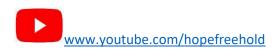
Hope Anchor for September 2025



211 Elton Adelphia Road Freehold NJ 07728



Growing in Faith, Love and Service











www.hopefreehold.org/hopegrowshere

LIFEKEYS: Discover Who You Are

Recently, Jackie Peters and Diane Kless approached me with the idea of doing something for the entire congregation on the topic of spiritual gifts. They had been impressed by a spiritual gifts inventory presented in their monthly WELCA resource.

That got me to thinking. The apostle Paul's discussion of spiritual gifts in the New Testament is only one element, one piece, of how God has uniquely gifted each and every one of us.

In fact, a few years ago, I came across a book (with the above title) that I've personally found to be very helpful. As the authors ask in their preface: *Have you discovered the keys to a fulfilling life? Do the various roles you play or the work you do fit with who you are? Does the life you lead give you a sense of purpose and meaning?*

Unfortunately, as they go on to note, "for a staggering number of people – even those who appear to have their act together – the answer to these questions is no. This book grew out of ourefforts to help members of our congregation identify LifeKeys – truths about who they are, why they are here, and what they do best that will add significance and direction to their lives."

Regardless of your age, LifeKeys can be a helpful and instructive tool in uncovering, or perhaps recovering, who you are and where your unique gifts, talents, personality, values, and passions best fit, including and especially in the church. For young people (and their parents) who are also looking to discern which career path to take in life, LifeKeys can be an invaluable resource in helping to make these determinations. For others, whose career choice may not have lived up to expectations, LifeKeys can help them decide if a change is perhaps worth considering. Even for those already retired, LifeKeys can help

individuals discover the best use of their time and talents when they're no longer working for a living.

Biblically based and theologically sound, LifeKeys is worth taking a look at, I believe. And for that reason, I am planning an 8-week sermon series, beginning on September 14, to present these insights.

Be on the lookout for additional information as we get closer!

Pastor Ed

Council Minutes – July 28, 2025

Meeting opened at 710pm

Present – Pastor, Bill, Sarah, Dave, Mike, Judy, Josh, Steve, Sue, Pat

Devotion – Pat presented the devotion focusing on Leap of Faith from Hebrews Chapter 11:1 "Faith is the assurance of things hope for, the convictions of things not seen."

Sarah made motion to approve minutes from Council Meeting 6-25-2025 Steve 2nd Motion approved

Preschool report – Judy reported that the summer camp has been very successful with two weeks remaining. Income from camp has been higher than expected. She is getting ready for the new school year; all classes filled with a waiting list as well. The 3 year license renewal for the school will be starting.

Mike mentioned an article of continued state expansion of free preschool and possible effects on HCS. Judy said if stated used our facilities public school curriculum would have to be used, no Christian education.

Financial Report – Mike reports that budgets are being adhered to and total bank/savings accounts are \$1.449 million which is up slightly from last year at this time.

Pastor's Report – Pastor reported that Josh will be able to take previously cancelled seminary course through online course conducted by Chelle Heuth, Director of Faith Formation Certificate Studies. Also, parsonage fence will be installed tomorrow 7-29-2025. Majority of Pastor's report dealt with ongoing discussion of building expansion: *Information about Blue Rock Construction a design and build company for Butler buildings.

- * Estimated costs \$225- \$275 per square foot
- * Potential 4,500 sq ft addition of multi-purpose room, classrooms, bathrooms projected cost \$1.2 million
- * MIF rates still holding at 7-7.5%
- * Mike went to see Butler addition at Medford United Methodist Church and suggested it is worth a visit to see if it is a feasible option.

Comments/Suggestions/Actions

- * Dave would like a definite affordability/cost number
- * Pastor will contact United Methodist Church to arrange visit by council members to see their addition. Possible dates August 11th or 12th
- * Pastor will contact Jason Quenzel for informational visit to Hope on August 18th the next Council meeting.

