

Hope Anchor *for November 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 Adelpia 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

Counting the Cost

Jesus once said, “Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.”

(Luke 14:27-32)

When intending to build, who doesn’t sit down and first estimate the cost? That only makes sense, right?

As Jesus pointed out, if someone begins construction and then is unable to finish – especially if, in the end, he or she simply can’t afford to – they leave themselves open for criticism. (Of course, the very same is true, said Jesus, of a king going out to wage war. He first must sit down and consider whether or not he has the manpower and resources to win. Otherwise, he is better off negotiating a peace settlement.)

Well, here’s the point. We are on the eve of initiating a building project at Hope that has been talked about for years and has been under serious consideration for at least the last couple of them. Some of us – members of the congregation, that is – are understandably concerned, even worried, that we may not be able to afford it. Despite the fact that considerable time and effort has been put into making this expansion as affordable as possible. While also meeting our congregation’s most pressing needs.

Now these kinds of concerns are only natural and entirely normal, of course. It would be unwise and reckless to proceed without first stopping

to think – and to evaluate – whether or not we could afford to build. Therefore, estimating both the cost of a project such as this, and also our ability to ultimately pay for it, are non-negotiables. We simply can't proceed without taking these steps first.

Having said that, trust me there is absolutely no way we would ever propose a construction project that those of us on the Building Expansion Team did not reasonably believe we could afford. Even so, keep in mind that, ultimately the *final* decision on whether or not to build will rest entirely up to you – the congregation.

So, again, please hear my pledge. We will only propose a project that we truly believe, and can reasonably demonstrate on paper, that the congregation can afford. Period. You have my word on that.

Nevertheless, I must also point out that *any* project like this carries risks with it, however. And there is absolutely no way to predict, with any certainty, what the coming years will hold. We can only do our absolute best to consider all the costs and contingencies.

Moving forward, of course, will always involve taking a step of faith. But that's just par for the course though, isn't it? As Christians, I mean.

Indeed, everything we do in living out our call to discipleship involves an element and a degree of risk. That's precisely why Jesus reminded his would-be followers that they always had to count the cost. First. Before they made the final decision to become his disciple.

Emerson Powery of Messiah University has written, regarding the passage that I opened with: "Jesus compares becoming disciples to buildings and battles. Who wastes time, effort and resources on a building project, before knowing whether funds will be available to complete the project? In first century life, most of the people in Jesus' crowds would understand the need to not waste one's earnings, even if they were not

involved personally in construction projections. Or, which king would not secure peace with his opponent if he thinks his military force is outmanned? A Jewish Greco-Roman audience would be quite familiar with both examples, of building and battles, which were part of their common experience... Jesus' forewarning allows potential followers to consider and re-consider the cost of taking up his mission."

And that's still true for us today, as well. In fact, it's always been the way of discipleship. And always will be. Even when simply considering something relatively minor (in the grand scheme of things) like the possibility of a building program.

Pastor Ed

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2026

ACTION	COUNCIL MEMBER/ ATTENDEE
MTG OPENED	7:12 by SARAH KOZAK
IN PERSON	Pastor Ed Kropa, Laura Kropa, Josh Renik-Staudinger, Mike Della Rosa, Pat Fensham, Sarah Kozak, Brian McMillan, Matt Malanuk, Cheryl Hurd, Sue Hu
ZOOM	Jessica Somodi, Chelsea Zeigler, Judy Canfield
ABSENT	Sheth Veeradasari,, Dave Peters, Steve Weisner
PRAYER/DEVOTION	SUE HU: There is always a challenge to drop the "I'm fine" platitudes and acknowledge truths so we can support each other and have a healthy church community
ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES	Motion by Mike; second by Sue; all in favor of accepting the previous month's minutes without edits

