

The Messenger



2023



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



**Sunday, December 24
Traditional Advent 4 and
Christmas Eve 10:00 AM**

We celebrate Advent 4 and Christmas with special worship Service on Sunday morning carols, prayers and the Lord's Supper at 10:00 a.m. Come and join us as we celebrate the new-born king.

**Sunday, December 24
Family Christmas Eve
Celebration 7:00 PM**

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.

**Sunday, 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.



THE SEASON OF LIGHT

Our world today presents us with many opportunities, many attractions, and many distractions that make it easy to lose sight of the true meaning of the Christmas season. But in fact, this is the Season of Light whether from the lights of the Christmas tree, the glow of the Advent Wreath candles, or perhaps simply the sky on a rare day of sunshine in a Maryland December. Let the light shine!

May this Season of Light be a time of celebration and cheerfulness, but also a time of reflection. Remember that behind the packages and the lights is the radiance that is our God. See that light in the eyes of the people around you. See it in the eyes of your family and friends. See it in your own face when you look in the mirror. Doing this will allow each of us to welcome that little baby on Christmas, the way that Mary and Joseph so willingly welcomed him into their lives. And know that God so lovingly welcomes us into His.

May the peace of God rule in your dreams. May your joys be fulfilled and your prayers be answered. May you have healing, health, happiness, and prosperity in this season of light.



Join us this Sunday, December 2nd at 10 AM as we begin celebrating the season of Advent and as we light the first candle: the 'hope' candle.

Advent is a beautiful season. The name of the season means "coming," and it celebrates God's coming to us in the birth of Jesus and looks toward Christ's return. Advent always connects us to hope, inspires us, it is always such a hopeful season and reminds us how much we long for brightness in our world. In a simple star, and a tiny baby, God gives us what we truly need. Hope that shines beyond what might seem possible. Thanks be to God!

This Advent, make regular worship part of your Christmas preparations. Sing the songs, pray the prayers and meditate. We look forward to gathering together for these special worship services.

O Come, Let us Adore Him!

Have a blessed Advent,

Pastor Meheret





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

We are currently offering one worship service at 10 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 live on our Facebook page and YouTube Channel.

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”!



- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Gail Anuszewski | Mike Gerald | Ruth Massaroni | Donna Shrouder |
| Bob Baker | Russ Getz | Michael McCoy | Margaret Smith |
| Connie Baker | Pierre Gibbons | Aiden McDermott | Vivian Smith |
| Barbara Becker | Jim, Gibson | Ellen McKenna | John Steiner |
| Bea Benda | Joyce Glover | Buddy McLaughlin's family | John Stiemly |
| Gail Berry | Cassidy Gore | John Melissari | Eloise Stumpf |
| Jessica Berry | Trudy Grauer | John Micklos | Mike Stumpf |
| Pat Berry | Barbara Hanke | Marsha Millender | Phyllis Sult |
| Kathy Binas | Donna Hanke | Brian Miller | John Sweet |
| Mary Bodenschatz | Dennis Harris | Joanne Miller | Teresa |
| Christie Booth | Juliana Hasson | Jim Nemeč | Dale Timmons |
| Ken Brazerol | Beverly Hoffman | Laurie Nemeč | James Wallace, Jr. |
| Aiden Brown | Karen Hoffman | Frank Neukam | Zach Wallace |
| Debbie Bryant | John Hoffman | Terry Novak | Thomas Ward |
| Wilford Buitrago | Karen Holzopf | Barry Ordak | Karen Williams |
| Tony Bunk | Scott Hower | Charmaine Ordak | Gail Wilson |
| Sharyl Clark | J & K | Pat Owens | Susan Yelton |
| Mary Jane Conrad | Leondra Jefferson | Brad Patterson | |
| Walt Crouse's family | Debbie Johnson and Family | Jenn Patterson | |
| Harlan DeHart | Lillian Jones | Kathleen Patterson | |
| Chuck DeWitt | Tom Jubb | Judy Crockett | |
| Lynn Eckles | Kay | Peddiford | |
| Shirley Edmonston | Joan Kincaid | Krista Pellegrini | |
| Belinda Emge | Michelle Kincaid | Evelyn Porter | |
| Mary Emge | Ed Klingentein | Cass Rayman | |
| Susan Enclade | Irene Klingenstein | Dave Raynor | |
| Lois Farber | Mickey Koontz | Yvonne Ryan | |
| Jay Ferrell | Matt Kretzschmar | Jeff Sanders | |
| Harry Fillion, Jr. | Sharon LaBell | Jeanine Schenning | |
| Linda Fillion | Christina Lacko | Sarah Schnept | |
| Cassandra Fleckenstein | Lynne Lake | Nancy Scott | |
| Allen Fleischmann | Leah Lane | Tina Sharfe | |
| Amy Folk | Karen Louden | Barbara Shelly | |
| Derrick Fowler | Mary-Kathryn | Dennis Shrouder | |



