

The Messenger

June 2020



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1901 MIDDLEBOROUGH RD, ESSEX MD 21221



Online Vacation Bible School

For more information see page 7 & 8

Pastor Meheret's Corner

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!”² Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.” -Mark 13: 1-2

Grace and peace to you from God our Creator and Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

I cannot imagine what it must have felt like for Peter and the rest of the disciples to have heard Jesus declare the fate of the temple, as he does in the text above. It is so disturbing that when they have a private moment with Jesus, they ask him about it again. The second time around, the answers do not get much better. In fact, as the disciples seek for comfort from Jesus regarding this very disturbing news, Jesus only offers a vastly different metaphor; this is the beginning of “birth pangs.”

Something new is happening, and the impact of this new happening will destabilize everything according to Jesus. But Jesus promises something else, beyond this new kind of normal, he promises that God will be with those who will suffer in these birth pangs. Jesus promises that indeed, though there may be pain, there will be life.

When we study the context and history of the temple at the time of Jesus, there was no mistaking that there needed to be some changes in the ways they were doing things. By the time Jesus comes to the temple leaders, corruption, divine leveraging, and social casting are all normal practices by the leaders. We also know that the temple had become co-opted by the powers of Rome, and that they indeed were settling into working with Rome, even if they were not happy about it. And yet, the temple plays an especially important role in the lives of the disciples as well as the Jewish people of that time. For there does not seem to be an incredibly happy response by the disciples when Jesus tells them of this new fate of the temple. In fact, they seem very worried about this. Anytime our normal gets upended, it cannot help but cause disruption.

We are certainly not living through normal times. And on another level, the church has been impacted greatly. It is almost as if the stones of the building have all been rearranged. We are living into a new normal as the church and there is one thing that is coming through loud and clear to me during this time. God is with us in all of this, and there is something new being birthed through an exceedingly difficult time. I am not about to say that God has bestowed on us this virus so that the church will change. That is not what I am saying here. But there seems to be one characteristic about the heart of God that seems to shine through in every tragedy and calamity. God is not content on letting things stay in pieces. We have a God that has made things whole, and in God’s image, and God’s image is not fractured, disjointed and left alone. God overwhelmingly responds to our suffering again and again by continually showing up with those who suffer.

The fundamental job that the temple has forgotten in the time of Jesus, and more specifically in the Gospel of Mark, is that the people of God are called to be with those who suffer; not to judge them for their suffering. But to remind them of the Hope that is closer than it ever has been.

I genuinely believe that God is using this time of calamity to redeem us and call us into something new. And the one thing missing may be the most powerful gift of all: presence. We have forfeited the power of our presence at times for the folly of answers. We like to have solutions to problems. The only problem with that is that life seems to offer a variety of problems that do not seem to have very apparent answers. However, that is the power of the faith God has given us through the Holy Spirit. Faith is not about answers. It is about presence. God's presence with us through the resurrected Jesus who gives us the Holy Spirit, and through the church and the people of faith. We have been given an opportunity to remember the power of the presence of the people of God when first we seek to help one another instead of explaining one another. We get to be a living witness to the fact that God has never and will never give up on the Creation God made in love.

Let us remember that everything good comes through sacrifice and at times, difficult circumstances. Hallelujah, we do not have to face those difficult times alone.

Praise be to God! Amen!

Pastor Meheret

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR GRADUATES!



Worship Themes for June 2020

Date	Scripture texts	Theme
June 7	Genesis 1:1—2:4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20	The creation of the heavens and the earth How majestic is your name in all the earth! Paul's farewell to the church at Corinth Living in the community of the Trinity
June 14	Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35—10:8-23	The covenant with Israel at Sinai We are God's people and the sheep of God's Pasture While we were sinners, Christ died for us The sending of the Twelve
June 21	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-18 Roman 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39	The prophet must speak despite opposition Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind God's love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit The cost of discipleship
June 28	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42	The test of a true prophet Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing No longer under law but under grace Welcome Christ in those he sends



Please join us on Sundays

at 10:00 AM for

ONLINE Worship!

It will be available on our Facebook page and our YouTube channel.

Facebook: @hopemiddleborough

YouTube: Hope Middleborough

Looking forward to worship with you all on Sundays!

Please stay informed, watch for announcements and messages in email form and/or on our social media accounts. If you know someone who is not online, please reach out to them with the announcements, and let Pastor Meheret know who you are reaching out to! We will mail hard copies of the Worship Bulletins, emails, sermons, etc to those who doesn't have online access.

This coming Sunday is Holy Trinity Sunday. So much to celebrate—even in the midst of a pandemic.