Approved Motions and Expenditures

- * \$3,000 donation to Lutheran Disaster Response for Texas flood relief. Bill made motion, Sarah 2nd Motion approved. Funds to be taken from Undesignated Fund which will go over the budgets \$10,000. (\$9,000 has already been used).
- * \$5,500 for J Caruso Construction for altar renovation. Bill made motion. Pat 2nd Motion approved. Funds to be used from FWH
- * \$5,000 to replace piano, Steve made motion, Bill 2nd Motion approved. Funds to come from Organ Fund (John Drager and Janice Seifert discussion ensued and this was approved to fund the purchase).

* \$3,000 donation to Open Door to aid in moving costs. This is a one time additional donation to Open Door. Sarah made motion, Sue 2nd. Motion approved Funds to come from Open Door Fund which will then be over budget.

Pastor closed meeting at 915 with a prayer Next Council Meeting August 18th Devotions – Matt

Council Minutes – August 18, 2025

Meeting opened at 6pm

Present – Pastor, Matt, Sue, Brian, Bill, Sarah, Dave, Josh, Cheryl and Guest, Jason Quenzel from Blue Rock **Missing** – Steve, Jess, Pat **Zoom** was available with no attendees

Building Expansion:

Met with Jason from Blue Rock for a Q&A to discuss a possible butler building in place of traditional construction for expansion Simplified design concept discussed

Blue Rock does not provide services for civil engineers but can give recommendations.

Ability to add exterior features to make the building blend in more with the church, with metal roofing, while the structure itself is insulated to state-mandated energy-saving standards

They have an in-house design team and an architect if needed They are a manager and hire out subcontractors

They can also handle project management for parking and lighting services

Multi-purpose room considerations: basketball, volleyball, stage, storage

Classroom and office space needs to be reviewed

Parking lot expansion and playground adjustments were considered

Potential mezzanine/second-floor options explored

Next steps:

Pastor to provide all details for the expansion to start moving toward an accurate cost for the expansion

Bill made a motion, accepted by Dave P., seconded by Sarah K., and unanimously accepted to approve the Council Meeting minutes for July 28th, 2025.

Sanctuary Improvement

Estimated costs for various components:

Altar: \$5,500 (previously approved by council)

• Painting: \$10,000-\$12,000

• Carpeting: \$9,000-\$11,000

• Chairs: \$14,000-\$17,000 (150 chairs at ~\$70 each plus shipping)

Project Timeline:

Proposal to bundle improvement costs for congregation approval in November

Estimated 3-week completion time if started after November approval

Cheryl made the motion. Accepted by Brian M., who Matt M. seconded, and unanimously accepted to propose the Sanctuary improvements at the November Congregation meeting

Other Discussions:

Sarah and Pat presented some findings on an employee handbook at Hope, comparing ours to others and discussing possibly combining the two. It was tabled until the next council meeting.

Declined rental requests from Spanish-speaking congregations Upcoming sermon series on spiritual gifts based on the "Life Keys" book

Positive financial report: increased giving despite national trends





JOIN US!!!

Sunday, September 7

Join us to Register for Sunday School in person and to celebrate being BACK to TWO services weekly!

Or Register NOW -

Hope Lutheran Church Sunday School Registration



9 am – Traditional 10am – Sunday School/Youth Group 11 am - Contemporary



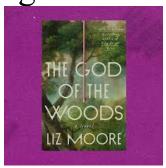
Meet the first Saturday of each month in Hope's Kitchen at 930am (September 6th)



Meet the second Saturday of each month in Hope's Kitchen at 9am (September 13th)



Our Next **BOOK CLUB** meeting will be: **Sunday**, **September 21**st at 10am in the *Kitchen* and we will be discussing....



Dear Youth and Families,

As the fall season begins, we are excited to get back into the swing of things! With the return to **two Sunday services**, the restart of **Sunday School**, and the **Youth Group** meeting again, there are so many ways for families and youth to connect, learn, and grow in faith together. This season is full of fellowship, service, and worship opportunities—and we can't wait to see everyone participating!

