HOPE Lutheran Church

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.

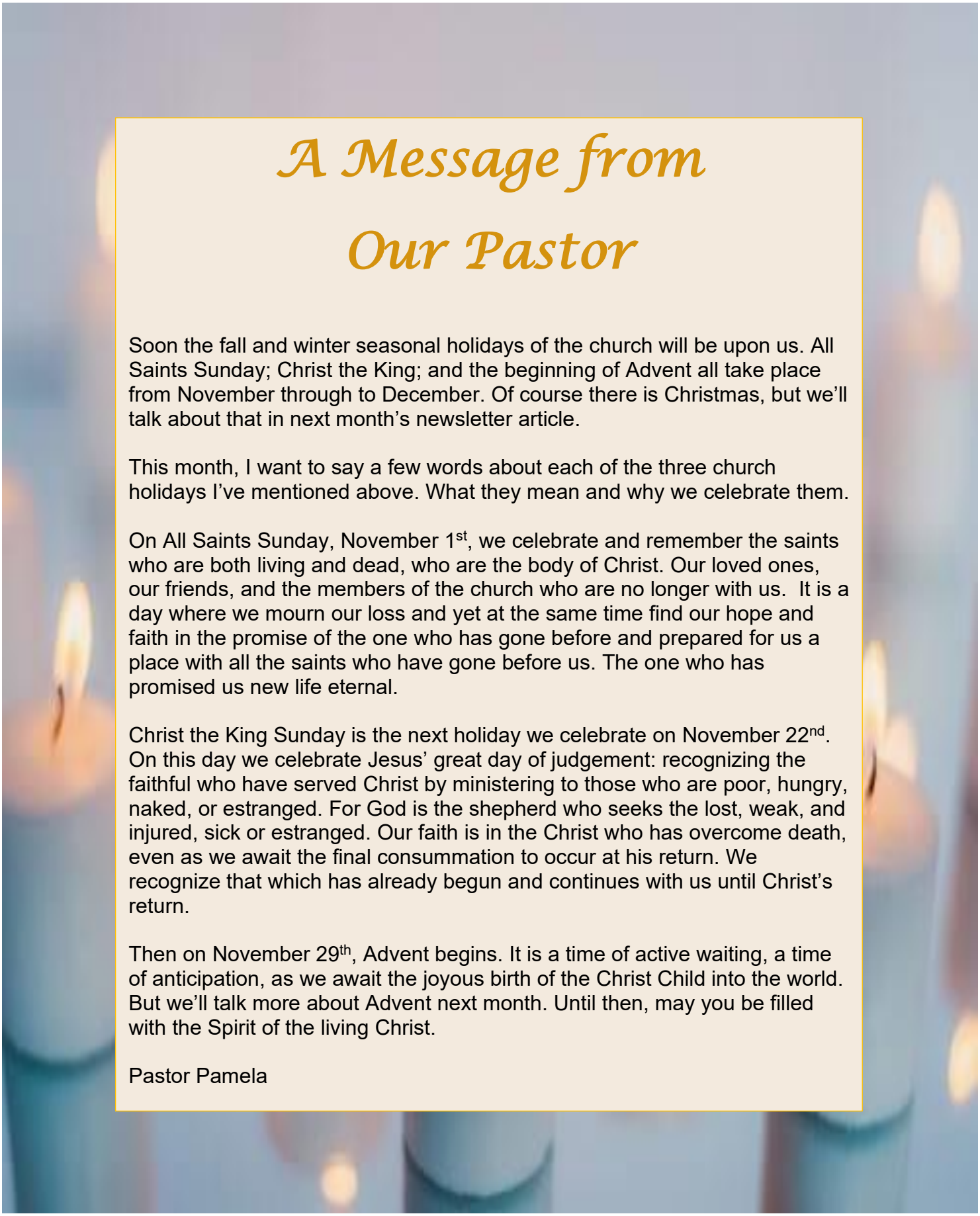
NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Stewardship November ~ pgs.5- 8 ~

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form ~ pg. 18 ~

Our Core Values

faith
acceptance
compassion
gratitude
love



A Message from Our Pastor

Soon the fall and winter seasonal holidays of the church will be upon us. All Saints Sunday; Christ the King; and the beginning of Advent all take place from November through to December. Of course there is Christmas, but we'll talk about that in next month's newsletter article.