REPORTS

TREASURY REPORT: Mike D

- September is the first month of our new fiscal period
- There is about \$50,000 increase in assets over the same time last year
- Mike D, Sue, Cheryl and Bonnie Bowden have developed a new template for the offering counters to use that will be more detailed in nature. Will be presented to council next month for approval
- CD for Grace Legacy Fund will mature 11/10/26 [\$136,358]
 - Do we want to move to checking so it can be used quickly for building if needed?
 - FWH has the funds for the roof
 - Or we can move to MIF for a year at 3.85%APY
 - Or to TD Bank for a year 4.15% APY
 - Brian and Matt were in agreement that we will not need to access that money for the expansion until it matures
 - TD Bank will earn us more money
 - **MOTION: by Sarah to move the \$136,358 Grace Legacy Fund maturing CD to TD Bank for a one year CD at 4.15% APY. Second by Laura. All approved**
- Building Treasurer Position job description was developed (vetted by Carlino and Drager)
 - Maintains custody of all funds which have been authorized by the HLC Congregation Council to be transferred from HLC accounts to the HLC Building Fund bank account by the Congregation Council Treasurer. These funds are to be used solely for paying any new building expenses. Disbursement of these funds by the Building Treasurer (BT) shall be done only with the authorization of the Council and/or Congregation, if required. The BT will also provide the Council and accountant with the appropriate monthly

	<p>reports of the financial status of the HLC building bank account(s).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will sign checks with Council President following standard operating procedures established by the church for disbursing funds ○ Karol Renik-Staudinger volunteered ○
HCS REPORT: Judy Canfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School is now into its routines • Electives have started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phonics ○ Aim 2 Achieve Speech TherapyDo ○ Soccer Shots ○ Journeys with Jesus ○ Music Class ○ Fitness Fridays • Extras <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Halloween Parade ○ Picture Days ○ Firefighter Assemblies ○ Pizza Day ○ Pumpkin Patch ○ Back to School Night • Thank you Judy for your dedication in the midst of your eye issues. Please let the council know if we can help in any way.
PASTOR REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at the numbers we are a little behind on offerings. But this tends to be the trend for September as people are getting back into routines after summer break. • Attended Greater Freehold Clergy Association meeting. Will be attending in November, too and providing lunch • Pastoral Contacts (<i>September 19-October 16</i>): 50 <p>Year-to-date: 393</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral Acts: 1 baptism (year-to-date: 6) • Baptism: Axel Van Sadars (9/27) • <i>Brielle Rose Kopf scheduled for 11/8</i> • 96-97 Baptisms since Pastor Ed has been at Hope

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation classes began on October 4: 4 second year students, 4 first year students • Continuing Education: none (year-to-date: 5)
CHURCH REPORT (CHERYL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPDATE: Loose brick is still loose. Have not heard back from Steve W about getting it fixed. Cheryl will have it fixed before bad weather makes it worse. • A tree from Mary's yard (neighbor) appeared to have been struck by lightning and was hanging over the driveway. Mary got an estimate of \$1400 and agreed to pay half. Cheryl got an estimate of \$1350 from our landscaper and they completed the removal. An invoice will be placed in her mailbox for her to pay half. • Roof Leak: Roof is leaking on flat part of roof. Estimates were requested from Zeledon, O'Neill, Caruso Construction and Joe the Roofer. Estimated to be around \$150,000. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Will inquire from companies about financing possibilities ◦ Chelsea will research if insurance will cover part, Doesn't think so, but will ask. • Emergency Housing has merged with Prevention Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ We currently donate \$1000/mos or \$10,000 a year ◦ Who are Prevention Services? ◦ Currently the money we donate is ear marked for Advocacy which goes to local housing ◦ Joan will have to give us information on this parent company ◦ Schedule a November Zoom meeting before we cut a check to make sure that ALL the money is going where we expect it to ◦ Pat will talk to Gerilyn and Erica to see what they know
YOUTH MINISTRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electives at HCS began (Journeys with Jeasus and Music Class)

UPDATE (JOSH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring money on Nov. 15 for Bake Sale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Money usually goes to Open Door ◦ May be used to alleviate some of the cost for the Sights and Sounds trip 12/30/26 • Sights and Sounds Trip: JOSHUA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Have about 45 people now ◦ Can the church help with the cost of a bus? ◦ Adult Fellowship line item has \$7000 in it. ◦ MOTION: Laura made a motion to provide up to \$2000 from the Adult Fellowship line item in budget to be used to offset cost of the bus for the Sights and Sound trip on 12/30/26. Sue seconded. All in favor
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OLD BUSINESS

