

The Messenger



2021



**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1901 MIDDLEBOROUGH RD, ESSEX MD 21221**



**Friday, December 24
Family Christmas Eve
Celebration 7:00 a.m.**

Children are welcome at all our worship services, but this one is designed with children and families in mind. A more informal service with a Special children's message and a sermon, plenty of beloved Christmas carols and choir music, ending with Holy Communion and candle lighting.

**Friday, December 24
Traditional Candlelight
Christmas Eve 10:00 PM**

Join us for this classic Lutheran "Midnight Mass" Filler with Christmas carols and choir music, the telling of the Christmas story and Holy Communion, ending with the candle lighting ceremony.

**Sunday, December 26
Service of Lessons and Car-
ols & Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.**

We celebrate with special worship on Sunday morning with lessons, carols, prayers and the Lord's Supper at 10:00 a.m. Come and join us as we celebrate the new-born king.



*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel -
Lutheran Service Book #357 st. 1*

There is something unique about the Season of Advent. For example, imagine being a faithful Jew 2,000 years ago. For thousands of years your people prayed to God for deliverance. God told you that a Messiah, the Christ, would come to save you. You believe God's promise and you wait, and you wait, and you wait for that day to come. You pray, and you pray, and you pray for that day to come. There were probably many times you would have thought God forgot about you, or that maybe God changed His mind. But then all of a sudden, an angel appears to a young virgin, a star leads wiseman, shepherds see more angels than they can count, and there in a stable lies a little baby. In that manger rests everyone's prayers they prayed for thousands of years. In that manger rests all the promises God made to His people for thousands of years.

The season of Advent is unique. It is a season of longing. Advent is a time when our prayers focus upon that First coming of Jesus as well as the Second coming of Jesus. Like the Jews of thousands of years ago, we can also pray for the Christ to come, but this time to come again. Sometimes we may feel like saying to God, and maybe even do say to God, "How long do I have to wait? Where is my deliverance?" Maybe we really aren't too different from the faithful who waited for the First coming of Jesus. There is one difference though, a very large difference.

In many ways, we are more blessed than the Jews of thousands of years ago. We are more blessed because we have much more than a promise; we have the promise's fulfillment in Jesus. Do we still wait? Of course we do! Do we still wrestle with our daily lives and in tears sometimes cry to God? Of course, and that will not change in this life. But what has changed is this - you actually get to hold your Deliverer in your hands every time you have the Lord's Supper and be reassured your deliverance has come. You get to hear Him sing hymns to you and speak Words to comfort you, your comforter has come. You have Jesus. Advent is a time to long for Jesus to return again and to redeem all of heaven and earth. This is God's promise to you. He fulfilled this promise in Christ and one day, you will see it with your own two eyes when He returns again. Until that day comes, may our hearts always pray, "*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel.*"

~Pastor Meheret





Notice of Semi-Annual

Winter Congregational Meeting

The next Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation is on December 5, 2021 immediately following the 10am service. The business of this meeting will be to approve the 2022 budget, elect new officers and members at large, and report on our financial status. If there is anyone that is interested in holding a position on the Congregation Council, there is still time to be a part of this important ministry at Hope. This meeting will only be held in the sanctuary and not available virtually. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting.



Calling all members! At this year's Winter Congregational Meeting, we will have elections of Church Council Officers and Members. Prayerfully consider volunteering to serve as officers and council members.



**Join us on Sundays in the Sanctuary at
10 a.m. 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. Please join us for in-person Worship Service and Holy Communion in our sanctuary on Sundays at 10:00 AM. We will live stream or record our 10:00 AM Worship Service and the filmed worship will be uploaded & posted on our Facebook page and YouTube Channel by early afternoon on Sundays.



*Join us for a special Lessons & Carols worship
service on*

Sunday, December 26 at 10:00 a.m.

Through readings of scripture and through song we continue to celebrate the newborn king.

This year, don't lose sight of what really matters about the holidays. Let's focus on Christ this Christmas. God sent his Son to be the Savior of all people. He came to win forgiveness and make us right again with God. Join us on Sunday after Christmas as we focus on Jesus Christ, God's gift to the world. Our worship will feature this good news, favorite Christmas carols, Holy Communion and a place for families to connect with Jesus, our Savior.

