

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.

Give thanks  
to the LORD,  
for He is good;  
His love endures  
forever.

Happy  
Thanksgiving

## Our Core Values



*faith*  
*acceptance*  
*compassion*  
*gratitude*  
*love*

**November  
Lutheran World  
Relief**

~ See how you can  
help on pg. 5 ~

**Returning Ministry:  
Meals AND Wheels**

~ Check out pg. 6 ~

**New Ministry:  
Grief Support Group**

~ Details on pg. 9 ~



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

During the month of November, we as a country take time to celebrate all that we have been blessed with, family and friends, our nation and its resources. The airports and trains will soon be filled with students journeying home from schools, and with family members living in different parts of the country coming home—perhaps making that once a year journey back to celebrate Thanksgiving. It's also a wonderful time to remember that we as Christians are thankful for the grace bestowed upon us by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's a staggering thought when you really think about how many Christians there are in the world. When last counted (in 2021), there were approximately 8 billion people in the world. Out of that 8 billion, 2.38 billion were Christians. Throughout the Christian world, this grace and our resulting thankfulness binds us together, for in this gift of grace resides our hope for all humankind to find peace, lovingkindness, forgiveness, and healing. We are in a state of war in so many places. What a witness it would be if we and our brothers and sisters in Christ, all 2.3 billion, prayed fervently for peace and did everything in our power to make peace a reality, ending war everywhere; in faith knowing that we are not alone as the power of God's grace leads us. What a thanksgiving that would be!

May the grace of God bless you and your family,  
your neighbor and friends with joy and peace  
this coming Thanksgiving.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Pamela



## Some updates and news from your Council President:

With Fall upon us and getting closer to the Holidays, it seems we are busier than ever here at HLC! When I read the October Newsletter, with all the events, meetings, etc., I realized how very active our congregation is! After a busy summer, where I was away several weekends, I've been 'catching up' with all our activities.

News from our church committees and Council Business:

- Our Website is continuing to be updated and improved – Greg Whitney.
- The CLI team (Congregational Lead Initiative) will be meeting in November to continue with plans for creating the Community Garden in the Spring - Pastor Pamela and team.
- Our building projects are moving along, with new bathroom and closet updates, and various other improvements you will notice around the building – Marilyn Dyer and team.
- We had security cameras installed (thanks Greg, our IT tech) on the Clothing Shed in order to determine who has been taking out bags and making a mess in the shed the past few months. When reviewing the camera video recently, it showed some adults with a truck, taking bags out of the shed and putting them in their pickup truck. We have made a police report and hope they will be caught and dealt with legally, and we're hopeful there will be no more problems with the clothing shed.
- Marilyn will start a campaign for gathering items for personal care kits, to be sent to areas needed.
- I attended the Worship and Music Committee meeting, as a representative of the Altar Guild.

In October, I was privileged to attend a three-day Mission Developer Trainer gathering with Pastor Pamela in Chicago. This was quite interesting... met so many DEMs, church pastors, and church lay leaders (like myself) from all areas of the country. In between all the lectures and presentations, we had a lovely hotel (where we didn't spend much time), many snacks and nice meals and enjoyed chatting and getting to know one another. The topics covered:

- Encouragement and Empowerment
- Organizing a Congregation Testimony
- Partnering with your Director for Evangelical Mission for Organizing
- How to Lead for Organizing ELCA Congregations
- Constitutional and Legal Aspects of Organizing New Congregations
- Building Leadership Teams into Councils and Congregational Teams
- Evangelism
- Discipleship and Inclusive Communities
- Dismantling Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Church Finances, Best Practices for Faithful Stewardship and Fundraising

I came away with flyers on some of these topics, which I can share. As we go forward, Pastor Pamela and our DEM Pastor Imani Olear will be meeting to start planning for our 'Organized Congregation' and what our roles will be. It's all very exciting to look forward to.

