet shawls or lap robes. A friend of **Debbie Unger**, made a couple after Debbie had given her one of ours. **Ann Rofulowitz** (a former charter member of Grace) is blind. She continues to crochet lap robes. She crochets lap leggings for nursing home patients and recently received a red ribbon at Monmouth County Fair. She was on Cloud Nine. Other members make shawls throughout the year.

Lutheran World Relief Quilts: The cabinet in Fellowship Hall has been designated for fabric, etc., for this ministry. They had been meeting two Tuesdays each month from 9 to 2:30 (except in the summer).

Lutheran World Relief Kits: Each year in September or when the need arises, we prepare LWR kits (health, school, baby, etc) one kit is taken to the NJ Women of ELCA Convention and the remainder are either taken or mailed to the warehouse in Maryland. In the past, **John** and **Joan Drager** have transported quilts/kits to the warehouse and we thank them.

Women of Hope Memorial Scholarship Fund: This fund was established many years ago and continues to be vibrant. Each June, this scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who is continuing his or her education at the college level and who is a member of Hope. Through many generous donations, this fund has been able to give \$1,000.00 each year. These donations are filtered through Hope's financials with their Treasurer preparing a check quarterly or as needed to our bank account. **Sharon Moffitt** prepares and sends the applications to the qualifying Seniors.

Adopt-a-Family Ministry: This Ministry helps various individuals and families who are in need at Christmas. This is a wonderful way to spread our love. **Cindy Lynch** places a Christmas tree with star/angel ornaments on the tree. These ornaments have dollar amounts for gift certificates. Members purchase and return the gift certificates. Cindy divides these gift certificates among the families and Pastor Ed distributes them.

Butterfly Garden: This garden is located to the right of the main entrance and is in loving memory of **Georgina Bergh**.

Support: We support the **New Jersey Women of the ELCA** as well as **Churchwide**. The NJWELCA holds an annual statewide convention and this year it will be held at **King of Kings Lutheran Church**, 250 Harmony Road, Middletown NJ on **Saturday, September 29**. Plan to attend. Registration forms are available. The **NJWELCA is in need of HELP!** Someone to put together the quarterly newsletter which is called the **Circular**. The board

member who was the editor has some health issues, consequently the Circular has not continued since the first quarter of this year. You may check items on their website njwelca.org.

Katies Fund: Katies Fund is an endowment fund that supports ministry in three areas: Leadership development, global connections, and living theology. Established in 1997 to honor the legacy of Katharina von Bora Luther; raise up bold leaders for the churchwide women's organization and support bold and creative ministry for generations to come. Any donations should be sent to the NJ WELCA when the NJ Synod offering is sent.

Thank Offering Services: Each year the **NJ WELCA** sponsor Thank Offering Services for the entire state of NJ Women Units to attend. Through generous offerings, from each unit collected and are forwarded directly to Churchwide office to help in various women's ministries. History shows that we have contributed \$50.00 annual from our monthly offerings.

Congregation and Designated Gift Offerings: These offerings are distributed from our monthly/undesignated offerings and taken/sent to the **Annual Convention**.

Triennial Gatherings: These gatherings are held in large cities throughout the US. Some of us have attended Washington DC, San Antonio, TX, Philadelphia, PA, Saint Paul, MN, Salt Lake, UT, Spokane, WA, Charlotte, NC. Last summer it was held in Minnesota. In 2020: the Triennial Gathering will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, July 16-19.

Funeral Repasses: We have been known to organize receptions after funerals.

If you have any questions, please contact our **Coordinator:** *Joan Drager*, our **Treasurer,** *Kim Jones*, needs to be kept aware of any deposits made to Hope Lutheran for the Women of Hope Memorial Scholarship Fund. If you make donations to this Scholarship Fund, please inform both Treasurers, i.e., *Kim Jones* and *Erica Driscoll*. It will make accounting of these funds so much easier.

Kim's email: kajones777@gmail.com

Erica's email: cedrisc@optonline.net



We have had some REALLY awesome and well attended Hope Anchors Group events this summer! Target age group is from Grades 3-6, contact Clair Martinsen or Sue England if you are interested!

Looking Ahead...

October 6 Work Day!

October 14 Flu Clinic

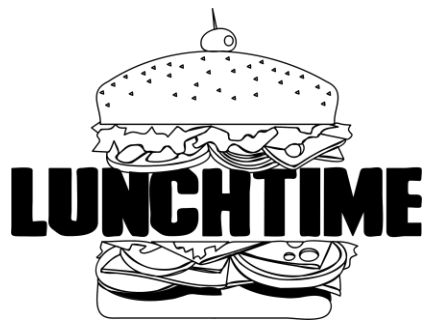
October 15-19 Scholastic Book Fair

October 27 Oktoberfest

October 28 Reformation Sunday

November 18 Blood Drive

More details to follow in the near future for these events!



BIG THANK YOU!!! to everyone who provided Lunch for the Work Release Inmates. They are here for the week August 27-August 31 and are providing us with FREE labor in exchange for a hearty meal. So far, they have helped weed and spread the remainder of the mulch on our playground. They will be painting the trailer, the doors inside Fellowship Hall, and the chair rail in the hallway by the bulletin boards! There is only two of them at this time, but they work really hard and fast. ***Judy Canfield, Mike DellaRosa, Gerry Bergh, Debbie Crawford, and John Fink*** volunteered and paid for enough food to feed an army for lunch! Thank you so very much for your help!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Melody Burger
James Shaw
Beverly Bressler
Kay Lithgow
Devon Cardelfe
Andrew Hansen
Robert Woods
Tyler Brand
Anthony Carlino
James Bonevich
Ashley DeVivo
Andrew Kneipher
Adrianna Mancini
Evelyn Anderson
Alex Alessi
Cheryl Caputo
Grant Landers
Nancy Kneipher
Keith Flury
Lex Keller
David Mezaros
Kristen Dennis
Ramona Pappas
Leslie Rifenburg
Susan Rinker
Olivia Woods
Marina Kania
Christina Denney
Scott Koester
Kelly Berg
Leanne Creech
Barbara DiNonno
Victoria Hu

Jake Byford
Tara Grinberg
Debra Unger
Gregory Lacko
Maja Carlino
Barbara Noseworthy
Sieglinde Kuehn
Jacqueline Becce
Lily Christ
Anthony Ng
Mark Page
Jeremy Kane
Rebekah Heilman-Mancini
Denise Andre
Erika England
David Kropa
Stephanie Vandenakker
Alison Ng
Alexandra Bujalski
Lori Burrows
Pat Fensham
Rachael Sarkar
Lloyd King
Leanne Reed
Kory Werner
Adam Vender
John Sera
Erin Megill
Steve Campanelli
Becka Reeves
Eric Kania
Mike Behn
Meredith Varner

