

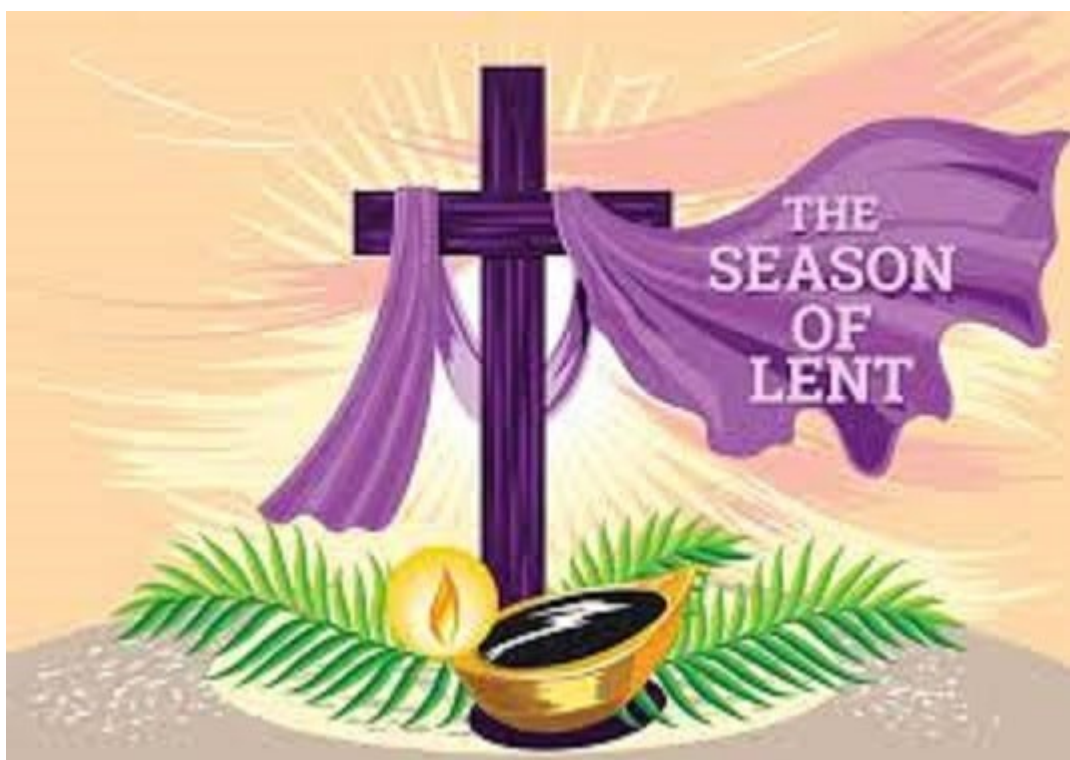
The Messenger

March

2025



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1901 MIDDLEBOROUGH RD,
ESSEX MD 21221



Joel 2:12-13 - "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

*Minister's
Message
for Lent*



What Is Most Important?

Galatians 6: 9-10

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So, then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.”

I think the Lenten season upon us now is once more a good time to reflect on what is most meaningful and important spiritually. We might ask: What do I lack in my faith? What parts of my life give me hope? Am I listening to God? How do I live amidst the chaos and uncertainty of my life? Lord, do you still love me?

Certainly there are times when, indeed, our souls feel the full weight of weariness. Doing what is “right” seems simple enough but often, in the face of our best efforts, we may feel defeated at times. And who decides what is “right” for me? Or, for the Church for that matter? Importantly, St. Paul reminds us that our mutual faith in Christ and each another is also the “right” we seek. He reminds us that the journey can seem hopeless but there is always the harvest of grace and forgiveness.

Working “for the good of all” places our love squarely in the lives of friends and strangers alike. Seeking “opportunities” to reach out together in our family of faith is the important difference between feeling weary and working together to discover the goodness inherent in each other.

The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday are a reminder that we are all in this life together trying to do what is “right” by each other. But, though we fail, God never fails to love the righteousness of our efforts to stay the course.

Ash Wednesday Service will be on Wednesday, March 5 at 7 PM and Midweek Lenten Soup Supper and Services will be on Wednesdays at 6 PM.

Let’s journey together.

Blessed Lenten Season to you all,

Pastor Meheret





**Join us on Sundays in the Sanctuary at
10:00 am. for worship.**

We are currently offering one worship service at 10:00 AM on Sundays. We are alternating between our Traditional and Family Worship Service format each Sunday, with a children's message and Children's Church./KBZone.

Please join us for in-person Worship Service and Holy Communion in our sanctuary on Sundays at 10:00 AM or

Mission Statement

“Why are we here as a people of God? We are here to celebrate our faith, grow in faith and in God’s Word, and reach out in service to our community.