Our Congregation and ministries, All First Responders, Medical Personnel 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 Sunday, after the 10:00 service.

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 hopelsecretary@outlook.com.

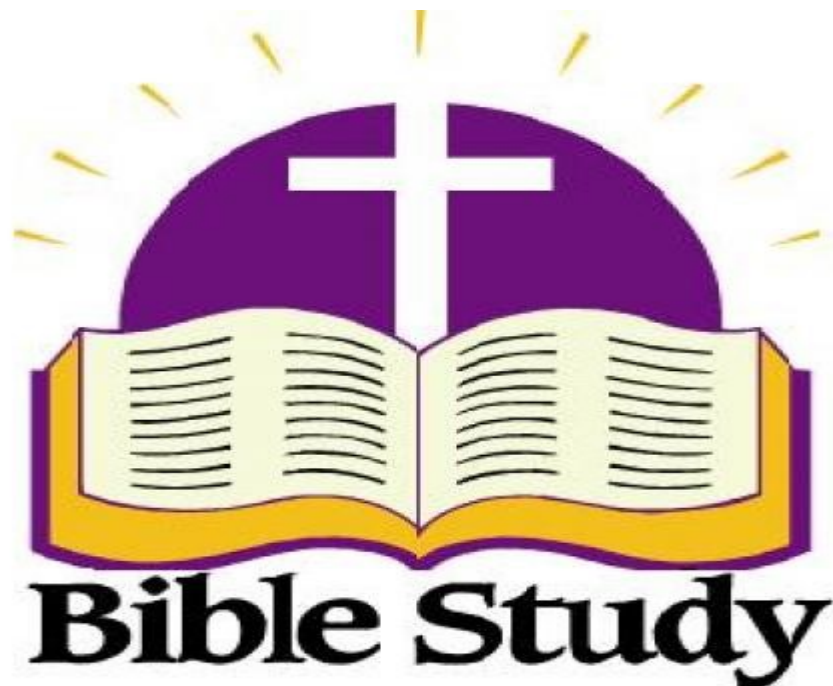
Wednesday Night Bible Study

Zoom meetings on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. The theme for this Winter season is "Faith That Glorifies God" 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 "Faith That Glorifies God", 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**





Notice of Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

The next Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation is on December 3, 2023, immediately following the 10 am service. The business of this meeting will be to adopt the 2024 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. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting.

God's Blessings,

Colan Kahl, Council President



HOPE LADIES CHRISTMAS DINNER:

we cordially invite the ladies of our congregation and their friends to our annual Christmas fellowship dinner to be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 6 pm at Crazy Tuna restaurant.

