



# HOPE NOTES

## December '22~January '23

### Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills

*Serving the Community  
with Love*

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

Sunday Worship 11:15 am  
& 3:00 pm on zoom

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  
Pastor Susan Devine-412-496-4889  
Pastor Alexander Sumo-614-218-6730

*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  
Kathie Nelson, Secretary  
Dave Hauser, Treasurer  
Bev Koch, Vice Treasurer  
Lynda Joyce, Member  
Janet Moberg, Member  
Pam Hall, Member  
Kristina Fennell, Member

***“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas,  
everywhere you go”***

Do you recall this Christmas song? It is a song written by Meredith Wilson in 1951. Popular renditions of this song were recorded by Bing Crosby (1951) and Michael Bublé (2012). It is a song filled with hopeful and whimsical phrases that often put a smile on my face as I listen to it. We hear the writer’s description of Christmas...candy canes, toys in every store, and holly on our doors are just a few images. And while those are apt descriptions, as followers of Christ, Christmas has a deeper meaning for us.

Christmas is a reminder of the amazing gift of a precious baby that would become our king. A gift of a lamb, a precious lamb that would eventually wear the scars of sin and death. It is a reminder that *God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)*. We would call Him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). We would come to know Him as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), Redeemer (Ephesians 1:7), Healer (Isaiah 53:5), Savior (Luke 2:11) and Friend (John 15:12-15). And I am sure you can add many other names.

This precious gift – Jesus, born in a stable as both divine and human, would teach us love is an action word. He would through His ministry model how to care for the widow, the orphan, the sick, and the marginalized. He would model compassion, how to love God (the Father), how to communicate with God through prayer, and to listen to our Advocate (the Holy Spirit). He would encourage us to see the beauty and light in each other – as amazing earthen vessels made in the image of God. And, He would challenge us to move from our comfort zones and step into places yet unknown to bear witness to God’s sustaining love for all.

As we go about the preparation for Advent and Christmas this year, may we see more than the picturesque depiction of snowflakes, lights, hollies, and evergreens. Beautiful as they may be, may we see the face of Jesus in each person we encounter. May we see the Christmas that Jesus has shown us. May we accept the invitation to be active participants and not just bystanders. May we embrace the promise of Jesus to abide in us by abiding in Him and allow our fruit to be witnesses of our commitment to love one another. *May the God of hope fill you [us] with all joy and peace in believing so that you [we] may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13).*

Happy Advent and Blessed Christmas!  
Pr. Brenda



## Advent Through Your Imagination



*Praying with Luke, chapters 1 and 2*

Thursday, December 1, 8, 15 22

7:00 pm on zoom

(<https://zoom.us/j/401596541>)

St. Ignatius was convinced that God can speak to us as surely through our imagination as through our thoughts and memories. In the Ignatian tradition, praying with the imagination is called contemplation. Join PLUM as we use our imaginations to read the story of Christ's birth according to Luke.



### White Gifts Lunch & Wrap Event

Sunday, December 4 after worship

### White Gifts Dedication

Sunday, December 11...during worship

### Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 18...after worship

### Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24

***4:00 pm***

### Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25

10:30 am

~ on ZOOM ~

There will be NO in-person worship on Christmas Day



**Pet Blessing 2022**  
 What a wonderful day !!!



Hymns for those over 50

Precious Lord, take My Hand –  
 And help me up!  
 It is Well With My Soul –  
 but my knees hurt!  
 Nobody Knows the Trouble  
 I Have ---seeing!  
 Just a Slower Walk With Thee  
 Count your Birthdays –  
 name them one by one!  
 Go Tell It On the Mountain –  
 but speak up!  
 Give Me the Old Times Religion  
 Blessed Insurance  
 Guide Me Oh Great Jehovah –  
 I forgot where I parked my car!

December Birthdays

3rd JoAn Kress  
 4th Pr. Susan Schwartz  
 7th Tony Units  
 14th Doris Hoffman  
 17th Brenda Henry

January Birthdays

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

January Anniversary

9th Jack & Ruth Bellas, Sr.

