

Hope Anchor *for September 2026*

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9AM | TRADITIONAL SERVICE
10AM, | SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP
11AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE



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 Adelphia Road
Freehold NJ 07728



Growing in Faith, Love and Service



www.youtube.com/hopefreehold



www.facebook.com/hopefreehold



www.instagram.com/hopefreehold



www.hopefreehold.org



www.hopefreehold.org/hopegrowshere

Sunday School

REGISTRATION

*Helping our children grow in
faith, love, and service.*



*Let the little children
come to me...*

MARK 10:14

Sign Up Today!

Use this link to register –
**[Hope Lutheran Church Sunday School
Registration](#)**

Blessing^{of} the Backpacks



**WE'RE BACK TO
2 WORSHIP
SERVICES**

9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Lemonade for Sale

**\$1 Per
CUP!**



We need volunteers to “man the stand”!!! Please sign up if you can! I will have many pitchers of lemonade pre-made to help make this easier on those who volunteer!

Sign up if you can –

[Hope Lutheran Church: Lemonade Stand](#)

Our VBS Lemonade Stand brought in \$120!!! We paid that forward to Liv Like a Unicorn – Proceeds from this will also go to their Freehold based organization. LLAU is a local nonprofit organization that supports children undergoing cancer treatments, and their families in their time of difficulties.

Thank you to ***John and Joan Drager*** who applied for a Thrivent grant that supported this initiative!

Taking Chances. Accepting Risks.

Ever since I arrived here, nine years ago, we have been talking off and on about a possible building expansion program. The need for additional space is pretty much a given. We use every square inch of our facility, and for multiple purposes, each and every day seven days a week. Most other congregations, if they only knew, would simply be envious, I'm convinced, of everything we have going on in here at Hope, day in and day out. But what exactly this building expansion might look like, however, has been open for considerable debate.

So we first formed a Dream Team to consider the various possibilities. We then assembled our best number crunchers to take a shot (multiple shots, actually) at estimating what we might be able to afford. We even hired an architect to show us what it might look like. And we sent out a congregational survey to solicit your input. Finally, we discussed all of this, frequently and repeatedly, at numerous Council and Congregation meetings over the past nine years. Where anyone and everyone was free to express their feelings and concerns. So much so, that all of the above bordered on what some like to call the "paralysis of analysis."

And yet, despite all of this, here we are. Moving forward, at long last. Not impulsively or rashly. But cautiously and methodically. When multiple efforts by the architect did not produce anything that we felt was feasible and, more importantly, affordable, we chose to move on and ultimately contracted (after receiving congregational approval, of course,) with a design/build firm to help us plan and then construct something that both met our needs and was also something we actually *could* afford.

However, even before we fully committed to designing what this addition would look like, we asked for and received a "due diligence" period to see if the basic concept was even possible and met with representatives of the township planning board to confirm this for us. Which they did.

(Unofficially, at least. We will still have to go before the planning board for final approval to build.)

In other words, the time for dreaming and guesstimating and debating are now finally over. We have a basic plan to move forward with. A basic plan that will be fleshed out and finalized, however, through weekly discussions with Blue Rock Construction. Therefore, we are also in the process of putting together a building committee that will consider both the construction as well as the financial considerations that are required to see this project through to completion.

This Anchor article is only the first of many updates we will be sharing with the congregation to keep you all abreast of the progress being made as we go along. Look forward to additional Anchor articles, email updates, and even opportunities between the services this fall to hear and see the latest on what's happening. There is still a lot of work yet to be done. Decisions to be made. And, ultimately, the congregation will have the final say on whether or not we decide to build.

In the meantime, we have to understand that this whole endeavor involves taking chances and accepting risks. And this can be a little uncomfortable, even scary, for many of us. Myself included.

So I looked online for some encouragement and here is what I found:

Take a chance. All life is a chance. The person who goes further is generally the one who is willing to do and dare. The sure thing boat never gets far from shore.

"God honors radical, risk-taking faith. When arks are built, lives are saved. When soldiers march, Jerichos tumble. When staffs are raised, seas still open. When a lunch is shared, thousands are fed. And when a garment is touched -- whether by the hand of an anemic woman in Galilee or by the prayers of a beggar -- Jesus stops. He stops and responds."