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee handbooks for HCS and HLC should be consolidated and more in line with each other
VOLUNTEER POSITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open positions are on the back of the bulletin with job descriptions. In dire need of a Vice President of the Council • Recruit people for volunteer positions, send prospects the job description to see if they are interested. [Rebecca may be interested in Fellowship] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Can possible streamline or combine some positions ◦ Steve clarified the difference between Fellowship and Outreach. Fellowship involves activities within the Church community and Outreach is between the church and outside communities <p>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?</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an email? • QR code? • Phone number <p>Right now Cheryl fills all the empty jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine what the time commitment is each week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦
HOPE GROWS HERE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept. 1 the Quarterly reports for Hope Grows Here were sent out • Congregation Q&A: October 18, 25, November 1 (10:15 and 12:15)
RECOMMITTMENT SUNDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 weeks ago • Special Sermon • Testimonials (Thank you Matt) • 5-10 new commitment cards • Meeting with Carla 11/17/2026
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregational Meeting - November 22 • Hope to have a solid plan to present to congregation to vote on expansion

ARCHITECTURAL BUSINESS

UPDATE ON BUILDING DECISIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building Treasurer Position job description was developed (vetted by Carlino and Drager) <p>Maintains custody of all funds which have been authorized by the HLC Congregation Council to be transferred from HLC accounts to the HLC Building Fund bank account by the Congregation Council Treasurer. These funds are to be used solely for paying any new building expenses.</p> <p>Disbursement of these funds by the Building Treasurer (BT) shall be done only with the authorization of the Council and/or Congregation, if required. The BT will also provide the Council and accountant with the appropriate monthly reports of the financial status of the HLC building bank account(s).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These duties are subject to updating and editing
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will sign checks with the Council President following standard operating procedures established by the church for disbursing funds. • Good due diligence to have 2 signatures • Term of position: until building is completed. Will not be necessary once payments for mortgage are auto generated • Money will be in a separate account for building expenses, not church expenses • Effective as of 10/19/26 <p>MOTION: by Laura to establish the volunteer position of Hope Building Treasurer using the job description provided and approve Karol Renik in the role. Second by Brian. All approved</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank you to Josh for the financial projections
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cheryl and Josh have received numerous inquiries about rental space at the church. So the possibility of income from the MPR is promising
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FAQ sheet is very helpful
	<p>Q & A sessions between services have been enlightening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have excellent questions • Mostly about financials which we will be able to answer more fully after next Blue Rock meeting with updated budget • Options for the expansion help to show the congregation the thought process of the committee and how it arrived at the final iteration of the design

NEW BUSINESS

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ NJ voter information portal and paid poll worker opportunity ◦ ELCA Election Engagement Toolkit
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Braver Angels Christian Response to Political Polarization guide ◦ Dignity Voter Guide and Dignity Index
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IMPORTANT THINGS (STILL) TO DO BEFORE NEXT MEETING

1	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
2	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
3	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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an email? • QR code? • Phone number Right now Cheryl fills all the empty jobs Ed: recruit your replacement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine what the time commitment is each week

Meeting Dismissed: 8:50

Next meeting: Nov. 16, 2026

Meetings are the third Monday of each month

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER		
- November 1	Anchor update	Anchor update - Article: <i>(author?)</i>
- November 1	Congregation update 4	Congregation Q+A after each service (as needed) 10:15-10:45 am and 12:15-12:45 pm
- November 16	Council update	Progress report/updates at Congregation Council meeting. Finalize building and finance plans for Congregational meeting
- November 22	Congregation meeting	Annual Congregational Meeting - 12:00 noon (tentative date)



**There are SO MANY people to be
THANKFUL for!!!!**

Thank you to everyone who helped

***with the Outreach Meal**

***with the Crop Walk**

***with Foodstock!**

**We can NOT do anything of this
without YOU!!!!**

Dear Hope Family,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

**The FOODSTOCK and Thrivent 500 food drives were a
tremendous success! We deeply appreciate your
kindness and generosity as Open Door continues its
mission to help neighbors in need.**

