## The Messenger





2025

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



Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6



## BISHOP GOHL'S 2024 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

It all arose out of a conversation, conversation within God, in fact the conversation was God. So, God started the discussion, and everything came out of this, and nothing happened without consultation. This was the life, life that was the light of all, shining in the darkness, a darkness which neither understood nor quenched its creativity. John, a man sent by God, came to remind people about the nature of the light so that they would observe. He was not the subject under discussion, but the bearer of an invitation to join in. The subject of the conversation, the original light, came into the world, the world that had arisen out of his willingness to converse. He fleshed out the words but the world did not understand. He came to those who knew the language, but they did not respond. Those who did became a new creation (his children), they read the signs and responded. These children were born out of sharing in the creative activity of God. They heard the conversation still going on, here, now, and took part, discovering a new way of being people. To be invited to share in a conversation about the nature of life, was for them, a glorious opportunity not to be missed.

Erasmus (1466-1536) a reformer within the Roman Catholic Church, was an editor of the Latin Vulgate Bible; his translation of the Gospel of John, translates the word logos not as "word" but "conversation." *In the beginning was the Word* is rendered *it all arose out of a conversation*. While I am not convinced of the literalness of Erasmus' translation, these last months, I have been fascinated by it.

It all arose out of a conversation, a conversation within God, in fact the conversation was God. Godly conversation is a practice that I wonder if we might reconsider and return to during these holy days and the new year ahead.

Godly conversation refers to a commitment to speak in ways that reflects the character of God. Godly conversation is conducted with kindness, respect, truthfulness, and the intention to build others up, avoiding negativity, anger, and harmful gossip, while actively listening and seeking to understand the other person's perspective; essentially, using your words to honor God in your interactions with others.

In the aftermath of a year where we have not been our best selves, when we have given in to *ad hominem* attacks on the other, in a time when racist tropes have been normalized, among a people who have settled for "truthiness" over real truth, when we invest everyone's opinions with the power of gospel truth – whether its based in reality or not; Godly conversation would be a return to centering ourselves in Christ, the truth that makes us free.

There are some things we surely can't "agree to disagree" about – our baptismal covenant spells that out clearly: living among God's faithful people; hearing the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; proclaiming the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serving all people following the example of Jesus; and striving for justice and peace in all the earth. Still, when we recognize the indelible image of God in one another, Eramus' rendering of John's Christmas Gospel fairly leaps off of the page: *These children were born out of sharing in the creative activity of God. They heard the conversation still going on, here, now, and took part, discovering a new way of being people.* 

The Christmas gospel calls us to Godly conversation, modeling our abiding hope in Christ, discovering a new way of being God's people for the living of these days, *a glorious opportunity not to be missed*.

The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop

Buffel



## 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.

#### **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"!



Yonas Amenu **Bob Baker** Connie Baker Susan Baucom Barbara Becker Jessica Berry Pat Berry Kathy Binas John Boblitz Christie Booth Ken Brazerol Debbie Bryant Andres Buitrago Wilford Buitrago Tony Bunk Eric Carl Chris Coffey MaryJane Conrad Helen Cougle Chuck DeWitt Jami Edgar Belinda Emge Susan Enclade Jay Ferrell **Darlene Fisher** Tim Flaherty Amy Folk

**Derrick Fowler** Mike Gerald Fred Getz Russ Getz Pierre Gibbons Joyce Glovier Cassidy Gore **Trudy Grauer** Cowyn Gustave Nicole Harden **Dennis Harris** Juliana Hasson J & K Lillian Jones Kav Joan Kincaid Michelle Kincaid Matt Kretzschmar Christina Lacko Lynne Lake Vicki Lesko Patty Baldwin Linsolata Margaret Linz Karen Louden Phil Malpas Mary-Kathryn

Ruth Massaroni John Micklos Marsha Millender Matilda Miller Michelle Moore Terry Novak Ryan O'Donnell Barry Ordak Charmaine Ordak **Judy Crockett** Peddiford Krista Pellegrini **Evelyn Porter** Dorothy Prevost Cass Rayman Dave Raynor Yvonne Ryan Sarah Schnept Geraldine Scott Nancy Scott Mickey Shafer Tina Sharfe Barbara Shelly Bunky Smith Lonny Smith Margaret Smith John Steiner

Phyllis Sult
Peggy Talbott
Teresa
Sharon Thompson
Dale Timmons
Andrea Ulrich
Frank Walls
Trish White
Jeff Wiley
Fred Wilkes
Karen Williams
Gail Wilson



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 remove any names from the Prayer List.

**IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED**: If you are scheduled for surgery, or will be hospitalized, or have an emergency health care issue, please be sure to inform the church office (410-686-7587) so that pastoral care can be offered. It is extremely important to us that we can be there for you!



#### PRAISE & WORSHIP

Every Sunday beginning at <u>9:30-9:40 AM</u> there will be an opportunity to shout, pray, sing, and give testimony & honor to God. Please join us in the sanctuary.

Colin Eversley, Music Minister



#### Hope's Youth 2024

Some of our Youth Group and their Leaders met for fellowship and lunch after worship on December 8th and went to one of the Nursing Homes in the community to sing Christmas carols for the residents.

They did a great job and we're proud of them!











#### <u>Bible Study and Small Groups</u>

#### **Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Zoom meetings on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. The theme for this Winter season is "Making Sense of the Christian Faith" from Augsburg Adult Bible Study Series. Please Join Us!

#### **Saturday Morning Breakfast Bible Study**

Zoom meeting, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM every Saturday. We will be studying "Making Sense of the Christian Faith", 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





## We are currently enrolling new students for our Spring programs. Please spread the word.



ALL STARS LEARNING CENTER: Now enrolling for our Spring Pre-K and Before & After Care Programs. Monday—Friday, 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. Full-time and Partime care available, ages 3-12 years old. All Stars 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. Contact us today 410-686-6060 or email allstarscenter@yahoo.com.

#### **Christmas Hope Baskets 2024**

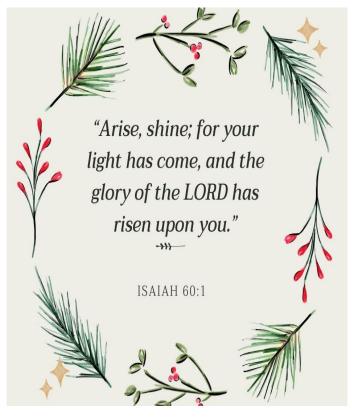


Because of your generous contributions and gifts towards Our Christmas Hope Food Baskets, we were able to reach our goal of providing Christmas Hope Food Baskets for **17 families** in need in our community. Special thanks to our Outreach Ministry Team, who purchased, as-

sembled and distributed the food and gifts. "God's work, Our hands". Thank you and God bless you for all your generosity.

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## The quilts are packed and ready to be delivered at the Lutheran World Relief warehouse sometime in January.







Join us!!! We meet every
Monday at 10:00 AM in
the Choir Room. No professional requirements
necessary. You just need
to be able to sew a
straight line, cut, iron
material and
enjoy fellowship!



## Christmas Decorating at Hope 2024





"Teamwork makes the dream work." Hope is truly blessed with an amazing team! Thank you so much to our Youth Group and everyone who were able to help decorate the church for the Christmas season! We're ready were for Blessing of the Quilts last November 10th at our 10 am service before donating them to Lutheran World Relief and ready for Christmas!











# A Merry Christmas to One and All!!





A Merry and Holy Christmas to one and all. We join together to celebrate God's best gift to all of humanity, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. God comes to us as the baby Jesus, bringing hope, peace, and joy to our messy world.

Thank you to Hope's amazing team for beautifying the Altar for Christmas



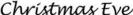




## Christmas Eve 2024 at Hope Church

Candlelight Service















#### **Streets of Hope**

The Streets of Hope Men's Shelter is now open for the cold weather. Our church will be providing dinner on **the 4th of every month.** Our next time to serve is **Saturday, January 4th.** If anyone would be interested in volunteering, please contact Sandy Cincinnati at 443-324-8355







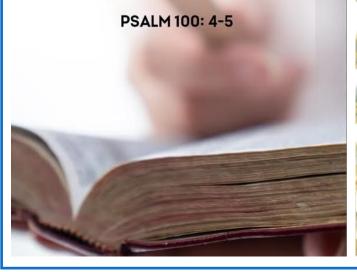
Our Team served dinner at the Streets of Hope Men's Shelter on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. Thank you to all who represented Hope and served.