We will continue to worship online until further notice. Our Church Council appointed a committee who is going over and working on what needs to be done so we can safely offer in-person worship. We want to be ready with safety protocol out of love for each other. We will share information as soon as they are available.

YOUR POWERFUL *Prayers*

Edgar Amos, Jr.	Bobbi Floyd	Jim Nemec	Kevin Shields
Louise Amoss	Matthew Floyd	Laura Nemec	Vivian Smith
Connie Baker	Marina Ford	Frank Neukam	John Stiemly
Johnny Banack	Sara Garrett & Family	Hannah Noack	Lucille Watson
Dennis Berry	Chris Genco	Harvey Nockowitz's	Richard Wrobel
Gail Berry	Pierre Gibbons	Family & Friends	Susan Yelton
Mary Bodenschatz	Cassidy Gore	Terry Novak	Carolee Calo and family as they grieve the loss of her niece.
Debbis Bryant	Daniel Hanke	Rick O'Dea	
Debbie Button	Sharon Harris	Pat Owens	
Margaret Cain	Juliana Hasson	Francesca Prado	
Blanche Cardarelli	Beverly Hoffman	Mike Porter	
Sharyl Clark	Karen Hoffman	Inez Rasinski	
Shirley Cosgrove	Karen Holzopfel	Cass Rayman	
Ed Cornelius	Timothy Hostetler	Cliff Rodney	
Beulah Craig	Scott Hower	Lucille Rose	
Patrick J. Curran	Leondra Jefferson	Eddie Sabol's Family	
Lois Lorene	Michelle Kincaid	& Friends	
Freddie Ditmar	Leah Lane	Jeff Sanders	
Gloria Eckles	Michael McCoy	Connie Sanders	
Lois Farber	Ellen McKenna	Jeanine Schenning	
Cassandra Fleckenstein	Brian Miller	Barbara Shelly	

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.

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 and other discipleship groups and classes.

No Monday Morning Pastor's Class until further notice.

meets Mondays 10 – 11:30 AM in the church office.

Wednesday Night Bible Study:

Started their summer schedule. They will be meeting biweekly starting June 10, 2020 - Fall 2020. Zoom meetings every other Wednesday at 7 PM. Currently studying Bible study resource provided by Gather Magazine, For Faith and Action, June 2020 edition. The theme for June is "Just love"

Saturday Morning Breakfast Bible Study: meets 9-10:30 AM via Zoom every Saturday. We will be studying "Many Faces of Wisdom" (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, James) from Augsburg Adult Bible Studies, by Brian Peterson.

*****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. Pastor Meheret, meheretyon@gmail.com, Cell: (240) 413 7515**

*Holy God, write your Word on our hearts so that we might move with gracefulness through the world, balanced and whole.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*



ONLINE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 20th - 24th, 2020



Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
VBS-at-home!

1901 Middleborough RD, Essex MD 21221
410-686-7585, www.hopeelca.org

Hope Lutheran's Virtual
Vacation Bible School



Where: Online via Google Meets
When: July 20-24, 2020
Cost: FREE

More details, as well as our registration form,
can be found on Hope Lutheran's webpage or
Facebook page.

Register by June 30th to be guaranteed an
at-home VBS craft kit.

ONLINE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Stay on Track!

At Rocky Railway, kids explore Jesus' power in them and how we can trust Jesus—not our own strength—to pull us through life's challenges. COVID-19 has come through our lives like a freight train and derailed countless plans, routines, and expectations. This summer, more than ever, the kids in our community need the hope, reassurance, and abundance of God's love through the unique ministry of VBS. The Bible Points for Rocky Railway are so relevant.

Jesus' power helps us do hard things. Trust Jesus!

Jesus' power gives us hope. Trust Jesus!

Jesus' power helps us be bold. Trust Jesus!

Jesus' power lets us live forever. Trust Jesus!

Jesus' power helps us be good friends. Trust Jesus!

We *all* need to trust Jesus' power to pull us through these unprecedented times!

Take a breath, pause, and pray. And don't give up. With some planning, creativity, and faith, we're making VBS happen—no matter what. If physical distancing prevents us from having traditional VBS at Hope, these Online VBS will help us steam forward with an innovative, online experience. Kids will discover and experience tangible reminders of the day's Bible Point through our VBS-at-home experience.

Thank you to Lynda Frueh for making Virtual VBS happen at Hope and for making a difference by helping us stay on track with VBS!

Hope



Hope Lutheran Church wishes to recognize and thank the estate of Stephen and Charlotte Schweitzer for its donation of the funds necessary to replace the two outer doors on the upper level of the Education building as seen in the picture above. God is good all the time!

