

# *Hope Anchor* *for February 2026*

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Traditional Service 9AM  
Sunday School/Youth Group 10AM  
Contemporary Service 11AM

 HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME  
BUT I CHOSE YOU,  
AND I APPOINTED YOU TO GO,  
AND BEAR FRUIT -  
FRUIT THAT WILL LAST -  
SO THAT THE FATHER WILL GIVE YOU  
WHATEVER YOU ASK HIM IN MY NAME."

JOHN 15:16

**211 Elton Adelpia Road**  
**Freehold NJ 07728**



***Growing in Faith, Love and Service***



[www.youtube.com/hopefreehold](https://www.youtube.com/hopefreehold)



[www.facebook.com/hopefreehold](https://www.facebook.com/hopefreehold)



[www.instagram.com/hopefreehold](https://www.instagram.com/hopefreehold)



[www.hopefreehold.org](https://www.hopefreehold.org)



**[www.hopefreehold.org/hopegrowshere](http://www.hopefreehold.org/hopegrowshere)**

## ***Basketball Theology***

When I was in seminary there was a group of us who would routinely skip the weekly chapel service on Wednesdays (because of chapel there were no classes scheduled) and instead go across the street to play pick-up basketball in the Capital University gym. (Also a Lutheran school for those of you who are not familiar with it.)

Well I'm sure that our absence was frowned upon by our professors. But I at least took some solace in the fact that the University Chaplain at Capital usually played right along with us!

Anyway, during my second year, one of my fellow Wednesday basketball players was a first-year student named Ken Pollitz. Ken, at 6'5", had been a Division 1 basketball player; first at Missouri (his first 2 years) and then at Valparaiso (his final 2 years). Needless to say, he was an excellent basketball player.

So it came as no surprise when I came across the following article he apparently once wrote entitled "Basketball Theology." Since football is wrapping us this month with the Super Bowl and basketball (especially college basketball) is in full swing, with "March Madness" just around the corner, I thought this would be a fun article for your consideration.

Basketball theology:

Center/forward — Where nobody usually sits on Sunday mornings.

Free throw — A toddler's toss of toys.

Timeout — A sermon gone too long.

On the bench — The organist (pianist).

Three-point play — The structure of any good sermon.

Offensive foul — A newly discovered baby's messy diaper.

Ejection — Taking an inconsolable child out to the nursery.

Pre-game warmups — The lighting of the altar candles.

Traveling — Parents walking back and forth with upset children in the back of the church.

Transition game — Movement of people from Sunday School to worship.

Turnover — Exchange of an upset infant between parents. (Also known as the chest pass.)

Opening tip — Suggestion of a short sermon due to the roast in the oven.

Change of possession — The offering.

Fast break — Children coming down for the children's sermon.

(Sometimes used to describe the children's movement to the hospitality snacks after worship.)

Slam-dunk — Shorter than usual sermon.

20-second timeout — A brief exit to the restrooms.

Rebound — Inspiring special music following a boring sermon.

Hope that you basketball fans out there enjoyed this as much as I did!

*Pastor Ed*



**We welcome Laura Kropa as  
the new Council Secretary!!!!**

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## 1-12-26

ACTION	COUNCIL MEMBER/ ATTENDEE
MTG OPENED	7:02 by Bill Unger
IN PERSON	Pastor Ed Kropa, Bill Unger, Laura Kropa, Dave Peters, Sarah Kozak, Matt Malanuk, Josh Renik- Staudinger, Judy Canfield, Brian McMillan
ZOOM	Jessica Somodi, Sue Hu (joined at 7:29)
ABSENT	Steve Weiss, Patricia F, Mike Della Rosa
PRAYER/DEVOTION	Prayer by Pastor Ed
ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES	Motion by Bill Passed
AFFIRMATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER	Laura Kropa affirmed as Secretary until approved at Congregational meeting in June