This month, I want to say a few words about each of the three church holidays I've mentioned above. What they mean and why we celebrate them.

On All Saints Sunday, November 1st, we celebrate and remember the saints who are both living and dead, who are the body of Christ. Our loved ones, our friends, and the members of the church who are no longer with us. It is a day where we mourn our loss and yet at the same time find our hope and faith in the promise of the one who has gone before and prepared for us a place with all the saints who have gone before us. The one who has promised us new life eternal.

Christ the King Sunday is the next holiday we celebrate on November 22nd. On this day we celebrate Jesus' great day of judgement: recognizing the faithful who have served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, or estranged. For God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured, sick or estranged. Our faith is in the Christ who has overcome death, even as we await the final consummation to occur at his return. We recognize that which has already begun and continues with us until Christ's return.

Then on November 29th, Advent begins. It is a time of active waiting, a time of anticipation, as we await the joyous birth of the Christ Child into the world. But we'll talk more about Advent next month. Until then, may you be filled with the Spirit of the living Christ.

Pastor Pamela

PRAYING FOR MANY



Prayer is an important and vital ministry for the people of Hope Lutheran Church. Each month there are daily names for whom we pray. Sunday bulletins include special requests for prayers for members, friends, and church leaders.
The Hope Prayer Team has a longer list of requests for ongoing prayers for members and friends experiencing life events both difficult and joyful. And each one of us has a personal list of friends, family members, coworkers and situations that we include in our own prayer moments.

Prayer happens anywhere and at any time. A specific place for prayer might be helpful to some pray-ers. A quiet, set-aside place that includes a candle, a cross, a favorite Bible even a special scarf or table covering.

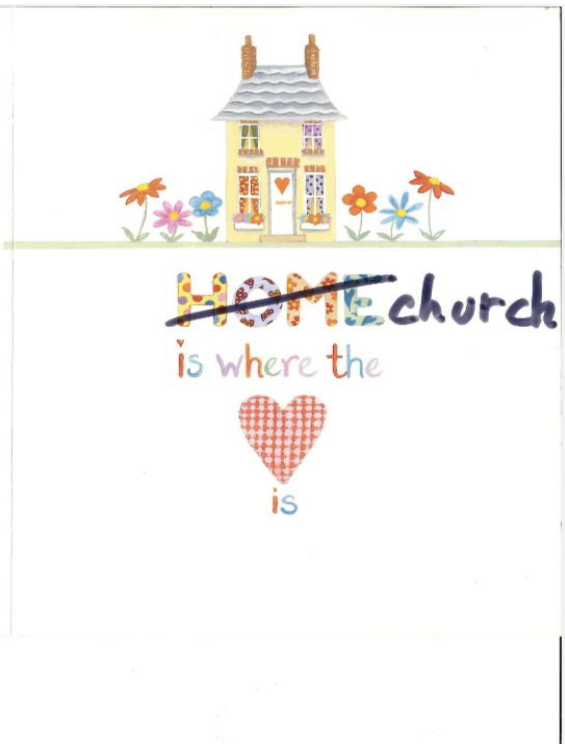
So how might we approach the multiple prayer requests? Some might use the printed list during the day to repeat each name and the specifics of the request, realizing that God is aware already of that name and their concerns. In my own prayers, I often acknowledge that God already knows what a person or family needs more than I do. Therefore, God will be present with them as they live through those needs.

Another way might be to divide the list of concerns into post-it notes leaving them around the home or office in order to lift them up during the courses of a day. The ongoing Hope prayer list has some categories: Members. Friends & Family. Continuing Concerns. Caregivers. Gratitude and Thanksgiving. Justice Issues. Families experiencing Grief. These categories can be set apart for different times of the day or even days of the week.

You might decide to have a "think prayer" routine. Simply talking to God throughout the day about other people and situations outside your control. Often during the day someone's name or face appears in your thoughts. Stop and pray. Your prayer may include a challenge to call, text or write to that person. And don't forget to pray for yourself.

If you are interested in joining Hope's Prayer Team, contact Pr. Elaine Berg, by e-mail at meb312@aol.com.

Heartfelt Gratitude!