Here are a few updates from summer. In August, we hosted 67 children at our Magnified VBS! A big thank you to all our VBS volunteers: Dennis Chae, Nate Raguseo, Kathy Leatherman, Rose Keuhn, Lori Mineer, Anna Mancini, Nora Sprunger, Jackie Peters, Adalyn Hurd, Joey Mancini, June Sprunger, Harper Hedin, Riley Hedin, Autumn Hedin, Jess Somodi, Ryan Somodi, and their friends!

Rally Day & Backpack Blessing – Sunday, September 7
Join us as we kick off a new program year with Rally Day! It's an excellent time to reconnect after the summer, meet teachers and leaders, and start fresh in our youth and family ministries. As part of Rally Day, we will also celebrate our Backpack Blessing—all students are invited to bring their backpacks (or work bags!) to be blessed for the year ahead. Come ready for fun, community, and a blessing for the journey!

BBQ at Josh's – Saturday, September 20 Starting at 4pm – more information will be sent out this month.

Sandwich Making – Wednesday, September 24

Our youth and families will gather again on Wednesday, September 24, to serve our neighbors by making sandwiches with St. Peter's Community Lunch. This simple act of love significantly impacts our community; everyone is welcome to help. We will be continuing this monthly going forward!

The HLC Youth Group

The HLC Youth Group is a welcoming ministry at Hope for young people in grades 6–12 who want to deepen their faith and make a meaningful impact in our community. We meet every Sunday at 10 AM between services for conversations, hands-on activities, and reflections on how faith connects to everyday life.

In addition to our weekly gatherings, we host monthly social events to build friendships and have fun. Youth can also participate in monthly service opportunities, like making sandwiches for St. Peter's Lunch Program, which allows us to put our faith into action. Whether you're drawn to music, worship, community service, media, or technology, there's a place for you to grow, serve, and shine.

Be sure to check the monthly calendar for any changes to our weekly schedule and to stay updated on upcoming social and volunteer events. All are welcome!

Get Involved with Music and Service!

We could still use help with a few behind-the-scenes tech needs. If you are interested in sound, projection, or streaming, we'd love to have you on the team! Also, our **choir and band** are open to new members. If you love to sing or play, this is the perfect time to join and share your gifts.

Looking Ahead

- CROP Walk Sunday, October 19, 2025: Join us in this annual community walk to raise funds to fight hunger both locally and globally. It's an excellent way for youth and families to get active and serve together!
- Haunted House Outing Friday, October 24, 2025, 7:30 PM: Youth are invited to the Gravity Hill Haunted House in Jackson for a spooky night of fun and fellowship.

- Pumpkin Carving Sunday, October 26, 2025: Come for a fun fall evening of pumpkin carving and fellowship between services. Pumpkins will be provided—all you need to bring is your creativity!
- Paintballing Saturday, November 8, 2025: Our youth will head out for an afternoon of paintballing—a chance to invite friends, build community, and have some friendly competition. Afterward, Josh will host everyone at his house for dinner!
- Outreach Meal Friday, November 14, 2025: Keep your eyes open for information from Cheryl on how you can help prepare and serve the next Outreach Meal.
- Baking for Open Door Saturday, November 15, 2025: Join us to bake treats to sell at the congregation meeting, raising funds to support Open Door.
- NJ Synod Youth Retreat November 22–24, 2024: The annual Synod Youth Retreat will take place at the Sheraton Edison. It's a powerful weekend of worship, workshops, and connection with youth from across New Jersey. If you're interested in attending, let us know soon so we can plan together!

Let's step into this fall with joy and energy, lifting our voices together and serving our community as one church family!

With Blessings, Josh Renik-Staudinger

HOPE GROWS HERE!

There is a very strong connection between being generous and using that generosity to assist others in need.

Generosity extends beyond the mere act of giving material possessions; it encompasses the sharing of time, knowledge, compassion, and love. The impact of generosity is profound, transforming both the giver and the receiver in life-affirming ways.