Go in peace to celebrate, grow and serve”!



Yonas Amenu
 Bob Baker
 Connie Baker
 Susan Baucom
 Barbara Becker
 Gail Berry
 Jessica Berry
 Pat Berry
 Kathy Binas
 John Boblitz
 Christie Booth
 Ken Brazerol
 Debbie Bryant
 Andres Buitrago
 Wilford Buitrago
 Tony Bunk
 Ethel Burke
 Eric Carl
 David Clagget
 Chris Coffey
 Mary Jane Conrad
 Helen Cogle
 Chuck DeWitt
 Jami Edgar
 Belinda Emge
 Susan Enclade

Jay Ferrell
 Darlene Fisher
 Tim Flaherty
 Amy Folk
 Derrick Fowler
 Mike Gerald
 Fred Getz
 Russ Getz
 Pierre Gibbons
 Joyce Glovier
 Cassidy Gore
 Trudy Grauer
 Cowyn Gustave
 Nicole Harden
 Dennis Harris
 Juliana Hasson
 J & K
 Lillian Jones
 Kay
 Joan Kincaid
 Michelle Kincaid
 Edward Kratzen
 Matt Kretschmar
 Christina Lacko
 Lynne Lake
 Vicki Lesko

Patty Baldwin
 Linsolata
 Margaret Linz
 Karen Louden
 Phil Malpas
 Mary-Kathrym
 Ruth Massaroni
 John Micklos
 Marsha Millender
 Matilda Miller
 Michelle Moore
 Terry Novak
 Ryan O'Donnell
 Barry Ordak
 Charmaine Ordak
 Judy Crockett
 Peddiford
 Krista Pellegrini
 Evelyn Porter
 Dorothy Prevost
 Cass Rayman
 Dave Raynor
 Yvonne Ryan
 Sarah Schnepf
 Geraldine Scott
 Nancy Scott

Mickey Shafer
 Tina Sharfe
 Barbara Shelly
 Mike Short, Sr.
 Bunky Smith
 Lonnie Smith
 Margaret Smith
 John Steiner
 Phyllis Sult
 Peggy Talbott
 Teresa
 Sharon Thompson
 Dale Timmons
 Andrea Ulrich
 Frank Walls
 Trish White
 Jeff Wiley
 Fred Wilkes
 Elvelta Williams
 Karen Williams
 Gail Wilson
 Family & Friends of
 Carter Whitt
 Cass Wohlleben



*Our Congregation and ministries, All First Responders, Medical Personnel, and all active and reserve members of our armed forces.



PRAISE & WORSHIP

Every Sunday beginning at 9:30-9:40 AM there will be an opportunity to shout, pray, sing, and give testimony & honor to God. Please join us in the sanctuary.

Colin Eversley, Music Minister



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Happy Spring! We want to start a Children's Choir at Hope Church! For more information and to sign-up see Colin Eversley, Music Minister. We would also need a director to lead and help organize children. No experience needed.

Shrove Tuesday



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

is on **Tuesday, March 4th, 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM** in the Christian Education Building Lower Level. Invite your family and friends and join us for a Pancake Supper sponsored by our Youth Group. Free will offering will assist our Youth's participation in conferences. Mark your calendar and come enjoy the starting of Lent Season with everyone. Any questions please contact Lynne Lake 443-854-0708 or Carolee Calo 443-695-2044.

Come Join Us on Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025



Drive by Ashes will be given out in the Learning Center parking lot from 12 Noon til 1 PM

Ash Wednesday Service will be celebrated at 7 PM in the Sanctuary.



LENTEN MIDWEEK SOUP SUPPERS AND SERVICE!!

Mark your calendars!! On Wednesdays during Lent (March 12th, 19th, 26th, April 2nd, 9th), we will have our **MID-WEEK LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND SERVICES** with a 30-45 minute contemplative worship time and some singing in the Christian Education Building Lower Level/All Stars Learning Center at **6:00 pm**. Please join us!



We need volunteers to make soup for our Soup Supper each Wednesday during Lent!

A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Let Thea Melton know if you will be able to make soup. Email text, or call Thea—410-585-5670, baylady57@gmail.com. Come join us!

COME JOIN US ON OUR LENTEN JOURNEY!

On Sundays at 10 am

and

Midweek Lenten Soup Supper & Service on
Wednesdays during Lent.



