

Hope Anchor *for October 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

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](#)**

BHAG – Big Hairy Audacious Goal

Jim Collins is an American researcher, author, and speaker who, throughout his career, has focused on organizational health and development. In one of his earlier books, *Built To Last*, he coined the term “BHAG.” Pronounced *bee-hag*, it stands for “Big Hairy Audacious Goal.” And it represents, he contends, a powerful mechanism for stimulating progress.

“All companies have goals,” he writes. “But there is a difference between merely having a goal and becoming committed to a huge, daunting challenge— like a big mountain to climb. Think of the moon mission in the 1960s,” he says. “President Kennedy and his advisors could have gone off into a conference room and drafted something like ‘Let's beef up our space program,’ or some other such vacuous statement. The most optimistic scientific assessment of the moon mission's chances for success in 1961 was fifty-fifty and most experts were, in fact, more pessimistic. Yet, nonetheless, Congress agreed (to the tune of an immediate \$549 million and billions more in the following five years) with Kennedy's proclamation on May 25, 1961, ‘that this Nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth.’ Given the odds, such a bold commitment was, at the time, outrageous. But that's part of what made it such a powerful mechanism for getting the United States, still groggy from the 1950s and the Eisenhower era, moving vigorously forward.”

Last month, in my Anchor article entitled “Taking Chances. Accepting Risks,” I introduced the issue of our proposed building expansion program here at Hope. Now, this month, I'd like to talk briefly about the obvious challenge it poses. While certainly not as daunting as the one facing the American space program during the 1960's, it does however represent a BHAG, or Big Hairy Audacious Goal, for Hope. One that makes all of us, myself included, pause for a moment given the stakes and the degree of difficulty involved.

However, if achieved, I truly believe that this building expansion will not only support and enhance our current ministry but will actually stimulate progress and growth as well. Even beyond what we can possibly imagine right now.

This is a time, of course, when most congregations are shrinking in size in terms of members and ministries. In many ways, therefore, these congregations find themselves doing the exact opposite; that is, pulling back and playing it safe. So, for us to consider a significant building program at this juncture is not merely a challenge, but it's clearly a BHAG. A Big Hairy Audacious Goal.

Building Expansion Committee

And to accomplish this, we have put together, as our Building Committee, what I feel is a great team:

- Sarah Kozak (our Congregation and Council President) is serving as the Building Committee Chair.
- Laura Kropa (Congregation Secretary)
- Mike Della Rosa (most recent Congregation Treasurer)
- Karol Renik (who has agreed to serve as the Building Committee Treasurer)
- Matt Malanuk (Council member with building project supervision experience)
- Brian McMillin (Council member with building project supervision experience)
- Bill Unger (former Congregation President)
- John Drager (current Finance Committee Chair)
- Judy Canfield (Staff)
- Cheryl Hurd (Staff)
- Josh Staudinger (Staff)
- Ed Kropa (Pastor)

(In case you're counting that makes twelve. A nice biblical number!)

“One Committee” Approach

Just as our *Hope Grows Here* Generosity Initiative adopted a “one fund” approach, that combined regular annual giving with an added goal of providing resources for a potential building expansion program, we also decided to have a “one committee” approach for our building project. This single committee intentionally includes members with the specific knowledge, experience, and perspectives needed to guide the project. At the same time, the committee will be streamlined, agile, and efficient, allowing decisions to be made with a clear understanding of both the project’s needs and the congregation’s financial realities.

The Building Project Committee has two parallel and overlapping functions:

1. Project Design and Construction: Oversee the design and construction process in consultation with project manager Jason Quenzel and Blue Rock Construction.
2. Budgeting and Financing: Determine how the expansion project can be funded, including options for a potential construction loan and, ultimately, a mortgage.

Why One Committee?

Having a single building committee will ensure that design and construction decisions are coordinated and considered in tandem with budgetary and financing realities. Rather than separating these responsibilities between different groups, the committee will be able to evaluate the project as a whole – considering the scope, priorities, costs, financing options, and long-term implications together. This approach will help the congregation make well informed decisions, respond efficiently as circumstances change, and maintain alignment between the project we envision and the resources available to accomplish it.

