

The Messenger

December 2019



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1901 MIDDLEBOROUGH RD, ESSEX MD 21221



Tuesday, 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.

Tuesday, December 24
Traditional Candlelight
Christmas Eve 11:00 PM

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



“Christmas for the Unworthy”

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. [...] The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.’” – Luke 2:8 & 10

They smelled funny. Their clothes were not the most fashionable. When given the choice as to whether or not to spend time with them, most people would have chosen not to. And yet despite their reputation, the shepherds were the first guests called to the side of the bedside of the Messiah. It was not kings who were heralded by angels to go to meet Jesus. It was not to the wealthy of Bethlehem that tidings of great joy were first brought to. It was to the shepherds.

One of the most unique aspects of the nativity story is the fact that God calls the seemingly most “unworthy” people to be the ones to welcome His Son into the world. From calling a peasant, teenage and betrothed girl named Mary to be Jesus mother to a carpenter to serve as His earthly father, to the shepherds to be His first proclaimers, we find God calling the “unworthy” to be the “worthy”.

So what does this teach us? First of all, it teaches us something about God’s heart for people. God does not judge people by earthly standards. He judges according to His heart for all people. This includes both the rich and the poor, the accepted and rejected. If you notice in verse 10 of Luke chapter 2 the angels make this abundantly clear declaring, “Do not be afraid! I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” The news of Christ, and the joy, which accompanies it is for all people.

The second thing we learn is the reason why God would choose to call the rejected by society to be the first ones brought to the side of the Savior of the World. The reason also comes to us from verse 10 and is seen in the phrase, “Do not be afraid.” We know from verse 9 that the shepherds were terrified by the sudden appearance of angels, and so it makes sense that the angels would try to calm those fears. And yet I also believe it was given so that they would know that the message the angels brought was indeed for them. Like the rest of their society the shepherds would probably not have thought themselves likely candidates for the invitation. Do not be afraid, don’t worry, this news really is for you. By starting with those the world rejected God declared His intention to serve ALL people.

So where does that leave us this Advent and Christmas season? It leaves us with a call to view Christmas through the same eyes as God. Every day we make judgments regarding other people, sometimes we are right in those judgments and sometimes not. And yet the reality is on our own, all people, each and every one of us is unworthy of what Christmas brings. For each of us is in a constant war with the reality of sin in our lives, and that sin makes us unworthy. This truth should make the invitation to the shepherds all the more real for each of us. For when we witness God’s invitation to the unworthy shepherds, we can also hear our own invitation.

The message to the shepherds is the message to you , me and all people. “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” Christmas is for the unworthy, for the one born makes us worthy.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Meheret

God Answers Prayers



Edgar Amos, Jr.
Louise Amoss
Gail Anuszewski
Bob Baker
Connie Baker
Johnny Banack
Dennis Berry
Gail Berry
Evelyn Blazek
Mary Bodenschatz
Debbie Bryant
Debbie Button
Margaret Cain
Blanche Cardarelli
Julie Carl
Sharyl Clark
Shirley Cosgrove
Ed Cornelius
Beulah Craig
Patrick J. Curran
Freddie Ditmar
Gloria Eckles
Lois Farber
Cassandra Fleckenstein
Bobbi Floyd
Matthew Floyd
Chris Genco

Daniel Hanke
Sharon Harris
Rocky Hartman
Juliana Hasson
The Hays Family
Beverly Hoffman
Karen Hoffman
Karen Holzopf
Timothy Hostetler
Loretta Jefferson
Leondra Jefferson
Jack Kincaid
Mickey Koontz
Joshua Kraeger
Lynne Lake
Michael McCoy
Jim Nemec
Laurie Nemec
Frank Neukam
Rick O'Dea
Jim Ogle
Pat Owens
Francesca Prado
Mike Porter
Inez Rasinski
Cliff Rodney
Lucille Rose

Jeff Sanders
Connie Sanders
Jeanine Schenning
The Schepers Family
Debbie Schmidt
Barbara Shelly
Kevin Shields
Vivian Smith
Eloise Somogyi
John Stiemly
Amber Wallace
Penny Wallace
Lucille Watson
Bob Williams
Richard Wrobel
Susan Yelton

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

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



HOPE'S QUILTERS are inviting people to join them. They will meet every Monday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., starting Jan. 6, 2019 in the Choir Room. They also need flat sheets, crochet and thread for tacking quilts. If you have any questions, or supplies to donate, see Sue Alexander or Bobbi Floyd.