Join us for a worship of song and readings!



Edgar Amos, Jr.
Gail Anuszewski
Kaitlyn Floyd-Baier
Connie Baker
Sue Baucom
Jeanne, Wayne &
Kate Benner
Dennis Berry
Kathy Binas
Mary Bodenschatz
Christie Booth
Debbie Brooks
Debbie Bryant
Bill Brynes
Brooke Burns
Margaret Cain
Sharyl Clark
Ed Cornelius
Shirley Cosgrove
Patrick J. Curran
Chuck DeWitt
Freddie Ditmar
Lynn Eckles
Susan Enclade
Lois Farber
Anna Faust
Cassandra Fleckenstein
Bobbie Floyd
Amy Folk
Mike Gerald
Pierre Gibbons
Jim, Gibson
Ellen Gollhardt

Cassidy Gore
Corrine Guernsey
Donna Hager
Daniel Hanke
Shirley Harrison
Juliana Hasson
Beverly Hoffman
Karen Hoffman
John Hoffman
Karen Holzopf
Scott Hower
Leondra Jefferson
Joan Kincaid
Leonard Kincaid
Michelle Kincaid
Mickey Koontz
Family of Robert Kratz
Matt Kretzschmar
Ruby Krug
Sharon LaBelle
Leah Lane
June Leap
Alix Lindley
Harriet Lloyd
Karen Malpas
Robin Marshall
Michael McCoy
Ellen McKenna
Buddy McLaughlin
John Miklos
Marsha Millender
Brian Miller
Joanne Miller

Brandi Miner
Jim Nemec
Laurie Nemec
Frank Neukam
Hannah Noack
Terry Novak
Rick O'Dea
Pat Owens
Judy Crockett Peddiford
Krista Pellegrini
Francesca Prado
Inez Rasinski
Cass Rayman
Cliff Rodney
Yvonne Ryan
Connie Sanders
Jeff Sanders
Jeanine Schenning
Sarah Schnept
Barbara Shelly
Gracie Smith
Vivian Smith
John Stiemly
Eloise Stumpf
Mike Stumpf
Mary Wallington
Norbert Wilson
Richard Wrobel
Susan Yelton
Heather Zimmer

Our Congregation and ministries, All First Responders, Medical Personnel, all families affected by COVID-19 and all active and reserve members of our armed forces.

Please notify our church office if you want to add or delete any names from the Prayer List.





PRAISE & WORSHIP

Every Sunday morning, 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.

CHOIR REHEARSAL! WELCOME TO HOPE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHOIR, The definition of HOPE- a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.

CHOIR'S DESIRE: We are seeking new members to participate, fellowship, and meet people while serving the Lord.

REQUIREMENTS: NONE

AUDITION: NONE

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE: Every **Thursday, at 6:30 PM.**

Any questions please contact Colin Eversley, Music Minister.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

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 the children. No experience needed!

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. To register, call (410) 686-7587 or email [hopesecondary@outlook.com](mailto:hopesecretary@outlook.com).

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Zoom meetings on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. The theme for this Winter season is "Justice, Law, History" from Augsburg Adult Bible Study Series. Please Join Us!

Saturday Morning Breakfast Bible Study

meets 9:00 AM-10:00 AM every Saturday via zoom. We will be studying "Justice, Law, History", same as the Wednesday Bible Study Group from Augsburg Adult Bible Studies.

*****If you would like to join any of the Bible Studies, please let Pastor Meheret know and she will share links, phone number and meeting ID with you and more information. Pastor Meheret, meheretyon@gmail.com, Cell: (240) 413 7515**





Join us!!! **HOPE'S QUILTERS** meet every Monday at 10:00 AM in the Choir Room. No professional requirements necessary. You just need to be able to sew a straight line, cut, iron material and enjoy fellowship!