LENTEN CALENDAR

March 9 2025 1st Sunday in Lent
March 16, 2025 2nd Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025 3rd Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025 4th Sunday in Lent
April 6, 2025 5th Sunday on Lent

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULES

April 13th PALM SUNDAY Service at 10:00 AM
April 17th MAUNDY THURSDAY Service at 7:00 PM
April 18th GOOD FRIDAY Service at 7:00 PM
April 19th EASTER VIGIL Service *Online only* at 7:00 PM
April 20th EASTER SUNDAY at
8:30 AM Traditional Service with Holy Communion &
10:30 AM Contemporary/Family Service with Holy
Communion.

***CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** Please join us for a continental; breakfast between the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM services on Easter Sunday.



Bible Study and Small Groups

At Hope Church we take seriously the Great Commission of the Risen Jesus to "go, make disciples of all nations... teaching them..." We offer a variety of opportunities for people of all ages to deepen their faith through small group Bible study. Please join us!

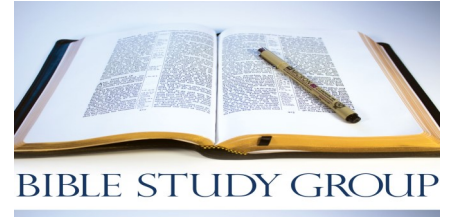
To register, call 410-686-7587 or email hopelsecretary@outlook.com.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

There will be no Zoom meetings on Wednesdays during Lent.

Saturday Morning Bible Study

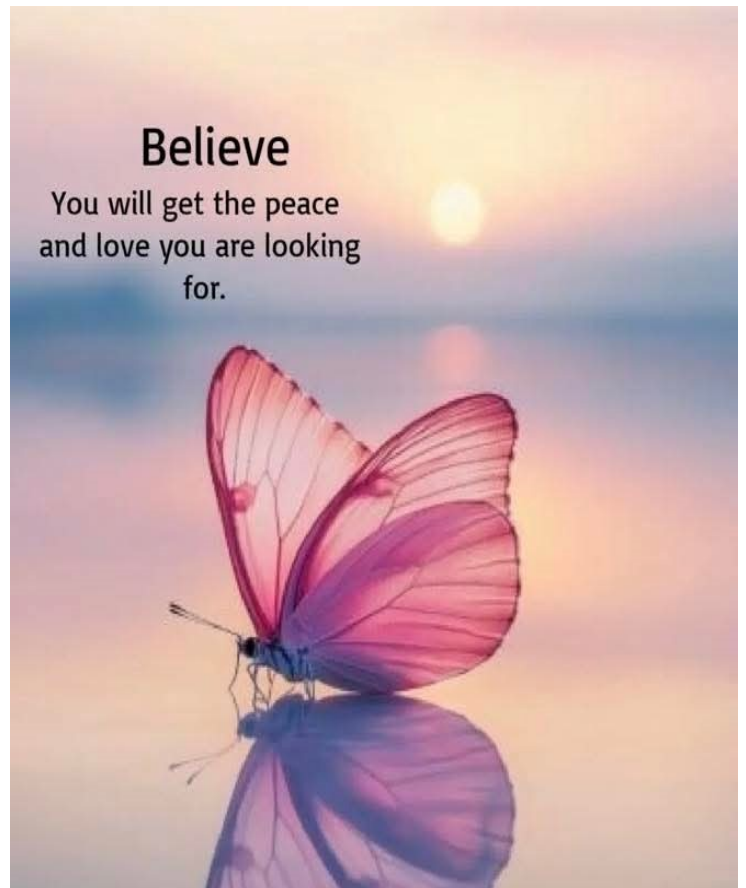
There will be no Zoom meetings on Saturday during Lent.



We will be starting a new Bible series after Easter

Holy God, write your Word on our hearts so that we might move with gracefulness through the world, balanced and whole.

In Jesus' name, Amen.





CHOIR REHEARSAL: Rehearsal will be after our 10:00 AM church service every Sunday. The choir is asking all interested persons to please join the choir and sing, praising God each week.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT UPDATE

As many of you know, one of Hope Church's efforts to address local food insecurity is in the form of weekly backpacks of nutritious foods and snacks provided for weekend use at home to seven students identified by Middleborough school staff as being able to benefit from this support. A small grocery gift card is also provided monthly.

Our Food for Thought team and recipient families are very grateful for the generous financial support by church members and visitors that make the program possible. We also appreciate the donations by Chi Sigma Sorority and Military Family Resource Fund arranged by Sue Alexander and Bob Schweitzer respectively. A \$500 matching grant from the ELCA Hunger Task Force is also greatly appreciated (and the matching funds you help provide!)

A new fund raiser is now being planned. Watch for details coming soon!