Committee Membership

The Building Project Committee intentionally brought together people who can provide different skillsets and prior experiences. Therefore, the committee includes current and former members of the Congregation Council, including those with building design and construction expertise and those with congregational finance and spending-plan experience, as well as staff members who have firsthand knowledge of our facility needs and the day-to-day operation of the congregation and school.

There's a great deal of work and planning to be done, of course, before the committee can present a proposal to the congregation for consideration and possible approval. And we will do our best to keep everyone informed of the committee's progress.

But, even though this clearly represents a BHAG for our congregation, it's exciting to think that we even have such an opportunity before us!

Finally, a word about pursuing a BHAG and the fact that it may not be achievable. This is certainly a possibility. No doubt about it. But it would be even worse, in my opinion, to not even try.

So, here are some observations from President Teddy Roosevelt that are guiding my thoughts these days:

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

"It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed."

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

"The only man who never makes mistakes is the man who never does anything."

And finally...

"In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The *worst* thing you can do is nothing."

Pastor Ed

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2026

ACTION	COUNCIL MEMBER/ ATTENDEE
MTG OPENED	7:10 by SARAH KOZAK
IN PERSON	Pastor Ed Kropa, Laura Kropa, Josh Renik-Staudinger, Mike Della Rosa, Pat Fensham, Sarah Kozak, Sheth Veeradasari, Brian McMillan, Matt Malanuk, Cheryl Hurd, Judy Canfield
ZOOM	Sue Hu, Steve Weisner
ABSENT	Jessica Somodi, Chelsea Zeigler, Dave Peters
PRAYER/DEVOTION	Pat F: devotion for when a congregation has big plans. GOD BUILDS THIS HOUSE.
ACCEPT PREVIOUS MINUTES	Mike made a motion to accept August minutes. Second by Pat. Motion passes

REPORTS

TREASURY REPORT: Mike D	• This is the final report for the Fiscal Year • Trends show that we had a financially successful year. The offerings just about equal what was budgeted • Current assets are about \$35,000 less this month due to many maintenance projects ◦ Floor renovations ◦ Cleaning Services ◦ Lutheran Disaster Relief and Severe Storms donations ◦ Payroll ◦ Holiday Express ◦ Liv Like a Unicorn donation ◦ MIF transfer ◦ Trailer Fee ◦ Cleaning and maintenance services
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	◦ Landscaping fee for 3 months • \$176,860 was transferred out of the General Fund to the Contingency Fund (as is done every year). Zero out the General Fund September 1 of each year.
HCS REPORT: Judy Canfield	• Good start to the school year • September Newsletter (not much, October will be packed) • Approval of Staff ◦ Staff hired in June. All have previous experience ◦ New staff ▪ Lindsey Paolilo (masters in SpEd) Asst. Teacher ▪ Annie Smith: Teacher ▪ Danielle Gaeta: Asst. Teacher ◦ Returning Staff ▪ Melissa Tempest ▪ Leslie Rifenburg ▪ Kelly Stafanacci ▪ Marbelin Morel ▪ Kim Mazan ▪ Christina Labrit ▪ Eileen Flohr ▪ Doris Green ▪ Dana Tabone ▪ Shannon Imregi ▪ Jade Goswick ▪ Rachel Colbert ▪ Elizabeth Macri ▪ Justine Denino ▪ Kim Dato ▪ Anna Lardaro: Phonics ▪ Josh Staudinger: Music ▪ Subs: Zama Soto-Valdes, Emily Lambe, Erin Hydrusko ◦ Motion to approve staff: Laura; Mike 2nd; all in favor • School Calendar: Last day June 4th

PASTOR REPORT

- **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:** Total:825 in 15 weeks.
Average 55 per week
- **Pastoral Contacts** (August 15- September 18) 58
 - Year-to-date: 343
- **Pastoral Acts:** 2 Baptisms (year to date 5)
 - Baptism: Noah Hayes McGackin (8/23)
 - Baptism: Kenneth Raymond Iacone (8/30)
 - *Baptism: Axel Van Sadlers (scheduled for 9/27)*
- **Continuing Education:** 1 day (year-to-date: 5)
 - ULS Fall Convocation “How the Digital World Hurts and Heals (September 17)
- **Parsonage:**
 - New toilets and sink faucets for the 2 bathrooms have been purchased and installed