Generosity exhibits itself in various forms:

- <u>Material Giving</u>: Donating money, food, clothes, or other resources to those in need is the most common form of generosity.
- <u>Time:</u> Volunteering time for community service, helping friends and family, or mentoring someone can be one of the most valuable gifts.
- **Knowledge**: Sharing knowledge and expertise can empower others and foster growth and innovation.
- **Emotional Support**: Offering a listening ear, providing encouragement, or simply being there for someone in times of need.

Generosity can be cultivated through planned practices and a shift in mindset.

- <u>Mindful Living</u>: Practicing mindfulness helps individuals become more aware of their abundance and the needs of others, fostering a natural inclination towards generosity.
- **Gratitude:** Developing a habit of gratitude for what one has can inspire a desire to share and give back.
- <u>Community Engagement:</u> Being actively involved in community activities and causes can provide opportunities

to practice and witness generosity, reinforcing its importance.

• Educating and Leading by Example: Teaching children and young adults the value of generosity through education and by setting examples can cultivate a culture of giving in future generations.

In conclusion: Generosity is more than an act; it is a way of life that enriches the giver, the receiver, and society as a whole. By embracing the essence of generosity and overcoming its challenges, we can create a world rooted in kindness, empathy, and shared prosperity. The ripple effect of one generous act can inspire countless others, creating a legacy of giving that transcends generations. Let us all strive to be generous, not only in our deeds but in our hearts, for in giving, we truly receive.

Bill Unger, for the Congregation Council



There is a NEW HVAC unit for the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen area – this was approved at the June 2024 Congregation Meeting – thank you for your support with this so I was able to plan logistically with NO interference of our day – to – day operations!

There are all NEW windows in all of the classrooms now, and lighting upgrades are under way! And soon, the floors will be updated – we started with Room 1 – give it a look when you can!



Outreach Meal Schedule



We will be serving breakfast for dinner (by request!) *Friday*, *November 14*



Chili Dinner! Friday, January 23

Friday, April 24 – Meal to be determined at a later date!!



Join us!
Wednesday Nights @
6pm (classes should not run more than an hour!)
February 25, March

4, March 11 and March 18

A parent or guardian will have to be present for the March 4 class to assist with making their banners - Please volunteer for 1-2 classes so we can have extra hands each Wednesday!

Register Here: First Holy Communion



First Holy Communion -Sunday, March 22 @ 11am



Annual Memorial Scholarship Fund

Your donations help fund scholarships for our graduating high school seniors.

Please consider donating at any time to honor a friend or family member or to celebrate a special event or memory.

Make checks payable to Hope Lutheran Church with a note included on the check.



HLC SUNDAY SCHOOL



CLASSES/CURRICULUM

- Classes take place Sunday Mornings from 10am-10:45am
 - o 3 year olds-Second Grade meet in room I
 - Third Grade-Sixth Grade meets in room 3
- We use the Spirit and Truth Curriculum, which follows the church calendar.
- There is no cost for Sunday School, but we always accept donations! Our PayPal e-mail is is HopeLutheranl7@gmail.com
- · Parents are welcome and encouraged to stay for fellowship during Sunday School hour.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jess Somodi Sunday School Director JessicaAcker@Gmail.com 732-832-1585

Please contact for more info or to register!

IMPORTANT DATES

- September 7- Rally Day and Backpack Blessing
 - o (In Person Registration and Sunday School Begins)
- November 30- Family Advent Craft
- · December 28-No Sunday School
- · January 4-No Sunday School
- March 29- Easter Egg Hunt
- April 5- No Sunday School
- · May 17- Family Bingo/Last Day of Sunday School

VOLUNTEERS

We could always use help in Sunday School! No experience required! Please reach out to Jess if you are interested.

Scan for more information or to register!







GROWING IN **FAITH**, **LOVE** & **SERVICE**

ABOUT HOPE'S YOUTH MINISTRY

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In addition to our weekly gatherings, we host monthly social events to build friendships and have fun together. Youth can also participate in monthly service opportunities, like making sandwiches for St. Peter's Lunch Program, which allows us to put our faith into action. Whether you're drawn to music, worship, community service, media, or technology, there's a place for you to grow, serve, and shine.