(Max Lucado)

- *Take calculated risks. That is quite different from being rash.*
- *"Progress means taking risks, for you can't steal home and keep your foot on third base."*
- *"Take the risk or lose the chance."*
- *"If you want it, go for it. Take a risk. Don't always play it safe or you'll die wondering."*
- *"Great things never came from comfort zones."*
- *"Better an oops than a what if."*

Finally, some timely and appropriate words of wisdom from scripture:

He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything. In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

(Ecclesiastes 11:4-6)

Pastor Ed



***Sunday,
September 13th after
services at Mister
Josh's house!!!***

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

8-17-26

ACTION	COUNCIL MEMBER/ ATTENDEE
MTG OPENED	7:09 by SARAH KOZAK
IN PERSON	Pastor Ed Kropa, Laura Kropa, Josh Renik-Staudinger, Mike Della Rosa, Pat Fensham, Sarah Kozak, Dave Peters, Sheth Veeradasari, Brian McMillan, Matt Malanuk, Cheryl Hurd
ZOOM	Sue Hu, Chelsea Zigler
ABSENT	Jessica Somodi, Judy Canfield, Steve Wisner
PRAYER/DEVOTION	Mike D: prayer for guidance in leadership roles [schedule can be found in shared drive]
ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES	Pat motioned to accept July minutes {with edits } Sue second; motion carried

REPORTS

TREASURY REPORT: Mike D	• Thank you to Cheryl for all her work on the financial side of things. She does a great job! • Our offering income is on par with the Budget YTD (+\$1,621) and Prior YTD (+\$11,196.) figures. HCS income is more than the Budget YTD (+\$132,254) and Prior YTD figures (+\$76,447) • Our Net Current Assets (without real estate values) is +\$5,423 compared to June 30, 2026. • Total expenditures exceed the Budget YTD (+\$68,738) and Prior YTD figures (+\$132,071) since this has been a very active fiscal period for snow removal, needed repairs, and upgrades as indicated in the "Maintenance" line item: Budget YTD (+\$74,668) Prior YTD (+\$49,526). Some of these expenditures were not taken directly from our General Account, but paid out of our Contingency and FWH Fund, non-General Funds. Please see the Maintenance Detail in this report and you will
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note a new line item indicating that activity:

"Contingency Fund Reserve Expenditure-Maint. \$23,407 and FWH Reserve Expenditures: \$6,486.

- Social Ministries expenditures (\$63,328) are slightly less than Prior YTD and Budget YTD figures. Stewardship expenses are much less than Prior YTD since the Generis program fees are no longer present. HCS expenditures are less than the Budget YTD (-\$24,764) greater than Prior YTD totals (+\$45,572). Current Utility costs are outpacing Prior YTD totals (+\$6,695) but close to the Budget YTD amount. Under General, Staff Bonuses are higher at this point than Prior YTD figures. Transfer Account Disbursements and Receipts **occur** outside the General Fund and essentially "Zero" themselves out on the balance sheet.
- "Building Program: Pre Construction Costs" are related to attorney's fees and due diligence costs which have been approved **at** the congregational meetings.
- Notable financial transactions for the month May 2026 are listed below:
- Zeledon Renovations: \$1,560.00: Parsonage Subflooring and Vanity
- ACS Cleaning Services: Monthly Fee: \$2,275.00
- Lutheran Social Ministries: \$1,000.00: Final Fiscal Year Donation
- Last July Payroll: \$31,469.22 Wages Plus \$591.22+\$7001.57 Payroll Taxes
- NJ Synod ELCA: \$3,774.16
- July and \$1,835.23 June monthly benevolence
- JCP+L: First Energy: \$1,778.43 HLC Utility Cost
- Corbin Electrical Services: \$407.03: Parsonage Annual Generator Service Contract:
- Open Door: \$1000
- **Mike and Cheryl recommend transferring \$100,000 from TD Operations account to interest bearing savings account. We stand to make \$250 a month. Motion to move this money was made by Dave and seconded by Pat. Motion carried**

