

The Anchor

September 2019

The Newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church
211 Elton Adelpia Road Freehold NJ 07728
Phone (732) 462-7545 Fax (732) 462-9320

Worship Services with Holy Communion
Sunday Worship 8:30AM and 11:00AM
Wednesday Worship and School 7:00PM

Pastor: *The Rev Dr Edward Kropa Jr*
pastorkropa@gmail.com

Minister of Music: *Joshua Staudinger*
hopelutheranmusic@gmail.com

Administrator: *Cheryl Hurd (732) 462-7545*
hopelutheran17@gmail.com

HCS Director: *Judy Canfield*
judyc08723@yahoo.com

Congregational Council:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------|
| President | Michael Della Rosa | mdell425@optonline.net | 908-380-8362 |
| Vice President | Sharryn Papinchak | sharrynp@gmail.com | 732-526-7342 |
| Treasurer | John Drager | johndrager@verizon.net | 732-431-1077 |
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| Maintenance | Stefan Martinsen | Stefan.martinsen@NEE.com | 561-346-2326 |
| | Matthew Sprunger | Matthew.sprunger@gmail.com | 732-677-3830 |

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HopeFreehold>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZVzI9oQTgmDMh5YNypfBw>

Website:

www.hopefreehold.org

Remembering Our Baptism

Martin Luther once said, “There is on earth no greater comfort than baptism.” And he didn’t merely speak those words, he lived them! As hard as it may seem for us to believe, even Martin Luther had his doubts and struggled, at times, with his faith. On those occasions, when doubt and anxiety threatened to derail or sidetrack him, Luther would confidently and boldly proclaim: “I am baptized! I am baptized!”

As Alan Goertemiller has noted, by saying “I am baptized!” Luther “affirmed and rightly stated that he belonged to God... By this we learn that who you are, and whose you are, are important components of baptism.” In baptism, we are all reminded – not just the one being baptized at that particular moment – that we are God’s beloved children; each and every one of us. And it’s this identity of “who” and “whose” we are that then can make all the difference in living out our lives in an often difficult and challenging world. As Lutherans, of course, baptism is at the very heart of our understanding and practice of the faith. So it only makes sense, then, that congregational faith formation would begin with and focus on baptism. As many of you know, this past year I participated in a Congregational Faith Formation program at United Lutheran Seminary at its Gettysburg, PA campus. My final project focused on the role and importance of baptism in the life of our congregation and its members. I recently shared the goals of that project at our June congregational meeting. But I would like to briefly share them with you again in this article.

GOAL #1: Presentation of Hope Chests at the time of Baptism.

When my wife was young, she put together a “hope chest” which included a set of china from her grandmother, a memory scrapbook from school, and other cherished items. By definition, a hope chest is “a piece of furniture traditionally used to collect items such as clothing and household linen, by unmarried women in anticipation of married life.”

To reemphasize the significance of baptism here at Hope Lutheran Church we now present each child, when they are baptized, with a “Hope Chest” of their own that will help mark and then, in future years, celebrate their baptism. It will initially include their baptismal certificate, baptismal candle, and baptismal napkin. We already present these items at the time of baptism, but now instead of their being misplaced or hidden away in a drawer or closet somewhere, they can now be kept in this “Hope Chest” and displayed in a prominent place in the child’s bedroom.

This Hope Chest will feature an anchor cross on its lid (the congregation’s symbol from Hebrews 6:19 – “...this hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast...,” and also the words of the Hope Lutheran Church mission statement on the inside of the lid: “Anchored in Christ, Growing in Faith, Love, and Service.”

GOAL #2: Baptism Sponsors from the Congregation.

I also plan on having *Congregational* Baptismal Sponsors. In other words, in addition to the sponsors (i.e. Godparents) chosen by the parents from among their family members and friends, there would now be congregational members who will also stand up with the child at his/her baptism and then cultivate a relationship over the ensuing years culminating with their confirmation. (Although it would not be surprising to me at all if these relationships were to continue indefinitely.) These Congregational Baptismal Sponsors would also participate during significant moments in the young person's journey of faith and be a mentor and guide in their Christian walk.

GOAL #3: Faith Stepping Stones.

On the first anniversary of the child's baptism, there will be a moment of recognition (with readings and prayers) during the worship. At that time, the child will also receive a special candleholder for their baptismal candle (made by one of our members) and a baptismal shell medallion.

In advance of each anniversary of the child's baptism thereafter, every child will then receive a personal note from the pastor along with a card (made to fit inside the Hope Chest) containing selected verses and prayers to be used for a baptismal anniversary service in the home. Parents will be encouraged, on the anniversary itself, to open up the Hope Chest, take out the baptismal candle, light it and place it in its holder, set the baptismal shell medallion in its holder, and then use the special prayer and scriptures to mark and celebrate the occasion. And thereby create a family faith ritual that will be repeated annually. In addition to this baptism anniversary ritual, the congregation will help mark other significant faith formation stepping stones with new "gifts" and "treasures" to be added to and kept in the child's "Hope Chest."

GOAL #4: Baptismal Recognition.

