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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.

November 2024 Newsletter

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for Christmas**
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Our Core Values



*faith
acceptance
compassion
gratitude
love*

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Pastor's Page

We begin the month of November with All Saints Sunday. A day where we celebrate those we have lost throughout the year and for some of us throughout the years. How perfect that this church celebration coincides with the last of the green leaves upon the trees. If you notice though, the leaves don't fall from the trees while still green. Strangely enough the beauty of the peak fall colors, the reds, the burnished browns, the golds and flashy yellows, falsely indicate an immediacy of new life. I say falsely because this is not about new life but old life. These beautiful leaves are in the last throes of death. After this last burst of spectacular color, they will all but disintegrate completely, becoming brittle, and slowly devoid of color; their beauty and the life they have known will steadily begin to fade. And so we come to that most infamous of specters—death. In our fast-paced youth-oriented culture, we rarely talk about death as a society—as a matter of fact we avoid the topic as much as possible. We want nothing to do with anything that would remind us of our own mortality. But nature takes another approach. It's as if the turning leaves are celebrating as opposed to trying to avoid what is to come. Right before their demise they burst into a brilliancy, especially here in upstate New York, that few states can contend with (and yes, I admit that all states have lovely falls, but none so breathtaking as the autumn of Upstate New York). It's almost as if the trees in their wisdom know that death will not have the final say.

"We'll show you death" they say, "we do not fear you, for we know that death is just a veil which we pass through on our way to life with God and those who have gone before us. We know that God is faithful and that new life will follow this cycle of death, that spring will bring an abundance of new life. And we will be part of that new life. And so death, we will celebrate that which is to come."

As Christians we know this too—with Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we know that death will not have the final say over any of God's creation. And so we too, as part of God's creation, light candles of celebration and remembrance during All Saints Sunday. We remember all the ancestors whom we have lost throughout this past year and all the Saints that have gone before us throughout the years. The lighted candles remind us that the light of Christ lives in them and cannot be extinguished by death. As the wisdom of the trees teach us, death is just a veil; through God's grace the light and beauty of life still goes on.

May your hearts find peace knowing that the light and life of your loved ones continue beyond this earthly life that we know.

In Christ,

Pastor Pamela

In a story attributed to Mother Teresa, she and other religious sisters were distributing food to an impoverished village. Each family was allowed to send one member with one bucket to be filled with dry grains of rice. To the surprise of a novice shadowing Mother Teresa, one elderly woman held two buckets.

Greeting the woman by name, Mother Teresa filled only one of the buckets. Thanking her, the woman walked away, and emptied half of her full bucket into the second empty one. The novice asked, “Why did we not fill up both buckets for that poor, elderly woman?” Mother Teresa explained that there was only enough rice for one bucket per family each day. “Her neighbors are very ill,” she said. “She is emptying half of her family’s share into her neighbor’s bucket to bring to them because she cannot carry more.”





hello community™ podcast
creating connection and community
 Catherine Jura, Host

This has been a month of taking steps to develop the podcast further and move it onto more platforms (i.e. Spotify, Apple). Being on many platforms will allow *more* listeners/watchers to learn how our guests have created healing connections and community for themselves. It is not an understatement to say it “takes a village”, or rather a congregation, to build a new ministry and thus is the case here.

Several months ago, Susan Radzynski, a Hope member, agreed to help the podcast with marketing. Susan has decades of comprehensive marketing experience; is a joy to work with; and developed great ideas to get us started. There is no way to adequately thank early supporters of a project but I will do my best—with a full heart of gratitude!

First I want to thank Susan for her expertise and offer to work with us pro bono. (read about her at <https://www.bstco.com/experts/susan-radzynski>). Secondly, I want to thank her for a very generous donation of \$250 to support our work with Kira!

Who is Kira you ask? When it became clear that we needed a professional to edit the video/audio aspects of the podcast Susan suggested her colleague Kira Pogge. Kira will be our editor as well as help with graphics, marketing, and problem solving.

