

We mark anniversaries and remember historical days. We celebrate festivals in the church and remember community celebrations. With Easter Sunday barely in the rearview mirror and the rest of the days of Easter continuing until May 19, spring seems to tiptoe into our days! The church will go forward for each 'what next' and each day to celebrate Easter.

This year, a remarkable thing takes place in the skies (or if you are reading this after April 8th, 'took place in the skies'). April 8, many people prepared for the event of a partial (90% in our region) solar eclipse. Around 3:20 in the afternoon and for 4 minutes, the sun is blocked by the moon as those of us on earth peek up (with our special sunglasses to protecteyes, of course). Only 15 states got to see this event until the next one in 2044. (You can see pictures and more information by searching on the computer for science.nasa.gov).

Biblically, some try to convince people that this is a sign of the end of the world. Beware of these people! First, we will not know when the end time will come. (Mark 13:32) Second, we can stay true and trust God in all things especially the grace and forgiveness given to us. (Hebrews 13) Study the skies any time in wonderment and give praise to God for all things! Imagine for a minute that 2,000 years ago, you looked up and saw the sun blocked out by the moon! The explanations would be lacking for years. Science today explains more and more of the skies with state of the art telescopes like the Webb telescope. Many explanations occurred like when to look for comets, why isn't Pluto a planet, look at the new moons for other planets!

As we focus on the lessons of the Easter season and remember the words of our Lord, keep our world in your peripheral vision. There is so much that is connected and still a mystery. Our faith calls on us to trust God and to keep going on the path that brings glory to God! While we are seeing and experiencing all the wonders of the world, let us be humble in our explanations!



# **Council Highlights-February 2024**

- + The Hope Lutheran Church Council is thrilled to share the news that our young members who will be participating in this summer's Youth Gathering are scheduled to attend a Synod Day organized by the Northeast PA Synod of the ELCA on **Saturday, April 27**. We are grateful for the collaboration with the Northeast PA Synod and look forward to witnessing the growth and inspiration that this day will undoubtedly bring to our young participants.
- + While we know you're always pumped for our Sunday worship services, we've got something extra special lined up for you on **April 28th**! The church council is buzzing with excitement and wants to make sure you're there, either in person or online, to soak up all the positivity and good vibes. Mark your calendars, set those reminders, and get ready to join us for a truly uplifting and soul-nourishing experience. See you there! Let's make this Sunday a Funday!
- + Church Council is thrilled to unveil the exciting theme for this year's Vacation Bible School – "The Great Jungle Adventure"! Mark your calendars for July 8-12th for a wild time filled with fun and faith. Stay tuned for more information on registration - it's going to be a roaring success!
- + Hope Lutheran Church will once again open its doors to host a special service in honor of the National Day of Prayer on **Thursday, May 2**. Following the service, a delightful light lunch will be provided by the dedicated Evangelism Committee, fostering fellowship and connection among attendees. Let us join hands and hearts in this meaningful event, as we lift our voices in prayer and support. We look forward to welcoming you all to this uplifting occasion at Hope Lutheran Church.
- + Our talented members, from the young blood to the seasoned pros, have been busting their chops to bring you the most epic church musical yet - BBQ for Ben! Mark your calendars for **June 2nd** because we're gonna blow the roof off with our performances at both services. Come on down, show some love, and groove along with us as we showcase the incredible talent and dedication of our church family. Don't miss out on this groovy event - it's gonna be a blast!