Be sure to check the monthly calendar for any changes to our weekly schedule and to stay updated on upcoming social and volunteer events.

All are welcome!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Josh Staudinger Director Of Music & Faith Formation (732) 757-8630 hopelutheranmusic@gmail.com

> Inhyoung Chae Youth Group Leader Inniesmail@gmail.com

FALL/WINTER 2025 DATES

09/07 RALLY DAY

09/24 Sandwiches For St. Peters (Monthly)

10/19 CROP WALK

11/14 ST.PETERS MEAL SERVING

11/15 Bake for open door

11/21-23 NJ SYNOD YOUTH RETREAT

> 11/29 Christmas Decorating

11/30 ADVENT CRAFT

12/14 Christmas caroling



Here is an idea of <u>SOME</u> of the things we have planned for our upcoming church year of September 2025 – June 2026

September

Sept 7 –Back to two services,
Sunday School and Youth! 9am
Traditional, 10am SS/Youth
11am Contemporary
Backpack Blessing
Sept 24 – Sandwich Making!

October

Confirmation Classes begin again! Let the office know if your child/ren will be starting their first year!

Oct 19 – Crop Walk

November

Nov 14 – Outreach Meal

Nov 15 – Open Door Bake Sale

Nov 21-23 – Synod Youth Retreat

Nov 29 – Decorating Pot Luck

Nov 30 – Advent Craft

December

Dec 5, 12, 19 – Pageant Practice

Dec 14 - Christmas Caroling

Dec 22 – Christmas Pageant

Dec 24 – 4pm and 7pm Services

No SS/Youth Dec 28

January

No SS/Youth Jan 4

Jan 10 - "UN" decorate

Jan 23 – Outreach Meal

February

Feb 8 – SOUPerbowl Sunday

Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18 – First Communion Classes

March

March 22 – First Holy Communion

March 29 – Palm Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt

April

April 2 – Maundy Thursday

April 3 – Good Friday

April 5 – Easter Sunday

No SS/Youth April 5

April 24 – Outreach Meal

May

May 10 – Muffins with Mom

May 17 – BINGO! Last day of SS and Youth!

May 24 – Summer Schedule – One Service @ 930am

June – August

June 21 – Donuts with Dad

VBS WEEK

August 10 – August 14

MONTHLY

Women of Hope – First Saturday of each month at 930am in the Kitchen

Gathering of Men – Second Saturday of each month at 9am in the Kitchen

Book Club – Third Sunday of each month at 10am in the Kitchen

Congregation Meetings

One in *November* and one in *June* each year – dates to be determined



We take lots of pictures at our events and post them on our website and social medias to show our community how we help others and what we offer as a Church Family. If you do NOT want your picture taken

and posted please let Josh know by sending an email requesting not to have any of your pics posted to hopelutheranmusic@gmail.com

HOPE FAMILY PRAYER LIST

Kira Noseworthy, waiting to be the recipient of a heart transplant; **Chuck Jensen**, a former member of Hope has sadly passed on to Life Eternal...

Tracey Radosti's sister; Teddy Mancini; Unger Family
Friend, Helene; Bob Smith, Jeanette Kropa's father;
Becky Davino's father, John Wolgast; Rob Iadanza;
Bill Becker; Bob Robinson; Ashley Rosenberg; Gerry
Bergh; Alyssa Manco, friend of the Somodi Family;
Kaitlin Kropa; Bill Seifert; Colin Alaia, family friend of the McGeady Family; Jennifer, family friend of Brenda and Dennis Johnson; Charles Sona; Ryan McAuly,
Kless Family nephew; Courtney Volk; Deloris Laub;
Dolores O'Brien; Marilyn Wolter, Cindy Lynch's mother; Margaret Holen; Jim Mulligan; Dani Hulsart family friend of the Donmoyer Family; Pam Renouff;

Those serving as first responders and in the armed services.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Volunteers NEEDED