To our Hope Church Family -
We wanted to send this heartfelt note to thank Everyone for your prayers, cards + love. We know our Church family is always there for us. We feel so blessed to have you in our lives. Thank you for your thoughtfulness + donations, love + prayers. They did make a difference. We are blessed.
Lois, Tom + Athena

CoNSERNS-U

Date: 9/28/26

Dear Hope Lutheran Church

CoNSERNS-U, a program of Catholic Charities Tri-County Services, is most grateful to those who support our mission of helping individual families meet their basic needs.

We thank you very much for your generous donation of

food products /.

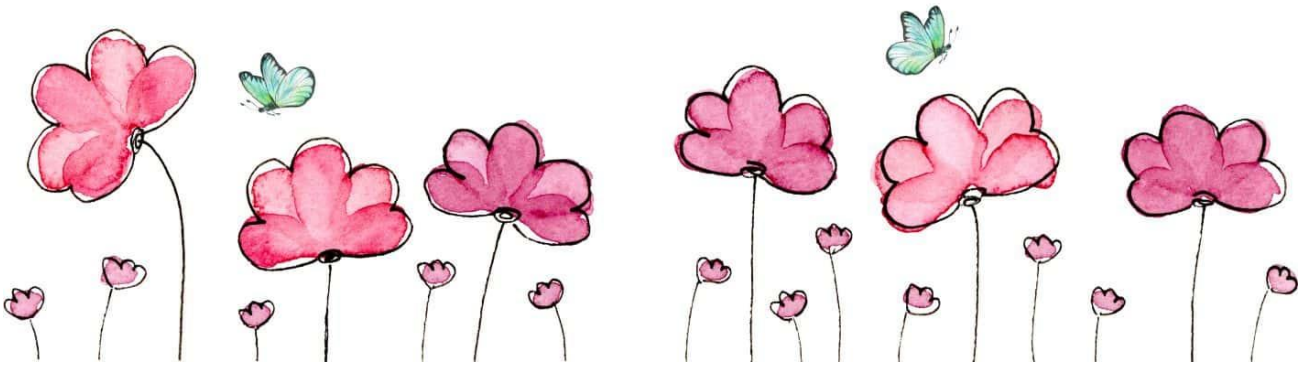
Your kindness is much appreciated and furthers our commitment to help people meet the challenges of day to day living. Your donation will enable us to continue our mission of serving those who come to our doors seeking help.

On behalf of the staff, volunteers and clients of CoNSERNS-U, I thank you again for your support of our food pantry.

Sincerely,

Austin Klosner
Outreach Coordinator
CoNSERNS-U
P.O. Box 28
201 Academy St.
Rensselaer, New York 12144
aklosner@ccalbany.org

LIKE US ON facebook





During the restructuring of our congregation from a “Mission Development” congregation to an officially “Organized” congregation, our yearly annual dates for the budget have changed. In other words, our budget alignment went from April through March, now to January through December. This changes the dates of our Stewardship program from March to November.

Part of our faith journey is how we continue to grow and develop with regard to our stewardship of the resources which God has so abundantly blessed us. The gifts of the Holy Spirit takes many forms. Our focus on stewardship is a time when we can reflect upon the Spirit’s work in our lives and where the spirit may be leading us now.

This year’s theme for our Stewardship Program is “God’s Generosity as Creator.” We will explore the many ways in which God provides for us, and the ways in which we respond; one of those ways being through worship. Our program will take place on November 8th, 15th and 22nd.

We, as the stewardship team, look forward to sharing this time with you.

Pastor Pamela



2027 TIME AND TALENT PLEDGE

We have many opportunities to share our God-given talents in the ministries led by Hope Lutheran Church and in the everyday running of the church. **Your help is urgently needed, and everyone can play a part.** Please read below all the ways you can offer stewardship and mark the ones you are able to commit to. Every effort will be made to accommodate your schedule and give you training if needed. Whether you are available every week or only occasionally, your help is needed and will be greatly appreciated.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Email _____

SUNDAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

☐ **The Altar Guild Member** sets up and cleans up communion, checks and changes the altar candles, and changes the seasonal banners and the paraments/colors. He/she also acts as the Second Communion Assistant, distributing the second cup to communicants.

☐ **The Greeter** arrives by 9:30 and stands near the front door of the church to bid members and visitors a friendly hello and hand them a bulletin as they enter. Children are welcome to be greeters along with an adult helper.