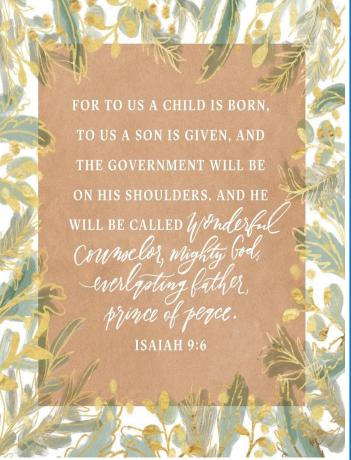
God bless you all!





"Enter his gates with thanks; enter his courtyards with praise! Thank him! Bless his name! Because the Lord is good, his loyal love lasts forever; his faithfulness lasts generation after generation."







## Hope Ladies Christmas Dinner 2024





















Thank you Carol,
Sandy, Debbie and Linda for organizing this
fun event. May your
Christmas celebrations
sparkle with moments
of love, flashes of joy
and feelings of warmth.



#### Christmas Poinsettias

All flowers are given to the glory of God and...

#### IN HONOR OF: GIVEN BY:



Loved Ones	Eric and Marge Carl
Our Children and Grandchildren	Steve and Sharyn Kahl
Our Great Grandson, Oliver Randall	Steve and Sharyn Kahl
Our Children, Vanessa and Cassandra	Ron and Vicki Lesko
Our Wonderful Hope Family	Pastor Meheret
Merry Christmas to All!	Denise McLaughlin
Wife, Kate Patten	Jeff Patten
Husband, Jeff Patten	Kate Patten
Children of Jeff and Kate Patten	Jeff and Kate Patten
Grandchildren of Jeff and Kate Patten	Jeff and Kate Patten
Loved Ones Departed	Mickey and Mary Lee Porter (2)
Our Daughters, Ilse and Eden	Bob and Joan Schweitzer

#### **GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY:**

Marge and Eric Carl
Michelle Kroner
Christina Lacko
Lynne Lake
Denise McLaughlin
The Poplovski & The Getz Families
Peggy Ward-Grant



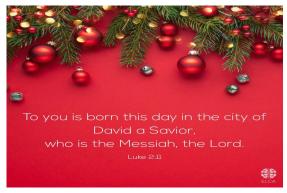


#### MEMORY OF:





Our Son, Richard Houck, Jr.	Carolee and Rick Calo
Our Parents, Al & Mary Boyce, Gus Calo	Carolee & Rick Calo
Our Brother & Sister, Al Boyce & Debbie Button	Carolee & Rick Calo
Our Family and Friends who have passed	Carolee and Rick Calo
Loved Ones	Marge and Eric Carl
Our Mother, Tsehay Alemu	The Caruthes Family
Our Fathere, Donald Caruthers	The Caruthers Family
Terry Melton	Thea Coker
Bill Coker	Thea Coker
Delia Sachs	James and Nicole Eck
Karen Goles	James and Nicole Eck
Robert Eck, Sr.	James and Nicole Eck
Edy Lamp	James and Nicole Eck
Paula Jenkions	James and Nicole Eck
Loved Ones	Mary Emge
Fred Eszes	Judy and Eric Eszes
Barbara Espey	Judy and Eric Eszes
Barbara and Roy Fleischmann	Allen Fleischmann
Blanche Cardarelli	Bonnie Hoffner
Lawrence, Grace and Nelson Gunn	Steve and Sharyn Kahl
Charles and Anna Kahl	Steve and Sharyn Kahl
Sophia E. Kelly	John Kelly (2)
Mickey Koontz	Laurie Koontz
Brandon Koontz	Laurie Koontz
John Kraeger and Will Sheridan	Ruth Kraeger



