

# The Messenger



2025



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



**Join us for our Vacation Bible School adventure for  
2025, "Trusting Jesus in a Wild World"**

**Date: July 21-24, 6:00pm—8:00pm.**

**Dinner option: 5:30pm—5:55pm**

**Stay tuned for more information.**

Bishop Gohl's 2025 Easter Message  
The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop  
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA



But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. –Luke 24.11

Our Easter joy doesn't simply come from an empty grave; real Easter joy comes from the faith we have in the promises attached to that empty grave. Promises like: it is no idle tale, Jesus is risen, and you will rise, too.

It is no idle tale, Jesus is risen, and you will rise, too. That's Easter, not a cold empty tomb but the rich promises of God that there is no burden too great, no place too lonely, no faith in Christ that is vainly kept. Our Easter joy is grounded not so much in our faith or faithfulness, but in the faithfulness of our God who keeps their promises.

Today is not about pasting on a smile, or covering up old wounds or festering hurts – and it's certainly not about hiding what's real in our lives from God – God knows our griefs, to our struggles and burdens, God is no stranger. Easter is not about hiding – it's about healing, the healing and precious promise that it is no idle tale, Jesus is risen, and you will rise, too.

And so, to the dear ones who are experiencing their first, or fifth or twenty-fifth Easter missing beloved parents, partners, spouses, children, friends and family; to those who are experiencing the loss of work or security, who know something of the grief to which the scripture speaks today, it is no idle tale, Jesus is risen, and you will rise, too.

To the dear ones whose beloveds have not kept their promises, even as you have kept yours; for you whose children, grandchildren, or friends are far off – relationally or geographically; or whose relationships have been less than what you hoped for, prayed for, or expected, it is no idle tale, Jesus is risen, and you will rise, too.

To the dear ones who are burdened by stress at work, stress at home, debt, addiction, bad decisions; whose bodies betray them – or who watch sadly as a loved one's body runs down, it is no idle tale, Jesus is risen, and you will rise, too.

To the dear ones who are terrified by the fear of loss, who feel their hard-fought rights being stripped away, who struggle with the silence and complicity of neighbors; to those who are tired, weak and worn-out by the state of our community, the nation, and the world, it is no idle tale, Jesus is risen, and you will rise, too.

To the dear ones who have experienced casual prejudice, overt racism, institutionalized transphobia, government-sanctioned xenophobia, homophobia-disguised-as-humor; who know the trauma of assault or abuse; who've experienced not having been believed like the women in Luke's Easter gospel, whose love has been run down with loose words and cheap criticism; and particularly to those who have been hurt by the church, it is no idle tale, Jesus is risen, and you will rise, too.

Dear ones, all: we who carry this precious gift of faith, no matter how great or small that faith might feel or be; God blesses and sends us this Easter, to be credible witnesses; in word and deed; willing to risk anything, perhaps even everything; to bring healing, hope, and resurrection in ways that we've never done it before; together, for the sake of a world God still so loves, in Jesus Christ.

Indeed, it is no idle tale, Jesus is risen, and you will rise, too.

Alleluia.



**Join us on Sundays in the Sanctuary at  
10:00 am. for worship.**

We are currently offering one worship service at 10:00 AM on Sundays. We are alternating between our Traditional and Family Worship Service format each Sunday, with a children's message, Holy Communion 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”!**



## PRAISE & WORSHIP

Every Sunday beginning at 9:30-9:40 AM 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*

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## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Happy Spring! We want to start a Children's Choir at Hope Church! For more information and to sign-up see Colin Eversley, Music Minister. We would also need a director to lead and help organize children.  
No experience needed.