Family Service Celebration

7:00 PM

Traditional Service

Celebration

10:00 PM



December 2021 Worship Scriptures



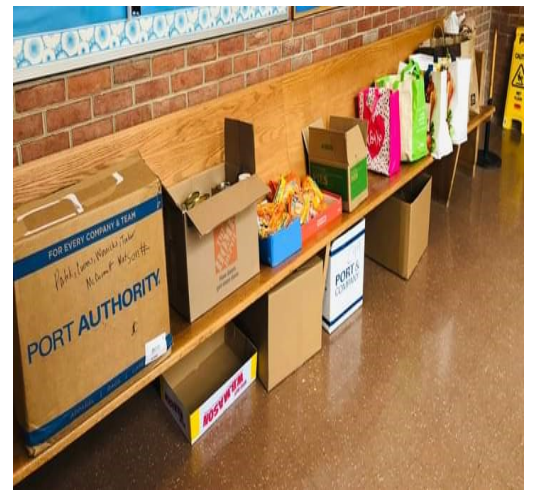
December 5 Second Sunday in Advent	<u>Malachi 3:1-4</u> <i>My messenger is a refiner and purifier</i> <u>Luke 1:68-79</u> <i>In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.</i> <u>Philippians 1:3-11</u> <i>A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ</i> <u>Luke 3:1-6</u> <i>Prepare the way of the Lord</i>
December 12 Third Sunday in Advent	<u>Zephaniah 3:14-20</u> <i>Rejoice, the Lord is in your midst</i> <u>Isaiah 12:2-6</u> <i>In your midst is the Holy One of Israel.</i> <u>Philippians 4:4-7</u> <i>Rejoice, the Lord is near</i> <u>Luke 3:7-18</u> <i>One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire</i>
December 19 Fourth Sunday in Advent	<u>Micah 5:2-5a</u> <i>From Bethlehem comes a ruler</i> <u>Luke 1:46b-55</u> <i>You Lord, have lifted up the lowly.</i> <u>Hebrews 10:5-10</u> <i>I have come to do your will</i> <u>Luke 1:39-55</u> <i>Blessed are you among women/My soul magnifies the Lord</i>
December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Family 7:00 pm Traditional 9:30 PM	<u>Isaiah 9:2-7</u> <i>Light shines: a child is born for us</i> <u>Psalms 96</u> <i>Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad</i> <u>Titus 2:11-14</u> <i>The grace of God has appeared</i> <u>Luke 2:1-20</u> <i>God with us</i>
December 26 First Sunday after Christmas Lessons and Carols	<u>1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26</u> <i>The boy Samuel grew in favor with the Lord and the people</i> <u>Psalms 148</u> <i>The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven</i> <u>Colossians 3:12-17</u> <i>Clothe yourselves in love, let the peace of Christ rule your hearts</i> <u>Luke 2:41-52</u> <i>The boy Jesus increased in wisdom, and in divine and human favor</i>

God
ALWAYS
KEEPS HIS Promises

Thanksgiving at Hope

Our Hope Outreach Ministry Team would like to thank our church family who made donations for our Thanksgiving Hope Food Basket. With all your help, we were able to provide Thanksgiving Food Baskets for 18 families in our community this year. We truly appreciate your generosity which helps many who are struggling, especially during this unprecedented time and holiday season. We especially would like to say thank you to Sandy, Linda, Margie, Harlan, Deacon Robin, Middleborough Elementary School and everyone who purchased, assembled and distributed the food. "God's work, Our hands".

"May the blessings of this season be with you always"



Reflections in the Plate...

Written by *Jeff Patten*

Reflections in the Plate

*The holiday dinner... what an interesting phenomenon,
Family and friends at the annual gathering.
Around the table the excitement of the holiday is shared collectively,
...as well as the memories of the past.*

*Memories of those long departed are re-acquainted with the oldest members
... and introduced to the new.
The link from past to present becomes filled with
passion both of joy ... and of sadness,
Re-affirming life's quest of young to old.*

*The transition from the youthful listener, to that of
the elder storyteller,
Stories of long ago... sounding like fairy tales
from far away lands.
The realization of life's mortality, and the short
breath of life we all share on this earth.*



*Yet eerily the table is filled with the same people,
The faces have changed, but the friendship and love is no different.
Stories have different players, but the intrigue of the past is the same,*

And the chain of love continues... for eternity.



