



HOPE NOTES

January 2021

Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills

*Serving the Community
with Love*

*Hope is a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America*

Sunday Worship on zoom
10:30 am & 3:00 pm

Taize Prayer Service 7:00 pm
(zoom)
first Friday of every month
(except June, July & August)

P.L.U.M. Pastoral Team

Rev. John Gropp - 412-680-7867
Rev. Brenda Henry - 412-390-8005
Rev. Dr. Paul Koch - 773-848-1470
Pastor Susan Devine - 412-496-4889
Minister Mandy Gilberti - 814-241-8150

*Hope Lutheran Church
353 Ridge Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
412-242-4476*

*Hopeforesthills@aol.com
plumofpa.com*

Office Hours:
Mon.-Thurs. - 9 a.m.-noon
Susan Lescinsky, Secretary

Church Council:

Jane Cushion, President
Barb Kochuba, Vice President
Lynda Joyce, Secretary
Dave Hauser, Treasurer
Kathie Nelson, Member
Janet Moberg, Member
Pam Hall, Member
Kristina Fennell, Member
Bev Koch, Member

New Year, Fresh Start!

The prophet Isaiah wrote: forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18-19

While we do not want to dwell on the past, at the beginning of this new year of 2021, it is good to reflect upon our journey in 2020. Our year began with the usual plans for worship services, Bible studies, meetings and ministry projects. We joyously planned for the second ordination within three months. And then, just as Lent had begun, a virus entered our world and changed everything that was "normal" in our lives. 2020 was a year of adaptation. We changed the way we shop, we changed the way we gather, we added a new item to our wardrobes – masks. We changed the way that we gathered for worship, Bible study and council meetings. The ministries that were a part of our routines were suddenly being modified. We stayed home more. We were particular about whom we would get physically close to. We said our final goodbyes to loved ones in ways that felt inadequate and unfair. We re-opened our doors only to close them again.

All of that needs to be remembered, because it changed us. The journey of 2020 taught us many things. We learned that we often disagree. We learned that, when it comes to those that we love, decisions about caring for them are difficult. We learned that there was a thing called Zoom, and that it would allow us to worship and hold meetings from the comfort and safety of our homes. We learned that there are more neighbors in need around us than we realized. We learned that we could still feed the hungry, diaper little bottoms, and provide encouragement and support to those in need. We were intentional about reaching out to each other, just to check in. We shared our laments, and yes, our joys – for there were joyful times in the midst of the pandemic.

We celebrated life through baptisms and weddings. We celebrated the lives of those who have joined the Church Triumphant. We cried together, and we laughed together. And in all of it, we were led by the same God who led the Israelites through the wilderness. With every step that we took on our journey of 2020, God was leading us and changing us.

That is what a new year offers us. Before us is an uncertain future. Before us is a year of endless opportunities. We can make all the plans that we want, but we can only move forward, one step at a time. We can do this, because every step that we take is one that is taken with God. God is making a way in the wilderness. God is doing a new thing.

Your Pastoral Team wishes you a Happy and Blessed New Year.

Credo for the New Year

I believe

That I enter a glorious new year
To be filled with prayer and praise.

With service to God and mankind,

With inspired creative activity.

I believe

That God's presence goes with me

Wherever I shall go this year,
By train or plane or car or boat,
Slowly paced on foot, or high in air.

I believe

His love is shining in my body,
His wisdom guides my mind,
His peace fills me with poise,
His strength is ever at my call.

Oh I believe

That this is God's new year.

—Elizabeth Searle Lamb



Pocket Change

*Continues to support
Pantry Network
of Eastern Suburbs*

~ Two Weekly Sunday Services on Zoom ~
10:30 am and 3:00 pm
~ with communion ~

To better care for our communities in a time of increasing COVID-19 numbers, the strong recommendation of Bishop Kusserow and in consultation with the PLUM Board, it is the decision of the pastoral team to suspend all in-person worship and meetings until further notice. We will continue to discern when it is appropriate to resume in-person gatherings in consultation with the Synod office.