A graphic for 'Advent December' with a dark blue night sky background. It features hanging red Christmas ornaments, a crescent moon, a small house with a lit window, a small Christmas tree, and candy canes. The text 'Advent' is in a white serif font, and 'December' is in a large white cursive font. A white box in the bottom right contains the text 'COME WORSHIP with us!' in blue and red fonts, next to a wooden cross against a blue sky with clouds.

Advent

December

**COME
WORSHIP**
with us!

December 2019 Worship Scriptures

December 1 First Sunday in Advent	<u>Isaiah 2:1-5</u> <i>Weapons of war transformed into instruments of peace.</i> <u>Psalms 122</u> <i>I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."</i> <i>(Ps. 122:1)</i> <u>Romans 13:11-14</u> <i>Salvation is near; time to wake from sleep.</i> <u>Matthew 24:36-44</u> <i>The sudden coming of the Son of Man</i>
December 8 Second Sunday in Advent	<u>Isaiah 11:1-10</u> <i>From David's line, a ruler bringing justice and peace.</i> <u>Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19</u> <i>May the righteous flourish, let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)</i> <u>Romans 15:4-13</u> <i>Live in Harmony, welcoming one another.</i> <u>Matthew 3:1-12</u> <i>A voice cries: Prepare the way of the Lord</i>
December 15 Third Sunday in Advent	<u>Isaiah 35:1-10</u> <i>The desert blooms as God's people return from exile.</i> <u>Psalms 146:5-10</u> <i>The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)</i> <u>James 5:7-10</u> <i>Patience until the coming of the Lord.</i> <u>Matthew 11:2-11</u> <i>The forerunner of Christ.</i>
December 22 Fourth Sunday in Advent	<u>Isaiah 7:10-16</u> <i>The sign of Immanuel</i> <u>Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19</u> <i>Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)</i> <u>Romans 1:1-7</u> <i>Paul's greeting to the church at Rome.</i> <u>Matthew 1:18-25</u> <i>A God near at hand.</i>
December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Family 7 pm Traditional 11 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. (Ps. 96:11)</i> <u>Titus 2:11-14</u> <i>The grace of God has appeared</i> <u>Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]</u> <i>God with us</i>
December 29 First Sunday of Christmas	<u>Isaiah 63:7-9</u> <i>Israel saved by God's own presence</i> <u>Psalms 148</u> <i>The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)</i> <u>Hebrews 2:10-18</u> <i>Christ shares flesh and blood to free humankind</i> <u>Matthew 2:13-23</u> <i>The slaughter of innocent children</i>

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.

Monday Morning Pastor's Class

meets Mondays 10 AM—11:30 AM in the church office. We are currently studying the Gospel of John. All are welcome!

Wednesday Night Bible Study

meets Wednesdays 7 PM—8:30 PM in the choir room. We will be watching and discussing a documentary video titled: PROMISED LAND— The Faith Lessons Series with Roy Vander Laam in the month of December. All are welcome!

Saturday Morning Breakfast Bible Study

meets 8 AM—9:30 AM at Alice's Restaurant on Eastern Blvd. every Saturday. Follows the same curriculum as the Wednesday night bible study group.

*Merry
Christmas*



Christmas HOPE BASKETS

We will be preparing and distributing our traditional Christmas Hope Baskets again this year. We are looking for donations of the items shown below. Monetary donations for the food baskets may be made by using pew envelope and clearly marking it for Christmas Hope Baskets and placing it in the offering plate. Note: (Cash donations for Turkeys, purchase gift cards)

If you know of a family that in need for Christmas, please let us know by using the yellow cards and indicate that there is a message on the back of the card. Include your phone number and someone will contact you for more information.

Please note that if you donate any of these items we need your receipts so we can get matching funds from Thrivent. If you have any questions, please see Linda Moler (443-730-3576 or Sandy Cincinnati (443-324-8355.

Sauerkraut
Instant Potatoes
Sweet Potatoes/Yams

Cranberry Sauce
Bread / Rolls
Pies

Turkey Gravy



One of the things we were grateful for this Thanksgiving is the partnership Hope Church has with Middleborough Elementary School. The students, staff, and parents of the school held a fall food drive, and boxes of collected items were delivered to our church to be used in our food ministries, including holiday food baskets, our food pantry, and Food for Thought Program. We thank Middleborough for their generous support and hope that Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes from our church for some of their families, and our weekly nutritional support through Food for Thought for some of their students, bring joy to all recipients!