# God Answers Prayer

Yonas Amenu	Mike Gerald	Ryan O'Donnell	Elvelta Williams
Bob Baker	Russ Getz	Charmaine Ordak	Karen Williams
Connie Baker	Pierre Gibbons	Beth Patterson	Gail Wilson
Susan Baucom	Joyce Glover	Judy Crockett-	Cass Wohlleben
Barbara Becker	Cassidy Gore	Peddiford	
Gail Berry	Peggy Ward Grant	Krista Pellegrini	
Jessica Berry	Trudy Grauer	Evelyn Porter	
Pat Berry	Cowyn Gustave	Dorothy Prevost	
Kathy Binas	Nicole Harden	Cass Rayman	
John Boblitz	Juliana Hasson	Dave Raynor	
Ken Brazerol	J & K	Yvonne Ryan	
Debbie Bryant	Lillian Jones	Sarah Schnept	
Andres Buitrago	Kay	Geraldine Scott	
Wilford Buitrago	Joan Kincaid	Nancy Scott	
Tony Bunk	Michelle Kincaid	Tina Sharfe	
Ethel Burke	Matt Kretschmar	Barbara Shelly	
David Clagget	Christina Lacko	Mike Short, Jr.	
Chris Copffey	Lynne Lake	Charlene Simmons	
Mary Jane Conrad	Vicki Lesko	Lonny Smith	
Chuck DeWitt	Patty	Margaret Smith	
Jami Edgar	Baldwin-Linsolata	John Steiner	
Belinda Emge	Margaret Linz	Phyllis Sult	
Susan Enclade	Karen Loudon	Peggy Talbott	
Jay Ferell	Phil Malpas	Teresa	
Darlene Fisher	Mary-Kathryn	Sharon Thompson	
Tim Flaherty	Ruth Massaroni	Dale Timmons	
Al Fleischmann	John Micklos	Andrea Ulrich	
Amy Folk	Marsha Millender	Frank Walls	
Derrick Fowler	Matilda Miller	Trish White	
Sam Freels	Michelle Moore	Jeff Wiley	
	Terry Novak	Fred Wilkes	

All essential workers, people & families affected by coronavirus, local businesses and all businesses and people affected by this pandemic, our Congregation, All First Responders and all active and reserve members of our armed forces.



# *Spring Congregation Meeting Announcement*

***It's that time of year! Our Spring Congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, May 4, 2025 after the 10:00am Worship Service & Fellowship. This is an important meeting as we will be discussing and voting on:***

***Approve minutes from December 2024 Congregation Meeting***

***HELC Treasurer Report***

***ASLC Treasurer Report***

***We need to have as many members as possible to attend the meeting, so we meet our quorum requirements. Please mark your calendars and make it a priority to attend the meeting.***

***God's Blessings,  
Bob Schweitzer,  
Council President***



***Congregational Meeting***

# Palm Sunday 2025



“Rejoice greatly...your king comes to you.” Zechariah 9:9

Thank you to Hope Choir for uplifting our spirits and filling the air with God’s love.

May the blessings of Palm Sunday remind you of God’s love and mercy. Wishing you a blessed and meaningful Holy Week,





# All Stars Learning Center



**Hope Lutheran Church**  
1901 Middleborough Road  
Essex, MD 21221  
410-686-6060  
[allstarscenter@yahoo.com](mailto:allstarscenter@yahoo.com)



*Do you want your child to have a sweet and fun filled Summer?*

We invite your child to experience our  
**"Summer is Sweet" Summer Program!**

**Learn fun facts** about Sweet Treats, Maryland, the USA,  
and Wild Animals!

**Other fun activities will include:** STEM, water play,  
biking obstacles, spirit week, and special visitors!

<b>Outdoor Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized Sports               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soccer, Basketball, Baseball</li> </ul> </li> <li>Sprinkler / Water Balloon Days</li> <li>Obstacle Courses</li> </ul>		<b>Arts/Crafts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make Americana Jewelry</li> <li>Make a CD Donut</li> <li>Decorate a Sun Visor</li> <li>Make a Picture Frame</li> <li>Tie-Dye String Bags</li> <li>Arrange Edible Snacks</li> <li>Make an Ornament</li> </ul>
<b>Special Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cook-Out</li> <li>Carnival</li> <li>Ice Cream Party</li> </ul>	<b><u>Special Visits</u></b> <p>Kona Ice Santa Oriole Bird</p>	

\*\*Our Summer Program covers ten weeks<sup>1</sup> of care, beginning June 16, 2025, and ending August 22, 2025. We offer full time care and part-time care. Tuition ranges from \$75.00-\$250.00 per week, with an additional activities fee of \$10.00 per week. Our Center provides breakfast, morning snack, and afternoon snack. Lunch must be provided by parents. For more information and to register your child for our Summer Program, please contact Nicole at 410-686-6060. \*\*

<sup>1</sup> You do not have to sign up for all 10 weeks, but registration is 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served.