Brian Leucht	Timothy Leucht
Beth Leucht	Timothy Leucht
John and Edna Erb, Sr.	John and Carole Micklos
John Erb, Jr.	John and Carole Micklos
Epthemios and Christine Micklos	John and Carole Micklos
Loved Ones	Linda and Gary Moler (2)
Ginger Clarke	Rachel Morgan
Linda Morgan	Rachel Morgan
Leroy (Jim) Ogle	Carol Ogle
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence J. Green, Jr.	Carol ogle
Mr. & Mrs. John Ogle, Sr.	Carol ,Ogle
Mother, Dolores J. Patten	Jeff and Kate Patten
Father, Stephen B. Patten	Jeff and Kate Patten
Mother, Marge Hudgins	Jeff and Kate Patten
Father, Frederick A. Hudgins	Jeff and Kate Patten
Son-n-law, Richard Fifer	Jeff and Kate Patten
Loved Ones Departed	Mickey and Mary Lee Porter (2)
My Mom, Doris Schmidt and my Sister, Barbie Bates	Deborah Schmidt (2)
Alvina Lin Miller	Cindy Schmidt-Presnell
Our Parents, Justus, Archie, Anne and Ilse	Joan and Bob Schweitzer
Parents, Ed and Dorothy	Ed Travers
Wife, Patricia Travers	Ed Travers
Hilda G. DFiltz	Mike and Clara Weir (2)



#### It's still Christmas.

#### May this Christmas outshine the rest. It did for us.

Thank you, **Thea Melton,** for the nativity set and for bringing light to the courtyard.





## Here are Judy's beautiful decorations for our Fellowship Hour on Sunday!

God bless, Judy!









5	Tiffany Klingenstein	23	Nancy Loeffler
8	Austin Faust	25	Trudy Grauer
10	Victor Mulbah	25	Mary Neewary
12	Andres Buitrago	27	Mary Emge
13	Frederick Neewary	29	Brett Kroner
19	Lilah Crout	29	Evelyn Frueh
20	Jack Crout		







06	Debbie Cannon
00	Debbie Californ
09	Michelle Kroner
09	Jaycie Ruggiero
11	Steve Kahl
<b>)</b>	
12	Francis Kpadeh
<b>16</b>	David Presnell
18	Heather O'Donnell
7	
19	Carole Micklos
22	Mark Floyd
23	Gracie-Ann Smith
23	Gracie-Aini Siniui
24	Queen Sackor

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





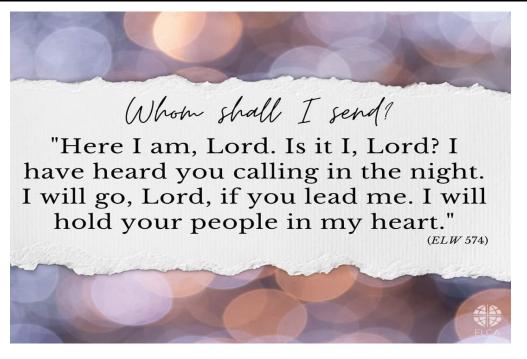
#### **Worship Themes in January 2025**

Date/Day	Scripture texts	Theme
January 5 Christmas 2	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-18	Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem praise your God O Zion The will of God made known in Christ God with us: the incarnation of the word
January 12 Baptism of Our Lord	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	When you pass through the waters, do not fear, for I am with you The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. Prayer and laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit The baptism of Jesus with the descent of the Holy Spirit
January 19 Second Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 62:1-5  Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	As bridegroom and bride rejoice, so shall God rejoice over you We feast upon the abundance of your house, O Lord There are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit The wedding at Cana
January 26 Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21`	Ezra reads the law of Moses before the people The teaching of the Lord revives the soul. You are the body of Christ Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah



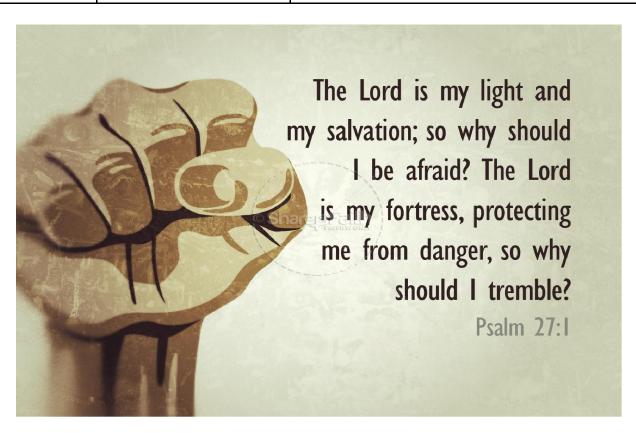
#### **Duty Schedule for: January 2025**