ISSUE WITH TD BANK

	- Two deposits made on Aug. 5 and 6 from MGB Mechanics SB totalling \$3200. We do not know where they came from and neither does the bank. - Strike 2 with the bank. We should look into switching banks. COUNTING TEAMS - Need to have a counsel member on each team - Laura volunteered to join one. Sarah volunteered to take another rotation - Now we have 7 teams. Will be put on a rotating schedule				
HCS REPORT: Judy Canfield (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)	- Judy is taking some well deserved time off but sent report - Summer camp wrapped up on August 8th and VBS wrapped up on August 14th - Both successful! - Getting ready for the school year. - Per your request info: - Enrollment tor 2026-2027 (1 94) <table> <tr> <td>\$40.00 annual registration fee per familv</td><td>The tuition is broken down into ten equal Payments:</td></tr> <tr> <td> Annual Fee \$5,650.00 for Kindergarten - five tull-day \$6,650.00 for the five-day, full-day \$6,050.00 for the three-day, full-day \$4,150.00 for the two-day, full-day \$3,850.00 for the three-day, half-day \$3,350.00 for the two-day, half-day </td><td> The first increment is due upon registration and the remaining nine are due on the 15tn of each month beginning in September and ending in May. \$565.00 for Kindergarten-five full day \$665.00 for the five-full day \$605.00 for the three-full day \$415.00 for the two-full day \$385.00 for the three-halfday \$335.00 for the two-half day </td></tr> </table>	\$40.00 annual registration fee per familv	The tuition is broken down into ten equal Payments:	Annual Fee \$5,650.00 for Kindergarten - five tull-day \$6,650.00 for the five-day, full-day \$6,050.00 for the three-day, full-day \$4,150.00 for the two-day, full-day \$3,850.00 for the three-day, half-day \$3,350.00 for the two-day, half-day	The first increment is due upon registration and the remaining nine are due on the 15tn of each month beginning in September and ending in May. \$565.00 for Kindergarten-five full day \$665.00 for the five-full day \$605.00 for the three-full day \$415.00 for the two-full day \$385.00 for the three-halfday \$335.00 for the two-half day
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	• Before and After Care are an additional charge of either \$9.00 an hour or a \$200 per month Flat Fee. • Pastor asks why the Kindergarten fee is less than others. Cheryl and Chelsea offered that it is because less staff is needed for the older children and to entice those who wouldn't normally have to pay for kindergarten, to pay for a smaller class in a private Christian setting.
VBS RECAP	• 100 children registered (91 showed up) • 77 children in 2025 and 71 in 2024 • Cost is \$40 for the week • Josh applied for, and received a grant from ELCA for \$1000 which covered most of the costs
PASTOR REPORT	• Thank you to Mike Della Rosa for the tremendous job he does with the financials • WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: Total: 600 in 11 weeks. Average 54 per week • Pastoral Contacts (July 23-August 14):23 Year-to-date: 285 • Pastoral Acts: none 2 baptisms scheduled: 8/23 and 8/30 • Global Leadership Summit (August 6-7) • Spoke with The Rev. Kent Peterson, Regional Manager of the MIF on August 11: Notes in Building Section of Minutes • Parsonage: Repair work in the master bathroom has been completed. We will be purchasing a new toilet to be installed. • Taking online course: Stepping Up to Supervision to gain some insight and tools for managing staff
WORSHIP PLANNING MEETING (8/3/26)	• Week of 8/17 work release program. They will concentrate on painting front of the shed, painting lines in the parking lot, weeding and mulching • September 13 is back to two services, Sunday School starting, backpack blessings, and lemonade stand in the Narthex • 10/4 Confirmation classes start

	• 11/28 Decorating the Church for Christmas starting at 4PM Potluck dinner • 11/29 Advent Craft • 12/20 Christmas pageant with rehearsals on 12/4, 12/11 and 12/18 • 12/27 and 1/3 will be a single service at 9:30AM • 1/10/27 Undecorating the Church – after Worship Breakfast provided by HLC • March 14 Holy Communion with classes on 2/17, 2/24, 3/3 and 3/10 • 3/21 Palm Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt • 3/25 Holy Thursday and 3/26 Good Friday • 3/28 Easter Sunday
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OLD BUSINESS

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK	• Employee handbooks for HCS and HLC should be consolidated and more in line with each other
OPEN DOOR	• Pat is officially the rep for HLC • EHAP is still trying to set something up. Need to get all 7 area churches on the same page so there are a lot of obstacles • Cheryl does not think it will happen this year. We are running out of time