*This organization and its materials are not affiliated with, sponsored by, or endorsed by Baltimore County Public Schools, the Superintendent, or this Baltimore County Public School or Office.*





Hope's gifted, dedicated, passionate and excited VBS Team led by Denise had their second meeting of the season April 10th to put together another wonderful VBS! Thank you to the Team! Teamwork makes the dream work!

**VBS 2025 SAVE THE DATE:** True North, Trusting Jesus in a Wild World, July 21-24, 6:00 pm—8:00 pm. Dinner option: 5:30 pm—5:55 pm. This is always an awesome week of singing, dancing, bible stories, crafts, games, snacks and interactive sessions. Our Campers will explore timeless bible stories that show we have Jesus—our true north! This will give Campers a rock-solid foundation and point them to Jesus, their unmovable, unshakable friend forever! Stay tuned for online registration and more information.







We all face seasons of uncertainty—moments when the path ahead seems unclear. But even in the midst of it, our faith anchors us.

Romans 12:12 encourages us: *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."*

At Hope, we hold fast to the truth that God walks with us through every seasons of life and ministry — and is already preparing brighter days ahead. Let's continue to pray for one another, offer grace, and trust in the goodness still to come.

✨ You are loved. You are not alone. And there is still so much good to come.

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GriefShare is a 13-week support group that focuses on topics associated with the loss of a loved one. Weekly videos feature grief experts and real-life stories from people. After the video there is small group discussion. Your loss maybe recent or not. You will find encouragement, comfort, and support in dealing with your grief. This is an opportunity to be around people that truly understand. GriefShare will be held at Hope Lutheran Church weekly on Monday evenings at 7 pm. To register go to [GriefShare.org/findagroup](http://GriefShare.org/findagroup) and search for Hope Lutheran Church. There is no cost to register. However, there is a \$25 charge for the book that accompanies the session. A new session will begin May 5th. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 410-686-7587 or [HopeSecretary1901@outlook.com](mailto:HopeSecretary1901@outlook.com).

**Butterflies do not make a sound on Earth.** However, if you whisper a prayer to it, the butterfly will carry it to God. If you whisper a message to a loved one living in Heaven, the butterfly will deliver your message to your loved one. Join us for our **butterfly release** at Hope Lutheran Church on **Monday, June 30th at 7 pm**. For more information contact Cindy Presnell 410-626-7587 or Laurie Koontz 443-632-5220.



## IMPORTANT FOOD FOR THOUGHT NEWS!

Spring fund raising time is here! This year we are trying a new fundraiser we think you'll enjoy.

We'll be selling freshly made small batch Double Good Popcorn using a virtual fund raising app over a 4 day period. All sorts of flavors are available, such as "In Queso Fire", "Home on the Ranch", and "Easy Peasy, Caramel Cheesy", to name a few. More details about flavors, making of the popcorn, and ordering process will be available on the app.

50% of all our sales will be donated to Hope's Food for Thought Program. Please join in! Watch and listen for more details; likely start date May 14.

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## IRONBIRDS BASEBALL



Aberdeen Ironbirds baseball game **Saturday, June 21st at 7:30**. Tickets \$43, children under 7 free, includes-all you can eat food and drink. This is located at the "Birds Nest" behind home plate. Let's get together and enjoy a great day. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. **All monies must be in by Sunday, May 11th**

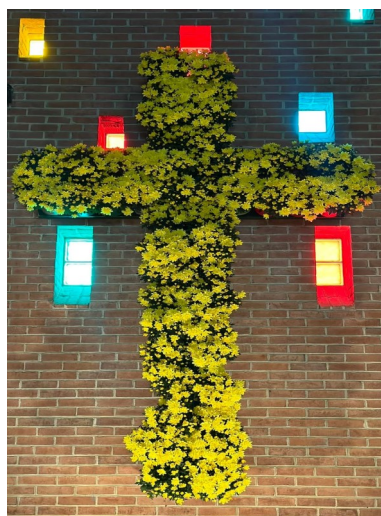
*If you're paying with a check, make check out to David Presnell.*