I attended the Fall Assembly of the Hudson Mohawk Conference, Upstate NY Synod in Albany on Oct. 15, led by Dean Jo Page with Bishop Lee Miller reporting on updates of the Upstate NY Synod.

Blessings and thank you to all!  
Bonny A. Munteer  
Council President





## THANK YOU, ALTAR GUILD!

IF YOU'VE EVER LOOKED AT HOPE'S ALTAR ON A SUNDAY MORNING AND THOUGHT ABOUT HOW NICE IT LOOKS, YOU HAVE HOPE'S ALTAR GUILD TO THANK. THESE DEDICATED FOLKS, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MAUREEN HOFFMAN, ARE IN CHARGE OF SETTING UP AND CLEANING UP COMMUNION, CHECKING AND REPLACING THE ALTAR CANDLES, AND CHANGING THE SEASONAL BANNERS AND THE PARAMENTS ON THE ALTAR. THEY ALSO ACT AS THE SECOND COMMUNION ASSISTANT EACH SUNDAY, DISTRIBUTING THE SECOND CUP TO COMMUNICANTS.

THE CURRENT ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS ARE:

MAUREEN HOFFMAN  
MARILYN DYER  
DEBBIE FAVRO  
CHARLIE HUFF  
BONNY MOUNTEER  
SUSAN RADZYMINSKI



NEW ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED AND WELCOMED!  
IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN THE TEAM, SEE MAUREEN HOFFMAN.



*Welcome*  
to our  
**Sunday Service**

Thank You, Greeters!

The first face you see at Hope on Sunday mornings is usually that of the Greeter, who is stationed near the front door of the church to bid members and visitors a friendly hello and hand them a bulletin as they enter. This important but simple task can be done by anyone – if you're unable to stand to greet people, you're welcome to pull up a chair!

Our current Greeters are:

Lois Batsios  
Elaine Berg  
Nancy Clarkson  
Marion Daus  
Mike Daus  
Nancy Davis  
Pam Dodson  
Marilyn Dyer  
Peggy Farrell  
Charlie Huff  
Ja'net Malmstrom  
Marlies Palka  
Cindy Winter



If you'd like to add your name to the Greeter list, please see Pam Dodson.



## NOVEMBER

### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

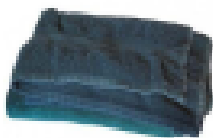
#### PERSONAL CARE KITS COLLECTION MONTH!

Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help. Making Lutheran World Relief Kits is a simple, fun and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need.

LWR Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.

Our church's worldwide relief agency is in **desperate need of personal care kits** for distribution to areas affected by floods, hurricanes, war, earthquakes and other disasters that seem to be all too prevalent.

Inexpensive and easy to put together, we can take care of our brothers and sisters all over the world with these kits. Be on the look out for sales on the following items contained in each kit:



One dark color light-weight  
bath-size towel



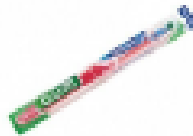
One metal nail clippers  
remove packaging



Wrap all the items in the towel  
and tie securely with ribbons  
or yarn



Two bath-size bars



One adult-size toothbrush in  
its original packaging



One sturdy comb,  
remove packaging

**There will be a special box in the narthex in  
November labeled for LWR Kits.**

**Thanks as always for your generous help.**

# Meals & Wheels



We are resurrecting an existing ministry with a new name.

## *Meals and Wheels*

Those in the congregation needing help with meals, and those needing rides to doctor appointments, ect., please reach out to Donna Littlejohn.

Volunteers are also needed for this important ministry. If you can prepare meals (which can be frozen), and/or provide transportation, please let Donna Littlejohn know.

([balsamchick@icloud.com](mailto:balsamchick@icloud.com)) or (518) 321-5917.