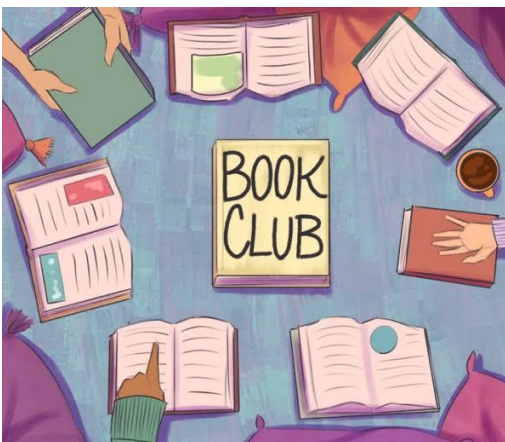
Pat Fensham Open Door Representative



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

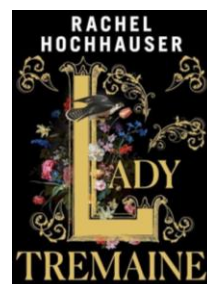


Meet the *Second Saturday* of each month at *9am* in *Hope's Kitchen*



Next meeting is *Sunday, November 8th* at *10am* in *Hope's Kitchen*

The book is "*Lady Tremaine*" by Rachel Hochhauser



Growing Together in Faith

November is here, and we have plenty to look forward to as we head toward the holiday season at Hope! October was a fun and busy month for our Youth Group. Twelve of us headed out to Oasis Island of Terror in Robbinsville for a night of Halloween scares and plenty of laughs!

The next day, several members of our Hope family traded Halloween scares for walking shoes as they participated in the Freehold Area CROP Hunger Walk. Thank you to everyone who walked, donated, and helped support this important effort to fight hunger in our community! This past Sunday, we also continued our pumpkin-carving tradition, got creative, and enjoyed time together. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make these outings possible!

As we move into November, we have several opportunities to put our faith into action. Our monthly Sandwich Making for St. Peter's Community Lunch will take place on Tuesday, November 10 at 6 PM. Then, on Saturday, November 14 at 6 PM, our youth will gather to bake goodies for our annual bake sale benefiting Freehold Area Open Door. We'll sell everything on Sunday, November 15, between services. This is always a wonderful opportunity for our youth to give back while having some fun in the kitchen!

As we approach Advent, we'll also have our Advent Craft on Sunday, November 29, at 10 AM. Looking ahead, December will bring Christmas Pageant rehearsals, our annual caroling visits, and the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 20, at the 11 AM service.

We're excited that 45 people are planning to join us for our Sight & Sound trip on Wednesday, December 30! We'll head to Lancaster to see *David* at the 3 PM show and visit Shady Maple that day. Want to join us? There's still time—just let Josh know if you'd like to come along!

Our Youth Group continues to meet on Sundays at 10 AM between services for Bible study, conversation, and fellowship. As always, our youth have plenty of ways to get involved at Hope, whether through worship, music, service projects, or simply spending time together. We hope to see everyone throughout November and as we prepare for the Christmas season!

Key Dates & Coming Up

Tuesday, November 10 – Sandwich Making | 6 PM

Come help us make sandwiches for St. Peter's Community Lunch. We always appreciate donations and volunteers!

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

Saturday, November 14 – Bake for Open Door | 6 PM

Youth are welcome to help bake treats for our annual fundraiser to support Freehold Area Open Door.

Sunday, November 15 – Bake Sale for Open Door | Before & After Services

Stop by between services to pick up some homemade treats and support a great cause!

Saturday, November 28 – Church Decorating & Potluck | 5 PM

Help us get Hope ready for Advent and Christmas as we decorate the church and spend time together!

Sunday, November 29 – Advent Craft | 10 AM

Join us for a special Advent craft during our usual Sunday School and Youth Group time.

