

# **The Anchor**

## **December 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:**

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

**Hope Lutheran Church Email:** [HopeLutheran17@gmail.com](mailto:HopeLutheran17@gmail.com)  
**Hope Lutheran Church Website:** [www.hopefreehold.org](http://www.hopefreehold.org)  
**Hope Christian School Email:** [judyc08723@yahoo.com](mailto:judyc08723@yahoo.com)  
**Hope Christian School Website:** [www.hopechristianschoolfreehold.com](http://www.hopechristianschoolfreehold.com)

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

# CHANGE

***Everything changes, nothing remains without change.***

(Buddha, 563-483 B.C., founder of Buddhism)

***There is nothing permanent except change.***

(Heraclitus, 535-475 B.C., Greek philosopher)

***It is not necessary to change... Survival is not mandatory.***

(W. Edwards Deming, 1900-1993, American statistician and consultant)

The quotes above remind us of one thing: The only unchanging thing in life is change itself! Not only that. Change is not only inevitable and unavoidable, it's also necessary. Why? Because life and living are all about change, that's why. Think about it. From the moment we're born until the day we die we are constantly facing and undergoing change, including and especially in our own bodies! After all, there's no growth or development or maturity without going through an ever-unfolding series of changes; both big and small.

That's not to say that we are always ready and willing to embrace change, however. Sometimes change is difficult; even if it *is* necessary. Moreover dealing with change typically gets harder the older we get. Not always, of course, but often. I know it is sure getting harder for me to deal with change as I age.

So change is not everyone's favorite thing. That's pretty much a given. In fact, as Mark Twain once famously said, "The only person who likes change is a baby with a wet diaper." And, of course, there's also the famous joke: "How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?" Answer: "Change?! What do you mean change?!"

But change we must. Even in the church.

Actually, change is at the very foundation of what it means to *be* a Christian. You see, Christ calls us to a new way of thinking; a new way of living. His example of a life guided by love, not hate, by forgiveness, not judgment; by grace and mercy instead of revenge and punishment represents a huge change for us as human beings. He once even said:

***Truly I tell you, unless you CHANGE and become like children,  
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.***

(Matthew 18:3)

In other words, unless and until we are able to be trusting like a small child – that is, to have the trusting faith of a child – we will never be able to truly grasp what it means to follow Christ as his disciples. Faith, trusting faith, is at the very heart of what it means to *be* a Christian; at the very heart of our understanding of salvation. And with such a faith comes change...

As we anticipate the end of yet another year, and the beginning of a brand new one, change remains the one constant in life. And 2019 promises to be a time of change for us here at Hope as well. What those changes will be is anyone's guess. But we need not fear the possibility, even the inevitability of change. And that's because we place our lives and our future in the hands of a loving God who promises to be with us always... no matter what!

***God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.***

***Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change.*** (Psalm 46:1-2a)

*Pastor Ed Kroppa*

Decorating for Christmas



**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

*You are ALL invited!*

*Family Christmas Party*

*When: Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>*

*Time: 5PM*

*Place: Hope Lutheran Church*

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

### Women of Hope Giving Tree

The WOH Giving Tree is set up on the round table in the narthex. We are supporting 31 people this year with the gift cards from this tree, from children to disabled vets to senior citizens. Participation is very simple – take one or more ornaments and purchase the gift card listed, in whatever amount you choose. Then return the gift card WITH the ornament, unwrapped, to the church office or Cindy Lynch. **Cards should be returned by Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at the latest.**

If you take an ornament for a ShopRite card, you may purchase the ShopRite card from the church. It costs the same as purchasing from ShopRite directly, but for each card sold through Hope, ShopRite makes a donation that supports Open Door Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity & Lutheran Social Services, so your contribution is supporting two good causes at once!

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Cindy Lynch.



*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!!***



## ***It is Hope Family Covenant Renewal Time!***

*This tradition began in 1970.*

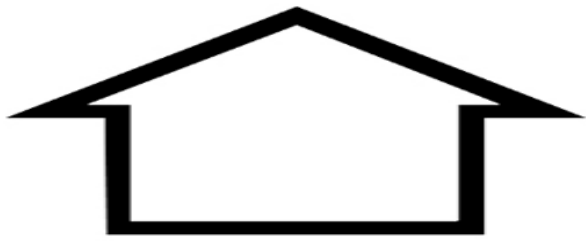
It is time for the people of Hope to review and renew the membership covenant we have with each other. It is our custom to do this every year so that our membership together in the Hope Lutheran Family might be vibrant. During Advent – **First Sunday in Advent is December 2** – the Covenant document will be at the altar. Renewal of membership takes place by your prayerful consideration of the principles of the agreement and the inscribing your signature to the document.