Kira’s initial offer was to edit our first four podcasts--and help with marketing--pro bono. To move beyond this initial phase she then offered us a very generous (aka reduced) monthly fee. She has already offered hours of creative support, encouragement, and is great fun to work with. If you are a small business and need marketing support read about Kira at <https://www.kirapogge.com/> Thank you Kira!

In addition, Bill Friers and I made a donation—which when added to Susan’s donation—allows us to have Kira’s expertise for five months. Bill is my biggest supporter in many ways—thank you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Pastor and I are following different paths to grant money. Donations have been--and will continue to be—a much needed resource until we hopefully secure grants.

The podcast would have never been birthed without the initial support of Pastor and the Council--thank you! Thank you to Marilyn for her artistic contributions! And a gigantic “thank you” to Greg Whitney who is now my partner. This podcast would not be getting ready to launch into the big world of podcasts—and reach more listeners/watchers--without all of you.



November 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 Irene Tumlin	2 Emma Churchill	3 Melissa Churchill
4 Kevin Churchill	5 Sebastian Schomer	6 Lydia Calabro	7 Maureen Hoffmann	8 Anna Lisa Hafgren-Willis	9 Kevin Willis	10 Susan Radzminski
11 Steve Radzminski	12 Marlyn Dyer	13 Diane Cornell	14 Cynthia Winter	15 Linda Hunter	16 Diane Middleton	17 Judy Rieker
18 Gerd Rieker	19 Luke Morello	20 Chamanka Gamage	21 Judy Cosgrove	22 Bill Cosgrove	23 Kevin Churchill	24 Bailey Churchill
25 Harper Churchill	26 Ciji Churchill	27 Lisa Boyde	28 Lucas Boyer	29 Janis Zipkin	30 Dale Zipkin	