Jeff. 01/03

Thanksgiving Decorations



Thank you to Bob and Joan Schweitzer for decorating our sanctuary so beautifully for our Thanksgiving!

Christmas
Food Baskets



Christmas HOPE BASKETS

Because of your generous contributions and gifts towards Our Thanksgiving Hope Food Baskets, we were able to reach our goal of providing Christmas Hope Food Baskets and gifts for our children and families in need in our community. Thank you and God bless you for all your generosity.





Feeding the Community



Food for Thought Update

We are happy to report that in January we will be resuming our weekend backpacks of nutritious foods for nine students at Middleborough School who have been identified as being able to benefit from this support. Financial or food donations are always welcome and lists of types of foods recommended by the Food for Thought nutritionist are available on the table in the narthex. Thank you for your support.

We want to thank Middleborough School for contributing foods from their fall-food drive that will support not only Food for Thought but also has generously supported Hope's Holiday Food boxes for local families. Thank you students, families, and staff for your kind and generous support!



Streets of Hope



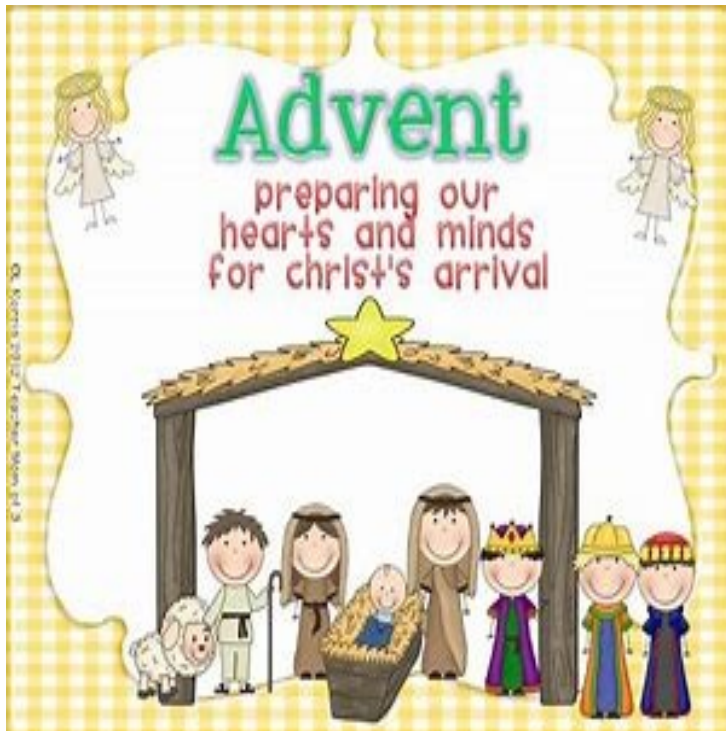
The Streets of Hope Men's Shelter is now open for a cold weather. **Our church will be providing dinner on the 4th of every month.** The shelter is in need of Paper plates, paper cups, paper napkins and disposable utensils. If anyone would be interested in providing these things, please contact Sandy Cincinnati at (443) 324 8355 for further details.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out.

The shelter will be open thru April.

Volunteers
do not necessarily
have the time;
they just have the *heart*.





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CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND



May the **WILL** of **GOD** take you, where the **GRACE** of **GOD** will keep you, where the arms of God will support you, where the **WISDOM** of **GOD** will teach you, and may the **POWER** of **GOD** protect you today and all of your tomorrows.

Faith doesn't always take you out of the problem, Faith takes you through the problem. Faith doesn't always take away the pain, Faith gives you the ability to handle the pain. Faith doesn't always take you out of the storm, Faith calms you in the midst of the storm. Amen

POSITIVITY IN LIFE

LIFE is a *Garden* Dig In!



I can do **ALL THINGS** through *Christ* who **STRENGTHENS** me.
—Phillippians 4:13





The History of the Candy Cane

The original candy cane was made 350 years ago. Over time the candy cane has become a symbol and tradition during the Christmas holiday, used as a decoration for Christmas trees. The first candy cane was not made in the shape of a cane. It was white, completely straight and only flavored with sugar.