Sunday, April 7 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Confirmation 10:30 AM Worship

### Sunday, April 14

8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School & Confirmation 10:30 AM Worship & Holy Communion

### Sunday, April 21

8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Confirmation 10:30 AM Worship

### Sunday, April 28

8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School Easter Party 10:30 AM Worship & Holy Communion

# **ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING**

DURING THE EASTER SEASON, WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER ADDITIONAL GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH. IT IS THROUGH THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EVERY MEMBER THAT WE ARE ABLE TO FULFILL OUR MISSION. YOU CAN USE OUR ELEC-TRONIC GIVING OPTION FOR BOTH REGULAR OFFERINGS AND ONE-TIME GIFTS. HELP US ACHIEVE A MORE CONSISTENT LEVEL OF FUNDING BY SETTING UP A RECURRING GIVING PLAN. VISIT THE CHURCH WEB-SITE AT WWW.HOPECHERRYVILLE.ORG AND LOCATE THE ONLINE GIVING PAGE.

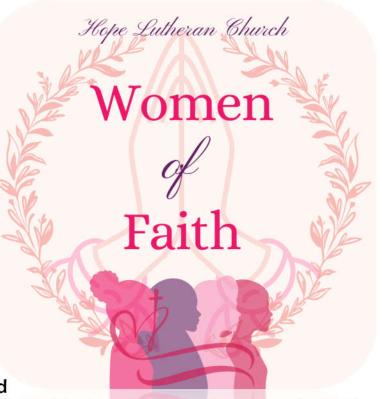


#### COMMITTEE SHOWCASE Women of Faith (WoF)

At Hope Lutheran Church, we celebrate the inspiring legacy of Women of Faith throughout history such as Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, Rahab, Deborah, Ruth, and Hannah. Our dedicated Women of Faith (WoF) Committee is committed to empowering women to cultivate a profound connection with Jesus. Through our programs and support, we aim to nurture a community where women can thrive spiritually and grow in their faith journey. Join us at Hope Lutheran Church and embark on a transformative experience of faith and fellowship.

Embrace a sense of community and spiritual growth by joining our Women of Faith group, where we gather on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM in Hanson Hall. Our diverse group welcomes women of all ages who are passionate about utilizing fun, fellowship, and service to share the message of God. Come be a part of our uplifting and empowering meetings where faith, friendship, and service intertwine to create a supportive and enriching environment.

As Women of Faith, we take pride in our ongoing projects that have and will touch the lives of many. From the heartwarming Toys for Tots collection during Christmas time to ensuring the Hope Community Food



Cupboard is always filled, and crafting cozy fleece blankets for the elderly, our dedication knows no bounds. Not to mention engaging with the local nursing homes through crafts, bingo, caroling, and companionship brings smiles to many faces. Together with WELCA, we have also co-hosted enlightening speakers on pressing topics, further enriching our community outreach.

Now that you know more about our group are you ready to join a community of strong, supportive, and inspiring women? Women of Faith is always calling for new members to join our amazing committee. Our current members include Jane Meyers (Coordinator), Deb Gardner (Secretary), JoAnne Bailey, Kim Belletti, Judy Christman, Leslie Daniel, Rachel Holencik, Sharyn Kratzer, Deb Leibenguth, Linda Mery, Nancy Miller, Betty Rock, Irene Rock, Sheryl Schaffer, Colleen Spadt, Virginia Smith, Toni Snyder, Felisha Steiner, Jane Tretiak, Betsy Vasquez, and Janet Weber.

Connect with any one of these wonderful ladies to get more information. You can also contact the church office at 610-767-7203 or email **office@hopecherryville.org**. Ladies don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to grow in faith and friendship!



#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hey there, little disciples and their supportive grown -ups! Just a quick heads-up that our First Communion practice is scheduled for **Sunday**, **April 7th at 9:15 AM** in the sanctuary. Remember, it's essential to have at least one parent or guardian with you during this time.

And mark your calendars for the picture-perfect moment on April 14th at 9:15 AM in the sanctuary. Bring along any family members you'd like to include in these special snapshots! If you have any queries or need more info about the practice or the main event on April 14th, feel free to shoot us an email at <u>sundayschool@hopecherryville.org</u>. We're here to make this experience as seamless and memorable as possible for you and your loved ones!



