



470 Winter Street Ext.
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 283-1372
www.HOPELC.ORG

We are a community empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to bring God's comfort, to work for God's justice, and to share the hope and love of Jesus with all.

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

April 13th

A graphic for Palm Sunday featuring a wooden cross with a green palm frond wrapped around its base. The words "Palm Sunday" are written in a gold, cursive font to the right of the cross.

Service at 10 AM

April 17th

A graphic for Maundy Thursday showing a close-up of a piece of golden-brown bread being dipped into a bowl of dark liquid, likely wine.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Dinner at 6 PM
Service at 6:30 PM**

Our Core Values



*faith
acceptance
compassion
gratitude
love*

April 18th

A graphic for Good Friday featuring a silhouette of a cross on a hill against a bright, glowing sun or moon.

Good Friday

Service at 7 PM

EASTER Sunday
HE IS RISEN

A graphic for Easter Sunday showing a landscape with three crosses on hills under a purple and orange sky with rays of light.

April 20th

Service at 10 AM

PASTOR'S PAGE

Happy Easter!

This month we celebrate the most important, and I might add, joyous holiday of the Christian year! Easter—the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ Jesus we celebrate the fact that death will not have a permanent hold on us. That the little deaths we sometimes experience in our on-going lives will not prevail against us either, for we have been baptized into Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Yes indeed, we can trust in the promise of new life after death, which Jesus promises to all who have faith in him. But less we forget, we can also trust in that same promise of resurrection when enduring the trials and tribulations we encounter in our everyday lives. In ancient and medieval times, life was often so difficult that people felt they could only look forward to life after death. And certainly, they weren't wrong to have such hope. In death, they could look forward to being once again united with their Father in heaven, and the Saints who had gone before them—family members and friends. They could rest assured that in God's kingdom (unlike their earthly existence) was a place where justice and righteousness would prevail. Where they mattered.

And of course, that same hope exists for us today—but not just in the afterlife. No, Jesus tells his disciples that the Kingdom of God is right here in our present reality as well. When we enact the values in our everyday lives which Jesus taught, we are one step closer to bringing forth God's kingdom into our midst.

Even in the most difficult of times, and times are difficult for many these days, Christ's promise of resurrection abounds. There is hope even in times of seeming hopelessness. There is joy to be had even when it seems all the joy is being squeezed out of life. Jesus says to us, his disciples, you are the light of the world—the light that began with me now lives in you. This Easter let your light shine forth—for resurrection hope lives in you, not just after death, but today as well.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Pamela Hoh



APRIL PRAYER CALENDAR

April 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 <i>Irene Tumlin</i>	2 <i>Emma Churchill</i>	3 <i>Melissa Churchill</i>	4 <i>Kevin Churchill</i>	5 <i>Maureen Hoffman</i>	6 <i>Diane Cornell</i>
7 <i>Cynthia Winter</i>	8 <i>Linda Hunter</i>	9 <i>Diane Middleton</i>	10 <i>Judy Rieker</i>	11 <i>Gerd Rieker</i>	12 <i>Dan Churchill</i>	13 <i>Ciji Churchill</i>
14 <i>Harper Churchill</i>	15 <i>Bailey Churchill</i>	16 <i>Pr. Elaine Berg</i>	17 <i>Hope Altar Guild</i>	18 <i>Hope Prays Ministry</i>	19 <i>All Who Mourn</i>	20 <i>Resurrection Day</i>
21 <i>Donna St. John</i>	22 <i>Eugene St. John</i>	23 <i>Dale Zipkin</i>	24 <i>Janis Zipkin</i>	25 <i>Anita Renault-Ford</i>	26 <i>Karen Hill</i>	27 <i>Debbie Favro</i>
28 <i>Gary Favro</i>	29 <i>Jim DiMartini</i>	30 <i>Sharon DiMartini</i>				



EACH MONTH WE LIST NAMES FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS FOR OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY. OUR PRAYERS SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. (A REMINDER...THESE ARE NOT PRAYERS FOR HEALING.)



We wish you a very Happy and Blessed Birthday ...