Each lady is responsible for her own meal. Please bring a \$10 gift wrapped to participate in our gift exchange. Please let us know if you're not able to get a \$10 gift. Please RSVP with Carol Ogle no later than December 11, 2023 at ogle728@aol.com or 410-687-6580 or there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

All Stars Christian Learning Center

Hope Lutheran Church

1901 Middleborough Road

Essex, MD 21221

410-686-6060

allstarscenter@yahoo.com

All Stars Christian Learning Center Offers:



Pre-Kindergarten programs for children, ages 3-4

- 2-day, 3-day and 5-day programs
- 6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Before & After School Care for children, ages 5-12

- For children who attend Middleborough Elementary School or who can be transported to All Stars
- 6:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
and 3:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



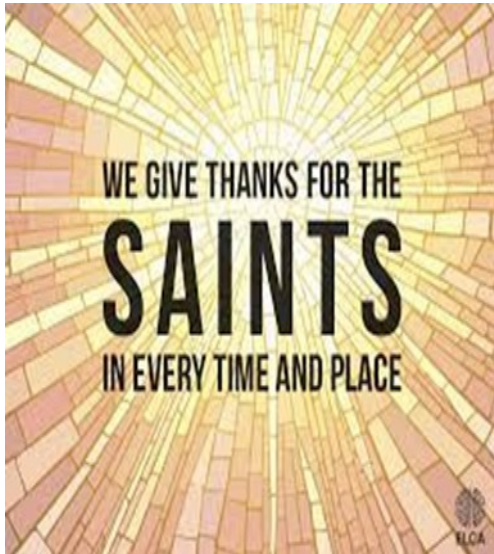
Summer Program for children, ages 3-12

All Stars Christian 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*. We also offer a range of *hands-on* and *fun* experiences through our **Before and After Care** program, as well as our **Summer** program.

Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Please contact Nicole Raith at 410-686-6060
or email allstarscenter@yahoo.com for more information

What a blessed "All Saints" Sunday worship we had on November 5th. We remembered and gave thanks for our saints who have joined the Church Triumphant in the past year and received a saint through Baptism. Thanks be to God.



God Bless Kylie Koppelman

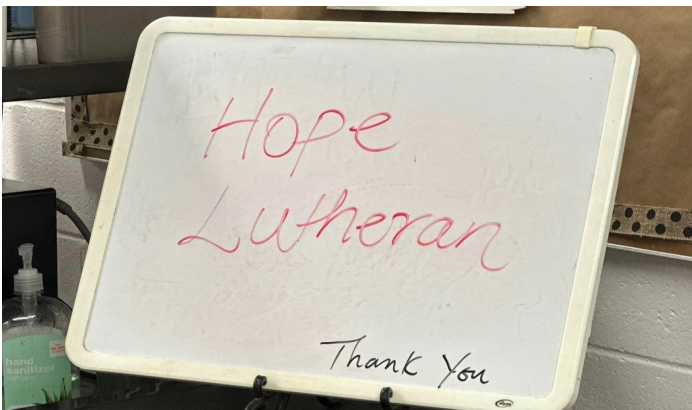


Streets of Hope

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.** If anyone would be interested in helping to provide dinner and to serve it, 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.



*Pictures from November, 4, 2023

HOPE BASKETS

Thank you for joining in Spreading Holiday Joy with 22 families: Every year, as the leaves turn to hues of red and gold and a crisp autumn breeze fills the air, we come together as a community to celebrate not just the season, but the spirit of giving. Our beloved Thanksgiving Basket event is a cherished tradition that helps families in need in our community during the holiday season.

Thanksgiving is a time for gratitude, reflection, and coming together with loved ones. Unfortunately, not everyone in our community has the means to enjoy a bountiful feast on this special day. That's where you came in! Thank you to our generous congregation, Thrivent Financial Services and Middleborough Elementary School for the food items and Aldi gift cards that could be used to purchase turkeys or ham that will create a delicious Thanksgiving meal for 22 families in need. Thank you for joining in this meaningful endeavor.

