

The Anchor

November 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 8:30AM and 11:00AM
Sunday School and Catechism 9:45AM – 10:45AM
Wednesday Worship and School 7:00PM

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

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

A number of years ago, someone made the following observations:

Some churches have parking problems, some other churches don't. Some churches have kids running around making a lot of noise, some other churches tend to be very quiet. Some churches usually have more expenses than money, some other churches don't need to spend much money because not much is going on. Some churches are growing so fast you don't always know everyone's name, in some other churches everybody has known everybody's name for years... Some churches evangelize, some other churches fossilize. Some churches are always planning for the future, some other churches live in the past. Some churches seek new ministries and new methods, some other churches don't want to.

How about Hope? Well... Hope is a church with parking problems, especially during the week when Hope Christian School is in session. Between HCS and also Summer Camp, Hope is also a church with kids running around making a good bit of noise. (You should come visit, for instance, when they're practicing soccer in the narthex during the winter!) And Hope is a church that requires and spends a lot of money because so much *is* going seven days a week. (Check out our 2019 Spending Plan and/or one of our monthly calendars.) Ever since many former Grace members joined Hope, and with the influx of young families having their children baptized here, Hope is also a church where most of us don't always know everyone's name – including me! Moreover, while Hope is clearly a church that fondly remembers and is justifiably proud of its past, it is not a church in any danger of getting *stuck* in that past simply because there's just too much going on right now and too many exciting possibilities to explore. Furthermore, Hope is a church with so many ministries that sometimes it's too hard to even keep count. And finally, Hope is a church with a history of being open to exploring new ministries and methods.

I would simply add to the list above: Some churches want to *GROW*, while some other churches simply want to maintain the *STATUS QUO*... And it's here, with this choice between growth and the status quo, that we now find ourselves. Will we continue to “dream dreams” and consider the “what ifs” and “what comes next”? Or will we become too comfortable and complacent? These are the crucial questions before us at this time.

It's November, that time of year when, as a congregation, we stop and take stock of where we are, and then try to give some serious thought to where we might be going in the coming year and beyond. Our semi-annual meeting will present us with some choices, especially in the form of a spending plan for 2019 that will guide our efforts and how we spend our money over the next twelve months. Spending plans, of course, are important. But what's even more important are the goals we set for ourselves and the challenges we are willing to take on.

Using once again the “5 Key Issues and Needs” that I have been talking about since my arrival, here are some of my thoughts as I consider the next twelve months:

1. **STAFFING** – Our paid staff is now complete. We no longer employ a bookkeeper, but that is something we might want to revisit at some point. But, for now, we have a talented staff in place. One that is collectively doing a great job.
2. **SYMMETRY** - I recently asked the Congregation Council to identify for me where they believed I should dedicate my time and efforts in the coming year. The two top priorities they selected were a) Increasing worship attendance, and b) Increasing the involvement of young families. The two are not unrelated, to be sure. “Officially” we have a significant number of young families on our membership rolls. But they are not all, or always, actively engaged and participating; including on Sunday mornings. Turning this around will be one of my chief goals in 2019.

3. STEWARDSHIP – Because of the financial success of HCS, money is seemingly not a problem for us. But the financial giving (offerings) of our members continues to decline; a disturbing trend. Even with a one million dollar annual budget, there are still potential ministries and projects that we are probably not in a position to seriously explore right now. It comes down to that question of growth vs. the status quo. Growth typically requires financial resources. Do we have them? Will we use them?
4. SPACE – This is one of the most obvious and critical challenges we face at the moment. By any yardstick, we are clearly “at capacity” in terms of our building usage. Some days, and even some nights, it seems that we are literally bursting at the seams. It takes careful planning and a good deal of flexibility to simply continue to do what we are currently doing. The problem, however, is when we begin to consider, again, the question of growth. There is simply no room – actual physical space – to expand the programs of our congregation or to even accommodate increased participation, for that matter. (Which makes accomplishing the priorities identified in #2 above a bit problematic.) Therefore, how we address this issue of space, or a lack thereof, is going to be key in the coming year and beyond.
5. STRATEGY – Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) perhaps put it best: “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” God is calling us, both individually and collectively, into the greatest mission the world has ever seen: To share the love and forgiveness that is freely given and received through Jesus Christ. There is no higher calling. However, discerning what this will actually look like in our own particular context takes some thought and consideration. This, too, continues to represent one of the key challenges facing us as a congregation as we look to the future. Where are we going? More importantly, where is God leading us?

We have our work cut out for us. But that makes this an exciting time for Hope Lutheran Church. While so many other congregations are literally “dying on the vine,” Hope is uniquely poised to explore some exciting ministry opportunities. It doesn’t get any better than that!