# Getting Ready for Easter 2025

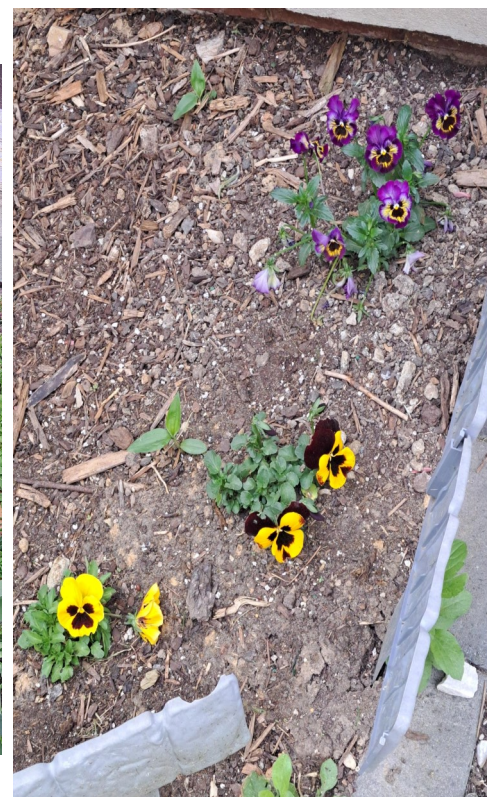
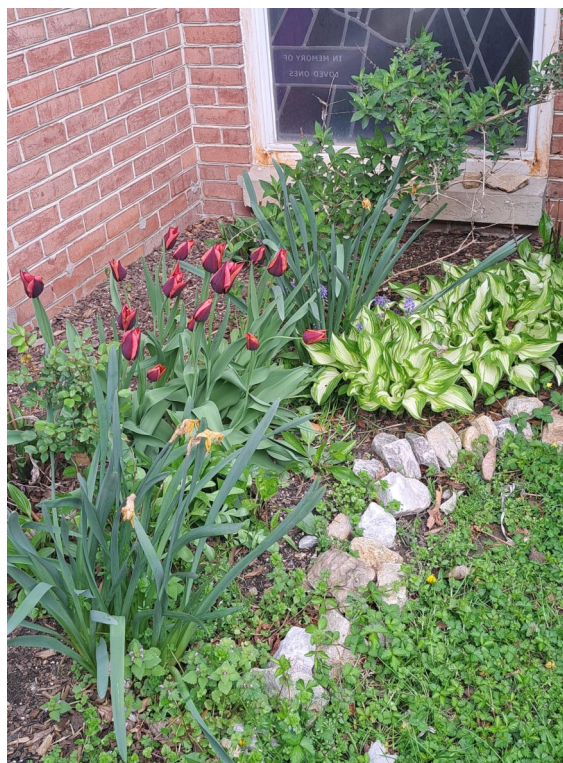


## Easter Sunday 2025





*Hello Spring! Stop by the courtyard, outside our door and enjoy the flowers. Thank you and God bless the Theas' for the beautiful flowers.*







**"There's no way to  
be a perfect mother,  
and a million ways  
to be a good one."**

—JILL CHURCHILL

RS

**To the world,  
you are a  
mother.  
To our family,  
you are the  
world.**

*Homemade*  
GIFTS MADE EASY

**"Life  
doesn't  
come with a  
manual. It  
comes with  
a mother."**





# Mothers

Mothers are a precious gift  
Sent to us from above.  
They nurture us, take care of us  
And give us all their love.

They feed us and teach us  
Every day of our lives.  
They sing us to sleep  
And tuck us in at night.

They support us in all we do  
And pray for us each day.  
They always put us first  
And help us find our way.