We believe that Thanksgiving is a time for unity, compassion, and showing gratitude for the blessings in our lives. It's also a time to extend a helping hand to those who may be facing difficult circumstances. The Thanksgiving Basket event allows us to share the abundance and warmth of the season with our neighbors who may be struggling financially, helping them experience the joy of a hearty Thanksgiving meal.

Because of the generosity of our Hope family, we have enough funds to provide food baskets for Christmas. We no longer need any food or cash donations for Christmas Baskets this year. We **THANK YOU** for all that you have done for our community! Thank you and God bless you all.

Peace and Love to all this Christmas and all year long!

The Outreach Team





Hope Quilting ministry team (we missed some of the team members who weren't able to join us) donated 35 quilts to Lutheran World Relief Warehouse in New Windsor, MD yesterday for distribution to people all over the world who are displaced because of natural disaster, political and civil unrest and famine.

They also made time to gather for lunch in Westminster, MD afterwards. Great ministry, great company, great food and time! God is good! We are very grateful for this ministry of sharing love with our neighbors. "God's work. Our hands."



Pictures below are from November Sunday Fellowship Hours. Beautiful centerpieces Judy created. The perfect addition to our special time transforming spaces and time into a celebration of joy and happiness. **Thank you, Judy,** for feeding our body, soul and spirit and for making our fellowship time very special. May God bless you, your ministry and service.



The above gnomes are made by Judy's mother over 50 years ago.





The History of the Christmas Tree

The history of Christmas trees goes back to the symbolic use of evergreens in ancient Egypt and Rome and continues with the German tradition of candlelit Christmas trees first brought to America in the 1800s. Discover the history of the Christmas tree, from the earliest winter solstice celebrations to Queen Victoria's decorating habits and the annual lighting of the Rockefeller Center tree in New York City.

How Did Christmas Trees Start?

Long before the advent of **Christianity**, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees, ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness.

In the Northern hemisphere, the shortest day and longest night of the year falls on December 21 or December 22 and is called the **winter solstice**. Many ancient people believed that the sun was a god and that winter came every year because the sun god had become sick and weak. They celebrated the solstice because it meant that at last the sun god would begin to get well. Evergreen boughs reminded them of all the green plants that would grow again when the sun god was strong and summer would return.

The **ancient Egyptians** worshipped a god called Ra, who had the head of a hawk and wore the sun as a blazing disk in his crown. At the solstice, when Ra began to recover from his illness, the Egyptians filled their homes with green palm rushes, which symbolized for them the triumph of life over death.

Did you know? Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states including Hawaii and Alaska.

Early **Romans** marked the solstice with a feast called **Saturnalia** in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture. The Romans knew that the solstice meant that soon, farms and orchards would be green and fruitful. To mark the occasion, they decorated their homes and temples with evergreen boughs.

In Northern Europe the mysterious Druids, the priests of the ancient **Celts**, also decorated their temples with evergreen boughs as a symbol of everlasting life. The fierce **Vikings** in Scandinavia thought that evergreens were the special plant of the sun god, Balder.

Christmas Trees From Germany

Germany is credited with starting the **Christmas** tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce. It is a widely held belief that **Martin Luther**, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree. Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.







Yes, we'll
gather
at the river.