☐ **The Usher** collects the offering and guides congregants up to take communion.

☐ **The Lector's** responsibilities include: lighting the altar candles before service begins, lighting the Advent candles during Advent, reading the First Lesson, the Psalm (usually read responsively with the congregation), and the Second Lesson. He/she also leads the congregation in the Apostles' Creed and the Prayers of the Church, and extinguishes the candles at the end of the service.

☐ **The Communion Assistant** distributes wine to communicants and bread and wine to the pastor.

☐ **The Counters** count up the week's offering collection and make the bank deposit. New counters will be trained by those familiar with the process.

☐ **The Coffee Set-up Person** makes things ready for coffee hour. Responsibilities include prepping snacks in the kitchen, then moving them to the table in the classroom next to the kitchen. (Note: This person is NOT responsible for bringing in snacks, but is welcome to do so. Also, this person is NOT responsible for clean up.)

☐ **The Goodie Brigade** provides snacks for coffee hour. A schedule is sent out to those interested, and you can sign up for the date(s) when you can bring in a snack. Snacks can be homemade or store-bought.

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

☐ Volunteer for the **Red Cross Blood Drive** by working at one and/or giving blood (about five events per year). We need setup people (setup is done on Friday, the day before the event), and registration table and snack table helpers.

☐ **St. Pauly Shed helpers** check the donation shed, making sure items are bagged and tied, and not blocking the door.

☐ **Work Day** volunteers come to the church one Saturday in spring and one in fall to do chores that keep our church in tip-top shape.

☐ **Trinity Cemetery** maintenance volunteers.

☐ **Choir members and musicians** provide music for worship.

☐ **Northeast Regional Food Bank** volunteers go on the first Saturday of each month to pack food for the hungry.

☐ **CoNSERNS-U / Doors of Hope** volunteers bring donated food items to the food pantries for one-month periods.

☐ **Holiday Food Basket Helpers** organize food baskets at Easter and Christmas for St. Paul's Center.

GROUPS TO JOIN

☐ **Prayers of Hope** offer prayers of thanks and of supplication on behalf of our congregation and extended family. Prayer requests are sent to the group by e-mail.

☐ **Hope's Hands** meets monthly to create quilts to donate to Lutheran World Relief and the St. Paul's Center. They also provide baptismal blankets and prayer shawls as appropriate.

☐ **Hope on Wheels** is an internal ministry to the Hope community offering transportation help and meals during times of ill health or crisis. Drivers and cooks are needed.

☐ **Home Visitation Team** members have been trained to share the Sunday Communion wine and bread with the homebound or ill.

☐ **Bible Study Groups:** Co-ed group meets Tuesdays at noon, women's group meets on Thursday evenings.

☐ **Book Group** meets monthly.

COMMITTEES TO JOIN

☐ **Property Committee** is responsible for maintaining the building and grounds, including conducting or scheduling safety inspections and necessary repairs.

☐ **Stewardship Committee** organizes our annual stewardship campaign.

☐ **Worship and Music Committee** meets to help plan which worship settings are used and other details of the worship service.

☐ **Social Action Committee** coordinates our volunteer efforts with the Regional Food Bank, St. Paul's Center, and local food pantries.

☐ **Healing Team** coordinates the activities of the Parish Nurse, Prayers of Hope, Hope's Hands, Hope on Wheels and the Home Visitation Team.

☐ **Gathering of Hope Committee** meets to plan monthly themed events for the congregation which include a meal. Planning includes set-up, decorations and clean-up.

WAYS OF GIVING

CASH If an annual statement is needed, please put cash in envelope with name and address

CHECK Make payable to Hope Lutheran Church, Troy, NY and either mail or place in Sunday collection plate

EFT Simply Giving is a no-cost Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) program that withdraws your gift from your checking or savings account and deposits it directly into the congregation's bank account. Authorization forms are available on our Website. Paper copies are available at the office. Always place your signed & completed form in a sealed envelope marked "ATTN: Simply Giving" and give to the Financial Secretary, Sandra Governor.

ON-LINE GIVING Donations may be made on Hope's website with Credit Cards or Banking information .