CHURCH REPORT (CHERYL)

- **FT Fire Department nicely refused our donation because any monetary donation does not go to them, it goes to the town and they may not benefit from it. Would prefer donations of food for their next meeting if we want to thank them for their service to the school and community. School does show appreciation when they come with gifts and crafts. The department will let us know when the next meeting is and Cheryl will send food.**
- **Approval needed for a \$200 donation to Crop Walk to be a t-shirt sponsor. All the money goes to help the un-housed through Joshua House or other emergency housing organizations throughout Monmouth County**
 - **HLC will have a team to complete the approximately 3 mile walk through Freehold Boro on 10/18. [NEED MORE WALKERS!]**
 - **Pat offered that there are MANY shirts left over after the event and it is a shame we can't donate the money to EHAP directly**
 - **Motion to approve donation: Pat; 2nd Brian; motion passes**
- **Loose Brick around the Bell Tower**

	◦ Possibly damaged by Landscapers (If they damaged them, they should fix them) ◦ Quote of \$450 to fix ◦ Steve W: he will take a look to see if it is something we can fix ourselves. Will follow up with Cheryl • Greater Freehold Clergy Association ◦ Clergy in the area meet to talk about EHAP and Open Door ◦ Interfaith Coordination Group ◦ Meetings are the third Thursday each month at St. Roberts. Ed will do his best to go ◦ \$35/ year dues ◦ Laura made a motion to pay the \$35; Sue 2nd; motion passes • Jason from Blue Rock and Kim the architect are coming on Wednesday to give us ideas of what to do with trailer and identify any issues/concerns with utilities during the construction process
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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 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] ◦ 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 • Sept. 1 the Quarterly reports for Hope Grows Here were sent out
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- October 4 is Recommitment Sunday: opportunity for everyone to take a moment and evaluate where you and help us to plan moving forward

ARCHITECTURAL BUSINESS

UPDATE ON BUILDING DECISIONS

There is a lot going on with the Building project, but still exploring whether it is possible or not. Long process but we are making progress

The Building Expansion Committee will have two parallel and overlapping functions:

1. Project Design and Construction: Oversee the design and construction process in consultation with project manager Jason Quenzel and Blue Rock Construction.
2. Budgeting and Financing: Determine how the expansion project can be funded, including options for a potential construction loan and, ultimately, a mortgage.

Hope Building Team

Pastor Ed Kropa
 Sarah Kozak
 Mike Della Rosa
 Laura Kropa
 Josh Renik-Staudinger
 Cheryl Hurd
 Judy Canfield
 Brian McMillin
 Matt Malanuk
 John Drager
 Bill Unger

Bi weekly meetings occur on Wednesday afternoons. One week is just the Hope team and the following week they will meet with the Blue Rock Team

	Jason from Blue Rock has done a phenomenal job of keeping us informed and organized. He is willing to listen and adjust based on our concerns.
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INFORMATION/ QUESTIONS FROM BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

QUESTION/CONCERN	WHAT WE KNOW
Is it better to affect one school year or two?	The original proposed start date by Blue Rock was April and ending in October/November. This will affect 2 school years. Pushing back the start date to June 5 will only affect the beginning of next year
When is the best time to make that decision?	Judy will be starting tours and marketing for the 27-28 school year the first week in December, so it would be best to have congregation approval to build by then. There needs to be full transparency for prospective families.
What changes can be made to design?	We have scaled back a lot from our original dream of years ago. At this point the outside footprint can not be changed but modifications to design inside can still be decided on.
How can the council keep informed?	Sarah has created a drive with folders containing all information and notes from these meetings
How are we going to communicate with the congregation?	A series of Coffee and Conversation meetings are being planned in the Narthex between and after services. The architect will provide large foam board drawings of the proposed building for people to look at. (Schedule is found in