ARCHITECTURAL BUSINESS

UPDATE FROM BLUE ROCK	EMAIL FROM JASON I wanted to provide an update for you on design and next steps. I had a call today with the architect Kim and civil engineer Brian. Now that they are both in receipt of the survey they can move forward with the plans. Brian needs to issue 2 items: 1. Plot plan detailing the building addition and its sizing - he had already done this but now that he has
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	the survey his plan becomes more detailed to work alongside the survey. 2. Boring Plan for the Geo Technical Engineer Brian confirmed on our call today I would see both items by Friday 8/14. At that point I can coordinate the schedule with Geo Tech Engineer to be onsite to perform their investigation and I can also share with Kim so she can confirm her building footprint which will allow full architectural design to begin. At this point it makes sense to start to coordinate bi weekly design meetings to ensure that we are coordinating the design effort, tracking open / follow up items, planning for approval submission, and having church input on any design details. I am not sure if your entire group is going to be involved in these meetings or only a couple folks? Ideally for Blue Rock and the design team Wednesdays at 3PM work, we could move a little later if that works better for your team. If Wednesday does not work let us know a couple times that work. I assumed the afternoon was better, but if you feel mornings are better just let us know. • Matt, Brian, Sarah, Cheryl and Pastor are all good with the Wednesday at 3:00 meetings
MIF	MIF is an ELCA affiliate that provides funds for congregations to get mortgages for building and expanding. • In the 9 years since we have begun this process we have retired 2 regional managers! • We are now on the other side of MIF since we are not investing with them but possibly borrowing • It is an easier process than going with a traditional bank • 99.9% of their loans are approved (how many are in default?) • Interest rates are pretty high • Kent Peterson can help with the MIF application. Mike can provide the financial documents, [need to look back to financials from

	‘23, ‘24, ‘25 and current] Sarah can get the construction documents needed
CONVERSATION WITH THE REV. KENT PETERSON AT MIF	RECAP OF CONVERSATION FROM REV. PETERSON: Currently, our rates for a secured loan are anywhere between 6.6250%and 7 .925% (August 2026 rates) depending on which loan product you choose. The Mission Investment Fund offers a 3, 5, and 7-year adjustable-rate mortgage option, and a 10-year fixed rate option. The amortization schedule for the adjustable-rate mortgage option is up to 25 years. Adjustable-Rate Mortgage 3-year term: 6.925% 5-year term:6.625% 7-year term:7.175% 10-year FIXED term: 7.925% Here's what you can expect when borrowing funds from the Mission Investment Fund 1. There is only one closing and one loan. The interest rate during construction is the same as the long-term rate. 2. There is no application fee, no origination fee, no points, and we don't require an appraisal unless the loan amount is greater than \$2.5 million. 3. Estimated third-party costs are a \$1500 document preparation fee and title costs. 4. The ministry would pay interest only during construction. Once the project is complete, the loan would convert to principal and interest payments. 5. Loan funds are disbursed to the ministry as needed during construction and the ministry would pay all invoices. There is no need to disburse funds through a title company which allows you to avoid third-party disbursement fees. 6. The ministry can make as many loan draws as needed during construction.

	7. If the loan is paid off through a refinance with another lender, there would be a prepayment penalty of 2% of the outstanding loan balance for the first 2 years with the 3 and S-year ARM, and 3 years with the 7-year ARM. There is no penalty for repaying the loan with congregational funds. <u>PASTOR ED'S NOTES:</u> - o Once you apply for a loan from the MIF the work of the underwriters takes 3-4 weeks - o You then have 15 days to respond with a commitment - o Closing then takes 6-8 weeks - o The whole process takes about 90 days - o If we would like to break ground on the project next spring after Easter, we should submit the loan application in "early November." - o It is advisable to "go bigger" in the amount of the loan requested. Because if you need less money, you simply don't use the entire amount of the loan. However, if you need more money, then you have to go ahead and apply for a 2nd loan. • Should we look into applying to other banks for comparison?
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NEW BUSINESS

ATTENDEE BRINGING UP NEW BUSINESS	TOPIC/ITEM
FINALIZE COMMUNITY SUPPORT	We have \$8600 to spend Sarah made a motion to distribute funds as follows • \$1000 To Freehold Township Independent Fire Co. #1 • \$1000 to Liv Like a Unicorn • \$1000 to Holiday Express

	\$5600 to Lutheran Disaster Resources, splitting it between the U.S. Severe Storms and U.S. Wildfires response teams Second by Dave Motion passed
HOPE GROWS HERE UPDATE	- Determined that survey is not necessary since we are including the congregation in updates - Cheryl will send out quarterly impact report on 9/1/26 which will include a draft graphic of the inside design - We will get a big printout of this graphic so congregation can look at it - Have a meet and greet to get input - Reschedule meeting with Carla to discuss progress - Recommitment Sunday will be on 9/20 or 9/27 to share milestones, updates and where people can change or join the initiative

IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO BEFORE NEXT MEETING

1	A copy of the bylaws and constitution are in the shared drive. Please review before next meeting
2	Do we remove Bill Unger as signer on checks? Right now #1 is Mike, then Pat and then Bill. Sarah can be added but is not necessary
3	Need to look for an administrator to replace John Drager. [John set up the accounts for Portico (investments), credit cards and Thrivent]. We should ask John what this job entails, does he still want to do it and if not, can he suggest someone else so the switch can be made
4	Communication: Are we doing enough to get the word out about the many opportunities there are to get involved? The job descriptions for open positions are in drive. Who should people talk to if they want to get involved? - Is there an email? - QR code?