Marge Carl,
Food For Thought
Chairperson

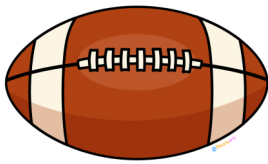
Our Youth Group

They participated in worship on Sunday, February 2nd and gathered for a meeting and pizza afterwards.



Dear church,

Thank you to everyone who were able to join our Youth for their Super Bowl "Fundraiser" in support of our Youth providing dinner for Streets of Hope Shelter. They collected \$60.17 for the Eagles and \$16.96 for the Kansas City Chiefs. Thank you!



Youth Group News

Our Youth will be participating in the church service the first Sunday of each month, next on **March 2nd**. A meeting of the Youth Group will follow the church service. As a reminder, please bring \$3 per youth to cover pizza cost. All youth are welcome to attend.





Paint Sunday Youth Fundraiser

The youth group will be having a Paint Fundraiser on **March 23, 2025, time 12:30 to 2:30 PM**. The cost will be **\$25**. This will help the Youth Retreat cost for our August 2025 trip to Ocean City. There will be limited tickets available. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

See Lynne Lake
for payment.

Any questions please contact Lynne Lake at 443-854-0708.

70th Anniversary Celebration Thank You

Beloved people of Hope,

Thank you! Words really cannot express how grateful I am for the wonderful fellowship, meal, stories, hugs, and laughter on Sunday to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Hope. It was so much fun to see many people and meet new friends. Thank you Hope for extending such warm welcome and hospitality to everyone.

A huge thank you to all the folks, especially Thea Melton who put together a marvelous 70th anniversary celebration picnic in the summer of 2024 and now a banquet.

As I said on Sunday, I am ever so grateful to be here serving among you and alongside you in our shared life together in Christ. To hear and share our stories. To see and experience and wonder and imagine and dream where God is calling us to next. And to be this church who is the people of Hope.

With joy in Christ,
Pastor Meheret



HOPE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Date: January 19th, 2025

Time: 2:00PM to 6:00PM

70th ANNIVERSARY

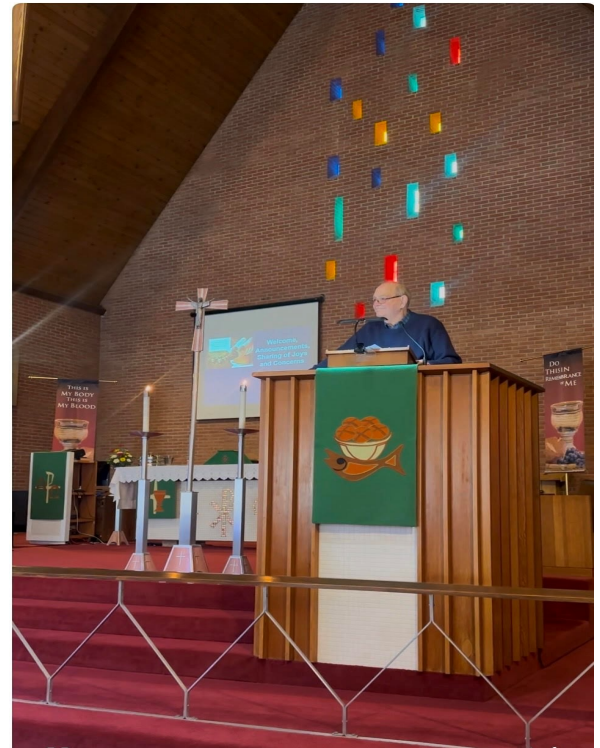


Joining in our celebration were Pastor Meheret Caruthers, Bishop Bill Gohl, Pastor Carl Myers (who served here at Hope in the 90's) and Pastor Christine Myers Parker (who spent some of her growing-up years here at Hope.)



As we continue celebrating Hope's 70th Anniversary ...

Sharing some words of memory.....



Irene (below) joined in the celebration by wearing her Hope church's T-shirt



"Pastor Meheret, thank you again for the wonderful 70th Anniversary party! Would you share with the "flower ladies" that the roses finally finished on Thursday, but I loved the arrangement so much, I got new white roses and it's on my nightstand to enjoy a while longer!" From Bishop Gohl

Thank you to the Theas!!



All Stars Christian Learning Center



Hope Lutheran Church
1901 Middleborough Road
Essex, MD 21221
410-686-6060
allstarscenter@yahoo.com



Do you want your child to have an action packed and fun filled Summer?

We invite your child to experience our
"Countries Around the World" Summer Program!

Learn fun facts about N. and S. America, Africa, Asia, and so much more!

Other fun activities will include: STEM, water play, biking obstacles, arts and crafts, spirit week, and special visitors!