	the drive and at the end of this document) A FAQ sheet is being developed that will be distributed to the congregation to answer the most pertinent questions
How do we reach people that don't attend in person?	• Anchor is emailed • The schedule of Q & A meetings will be posted • If this is an important issue, a person should make it their business to be informed
Is a quorum of 25 enough for a vote of this magnitude?	• The constitution calls for a quorum of 25 • Zoom option is available, vote does not have to be in-person • As long as we follow the constitution it is enough • That being said, we will not move forward if it is something we do not feel the congregation can handle. There has to be a certain amount of trust that the committee will not saddle the congregation with unreasonable debt.
When will we know the final cost?	• We will have to get from Jason the GMP (guaranteed maximum price) to know if we can move forward or not. • Ideally we will be able to present mortgage options at the Nov. 22 Congregational Meeting. This date would fit for Judy's timeline
What possible financial companies are we looking at?	• Thrivent: will not entertain loans unless a Church can guarantee 300 adults at service each Sunday

	• TD Bank: gathering information • Griffin: Cheryl having trouble getting information • MIF: higher interest rate than others, but is an easier, almost guaranteed process. This is their business, loaning to churches for expansion • Need to make sure we have 3 options for the congregation. And each should have multiple scenario showing rates and monthly payments with different amounts put down
What are the MUST HAVES when it comes to the school functioning during construction?	• Morning drop off (will construction vehicles be in the way?) • How much of the playground can be used? • What safety precautions will be taken when children are around an active construction site? • A site supervisor will handle these issues once bids are accepted and we know who that is
Mike asked our accountant for a quick analysis of our ability to afford the expansion. This is not complete, but it is an idea	To answer your question on the mortgage/construction – I ran a quick amortization schedule. With a mortgage of 1.5 million at an interest of 6.5% (might be a little on the higher side, but rates are looking to increase I believe) assuming a 20 year amortization (most commercial are amortized over 20 years with a balloon payment between 5 to 10 years). The monthly payment would be \$11,183.60 with a yearly cost of \$134,203.20. Since there is no other debt due, an easy way to look to see if the church can afford it is by looking

	at the net revenue over the last couple years. For January – December 2025, the net revenue was \$142,292.60 and for 2024 it was \$57,166. A second way to analyze this would be to look at your cash growth year over year. From 12/31/2024 to 12/31/2025, the cash increased \$141,516.09. From 12/31/2023 to 12/31/2024, the cash increased \$57,097. From 12/31/2022 to 12/31/2023 the cash increased \$204,415. Adding in an annual mortgage payment totaling \$134,203.20 would be covered in 2025 and 2023, but 2024 would not have been covered. However, 2024 had payments for improvements of the bathroom. Without those improvements being paid, then there would have been additional cash.
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NEW BUSINESS

Sights and Sounds Theater Trip	• December 30 • Lancaster Pa. • “Joshua” • Ticket prices can be covered if need be • Fundraising available to help cover costs
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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
5	Have a better idea of the financials in place for next month to show that we CAN or CAN NOT move forward

Meeting Dismissed: 8:41

Next meeting: October 19, 2026

Meetings moved to third Monday of each month

11/16

12/21

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
- September 1	Anchor update	Pastor's Article: "Taking Chances. Accepting Risks" (Complete)
- September 21	Council update	Progress report/updates at Congregation Council meeting
- September 27	Congregation update 1	Congregation Q+A after each service (as needed) 10:15-10:45 am and 12:15-12:45 pm
OCTOBER		
- October 1	Anchor update	Anchor update - Article: <i>(author?)</i>
- October 18	Congregation update 2	Congregation Q+A after each service (as needed) 10:15-10:45 am and 12:15-12:45 pm
- October 19	Council update	Progress report/updates at Congregation Council meeting
- October 25	Congregation update 3	Congregation Q+A after each service (as needed) 10:15-10:45 am and 12:15-12:45 pm
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)

Lemonade
for Sale



**A VERY BIG THANK
YOU** to everyone who
contributed to our
Lemonade stands – ***we were
able to raise \$320*** to send
to **Liv Like a Unicorn** to
help support children

experiencing pediatric cancer, and their families!