Legend has it that in 1670, the cane shaped candy became historical when a choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany bent the sugar-sticks into canes to appear as shepherd's hooks. The all-white candy canes were given out to children who attended the ceremonies. This became a popular tradition, and eventually the practice during church ceremonies which spread all over Europe and America.

The first documented example of the use of candy canes to celebrate Christmas occurred in 1847, when August Imgard, a German-Swedish immigrant, from Wooster, Ohio decorated the Christmas tree with paper ornaments and candy canes.

The solid white sugar canes were on Christmas cards in the early 1900's. The first red and white striped candy canes were made at the turn of the 19th century. At the same time the first striped candy canes appeared, and candy makers added the peppermint flavor which quickly became a traditional flavor.

In the 1920's Bob McCormack, from Atlanta, was the first to use candy canes as special treats for Christmas for his friends and family. In the beginning the red and white candy canes were made by hand and producing them were labor intensive. The laborious process of making candy canes was eliminated in the 1950's when a machine designed especially for the automation of candy cane productions was invented by Gregory Keller (Bob's brother-in-law). His company, Bob's Candies was the first company to mass-produce and distribute candy canes worldwide, and has been in business for over eighty years.

Many people believe that the shape and form of the candy cane have religious meaning. It is believed that the red stripes of the candy cane represent the blood of Christ and the white stripes of the candy cane represent the purity of Christ. The three fine stripes are believed to represent the Holy Trinity. The 'J' shape of the candy cane is said to represent the name of Jesus. The solid texture or hardness of the candy cane is said to symbolize the solid rock foundation of the Church. The peppermint flavor is supposed to stem from an herb called hyssop. In the Old Testament hyssop was used to symbolize the purity of Jesus and the sacrifice he made. The crook shape is said to symbolize a shepherd's crook.

Either way, the candy cane is now a traditional symbol of the Christmas holiday. Today, candy canes are available in different shapes, colors and flavors, but the red and white peppermint candy cane still remains the classic favorite among candy canes.

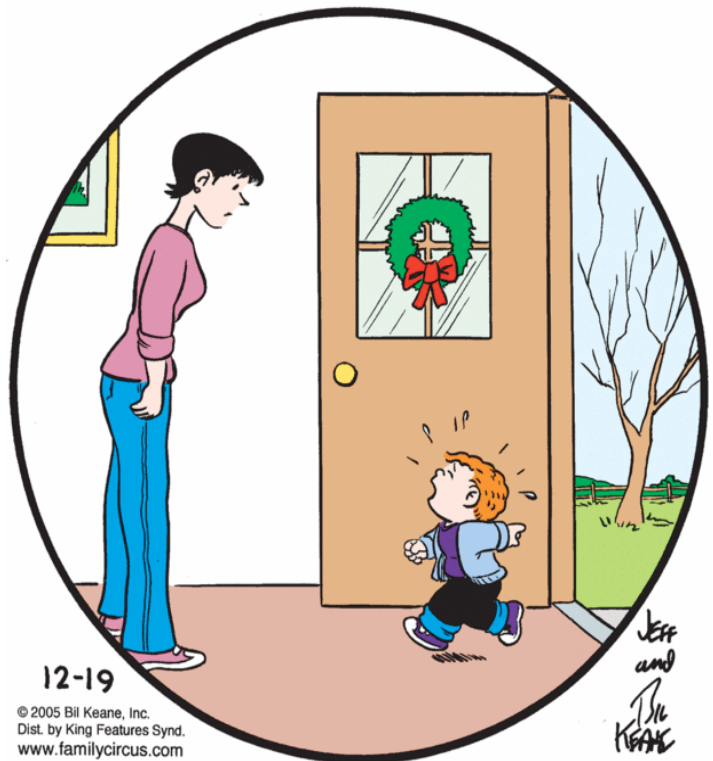
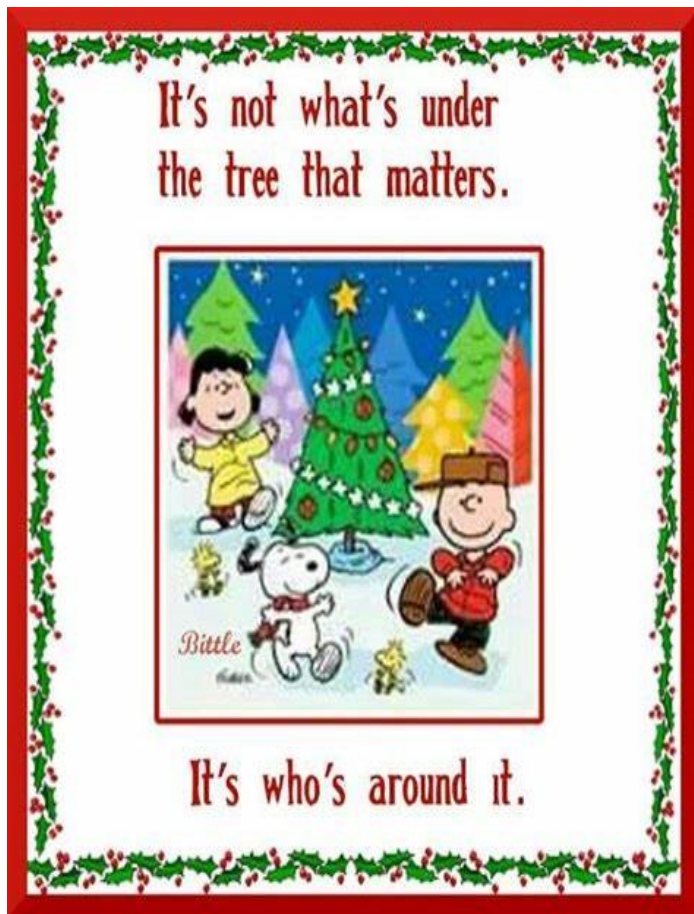
ALL STARS Christian Learning Center