Thank you
MAY GOD BLESS YOU



Hope's Courtyard Garden



Thank you to the Hay's & Theas for
beautifying the courtyard! Expect more
beauty in our courtyard this spring/
summer!



REGARDING OUR JUNE 2020 DUTY SCHEDULE

Since we have no firm directive at this time regarding when in person services may resume, I have not generated a June duty schedule. Once notice is given that in-house services may resume, I will contact those of you on my duty list to find out if you plan to attend in person and whether you are available/agreeable to volunteering for service duties. I realize some of you may choose to refrain from volunteering/attending in person with all the changes that will need to be implemented. Meanwhile please keep safe, keep well, and God bless you.

Joan Schweitzer





Birthdays of the Month

Day	
02	Daniel Sweet
02	Jonathan Sweet
10	Mickey Porter
11	Delphine Duschel
11	Bradley Kroner
12	Jocelyn Lightner
13	Tiffani Mason
14	Frank Comotto III
15	Darlene Fisher
16	Bob Schweitzer
18	Michaela Gosting
19	Gail Anuszewski
22	Kathy Glagola
24	Marge Cain
29	Mathilda Miller
30	Jacob Lightner



Happy Birthday To You

Please contact the office if you would like to add or remove your name from our birthday list. Thank you!



All Stars Christian Learning Center

Now enrolling for Summer 2020

Our 11 week program begins June 22 and ends September 4.

Please, contact Talesha Johnson, our Director, at 410-686-6060 or email allstarscenter@yahoo.com for the registration form.

Weekly tuition is based on the number of days the child will be attending:

5 days \$185

4 days \$155

3 days \$125

2 days \$85

1 day \$50



2020 June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:00 AM Pentecost Sunday Online Worship 11:30 AM Kidz Bible Zone	1	2	3	4 10:30 AM Learning Center Chapel Time	5	6 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Discussion
7 10:00 AM Holy Trinity Sunday Online Worship. 11:30 AM Kidz Bible Zone	8	9	10 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	11 10:30 AM Learning Center Chapel Time 7:00 PM Choir Practice	12	13 9:00 AM Zoom Bible Discussion
14 10:00 AM Worship TBD 11:30 AM Kidz Bible Zone	15	16		18 10:30 AM Learning Center Chapel Time 7:00 PM Choir Practice	19	20 9:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion
21 Worship TBD Kidz Bible Zone TBD	22 9:00 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Bible Study TBD 7:00 PM Council Meeting	23	24 7:00 PM Bible Study	25 10:30 AM Learning Center Chapel Time 7:00 PM Choir Practice	26	27 9:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion
28 Worship TBD Kidz Bible Zone TBD	29 9:00 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Bible Study	30	1	2 10:30 AM Learning Center Chapel Time 7:00 PM Choir Practice	3	4 9:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion



“The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.” - Psalm 29:11

I hope and pray that this finds you and your family safe and in good health.

It is often said that you really never truly know someone until you see how they react to adversity. Well my brothers and sisters in Christ, I believe I know you better now, even in this time of separation. I can honestly say I have felt a closer bond to you.

During these challenging times, this congregation is pulling together like never before. Even though each of you is dealing with personal difficulty, your concern for the spiritual and financial well-being of our congregation is overwhelming. In phone conversations with members of our congregation, one common thread with each phone call is the question “How is the congregation doing?” You not only hold the welfare of Hope close to your hearts, you continue to generously and faithfully show support through your giving. This outpour of faithful support has allowed us to meet our financial obligations to our staff and to our partners in ministries.

With the help of so many, this congregation is functioning and continuing to be vibrant. I, together with our amazing worship leaders have continued to feed us spiritually with online worship opportunities. If you haven’t viewed our online worship services yet, please take the time to do so.

Our Wednesday Evening and Saturday Morning Bible Study group is meeting each week via zoom. The members of our Congregation Council and Executive Committee are continuing to meet virtually. Our staff continues to perform the best that they can within the current limitations. With the help of so many volunteers in our congregation who are many to mention, some of our ministries are still active.

I am humbled by you, the people that make up this beautiful congregation at Hope Lutheran Church. Thank you for your demonstration of what it is to be people of faith. Thank you for your prayers and concern for others in this difficult time. Thank you for your strength and courage in facing the challenges of Covid-19. Thanks be to God!

Please continue to be faithful in prayer. And most importantly, please be safe.

May the Lord bless you abundantly with peace and you find your strength in Him.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Meheret



Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Staff

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San Dee Koons 443-421-4477

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**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

**Articles for the July/
August Messenger are
due by Monday
June 22, 2020**