

Hope

CHANGES EVERYTHING

Dear Friends at Hope,

The new year is soon upon us. To experience a great year, just do what Jesus said, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things [the things you and I worry about] shall be added to you" ([Matthew 6:33](#)). If you will seek Him first, He promises to meet all your needs. Here's some suggestions to "seek first."

1. Spend time with Him at the first of each day, praying and reading His Word, asking Him for direction, guidance, help and insight...confessing your sins when you blow it, and seeking His grace to help in your time of need.
2. Put His agenda above your agenda. Pray, "Not my will, but Thine be done" ([Luke 22:42](#)). Live your life to please Jesus, not to please yourself.
3. Invest your time, talent and resources in the kingdom of God, not the kingdom of yourself. Don't wait for the ball to drop in Times Square before seeking first the kingdom of God. Start now! Put Jesus first every day...and know how blessed you are. Jesus is with you.

Yours in Jesus,

Rich Makry

THE OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2023 have been delayed due to production issues at the envelope company. Until we receive the envelopes, you can use the envelopes in the pews or any unused envelopes you have left from 2022 to make your contributions. You also have the option to use Paypal via our Hope website online giving page at www.hopelcs.org.

THE PASTOR AND STAFF AT HOPE Lutheran Church and School wish to thank the congregation for their generous Christmas gifts this year. They are greatly appreciated. Best wishes for a faith-filled celebration of Christmas to you all.

CHRISTMAS CARDS NEEDED: Before you dispose of your Christmas Cards, please consider donating them to Hope LS. Just tear off the pretty fronts, put them in a bag and drop them off to Mrs. Neagley at the school. We use them for a variety of art projects each year. Also, if you receive free greeting cards of any kind from charitable organizations throughout the year, and you don't want them, please drop those off at the school, as well.

SAFE WORSHIP PRACTICES: It is our desire to provide a safe environment so members and friends can worship the Lord. Sanitizing stations are available in the Narthex and lobby. Masks may be worn by those who wish. We will continue, for the time being, to utilize continuous distribution of Holy Communion. We remember David who said, "I was glad when they said to me, let us go the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1) Following the service, please introduce yourselves to one another and enjoy some refreshments outside of the worship area.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY: The purpose of Celebrate Recovery (CR) is to fellowship and celebrate God's healing power in our lives through the 12 Steps and 8 Recovery Principals. By working through and applying these biblical principles, we begin to grow spiritually.



We become free from our addictive, compulsive, and dysfunctional behaviors. CR meets every Thursday evening at 7 pm in room 108. Is this something close to your heart? Contact Lori Doberenz at 267-808-9599 for more information.

MEMBERSHIP AT HOPE: Interested in membership? Join the Discipleship Class Sunday mornings at 10:45 am in Room 102 when they resume on January 8th.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR RADIO, PODCAST, AND DEVOTIONALS: The Lutheran Hour Ministries broadcasts sermons on Sundays at 7 am on several local stations, including 107.3FM, 97.1FM, and 91.7FM. See their website for more radio listings, podcasts, and daily devotionals at www.lhm.org.

WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: Go to Hope's website at www.hopelcs.org/news and follow the instructions to worship livestream on Hope's new Facebook page. Sunday worship services are posted on YouTube after noon on Mondays.

A ZOOM BIBLE STUDY will resume at 7:00 pm on Sunday, January 8th. "They Testify of Me" is a Bible study that looks at the host of prophecies in the Old Testament that are fulfilled in the life of Jesus. This Bible study meets via Zoom, which means you can participate from the comfort of your house. Links to the Bible study will be found in the weekly email. Bible studies are a great way to add to your knowledge and grow in your faith. No prior experience is needed to participate. Use the following links.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82028685443?pwd=UWc0VWdFOE91MWqrTHNEbnJVOXNYQT09>

Study Guide PDF https://hopelcs.org/images/Teachings/They_Testify_of_Me_Bible_Study.pdf

Another way to download the study guide is to go to Hope's website, www.hopelcs.org/education, and click on "They Testify of Me." To join the meeting, you can open the Zoom app and click on "Join Meeting" using the following information:

Meeting ID: 820 2868 5443
Passcode: 901730

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Join in to take "A LONGER LOOK AT THE LESSONS" (the Sunday readings). Deepen your understanding of Scripture and how to apply your faith throughout the week. It will resume on January 8th.

FROM OUR FINANCIAL OFFICE:

Your regular offerings help us to continue our ongoing ministry at Hope. Mail your offerings to Hope Lutheran Church, 2600 Haines Road, Levittown, PA, 19055. Visit our website at <https://hopelcs.org/giving/online-giving>. Use Bill Pay options with your local bank for one-time or recurring offerings. The bank will pay the postage.

THIS WEEK AT HOPE:

The full church calendar may be found on the web at www.HopeLCS.org.

Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Sunday Worship: Livestream	www.hopelcs.org/news
	11:45 am	AA at Hope	Dufendach Center
Thursday	7:00 pm	Celebrate Recovery	Room 108
	7:00 pm	Elders Meeting	Room 109
Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Sunday Worship: Livestream	www.hopelcs.org/news
	10:45 am	Children's Sunday School	Room 108
	10:45 am	A Longer Look at the Lessons	Room 109
	11:45 am	AA at Hope	Dufendach Center
	7:00 pm	Bible Study: They Testify of Me	Zoom