10:00	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 26	
Assist	Joan Schweitzer	John Kelly	Robin Palmer	Colan Kahl	
Lector	Lynn Lake	Debbie Cannon	Bob Schweitzer	Jess Kahl	
Serve if needed	None	Bob Schweitzer	Joan Schweitzer	None	
Ushers	Carolee Calo Jackie Eversley	Sue Alexander Carol Ogle	Linda Moler Denise McLaughlin	Donna Jacob Laurie Koontz	
Counters	Bob Schwewitzer Denise McLaughlin	Colan Kahl Joan Schweitzer	Bob Schweitzer Linda Moler	Donna Jacob Steve Kahl	
Flowers	John Kelly Sign-up Available	Jeff & Kate Patten Debbie Schmidt	Sign-up Available Sign-up Available	Sign-up Available Sign-up Available	
Sunday School	Rachel Morgan	Carolee Calo	Ruth Kraeger	Denise McLaughlin	



#### **Worship Themes in February 2025**

Date/Day	Scripture Text	Theme
February 2 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40	My messenger is a refiner and purifier How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord. Jesus shares human flesh and sufferings The child is brought to the temple
February 9 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-13 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Isaiah says, Here am I, send me I will bow down toward your holy temple. I am the least of the apostles Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people
February 16 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany	Jeremiah 17:5-10  Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20  Luke 6:17-26	Blessed are those who trust the Lord, they are like trees by water They are like trees planted by streams of water. Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died Jesus speaks blessings on the poor and hungry, woes on the rich and full
February 23 Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany	Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38	Joseph forgives his brothers The lowly shall posses the land; they will delight in abundance of peace, The mystery of the resurrection of the body Love your enemies



#### **Duty Schedule for February 2025**

10:00	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23	
Assist	Bob Schweitzer	Eric Eszes	Thea Melton	John Kelly	
Lector	Lynne Lake & the Youth	Joan Schweitzer	Thea Coker	Marge Carl	
Serve if needed	None	Joan Schweitzer	None	None	
Ushers	Carolee Calo Debbie Schmidt	Jackie Eversley Carol Ogle	Eric Eszes Christina Lacko Linda Moler	Donna Jacob Laurie Koontz	
Counters	Bob Schweitzer Denise McLaughlin	Colan Kahl Joan Schweitzer	Linda Moler Thea Melto9n	Donna Jacob Steve Kahl	
Flowers	Sign-up Available Sign-up Available	Bob & Jaon Schweitzer Sign-up Available	Sign-up Available Sign-up Available	Steve & Sharyn Kahl Jim & Nicole Eck	
Sunday School	Rachel Morgan	Carolee Calo	Ruth Kraeger	Denise McLaughlin	



## January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Janu	vary					*
			7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	10:00 AM & 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary	3	9:00 AM Bible Study via Zoom JOIN STUDY GROUP 6:00 PM Streets of Hope
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00 AM Worship in the sanctuary 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	10:00 AM Quilters		<b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study via Zoom	10:00 AM & 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary		9:00 AM Rible COIN STUDY GROUP
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00 AM Worship in the sanctuary 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	10:00 AM Quilters		<b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study via Zoom	10:00 AM & 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary		9:00 AM Bible Study at 2 Guys C " Join R STUDY GROUP
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00 AM Worship in the sanctuary	QUILTING GROUP  10:00 AM Quilters		7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	10:00 AM & 4:00 PM All		9:00 AM Bible Study via Zoom
11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	1500 PM Executive Committee Meeting		VII 250111	Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary		JOIN STUDY GROUP
26	27 10:00 AM Quilters	28	29	30	31	*
10:00 AM Worship in the sanctuary	QUILTING GROUP		<b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study via Zoom	10:00 AM & 4:00 PM All		***
11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM Council Meeting			Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary		* * *