Thank you to ***John and Joan Drager*** who applied for a
Thrivent grant that supported this initiative! That means that
all out of pocket expenses were covered!

Dear Cheryl; Hope Lutheran church,
Thank you so much for your
incredible support of Liv Like A Unicorn!
We are so grateful that your community
came together to host not one, but
multiple lemonade stands to support
our mission.

Every dollar raised helps us
continue to bring a little more joy
to children and their families during
an incredibly difficult time. Thank
you for helping us come together to
make a difference.

With gratitude,
The Liv Like A Unicorn Family ♥



Outreach Meal

Friday, October 9

Please sign up to help if you can! We need LOTS of volunteers to feed our community in NEED! We are providing 130 plates each time we participate.

Please sign up here –

Hope Lutheran Church: October 9 Outreach Meal



SIGN UP TO HELP HERE -

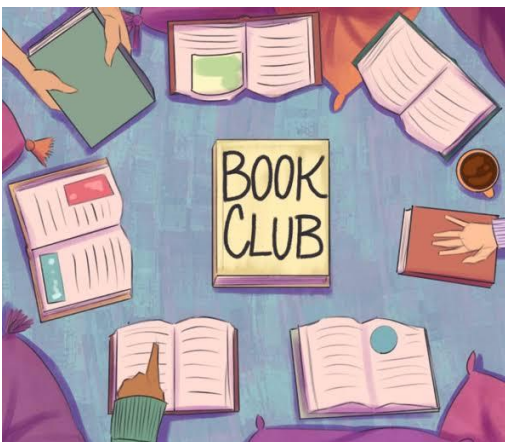
Hope Lutheran Church: October 2026 Sandwich Making for St. Peter's



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

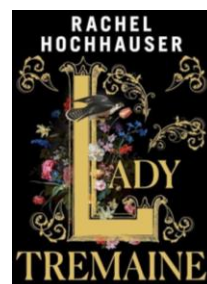


Meet the *Second Saturday* of each month at *9am* in *Hope's Kitchen*



Next meeting is *Sunday, October 18th* at *10am* in *Hope's Kitchen*

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



Growing Together in Faith

October has arrived, and our fall programs are in full swing at Hope! It was wonderful to see everyone at Rally Day in September as Sunday School, Youth Group, and our usual fall activities kicked back up. So much more is coming in October and beyond!

Confirmation Classes start on Sunday, October 4, as our confirmation students begin another year of learning and growing in their faith. Later this month, we'll keep supporting ***St. Peter's Community Lunch with our monthly Sandwich Making on Tuesday, October 13***. Thank you to everyone who donates supplies and volunteers each month to keep this ministry strong!

We have some Halloween fun coming up too! On ***Saturday, October 17***, ***the Youth Group will visit Oasis Island of Terror in Robbinsville*** for our annual haunted house trip. We're aiming for around 7:30 PM and will confirm the precise time and details soon. The ***Crop Hunger Walk is the day after, so if you haven't signed up, please do!*** Then, our Halloween tradition continues ***Saturday, October 31 with Pumpkin Carving at Hope!***

Glancing ahead to November, registration is now open for the NJ Synod Youth Retreat! The retreat will take place November 20–22 at Cross Roads and is open to students in grades 6–12. It costs \$100 per person if you sign up by November 6. The church will also financially support any youth interested in going, so please don't let the cost keep you from a great experience! This is a great chance to spend a weekend with other young people from around the Synod, so sign up if you'd like to join us!

We're also planning our *Sight & Sound trip for Wednesday, December 30! We hope to go to the 3:00 PM* afternoon show and have either lunch before or dinner after at Shady Maple. We want to order tickets by mid-October and then work out travel plans, so please tell me soon if you're interested and haven't told me yet.

Key Dates & Coming Up

Sunday, October 4 – Confirmation Classes Begin

Confirmation students begin another year of classes at Hope.