A special thank you to all of you for your generous support of Hope's various food ministries now and throughout the year!



Articles the next
Messenger are due
by Wednesday
December 18, 2019

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Staff

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

Council Secretary: **Robin Smith** • Home 410-553-9465

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

Sharyn Kahl 410-574-3060

Linda Frueh 443-465-4275

Brandi Miner 410-391-7905

Eric Carl 410-391-5143

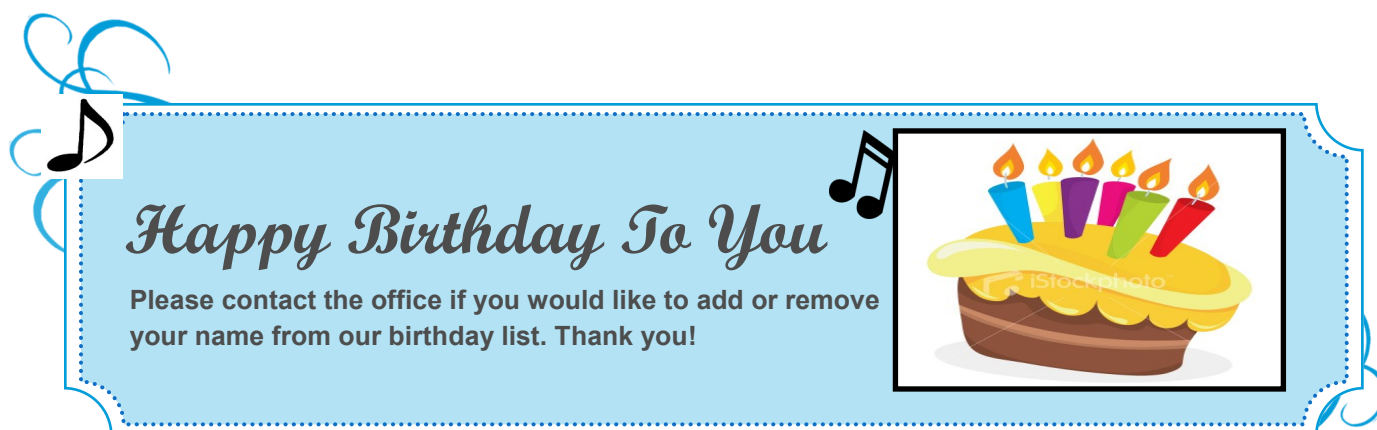
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Christmas Decorating Saturday, December 7, 2019
beginning 10:00 AM

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



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

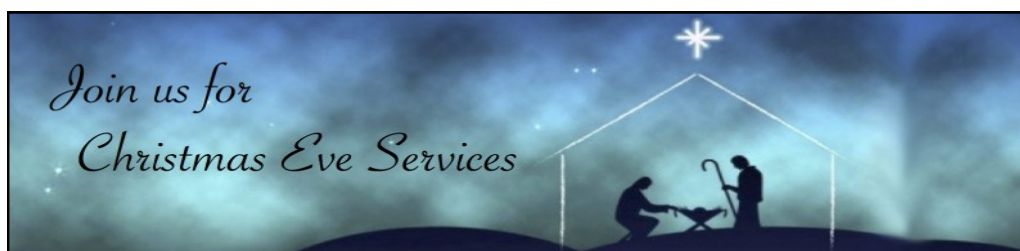




Duty Schedule for: December 2019

9:00	1 One Service	8	15	22	24 <i>Christmas Eve 7 pm</i>	29
Assist Lector	9:30 am	Colan Kahl Eric Carl	Bob Schweitzer B. Schweitzer	Joan Schweitzer Joan Schweitzer	Robin Palmer Bob Schweitzer	San Dee Koons Cary Koons
Server		Carol Ogle	Patty Horney	Robin Smith	1. Brandi Miner 2. TBD	Joan Schweitzer
Usher/greeter		Thea Melton Frank Schmidt	Sue Alexander Eric Eszes	Ed Klingenstein Carol Ogle	Denise McLaughlin Rick Calo	Carol Ogle Eric Eszes