### REPORTS

TREASURY REPORT	Treasurer's report for January 2026 was submitted to all council members, administrative staff, and finance committee members prior to the January council meeting.
HCS REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judy distributed copies of the January Newsletter. Not too extensive since school just resumed after Winter Break</li> <li>Brightwheel Digital Registration: VERY SMOOTH! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payment online</li> <li>Time stamp so it is easy to tell when registration occurred</li> <li>Roll out to Mommy &amp; Me Group next</li> <li>Then to Public</li> </ul> </li> <li>Payment for Staff and for tuition will be through Brightwheel and digital</li> <li>Great customer service (checked in at 2:45 to make sure everything went smoothly)</li> <li>All this information is on church computer too as a backup</li> <li>REMINDER: Please communicate with Judy any work that it going to be completed at the church so she can plan for disruptions in the school day</li> </ul>
PASTOR REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeling better and undergoing medical treatment</li> </ul> </li> <li>Communication Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up protocols for the different everyday functions of the church for when Pastor is not available and in preparation for when he retires</li> <li>First up should be the New Member initiation</li> <li>Josh has a plan that he formulated through his completed Faith Formation course. Will formalize and present at a future date</li> </ul> </li> <li>Pastor's formal report is pending</li> </ul>

## OLD BUSINESS

<b>EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK</b>
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Still needs to be looked at
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## ARCHITECTURAL BUSINESS

<b>COMMUNITY CENTER ADDITION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pastor received email from Jason Quenzel at Blue Rock on 1/12/26 regarding concept plans for addition</li><li>• Key Points:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 7200 sq ft addition</li><li>○ Multipurpose room 4700 sq ft ( similar in size to worship area of existing structure)</li><li>○ 2 classrooms ( one will be for Kindergarten class and one extra/ 25 students each)</li><li>○ Bathrooms have 2 sinks, 2 toilet stalls and handicapped stall</li><li>○ Playground will be reconfigured to fit structure</li><li>○ Exit access will be modified to have left and right turn lanes</li><li>○ 4 parking spaces will be removed at the entry island</li><li>○ Additional parking spots can be added, but do not seem to be required</li></ul></li><li>• Questions:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Looks as though changes to entrance/exit encroaches on neighbor's yard. Does the Site plan show actual property lines?</li><li>○ Where is the entrance?</li><li>○ Will there be doors in the Multipurpose room to the outside?</li><li>○ Is it possible to flip rooms around so classrooms can be locked off if Multipurpose room is going to be used during the school day?</li></ul></li><li>• Next Steps:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Meet with Council to answer questions</li><li>○ Acquire a Land Use Attorney (Judy has one that she has used for the school before)</li><li>○ Concept meeting with the Township</li></ul></li></ul>
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## NEW BUSINESS

<b>ATTENDEE BRINGING UP NEW BUSINESS</b>	<b>TOPIC/ITEM</b>
<b>JOSH (organ repair)</b>	Trumpets need to be taken out so the organ is not so loud. Will be covered by Organ Fund
<b>BILL (paving)</b>	<p>Patch or Full lot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brian suggested that dangerous spots be spray painted orange and we show contractor the places we want patched</li><li>• Patches were done 6 years ago</li><li>• Definite low and dangerous spots, not nearly 4000 sq ft</li><li>• Pave the entire parking lot after possible construction is complete</li><li>• Judy has the name of an asphalt guy and will send to Bill</li></ul>

<b>BILL (audit plans)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2022 was last one</li> <li>• No specific time line ; must be done periodically</li> <li>• Need to ask for volunteers for next meeting</li> </ul>
<b>SARAH (donation to FTTHS drama club)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ad in playbook for \$300 donation to club</li> <li>• Bill made motion to donate</li> <li>• Brian seconded</li> <li>• All passed</li> </ul>
<b>SARAH (EHab)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merged with a different company (not same as Open Door)</li> <li>• Hold monthly check until we find out who they are</li> <li>• Ask Cheryl to find out</li> </ul>
<b>JOSH/BILL (unhoused person)</b>	<p>Someone was sitting outside in the cold before the service on Sunday. (A man named Mike who goes to Outreach meetings)</p> <p>Someone called the police on him. He was brought inside for worship and sent home in an Uber</p>
<b>JUDY (Electroluxe donation)</b>	<p>Parent works for Electroluxe and wants to donate an item. We can pick anything</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill: vacuum</li> <li>• Sarah: 2 new fridges</li> <li>• Josh: an item for the new addition can be stored in his garage</li> </ul>

**Sending Prayer: Pastor Ed**  
**Meeting Dismissed: 8:16**

**Next meeting: Feb. 9, 2026**

# Recruitment Request for Hope Audit Committee

## *An invitation to Serve on the Church Audit Committee*

The church is seeking dedicated members to serve on the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee plays a crucial role in safeguarding the church's financial integrity, ensuring accountability, and upholding transparent stewardship of church resources. Historically this audit is an annual requirement.

