

Dear Friends at Hope,

Philippians 3:13 - Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Isn't it good that the apostle Paul said, "forgetting what lies behind."? Paul had a past that could have been a huge obstacle to him and his ministry. He persecuted the followers of Christ, hounded them out, and witnessed their death. Hanging on to the past can destroy your present.

Paul learned that though his past was stained with sin, God's forgiveness created new life in him. Paul was released from looking backwards and could look forward to life with hope.

In Psalm 103, David writes, "As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). God not only forgives, He forgets, so we can, too.

Yours in Jesus,
Pastor Rich

GEARING UP: This fall we are launching several new ministries for our members and friends at hope.

We are planning to reopen our nursery on Sunday mornings! We are looking to hire a paid attendant and enlist volunteers to rotate on a schedule. We're hoping to live stream our service to the nursery for the benefit of our worker and our volunteers. The paid position is for two hours on Sunday mornings. Please share this with your friends! Indicate "Nursery" on your Record of Fellowship or contact Beth Marks (215-279-2950) if you are interested in this ministry!

Tech Ministry Team: Hope is expanding our audio, visual and social media presence to communicate God's great message and connect with more of God's people. We will orient people to various tasks and offer hands-on training. If you have interest in any of these areas please indicate "Tech Ministry" on your Record of Fellowship or contact Josh Smith at joshua.owen.smith@gmail.com. On Sunday August 1st at 11am we will gather for a brief organizational meeting.

Grounds Maintenance: Do you have a heart for gardening or flowers? We need volunteers to help us beautify and maintain our outdoor plant life and grounds. If you have an interest to serve in this way, please indicate "Landscaping" on your records of fellowship or contact Karen Barton at (215-262-6283)!

THANK-YOU RECEIVED: Pastor Kieselowsky of Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, and Logos Lutheran Church, sent this note: "Please accept my sincere appreciation for your gift of \$500.00 for the support of Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries. We are grateful for your support of this ministry." Logos Lutheran Church is a downtown mission partner with us.

DONATIONS: Thank you to everyone who has donated items or food to Hope. Your contributions have made a difference in the lives of our families. While we would love to accept every donation, we do not have the capacity to do so. In line with a recent Church Council decision, only sealed food items (other than produce) will be accepted in the church and school lobby from this point forward. All other items (furniture, toys, books, clothing, etc.) may be taken to such places as Good Stuff Thrift (Fairless Hills), Goodwill (Langhorne), Habitat for Humanity Langhorne ReStore, or The Salvation Army Family Store & Donation Center (Fairless Hills) where they will help those in need. A list of these locations will be available in the office for anyone looking for information. Questions may be directed to Tom Jeske at thomas.jeske.6@gmail.com or by calling 267-594-4393. Thank you for your generosity! We will continue to accept donations of sealed food items to help those in need.

DIVINE CALL ACCEPTED: After prayer and thoughtful consideration Maryann Puls has accepted the Divine Call to serve as a Teacher at Hope Lutheran School. As a “called” teacher Maryann will continue to teach and have other school related responsibilities. Her installation will take place on the Blessing of the Backpack Sunday, August 29th at 9:30am.

FIRST COMMUNION: Congratulations and God’s blessing on Aidan & Liam Pica who have received instruction and will be receiving their First Communion Sunday July 25th. May the body and blood of our Savior strengthen them in faith unto life everlasting.

CONFIRMATION is a two-year program of instruction leading to that time when students make their personal confession of faith in Christ as their Lord and Savior. Students in 7th Grade and older are welcome to attend. The families involved will meet to arrange the best class time. Classes meet during the school year. Interested? Please indicate “Confirmation” on The Record of Fellowship or contact the Church Office at 215-946-3467.

NEW FRIENDS AMONG US: The people of Calvary Evangelical Church, a small Liberian congregation, will be worshipping at Hope as they build up funds for their own church building. Since June 6th they have been meeting in our sanctuary on Sundays at 11:30 am. Please be sure to welcome our new friends. For more information, contact Tom Marks t_marks10@comcast.net.

WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: Go to Hope’s website at www.hopelcs.org/news and follow the instructions to worship livestream on Facebook. You can also access worship services on YouTube. Sunday worship services are posted after noon on Mondays.

FOOD MINISTRY UPDATE: A big thank you to everyone who participated this past Sunday! Between 45-50 sandwiches were collected and given out. Even with so many donations, they were still turning people away. Your continued support for this ministry is appreciated and valued. Each 3rd Sunday of the month members can bring wrapped sandwiches to our lobby for distribution to needy people in or area. Later in the morning, they will be picked up and distributed immediately to homeless and hungry people in our area. The next sandwich collection date will be Aug 15th. For more information, contact Barbara Veil at 267-799-5944.

SAFE WORSHIP PRACTICES REVISED: We are glad you are here. As COVID conditions improve, we at Hope are continuing to provide a safe and worshipful environment. Sanitizing stations are still available at the doors and at the entrance to the sanctuary. We are no longer “encouraging” masks, but they may be worn by those who choose to. Offering plates remain at the rear of the sanctuary for offerings and Record of Fellowship slips. We will

continue, for the time being, to utilize continuous distribution of Holy Communion. Following the service, please introduce yourself to one another and enjoy some refreshments outside of the worship area.

HOW TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION? We are offering Holy Communion weekly at each worship service. If you cannot attend worship, please call the church office (215-946-3467) to schedule a time to receive it here at church, privately, or at your home. Pastor Rich is very happy to share this faith strengthening gift with you.

WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU. You can call Pastor Rich (215-584-1262), our church office (215-946-3467), or email us at prayerchain@hopelcs.org. We have a team of people who are committed to bring your petitions and requests before our Lord.

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

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. They 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	Worship: In Person	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Worship: Livestream	www.hopelcs.org/news
	11:45 am	AA at Hope	Outside
Thursday	7:00 pm	Celebrate Recovery	Room 108
Sunday	9:30 am	Worship: In Person	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Worship: Livestream	www.hopelcs.org/news
	11:00 am	TECH Meeting	Room 109
	11:45 am	AA at Hope	Outside