

The Anchor

January 2020

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
Sunday School 9:45AM – 10:45AM
Catechism Classes 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month
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

Congregation Council:

President	Michael Della Rosa	mdell425@optonline.net	908-380-8362
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	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

New Year's resolutions... or not?

“It’s time to make New Year’s resolutions. Have you made yours yet? Last New Year’s I made 6 resolutions and I am proud to say that I kept them all year long. I kept them in an envelope in the top drawer of my desk!”

(Dan Mahan)

It’s indeed that time of year again. I don’t know about you, but I haven’t been very successful over the years making major annual changes and/or improvements in my life. It’s been more like “two steps forward, one step back.” In other words, I’ve found that, over time, I *have* made progress. But, unlike fulfilling grand resolutions, my own changes and improvements have been much more gradual with occasional (sometimes frequent!) starts and stops along the way. The other problem with New Year’s resolutions is that a whole year is a long time to stay focused on *anything*; even if it is something positive and good.

This got me to thinking. As Lutherans, I realized, we’re really not so much into New Year’s resolutions and big sweeping life changes at all. We’re much more realistic, I guess. Instead, we’re more about new *day* resolutions; that is, the kind that come about as we reclaim our baptism each and every morning. Martin Luther described this when he talked about The Sacrament of Holy Baptism in his Small Catechism:

WHAT THEN IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SUCH A BAPTISM WITH WATER?

It signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

WHERE IS THIS WRITTEN?

St. Paul says in Romans 6, “We have been buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

So, this year, I have “resolved” to not think (or worry!) so much about keeping New Year’s resolutions, and seeking to achieve significant and sweeping annual changes in my life. Rather, I’m going to focus instead on those small, cumulative changes that come about when, through our baptism, we die to sin and rise to new life with Christ – each and every day. And I’m calling these: “New DAY resolutions.” Perhaps this is even something we can strive to do together.

Furthermore, I would especially like to take this opportunity to invite you to our Sunday morning worship on January 12 when we will all have an opportunity to remember, celebrate, and affirm our baptisms together!

Pastor Ed

HOPE STATS					
Sun/Wed	Attendance	Sun School	Offerings	-did NOT	+ reached
Dec 1	123	21	\$2,822	-\$1,313	
Dec 8	113	39	\$6,540		+\$2,405
Dec 15	178	13	\$5,604		+\$1,469
Dec 22	132	18	\$5,583		+\$1,448
Dec 24	312	-	\$4,457		+\$322
Dec 29	59	-	\$3,130	-\$1,005	
<i>Average Offering needed <u>weekly</u> to meet the proposed budget offerings of \$215,000 is \$4,135</i>					

Baptisms.... Received into the Church of Jesus Christ on December 1, 2019 through the Sacrament of Baptism; [**Tyler Stephen Hart**](#); born July 5, 2019; Parents are ***Christopher*** and ***Lindsay Hart***; and sponsors are ***Christopher O'Prandy*** and ***Dana Suarez***.

Our Love and Sympathy....

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. We can accept donations for this fund at any time.

More News....

Women of Hope Memorial Fund Donations.... No donations for the month of December reported to the office.

For 2019, Hope Lutheran Church made additional donations... to the Emergency Housing Advocacy Program (EHAP), Monmouth and Ocean County Fulfill (Foodbank in Neptune NJ), Seasonal Toys for Toys, and the Gloria Kropa HCS Scholarship Fund.

A 40 Year Update...

In 1980, a committee led by Joan Drager and Sharon Moffitt at Hope and Pastor Roger Burkins at Grace, joined with a number of other Freehold churches to help re-settle a family from Vietnam. Sai and Sen Nguyen and their 7 children (7 boys and a girl) spoke little English. We found an (old) house on South Street, paid the rent and they moved in. Fast forward a few years; the family got jobs, began earning income, and were able to buy a house on Henry Street. The boys rebuilt the steps, they turned their backyard into a garden shaped like their home country, and enrolled in Boro Schools. Sai and Sen stopped by to visit the Dragers December 29 with two of their sons. Hai, the oldest, obtained his degree in Electrical Engineering, lives in Houston and is married with two children and now owns a real estate business. Hoo, the second born, returned to Vietnam and owns a plant nursery business. The others live in New Jersey and Texas. Sai and Sen are now retired, they have 8 grandchildren and they still live in Freehold.