- Phone number

Right now Cheryl fills all the empty jobs

Ed: recruit your replacement

- Determine what the time commitment is each week

Meeting Dismissed: 8:52

Next meeting: September 21, 2026

Meetings moved to third Monday of each month

10/19

11/16

12/21



SIGN UP TO HELP HERE -

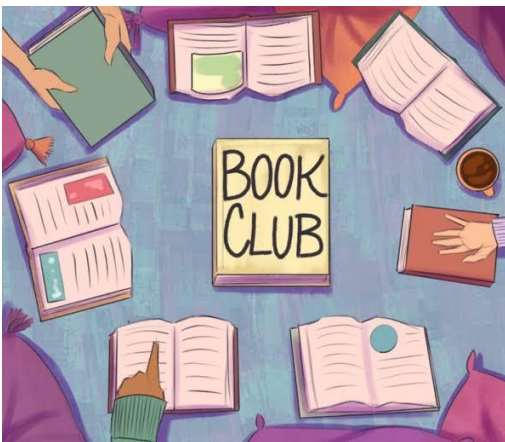
[Hope Lutheran Church: September 2026](#)
[Sandwich Making for St. Peter's](#)



Meet the *First Saturday* of each month at *930am* in *Hope's Kitchen*

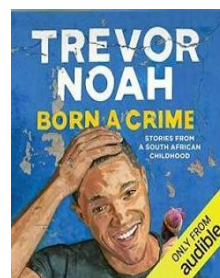


Meet the *Second Saturday* of each month at *9am* in *Hope's Kitchen*



Next meeting is *Sunday, September 20th* at *10am* in *Hope's Kitchen*

The book is “*Born a Crime*” by Trevor Noah





September has arrived, and as we start a new program year at Hope, we have a lot to celebrate after a busy and exciting summer!

Vacation Bible School was once again a highlight of our summer. Rainforest Falls welcomed 91 kids for a week of music, Bible stories, crafts, science, activities, and lots of fun. Our wonderful volunteers gave their time and energy all week, and VBS would not happen without them. Thank you to everyone who made the week a success! This year, we reached our registration cap of 100 children, which shows how much this ministry is growing. As we look ahead to next summer, we are already thinking about how to welcome even more children and keep this program thriving at Hope. We are also very grateful to the NJ Synod for a \$1,000 grant that supported this year's VBS and its growth.

Our outreach ministry kept going strong this summer with monthly sandwich-making nights for St. Peter's Community Lunch. Since June, Hope volunteers have made 1,322 sandwiches! Thank you to everyone who donates supplies, makes sandwiches, and supports this ministry each month.

Our music ministries were busy this summer too! In July, members of the Hope Choir and Hope Praise Band recorded music videos. It was a fun way to share what's happening musically at Hope, and we look forward to sharing the finished videos with you soon.

As fall begins, we are looking for more people—youth and adults—to get involved in worship! You can join in through music, readings, helping during worship, or supporting our sound and PowerPoint team. Whether you're returning or trying something new, there's a place for you at Hope.

Key Dates & Coming Up

Sunday, September 13 – Rally Day

Sunday School, Youth Group, and our fall programs are back as we celebrate another program year at Hope! After the Rally Day services, the Youth Group will meet for a BBQ at Josh's house.

Tuesday, September 16 – Sandwich Making

Come help us make sandwiches for St. Peter's Community Lunch

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

September 20 – Youth Bible Study Begins

Our regular Sunday Youth Bible Study begins for students in grades 6–12

Upcoming Outreach Meals

Save the DATES!

Friday, October 9

Friday, February 26

with one or two more to come!!!

More information will be sent out soon....



Wellness Support

for Our Church Family

Complimentary health coaching offered by Jeannay Murphy
of Divine Balance Holistic Health and Lifestyle Coaching

Would you like support with your health goals but aren't sure where to start?
Jeannay Murphy is offering free health coaching sessions for members
of our church congregation. These sessions are designed to provide
encouragement, practical guidance, and personalized support for those
seeking a healthier, more balanced lifestyle.



What is a Health Coach?

A health coach is a supportive partner who helps you make realistic, lasting changes that align with your own values, goals, and season of life. Rather than telling you what to do, a health coach helps you clarify what matters most, identify obstacles, build confidence, and create practical next steps toward better health and well-being.