Outdoor Activities

- Organized Sports
 - Soccer, Basketball, Baseball
- Sprinkler / Water Balloon Days
- Obstacle Courses

Special Events

- Cook-Out
- Ice Cream Social
- Crazy Olympics

Arts/Crafts

- Make Americana Jewelry
- Decorate a Sun Visor
- Tie-Dye T-Shirts
- Make an Olympic Medal
- Make Cultural Art, Jewelry, and Masks
- Taste Cultural Foods

**Our Summer Program covers ten weeks¹ of care, beginning June 17, 2024, and ending August 23, 2024. We offer full time care and part-time care. Tuition ranges from \$70.00-\$240.00 per week, with an additional activities fee of \$10.00 per week. Our Center provides breakfast, morning snack, and afternoon snack. Lunch must be provided by parents. For more information and to register your child for our Summer Program, please contact Nicole at 410-686-6060. **

¹ You do not have to sign up for all 10 weeks, but registration is 1st come, 1st served.

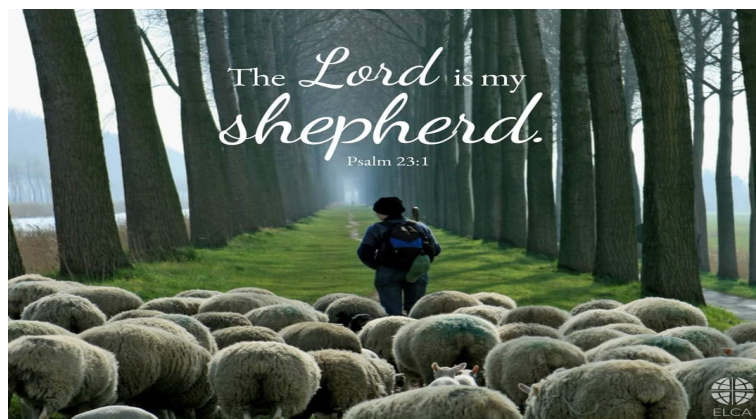
This organization and its materials are not affiliated with, sponsored by, or endorsed by Baltimore County Public Schools, the Superintendent, or this Baltimore County Public School or Office.

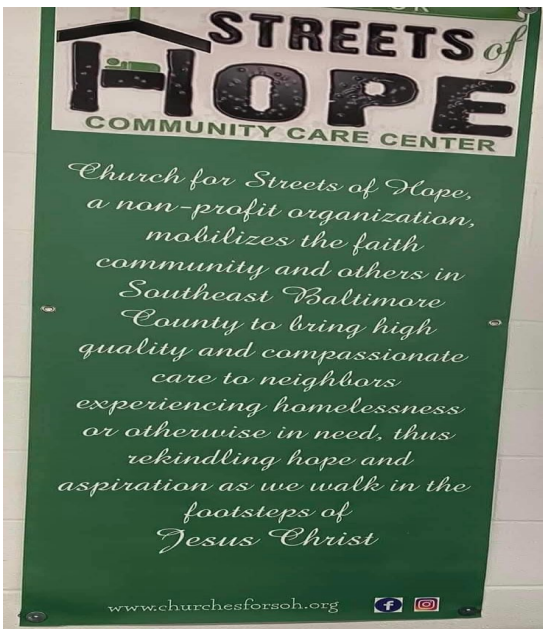


GriefShare is a 13-week support group that focuses on topics associated with the loss of a loved one. Weekly videos feature grief experts and real-life stories from people. After the video there is small group discussion.

Your loss maybe recent or not. You will find encouragement, comfort, and support in dealing with your grief. This is an opportunity to be around people that truly understand.

GriefShare will be held weekly on **Monday evenings beginning at 7 pm** and **Sunday afternoons at 12 noon**. To register go to GriefShare.org/findagroup and search for **Hope Lutheran Church**. There is no cost to register. However, there is a \$25 charge for the book that accompanies the session. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Schmidt-Presnell or Laurie Koontz. cindy1213griefshare@outlook.com or ext 443-519-7174





Some of our Youth Group served dinner at the Streets of Hope Men's Shelter on January 4th.

Thank you to Hope Youth Group Leader, Lynne for organizing this great event for the shelter and the youth and for cooking the dinner. Thank you Jack for bringing the food and help in serving. Thank you to Sandy for guiding the youth at the shelter. Thank you to Carolee and Ruth for assisting. Thank you to Hope Youth Group for doing a great job!

We're grateful.



Sweetheart Breakfast
 SATURDAY, FEB 15TH
 8-11 AM
 Back River United Methodist Church
 544 Back River Neck Road, Essex

PLANT & MAGNET SALE!