Fridays, December 4, 11 & 18 – Christmas Pageant Rehearsals | 6 PM

Our youth and Sunday School families will get ready for this year's Christmas Pageant.

Sunday, December 20 – Christmas Pageant | 11 AM

See our Sunday School participants share the Christmas story during worship!

Wednesday, December 30 – Sight & Sound Trip

We already have 45 people planning to see *David* at Sight & Sound!

There's still time to join us for the 3 PM show and a visit to Shady Maple.

Let Josh know if you're interested!

Thank you to all our youth, families, and volunteers for making our faith formation programs such an important part of life at Hope!



ST PETERS COMMUNITY LUNCH SANDWICH MAKING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
IN THE NARTHEX



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Hope Lutheran Church: November 2026 Sandwich
Making for St. Peter's**



Annual Youth Bake Sale

Sunday, November 15

All proceeds are donated to Freehold Area Open Door



**Sunday, November 22nd immediately following 11am
Worship Service – both in person and on Zoom
Report packets available Sunday, November 8**

Would you like one snail mailed? If so, email

[hopelutheran17@gmail.com](mailto:hoperlutheran17@gmail.com)



THE GREATER FREEHOLD CLERGY
ASSOCIATION

cordially invites you to the

Interfaith
Thanksgiving
— SERVICE —

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY

22

3:30 P.M.

Old Tennent Church

448 Tennent Road · Manalapan, NJ 07726

All are welcome

NEIGHBORS OF EVERY FAITH, GIVING THANKS TOGETHER



Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and Freehold Area Open Door is preparing to help our neighbors put a holiday meal on their tables.

Donations November 9th - 18th!

- November 9: We can begin accepting Thanksgiving donations.
- November 16–24: Thanksgiving food distribution to our neighbors.
- November 18: Our preferred deadline for receiving donations.

Donations may be received during our operating hours

Monday - Thursday, 10:30-2:30 pm.

With so many generous groups collecting food, receiving everything at once can overwhelm our staff and volunteers. We must receive, sort, organize, and prepare donations for distribution. Receiving donations earlier helps us manage inventory, plan accordingly, and, most importantly, ensure our neighbors receive their Thanksgiving food in time to enjoy with their families.

If your organization is planning a donation, please let us know whether you will be collecting:

Whole Turkeys, Turkey Breasts, or nonperishable Thanksgiving food items.

This information helps us plan for storage, refrigeration, and distribution.

We understand that many schools, churches, businesses, and organizations have established collection schedules, and changing those dates isn't always easy. If your food drive is scheduled later in November, please reach out to us! We would love to work together to find a solution that makes the most of your generosity while ensuring the food gets to our neighbors when they need it.

Your generosity does more than provide a Thanksgiving meal. It reminds our neighbors that they are seen, valued, and supported by a community that cares.

Together, we can make sure Thanksgiving is about more than just having food on the table. It's about dignity, kindness, and knowing you're not alone.

We are so grateful for the many organizations, businesses, churches, schools, and community groups that come together each year to make this possible!



Saturday, November 28
starting at 4pm

You are cordially invited to...

FAMILY ADVENT CRAFT DAY
AT HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

In lieu of Sunday School, all families are invited to learn about Advent and make a special craft to take home.

November 29, 2025
10am in the Narthex

****There will be no regular Sunday School this day.****



We are back to another year of collecting slightly used books, DVDs, CDs, and audio books on CD. Book donations must be clean with binding and covers in tact. The funds raised from the book sale go towards their annual scholarships. What is AAUW?

The Freehold Area Branch of AAUW is a strong, active, and vibrant branch of the American Association of University Women with 100 members engaged in programs, events and activities that stimulate our minds, expand our social connections, and make a difference in our community. Throughout the year, we enjoy engaging speakers who present topics related to women's issues and current events.

Whether you're looking for information about our Book Sale, interested in attending a program, considering membership, or simply learning about our branch, we invite you to explore our website and discover all that AAUW Freehold Branch has to offer.

There is truly something for everybody.

Membership is open to all those who hold an associate or equivalent degree or a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university.



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



JOIN US!