Our Hope constitution states that:

"An audit committee of two or more voting members shall be elected by the Congregation Council at its first meeting following the November annual meeting of the congregation. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council."

The plan is to conduct this audit in early 2026.

### Purpose of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing the church's financial processes, internal controls, and annual financial statements. The committee works independently to provide oversight and recommendations for improvement, fostering trust and confidence among the congregation.

### Committee Responsibilities

- Review and evaluate the church's financial reports and statements.
- Assess the effectiveness of internal controls and procedures.
- Make recommendations for improving financial practices.
- Report findings to the church leadership and congregation.
- Assist in working with external accounting firm, if necessary.



## How to Apply

If you are interested in serving on the Church Audit Committee, please submit a brief statement of interest to the church office by email or in person.

## Contact Information

For more information or to express your interest, please contact:

Church Administrator: Cheryl Hurd

Email: [Hopelutheran17@gmail.com](mailto:Hopelutheran17@gmail.com)

Phone: (732) 462-7545

Also feel free to reach out to Mike DellaRosa or John Drager who have firsthand experience from prior yearly audits.

**We encourage all members who are committed to the church's mission and values to consider this important opportunity to serve!**



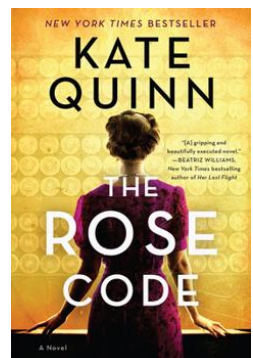
*Meet the first Saturday of each month in Hope's Kitchen at 930am (February 7<sup>th</sup>)*



*Meet the second Saturday of each month in Hope's Kitchen at 9am (February 14<sup>th</sup>)*



Our Next **BOOK CLUB** meeting will be: **Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** *at 10am* in the *Kitchen* and we will be discussing....





## Outreach Meal Schedule

Next one is in April -  
sign up will be available soon!!



**A HUGE THANK YOU** to  
everyone who pulled it  
together for the January 23  
outreach meal!!! And to ***Cat***

***Burger*** for helping me out and stepping up in my  
place since I couldn't be there!!!



***We are accepting Book  
donations for the 2026 Book  
Sale!!! Please feel free to drop  
off your book donations for the  
next few months! We typically***

***stop accepting donations by mid-May!***



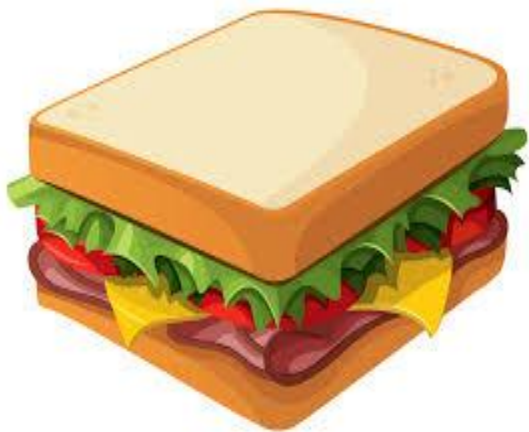
# “SOUP-ER BOWL” SOUP SALE

COOKING:

SATURDAY, FEB 7 AT 5PM

SOLD BETWEEN SUNDAY SERVICES

 HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH



***Next Sandwich Making EVENT!***

**Tuesday, February 10 at 6pm**

***Sign up - [Hope Lutheran Church:](#)***  
***[February 2026 Sandwich Making for](#)***  
***[St. Peter's](#)***



# Growing Together in Faith

It's hard to believe we're already rolling into February! Thank you all for such a wonderful start to the year—from helping undecorate after Christmas to the youth jumping right back into Bible study between services to making sure Cheryl had everything she needed for the Outreach Meal. Seeing families and youth step up so quickly and so generously has been a gift. I'm incredibly grateful for the many ways you continue to show up for one another and for our wider community.