*Having been called into a living loving relationship with God through Jesus Christ, we respond with a covenant in which we express our intent to: Actively participate in the worship service and programs of the church. Make diligent use of the Means of Grace – God’s Word and Sacraments – Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Prayerfully consider giving a proportion of our substance to support the work of the congregation and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, live a Christian life in accord with God’s Word, assume a ministry of Christ as dictated by our talents. This is our covenant with God and by the help of God.*



### ***Prayer Shawl Ministry*** submitted by Wanda Nebiolo

**T**he Hope Lutheran Prayer Shawl Ministry under the direction of the Women of Hope began in 2008 and continues to be vibrant. It began after Grace Lutheran, River Edge, NJ sent four prayer shawls for the families of two young boys who were fatally hit by a vehicle while riding their skateboards in Juniper Farms, February 2008. Several members of the Women of Hope were inspired by this wonderful ministry. ***Irene Mihaly*** and ***Erica Driscoll*** began classes for crocheting and knitting. A Thrivent Grant was submitted to the North Shore Thrivent Chapter to help with the purchase of yarn. The Chapter was very generous. The rest is history. Many shawls have been blessed and given to individuals/families who are sick or grieving. When there is a need, just call or stop in to see Pastor Ed or the church office. If you would like to knit or crochet prayer shawls, contact Wanda Nebiolo 732.267.1508. There is funding available from the Women of Hope budget if you would like to be reimbursed for the purchase of the yarn.



# 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 14<sup>TH</sup>**! 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!

## 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!!

## A Note from Support

Now that we have celebrated Black Friday, Shop Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, and giving Tuesday, let us turn our attention to: **COMMITMENT SUNDAY**. This is that time of year when we review our membership and commitment to the ministries at Hope Lutheran and renew our participation by signing the Hope Covenant.

Most of you have picked up your offering envelopes for 2019 and for that we thank you. You will notice that dates are not imprinted on the envelopes, so that if you elect to contribute once a month, you don't need to throw away unneeded envelopes, but can use them for subsequent years. For those of you who DO use the envelopes monthly, thanks very much. NOTE that for 2019, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month occurs in March, June, September and December. Extra envelopes are provided in the back of the box for you to include. (We saved ~\$500 from prior years, in choosing the generic envelopes.)

Most of you have NOT, however, submitted the orange “estimate of giving” cards that are available with the offering envelopes. Only 12 have been received to date. We hope you will consider and submit them during Covenant Renewal time. We use them to assess the overall giving health of the congregation, and the data is included in your annual offering statement that is issued at the end of the year.

Thanks for your support!

*John Drager, Support Chairman*

The AAUW is not yet ready to accept used book donations for its annual book sale. They no longer have the sorting and storage facilities at Freehold Savings, but are establishing a new venue to sort and store books. Expect new information about used books in our next newsletter.

The Asbury Park used Bike ministry continues unchanged, however. If you have a used bike to donate, either bring them to church or contact John Drager to arrange for pickup/delivery.

*John Drager, Support Chairman*

<b>HOPE STATS</b>					
<u>Sun/Wed</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Sun School</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>-did NOT</u>	<u>+ reached</u>
<b>Nov 4</b>	113	34	\$4,416	<b>-\$104</b>	
<b>Nov 11</b>	119	50	\$4,160	<b>-\$360</b>	
<b>Nov 18</b>	96	Adv Craft	\$4,242	<b>-\$278</b>	
<b>Nov 25</b>	120	Worship	\$1,910	<b>-\$2,610</b>	
<i>Average Offering needed <u>weekly</u> to meet the proposed budget offerings of \$235,000 is \$4520</i>					

## **A Message from Social Ministries**

Thank you so much to all who registered & made it to our blood drive with **Central Jersey Blood Center** on Sunday November 18th. We had 23 people who registered & 18 people were able to donate at the drive. Through the amazing effort of all of you, we are able to make the life-saving difference in the lives of so many people in need right here in our community! Surgery patients, accident victims, cancer patients, premature babies, cardiac patients, and burn victims are a few of the patients who depend on blood products for recovery. CJBC appreciates and is truly grateful for every blood donation received over the past 55 years. Here are our donations the past 2 years.