To further and regularly emphasize the significance and importance of baptism, baptismal anniversaries will be listed in the weekly worship bulletin. (Do you remember when you were baptized? We hope you will share that date with us.) Those with baptismal anniversaries that month will be recognized in the worship service on the first Sunday with a special prayer and blessing. There will also be an annual baptism reunion and recognition in the worship service for everyone.

GOAL #5: Faith formation in the Home.

When parents first contact the church regarding a potential baptism, they will receive – prior to meeting with the pastor – an information packet explaining baptism and the "Hope Chest" ministry and what to expect in the coming years, including the vision statement: "*We are going to take this walk with you and your child.*" Then, when the child is baptized, he or she will be enrolled in our Cradle Roll and the parents will begin receiving mailings (covering child and

faith development) at regular intervals. To try and even further engage parents and assist them in the faith formation of their children, there will also be a Pastor's Class during the education hour on Sunday mornings (from 9:45 am – 10:45 am). Each week's session will focus on the "Taking Faith Home" resource (from Milestones Ministry). I will provide an overview of the materials provided so that the parents (and anyone else!), in turn, can have prayer and devotions at home during the week.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Of course, I am not reinventing the wheel here with these initiatives. Many of the things I just outlined we are already doing. The three biggest changes are the "Hope Chests," the baptismal sponsors from the congregation, and the effort to engage parents in developing regular worship habits and devotional time in the home. My hope (pun intended!), however, is that by being more intentional, and making an effort to engage the entire Hope congregation, faith formation will become more of a priority in each of our lives.

Pastor Ed

| HOPE STATS | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Sun/Wed | Attendance | Sun School | Offerings | -did NOT | + reached |
| July 7 | 56 | - | \$2,925 | -\$1,210 | |
| July 14 | 72 | - | \$5,438 | | +\$1,303 |
| July 21 | 70 | - | \$2,615 | -\$1,520 | |
| July 28 | 91 | - | \$3,397 | -\$738 | |
| Aug 4 | 118 | - | \$3,875 | -\$260 | |
| Aug 11 | 80 | - | \$5,273 | | +\$1,138 |
| Aug 18 | 60 | - | \$2,506 | -\$1,629 | |
| Aug 25 | 92 | - | \$2,831 | -\$1,304 | |
| <i>Average Offering needed <u>weekly</u> to meet the proposed budget offerings of \$215,000 is \$4,135</i> | | | | | |

catechism

Will be held the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 6:30PM, beginning Sunday, September 15, 2019

Baptism.... Received into the Church of Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism on August 4, 2019... ***Charlee Raye Ranaudo*** born July 21, 2018; Parents are ***Angelo Rocco*** and ***Rio Ryan Ranaudo***. Sponsors are ***Rodem Magno*** and ***Ashlee Ranaudo***.

Received into the Church of Jesus Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism on August 25, 2019... ***Kayla Anne Knoell*** born April 28, 2019; Parents are ***Robert*** and ***Danielle Knoell***. Sponsor is ***Stephanie Knoell***.

Confirmands... Received through the Affirmation of Baptism on Pentecost, June 9, 2019 were 5 confirmands, ***Jaden Bulkley, Payton Quinn, Madeleine Raguseo, Olivia Raguseo*** and ***Maddie Spicuzzo***. Congratulations!

Our Love and Sympathy... Two wonderful women entered into Life Eternal over the summer, we are very sad to announce the loss of ***Gloria Kropa*** and ***Mary Nelson***. Love and prayers to all their family and friends during their times of grief.

Mary's family is so graciously accepting donations in her honor towards our ***Women of Hope Scholarship Fund***. Checks can be made out to ***Hope Lutheran Church*** with **"WOH – Mary Nelson"** written on the Memo line. The ***Kropa*** family has started a ***Gloria Kropa Scholarship Fund*** which will go towards Hope Christian School families in need. Checks can be made out to ***Hope Lutheran Church*** with **"Gloria Kropa Fund"** written on the Memo line.

More News...

Women of Hope Memorial Fund Donations.... Emily Palew made a donation in loving honor of ***Mary Nelson***.

*****If you are NOT receiving Weeklys from myself or from Josh, check your "SPAM" email. If we come up under "SPAM" (hopelutheran17@gmail.com and hopelutheranmusic@gmail.com) select the email by checking the small box to the left, then up at the top of your email page, you will see the option to mark our email addresses as "NOT SPAM". Hope that works! We send out a lot of important information weekly to all of you.*****



We now have **Christina Krause** as our Nursery Attendant! She has past experience here with us and is a great addition to our team! Be sure to take the time to pop in and make her feel welcome. She will arrive at 8:15AM and stay until the completion of the 11:00AM worship service. She may also be available to stay for extra events as well, such as Congregational Meetings. We have also implemented the **KID'S CORNER** located in the far corner of the Narthex near the speakers by the choir loft stairs. There are several games, activities, coloring pages, etc for all ages to sort through and stay occupied while their family can still listen to the services!

