



# HOPE NOTES

## February ~ March 2023

### 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:

Wednesdays - 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

***Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you." Jeremiah 32:17***

Greetings to you, brothers and sisters in Christ, in this new year of 2023,

We have just celebrated the birth of our Savior! It was a very cold night as we gathered to remember our Lord's birth with our songs and praise. We celebrated on Christmas day with a morning Zoom service. This service was well attended, and those who attended were treated to a musical presentation by the four year old class from the nursery school at Resurrection Lutheran Church, one of our Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries (PLUM) congregations. It was a service of songs, lessons and praise. How quickly our Advent season flew by. And now, we are several weeks into a New Year! As I look back on 2022, I see that we had much to celebrate, and a few challenges. We settled into a new normal in worship. We welcomed Pastor Alex and celebrated his installation in July. We came together and prayed for Pastor John in his ongoing battle with Lyme's disease. We celebrated baptisms, weddings, welcomed some new members, and said our final goodbyes to those who entered the church triumphant.

We held three summer picnics at which we were able to share in fellowship time with our sister congregations. Our congregations served our Lord and our neighbors through many outreach projects which included: Sponsor a Monster, Lutheran Church of our Saviour Diaper Bank, our food pantries at St. Andrew and Bethany, Rise Against Hunger, and the annual Thanksgiving Day dinner at Bethany. Several congregations held Pet Blessings for the communities, and others hosted educational and fellowship events. Immanuel Lutheran Church celebrated their anniversary and East Liberty celebrated the sale of their property. Four of our young people at Christ began their journey towards their Confirmation. These are just a few of the things we did in which we shared our time and talents for God and with each other. We are so blessed! We, with the help of God, made what seemed impossible, possible.

When I was a little girl, one of my favorite musicals was "Cinderella", by Rogers and Hammerstein. In it was a song, "Impossible." Here is part of the chorus:

"But the world is full of zanies and fools  
Who don't believe in sensible rules  
And won't believe what sensible people say,  
And because these daft and dewy-eyed dopes  
Keep building up impossible hopes,  
Impossible things are happ'ning every day!"

All of our congregations of PLUM have done some impossible things and experienced spiritual growth in 2022. We have so many opportunities awaiting us in 2023. Where do you see our Lord leading us? "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man, this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible.'" (Matthew 19:26) What impossible things can we accomplish this year?

*Blessings to you from your pastoral team,  
Pastor Sue*

During the coming months, we will journey through the season of Lent. We invite you to participate in the following presentations:

"Walking With Jesus", a journey with Jesus through daily fasting and prayer for the 40 days of Lent. There are several options for participating in this time of fasting with Pastor Alex.

Each week, there will be a Mid-week Prayer Service Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Look for details on our website, [www.plumofpa.com](http://www.plumofpa.com).

"Bible People: Monologues for Lent" by Steve Dornsbusch

Thursdays: 2:00 & 7:00 pm.

...a series of six monologues based on Biblical characters. Join Pastor Sue as she leads a discussion of these monologues and the scriptural texts that they are based on. These will be held at two times on Thursdays: 2:00 and 7:00 pm. Details about this are also on our website.



Pre-Lenten Brunch  
Sunday, February 19 ~ after worship

## In-person Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 pm



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

~ Taught by Pastor Ken Ofslager ~

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month 1:00 ~ 2:30 pm  
Feb. 19, March 19, April 16, May 21

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



In person at Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
1229 Jefferson Heights Road, Pgh., PA 15235  
eastmontelc@hotmail.com  
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.

## Eucharistic Minister Training

9:00 am until noon  
Saturday, February 11, 2023

~ light breakfast will be provided ~



St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 218 Alter Street, E. Carnegie

*For all members of PLUM congregations who currently serve in this ministry  
and for those who are feeling called to this ministry of taking Holy Communion  
to people in their homes.*

## Pocket Change & G&J Dollars

Donations for Pocket Change and G&J Dollars are  
designated to Angels Place in Swissvale



## 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!

*The sympathy of Hope is extended to the family and friends of Henrietta Partner upon her death on Dec. 11, '22.*

*The March Candle of Hope is sponsored by Ken Noll in memory of his mother, Anne M. Noll.*

### **Thrivent Choice®**

We are excited to share that a deposit of \$13.00 has been made to your account. We hope this gift on behalf of Thrivent Choice® helps to further support your important work.

### **AmazonSmile Foundation**

Hope Lutheran Church has been issued a **\$7.64** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2022.

### February Birthdays

4th Susan Dase  
11th Samantha Gayso

### March Birthdays

4th Marion Hamilton  
4th Amanda Padavan  
7th Betty Jackson  
9th Elise Fennell  
27th Jack Bellas, Jr.

*Dear Hope Lutheran congregation,*

*We would like to thank everyone of you for the beautiful gifts for our clients for Christmas. May God bless all of you in the coming year.*

*"Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever."*

*Psalms 136:26*

*Sarah Care Adult Day Services  
Bee, Center Manager*

Dear Fellow PLUM WELCA Members

Our Savior's WELCA group has decided our next evangelical outreach project will be making "Comfort Kits for Cancer Patients". This project will involve collecting/making items to aid people who are battling cancer. The kits will be available for distribution to our local outpatient cancer treatment centers, friends and members.

We will begin collecting the items needed and then assemble kits as needed. Here is the list of new items needed as suggested by a cancer treatment center:

New Blankets	Seat belt cushions	Water bottles
Snacks	Puzzle books	Pencils
Lip Balm	Hand warmers	Mints
Mouthwash	Q tips	Vaseline
Lemon Drops	Crest Pro Health Toothpaste	
Dove soap	Extra Strength Tylenol	
Mesh Bath Scrubby	Carnation Instant Breakfast	
Plastic knife, fork and spoon, sealed in a bag		

*We are hoping to make this an ongoing outreach project.*

## Hope Prays Every Day

Bob Koschik, cancer 11/22  
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  
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  
Partner Family, death of Henrietta 12/22

\*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, Peg Portera, Esther Harris and Doris Hoffman  
\*We pray for our congregation and for our leadership: Jane, Barb, Lynda, Dave, Kathie, Janet, Pam and Bev  
\*We pray for Bishop Eaton, Bishop Kusserow and their Staff