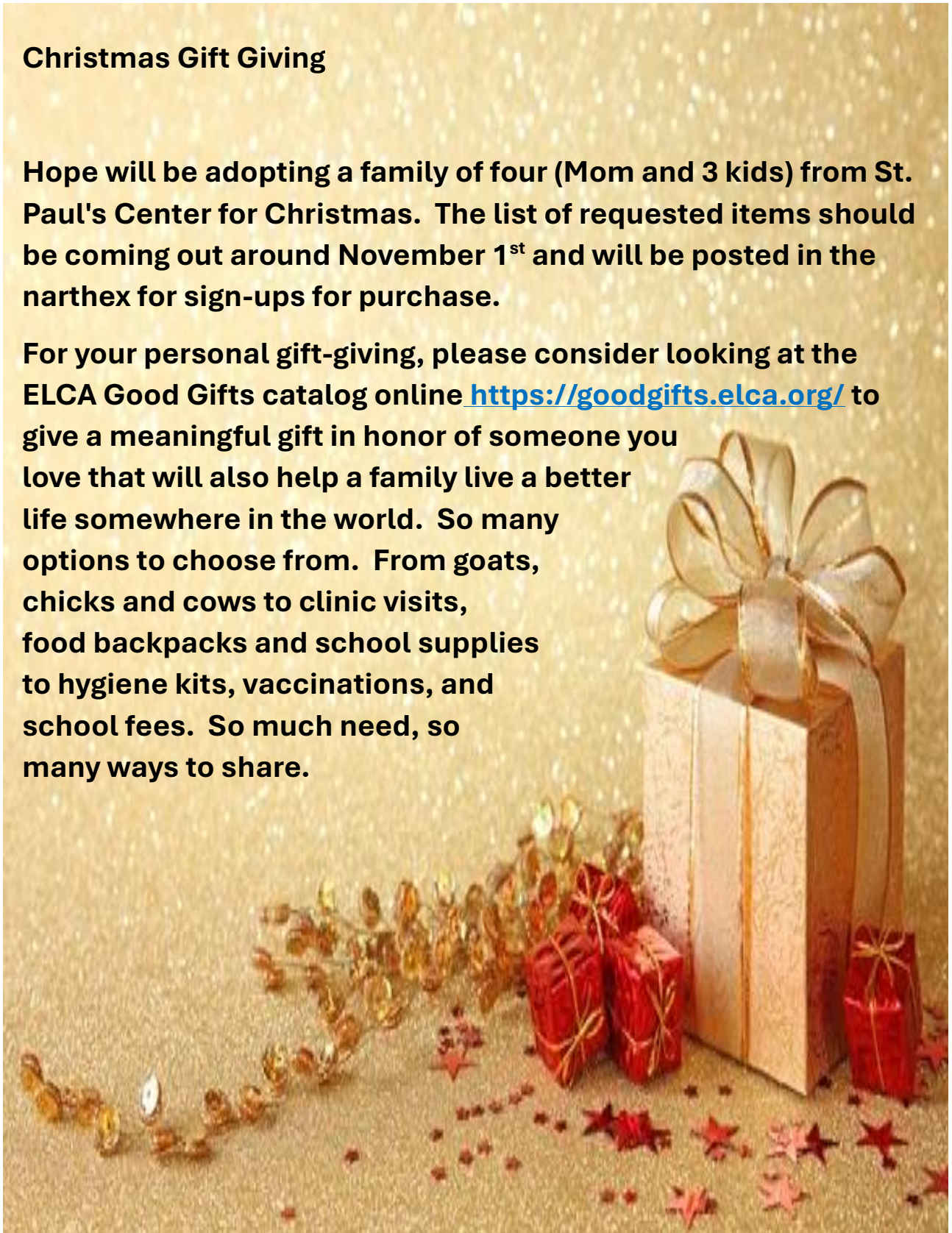


EACH MONTH WE LIST NAMES FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS FOR OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY. OUR PRAYERS SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. (A REMINDER...THESE ARE NOT PRAYERS FOR HEALING.)

Christmas Gift Giving

Hope will be adopting a family of four (Mom and 3 kids) from St. Paul's Center for Christmas. The list of requested items should be coming out around November 1st and will be posted in the narthex for sign-ups for purchase.

For your personal gift-giving, please consider looking at the ELCA Good Gifts catalog online <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> to give a meaningful gift in honor of someone you love that will also help a family live a better life somewhere in the world. So many options to choose from. From goats, chicks and cows to clinic visits, food backpacks and school supplies to hygiene kits, vaccinations, and school fees. So much need, so many ways to share.