Step into a sacred moment as we gather to witness our students' First Communion at the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, April 14th. Join us in Kuntz Hall after the service to extend your warm wishes and celebrate this significant milestone in their faith journey. Let's come together as a community to share in the joy and blessings of this special occasion.



## HEY THERE, SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERSTARS!

Just a heads up for all our cradle roll, pre-KK, first and second, third and fourth, and sixth graders – on April 7th and April 14th, you won't be meeting in the sanctuary as usual. Instead, head straight to your classrooms for some exciting activities! This change is due to first communion practice and pictures, so make sure you're on time and ready to have a blast with your friends.

## KEEP SHINGING BRIGHT, KIDDOS!

Calling all champions for change! Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of our youth? Step up and join our dynamic youth leader team for an unforgettable experience. Dive into the action at our upcoming planning meeting and be part of something truly special. To learn more and get involved, please email Ally Lockard at youthgroup@hopecherryville.org.

Let's empower the next generation together!

#### YOUTH GROUP UPDATES

Get ready to roll with the Youth Group this Sunday, April 28th, as we hit the lanes for an epic bowling extravaganza! After the late service, we'll be setting off around 11:30 AM for a day filled with strikes, spares, and tons of fun. The cost is a bargain at no more than 10 per person, which includes lunch, bowling, and shoe rental. Don't spare the excitement - bring your friends along for a fantastic day out!

YOUTH GROUP BOWLING

Hurry and RSVP now to Ally Lockard at <u>youthgroup@hopecherryville.org</u> by Saturday, April 27th, and let's make this bowling bash a memorable strike!



Calling all compassionate hearts! Join us in spreading love and care as we rally the youth gathering participants to collect first aid kits for donation at our upcoming pre-gathering event on April 27th.

Your generosity can make a real difference in someone's life, so let's bandage the world with kindness! Simply drop off your donated new first aid kits in the bin located in the narthex and be a part of this heartwarming initiative. Together, we can be the healing touch that the world needs. Let's make a difference, one kit at a time!

We are excited to invite all youth attending the Youth Gathering to join our Youth Leaders for an extra special Synod Day Pre-Gathering Event on Saturday, April 27th.

Departing from the church at 9 AM and returning around 4 PM, this day, presented by the Northeast PA Synod of the ELCA, promises a fantastic opportunity for all participating churches to come together, engage in worship, workshops, and most importantly, have a great time getting to know each other.

Don't miss out on this memorable day of fellowship and fun!



## SAVE THE DATE!! "The Great Jungle Journey" is coming July 8-12th!

Set off on an epic adventure sailing the 7 "C's" of History with Mario Brothers and friends. Classes will be held from 9 AM until noon, with a closing program on Friday, July 12 at 7 pm. Bible school is for children aged 3 (potty trained) up to and including those who will be completing 6th grade in



June 2024. Lots of help will be needed so please consider volunteering. Adult and teenage volunteers will be needed to make our bible school successful. Teen volunteers must be completing 7th – 12th grade this spring. Any volunteer that is 18 or older will need to have clearances on file to attend. If you do not already have clearances on file, please contact the church office at 610-767-7203 for additional information.

## Be sure to include this fun week on your summer calendar!

### WOMEN OF FAITH EVENT

The WELCA committee at Hope Lutheran Church is excited to extend a warm invitation to you for our upcoming Spring Cluster Event on **April 13, 2024**. We are honored to host a distinguished speaker from the Northampton County Area Agency on Aging who will delve into the intricacies of caregiving. Whether you are a caregiver yourself or simply interested in learning more about this vital role, we welcome all members of the community to join us.

Registration will open at 10 AM, and a delightful light breakfast will be provided for all attendees. This event promises to be enlightening, engaging, and a wonderful opportunity to connect with others who share an interest in caregiving. If additional information is needed, please do not hesitate to reach out to our church office at 610-767-7203.

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEINS YOU THERE!

### HOPE LUTHERAN NURSERY SCHOOL

Hope Lutheran Nursery School Registration is now open for the 2024 -2025 school year!