Wayne Felt ~ April 8th

Bonny Munteer ~ April 16th

Synod Hunger Justice Challenge 2025



The Synod Hunger Justice Team invites congregations to contribute \$500 or more to support refugee families. Lutherans are known for their work with refugees, from managing some of the world's largest refugee camps to leading resettlement efforts. These camps shelter people who have fled war and violence, and **food supplies help them stay healthy** after a long, dangerous journey to safety.

Thank you for considering a donation to help families in need!

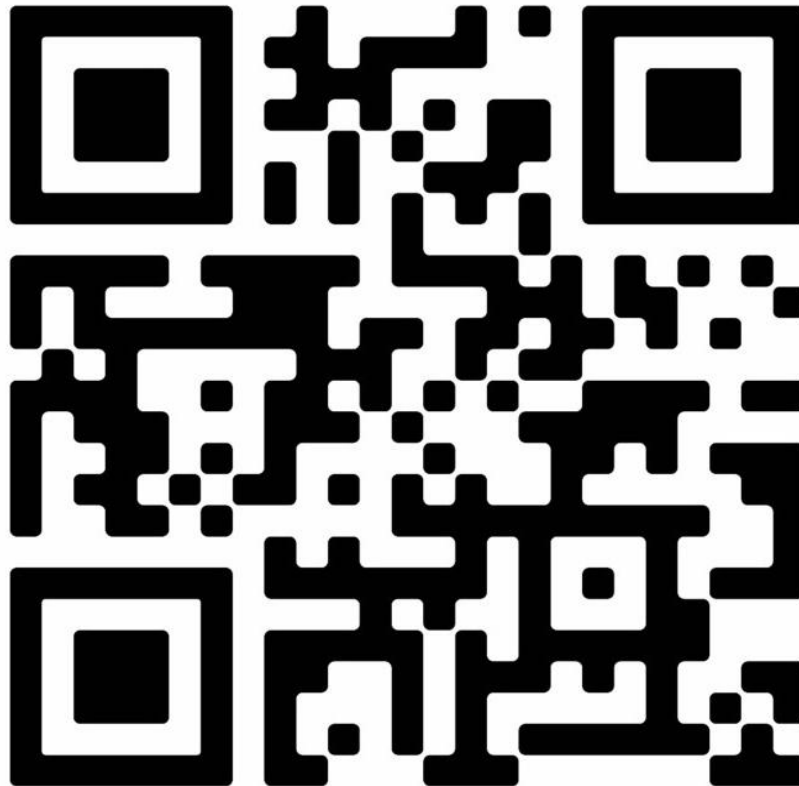


Lutheran Disaster Relief



Support those impacted by the California wildfires today!

Lutheran Disaster Response works with its partners to provide immediate relief, such as water, food, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, attention to unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care. Scan the QR code below to donate and click the button to download the bulletin insert.



DOWNLOAD THE INSERT HERE

CEO Food Pantry Distribution

Free!



Produce



Protein



Pantry



DATE OF DISTRIBUTION

**THURSDAY
April 10th**

TIME

11:00AM - 1:00PM

LOCATION

**Community
Resource Center**

2328 Fifth Avenue | Troy, NY

THE FOOD PANTRY @ CEO

- Open to all Rensselaer County residents
- No appointment needed
- Provides (3) days' worth of food per household member *(while supplies last)*
- Diapers available *(limited sizes)*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call (518) 272-6012 ext. 198