Wednesday, December 30 – 3pm show time

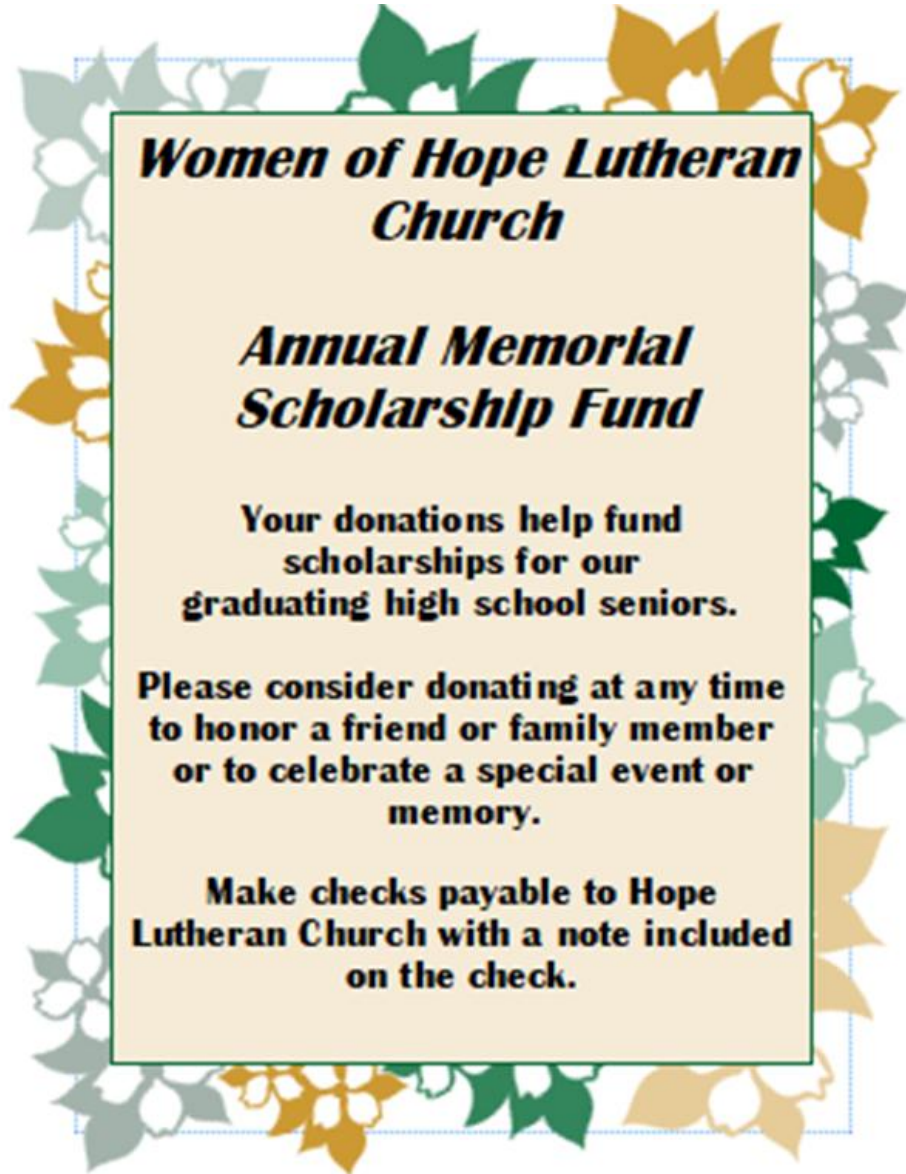
Tickets - \$104 for adults

\$44 for children under 12

Transportation TBD (depending on overall interest)

Josh is coordinating so reach out to him with any questions or to RSVP!

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!!

HOPE FAMILY PRAYER LIST

Charlotte Shaw is transitioning to long term care
for dementia...