Fundraising News

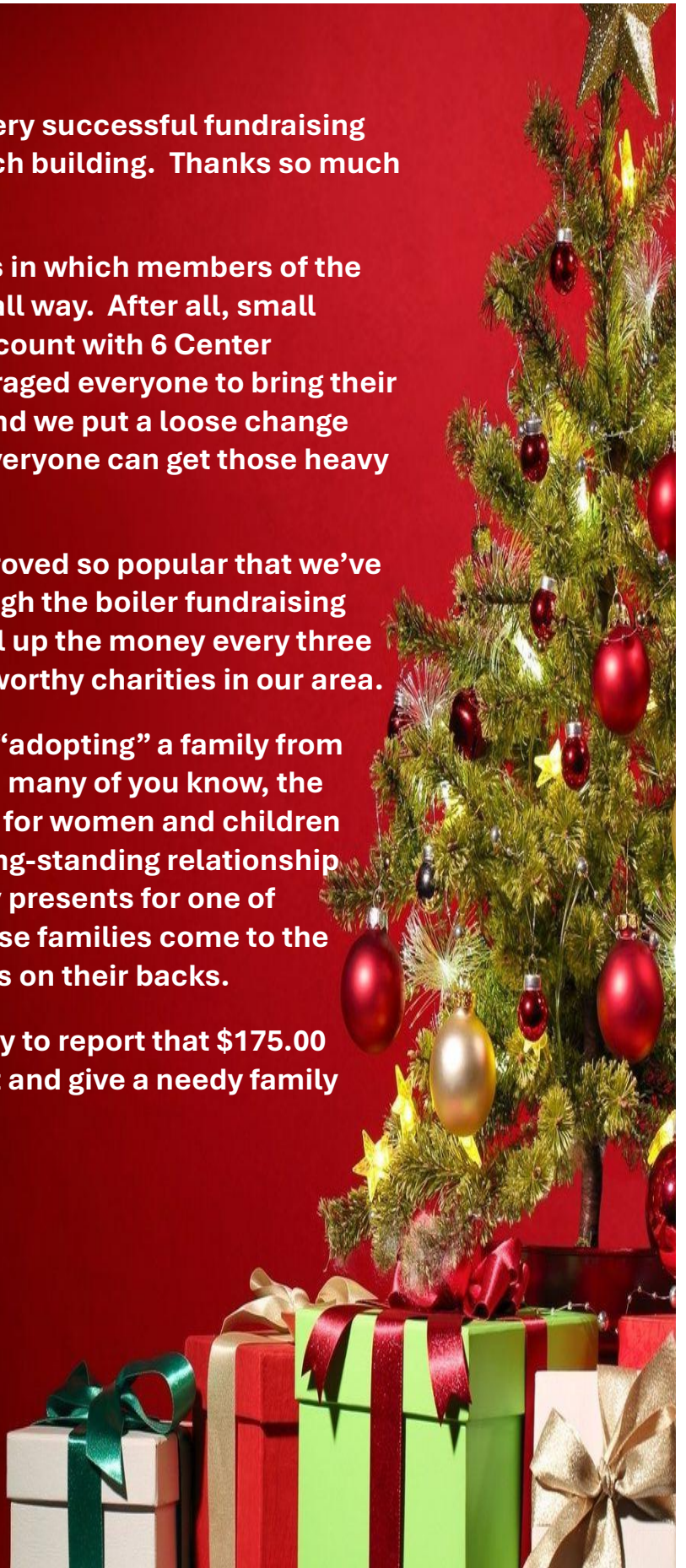
Hope Lutheran recently concluded a very successful fundraising campaign for a new boiler for our church building. Thanks so much to all who contributed!

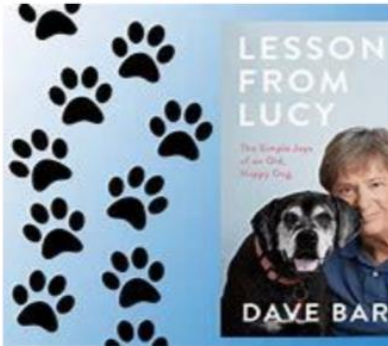
As part of this effort, we used two ways in which members of the congregation could contribute in a small way. After all, small contributions add up! We set up an account with 6 Center Redemption in Wynantskill and encouraged everyone to bring their redeemable cans and bottles there. And we put a loose change collection bottle in the sanctuary so everyone can get those heavy coins out of their pockets!

These two ways of contributing have proved so popular that we've decided to keep doing them, even though the boiler fundraising campaign is over. Instead, we will total up the money every three months and give it to one of the many worthy charities in our area.

This quarter, the money will go toward "adopting" a family from the St. Paul's Center for Christmas. As many of you know, the St. Paul's Center is a homeless shelter for women and children in Rensselaer. Hope Lutheran has a long-standing relationship with them, and each Christmas we buy presents for one of the families in the shelter. Many of these families come to the shelter with little more than the clothes on their backs.

At this writing (October 25), we're happy to report that \$175.00 has already been raised. Let's add to it and give a needy family a merry Christmas!