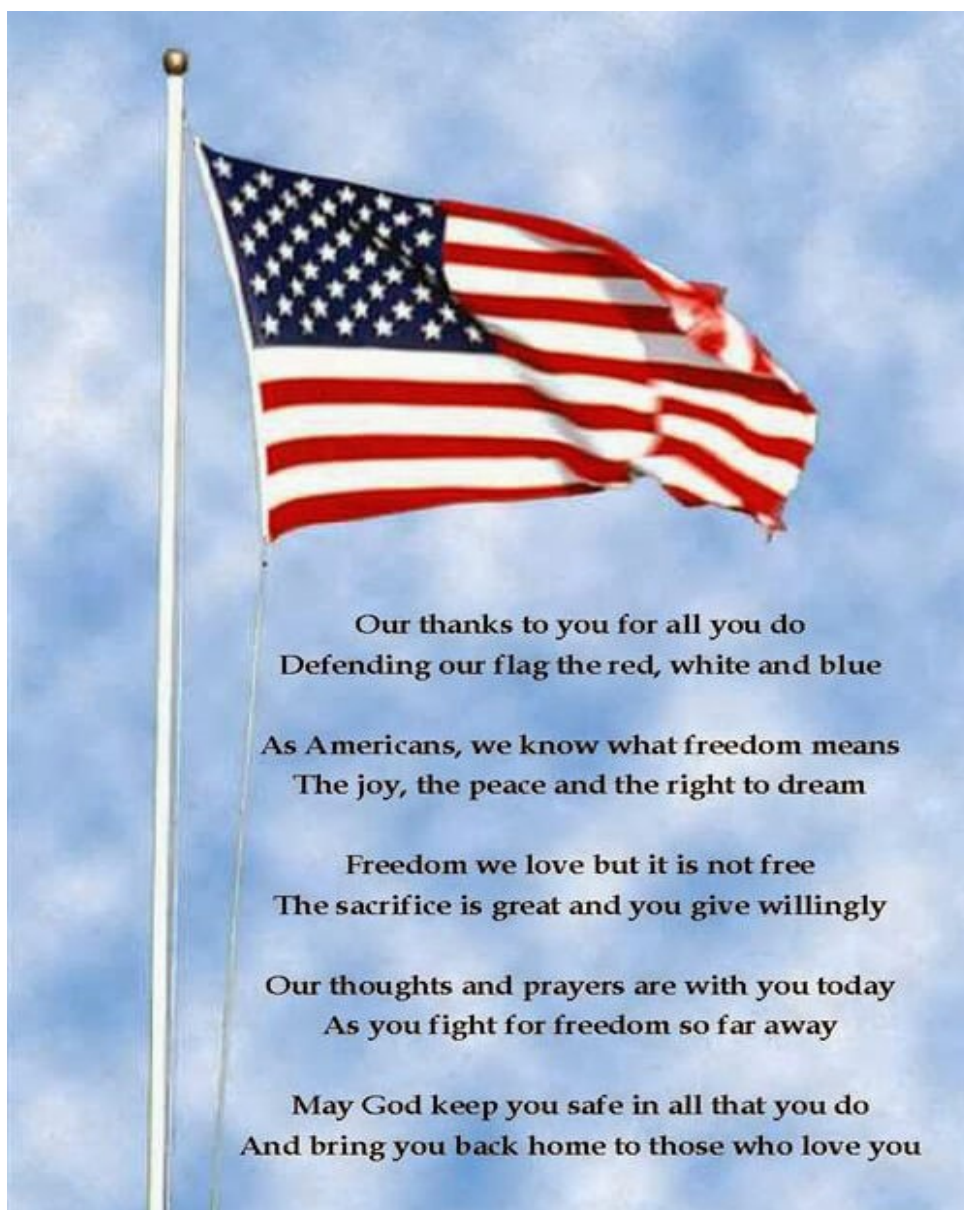
No matter how much I mess up,  
She will always be there  
Because she loves unconditionally  
And, for me, will always care.

By Patricia Adderley





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## Worship Themes for May 2025

Date/Day	Scripture texts	Theme
<b>May 4</b> <b>Easter 3</b>	Acts 9:1-20 Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	Paul's conversion, baptism, and preaching You have turned my wailing into dancing. The song of the living creatures to the Lamb Jesus appears to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias
<b>May 11</b> <b>Easter 4</b>	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Peter raises Tabitha/Dorcas from the dead The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. A white-robed multitude sings before the lamb Jesus promises eternal life to his sheep
<b>May 18</b> <b>Easter 5</b>	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35	Peter's vision: God give the Gentiles repentance that leads to life The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. New heaven, new earth: springs of living water in the new Jerusalem Jesus gives a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you
<b>May 25</b> <b>Easter 6</b>	Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5 John 14:23-29	Lydia and her household are baptized by Paul Let the nations be glad and sing for joy... The Lamb is the light of the city of God The Father will send the Holy Spirit