QR CODE Use mobile phone scanner to access online giving page

HOPE Lutheran Church

Stewardship Treasure Pledge

For the 2027 Fiscal Year

Blessed by God's grace and willingness to provide, I/we joyfully pledge to share the following gifts in support of the ministry at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

		How Given? - Please check			
	Amount	Weekly	Monthly	Semi-Monthly	Other
Regular Offering		☐	☐	☐	☐
World Hunger		☐	☐	☐	☐

* please detail below

Other: Annually, Quarterly, etc.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

YOUR COPY **Ways of Giving detailed on back**

(cash, check, EFT banking, on-line giving, QR code)

Give Serve Attend Grow

Stewardship

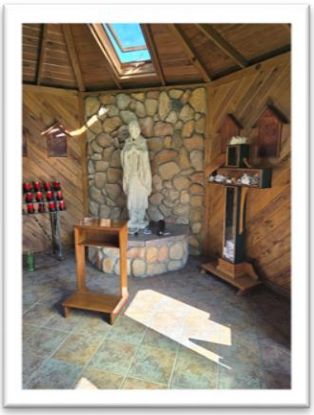
Women of the ELCA

A group from HLC attended the annual WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Fall Retreat on Oct. 3rd. The retreat was hosted by WELCA Foothills and Hudson Mohawk Conference, at Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine & Historic Site. It's a beautiful location and the grounds are well cared for and have paths to follow with statues and interpretive signs. (See pics).

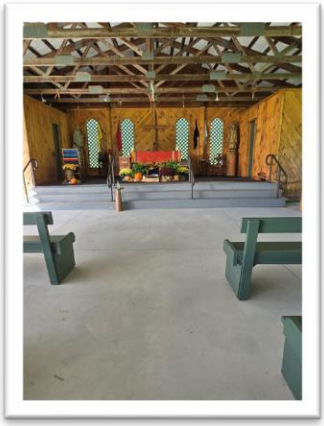
The agenda for the day included many topics such as a short Bible Study with Pastor Dianna Foote, and an Activity for a Service Project for Comfort Zone Ministry – Personal Care Kits, etc. After a lovely lunch, provided by our hosts, we had a program with Mary Rainey on exploring various ways to hear God's call in our lives.

To end the day, we had our HLC member, Cindy Winter, artist and poet, read some of her poems from her recently published book, *BITTERSWEET – THE CERTAINTY OF CHANGE*.

Submitted by Bonny Mounteer













Lutheran World Relief

HOPE'S HANDS GOES GLOBAL

EXTENDING HANDS OF HOPE AROUND THE GLOBE!!!!

Hope's Hands continues to support God's Hands within our own neighborhood with quilts for the St. Paul's Center for Women and Children. Recently, Hope's Hands decided to go globally in support of two of the Gifts of Love projects from LWR. Over the next few months, you will be challenged to bring some of the items listed below for Personal Hygiene and School Supply Kits.

Below you will find not only items needed for either kit, but also general instructions. Simply bring in the items, depositing them in the bins provided under the table in the sanctuary over the next three months. At a *'To Be Announced'* January 2027 date, we will have a special evening of food, fellowship and filling the kits.

Instructions for Purchase: *Please give new items only. • Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name. • Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage. • Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. • All items should be new.*

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

ONE light-weight bath-size cotton towel (between 20" – 27" x 40" to 52"), dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping (no mini or hotel size bars)

* ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging

ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging

ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

* Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH SCHOOL KIT

FOUR 70-sheet spiral notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approx... 8" x 10 ½"; no loose-leaf paper

ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

ONE pencil sharpener

ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band

FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band

ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons

ONE 2 ½" eraser



A big THANK YOU to our October Mowing Crew!!!

Charlie Huff Kelly Jaeger Rick Covey Kevin Willis

Mike Daus Debbie Favro

and to Bob Crowley for Weed Whacking

A very special Thank You to our 2026 Mowing and Weed Whacking Crew for keeping our grounds beautiful!