## February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes- day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Febru	STV STREET	V.	Happy lentine Day	and the second s	A Day	9:00 AM Bible Study via Zoom Join STUDY GROUP
2		4	5	6	7	8
10:00 AM Worship in the sanctuary  11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	10:00 AM Quilters  QUILTING GROUP	Streets of Hope	<b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study via Zoom	10:00 AM & 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary		9:00 AM Bible Study via Zoom  JOIN  STUDY GROUP
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:00 AM Worship in the sanctuary	10:00 AM Quilters		7:00 PM Ash Wednesday	10:00 AM & 4:00 PM All		9:00 AM Bible Study at 2 Guys
11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	QUILTING GROUP		Service ,	Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary		Grill & Pub Restaurant  JOIN A STUDY GROUP
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:00 AM Worship in the sanctuary	10:00 AM Quilters		<b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study via Zoom	10:00 AM & 4:00 PM All Stars Learning		9:00 AM Bible Study via Zoom
11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM Council Meeting  Church Council			Center Chapel in Sanctuary		STUDY GROUP
23	24	25	26	27	28	
10:00 AM Worship in The sanctuary 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	10:00 AM Quilters  QUILTING GROUP		<b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study via Zoom	10:00 AM & 4:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel in Sanctuary		





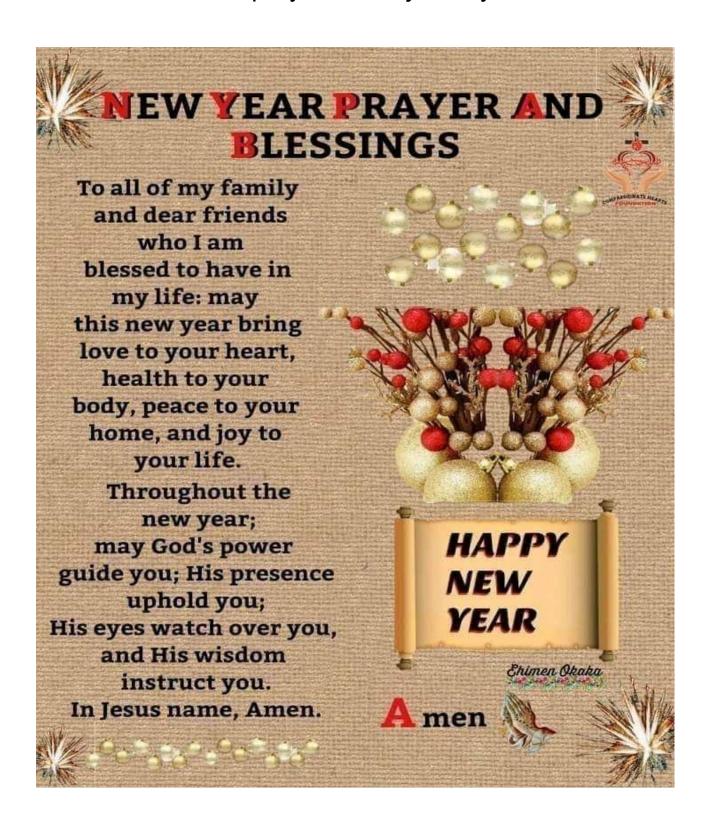
Thank you all so much for your continuing support for Hope and the greater church. God bless.



Hope's Staff would like to thank our Hope Church Family for our Christmas gift. It's a blessing to be a part of our Church Family and to serve you all!

#### Happy New Year!

Receive this prayer as we journey into 2025



### Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church Our Staff

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E-Mail: hopelsecretary@outlook.com Office Hours 8:30 am—1:00 pm

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

Council VP: Jeff Patten• Cell 410-456-5464

Council Secretary: **Denise McLaughlin** • Home 410-686-0199

Treasurer: John Kelly • Cell 443-770-0127

**Gina Baker - 410-456-9548** 

Colan Kahl - Past President 410-292-2544

**Nicole Eck** - 443-271-4014

**Sharyn Kahl** - 410-5743060

Lynne Lake - Youth Leader - 443-854-0708

Vicki Lesko - 410-630-2228

**Thea Melton** - 410-585-5670



Articles for the
March Messenger are
due by Thursday
February 20, 2025