As we look ahead, February is packed with meaningful opportunities to serve, gather, and have a little fun together:

## **Soup-er Bowl Soup Sale – Saturday, February 7 at 5 PM**

Super Bowl weekend means it's time to break out the ladles! We'll once again have the youth making soup to raise money for Freehold Area Open Door and selling it between services on Sunday. If you're able to help cook—or lend a standalone burner or cooktop (our kitchen space is tight, and those extra burners are lifesavers!)—please let me know. I'm also happy to pick up ingredients, so send along your favorite recipes... 🧐.

## **February Sandwich Making – Saturday, February 10 at 6 PM**

This continues to be one of the most inspiring things we do together. From our youngest Sunday Schoolers to our most seasoned members, the whole church has pitched in—and because of you, we've made **over 4,000 sandwiches** for St. Peter's Community Lunch since starting this about a year ago. That's incredible!! Thank you to everyone who has helped spread love, one sandwich at a time! February is a busy month, but if

you're able to join us again, we'd love to have you. Be sure to check out the February 2026 Sandwich Making signup.

### [Hope Lutheran Church: February 2026 Sandwich Making for St. Peter's](#)

#### **Shrove Tuesday – Tuesday, February 17 at 6 PM**

Last year's Shrove Tuesday was a blast, thanks to all the volunteers who cooked, served, and kept the kids busy with crafts—we served well over 100 people! If you can help again this year, please let me know. Whether you're flipping pancakes or leading an activity, every set of hands makes a difference.

#### [Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper](#)

#### **A Quick Scheduling Note:**

I wanted to share that I will be away from **February 28 through March 8**. While I'm gone, things will still be moving along, and I'll be checking in when I can. If something urgent comes up before then, feel free to reach out—I'm happy to help get things lined up in advance.

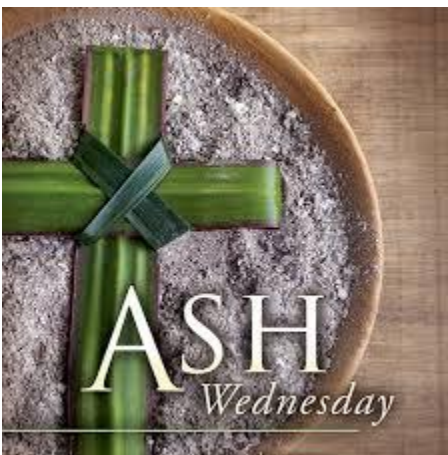
Thank you again for the countless ways you support our ministries and for the heart you bring to everything we do together. If you have any questions about these events—or want to jump in and help—just reach out. I'm looking forward to another great month with all of you! ❤️



**Tuesday, February 17 – 6pm here at Hope!**

RSVP please!! Using this link –

[Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper](#)



JOIN US!!! **Wednesday, February 18 @ 7pm** for our Ash Wednesday Worship Service!



***We will be doing our Annual Covenant signing to celebrate our ONE YEAR Hope Grows Here anniversary in March!!  
Join us!!!***



Join us!

Wednesday Nights @ 6pm  
(classes will be 1 hour each)

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***





# Freehold Area OPEN DOOR

Happy New Year!

We are in great need of the following items:

Cookies  
Salt & Pepper  
Italian Dressing  
Ranch Dressing  
Ketchup  
Mayonnaise  
Mustard  
Cooking Oil  
Vinegar  
BBQ Sauce  
Syrup  
Canned Olives  
Bread Crumbs  
Orzo/Pastina  
Egg Noodles

Sardines  
Spam  
Canned Chicken  
Canned Beef Stew  
Canned Salmon  
Grits  
Instant Coffee  
Ground Coffee  
Baby Wipes  
Tissues  
Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels  
Shampoo  
Toothbrushes  
Toothpaste

*\*\*No jumbo or bulk sized items\*\**

Nonperishable Donations - Monday through Thursday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at our back door in the Broad Street parking lot entrance behind our building at 39 Throckmorton St.

Kindly DO NOT leave anything outside when we are not here.  
Items left outside will be thrown away.