*Hope celebrates the baptism of  
 Julia Padavan, daughter of John & Amanda Padavan and  
 Charlotte Kossuth, daughter of Kenny and Nicole Kossuth, Jr.  
 on Sunday, November 27, 2022.*

*The December/January '23 issue of Hope Notes is sponsored  
 by Jack & Ruth Bellas, Sr. to the Glory of God.*

**Hope Prays Every Day**

Amy T, health concerns 11/22  
 Bob B, cancer 11/22  
 Peter B, 11/22  
 Karen V, difficult life situation 11/22  
 Dick Dougherty, breathing problems 11/22  
 Doug McIntyre, health concerns 11/22  
 Meghan Younkin, brain cancer 10/22  
 Pastor John, advanced Lyme disease 9/22  
 June Perry, health concerns 11/22  
 Brian Leach, cancer 9/22  
 Joyce Hunter, stroke 9/22  
 Mary O'Hara, nursing home 9/22  
 Mike Marciniziyn, cancer 9/22  
 Don Pearrell, cancer 9/22  
 Jill Ann Sewick, breast cancer 9/22  
 Bob Leech, brain tumor & myasthenia gravis 9/22  
 Bob Carlisle, surgery following fall 9/22  
 Jan Matthews, death of wife 8/22  
 Ray Smith, myasthenia gravis 8/22  
 Brayden Hay, cerebral palsy 7/22  
 Robin Hanna, knee surgery problems 7/22  
 Dick & Jane, health concerns 6/22  
 Joe Dombrosky, health concerns 6/22  
 Ken Noll, pinched nerve 7/22  
 Alecia Francis, bladder cancer 7/22  
 Bob Prezioso, back surgery 7/22

\*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: Mary Beth Tomo-Gardner,  
 Henrietta Partner, Peg Portera and Doris Hoffman  
 \*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

If you are in need of pastoral care – a phone conversation, home visit or Holy Communion – please call, text or email one of us.

Rev. Brenda Henry ~ 412-390-8005  
[brenda.henry@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.henry@gmail.com)

Rev. Sue Devine ~ 412-496-4889  
[skdkod81@gmail.com](mailto:skdkod81@gmail.com)

Rev. John J. Gropp ~ 412-680-7867  
[pjgropp@aol.com](mailto:pjgropp@aol.com)

Rev. Alex Sumo ~ 614-218-6730  
[saq9000@yahoo.com](mailto:saq9000@yahoo.com)

The call-in line for PLUM Worship Services and Bible Studies:  
 Zoom online:  
<https://zoom.us/j/401596541>  
 Zoom by phone: **(646) 876 9923**  
**Meeting ID: 401 596 541**



**Pocket  
Change  
& G&J  
Dollars**

**Angels Place in Swissvale**

Our work is to ensure that every family in our community – particularly those in need – has access to the resources to succeed in school and in life. Since 1984, Angels' Place has worked to create systems that strengthen the family, support parents to complete their educational goals and obtain satisfying employment, moving toward self-sufficiency.

**Rx Bottle  
Collection**



The McKeesport Lion's Club is collecting empty Rx bottles to be re-used for medication distribution in underprivileged countries around the world. The use of these containers cuts down the cost of delivering meds to folks in need.

Check the narthex for a container to collect. Please remember to completely rinse the bottle and remove the labels! This is an ongoing collection effort, so no concern about a start/end date!



**White Gifts Collection for Angels  
Place...Wish list**

Black and White Paint Pens  
 White Posterboard  
 Ink Joy Papermate Colored Gel Pens  
 White Cardstock  
 Colored duct tape  
 Staplers  
 Colored file folders  
 Fishing string  
 Adult scissors  
 39 Gallon garbage bags  
 Sturdy oven mitts (several sets)  
 Pump Hand soap  
 Gerber puffs and other infant snacks  
 Graham crackers  
 Fruit snacks  
 Birthday cake mixes  
 Garlic salt  
 Clorox bleach (unscented)  
 Spray Shout  
 Dixie cups

Black Sharpies  
 Colored Posterboard  
 Colored Cardstock  
 Command hooks  
 Erasable Pens  
 Three-hole punch  
 File folders  
 Colored clothes pins  
 Sticky tack  
 Tall kitchen garbage bags  
 Garlic press  
 Gallon size Ziploc bags  
 Goldfish  
 Teddy Grahams  
 Rice cakes  
 Icing  
 Napkins  
 Tide Laundry Detergent  
 Oxiclean stain remover

White Gifts will be wrapped after worship on Sunday, Dec. 4 at a luncheon. They will be dedicated during worship on Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>.

**E2J: From Exile to Jesus:  
A History of Israel's Stories**

~ Taught by Pastor Ken Ofslager ~

November 2022 thru May 2023  
 1:00 ~ 2:30 pm

(Nov.20, Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Feb. 19, March 19, April 16, May 21)

*What happened between the Babylonian Exile  
and the birth of Jesus?*

How to participate?

In person at Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
 1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
[eastmontelc@hotmail.com](mailto:eastmontelc@hotmail.com)

[www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org](http://www.emmanuelutheraneastmont.org)  
 412-824-4525 (office); 412-401-5742 (Pastor's cell)

Live and interactive on zoom. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89760867900>

Watch on Emmanuel's facebook page live  
 or on your time after the event.