*Thank you to John Drager for sharing this awesome story
(and Hope/Grace history!) with all of us!*



Pick up your NEW 2020 envelopes from the Welcome Table – Please sign to say you have taken them! Also fill out a pledge card and Times and Abilities sheet while you're over there!



It's that time of year again! **The Emergency Housing Program, a project of the Freehold Clergy Association is in full swing now!**

Hope Lutheran Church is blessed to be the host site for our homeless neighbors in need. Would you be interested in hosting, preparing a meal, or driving? We are ardently seeking hosts. Please contact Andrew or Zinke McGeady at 732.363.8520 with any questions or for more information about this ministry. Together we are serving our Lord with gladness! Thank you in advance for your generous support!



Saturday, January 11 at 6PM

We hope to see you there! It would be great to get another crowd to help out – many hands make for light work!



Gathering of Men Breakfast

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

January 11, 2020

**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***



*The second Tuesday of each month at **7:30PM**, all women are welcome for Bible Study, food and fun!*

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

The Manor Worship Service

Sunday, January 19th 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.



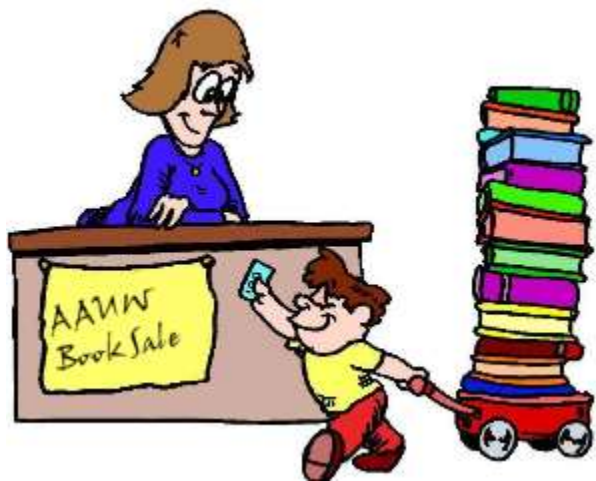
Interfaith Service

Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 4PM at the Bethel AME Church in Freehold NJ

UPCOMING OUTREACH MEAL DATES!

We will host and serve dinner at Saint Peter's on the following Friday Nights...

March 13, and April 24



BIKES AND BOOKS!!!

The Freehold Area AAUW is again collecting books for its used book sale in JUNE. Please drop off any hardback or paperback fiction and non-fiction (no text books or readers digest condensed books!) at the church anytime between

NOW and **MID-MAY**. Joan Drager will take it from there- Thanks Joan! Also, John Drager will take any used bicycles to 2nd TURN AROUND, the bike ministry in Asbury Park – Thanks John!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Mark your calendars!

March 14, 2020

Enjoy a chartered bus ride to and from the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster PA to see the story of Queen Esther!

Cost for Adults \$145

Cost for Children \$78

This includes theater ticket, bus transportation, and dinner at Miller's Sporgasbord.

Gather at Hope at 11:30AM to board a charter bus, theater performance at 3:00PM, dinner following, returning to Hope by 9PM.

RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW!

Contact Tara Zigler at tzigler2@gmail.com

Further information can be found by visiting the following links:

<https://www.sight-sound.com/toolkit?email=tzigler2@gmail.com>

<https://static.sight-sound.com/www/e-resources/2020/Lanc-show-pricingG.pdf>



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

Ryan Ann Fitch
Michael Hering
Amber Okerson
Lauren Trojan
Wayne Freudenberger
Mark Mihaly
Duane Christ
Daniel Kropa
Matthew Rinker
Susan Robertson
Erin Varner
Jackson Sapiezynski
Patricia Marino
Bridget McCormick
Samuel Hu
Lindsay DiGregorio
Scarlett Dey-Basile
Amy Lacko
Robert Taylor
Christopher Koester
Michael Koester
Gary DiGregorio

Zinke McGeady
Kirsten Frueh
Randy Minniear
Ashley Hansen
Steven Page
Grace Caputo
Dennis Johnson
Courtney Soutar
Christopher DiGregorio
Tyler Burns
Vincent Burns
John Natoli
Olivia Denney
Kayla Denney
Isabella Denney
Robert Carlino
Robert Green
Bill Unger
Stephen Dennis
Emily Faint
Elizabeth Stenard
Michael Ruegger
Cathy Verdino