**New Jersey Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## WHERE DOES MY OFFERING GO?

### MEMBER OFFERINGS

#### CONGREGATION

#### NJ SYNOD

In 2025, we anticipate that members of our 143 congregations will share \$1,600,000 in Mission Support with the New Jersey Synod. This represents the largest portion of the Synod's mission spending plan (aka 'operating budget') which synod congregations voted and approved in 2024 totaling \$2,054,300. This total includes additional income from investments, grants, interest and designated gifts.

**IN 2025, YOUR MISSION SUPPORT OFFERINGS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO:**

### Grow the ELCA and MINISTRY PARTNERS



\$941,500

**Half of our Mission Support is shared with the ELCA Churchwide organization.** Additional ministry partners in New Jersey and our region grow as a result from the financial support offered through our gifts.

6

### Strengthen CONGREGATIONS



\$379,742

The 143 congregations served by pastors, TEEM candidates, deacons, vice-pastors, interim pastors and clergy serving congregations in retirement are provided with resources, networks and support for faith formation, stewardship, justice, multicultural ministry, discipleship, witness, and communication



### Accompany NEW and STRATEGIC MINISTRIES / COHORTS



\$142,500

Together we support new mission starts, strategic ministries and cohorts of learning communities practicing vitality and innovation along with *Go And...*, *Caminando Unidos en Cristo*, and *Waves of Hope*. Among these partners we count our mission initiatives in Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Passaic, Secaucus, Trenton, New Brunswick, Summit and Pennsauken.



### Provide leadership for MISSION through the OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



\$297,375

The Bishop seeks unity in faith and common mission among the expressions of this church. Our Bishop manages the roster and the calls of leaders and candidates for ordained ministry. She strengthens our Lutheran identity and facilitates common action among communities of other faiths.



### Engage in OVERSIGHT and PLANNING for Synod Ministries



\$290,910

The Synod organizes lay and clergy leaders to serve on governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for our ministries. We provide facilities, equipment and human resources for staff and operations of the New Jersey Synod.



MISSION CLUSTERS

[www.njsynod.org/stewardship](http://www.njsynod.org/stewardship)

## ***PLANNED AND ESTATE GIVING***

As we enter into the “tax return season” it is a perfect time to give some thought to estate planning. Planned and estate gifts are perfect ways for giving your church monetary support for “tomorrow.” These monetary gifts also provide the giver with the opportunity to pinpoint the areas of church life that interest them. Charitable contributions can significantly reduce the taxable value of your estate, potentially lowering estate taxes and maximizing the inheritance for your heirs. Donations made through your estate plan can qualify for tax deductions, providing a financial benefit to your estate and ensuring more of your assets are passed on to your loved ones and the causes you care about. There are many avenues to include Hope in your estate planning:

- ☐ Remember Hope in your will!
- ☐ A bequest to Hope is an enduring statement of faith!
- ☐ Support the people and causes you love through your will!
- ☐ Endow your church contribution through your will!
- ☐ Give a tithe of your estate for Gods church!
- ☐ A gift freely given for the benefit of all!
- ☐ A bequest to your church. An everlasting gift!
- ☐ Make your church the beneficiary of an IRA or Retirement plan!
- ☐ Use life insurance for charitable giving!

Planned giving provides resources that allow the church to make differences in the lives of their members and others whom they minister to in the future.