Suzy Coulter's friend, **Charlie Anderson 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**; **Josh Staudinger** family friends, **Marian Pierce** and **The Vega Family**; **Kropa Family** cousin, **Sharon Laskosky**; **Jeannay Murphy's** family members, **Rosemarie A, Rosemarie L** and **Lila Hughes**; **Kira Noseworthy**; **Tracey Radosti's** sister; **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>Altar</i>	<i>Counting</i>
November 1	Debbie	Matt & Chris
November 8	Christine	Mike & Bonnie
November 15	Sue D	Sarah & Sue
November 22	Jeannay	Sarah & Michelle
November 29	Diane	Pat & Debbie
December 6	Erin	Laura & Bill
December 13	Rebekah	Mike
December 20	Pat	Matt & Chris
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	Diane/Deb	
December 27	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>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

ASSISTING MINISTERS

	<i>Traditional 9am</i>	<i>Contemporary 11am</i>
<i>Nov 1</i>	Bill	Kaitlin
<i>Nov 8</i>	Tom	Tracey
<i>Nov 15</i>	Sheth	Nadine
<i>Nov 22</i>	Debbie	Kaitlin
<i>Nov 29</i>	Rita	Sarah
<i>Dec 6</i>	Ken	Nadine
<i>Dec 13</i>	Rebekah	Tracey
<i>Dec 20</i>		Sarah
<i>Christmas Eve</i>		Bill @ 7pm
<i>Dec 27</i>	Tom	



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

November

Nov 10 – Sandwiches
Nov 14 – Baking
Nov 15 - Bake Sale
Nov 22 – Congregation Meeting
Nov 28 – Decorating Pot Luck
Nov 29 – Advent Craft

February

Feb 14 – SOUPerbowl Sunday
Feb 17, 24 – First Communion
Classes

December

Dec 4, 11, 18 – Pageant Practice
Christmas Caroling
Dec 8 – Sandwich Making
Dec 20 – Christmas Pageant
Dec 24 – 4pm and 7pm Services

One Service

No SS/Youth Dec 27

Dec 30 – Sights & Sounds Trip

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

January

One Service

No SS/Youth Jan 4

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

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

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 *

**FRI-SUN,
NOV. 20-22**

NJ Synod Youth Retreat at Cross Roads

SAT, NOV. 28

Decorating the Church for Christmas + Potluck Dinner

SUN, NOV. 29

Advent Craft Day

**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

WED, DEC. 30

Sight & Sound Trip

SUN, JAN. 3

Single Service — No Youth

* = Opportunities for Volunteer Hours

**COMING
UP!**



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



November



VETERANS DAY 2026

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	6	7
9a – Traditional 10a – SunSch/Youth 11a – Contemp 630p - Confirm	530p – WW Group	7p – Zoom Yoga 7p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step 730p – Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	930a – WOH 12p – Counseling
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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	9a – GOM 12p – Counseling 5p - Baking
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9a – Traditional 10a – SunSch/Youth BAKE SALE! 11a – Contemp 630p - Confirm	530p – WW Group 7p - Council	7p – Zoom Yoga 7p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step 730p – Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	12p – Counseling
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9a – Traditional 10a – SunSch/Youth 11a – Contemp Congregation Mtng	530p – WW Group	7p – Zoom Yoga 7p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step	7p – 12 Step	12p – Counseling 4p – Decorating Pot Luck
29	30					
9a – Traditional 10a – Advent Craft 11a – Contemp	530p – WW Group					

2026

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Youth Group 10am	2	3 Choir 7pm	4	5 Band Practice 7pm	6	7
8 Youth Group 10am	9	10 Sandwiches 6pm Choir 7:30pm	11	12 Band Practice 7pm	13	14 Bake for Open Door 6pm
15 Bake Sale 10am	16	17 Choir 7pm	18	19 Band Practice 7pm	20	21
22 Youth Group 10am	23	24 Choir 7pm	25	26 Band Practice 7pm	27	28 Christmas Decorating Potluck 4pm
29 Advent Craft 10am	30			<p>Service hour opportunities for youth and confirmands!</p> <p>If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out our team!</p> <p>Faith Formation Director: Josh Staudinger (josh@hopefreehold.org)</p> <p>Youth Group Leader: Inhyoung Chae (istaudinger@gmail.com)</p>		