Health coaching can support areas such as nutrition, stress, sleep, movement, energy, healthy routines, and overall wellness. The focus is on encouragement, accountability, and small, sustainable changes over time.



What to Expect

- Free sessions for church members
- Appointments scheduled individually based on availability
- Available in person or remotely
- Support with wellness, nutrition, stress, lifestyle habits, and motivation
- A compassionate, one-on-one approach



About Jeannay

Jeannay Murphy is a National Board Certified Health & Wellness Coach with training in motivational interviewing, SMART goal setting, nutrition, overall wellness, meditation, and lifestyle support. She also works part-time in a functional medicine setting and can help guide individuals toward additional support when needed.



Please Note: Health coaching is *not a substitute* for medical care, diagnosis, or treatment.

Schedule Your Complimentary Health Coaching Session

Please contact Jeannay Murphy for more information.



917-855-1658



jeannaymurphy@gmail.com

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

• IN PERSON OR REMOTE

PLANNED AND ESTATE GIVING

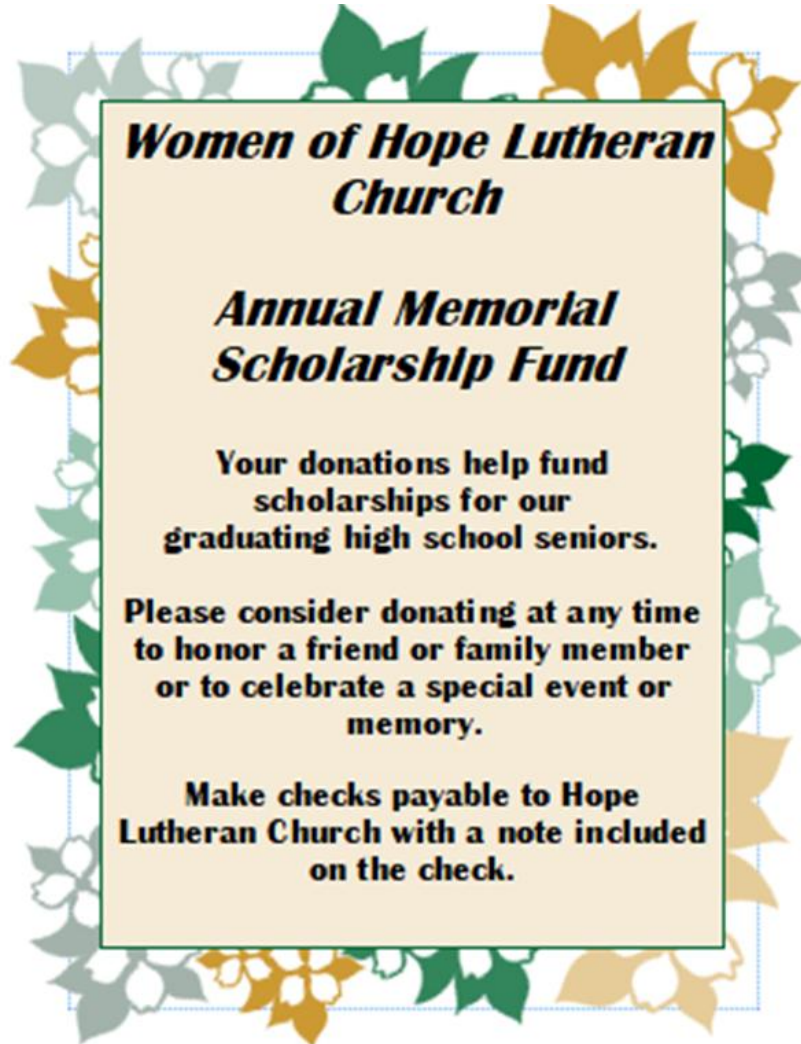
As we enter into the “tax return season” it is a perfect time to give some thought to estate planning. Planned and estate gifts are perfect ways for giving your church monetary support for “tomorrow.” These monetary gifts also provide the giver with the opportunity to pinpoint the areas of church life 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 Hope Congregation Council

Other ways to give...



You can also give online with our QR code via PayPal!!! The QR code will also be on the back of the new chairs in the Sanctuary so you can give during service as well from now on!!

Sam and Sue Hu are GRANDPARENTS!!! Andrew and his wife, Madison welcomed their first daughter, Sam and Sue's first grandchild, and Victoria's first niece, Charlotte Ava on Tuesday, August 18th!!