***Bill Unger, for the Hope Council***

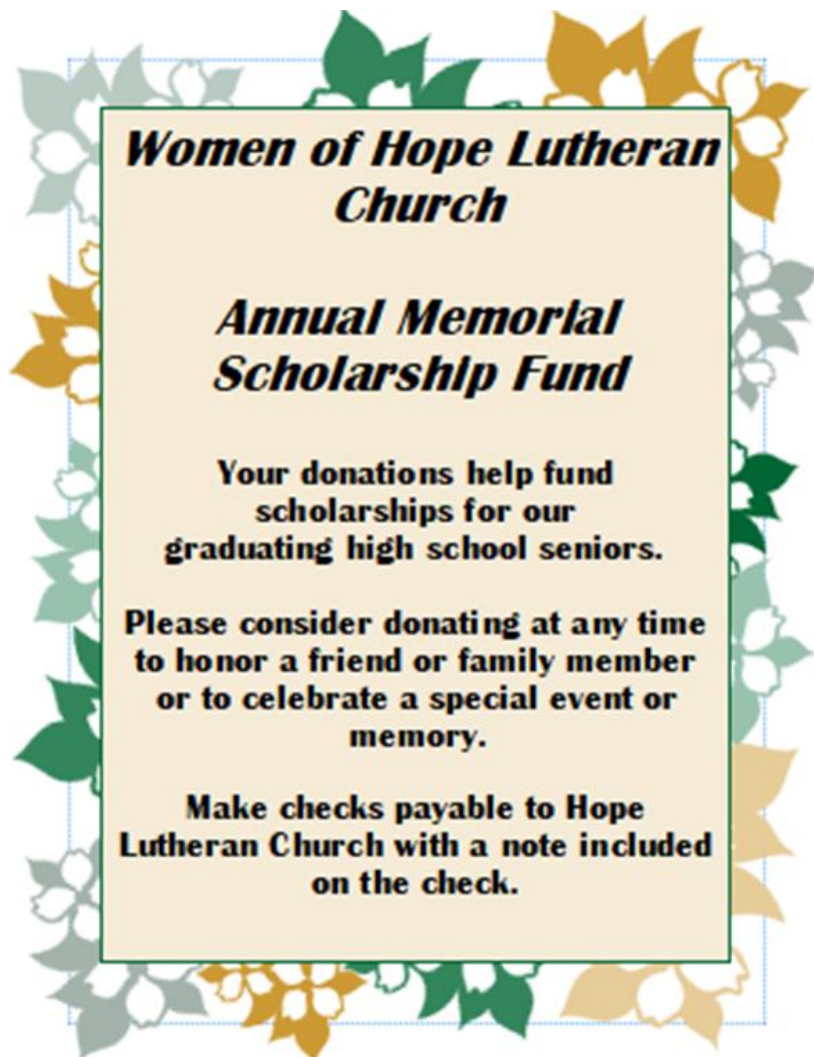


DONATE TO  
SUPPORT HOPE

HOPEFREEHOLD.ORG/  
HOPEGROWSHERE



HOPE LUTHERAN IS A NON-PROFIT 501 (C) (3) TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION.  
MEANING GIFTS TO HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE, AND  
SUPPORT THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES AT HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH.



***Women of Hope Lutheran  
Church***

***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.**





To Our Hope Family,

I just wanted to extend a heartfelt Thank You! ☺ to everyone who helped make this past December's Giving Tree a huge success. Each year, we receive the wishes of children whose families are served by Open Door's social services program to help make their holidays a little brighter. The Women of Hope put together an ornament for each child, and then we display these ornaments on the tree. After that, the kind and creative folks at Hope, (**that's you!**), choose ornaments and turn those wishes into gifts. I've said this before, but it always warms my heart to see the gifts come back in, because it is obvious how much thought and love all of you put into picking out gifts for the children, and I think it brightens YOUR holidays a little more too. **This year, you provided gifts for 56 children, plus 11 extra gift cards were collected to be used by Open Door for additional children at Christmas, or in the coming year for birthdays or other events.** So a big THANK YOU again for sharing God's love with these children, and we wish you a Blessed 2026!

*Cindy Lynch and all the Women of Hope*

# HLC SUNDAY SCHOOL

2025-2026

## CLASSES/CURRICULUM

- Classes take place Sunday Mornings from 10am-10:45am
  - 3 year olds-Second Grade meet in room 1
  - 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 [HopeLutheran17@gmail.com](mailto:HopeLutheran17@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](mailto:JessicaAcker@gmail.com)

732-832-1585

Please contact for more info or to  
register!

## IMPORTANT DATES

- September 7- Rally Day and Backpack Blessing
  - (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!