Donna Littlejohn

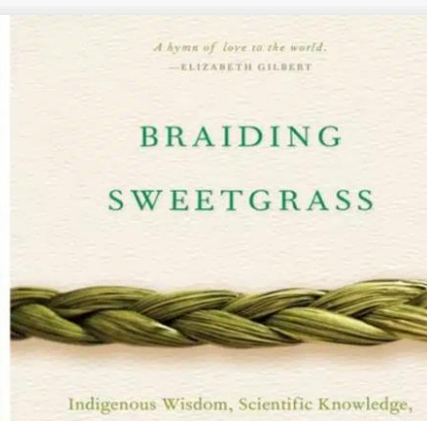
# HOPE'S BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet November 14, 2023 at 7PM at the home of Marilyn Dyer in Defreestville, NY.

The book we will be discussing is "Braiding Sweet Grass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

All are invited. Please contact Donna Littlejohn if you plan to attend.

Donna L Littlejohn







### **New Grief Support Group in North Greenbush**

Currently, the Grief Support Group will meet **one Thursday a month starting at 6pm at Hope Lutheran Church** in North Greenbush –

<https://www.hopelc.org>

Please read below for details and to learn about our facilitator – **Camie Engel**.

This monthly group is a safe, welcoming, and judgment-free place where people who have recently experienced a loss (death of loved one, loss of job, pet, friendship, marriage, or home, children who left for college, to name a few) can come together to share their struggles and learn some coping skills. This group will provide emotional support, validation, and education about grief, helping you feel less alone.

Camie Engel holds a master's degree in Grief Counseling from Regent University of Virginia Beach, VA. Her monthly column in "Our Towne" magazine, "Good Grief with Camie", is written to be a window into the often confusing and painful topics of grief and loss. Having experienced life-altering losses of her own, she had a passion to get more educated and trained to help others.

Join us when you are ready, **the next meeting will be on Thursday, Nov 16<sup>th</sup>**.

Feel free to reach out to Lois with any questions – [Lois.Batsios@Gmail.com](mailto:Lois.Batsios@Gmail.com)



Join us for our  
*Wynantskill PTA Holiday Craft Fair*

Gardner Dickinson School  
25 East Avenue Troy, NY  
Saturday, Nov 18th, 2023

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Free to enter!

Over 50 vendors!

Activities for the family!

See our facebook event for more information:

Wynantskill PTA Craft Fair





# HOPE'S *Hands*

The Quilting/Craft group, known as Hope's Hands, will meet November 21, 2023 at Hope Lutheran Church at 10AM.

We have a few quilts to finish. We are discussing new projects to consider. Please join us.

Donna L Littlejohn





**Blood Drive**  
**Hope Lutheran Church**  
470 Winter Street Ext., Troy, NY 12180  
Sanctuary

**Saturday, December 2, 2023**  
**8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

To schedule your appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), or, download the free Blood Donor App. Use sponsor keyword: hopelutheran



Scan to be directed to RapidPass!

Our gift to you: Come give Dec. 1 to 17 for a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. [rcblood.org/Amazon](http://rcblood.org/Amazon)



Scan to schedule an appointment.

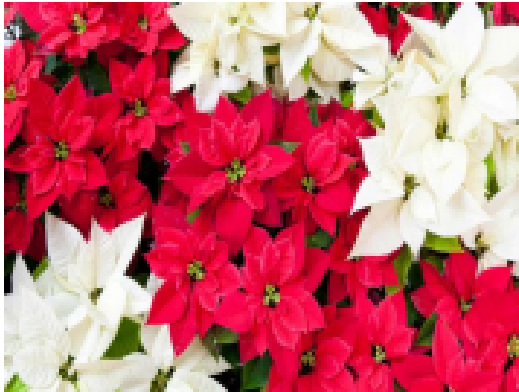
**Register Online at:**

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=hopelutheran>

**Schedule your blood donation appointment today!**

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

# Christmas Poinsettia Orders Now Being Taken!



It's that time again to start thinking about the upcoming holiday season! We'll be ordering beautiful poinsettias from Becker's Farm Garden Center to decorate the altar for the Christmas holidays in honor/memory of loved ones. This year you can choose red or white plants!