HOPE FAMILY PRAYER LIST

Rich Topp; Pastor's former parishioners; The Westbergs; Janice Seifert; Ed Leatherman; Unger's family friend, Gloria; Steve Keller's mother and step father; Jeanette Kropa; The Costantino Family, family friends of the Somodi Family; Rita Corn's father in law, Jules Corn; Josh Staudinger family friends, Marian 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; Kira Noseworthy; Tracey Radosti's sister; Charles Sona; Bob Robinson; Ashley Rosenberg; Gerry Bergh; Ryan McAuly, Kless Family nephew; Courtney Volk; Deloris Laub; Dolores O'Brien; Marilyn Wolter, Cindy Lynch's mother; Dani Hulsart family friend of the Donmoyer Family; Pam Renouff;

Those serving as first responders and in the armed services –
Rachel Heilman; Matteo Trama...

	<i>Assisting</i>	<i>Altar</i>	<i>Counting</i>
September 6	Bill	Christine	Sarah & Michelle
September 13	Tom	Jeannay	Bill &
September 20	Sheth	Diane	Matt and Chris
September 27	Rita	Rebekah	Sue &
October 4	Ken	Erin	Sarah & Michelle
October 11	Debbie	Pat	Pat & Debbie
October 18	Rebekah	Rachel	Laura & Bill
October 25		Barbara	Mike
November 1	Bill	Debbie	Matt & Chris
November 8	Tom	Christine	Mike & Bonnie
November 15	Sheth	Sue D	Sarah & Sue
November 22	Debbie	Jeannay	Sarah & Michelle
November 29	Rita	Diane	Pat & Debbie
December 6	Ken	Erin	Laura & Bill
December 13	Rebekah	Rebekah	Mike
December 20		Pat	Matt & Chris
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	Bill @ 7pm	Diane/Deb	
December 27	Tom	Diane/Deb	Mike & Bonnie

We could use more ACOLYTES as well – it is a nice, EASY Service position PERFECT for any of the students that have received their First Holy Communion!!

USHERS

	<i>Traditional 9am</i>	<i>Contemporary 11am</i>
<i>Sept 6</i>	Mark and Ken	
<i>Sept 13</i>	Matt and Andrew	John and Chuck
<i>Sept 20</i>	Bill and Chris	Dominick and Wayne
<i>Sept 27</i>	Rebekah and Mark	Diane and Matt
<i>Oct 4</i>	Matt and Andrew	John and Chuck
<i>Oct 11</i>	Ken and Rebekah	Dominick and Wayne
<i>Oct 18</i>	Mark and Chris	Diane and Matt
<i>Oct 25</i>	Andrew and Bill	John and Chuck
<i>Nov 1</i>	Ken and Rebekah	Dominick and Wayne
<i>Nov 8</i>	Matt and Chris	John and Chuck
<i>Nov 15</i>	Mark and Bill	Matt and Diane
<i>Nov 22</i>	Andrew and Ken	Diane
<i>Nov 29</i>	Rebekah and Matt	John and Chuck
<i>Dec 6</i>	Bill and Mark	Dominick and Wayne
<i>Dec 13</i>	Chris and Andrew	Matt and Diane
<i>Dec 20</i>	Ken and Matt	
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	4pm – ANY VOLUNTEERS?!	7pm – Bill and Wayne
<i>Dec 27</i>	One Service at 930am	

We NEED greeters!!!
Let me know if you are interested



Here is an idea of SOME of the things we have planned for our upcoming church year of September 2026 – June 2027

September

Sept 13 –Back to two services,
Sunday School and Youth! 9am
Traditional, 10am SS/Youth
11am Contemporary

Backpack Blessing

Lemonade Stand proceeds go to
Liv Like a Unicorn

October

Confirmation Classes begin

October 4

Oct 18 – Crop Walk

November

Open Door Bake Sale

Nov 28 – Decorating Pot Luck

Nov 29 – Advent Craft

December

Dec 4, 11, 18 – Pageant Practice
Christmas Caroling

Dec 20 – Christmas Pageant

Dec 24 – 4pm and 7pm Services

One Service

No SS/Youth Dec 27

January

One Service

No SS/Youth Jan 4

Jan 10 – “UN”decorate after
Worship – Breakfast served!

February

Feb 14 – SOUPerbowl Sunday

Feb 17, 24 – First Communion
Classes

March

March 3, 10 – First Communion Classes

March 14 – First Holy Communion

March 21 – Palm Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt

March 25 – Maundy Thursday

March 26 – Good Friday

March 28 – Easter Sunday

April

May

May 9 – Muffins with Mom

May 23 – BINGO! Last day of SS and Youth!