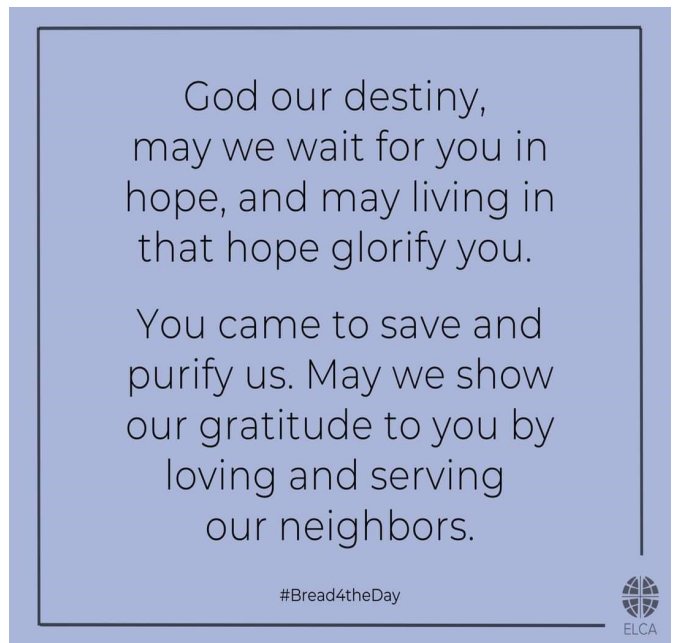


Fill me up, God.
Pour your peace into
my day, give me your
strength in my steps,
pour your joy into my
heart, and your faith
in my soul.

Kelly's
Treehouse



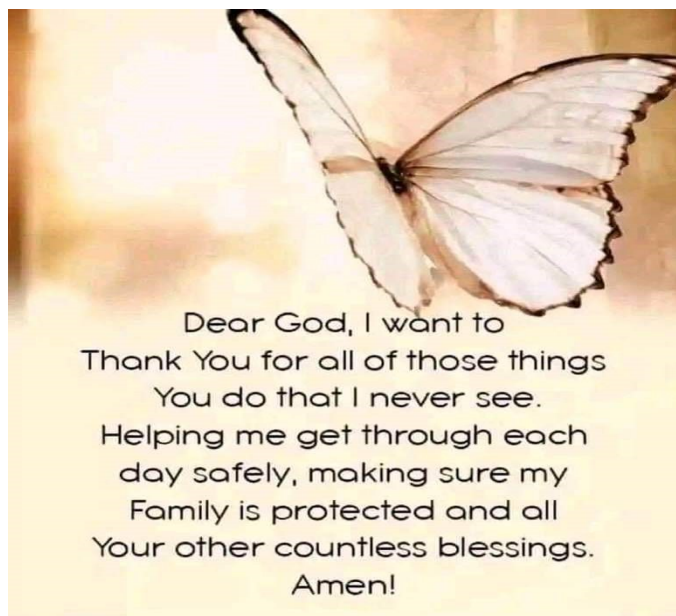
When we put
our problems in
GOD'S HANDS,
He puts His
Peace
in our hearts.



God our destiny,
may we wait for you in
hope, and may living in
that hope glorify you.

You came to save and
purify us. May we show
our gratitude to you by
loving and serving
our neighbors.

#Bread4theDay



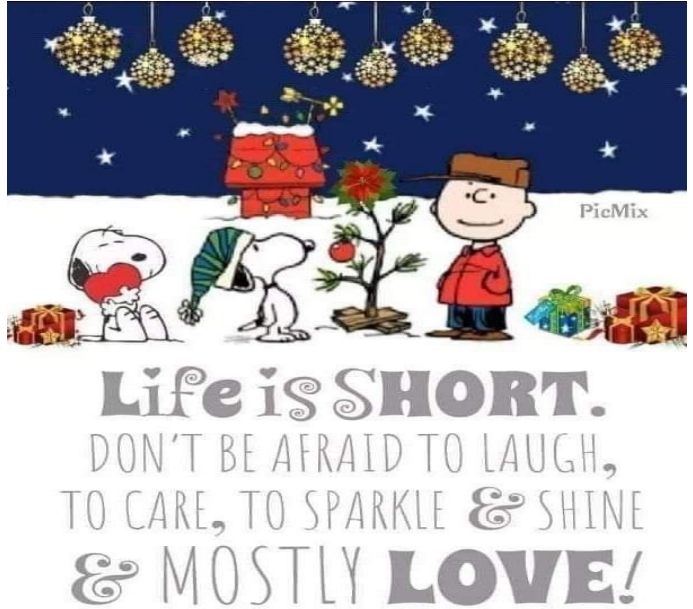
Dear God, I want to
Thank You for all of those things
You do that I never see.
Helping me get through each
day safely, making sure my
Family is protected and all
Your other countless blessings.
Amen!