A ministry of
Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
**IS NOW ENROLLING FOR OUR
FALL PRE-K AND BEFORE & AFTER
SCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS**
MONDAY - FRIDAY 6:30AM - 6PM
AGES 3 - 11

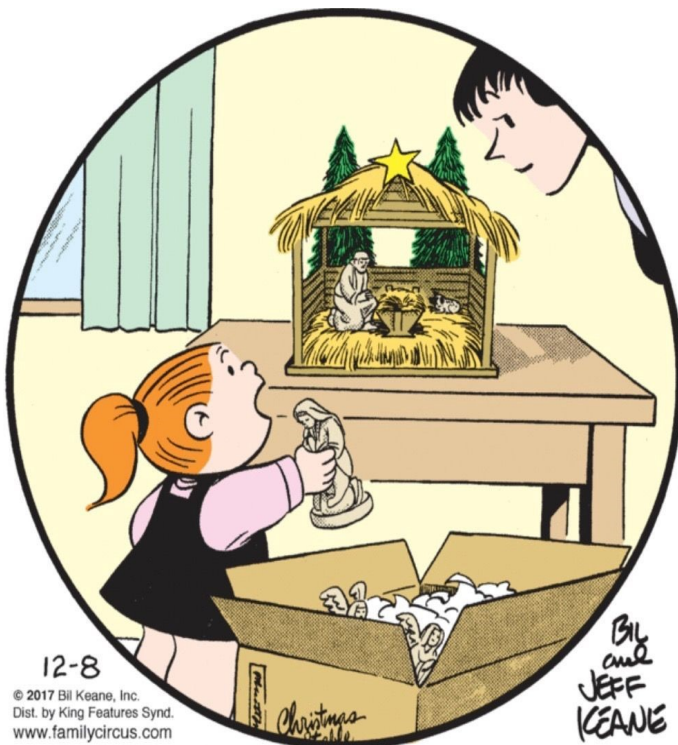
Contact 410-686-6060
or email allstarscenter@yahoo.com
We provide programs with a strong Christian emphasis.

We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, ancestry, disability, marital status, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Reasonable accommodation will be provided for qualified children with disabilities upon request, as specified under the American with Disabilities Act. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment.