May 30 – Summer Schedule – One Service @ 930am

June – August

June 20 – Donuts with Dad

VBS WEEK

August 9 – August 13

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

HLC SUNDAY SCHOOL

2026-2027

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 is 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

732-832-1585

Please contact for more info or to
Scan for more information
or to register!

IMPORTANT DATES

- September 13- Rally Day and Backpack Blessing
 - (In Person Registration and Sunday School Begins)
- November 29- Family Advent Craft
- December 27-No Sunday School
- January 3-No Sunday School
- March 21- Easter Egg Hunt
- March 28- No Sunday School
- May 23- 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.



HOPE YOUTH GROUP

Growing in
FAITH, LOVE & SERVICE



ABOUT THE HOPE YOUTH GROUP

The Hope Youth Group welcomes students in **grades 6 to 12** who want to grow in their faith and make a real difference in our community.

We meet every **Sunday at 10AM**, between services, to talk, reflect, and share our experiences. These gatherings help us grow in faith, build friendships, and see how faith connects to everyday life.

Along with our Sunday meetings, we also have monthly social and service events, like making sandwiches for St. Peter's Lunch Program. These activities help us put our faith into action.

Whether you enjoy music, worship, serving the community, helping others, participating in service, media, or are simply looking to learn more faith, there's a place for you to grow, serve, and get involved.

Check our monthly calendar for the latest schedule and to see what social and volunteer events are coming up.

All are welcome!

CONTACT INFORMATION

JOSH STAUDINGER

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

INHYOUNG CHAE

Youth Group Leader
istaudinger@gmail.com

FALL/WINTER 2026 DATES

SUN, SEPT. 13

Rally Day

Return to two worship services, Sunday School begins, Backpack Blessings, Lemonade Stand in the Narthex & Rally Day at Josh's after service

TUE, SEPT. 15

Sandwich Making *

SUN, OCT. 4

Confirmation Classes Begin

TUE, OCT. 13

Sandwich Making *

SAT, OCT. 17

Youth Haunted House

SUN, OCT. 18

CROP Hunger Walk *

TUE, NOV. 10

Sandwich Making *

SAT, NOV. 14

Bake for Open Door * +
Youth Paintball

FRI-SUN,
NOV. 20-22

NJ Synod Youth Retreat
at Cross Roads

SAT, NOV. 28

Decorating the Church for Christmas
+ Potluck Dinner

FRI, DEC. 4
FRI, DEC. 11
FRI, DEC. 18

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals *

TUE, DEC. 8

Sandwich Making *

SUN, DEC. 20

Christmas Pageant *

SUN, DEC. 27

Single Service — No Youth

MON, DEC. 28

Sight & Sound Trip

SAT, JAN. 3

Single Service — No Youth

* = Opportunities for Volunteer Hours

COMING
UP!



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
Minneapolis, MN
JUNE 28 – JULY 2, 2027



September



2026

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1	2	3	4	5
Lemonade Stand on Rally Day = 9/13 Cash only!!		7p – Zoom Yoga 730p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step 730p – Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	930a – WOH 12p – Counseling
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
930a – Trad Worship	530p – WW Group	7p – Zoom Yoga 730p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step 730p – Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	9a – GOM 12p – Counseling
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Rally Day/Backpack 9a – Traditional 10a – SunSch/Youth 11a – Contemp	530p – WW Group	6p - Sandwiches 7p – Zoom Yoga 730p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step 730p – Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	12p – Counseling
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9a – Traditional 10a – SunSch/Youth Book Club meets 11a – Contemp	530p – WW Group 7p - Council	7p – Zoom Yoga 730p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step 730p – Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	12p – Counseling
27	28	29	30			
9a – Traditional 10a – SunSch/Youth 11a – Contemp	530p – WW Group	7p – Zoom Yoga 730p - Choir	7p – 12 Step			

SEPTEMBER 2026 YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30AM Service	31	1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30AM Service	7 Labor Day	8 Choir Practice 7:30PM	9	10 Band Practice 7:00PM	11	12
13 RALLY DAY Youth Group 10am	14	15 Sandwich Making for St. Peters 6PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	16	17 Band Practice 7:00PM	18	19 NJ SYNOD Pinelands Kayaking
20 Youth Group 10am	21	22 Choir Practice 7:30PM	23	24 Band Practice 7:00PM	25	26
27 Youth Group 10am	28	29 Choir Practice 7:30PM	30	Service hour opportunities for youth and confirmands! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out our team! Faith Formation Director: Josh Staudinger (josh@hopefreehold.org) Youth Group Leader: Inhyoung Chae (istaudinger@gmail.com)		