Love
the Lord your God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.

Matthew 22:37







December Duty Schedule 2023

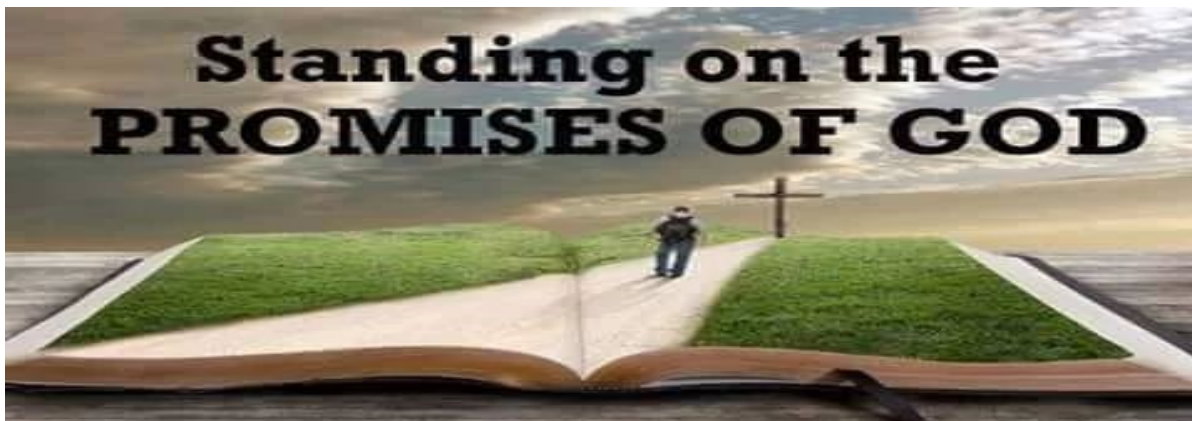
10:00	3	10	17	24 <u>Christmas Eve 10 am</u>	31
Assist	John Kelly	Colan Kahl	Thea Melton	Bob Schweitzer	Eric Eszes
Lector	Jeff Patten	Jess Kahl	Thea Coker	Marge Carl	Joan Schweitzer
Server	Bob Schweitzer	None	None	None	Bob Schweitzer
Ushers	Kate Patten Laurie Koontz	Lynne Lake Carolee Calo	Donna Jacob Linda Moler	Denise McLaughlin Eric Eszes	Linda Moler Rick Calo
Counters	Colan Kahl Denise McLaughlin	Joan Schweitzer Linda Moler	Donna Jacob Thea Melton	Linda Moler Denise McLaughlin	Steve Kahl Joan & Bob Schweitzer
Flowers	Vicki Lesko Al Fleischmann	Al Fleischmann Ruth Kraeger	Jeff and Kate Patten Caruthers	Carolee Calo Steve & Sharyn Kahl	
Sunday School	Denise McLaughlin	Rachel Morgan	Carolee Calo	Ruth Kraeger	Denise McLaughlin
<u>Christmas Eve 7:00 PM</u>	<u>Assistant</u> Colan Kahl	<u>Lector</u> TBD	<u>Ushers</u> Linda Moler Denise McLaughlin	<u>Server</u> TBD	
<u>Christmas Eve 10:00 PM</u>	<u>Assistant</u> Joan Schweitzer	<u>Lector</u> Jeff Patten	<u>Ushers</u> TBD	<u>Server</u> TBD	