Pastor Ed Kroppa

HOPE STATS					
Sun/Wed	Attendance	Sun School	Offerings	-did NOT	+ reached
Oct 7	104	28	\$3,231	-\$1,289	
Oct 14	97	9	\$4,603		\$83
Oct 21	166	28	\$3,099	-\$1,421	
Oct 28	146		\$2,734	-\$1,786	
<i>Average Offering needed <u>weekly</u> to meet the proposed budget offerings of \$235,000 is \$4520</i>					

Official Acts....

Baptism.... Jackson Tyler Sapiezynski was received into the Church of Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on October 21. His parents are members, **Matthew** and **Marisa Sapiezynski**, and his sponsors are **Justin Sapiezynski** and **Rebecca Oriente**.

Liam Edward Ramsey was received into the Church of Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on October 28. His grandparents are our very own **Pastor Kropa** and **Jeanette Kropa**, parents are **Josiah** and **Kristyn Ramsey**, and his sponsors are **Jesse Ramsey** and **Kaitlin Kropa**.

Membership....

Our Love and Sympathy.... Marlene Sanger has passed on into Life Eternal; she was a former member of Hope and a member of our Choir in the 1990's. Marlene was also an exceptional artist and will be missed by many.

More News....

Women of Hope Memorial Fund Donations....

Hope's Sunday Nursery Attendant is [Anna Maria Sirico](#)...

Her hours begin at 8:15AM and usually last until the end of our late service, although some events may require extra time. [Anna will stay for the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting that is on Sunday, November 11 at Noon if you are in need of childcare during this 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!

PHOTO RELEASE FORMS....*They need to be filled out whether or NOT you would like to give permission to have photos published on our Website and Facebook page. Forms are available on the Welcome Table in the Narthex and can also be emailed/mailed to you if you prefer. I have a [green](#) and [red](#) folder in the office where I am keeping track. If you do NOT want your photos shared, just hand in a blank form with your name on it PLEASE so I can ensure that your preference is known.*

SAINT PETER'S MEALS...Have been scheduled for the season.
[Friday, November 9, Friday, February 8, and Friday, March 22.](#)

More info to come!



Gathering of Men Breakfast

Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9AM

November 10, 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.

Sunday, November 11 at Noon

Please plan to attend! Our nursery attendant, Anna Maria, will stay for the duration of the meeting if you need child care. Refreshments will be served!



Worship Planning

Monday, November 12 at 7PM

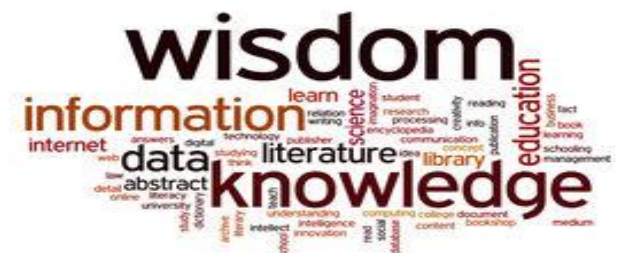
Women of Hope

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

November 13, 2018

*Wisdom Club meets the third Thursday
of each month in the Narthex at
11:30AM*

November 15, 2018



****There will be NO Wisdom Club, Thursday, December 20
due to HCS Holiday Chapels****



MILITARY BRIDGE GAME!

Saturday, November 17 at 5PM

Hope Lutheran Church – Fellowship Hall

Bring food, beer, and wine!

There are still spots available, sign up is on the Welcome Table!

Sunday, November 18 9AM – 1PM

Hope Lutheran Church is hosting a Blood Drive!

Please join us in Fellowship Hall...

For additional information, and to schedule an appointment, please contact: Siggy 732-987-9439



Thanksgiving
Food Baskets

THANKSGIVING MEALS FOR OPEN DOOR

Each Thanksgiving, Open Door distributes Thanksgiving dinner baskets to the needy of the Freehold Community. This year we expect to serve 250 families. Anyone wishing to donate a turkey, chicken, ham, or other Thanksgiving dinner items (potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetables, fruit, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, muffin mix, coffee, tea, juice, etc. ***Please NO frozen pies!!***) may do so on Sunday, November 18th between 12PM and 5PM. Non-perishable items will be accepted anytime. ***Frozen turkeys cannot be accepted before November 18th***. Please bring the turkeys to 39 Throckmorton Street, Freehold. Questions?

Call 732-780-1089.

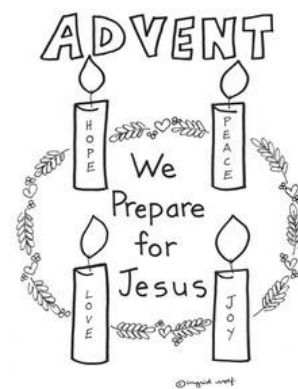
Thank you for your generosity.

Ecumenical
Thanksgiving
Service

Sunday, November 18 at 7PM

*2018 Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service will be hosted at The First Baptist Church of Freehold
81 West Main Street*

Sunday, November 18 and Wednesday, November 28
Sunday School Advent Craft



Sunday, November 25 at 11:00AM *Worship Service (NO Sunday School) Families are STRONGLY encouraged to attend this service!*

The Manor Worship Service

Sunday, November 25th 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.