MENU
 Made-to-order
 Omelets
 French Toast
 Link Sausage
 Hash Browns
 Beverages

RSVP:
 Email
RSVP@churchesforsoh.org
 OR
 Call (443) 632-5433
 Donations to buy a meal for
 our shelter residents are
 greatly appreciated!

*Children 2-12:
 \$10
 Free for 2 and
 under*

*Adults:
 \$15 each (groups
 of 2+)
 \$20 Single Diners*

**CHURCHES FOR
 STREETS of
 HOPE
 COMMUNITY CARE CENTER**

Streets of Hope annual Sweetheart Breakfast! Proceeds go toward helping our cold-weather shelter provide services for those in need.

***Our Saturday Morning Bible Study group had met at the “Sweetheart Breakfast” at 9am for good food, fellowship and to support this great cause.**

Thank you to everyone who joined us that day!



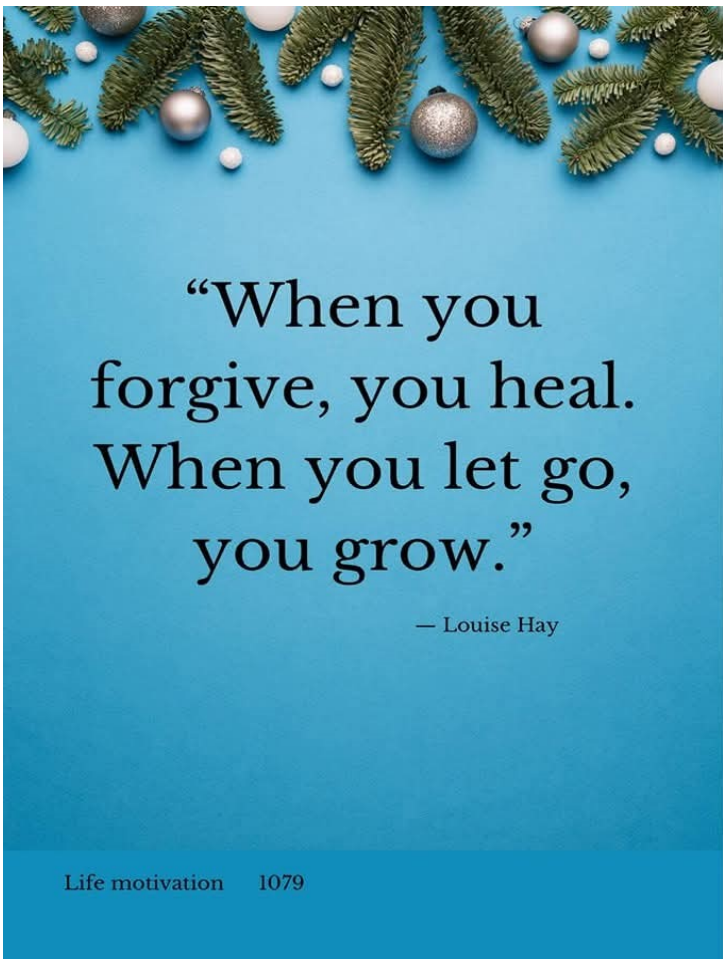
Hope was represented at the Streets of Hope Sweetheart Breakfast. Proceeds go towards helping the cold-weather shelter provide services for those in need. Thank you to all who were able to come out to enjoy great breakfast, fellowship and support a great cause. Thank you so much to Sandy, Linda and Tom for all your hard work.

QUILTING MINISTRY: Join us!!! We meet every Monday at 10:00 AM in the Choir Room.

Hope Quilting ministry team representatives made their annual trip to Lutheran World Relief Warehouse in New Windsor, MD yesterday to deliver donated quilts for distribution to people all over the world who are displaced because of natural disaster, political and civil unrest and famine.

We are very grateful for this ministry of sharing love with our neighbors. "God's work, Our hands." May God bless Hope Quilting Ministry Team.