470 Winter Street Ext. in Troy
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Holy Week Schedule



All Services will be In-Person & Online

April 13th ~



Service at 10 AM

April 17th ~



Dinner at 6 PM
Service at 6:30 PM

April 18th ~

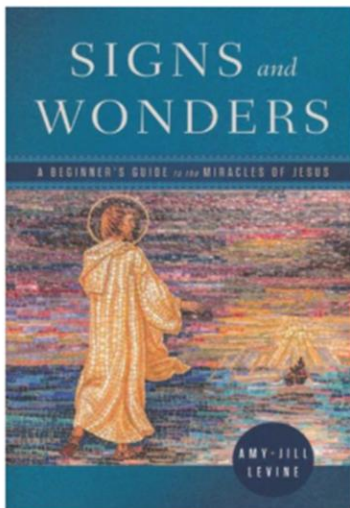


Service at 7 PM

April 20st ~



Service at 10 AM



THURSDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – MIRACLES OF JESUS

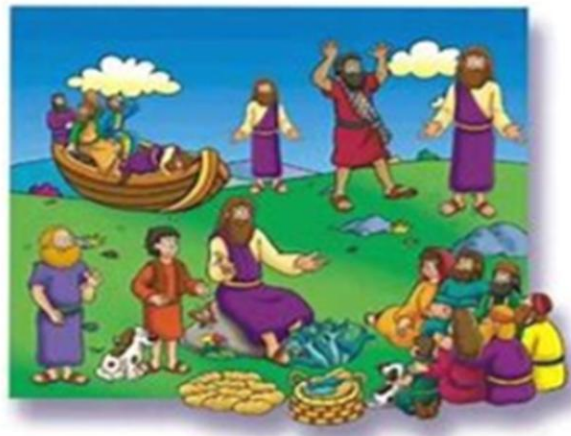
The Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study group resumes on Thursday, April 24th at 6:30 p.m. The six-to-eight-week study will focus on the Miracles of Jesus as explored by Jewish New Testament Scholar, Amy-Jill Levine. (The group meets at 47 Deerhaven Lane, Rensselaer 12144.)

For each miracle, Amy-Jill Levine discusses not only how past witnesses would have understood the events, but also how today's readers can draw meaning from Jesus's words and actions. Chapter topics include:

Giving sight to the blind: Metaphors of understanding (Mark 8, John 9); "Take up your pallet and walk" (the paralyzed man): On the role of caregivers; A bleeding woman and a dead girl: The importance of women's bodies; Walking on water and stilling the storm: Ecological readings of the Gospels; The feeding of the 5,000 (or more): The centrality of bread; The raising of Lazarus: Taking death seriously.

Throughout this study Levine calls us to the interpretive work, reminding us that the big question is not "did this happen?" but "what does it mean?" and ultimately "so what?" How can these old miracle stories speak good news to our lives in this time and place and invite our own healing and transformation along the way?

For further information or to join the group, contact Pr. Elaine Berg (meb312@aol.com or 315.882.3732)



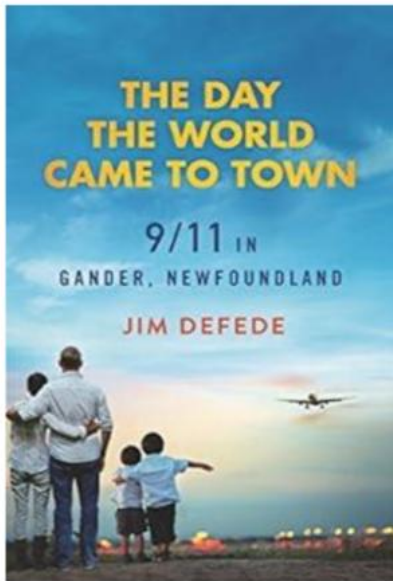
COPING WITH GRIEF AND LOSS

grief support group

THURSDAY, APRIL 24th at 6:30 PM

Please Note:

**Due to the third Thursday of April
being during Holy Week,
the date has been changed for this month.**



HOPE BOOK GROUP REMEMBERS - THE DAY THE WORLD CAME TOWN - 09/11/2001 (4/30/25 - NEW DAY)

Hope Book Group will return on April 30, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the home of Marilyn Dyer and Elaine Berg. The new meeting day will be the 4th Wednesday of each month. April's choice is *The Day the World Came to Town 9/11 in Gender, Newfoundland* by Jim DeFede.

When 38 jetliners bound for the United states were forced to land at Gander International Airport in Canada by the closing of U.S. airspace on September 11th, the population of this small town on Newfoundland island swelled from 10,300 to nearly 17,000.

The citizens of Gander met the stranded passengers with an overwhelming display of friendship and goodwill. As the passengers stepped from the airplanes, exhausted, hungry and distraught after being held on board for nearly 24 hours while security checked all of the baggage, they were greeted with a feast prepared by the townspeople. Many of the passengers developed friendships with Gander residents that they expect to last a lifetime.