10:30	9:30				11:00 pm	
Assist	John Kelly	Colan Kahl	Brandi Miner	Lori Comotto	Joan Schweitzer	Lynda Frueh
Lector	John Kelly	Sharyn Kahl	John Kelly	Debbie Cannon	Joan Schweitzer	Brian Frueh
Server	Peggy Talbott	Jess Kahl	Denise McLaughlin	Sandy Cincinnati	Lori Comotto Jess Kahl	Peggy Talbott
Usher/Greeter	Linda Moler Eric Eszes	Jeanne Faust Sandy Cincinnati	Trish Hays Lynne Lake	Mary Emge Debbie Cannon	Carol Ogle Sandy Cincinnati	Denise McLaughlin Donna Smith
Altar Set Up	Schweitzer	Colan Kahl	Schweitzer	Robin Smith	Schweitzer	Schweitzer
Children's Church	Ruth Kraeger	Lynne Lake	Marge Carl	Carolee Calo		Jackie Eversley
KBZone	Carolee Calo	Brandi Miner	Lynda Frueh	Denise McLaughlin		Brandi Miner
Counters	Bob Schweitzer Trudy Grauer	Colan Kahl Jeanne Faust	Bob Schweitzer Deloris Phillips	Linda Moler S/S Kahl		Trudy Grauer Donna Smith
Not Available	Robin Smith Sue Alexander Lynne Lake	Robin Smith Sue Alexander	Lori Comotto	Donna Smith		Thea Melton





December 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Winter Congregational Meeting after Service 9:30 AM Kidz Bible Zone 9:30 AM One Worship Service Sunday	2 10:00 AM Bible Study	3 5:30 PM No Confirmation Class In the Summer	4 3:30 PM Learning Center Board Meeting 7:00 PM No Evening Bible Study in the Summer	5 7:00 PM No Choir Practice in the Summer	6	7 8:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion at Alice's Restaurant
8 Food for Thought Bag Packing after each Service 9:00 AM Traditional Communion 10:30 AM Kidz Bible Zone	9 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Learning Center Board Meeting	10 5:30 PM No Confirmation Class In the Summer 6:30 PM Hope Ladies Christmas Dinner	11 7:00 PM No Evening Bible Study in the Summer	12 7:00 PM No Choir Practice in the Summer	13	14 8:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion at Alice's Restaurant
15 9:00 AM Traditional Communion 10:30 AM Family Contemporary Communion 10:30 AM Kidz Bible Zone	16 10:00 AM Bible Study	17 5:30 PM No Confirmation Class In the Summer	18 7:00 PM All Star Learning Center Christmas Program 7:00 PM No Evening Bible Study in the Summer	19 7:00 PM No Choir Practice in the Summer	20	21 8:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion at Alice's Restaurant
22 9:00 AM Traditional Communion 10:30 AM Family Contemporary Communion 10:30 AM Kidz Bible Zone	23 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Council Meeting	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Communion 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion	25 <i>"The rest of you will come... to him with the Spirit"</i> 	26 7:00 PM No Choir Practice in the Summer	27	28 8:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion at Alice's Restaurant
29 9:00 AM Traditional Communion 10:30 AM Family Contemporary Communion 10:30 AM Kidz Bible Zone	30 10:00 AM Bible Study	31 5:30 PM No Confirmation Class In the Summer	1 7:00 PM No Evening Bible Study in the Summer 	2 7:00 PM No Choir Practice in the Summer	3	4 8:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion at Alice's Restaurant

advent

SALVATION HAS COME
HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE



Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Family 7 pm
Traditional 11 pm



Thanksgiving Decorations





THE ADVENT PROJECT

Bible Reading Plan

December

1st	Isaiah 2.2-5
2nd	Isaiah 9.1-7
3rd	Isaiah 11:1-9
4th	Isaiah 11.10-16
5th	Isaiah 39.5-40.11
6th	Isaiah 52.1-12
7th	Isaiah 61.1-4
8th	Galatians 4.4-6
9th	1 Thess 4.13-18
10th	1 Thess 5.1-11
11th	1 Cor 15.20-28
12th	Colossians 1.15-20
13th	2 Peter 3.3-13
14th	Mark 14.60-65
15th	Jeremiah 33.14-17
16th	Micah 5.2-5
17th	Ezekiel 34.11-31

December

18th	Zechariah 8.1-8
19th	Zephaniah 3.14-17
20th	Isaiah 7.10-17
21st	Matthew 1.11-17
22nd	Luke 1.26-38
23rd	Luke 1.39-56
24th	Matthew 1.18-25

Readings for the Sundays of Advent

First	Romans 13.11-14
Second	Romans 15.4-13
Third	Matthew 11.2-10
Fourth	Psalms 24

theadventusproject.wordpress.com