Top Ten Reasons Why I Can't Join the Choir *(and their answers)*

10. My voice is so tiny you'd never hear me. (*There is safety in numbers – Small voices add up!*)
9. I am not a soloist. (*GOOD! A church choir made up entirely of soloists might be like a plate of gravy with meat and potatoes*)
8. You're all so good. (*we wish...We're just average people who work together*)
7. I could never learn such difficult music. (*We spend about 6 weeks learning and absorbing each anthem. And we repeat songs we know next year*)
6. I don't read music. (*A legitimate concern. Many of the choir doesn't either, but we pick it up as we go*)
5. But once in a while we have to go see Aunt Gertrude. (*Most choir members miss occasionally, we would just like to know in advance*)
4. I can't hear the organ. (*Try sitting upstairs NEXT to it*)
3. I have childcare conflicts. (*This fall we will rehearse when the Junior Choir does. Bring your child to Junior Choir*)
2. I can't make such a big commitment. (*Don't. Try singing with us until Christmas, then decide*)
1. I hate singing. (*Oh..*)

***FIRST CHOIR PRACTICE – Thursday, September 5, 2019
at 7:00PM – Come see what it's all about!!***



*First Day of Sunday
School!*

*Sunday, September 8, 2019
9:45AM – 10:45AM*

JOIN US!!!

*Sunday, September 8,
2019 at the 11:00AM
Service - Blessing of
the Backpacks and
Installation of this year's Sunday School
Teachers!!*

BackPack
blessings

Women
HOPE
of

*Fellowship begins again! The
second Tuesday of each month at
7:30PM. All women are welcome
for Bible Study, food and fun!*

Tuesday, September 10, 2019



We ARE having a Praise BBQ!!
Wednesday, September 11, 2019
*from **6:00PM – 8:00PM** here in our*
Parking Lot. Join us for Food,
Fellowship, Fun, and some great
***MUSIC!!** Sign up to attend and/or*
volunteer!



Gathering of Men Breakfast

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

September 14, 2019

**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



Monday, September 16
7:00PM



We are going to have a small celebration to kick off a new year of the **WISDOM CLUB!!!** Join us **Thursday, September 19** at **11:30AM** for food and fellowship! Refreshments will be provided, **please RSVP** to let us know if you are going to come and feel free to bring a guest! Call Cheryl at **732-462-7545** to reserve your spot!

Women of the
ELCA 

32 Annual
NJ WELCA Convention
Sat. Sept 21st 9am - 3:30pm

Holy Trinity Lutheran
508 Green Pond Road
Rockaway, NJ 07866

"Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful"

Contact for this event: **NJ WELCA Convention**
Registrar – Jean Wilkinson-Heard at **201-725-2383**
or send an email to njwelca@yahoo.com

The Manor Worship Service

Sunday, September 22nd 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
Monday, September 23 at
7:00PM

Remembering Mary Nelson

by Wanda Nebiolo

Did you know that Mary Nelson moved to Freehold and into The Villages from Iowa. Shortly after moving into The Villages, she emailed Hope with a question “Does Hope have transportation?” I emailed that we didn’t provide transportation, adding that I also lived in The Villages and would be happy to pick her up. That evening I stopped to introduce myself and got acquainted with her and her two cats. Since we were both early risers, we attended early service. She mentioned that she left her car in Iowa because she wasn’t sure if she could drive in New Jersey. (Well, we all feel that way, just kidding!). She joined Hope, the Women of Hope and the Wisdom Club. There was also a “Breakfast Club” that would meet at the then “Golden Bell Diner”, after early service every Sunday; Conrad Whiteside, Marsha Pratt, Bob and Nancy Hritz, Dave and Cindy Livingston, Bill and Deb Unger, Tom and Barbara Tyrrell, myself and sometimes Bill and Janice Seifert and John and Joan Drager. Everyone welcomed Mary to this club! Conrad wouldn’t let us single ladies pay!

Mary was a very kind, lovely and thoughtful person, as well as a great baker. When it was her turn to bring refreshments to the Women of Hope, she would shine. Her children and grandchildren were extremely important to her and we had many conversations to and from church regarding our families. She spent wonderful family holidays with everyone in Freehold and those that were able to travel here to see her.

Mary entered the loving arms of our Lord in July. Within our hearts the ones we love are never really gone – in spirit and in memory, their legacy lives on. Rest in peace dear Mary.



*Sign ups for September and October are available at the Welcome Table! Please sign up for a Sunday! Coffee and all the paper products are provided by the church, we just ask that you bring a **NUT FREE** refreshment to share. We average about 35-40 members weekly.*

***WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR
A VOLUNTEER TO SCHEDULE
GREETERS!!! PLEASE!***



Sunday, October 20, 2019



**REFORMATION
Sunday**

***Sunday, October 27, 2019
Reformation Sunday
and Bible Sunday!***



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 Stefani-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
Jake Byford
Tara Grinberg
Debbie Unger

Gregory Lacko
Maja Carlino
Barbara Noseworthy
Siggy 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 Johnson-Sarkar
Lloyd King
Leanne Reed
Kory Werner
Adam Vender
John Sera
Erin Megill
Steve Campanelli
Becka Reeves
Leanne Creech
Eric Kania
Barbara DiNonno
Victoria Hu
Meredith Varner