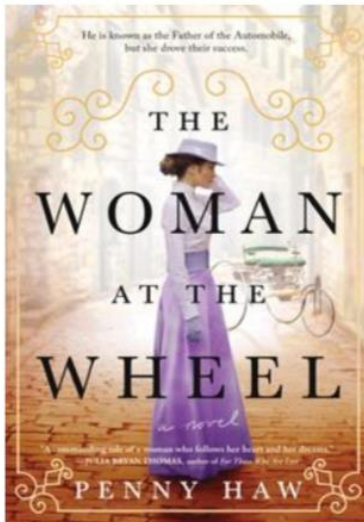
Book Group Reads *Lessons from Lucy* by Dave Barry

The Hope Book Group will meet on Tuesday, November 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Marilyn Dyer and Elaine Berg (47 Deerhaven Lane, Rensselaer 12144). This is historically a women's book group. If there are Hope men interested, speak to Pr. Pamela Hoh about a potential men's gathering. The November book is ***Lessons from Lucy* by Dave Barry.**

As Dave Barry turns seventy—not happily—he realizes that his dog, Lucy, is dealing with old age far better than he is. She has more friends, fewer worries, and way more fun. So, Dave decides to figure out how Lucy manages to stay so happy. He wants to see if he can make his own life happier by doing the things she does (except for drinking from the toilet). He reconnects with old friends and tries to make new ones. This turns out to be a struggle, because Lucy likes people a lot more than he does. He gets back in touch with two ridiculous but fun groups from his past:

The Lawn Rangers, a group of guys who march in parades pushing lawnmowers and twirling brooms (alcohol is involved), and

The Rock Bottom Reminders, the world's oldest and least-talented all-author band. With each new lesson, Dave riffs hilariously on dogs, people, and life in general, while also pondering Deep Questions, such as when it's okay to lie. (Answer: when scallops are involved.)



Looking ahead!! December will be a month to read favorite books and to prepare for the new year. The January 14th meeting (again same time and address) will introduce ***The Woman at the Wheel* by Penny Haw.**

From a young age, Cacilie Bertha Ringer is fascinated by her father's work as a master builder in Pforzheim, Germany. But five words, which he wrote next to her name in the family Bible, haunt Bertha.

Years later, Bertha meets Carl Benz and falls in love—with him and his extraordinary dream of building a horseless carriage. Bertha has such faith in him that she invests her dowry in his plans, a dicey move since they alone believe in the machine. When Carl's partners threaten to withdraw their support, he's ready to cut ties. Bertha knows the decision will ruin everything. Ignoring the cynics, she takes matters into her own hands, secretly planning a scheme that will either hasten the family's passage to absolute derision or prove their genius. What Bertha doesn't know is that Carl is on the cusp of making a deal with their nemesis.



Hope's Grief Support Group meets monthly at 6:30. Starting in November, the meetings will be held the third Thursday of every month. If you have experienced a loss, in any form, please join this intimate, small group to gain coping skills needed to live a full, even happy life once again. This time of the year we will be focusing on coping skills to make it through the holidays. Come join us when you are ready as we learn from each other.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 21st at Hope LC.

If you have any questions, please contact Lois Batsios at Lois.Batsios@Gmail.com



November Fun, Fellowship and Food - 11/23/24 5:30 p.m.

Join Hope for Fun, Fellowship and Food on Saturday, November 23, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. for an evening of Advent Fun as Hope prepares for the journey to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph. More information will follow via the Sunday bulletin, weekly updates and the website (hopehc.org).