Tuesday, October 13 – Sandwich Making

Help us make sandwiches for St. Peter's Community Lunch!

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

Saturday, October 17 – Youth Haunted House

We're going to Oasis Island of Terror in Robbinsville! We're aiming for around 7:30 PM, and we'll share the final time and details soon.

Saturday, October 31 – Pumpkin Carving

We'll keep our Halloween tradition going with pumpkin carving at Hope!

Tuesday, November 10 – Sandwich Making

Join us for our November sandwich-making night for St. Peter's Community Lunch.

Saturday, November 14 – Bake for Open Door

We'll gather to bake and support Open Door.

November 20–22 – NJ Synod Youth Retreat

Come to Cross Roads for the NJ Synod Youth Retreat for grades 6–12. Registration is open!

Wednesday, December 30 – Sight & Sound Trip

We're planning to see the 3:00 PM show and have either lunch or dinner at Shady Maple. Do let me know if you're interested, as we want to order tickets by mid-October!



thrivent®

Dear Hope Family,

Please help Hope participate in TWO simultaneous FOOD DRIVES both benefitting **OPEN DOOR** food pantry.

1. **FOODSTOCK** is a grassroots organization dedicated to keeping local food pantries stocked. It started as a high school service project in the backyard of the Swisher family in Freehold in 2010. It has collected over **one million pounds** of food over the years! Food collections by participating neighborhoods culminates in a celebration and music festival at the **Freehold Fire Company on Stillwells Corner Road on October 17th 1:00-6:00.**

*Great opportunity for students to earn Community Service Hours!

*Volunteers are needed for unloading food donations, weighing donations, packing donations in boxes, and loading boxes in trucks.

Volunteer shifts are 2-3 hours.

2. **Thrivent 500** is an opportunity to earn \$500 for Open Door by collecting 500 food items for the food pantry.

If you would like to help and were unable to pick up the collection bags during church services (one labeled **FOODSTOCK** and one labeled **Thrivent 500**), boxes of each are outside the office door **along with a list of suggested items.**

**PLEASE RETURN BOTH COLLECTION BAGS TO THE
CHURCH BY OCTOBER 14TH**

Thank you for your help in supporting both of these worthy causes!

Pat Fensham Open Door Representative



Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 2pm

**Starting point is Reformed Church of Freehold
at 67 West Main Street**

The Freehold Area CROP Walk, organized by the Greater Freehold Clergy Association and WHAM, the Windsor Hightstown Area Ministerium, interfaith groups of leaders from Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, and other faith groups, will take place on Sunday, October 18th at The Reformed Church of Freehold, 67 W. Main Street, Freehold. Registration is at 1:30 p.m. and the walk route will be available until 3:30 p.m. In the event of seriously inclement weather, donations will be accepted at the church and awards will be given there.

There will be a 2.6 mile and 1/10 mile mini-walk route marked out in historic Freehold Borough. A map will be provided at registration.