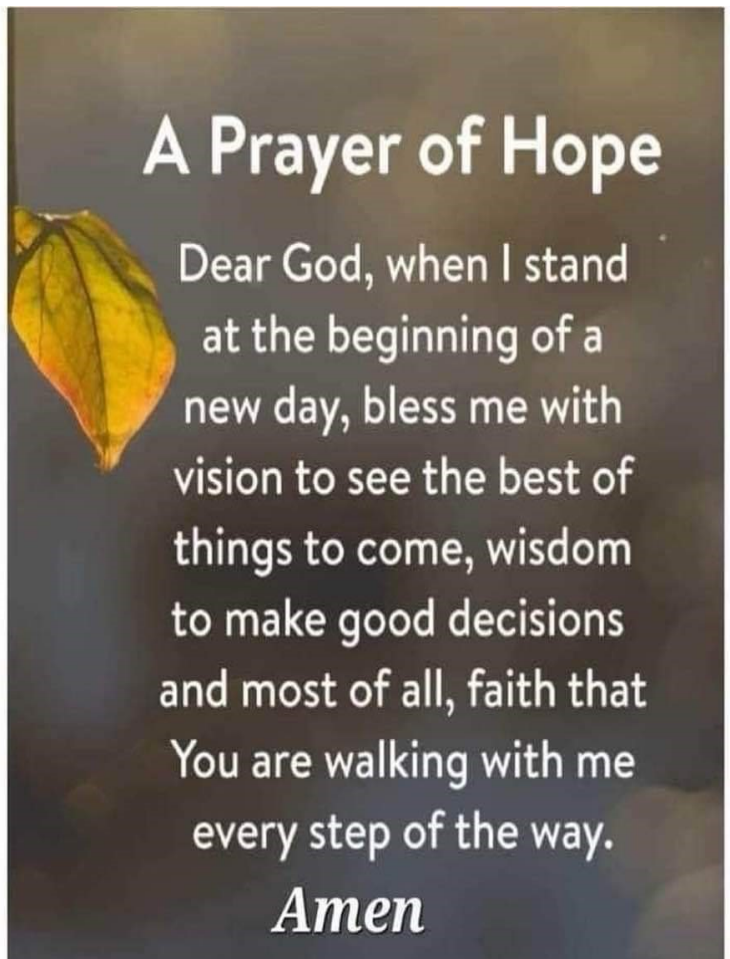




“When you
forgive, you heal.
When you let go,
you grow.”

— Louise Hay

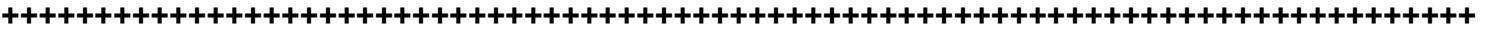
Life motivation 1079



A Prayer of Hope

Dear God, when I stand
at the beginning of a
new day, bless me with
vision to see the best of
things to come, wisdom
to make good decisions
and most of all, faith that
You are walking with me
every step of the way.

Amen



Trust
IN THE *Lord*

With All Your Heart

and lean not unto your own
understanding. In all your ways
acknowledge him, and he
will direct your paths.

PROVERBS 3:5-6



Don't compare
yourself to others.
There's no comparison
between the sun and the
moon. They shine when
it's their time.



March Birthdays



Birthday Blessings

01	Cass Wohlleben
04	Steve Lightner
07	Kayla Watson Eck
08	Amelia Caruthers
08	Frederick Neewary
11	Bill Hoffman
13	Jeanne Faust
13	Brian Frueh
17	Lynne Lake
18	Mary Lee Porter
24	Jeff Patten
30	Ron Hershey



Worship Themes for March 2025

Date/Day	Scripture texts	Theme
March 2 Transfiguration of Our Lord	Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2 Luke 9:28-43a	Coming down from Mount Sinai, Moses' face shone Proclaim the greatness of the Lord; worship upon God's holy hill. With unveiled faces we see the Lord's glory as we transformed Jesus is transfigured on the mountain
March 9 Lent 1	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13	The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. If you confess that Jesus is Lord, you will be saved The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days
March 16 Lent 2	Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17—4:1 Luke 13:31-35	The covenant with Abram and his descendents In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. Our citizenship is in heaven from where we expect a Savior I Have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her brood
March 23 Lent 3	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9	Everyone who thirsts, come to the water, seek the Lord O God, eagerly I seek you, my soul thirsts for you. Israel, baptized in cloud and seas, ate the same spiritual food as Christians Unless you repent, you will perish, parable of the fig tree
March 30 Lent 4	Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3,11b-32	Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord. The mystery and ministry of reconciliation The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son

Listen for
God's Voice
 In everything you do

Duty Schedule for: March 2025

10:00	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Assist	Bob Schweitzer	Thea Melton	Colan Kahl	John Kelly	Joan Schweitzer
Lector	Lynne Lake & The Youth	Thea Coker	Jess Kahl	Marge Carl	John Kelly
Serve if needed	None	None	None	Bob Schweitzer	None
Ushers	Carolee Calo Denise McLaughlin	Sue Alexander Jackie Eversley	Eric Eszes Christina Lacko Carol Ogle	Linda Moler Debbie Schmidt	Donna Jacob Laurie Koontz
Counters	Bob Schweitzer Denise McLaughlin	Bob Schweitzer Thea Melton	Colan Kahl Joan Schweitzer	Linda Moler Joan Schweitzer	Donna Jacob Steve Kahl
Flowers	Deborah Schmidt Sign-up Available	Sign-up Available Sign-up Available	Steve & Sharyn Kahl Sign-up Available	Jeff & Kate Patten Chuck & Michelle Kroner	Rick & Carolee Calo Sign-up Available
Sunday School	Rachel Morgan	Carolee Calo	Ruth Kraeger	Denise McLaughlin	Rachel Morgan

*Wednesday March 5th—Ash Wednesday—TBD



Love. Grow. Serve.