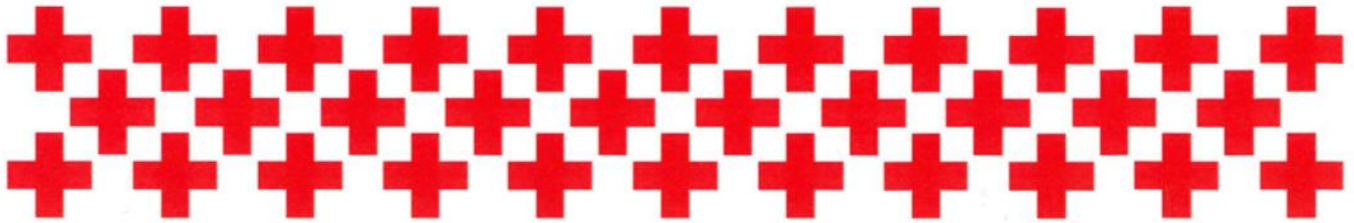


COMMUNITY NIGHTS



American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive **Hope Lutheran Church**

470 Winter Street Ext., Troy, NY 12180
Sanctuary

Saturday, November 30, 2024
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To schedule your appointment,
please call 1-800-REDCROSS,
visit www.redcrossblood.org, or,
download the free Blood Donor App.

Use sponsor keyword: hopelutheran



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



**Give Nov 18 to Dec 8 for two pairs of custom FRIENDS
+ Red Cross socks, ltd qty. Keep one, gift one!**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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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 1st**.
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 1st**. You may also mail in your orders, but please plan to have your order forms arrive at church before December 1st, 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.)

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.asPCA.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>).



Thursday Bible Study - Short Stories by Jesus

Looking ahead. The Thursday Women's Bible Study Group will begin a new study in December looking at the parables of Jesus through the eyes of Jewish Professor of New Testament, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine.

Levine's book *Short Stories by Jesus* looks at the words of Jesus through the eyes of his contemporary community guiding the student to see and hear them in new ways. The new study, held at the home of Pr. Elaine Berg and Marilyn Dyer (47 Deerhaven Lane, Rensselaer 12144) will begin on Thursday, December 5th at 6:30 pm. For information or to join the class, contact Pr. Elaine via phone, text or email (315.882.3732 or meb312@aol.com).

Worship Volunteer Duties for NOVEMBER of 2024

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

	3-Nov	10-Nov	17-Nov	24-Nov
	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Marilyn D	Debbie F	Charlie H	Susan R
Greeter	Anna-Lisa H	Nora G	Elaine B	Nancy D
Usher	Debbie F	Charlie H	Cindy W	Lois B
Assisting Minister	Luis C	Pam D	Karen C	Mike D
Communion Assistant	Luis C	Pam D	Marilyn D	Mike D
Snack Set-Up / Clean-Up	Susan C	Charlie H	Marilyn D	Susan C
Offering Counters	Anna-Lisa H & Pam D	Pam D & Charlie H	Marilyn D & Cindy W	Marion D & Pam D



Upcoming Events for November of 2024

We will have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM. We will also continue to stream our services on our website, YouTube page, and Facebook page.

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all

2nd: Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at RFB.

3rd: Hope Prays Group in the small classroom following Worship Service.

5th: Beginner Tai Chi, 7 – 8 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Tuesday).

6th: Wednesday Bible Study, 12 – 1:15 PM, in the large classroom & via Zoom, (every Wed.).

6th: Qigong, 1:30 – 2:30 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Wednesday).

6th: Advanced Tai Chi, 3 – 4 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Wednesday).

7th: Thursday Bible Study @ 6:30 PM at Pr. Elaine Berg's home, (every Thursday).

12th: Hope's Book Club @ 7 PM at Marilyn Dyer's home.

13th: Worship & Music Committee Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the large classroom.

15th: Hope's Dine-Out Group @ 6 PM for those who RSVP'd.

19th: Hope's Hands meets @ 10 AM in the small classroom.

20th: Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM, in the large classroom & via Zoom.

21st: Grief Support Group @ 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.

23rd: Fun, Fellowship & Food @ 5:30 PM in the sanctuary.

26th – 28th: No Tai Chi, Qigong, or Bible Studies.

28th: Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving to All.

30th: Red Cross Blood Drive; 8 AM – 12 PM in the sanctuary.