JOIN OUR TEAM

2026 CROP Hunger Walk - Hope Lutheran Church - Freehold, NJ



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

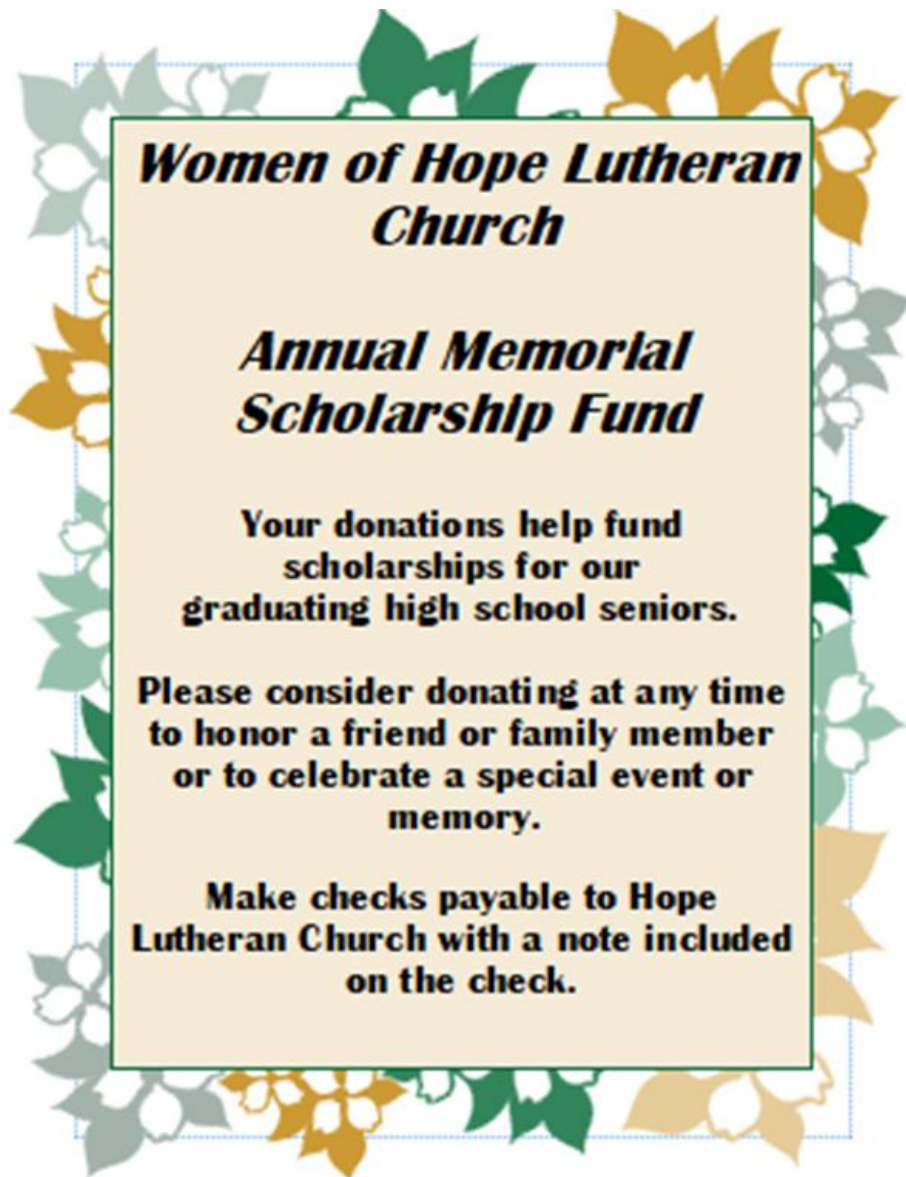
Tickets - \$104 for adults

\$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

Rita Corn's father in law, **Jules Corn** has sadly passed
on to Life Eternal;

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; 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>
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>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

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



October

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Freehold CROP HUNGER WALK

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step 730p – Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	930a – WOH 12p – Counseling
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9a – Traditional 10a – SunSch/Youth 11a – Contemp 630p - Confirmation	530p – WW Group	7p – Zoom Yoga 7p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step 730p – Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	9a – GOM 12p – Counseling
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9a – Traditional 10a – SunSch/Youth Book Club meets 11a – Contemp 130p – Crop Walk 630p - Confirmation	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
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9a – Traditional 10a – SunSch/Youth 11a – Contemp	530p – WW Group	7p – Zoom Yoga 7p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step 730p – Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	12p – Counseling

OCTOBER 2026 YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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)				1	2	3
4 Youth Group 10am Confirmation Class 6:30-8PM	5	6 Choir Practice 7PM	7	8 Band Practice 7PM	9	10
11 Youth Group 10am	12	13 Sandwich Making for St. Peters 6PM Choir Practice 7:30PM	14	15 Band Practice 7PM	16	17 HAUNTED HOUSE 7:30PM (tentative)
18 Youth Group 10am CROP HUNGER WALK 1:30PM Confirmation Class 6:30-8PM	19	20 Choir Practice 7PM	21	22 Band Practice 7PM	23	24
25 PUMPKIN CARVING  Youth Group 10am	26	27 Choir Practice 7PM	28	29 Band Practice 7PM	30	31 