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

***February***

***Feb 8*** – SOUPERbowl Sunday

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

***May***

***May 10*** – Muffins with Mom

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

***May 24*** – Summer Schedule – One Service @ 930am

***March***

***March 22*** – First Holy Communion

***March 29*** – Palm Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt

***June – August***

***June 21*** – Donuts with Dad

***VBS WEEK***

August 10 – August 14

***April***

***April 2*** – Maundy Thursday

***April 3*** – Good Friday

***April 5*** – Easter Sunday

***No SS/Youth April 5***

***April 24*** – Outreach Meal

***Congregation Meetings***

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

# HOPE GROWS HERE: QUARTERLY REPORT

DEC 2025



## GROWING ENGAGEMENT

- Traditional and contemporary worship services in person and online (weekly)
- Online daily devotions
- Choir, praise band and acapella group
- Life keys sermon series
- Hope feedback survey
- ELCA spiritual gifts assessment



## GROWING COMMUNITY

- Women of Hope (Sept 6, Oct 4, Nov 1)
- Gathering of Men (Sept 13, Oct 11, Nov 8)
- Book club (Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16)
- Christmas Decorating Pot Luck (Nov 29)
- Family Advent Craft Day (Nov 30)
- 8 nonprofit outside community groups after hours



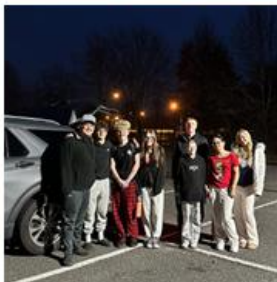
## GROWING GENEROSITY

- Hope prayer list
- Generosity moment (weekly)
- Women of Hope Annual Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Lutheran Disaster Response support for Texas flood relief (\$3,000)
- ELCA world hunger support (\$1,000)
- Open Door moving support (3,000)
- Supply and serve outreach meal at Saint Peters (Nov 14)
- Emergency Housing and Advocacy Program support
- Thanksgiving and ongoing food pantry support for Open Door\*



## GROWING IMPACT

- Offering income exceeded budget by \$21,805 and prior year-to-date by \$53,914
- New Hope Grows Here signage and photo tree
- Increased YouTube views (as of 10/29): 8,300 total views (+13%), 1,200 hours watched (+18%), 29 new subscribers (+12%), 318 new videos added
- Council, finance, worship, and architectural sub-committee meetings
- Financial audit process started
- Freehold Area Open Door Board of Trustees member and ongoing supporter
- Council exploring expansion possibilities with Blue Rock Construction



## GROWING MINDS

- Sunday school and Youth Group (weekly)
- Confirmation class (bi-weekly)
- Journey with Jesus story time for Hope Christian School children
- 193 children enrolled in Hope Christian School
- 44 children in Mommy & Me fall session
- Rally day and Backpack Blessing Sunday (Sept 7)
- Sandwich-making for St Peters Community Lunch (Sept 24, Oct 21, Nov 18)
- Crop Hunger Walk (Oct 19)
- Youth Group pumpkin carving (Oct 26)
- Gravity Hill Haunted House trip (Oct 24)
- Youth Group Baking (Nov 15)
- Bake Sale for Open Door Thanksgiving Food Drive (Nov 16)
- New Jersey Synod Youth Retreat at Crossroads (Nov 21-23)







**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](mailto:hopelutheranmusic@gmail.com)**

## **HOPE FAMILY PRAYER LIST**

**Rita Corn's** father in law, **Jules Corn,** is very ill and needs prayers for recovery; **John** and **Sharon Black** both took a fall together, currently rehabbing and could use lots of prayers for health and healing....

**Josh Staudinger** family friends, **Marion Pierce** and **The Vega Family;** **Kropa Family** cousin, **Sharon Laskosky;** **Cat Burger's** friend, **Charlotte;** **Jeannay Murphy's** family members, **Rosemarie A, Rosemarie L** and **Lila Hughes;** **McGeady Family** friends, **Sienna Smith** and **Roberta Mitchell;** **Carol Bulcroft;** **Kira Noseworthy;** **Tracey Radosti's** sister; **Charles Sona;** **Unger Family Friends,** **Helene** and **Judy;** **Becky Davino's** father, **John Wolgast;** **Rob Iadanza;** **Bob Robinson;** **Ashley Rosenberg;** **Gerry Bergh;** **Kaitlin Kropa;** **Bill Seifert;** **Colin Alaia,** family friend of the **McGeady Family;** **Jennifer,** family friend of **Brenda and Dennis Johnson;** **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**