This book recounts the inspiring stories of the residents of Gander, Canada, whose acts of kindness have touched the lives of thousands of people and have been an example of humanity and good will. As anniversaries of the event approached, author DeFede updated many of the stories told in the original edition.



Hope Gathers for Tacos and Trivia Night

May 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

After a Lenten hiatus, **Hope Gathers** returns for a Cinco de Mayo celebration with a Taco Bar, Tex-Mex delights and Trivia on Saturday, May 3rd at 6:00 p.m. Note the change of time (from 5:30 to 6:00) and to the first Saturday (in May only).



You are encouraged to create teams of at least four (4) people to play trivia with a variety of subjects - from the Bible to History, Geography, Sports, and 20th century fads and events. We hear that a prize will be given to the winning team.



Sign Up Sheets will be available for attendance and items needed for the Taco Bar and/or other favorite Tex-Mex dishes. Contact Marion Daus or Pr .Elaine Berg with questions.

Hope Gathers is a ministry of Hope Lutheran Church to facilitate community and camaraderie around food and laughter. Events include game nights, picnics, cabaret, movies, and a variety of opportunities to encourage shared interest and purpose.

Hope to se you there!!!

Worship Volunteer Duties for April 2025

Please find your own replacement if you cannot be available on date of assignment.

	6-Apr	13-Apr	17-Apr	18-Apr	20-Apr	27-Apr
	Worship 10:00am	Palm Sunday 10:00am	Maundy Thursday 6:00pm	Good Friday 7:00pm	Easter Sunday 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Debbie F	Marilyn D	Donna S	Bonny M	Debbie F	Donna S
Greeter	Lois B	Anna-Lisa H	Cindy W	Elaine B	Marlies P	Diane C
Usher	Athena B	Maureen H	Marilyn D	XXX	Bonny M	Cindy W
Assisting Minister	Susan R	Sandra G	Chris N	Pam D	Marilyn D	Karen C
Comm. Assistant	Susan R	Pam D (+ candles)	Bonny M	XXX	Donna S	Chris N
Snack Set-Up	Marilyn D	Susan C	XXX	XXX	Marilyn D	Susan C
Offering Counters	Susan R & Pam D	Maureen H & Pam D	XXX	XXX	Bonny M & Marilyn D	Cindy W & Marion D
Extra Readers	XXX	Chris N & Cindy W	XXX	Bonny M & Sandra G	XXX	XXX



News & Upcoming Events for April of 2025

We have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM.

We also live-stream our services on our website, Facebook and YouTube.

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all

- 1st:** Beginner Tai Chi, 7 – 8 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Tuesday, except 4/8).
- 2nd:** Qigong, 1:30 – 2:30 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Wednesday, except 4/9).
- 2nd:** Advanced Tai Chi, 3 – 4 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Wednesday, except 4/9).
- 2nd:** Lenten Soup Supper #4 @ 6:30 PM in the large classroom.
- 3rd:** Choir Rehearsal @ 6:15 PM in the small classroom, (every Thursday).
- 6th:** Prayers of Hope Team meets in the small classroom following Worship Service.
- 9th:** Lenten Soup Supper #5 (last one) @ 6:30 PM in the large classroom.
- 12th:** Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at RFB.
- 13th:** Palm Sunday Worship Service @ 10 AM in the sanctuary & online.
- 13th:** New Members Class with Pastor Pamela following Worship Service.
- 15th:** Hope's Hands meets @ 10 AM in the small classroom.
- 16th:** Easter Food Basket Packing for St. Paul's @ 10 AM in the large classroom.
- 16th:** Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM, in the large classroom & via Zoom.
- 17th:** Maundy Thursday; Dinner @ 6 PM & Worship Service @ 6:30 PM; in the sanctuary & online.
- 18th:** Good Friday Worship Service @ 7 PM in the sanctuary & online.
- 20th:** Easter Sunday Worship Service @ 10 AM in the sanctuary & online.
- 24th:** Women's Bible Study @ 6:30 PM at Pr. Elaine's home.
- 24th:** Grief Support Group @ 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.
- 27th:** Annual Meeting following Worship Service in the sanctuary.
- 30th:** Women's Book Club @ 6:30 PM at Marilyn's home.