**Please note:**

Orders will be taken until **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**.  
All orders are prepaid.

**Make checks out to Hope Lutheran Church.** Put checks and this order slip in the offering plate no later than **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. You may also mail in your orders, but please plan to have your order forms arrive to church before December 3<sup>rd</sup>, when the order will be called in. Please indicate the number/color of plants ordered, circle the "Honor of" or "Memory of", fill in your dedication (for inclusion in the Christmas Eve service bulletin), plant color (if not circled, "red" will be assumed), and if you would like to take your plant home.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Tabletop \$12 ea (1 plant in 6.5"pot)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hearth \$28 ea (1 plant in 8.5"pot)**

Circle plant color: **RED or WHITE**

**Given by:**

---

***In Honor of: or In memory of:***

(Please circle one of the above and include name below.)

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**Taking home? Yes or No** (please circle one)

***Thank you!***

## **Poinsettia Plant – Poisonous to Pets?**

Not according to the article "Holiday Health Hazards" from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University. In the article <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/ClientED/holiday.aspx>, it is stated that poinsettias "...are not very toxic to pets. They do contain a milky sap that can irritate the mouth but if signs develop they are usually mild." Further research online supporting this can be found at numerous sites including the ASPCA's site (<http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/poinsettia.html>) which states that for pets, poinsettias are "irritating to the mouth and stomach, sometimes causing vomiting, but are generally over-rated in toxicity" and that "While poinsettias are commonly "hyped" as poisonous plants, they rarely are, and the poisoning is greatly exaggerated" (<http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poison/poinsettia>).

## Worship Volunteer Duties for November of 2023

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

	5-Nov	12-Nov	19-Nov	26-Nov
	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Marilyn D	Debbie F	Charlie H	Maureen H
Greeter	Elaine B	Nancy C	Lois B	Cindy W
Usher	Pam D (+ candles)	Donna L	Debbie F	Cindy W
Assisting Minister	Sandra G	Marilyn D	Luis C	Bonny M
Communion Assistant	Bonny M	Marilyn D	Luis C	Debbie F
Snack Set-Up / Clean-Up	Marilyn D	Donna L	Susan C	Donna L
Offering Counters	Pam D & Bonny M	Donna L & Nancy C	Charlie H & Pam D	Cindy W & Bonny M






# Upcoming Events for November of 2023

We will have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM. We will also continue to live-stream our services on our website, YouTube page, Facebook page and through Zoom. The Zoom link for Worship Services will continue to be posted in the bulletins.

*Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>2<sup>nd</sup></u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Finance Committee Meeting</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>@ 1:30 PM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(in small classroom)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>2<sup>nd</sup></u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hope's Kitchen Free Community Dinner at Cornerstone Church in Lansingburgh</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">* Serving from 3 – 5:30 PM* (for those who RSVP'd)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>4<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Regional Food Bank Packing</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 AM – Noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meet at RFB</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>10<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dine-Out Dinner Group</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>@ 6 PM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Valente's)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>14<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Book Club</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>@ 7 PM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(at Marilyn's home)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>15<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Meeting</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>@ 6:30 PM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(in large classroom)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>16<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Grief Support Group</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>@ 6 PM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(in large classroom)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>16<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Worship &amp; Music Committee Meeting</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>@ 6:30 PM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(in large classroom)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>21<sup>st</sup></u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hope's Hands Meet</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>@ 10 AM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(in small classroom)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>23<sup>rd</sup></u></b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Thanksgiving Blessings</i></p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday Bible Study at Noon will meet on:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nov. 8, 15, 22 &amp; 29</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(in large classroom &amp; via Zoom)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Save-the-Date</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Red Cross Blood Drive</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sat. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup></b></p>