Gift somebody a subscription to the Lutheran Magazine

It's time to renew your magazine subscription to *Living Lutheran* magazine. Cost through Hope is \$8.95 - which is a significant savings over their standard list price. Please put your check made out to Hope in an envelope, and make sure your name and address are also listed in the envelope.

Weekly Bible Studies

~ will start up again on January 5 ~

There will be 2 different topics of study: one on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm and the other on Thursdays at 7:00 pm...all via zoom.

*Details well be available on the PLUM website (plumofpa.com)

Taize Prayer

Friday, Jan 8 at 7:00 pm

~zoom~



Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Hope extends our best wishes to Mim Abraham for a happy retirement from Thrivent. Her guidance and care will be missed.

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PLUM's Pastoral Team is ready and waiting for a call from anyone in need of care or who would appreciate receiving Communion. Just give any one of them a call and they will be there for you.

As of the end of November, our giving is down over 25% from last year. Please help us out by making whatever gifts you can. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We are especially grateful for those who have been able to continue sending or dropping off their donations. Your support of Hope's ongoing ministry is greatly appreciated and encouraged.

Thank you again!

January Birthdays

14th Kristina Fennell
15th Donna Dase Tarpley
18th Garrett Janes Fennell
23rd Ken Kossuth, Sr.
24th Kent Tarpley
29th Kenney Kossuth

January Anniversary

9th Jack & Ruth Bellas, Sr.

Prayer List

Vernon and Valerie Mason, tested positive for COVID 19
Joyce Hunter, stroke
Linda Christiansen, kidney replacement
Morgan Green, 15yr old, leukemia
Cindy Doriguzzi
Chastity, seizures
Rhonda Hill, brain tumor
McKillip family, son Landon diagnosed with autism
Ed Perry, cancer
Alecia Francis, herniated disc
Gary Stowe, skin cancer
Robin Hannah, knee surgery
Michael Koch, stroke
Mary O'Hara, fractured hip
Kent Tarpley, spinal surgery
Mike Marciniziyn, cancer
Greg Smith, health issues
Matthew Stumme, leukemia
Mark Ridge
Lorraine Easudes, knee issues
Jill Ann Swick, breast cancer

Ray Smith, myasthenia gravis
Jim Ofslager, cancer
Jennie Cosentino, complications following surgery
Joe Urban, heart surgery
Dick Dougherty, lung problems
Bob Leech, brain tumor & myasthenia gravis
Alexi Jackson, cystic fibrosis
Marjorie Krick, breast cancer
David Fennell, leukemia, lymphoma
Carol Harper, dementia
Susan Liebmann, health concerns
Ken Noll, pinched nerve
Diane Rose, cancer

Dawn Dietz & family, death of mother, Ann Baluh 11/20
Gaisor family, recent death of Mary Ann 10/20
Johnston family & friends, death of Shirley 8/20
Heasley family & friends, death of Gary 8/20

*We pray for members of our armed forces

*We pray for those facing difficult life situations

*We pray for our loved ones who are homebound, in care facilities, or in need of on-going prayer, including: Isabel Dering, Mary Beth Tomo-Gardner, Henrietta Partner, Peg Portera and Carol Harper

*We pray for our congregation and for our leadership: Jane, Barb, Lynda, Dave, Kathie, Janet, Pam, Kristina and Bev

*We pray for Bishop Eaton, Bishop Kusserow and their staff

The sympathy of Hope is extended to Dawn Dietz and family upon the death of her mother, Ann Baluh on November 20, 2020.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent gift to Lutherlyn. We are truly grateful to have your support during this difficult and unexpected time. It is gifts like yours that will help Lutherlyn return to "business as normal" when we are safely able to do so.

Your recent gift of \$36 goes further than just helping cover operations during this unprecedented time. When the time comes, your gift will help Lutherlyn continue to be a God-given place where people are accepted, challenged, and sent out into the world to shine their light in the world!

We very much hope to see you at camp soon. Until we are able to resume more normal programming we will continue to share activities and devotions at www.lutherlyn.com/athome. We encourage you to engage with the content there while we anxiously wait and prepare to welcome campers, students, and guests back to Lutherlyn.

Thank you again for your generosity, we truly appreciate it.

*Yours,
Deb Roberts
Executive Director*