FAITH + family + FRIENDS

Prayer Calendar NOVEMBER 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maureen Hoffman	Pastor Pamela Hoh	Daniel Hoh	Monica Hoh	Joshua Hoh	Anthony Tucker	Dr. Becca Ehrlich-Dean
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Will Platnick	Theo Ehrlich-Platnick	Mike Daus	Marion Daus	Chris Nash	Bob Nash	Rick Covey
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Karen Covey	Rachel Carey	Bob Crowley	Debbie Favro	Gary Favro	Jim Macris	Nora Guido
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Dawn Conville	Bonny Mounteer	Jim Mounteer	Lois Batsios	Tom Batsios	Athena Batsios	Janis Zipkin
29	30					
Dale Zipkin	Cydney Roger's Birthday					



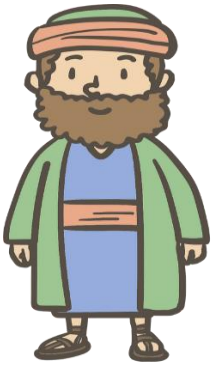
EACH MONTH WE LIST NAMES FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS FOR OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY. OUR PRAYERS SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. (A REMINDER...THESE ARE NOT PRAYERS FOR HEALING.)



We wish you a very Happy and Blessed Birthday …

Cydney Rogers ~ November 30th







CO-ED BIBLE STUDY LOOKS AT THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES BY ST. LUKE BEGINNING NOV. 3RD AT NOON

The Gospel of St. Luke ends in chapter 24 with Jesus giving his disciples instructions. In The Message by Eugene Peterson these are his final words to them:

"*You're the first to hear and see it. You're the witnesses. What comes next is very important: I'm sending what my Father promised to you, so stay here in the city until he arrives, until you're equipped with power from on high. He then led them out of the city over to Bethany. Raising his arms he blessed them, and while blessing them, made his exit being carried up to heaven. And they were on their knees, worshipping him. They returned to Jerusalem bursting with joy. They spent all their time in the temple praising God. Yes.*"

Very often when I read a novel or see a movie, I wonder what happened to the people involved after that story ends. St. Luke realizing that this story was not over, begins a second volume to his friend, Theophilus. He writes what happens after Jesus ascends to heaven. This story is about how the disciples/apostles joined by Saul/Paul carried the message far beyond the borders of Israel… ultimately to you and me!

The Tuesday Co-Ed Bible Study Group will begin a journey through St. Luke's story with a contemporary look at the Acts of the Apostles beginning at noon on November 3rd in the small classroom. Join us after you vote! For more information, contact Pr. Elaine Berg at meb312@aol.com.

Together we heal

Grief Support

Finding Hope While Navigating Loss

Grief can feel isolating, overwhelming, and unpredictable, but you do not have to carry it alone. Our **Grief Support** meetings provide guided discussion, guided reflection, and coping strategies designed to help people process grief in their own way and at their own pace. Feel safe as you connect with peers who share their stories and experiences in a confidential space. Gain valuable techniques to help you navigate grief better.

We meet once a month at Hope Lutheran Church located at 470 Winter Street Extension, Troy, NY 12180. https://www.hopelc.org

Our next meeting is Thursday, November 19, starting at 5:30pm. We invite you to join our compassionate group when you are ready.

Please reach out to Lois.Batsios@Gmail.com with any questions.



To all members:

As some of you may not know, the Altar Guild is responsible for decorating the Altar and Sanctuary for Christmas. We have all the decorations packed away in one of the closets and will be planning a little 'work party' for the end of the month to help with the decorating. Some of you have helped every year and have your favorite parts to do, like decorating and hanging the wreaths in the windows, putting up the Nativity set, helping to put together the Advent Candleabra, etc. Many hands make light work… so I would appreciate anyone who is available to come over, and there will be plenty to do. It's a joyful time and it's not difficult; we have fun. Presently, I am planning on the dates of Friday, Nov. 27th, 10 am – 2 pm, and if we don't finish, we can come back on Saturday the 28th at 1:30 pm (the Blood Drive will be in the Sanctuary until 1:00). The tree and Advent candle (at least) have to be up by Sunday service, Nov. 29th.