ALL STARS LEARNING CENTER: Great News! Now enrolling for our Fall Pre-K and Before & After Care Programs. Monday—Friday, 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. Full-time and Partime care available, ages 3-12 years old. All Stars Learning Center offers **safe, quality, and affordable** care within a **loving, Christian** setting. Our staff is committed to providing children with a **nurturing** environment by continually evaluating, improving, and enriching our teaching skills and techniques. We offer a **range of experiences** through our Pre-K program including **math, science, social studies, literature, language development, pre-reading and pre-writing skills, music, and art**. Contact us today 410-686-6060 or email allstarscenter@yahoo.com.



**"Billy won't let me join in any
reindeer games."**



**"We should make Mary lie down
in the straw. She's 'specting
a baby, you know."**



"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!"



4	Jade Lightner	25	Fred Hays
11	Jane Fabrizio	26	Lois Farber
11	Rodney Horney	27	Nicholas Eck
13	Pat Horney	28	Sharon Shanahan
19	Addison Frueh	29	Alex DeFosse
20	Scott Faust	30	Destin Kahl
23	Barbara Bender	30	Robin Carnaggio
24	John Shanahan	31	Margie Carl





December Duty Schedule 2021

10:00	5	12	19	24 <u>Christmas Eve 7 pm</u>	26
Assist	Eric E.	Joan S.	Robin P.	Assist-Robin P Lector-Bob S. Ushers- Linda Moler/ TBD	Bob S.
Lector	Jeff Patten	John Kelly	Debbie Cannon	Servers: TBD	Joan S.
Server	Bob S.	None	Joan S.		None
Ushers	Peggy T. Denise M.	Carol O. Carolee C.	Sandy C. Eric E.		Donna S. Linda M.
Counters	Bob S. Linda M.	Colan K Joan S.	Peggy T Bob S.	<u>Christmas Eve 10 pm</u> Assist- Bob S. Lector- Joan Ushers- Sandy C./ TBD	Donna S. Steve K.
Flowers	Patten and Price	Kraeger	Calo and Lesko	Servers: TBD	Kahl and Patten
Sunday School	Carolee Calo	Ruth Krae- ger	Denise M.		Carolee C.

For
Unto
us a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a **Son**
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called.
Wonderful, **Counselor**,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6

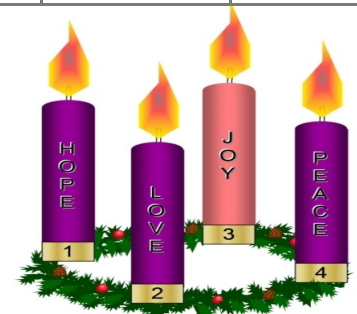




December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel via Zoom 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	2 6:30 PM Choir Practice TBA 	3	4 9:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion via Zoom 10:00 AM Decorate Hope Church for Christmas 6:00 PM Streets of Hope
5 10:00 AM Worship in person and online	6 10:00 AM Quilters QUILTING GROUP	7	8 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel via Zoom 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	9 6:30 PM Choir Practice TBA 	10	11 9:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion via Z STUDY GROUP
12 10:00 AM Worship in person and online	13 10:00 AM Quilters QUILTING GROUP	14	15 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel via Zoom 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	16 6:30 PM Choir Practice TBA 	17	18 9:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion via Z STUDY GROUP
19 10:00 AM Worship in person and online	20 10:00 AM Quilters QUILTING GROUP	21	22 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel via Zoom 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	23 6:30 PM Choir Practice TBA 	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Communion 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candle-light Communion	25
26 10:00 AM Worship in person and online	27 10:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Council Meeting COUNCIL MEETING	28	29 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel via Zoom 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	30	31 Happy New Year's Eve	1





Articles for the
Jan./Feb. Messenger are
due by Wednesday
December 22, 2021

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Staff

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E-Mail: hopesecretary@outlook.com

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

Council Secretary: **Lynda Frueh** • Home 410-465-4275

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

Sharyn Kahl 410-574-3060

Trish Hayes 410-687-3411

Nicole Eck 443-27104014

Denise McLaughlin 410-686-0199

Lynne Lake—Youth Leader 443-854-0708

Jack Crout—Youth President



**Christmas Decorating Saturday,
December 4, 2021
beginning 10:00 AM**



**Join the fun and get into the Christmas spirit
as we decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season.**