Listen for  
*God's Voice*  
 In everything you do



## May Duty Schedule 2025

10:00	May 4	May 11 Mothers Day	May 18	May 25 Memorial Day Weekend	
Assist	Bob Schweitzer	Colan Kahl	Joan Schweitzer	John Kelly	
Lector	Youth Lynne Lake	Jess Kahl	Marge Carl	Jeff Patten	
Serve if needed	None	None	None	Bob Schweitzer	
Ushers	Donna Jacob Jackie Eversley	Denise McLaughlin Carolee Calo	Laurie Koontz Eric Eszes	Linda Moler Kate Patten	
Counters	Donna Jacob Joan Schweitzer	Colan Kahl Denise McLaughlin	Linda Moler Joan Schweitzer	Bob Schweitzer Steve Kahl	
Flowers	Ron and Vicki Lesko <i>Sign-up Available</i>	Jeff and Kate Patten Steve and Sharyn Kahl	Jeff and Kate Patten Trish Hays	Sue Alexander <i>Sign-up Available</i>	
Sunday School	Carolee Calo	Ruth Kraeger	Denise McLaughlin	Rachel Morgan	



### Planning ahead...

Pentecost Sunday is June 8th.....  
Planning the Lord's Prayer to be prayed in  
various languages.


















Anyone speak a language other than  
English

Willing to take part in this?

This is an experiment, no doubt!! But I'm  
willing to give it a try! Please shoot me an  
email or text if you are willing to take part  
in this and let me know what language you  
will be speaking. — Pastor Meheret



# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> <b>10:00 AM &amp; 4:00 PM</b> All Stars Learning Center Chapel	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Zoom Bible Study 
<b>4</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship in the Sanctuary <b>11:00 AM</b> Spring Congregational Meeting <b>11:30 AM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Quilters 	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study via Zoom 	<b>8</b> <b>10:00 AM &amp; 4:00 PM</b> All Stars Learning Center Chapel	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Zoom Bible Study 
<b>11</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship in the Sanctuary <b>11:00 AM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>Mother's Day</b> 🌸	<b>12</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Quilters 	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study via Zoom 	<b>15</b> <b>10:00 AM &amp; 4:00 PM</b> All Stars Learning Center Chapel	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Zoom Bible Study at Two Guys Restaurant 
<b>18</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship in the Sanctuary <b>11:00 AM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Quilters  <b>7:00 PM</b> Church Council Meeting 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study via Zoom 	<b>22</b> <b>10:00 AM &amp; 4:00 PM</b> All Stars Learning Center Chapel	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Zoom Bible Study 
<b>25</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship in the Sanctuary <b>11:00 AM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>  <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study via Zoom 	<b>29</b> <b>10:00 AM &amp; 4:00 PM</b> All Stars Learning Center Chapel	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Zoom Bible Study 



Our Lord has written the promise  
of the resurrection, not in books  
alone, but in every leaf in  
spring-time.

—Martin Luther—





02	Bev Hoffman
06	Bobbie Hershey
06	Raymond Mulbah
12	Bobbi Floyd
14	Kate Patten
15	Jennifer Jewell
19	Linda Neewary
19	Brittany Ouimette
20	Dylan Talbott
22	Sharyn Kahl
24	Sandra Cincinnati
28	Kiersten Williams
31	Robert Caruthers



# *Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church*

## *Our Staff*

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E-Mail: [hopesecretary@outlook.com](mailto:hopesecretary@outlook.com) Office Hours Tues.-Fri. 8:30 AM-1:00 PM

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

Council VP: **Jeff Patten** • Cel 410-456-5464

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

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

Gina Baker	410-456-9548
Nicole Eck	443-271-4014
Colan Kahl, Past Pres.	410-292-2944
Sharyn Kahl	410-574-3060
Lynne Lake	443-854-0708, Youth Leader
Vicki Lesko	410-630-2228
Thea Melton	410-585-5670



Articles for the June Messenger are due by May 23rd. Mark your calendars!

We will be having a July/August combination issue of the Messenger, articles due

by June 20th, so please plan ahead!