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

	<i>Assisting</i>	<i>Altar</i>	<i>Counting</i>
<i>Feb 1</i>	Debbie	Sue D	Mike &
<i>Feb 8</i>	Bill	Jeannay	Matt & Chris
<i>Feb 15</i>	Rita	Rachel	Sue & Steve
<i>Feb 22</i>	John	Pat	Pat & Debbie
<i>March 1</i>	Tom	Diane	Sarah & Michelle
<i>March 8</i>	Rebekah	Rebekah	Bill & Barbara
<i>March 15</i>	Sheth	Barbara	Mike &
<i>March 22</i>	Ken	Christine	Matt & Chris
<i>March 29</i>	Steve	Sue	Mike & Sue

**Traditional Acolytes –**

*Cara S and Melody B*

**Contemporary Acolytes –**

*Hedin Girls, Joey M and Ryan S*

<b><u>USHERS</u></b>	<b><i>9am</i></b>	<b><i>11am</i></b>
<b><i>Feb 1</i></b>	Ken & Mark	Matt & Dominick
<b><i>Feb 8</i></b>	Rebekah & Chris	John & Chuck
<b><i>Feb 15</i></b>	Matt & Andrew	Diane & Matt
<b><i>Feb 22</i></b>	Ken & Mark	Wayne & Dominick
<b><i>March 1</i></b>	Rebekah & Chris	John & Chuck
<b><i>March 8</i></b>	Mark & Bill	Chuck & Matt
<b><i>March 15</i></b>	Matt & Ken	John & Dominick
<b><i>March 22</i></b>	Andrew & Bill	John & Chuck
<b><i>March 29</i></b>	Rebekah & Chris	Diane & Matt

<b><u>GREETERS</u></b>	<b><i>9am</i></b>	<b><i>11am</i></b>
<b><i>Feb 1</i></b>	Suzy	Sue
<b><i>Feb 8</i></b>		Kathy
<b><i>Feb 15</i></b>	Jill	Janine
<b><i>Feb 22</i></b>	Pat	Diane
<b><i>March 1</i></b>	Suzy	Sarah
<b><i>March 8</i></b>	Suzy	Kathy
<b><i>March 15</i></b>	Barbara	Sue
<b><i>March 22</i></b>	Pat	Janine
<b><i>March 29</i></b>	Jill	Diane

# February



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Contemporary 630p - Confirmation	530p – WW Group	7p – Zoom Yoga <b>730p – Choir</b>	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step	7p – 12 Step	<b>930am – WOH</b> 12p - Counseling
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth <b>SouperBowl Sale!</b> 11a – Contemporary	530p – WW Group <b>7p – Council</b>	<b>6p - Sandwiches</b> 7p – Zoom Yoga <b>730p – Choir</b>	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step <b>7p – Praise Band</b>	7p – 12 Step	<b>9am - GOM</b> 12p - Counseling
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Contemporary	530p – WW Group	6p – <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> 7p – Zoom Yoga	<b>7p – Ash Wednesday Service</b> 7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step <b>7p – Praise Band</b>	7p – 12 Step	12p – Counseling
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth <b>Book Club Meets</b> 11a – Contemporary 630p - Confirmation	530p – WW Group	7p – Zoom Yoga <b>730p – Choir</b>	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step <b>7p – Praise Band</b>	7p – 12 Step	12p – Counseling

# FEBRUARY 2026 YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30PM	4	5 BAND PRACTICE 7PM	6	7 SOUP MAKING 6PM
8 SOUP-ER BOWL SOUP SALE 10AM	9	10 Sandwich Making for St. Peters 6PM  CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30PM	11	12 BAND PRACTICE 7PM	13	14
15 Youth Bible Study 10am	16	17 SHROVE TUESDAY 6PM  CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30PM	18	19 BAND PRACTICE 7PM	20	21
22 Youth Bible Study 10am	23	24 CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30PM	25	26 BAND PRACTICE 7PM	27 OUTREACH MEAL	28 JOSH AWAY
Josh will be away from 02/28-03/07			Service hour opportunities for youth and confirmands! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out our team! <b>Faith Formation Director:</b> Josh Staudinger (josh@hopefreehold.org) <b>Youth Group Leader:</b> Inhyoung Chae (istaudinger@gmail.com)			