December 2023 Worship Scriptures

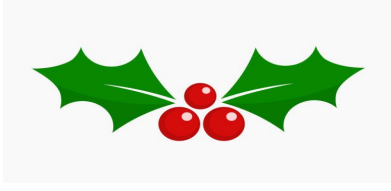








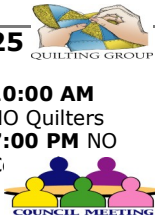
<p>December 3 First Sunday in Advent</p>	<p><u>Isaiah 64:1-9</u> <i>Prayer that God would come with power and compassion</i> <u>Psalm 80:1-7,17-19</u> <i>Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.</i> <u>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</u> <i>Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end</i> <u>Mark 13:24-37</u> <i>The sudden coming of the Son of Man</i></p>
<p>December 10 Second Sunday in Advent</p>	<p><u>Isaiah 40:1-11</u> <i>Good news of God's coming to a people in exile</i> <u>Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13</u> <i>Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God.</i> <u>2 Peter 3:8-15a</u> <i>Waiting for and hastening the day of God</i> <u>Mark 1:1-8</u> <i>John appears from the wilderness</i></p>
<p>December 17 Third Sunday in Advent</p>	<p><u>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</u> <i>Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden</i> <u>Psalm 126</u> <i>The Lord has done great things for us.</i> <u>1 Thessalonians 5:16-24</u> <i>Kept in faith until the coming of Christ</i> <u>John 1:6-8, 19-28</u> <i>A witness to the light</i></p>
<p>December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Family 7:00 pm Traditional 10:00 PM</p>	<p><u>2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16</u> <i>The Lord's promise to David</i> <u>Luke 1:46b-55</u> <i>You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly.</i> <u>Romans 16:25-27</u> <i>The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ</i> <u>Luke 1:26-38</u> <i>The angel appears to Mary</i></p>
<p>December 31 New Years Eve First Sunday of Christmas</p>	<p><u>Isaiah 61:10—62:3</u> <i>Clothed in garments of salvation</i> <u>Psalm 148</u> <i>The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven.</i> <u>Galatians 4:4-7</u> <i>Children and heirs of God</i> <u>Luke 2:22-40</u> <i>The presentation of the child</i></p>





December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Happy New Year's Eve					1	2 9:00 AM Bible Discussion via Zoom  10:00 AM Decorate Hope Church for Christmas
3 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	4 10:00 AM NO Quilters  QUILTING GROUP	5	6 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	7 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary	8	9 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Study  STUDY GROUP
10 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	11 10:00 AM NO Quilters  QUILTING GROUP	12	13 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	14 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary	15	16 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Study  STUDY GROUP
17 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	18 10:00 AM NO Quilters  QUILTING GROUP	19	20 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	21 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary	22	23 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Study
24 10:00 AM Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Communion 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion	25 10:00 AM NO Quilters 7:00 PM NO C  COUNCIL MEETING	26	27 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	28	29	30 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Study



Born in
December



4	Jade Lightner	26	Lois Farber
11	Jane Fabrizio	27	Nicholas Eck
11	Rodney Horney	28	Bea Benda's "101st Birthday"
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





CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Traditional Service - 10:00 AM
Family Service - 7:00 PM
Traditional Service - 10:00 PM
Join Us.



You and your family are invited to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services on December 24th. We would be honored to celebrate the birth of our Savior with you during this very special event.

Join us.



Articles for the
Jan./Feb. Messenger are
due by Wednesday
December 27, 2023

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: pastorm@hopeelca.org

Music Director: **Colin Eversley** • Cell 410-499-2291
E-Mail: craeversley11@hotmail.com

Secretary: **Shirley Edmonston** • Office 410-686-7587
E-Mail: hopesecretary@outlook.com

Council President: **Colan Kahl** • Home 410-292-2544

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

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

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

Council Members at Large

Gina Baker	410-456-9548
Jack Crout	(Youth Member)
Nicole Eck	443-271-4014
Sharyn Kahl	410-574-3060
Lynne Lake	443-854-0708 (Youth Leader)
Denise McLaughlin	410-686-0199
Thea Melton	410-585-5670



**Christmas Decorating Saturday,
December 2, 2023
beginning 10:00 AM**



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