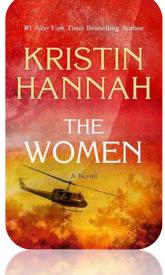
The three-year-olds meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the four-year-olds meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Both classes run from 9 AM to 11:30 AM.

For more information, or to register for our program please visit our webpage: <u>nurseryschool.hopecherryville.org</u> or call Hope Lutheran Church at 610-767-7203.



#### **GROUPS AT HOPE**

#### The Women by Kristin Hannah Wed, April 24 at 1 PM Submit questions to Cindy Kocher



*Women can be heroes.* When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost.

But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

The Women is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, The Women is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.

Zoom Meeting Details: https://usO2web.zoom.us/j/87605892517?pwd=WFdsZmFBMnNDRVB1N1JiT1ZjNmdTQT09



Please use the link above or the QR code for the Book Buddies Meeting via Zoom

Members of Book Buddies will be sharing the responsibility of developing questions to discuss; each member will submit two questions for each book and the person who recommends the book will lead the discussion. So, put on your thinking cap and join us for some funfilled, thought-provoking discussions! Please note, that all members will be responsible for purchasing their own copies of the books. But, if you need help finding or ordering the book, don't worry - we've got you covered! Just reach out to Jen in the church office for assistance at <u>office@hopecherryville.org</u> or 610-767-7203.

## Calling all moms and kids for a special Mother's Day photo session on Sunday, April 28th!

Capture precious moments with your little (or big!) ones at our photo area in the Sunday School office hallway/Narthex area. Our very own talented photographer, Bill Lewis, will be behind the lens to snap some unforgettable shots!

Don't miss out on this opportunity to cherish and frame these memories ~ printed photos will be ready just in time for Mother's Day!



WE LOVE OUR MOMS!



Calling all moms! Join us for a strikingly good time at Hampton Lanes in Northampton on Friday, April 26th, at 6 PM for an evening of fellowship, bowling and laughter!

It's the perfect opportunity to unwind, connect with fellow moms from our congregation, and show off your bowling skills.

Please RSVP to <u>Emily Ladd</u> by April 23rd to secure your spot and help us plan for a fantastic night ahead. Let's roll into the weekend with strikes and spares!



## HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH 4131 LEHIGH DRIVE | CHERRYVILLE PA 18035 | HOPECHERRYVILLE.ORG

## HOPE LEADERSHIP

<u></u> <u>ST</u>	<u>AFF</u>
INTERIM PASTOR	ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER
Rev. Susan Ruggles	Jennifer Sommers
pastor@hopecherryville.org	office@hopecherryville.org
610-767-7203 ext. 12	610-767-7203 ext. 10
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Communications Specialist
David R. Ziegler	Krystina Adams
organist@hopecherryville.org	<u>communications@hopecherryville.org</u>
610-767-7203	610-767-7203 ext. 20
<u>Treasurer</u>	CLEARANCE COORDINATOR
Trudy Mertz	Julie Sekol
<u>treasurer@hopecherryville.org</u>	<u>clearances@hopecherryville.org</u>
CONFIRMATION PROGRAM	YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM
COORDINATOR	COORDINATOR
Jennifer Knouss	Allison Lockard
<u>iknouss@verizon.net</u>	youth@hopecherryville.org
<u>Sexton</u>	<u>Financial Secretary</u>
Lance Sandner	Deb Gardner

PASTOR EMERITUS The Rev. Clark W. Kuntz II



## **2024 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

Doug Daniel President	<b>Tim Moore</b> Vice President Finance	Matthew Sekol Secretary Finance	
Krystina Adams	Mark Bateman	<b>Mikayla Boyer</b>	
Christian Education	Stewardship	Youth Ministry	
Laurie Christman Property	Annette Frazza Worship and Music	Michelle Inocencio Social Ministry	
<b>Lori Kerper</b>	<b>Megan Smith</b>	<b>Glenn Wampole</b>	
Evangelism	Youth Ministry	Mutual Ministry	