President	Bill Unger		
Vice President	Sarah Kozak		
Secretary	Volunteer NEEDED		
Education	Jessica Somodi		
Financial Secretary	Sue Hu		
Open Door Alternate	Pat Fensham		
Architecture Team	Brian McMillin		
Architecture Team	Matthew Malanuk		
	Dave Peters		
	Steve Weiss		
	NON COUNCIL MEMBERS		
	HOLDING POSITION/S		
Treasurer	Mike Della Rosa		
Open Door	Rebekah Heilman		
Worship	Jackie Peters		

	Assisting	Altar	Counting
Sept 7	Steve	Barbara T	Weiss/Tyrrell
Sept 14	John	Diane K	Ungers
Sept 21	Dave	Debbie U	Fenshams
Sept 28	Tom	Rachel R	Della Rosas
Oct 5	Sue	Pat F	
Oct 12	Debbie	Sue D	
Oct 19	Rebekah	Rebekah	
Oct 26	Rita	Barbara T	
Nov 2	Ken	Diane K	
Nov 9	Steve	Debbie U	
<i>Nov 16</i>	John	Christine H	
<i>Nov 23</i>	Dave	Rachel R	
Nov 30	Tom	Pat F	
Dec 7	Rita	Sue D	
Dec 14	Bill	Rebekah	
Dec 21	Deb	Barbara T	
Dec 28	Ken	Christine H	

Traditional Acolytes –
Cara S and Melody B
Contemporary Acolytes –
Hedin Girls, Joey M and Ryan S

<u>USHERS</u>	9am	11am
Sept 7	Matt M & Mark A	Matt S & John S
Sept 14	Ken B & Bill U	Chuck M & Diane
Sept 21	Rebekah & Chris F	Matt & John
Sept 28	Matt M & Andrew	Chuck & John
Oct 5	Ken & Mark	Matt
Oct 12	Rebekah & Chris	Chuck & John
Oct 19	Matt & Andrew	Matt & Diane
Oct 26	Ken & Mark	Chuck & John
Nov 2	Rebekah & Chris	Matt & Chuck
Nov 9	Mark & Bill	John & Diane
<i>Nov 16</i>	Matt & Ken	Matt & John
Nov 23	Andrew & Bill	Chuck & Diane
Nov 30	Rebekah & Chris	Matt & John
Dec 7	Mark & Ken	Chuck & Diane
Dec 14	Matt & Andrew	Matt & John
Dec 21	Bill & Chris	Chuck & John
Dec 28		

September



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Back to School	Labor Day 530p – WW Group	7p – Zoom Yoga 730p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step 7p – Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	930am – WOH 12p - Counseling
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Contemporary Backpack Blessing RALLY DAY!	530p – WW Group	7p – Zoom Yoga 730p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	Patriots Day 5p - Counseling 7p - 12 Step 7p - Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	9am - GOM 12p - Counseling
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Contemporary	530p – WW Group 7p – Council Mtng	7p – Zoom Yoga 730p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step 7p – Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	12p – Counseling 4p – BBQ at Josh's
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth Book Club Meets 11a – Contemporary	530p – WW Group	7p – Zoom Yoga 730p - Choir	6p - Sandwiches 7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step 7p – Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	12p – Counseling
28	29	30				
9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Contemporary	530p – WW Group	7p – Zoom Yoga 730p - Choir				

SEPTEMBER 2025 **YOUTH CALENDAR**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 HAPPY LABOR DAY	2	3	BAND PRACTICE 7PM	5	6
7 RALLY DAY & BACKPACK BLESSING 10AM & Both Services	8	9 CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	10	BAND PRACTICE 7PM	12	13
Youth Bible Study 10am	15	CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	17	BAND PRACTICE 7PM	19	BBQ AT JOSH's 4PM
Youth Bible Study 10am	22	CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	Sandwich Making for St. Peters 6PM	25 BAND PRACTICE 7PM	26	27
Youth Bible Study 10am	29	CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	Upcoming Dates Josh Away: 10/11-10/18	If you have any quest Fa Josh Stau	aith Formation Direction Direction (josh@hopefr	to reach out our team! tor: