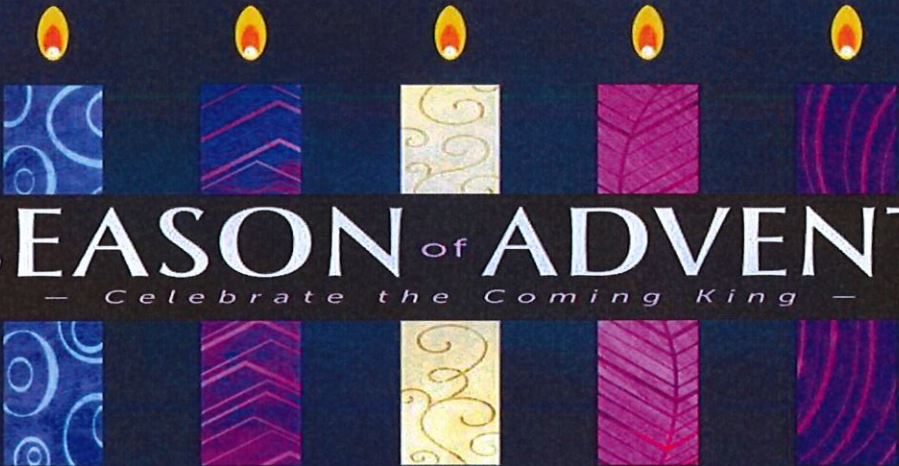




470 Winter Street Ext.
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 283-1372
www.HOPELC.ORG

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.

December 2022 Newsletter

A graphic of five lit candles in a row, each with a different colored body (blue, purple, yellow, red, and dark red) and a yellow flame. The candles are set against a dark background with a subtle pattern of white snowflakes.

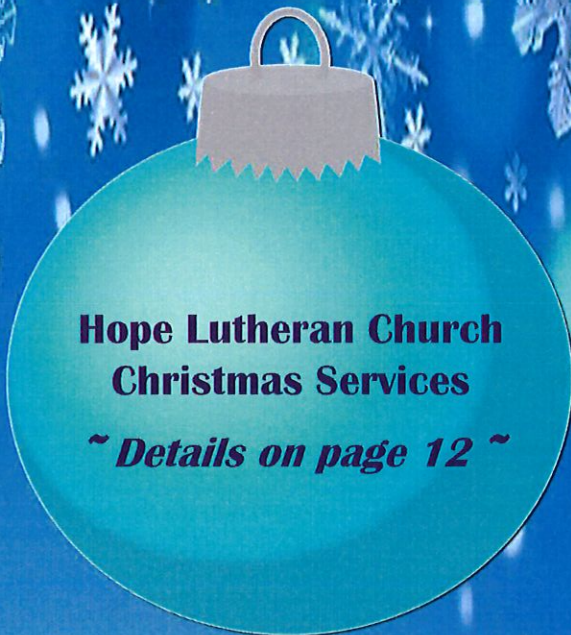
SEASON of ADVENT

— Celebrate the Coming King —

Our Core Values



*faith
acceptance
compassion
gratitude
love*

A large, teal-colored Christmas ornament with a silver cap and a small loop at the top. It has a subtle gradient and a few small white specks.

**Hope Lutheran Church
Christmas Services**

~ Details on page 12 ~

A Message from Our Pastor

Advent, throughout the Christian world is seen as a time of waiting. This year for many has been a year of waiting. Waiting for this pandemic (COVID-19), to run its course. Waiting for the social unrest that we've seen so much of these past couple of years to be healed, and to bear fruit from which all citizens and non-citizens alike (the Bible uses the term the stranger) can benefit. Waiting for our country to find its way through all the political machinations, corruption, and self-centered leaders, to a place where we once again aspire to the high idealism of equality and justice our forebears envisioned for us as a democratic republic; the political system upon which our nation is based constitutionally. We are waiting for a time once again where conflict is handled in as humanely a manner as possible, not with virulent hatred, division, and violence; where we seek to deeply listen, not just pontificate. But there are two ways of waiting in anticipation. We can wait with a sense of apathy, fear, and resignation as a response to the evil manifesting all around us. Or we can wait in hope — hope in the promise of God's in-breaking into our world, through the birth of Jesus. Hope in the promise of the resurrection, and of new life. Not in some far-off future, but right now. In our claim as followers of Jesus Christ, we wait in hope. We wait in hope for the God of peace, of compassion and healing to enter our midst once again. We are waiting for the birth of the Messiah. That hope is not a passive hope, but an active hope. A hope of possibility and new life. These past three years, I have come to love the name of our church, "Hope Lutheran Church." What a beautifully blessed name with which to go forth into a world, so in need of hope, to witness to the living Christ. As we approach the birth of the Messiah, may your Christmas be one of fulfilled hope, as together we celebrate the kingdom of God being born into our midst. May your hearts be filled with joy, wonder, and the light of the Christ child.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Pamela



HEALING TEAM NEWS

James 5:13-15 (The Message)

Prayer to Be Reckoned With

13-15 Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out.



Welcome to **Jim Macris** as the coordinator of Prayers of Hope, the prayer ministry of Hope Lutheran Church. Jim will receive all prayer requests via phone or email. He will then share them with Prayers of Hope team members as well as Pastor Pamela and the church office.

Please remember to ask of the person for whom you are seeking prayers, permission to do so. If you would like the request added to the weekly bulletin, please indicate that to Jim also. Please share news of changes in the status of the person or situation as appropriate. The team loves thanksgivings.

To contact Jim, use the following: for all prayer requests via land line: 518.479.3432 or email: jimthegreek40@gmail.com.



HEALING AND INCARNATION

We don't usually focus on Jesus and the healing stories during Advent and Christmas. We love the stories of the baby Jesus with all our memories of children's programs, caroling adventures, and the glow of candles as we softly share the words of Silent Night.

When asked by a colleague about my favorite image of Christmas, without thought I answered the "incarnation." "Incarnation" is a truly churchy word meaning the embodiment of God the Son in human flesh as Jesus Christ (according to the Oxford Dictionary). As I thought about my commitment to sharing newsletter articles about healing for December, I realized that there is a strong connection between healing and incarnation. As I fell asleep last night, I had a reminder that we always talk about how Jesus did healing during his earthly years. Then I realized that not only did he do healing, he was healing for the world and for you and me. Contemplating how to share that idea in words led me to Marty Haugen's hymn which we often sing. Haugen tells the story of Jesus' healing presence. Consider adding this hymn to your songs and prayers during the coming weeks. And may you feel the healing love of the Christ Child incarnate.

Blessings and Prayers from the Hope Healing Team

Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain

Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

1 You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*

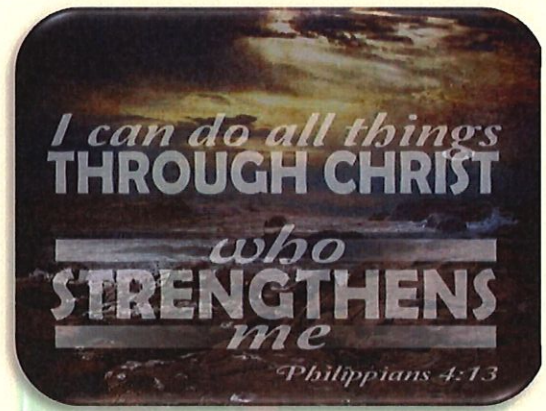
2 In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*

3 Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*

4 You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing; Spirit of
compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

Living Our Strengths

First, the not so good news. It is apparent that the church in its present form is suffering from losses. It's not the kind of problem that can be fixed by building new buildings or widening the parking lots.



Second, the good news is that there is potential out there just waiting to be harnessed. We are that **potential** just waiting to be unleashed to fulfill God's purposes not only for the Church at large, but especially for the Church right here on the corner of Winter Street and Bloomingrove.

All too often we have long discussions about what we used to have or what we don't have. And we spend hours brainstorming how we can fill *our* needs.

Here's a reality check: God has given us a unique combination of strengths and talents. God has placed within us a calling to serve others and to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ--- a calling to ministry.

Last spring, we learned about the assets of Hope (building, grounds, ministries) and the assets of many of our members. We began to strengthen some of the ministries already in place based on those assets. Yet there are assets and strengths within and among us that are untapped.

How to identify those strengths is the next phase of our Congregational Leadership Initiative. Members of Hope's Initiative Team (HIT) participated in a strength identification process through a book called *Living Your Strengths: Discover your God-given talents and inspire your community* from Gallup. Included with each book is a Clifton Strengths Assessment tool which helps individuals discover their God-given strengths that are just waiting to be used on a journey of ministry.

The books will be available for your purchase in January. The HIT will join Hope strength finders for discussion not only of personal strengths, but also ways we might be called to use those strengths individually and as a congregation. Please speak with any of the team members to learn more about the book and what they learned about God's gifts to each of them. Members of the team are: Pastor Pamela Hoh, Marilyn Dyer, Catherine Jura, Greg Whitney and Pastor Elaine Berg.

Greetings from Tom, Athena and Lois

We would like to thank the Hope Community for all the support, prayers, flowers and food during such a difficult time.

The constant text messages and hugs were such a huge part of our healing, and we are blessed to be part of such a strong church community.

On a lighter note, Lois and Athena would also like to thank all who supported the Special Olympics Polar Plunge fundraiser.

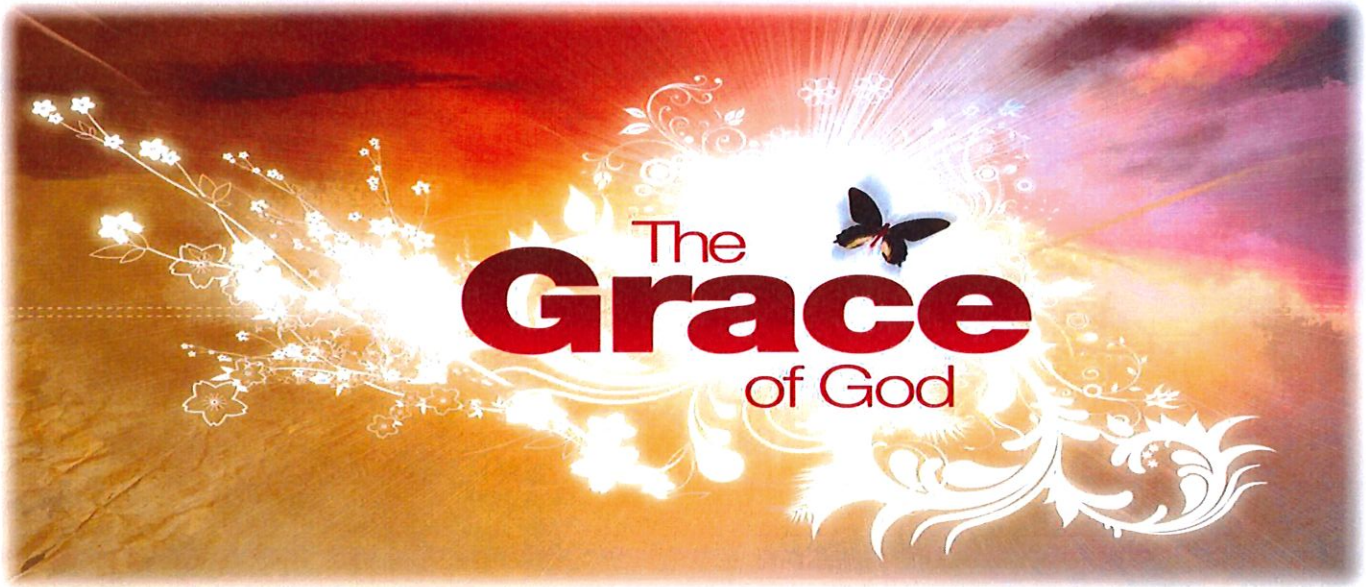
Thanks to the many donations received, our team raised the third highest amount for this great cause.

Here's the proof!

Grateful



We hope to see everyone in church again real soon.



Emotional Intelligence (EI)

It is generally accepted that success in life is better predicted by EI than IQ.

It is generally accepted that emotionally-aware congregations are usually better able to process the stresses that confront them than those congregations that are not. It could be useful for us, individually, to think our own thoughts about each of these emotions, and if any is so inclined, to share one's thoughts with another. In the last newsletter, I offered the emotion 'important' under the core emotion of 'Joy' and asked you to ponder your own thoughts.

These are my thoughts:

important – (of great significance or value; likely to have a profound effect on success, survival, or well-being) Throughout much of my life, I have found that organizations limit the opportunities for self-expression. They are more interested in having me fit a prescribed niche than in making the best use of me. I have always been one who lives to the beat of a different drum and have found that society is not very receptive to that. I have not, very often, found opportunities that embrace my primary gifts. Too often, the best part of me lies dormant. Too often, the expression of my most precious has been unvalued. However, I realize that the world does not revolve around me and that others, too, struggle to find opportunities for self-actualization, to find a place to be their unhindered selves. My solution has been to find satisfaction in honoring the needs of those around me, trusting that God will see to mine according to His/Her Grace and in the fullness of Her/His time.

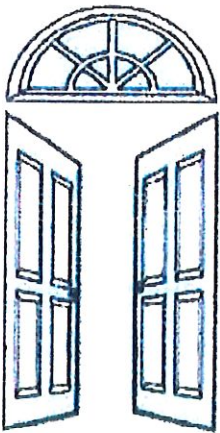
Next month, please consider your thoughts on 'apathetic' under the core emotion of 'Sad'.

In His Grace, WDM



THANK
YOU

11/13, 22



Doors of Hope

Matthew 25:35

"For I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
naked and you clothed me..."

To Our Friends @ Hope Lutheran,
Thank you for your faithful
support of our food pantry. It is
a blessing to many in need.

Sincerely,
Naomi Boel

Adopt-A-Family for St. Paul's Center

There are still many items that are needed for this family. If you are able to help give this family a very Merry Christmas, please sign-up on the poster board located just inside the front doors of

HOPE Lutheran Church

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all

**ST. PAUL'S CENTER
ADOPT-A-FAMILY 2022**

THANK YOU for signing up to give this family a great holiday. Our family is Caucasian. For larger gifts, two or more people may sign up to share expense.

Gifts should be wrapped and labeled with Family #13, mother/mom or sex and age of child.

You may bring your gift to the Women's Christmas Get-Together on Sunday, December 18th at 2 PM and left under the tree. Before that, please leave them in the Secretary's Office. Gifts need to be at shelter by December 20th.

QUESTIONS? Call Marilyn Dyer 518-505-6434 or email dyermn48@gmail.com

MOTHER		BOY, AGE 8	
Shirt		Shirt	14/16
Pants	2XL / 22-24	Pants (Jeans - 16 Husky)	14/16
Boots/Shoes -	9 wide	Socks	Med
Bra	2XL or 42 sports bra or 42 DD	Boot/shoe (sneakers dark color)	13
WISH LIST		Undies - Boxers	XL 14/16 Husky
		WISH LIST	
		Anything Sonic the Hedgehog	
		Twin comforter set - blue plaid	
		GIRL, AGE 6	
		Pants (Jeans - 16 Husky)	8
		Boot/shoe (sneakers dark color)	13
		Undies - Boy shorts	8
		Bra - Sports/no padding	Med
		WISH LIST	
		Brunette Cabbage Patch Doll(s)	
		Deluxe Toddler Binky N Play 11"	
		Goggles - Brunette Hazel Eyes - Blythe Hair	
		Hardbrush - Brunette Hair Extensions - \$25.00	
		at WalMart	
		Doll Stroller Gift accessories for 11" Cabbage Patch Doll	



American
Red Cross

Shake Up Your Holiday Tradition

Give Blood

Blood Drive

Hope Lutheran Church

470 Winter Street Ext., Troy, NY 12180
Sanctuary

Register online at:

www.RedCrossBlood.org

Code: HopeLutheran

Saturday, December 3, 2022
8:00 a.m. to 1:30 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



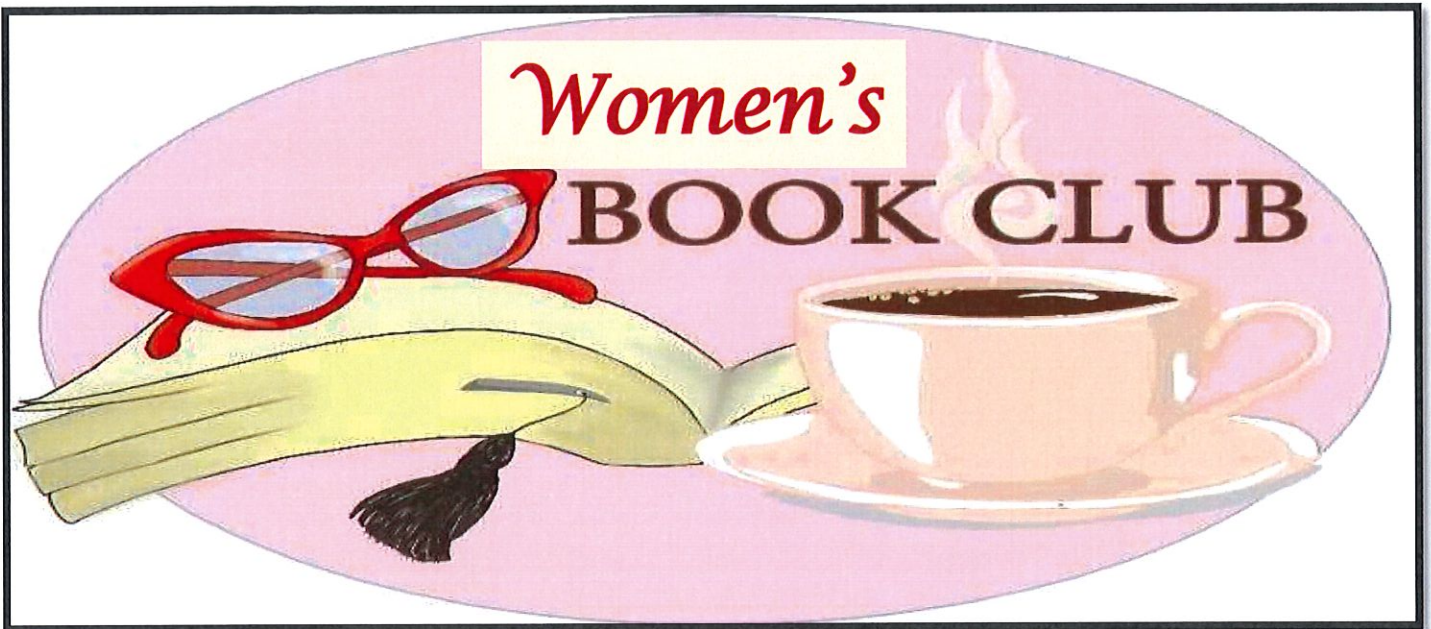
Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

**Come to give blood Nov. 28-Dec. 15 for a \$10 Gift Card
by email, thanks to our partners at Amazon!**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Give Something that Means Something®



Thursday, December 8th, 7:00 PM at

HOPE Lutheran Church

A Fall of Marigolds

Susan Meissner

A beautiful scarf, passed down through the generations, connects two women who learn that the weight of the world is made bearable by the love we give away...

September 1911. On Ellis Island in New York Harbor, nurse Clara Wood cannot face returning to Manhattan, where the man she loved fell to his death in the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. Then, while caring for a fevered immigrant whose own loss mirrors hers, she becomes intrigued by a name embroidered onto the scarf he carries... and finds herself caught in a dilemma that compels her to confront the truth about the assumptions she's made. Will what she learns devastate her or free her?

September 2011. On Manhattan's Upper West Side, widow Taryn Michaels has convinced herself that she is living fully, working in a charming specialty fabric store and raising her daughter alone. Then a long-lost photograph appears in a national magazine, and she is forced to relive the terrible day her husband died in the collapse of the World Trade Towers...the same day a stranger reached out and saved her. Will a chance reconnection and a century-old scarf open Taryn's eyes to the larger forces at work in her life?

Please consider joining us.

Hope's Dine-Out Dinner Group



Join us for a social dinner on:

Friday, December 9th, 6:00 PM at:

Hanzo Japanese Steakhouse

102 Van Rensselaer Square in Rensselaer

(in the ShopRite Plaza)

Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet located in the Narthex,

or contact Greg Whitney at: (518) 951-0414 ~ call or text

no later than Wednesday, December 7th.

Please note: We will be at the hibachi bar, but people can order off the regular menu, or for smaller portions order off the kids' menu.



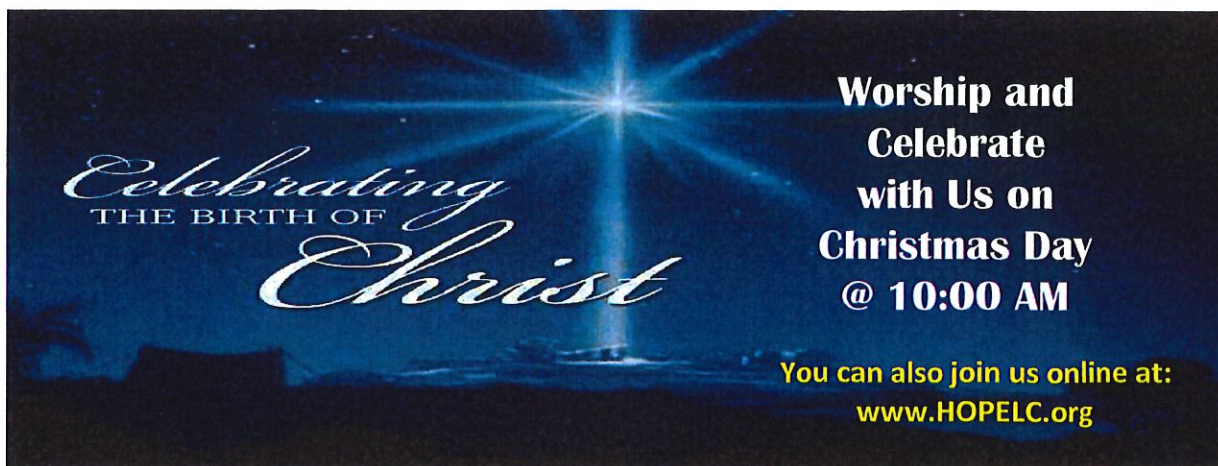
470 Winter Street Ext., Troy, NY
12180
www.HOPELC.ORG



Christmas Services



Join us for our Annual Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 18th at 10:00 AM



Christmas Food Baskets

- Your help is needed!

Advent is here and Christmas is coming soon! Once again, we at Hope LC will be preparing Christmas food baskets for 15 families who have recently moved out of the St. Paul's Center. We'll need your help!

There is a poster in the narthex listing the items needed. Please sign up for whatever you can provide and take a Post-It note for each item to remind you when you're shopping.

We will pack the food on Monday morning, December 19, at 11am. If you are available to help out for about an hour, please let Pam Dodson know at 518-701-4628.

Each family will also receive a grocery store gift card, purchased with church funds, so they'll be able to buy turkeys, fresh produce and whatever else they need for a nice Christmas dinner. Please help us make Christmas special for these families who have recently moved into new

Worship Volunteer Duties for November 2022

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

	4-Dec	11-Dec	18-Dec	24-Dec	25-Dec
	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Xmas Eve 7:00pm	Christmas 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Bonny M	Debbie F	Charlie H	Debbie F	Maureen H
Greeter	Nora G	Charlie H	Ja'net M	Mike D	Lois B
Usher	Marion D	Donna L	Susan R	Marion D	Lois B
Assisting Minister	Bonny M	Luis C	Pam D	Catherine J	Chris N
Communion Assistant	Mike D	Bonny M	Pam D	Chris N	Luis C
Snack Set-Up / Clean-Up	Maureen H	Susan C	Charlie H	Not needed	Not needed
Offering Counters	Maureen H & Marion D	Donna L & Bonny M	Susan R & Pam D	(will be counted at a later date)	(will be counted at a later date)



News & Upcoming Events for December of 2022

We will have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM. We will also continue to live-stream our services on our 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

1st Hope's Kitchen Free Community Meal at Cornerstone Church in Lansingburgh * Serving from 3 - 6 PM * (for those who RSVP'd)	3rd Red Cross Blood Drive 8 AM – 1:30 PM www.RedCrossBlood.org (Donors get a \$10 E-Gift Card for Amazon)	3rd Regional Food Bank Packing 10:30 AM – Noon Meet at RFB	4th Blood Pressure Checks with Sue Anthony ~ Before & After Worship Svc.
4th Prayers of Hope Meeting 15-minutes after Worship Service	8th Women's Book Club 7 PM at HLC	9th Hope's Dine-Out Dinner Group 6 PM Hanzo Japanese Rest.	14th Council Meeting 6:30 PM In the large classroom & via Zoom
18th Hope's Annual Children's Christmas Pageant 10 AM	18th Women's Christmas Get-Together 2 – 4 PM @ HLC	19th Christmas Food Basket Packing for St. Paul's Center 11 AM	20th Hope's Hands Meeting 10 AM
24th Christmas Eve & Candlelight Service 7 PM	25th Celebrating the Birth of Jesus Christ Worship Service 10 AM	Please Note: Bible Study will resume on Dec. 7 th @ Noon	Please Note: There will be <u>no</u> Qigong or Tai Chi classes Dec. 19 – 30 (resumes Jan. 3)