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

New members funerals, wedd address, van req sponsors, hospi facility	Call the church office 610-767-7203	
REGARDING	CONTACT	PHONE NO.
A/V Committee	avteam@hopecherryville.org	-
Basket Committee	Kathryn Fogle	610-767-5095
Church Website	webmaster@hopecherryville.o	rg -
Confirmation	Jennifer Knouss	610-767-7203
Evangelism	Sharyn Kratzer	610-261-1277
Finance	Bill Lewis	610-442-2116
Girl Scouts	Lindsay Hall	445-264-0631
Hope's Helping Hands	Leslie Daniel	610-767-7918
Memorial Garden	Church Office	610-767-7203
Mutual Ministry	Leslie Daniel	610-767-7918
Nursery School	Amy Krug	610-767-7203
Outreach / Soup	LeAnn Chandler	610-440-0341
Prayer Chain	Dolores Reenock	610-767-6698
Property	Charlie Kutzler	610-844-4342
SCS/Christian Ed	Allison Lockard Stephanie Maurer Shelbey Ziegler	610-216-5384 610-392-7857 610-262-9197
Senior Center	Karen Ferraina	610-767-2977
Social Ministry	Cindy Kocher	610-762-2389
Stewardship	Wayne Weidner	610-349-2654
VBS	Kathy Ziegler	610-262-9197
WELCA	Judy Dieter	610-767-9170
Women of Faith	omen of Faith Jane Meyers	
Worship Arts	orship Arts Karen Lockard	
Worship & Music	ip & Music Janet Filchner 610-	
Youth Group	Allison Lockard	610-216-5384

Follow us on Facebook—<u>HopeCherryville</u>



People of Hope: working together, with God, to love and serve others...



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Church Office Closed	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Girl Scouts - Lower- Level Rm 005 6:30pm Girl Scouts Troop 8066 - Lower-Level Rm 004 7:00pm Youth Leader Meeting - Online (by Teams)	<b>3</b> 9:00am Soup Group - Kuntz Hall Kitchen	4 10:00am Bible Study - Adult SS Rm 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting - Hanson Hall	ы	g
<ul> <li>S:00am Worship</li> <li>8:00am Worship</li> <li>9:15am Sunday School &amp; Confirmation Class</li> <li>9:15am Schedled Holy Baptism (Ahner) - Sanctuary</li> <li>3:30pm Sr Choir Rehearsal</li> <li>4:00pm Musical Rehearsal</li> </ul>	8 6:00pm Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm Congregational Council Meeting	<ul> <li><b>9</b></li> <li>10:00am WELCA Meeting - Adult SS Rm</li> <li>6:00pm Girl Scouts - Lower-Level Rm 005</li> <li>6:00pm Indianland Garden Club</li> <li>Kuntz Hall</li> <li>7:00pm Mutual Minister Meeting</li> <li>Pastor's Office</li> </ul>	<b>10</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Nursery School - Kuntz Hall 7:00pm Worship & Music Meet- ing	11 10:00am Bible Study - Adult SS Rm 7:00pm Sr Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 8:30am Meals-on-Wheels Event - Kuntz Hall (temp hold)	<b>13</b> 10:00am WELCA Cluster Event - Kuntz Hall
<b>14</b> 8:00am Worship & Holy Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Confirmation Class 10:30am Worship & Holy Communion & First Holy Communion Celebration 11:30am First Communion Reception - Kuntz Hall 4:00pm Musical Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Friendship Dance - Kuntz Hall (set-up 6 pm)	16 B:45am Nursery School Gym Day - Kuniz Hall 10:00am StoryWeavers 6:00pm Girl Scouts - Lower- Level Rm 005 6:30pm Girl Scouts Troop 8066 - 6:30pm Women of Faith Meet- ing - Hanson Hall ing - Hanson Hall	17 8:45am Nursery School Gym Day - Kuntz Hall 6:00pm 50th Anniversary Com- 6:00pm 60th Anniversary Com- mittee Meeting - Kuntz Hall	<b>18</b> 10:00am Bible Study - Adult SS 6 Rm 6:30pm 4H Club Meeting - Hanson Hall 7:00pm Sr Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 6:00pm Confirmation Weekend Retreat Spruce Lake (Level II) Meet at the church	20
<b>21</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Confirmation Class 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Musical Rehearsal	<b>22</b> Earth Day 6:00pm Stewardship Meeting - Hanson Hall	<b>23</b> 7:00am Primary Election Voting - Kuntz Hall 6:00pm Girl Scouts - Lower- Level Rm 005	<b>24</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00nm Book Buddies - By 200m only. 6:00pm Christian Ed. Meeting 7:00pm Thrivent Workshop: 5 Phases Wealth Transfer - Han- son Hall	<b>25</b> 10:00am Bible Study - Adult SS Rm 7:00pm Sr Choir Rehearsal	26	<b>27</b> 9:00am Youth Gathering Synod Day - Van Needed 4:00pm Girl Scout Event - Kuntz Hall (temp hold)
<b>28</b> 8:00am Worship & Holy Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Confirmation Class 10:30am Kuntz Hall Rental 11:40am Kuntz Hall Rental 11:45am Scheduled Holy Baptisms - Sanctuary 4:00pm Musical Rehearsal	59	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Girl Scouts - Lower- Level Rm 005 6:30pm Girl Scouts Troop 8066 - Lower-Level Rm 004		2 National Day of Prayer	m	4