1.1.1.1.1 Units Collected YTD: 2018

- Whole Blood - 29
- Red Cell Only - 2

**Units Collected Last Year: 2017**

- Whole Blood - 34
- Red Cell Only - 5

However, as many of you may already know, it is with a heavy heart that I need to inform you, that the Central Jersey Blood Center will be closing their doors for good at the end of this calendar year. We are still going to look for your continued support once we have something else in place. There are many hospitals and other blood centers that are merging. They will be joining forces with larger entities to continue to save lives. Sadly, it has become impossible for Central Jersey Blood Center to survive in this environment as it now is.

**The entire CJBC staff wishes to extend their own sincere thanks to everyone at HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH who helped to make our blood drives a success. The CJBC legacy will live on in the hearts and veins of many. Thank you so much again for everything!**

*With sincerest appreciation,  
Siggy Kuehn*



**Sunday, December 16 at the 11:00AM Service**

*Get*  
**In**vol**ved**  
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**

## Thanksgiving Attitude fashions my Christmas Gratitude

On Nov 22<sup>th</sup> my family and I sat around the Thanksgiving table and ate a delicious meal prepared with loving hands and hearts. We shared stories old and new, and Thanked God for all of this year's many blessings. I felt lucky to be surrounded by those I love and profoundly grateful for... well, just about everything.

As I enter into this Christmas season, I aim to carry last week's Thanksgiving momentum with me, maintaining and cultivating my "Attitude of Gratitude." As if our days aren't busy enough, daily activities will now include extra cooking, cleaning, shopping, decorating, parties and holiday festivities. It is easy to get caught up in the excitement of it all, and I can only hope to find joy and gratitude in each and every bit of that chaos. As a Christian however, amidst the seasonal fray, I know I can always ground myself in the knowledge that the heart of this holiday is celebrating the birth of Jesus... and I am so grateful for that!

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill among men!"

Christmas morning rings of celebration... we celebrate Christ, we celebrate one another, we celebrate in our homes and in our churches, we celebrate by giving and receiving.

There is a quote that says "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it, is like wrapping a present and not giving it." As I practice the act of giving, I hold lots of little gifts in hand... thoughts of thanks I wish to send your way. I am grateful for my role as your Communication Director at Hope and Thank You for supporting my creative vision for your church. To Pastor Ed, and those that I work closely with, I appreciate your wisdom, time and efforts... and of course, A BIG THANK YOU to all the council members and church volunteers who work tirelessly to keep Hope's programs, events, and ministries alive.

As we launch into this Christmas Season, I look forward to the familiar traditions that make this holiday so special and celebrating with the ones I love most. I wish you a season of faithful fun and hope that you surround yourselves with family and friends, love and laughter, great food good times, and gratitude!

***Many Blessings, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year filled with PEACE, LOVE & JOY! - Kathryn***



*Official Acts....* We will have NEW MEMBERS and Baptisms in December to announce next month. Please continue to welcome anyone new here and help them feel at home.

*Baptism....*

*Membership....*

*Our Love and Sympathy....* Michael Behn a Hope member passed on to Life Eternal; his family Jackson and Emily Kenney are also members and could use support and prayers during this difficult time; Kevin Irwin, close family friend of Ken and Janet Creech, has passed on to Life Eternal; Richard Peterson, family member of Valrie and Heather McGinn has passed on; give the McGinn Family prayers and a hug when you see them; Reverend Ed Pepler has entered into Eternal Life, father of Erica Driscoll; please keep all of our beloved Driscolls in our prayers during their time of grief and significant loss.

*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, February 8, and Friday, March 22.](#)**



## Gathering of Men Breakfast

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 9AM

December 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.