MARCH

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Welcome Spring</p> <p><small>coloringpage.es</small></p>			<p>HELLO SPRING</p>		<p>1 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Study</p>	
<p>2 10:00 AM Worship in person 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3 10:00 AM Quilters 6:00 PM Streets of Hope</p>	<p>4 6:00 PM Streets of Hope</p>	<p>5 12:00 PM Drive by Ashes 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>6 10:00 AM & 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel in the sanctuary</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Study</p>
<p>9 10:00 AM Worship in person 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal Daylight Savings Time</p>	<p>10 10:00 AM Quilters </p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 6:00 PM Midweek Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Service</p>	<p>13 10:00 AM & 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel in the sanctuary</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Study at Two Guys Restaurant</p>
<p>16 10:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17 10:00 AM Quilters </p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 6:00 PM Midweek Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Service</p>	<p>20 10:00 AM & 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel in the sanctuary</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Study</p>
<p>23 10:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 10:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Council Meeting </p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 6:00 PM Midweek Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Service</p>	<p>27 10:00 AM & 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel in the sanctuary</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Study</p>
<p>30 10:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary</p>	<p>31 10:00 AM Quilters </p>					





Spring Forward

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

**Daylight Savings begins on Sunday March 9th!
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour on
Saturday night or you will be late for church!**



God of healing and wholeness,

you make all things new and bring us to new life. Restore broken relationships in the church. Heal divisions. Unite the body of Christ. Help us show your love to all people.

Bread for the Day



Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Staff

1901 Middleborough Rd. Baltimore, MD 21221

Pastor **Meheret Caruthers** • Office 410-686-7587 • Cell 240-413-7515

E-Mail: meheretyon@gmail.com

Music Director: **Colin Eversley** • Cell 410-499-2291

E-Mail: craeversley11@hotmail.com

Secretary: **Shirley Edmonston** • Office 410-686-7587

E-Mail: hopelsecretary@outlook.com Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.

Council President: **Bob Schweitzer** • Home 443-844-0065

Council VP: **Jeff Patten** • Home 410-456-5464

Council Secretary: **Denise McLaughlin** • Home 410-686-0199

Treasurer: **John Kelly** • Cell 443-770-0127

Gina Baker - 410-456-9548

Nicole Eck - 443-271-4014

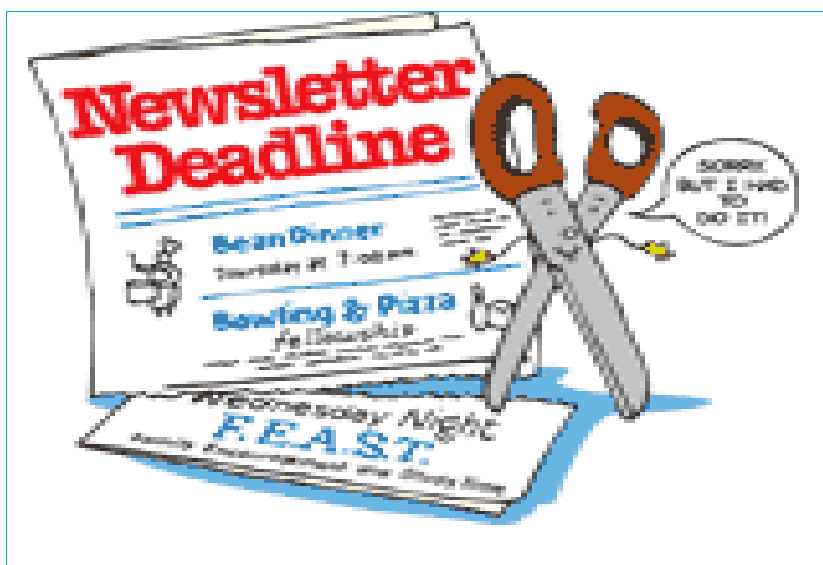
Colan Kahl, Past Pres.—410-292-2544

Sharyn Kahl - 410-574-3060

Lynne Lake - Youth Leader - 443-854-0708

Vicki Lesko - 410-630-2228

Thea Melton - 410-585-5670



**Articles for the April
Messenger are due by
Thursday
March 20, 2025**