Long Range Planning will meet
Monday, November 26 at 7PM

Flu Shot Clinic

A Flu Shot Clinic was held at Hope on Sunday, October 14 and was offered to the congregation as well as the local community. We would like to thank Hope Lutheran Church and Acme Pharmacy for partnering together for this event. Thank you to Siggy Kuehn and Cheryl Hurd for all their help and support. Nine people received flu shots. Through such programs as this, we can work together to help raise awareness about the importance of seasonal flu vaccines.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Hu



SAVE THE DATE!!!

You are ALL invited!

Family Christmas Party

When: Saturday, December 1st

Time: 5PM

Place: Hope Lutheran Church

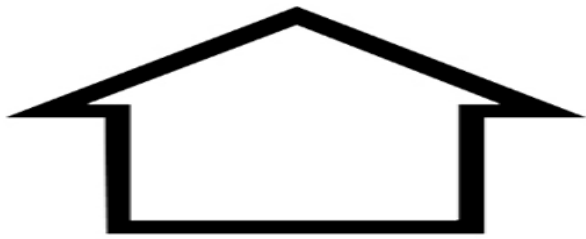
*Pot Luck Supper, Holiday
Decorating, and Fun-Fun-Fun!!*

Donations we can use for Emergency Housing!

MOST URGENT: 32 liter backpacks, Boxer Shorts (M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL), Under Shirts (M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL), Sweatshirts (L, XL, XXL, XXXL), Men's socks, Men and women's gloves, Unisex hats.

IMPORTANT: Duffle bags, Nail clippers, Small flashlights, Tissue packs, Q-Tips (individual travel pack size please), Stamps, Shampoo, Razors, Shaving Cream, Body wash, Deodorant, Body lotion, Body wipes, Toothpaste, Dental floss, Advil, Tylenol, Tums, Cough drops, Band-aids, One way bus tickets, Food store gift cards, Walmart gift cards, and Small umbrellas.

JOE TOTH made us an awesome wooden box (similar to the Open Door one!) for Emergency Housing donations, it is on the far side of the Welcome Table, right next to the Restrooms. Kindly place any donations you are able to contribute in that box please (it's labeled!) Thank you in advance for all your help and generosity!!



EMERGENCY HOUSING

Emergency Housing Program at Hope: *Volunteers Needed!!*

The Emergency Housing Program, a project of the Freehold Clergy Association, will be starting up again **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14TH**! We will open 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 Saint Peter's and Hope.

Please look for sign-up sheets on the Welcome Table in the Narthex. For information, please contact *Andrew or Zinke McGeady* at 732-363-8520.

Thank you for your anticipated and *MUCH NEEDED* support!

What to look forward to in December...



Coming Soon!!

**Christmas Cookie Exchange at
Hope Lutheran Church**

**Saturday, December 8 at
7PM**



Sunday, December 16 at the 11:00AM Service

Get **In**Involved unteer

CHRISTMAS EVE!!

Christmas Eve services and times will be announced soon!

Please start volunteering NOW!

We will need Greeters, Assisting Ministers, Acolytes and Ushers at all the services!

The sooner you sign up, the better!

Call Cheryl at 732-462-7545



We have increments of \$25 and \$100 available at the office all year round! When we purchase these, Shop Rite gives us 5% off, we in turn, donate that percentage. It is a great cause and wonderful way to help those in need!

WE ARE FULLY STOCKED AND READY FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON!!

Some Pics to Share...



Hope Anchors Game Day

Hope Anchors Game Day



*Hope Anchors
Twin Pond
Outing*

Reformation Sunday – Martin Luther Lesson





***2018 CROP WALK!!!
Was a success!! Initial
count of money raised
was \$22,789.81. More
updated and accurate
information will come
when it is available.
Great job and thank you
to ALL who participated
from our congregation!***

hAPPY bIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Lisa Russo
Kevin Werner
Betty Baumgaertner
Brett Miller
Ryan Hart
Kristine Hansen
Skyler Toucher
Caden Ward
Riley Wolven
Mary Nelson
Tanya Hedderman
Andrew Stenard
John Freiburg
Tyler Sterrett
Maria Egan
Dena Cardelfe
Walter Peterson Sr
Leighton Shimko
Harper Hedin
Riley Hedin

Ashley Verdino
Douglas Kneipher
Ashley Lashenick
Holly Potochar
Joanne Bujalski
Todd Lewis
Irene Mihaly
Susan D'Angelo
William Becker
Noah Cohen
Toni Berlow
Jeff Shimko
Audrey Afiriyie
John Andre
Helen Coons
Ryan Somodi
Scott Frueh
Joe Brand
Jackson Langley