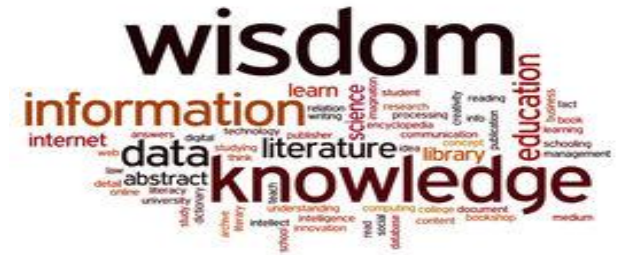
## Women of Hope

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
at 7:30PM

December 11, 2018

*Wisdom Club will meet at the Park  
Nine Diner for Holiday Fellowship  
at 11:30AM*

December 13, 2018



**If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Cheryl at 732-462-7545 by Friday, December 7; so a proper head count can be reported for a call ahead reservation. Thank you!**

### **The Manor Worship Service**

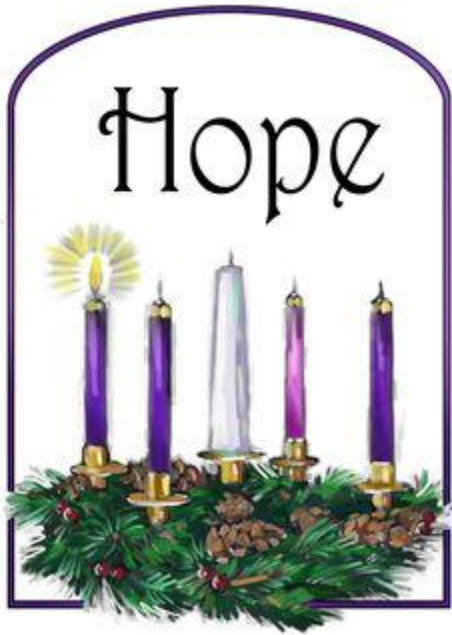
**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM**

*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.*

***Christmas Cookie Exchange has been cancelled, we will try again next year!!***



**Thank you to all of our members who have stepped up to do the honor of our weekly Advent readings!**

**December 2            8:30 – Matt & Jessica Somodi  
                                 11:00 – Frank & Catherine Burger**

**December 9            8:30 – Stefan & Claire Martinsen  
                                 11:00 – Kerry Kinion**

**December 16          8:30 – Kenneth & Jennifer Fink  
                                 11:00 – Dave & Cindy Lynch**

**December 23          8:30 – Scott and Sandy Wolven  
                                 11:00 – Matt and Susan Sprunger**

*hello!*  
*goodbye!*

***Let's take a minute to thank John Fink for all his hard work, time and dedication he has given us here at Hope Lutheran Church serving as our Maintenance Council Chair. He is officially handing the torch over to Stefan Martinsen December 1. On that note, let's welcome Stefan as our Church Council Maintenance Chair. We also have Tom Landes joining our Church Council as Fellowship Chair. Let's all welcome our two new Council Members and do our best to support and guide them in making this transition easy for them.***



***~\* Tom Tyrrell showed up as our Savior the day of our fluke snow storm and shoveled and salted our walkways for HCS dismissal.  
~\* Gerry Bergh for his eyes and edits on the Weekly.  
~\* Bill Unger for his assistance with getting everything ready for Emergency Housing.***



## ***DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!***

*Lori Lashenick  
Jaelyn Minniear  
Katherine Stenard  
Michael Woods  
Linda Alessi  
William Robertson  
Justin Bujalski  
Scott Noseworthy  
Christopher Schloeman  
Debbie Crawford  
Lisa Platt  
Matthew Romba  
Monica Grinberg  
Kathy Minniear  
Ryan Rifenburg  
Avery Clarke  
Olivia Wagner  
Steven Campanelli  
Peter Vandenakker  
Laura Bertsch  
Daphne Wilson  
Melissa Ng  
Laura Noseworthy  
Whitney Martinsen  
Diane Kless  
Anthony Seitz Jr*

*Loretta Hart  
Owen Sarkar  
Diane Carney  
Alexander Flury  
Thomas Robertson  
Joseph Toth  
Jennifer Miller  
Chris Fensham  
Zachary Koester  
Bill Seifert  
Art Casement  
MacKenna Peterson  
Walter Peterson Jr  
Sheila McCormick  
Lauren Fensham  
Emily Giacobbe  
Kyle Hart  
Catherine Burger  
Crystal Hudak  
Raymond Vender  
Lloyd King  
Susan Della Rosa  
Angelo Ranaudo  
Delaney DePalma  
Raymond Denney  
Rosie Driscoll*