	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship Loan	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$261,904.56	\$157,192.28	\$175,028.24	\$95,838.34	\$9,812.54
Income - February	35,939.24	5,189.19	1,215.05	259.74	2.90
Income - January	25,535.26	7,435.79	6,489.22	4,558.54	3.11
Total Income	61,474.50	12,624.98	7,704.27	4,818.28	6.01
Expenses - February	30,855.52	940.83	159.79	-	84.46
Expenses - January	26,496.40	666.17	-	2,800.00	-
Total Expenses	57,351.92	1,607.00	159.79	2,800.00	84.46
Net Income	4,122.58	11,017.98	7,544.48	2,018.28	(78.45)
Net Special Appeals	-				
Balance End of February	\$266,027.14	\$168,210.26	\$182,572.72	\$97,856.62	\$9,734.09

#### FINANCIAL SUMMARY - FEBRUARY 29, 2024

#### **SUMMARY:**

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of February by \$5,083.72, and for the year 2024, income exceeded expenses by \$4,122.58, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$266,027.14. Last year the net income for the same period was \$3,459.76 with a balance of \$255,694.92.

\*\*The current income statement is posted in the narthex. \*\*

### **NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE**

All committees, groups and persons submitting content for the church newsletter should follow the schedule listed below. Articles may be edited so we do not exceed Post Office guidelines. Please email your articles to Krystina Adams (<u>communications@hopecherryville.org</u>). Thank you.

<b>Edition</b>	Article Deadline	Collation Date
May	Monday, April 15	Thursday, April 25

Please let the office know if you need to update your delivery method of the Hope Home News. The paper copy contains the news that fits on six pages. The digital version can run longer.

## SYNOD NEWS

The April 2024 issue of <u>Synod News</u> is available online.

Visit http://nepasynod.org



# HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH 4131 Lehigh Drive PO Box 1030 Cherryville, PA 18035



DATE SENT: April 4, 2024

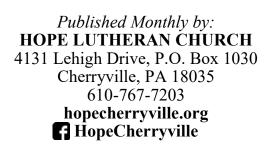


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# HOPE HOME NEWS Vol. LI No. 4 APRIL 2024





Worship 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday School at 9:15 AM

Church Office Hours 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM Mon – Fri