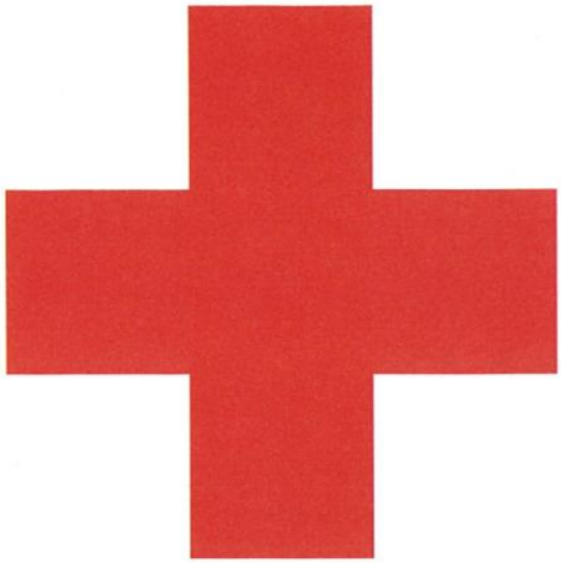
I hope many of you will be able to come by and help for a while… so we can finish. You can let me know at some point if I can expect you or just come on over! Thanks so much!!

Bonny Mounteer
Chair, Altar Guild

American Red Cross

Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Give blood.
Help save lives.



Blood Drive
Hope Lutheran Church

470 Winter Street Ext., Troy, NY 12180
Sanctuary

Saturday, November 28, 2026
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

Scan to be directed to RapidPass®



Go for a spin. Help Save A Life. Give Blood. Come to give blood Nov. 23-Dec. 6 for an exclusive American Red Cross x Wheel of Fortune mug, while supplies last!

Scan to schedule an appointment.

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

© 2025 The American National Red Cross | 416001-13-Field-RW

[297] • Order ID: 2021669 • Item ID: 10609958 • Qty: 1 of 10 • 515610 • 2026-APL-0427 • AR01 • 257007

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 **November 29th.**
All orders are prepaid.

Make checks out to Hope Lutheran Church.
Put checks with this order slip in the offering plate no later than **November 29th**. You may also mail in your orders, but please plan to have your order forms arrive at church before November 30th, 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!

COUNTERS: PLEASE PROVIDE PAYMENT INFO.
Amount Paid: $ _____
(√ cash or write check number and initial it)
Cash ____ or Check # _____ Initial: _____

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).

Worship Volunteer Duties for November 2026

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

	1-Nov	8-Nov	15-Nov	22-Nov	29-Nov
	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Debbie F	Charlie H	Bonny M	Donna S	Debbie F
Greeter	Diane C	Sandra G	Marion D	Anna-Lisa H	Charlie H
Usher	Diane C	Maureen H	Marion D	Debbie F	Charlie H
Lector	Pam D	Karen C	Luis C	Cindy W	Bonny M
Communion Assistant	Pam D	Debbie F	Luis C	Athena B	Bonny M
Snack Set-Up	Charlie H	Maureen H	Susan C	Marilyn D	Maureen H
Offering Counters	Diane C & Charlie H	Karen C & Sandra G	Luis C & Pam D	Anna-Lisa H & Cindy W	Charlie H & Bonny M
Goodie Brigade	Gerry U	Sandra G	Marlies P	Bonny M	Ja'net M



Upcoming Events for November of 2026

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: All Saints Sunday.

Prayers of Hope meets in the solarium following worship service.

3rd: Co-Ed Bible Study @ Noon in the small classroom (also on Nov. 10th, 17th, & 24th).

Beginner Tai Chi with Pam Dodson @ 7 PM in the sanctuary; (also on Nov. 10th & 17th).

4th: Beginner Tai Chi with Pam Dodson @ 10 AM in the sanctuary; (also on Nov. 11th & 18th).

Qigong with Pam Dodson @ 1:30 PM in the sanctuary; (also on Nov. 11th & 18th).

5th: Women of the Word @ 6:30 PM at the home of Marilyn & Pr. Elaine (also on Nov. 12th & 19th).

7th: Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at the RFB.

8th: First Stewardship Sunday; (15th is the second S.S. & the 22nd is the third S.S.).

11th: Worship & Music Committee Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the small classroom.

17th: Hope's Hands @ 10 AM in the small classroom.

18th: Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the large classroom & via Zoom.

19th: Grief Support Group @ 5:30 PM in the large classroom.

22nd: Christ the King Sunday.

26th: Thanksgiving Day.

Newsletter Articles Due to Tonya.

27th: Christmas Decorating, 10 AM – 2 PM, in the sanctuary.

28th: Red Cross Blood Drive, 8 AM – Noon, in the sanctuary.

29th: First Sunday of Advent.

Please Note this Month: – No Tai Chi or Qigong on the 24th or 25th.

– No Women of the Word on the 26th. – No Women's Book Club this month.

