

The Concord

The Newsletter of New Hope Lutheran Church

June, 2013



New Hope Evangelical
Lutheran Church
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Hope Evangelical Luther-
an Church**

Pastor:
Rev. Martin J. Galbraith

Council Officers:

President:

Ron D'Alessandro

Vice-President:

Terry Ruckert

Secretary:

Ivey Joe Reynolds

Treasurer: Carol Ruckert

Financial Secretary:

Isabelle Majors

Council Members:

Kathy Carter,

Mike Mazur,

Fran McCandless,

Helen Meeder,

Ben Puffinberger,
Michelle Riggi-Smith

Church
Council



The disasters just seem to keep coming, don't they?

Just in the last few weeks, there was a Boston Marathon bombing, the Bangladesh factory collapse, the Oklahoma storm, mass-bombings in Iraq. (The overload of the news coverage means there are probably some others that I should mention that just aren't coming to mind right now. It is also entirely possible there will be more between the time when I type this article and the time when you read it.)

These disasters are a combination of human caused (people plant bombs in a place where they know many will be gathering, people crowd scandalously-low-paid workers into unsafe buildings, people buy products made by those workers at these buildings) and natural (although a large number of scientists are saying that our pollution and emissions may even contribute to the severity of storms). Whatever the cause or causes, the death-march continues. I don't know how it affects you, but it can be mind-numbing to me.

One of the phrases most common to the Psalms is, *How long, O Lord?* I very much doubt that disasters (or even misfortunes) are necessarily God's will and God's doing, but that questions remains... *How long?*

I wish I had all the "answers" to these questions, all the "solutions" to these problems. But I don't. These questions and problems cannot be dismissed or explained away.

But there is still a hope. Psalm 13 asks that *How long?* question at least four times in its first two verses. But that Psalm which asks such unanswerable questions also points us to our help:

*But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord...*

In the face of disasters, the place to look is the *steadfast love* of God. That love is why we can believe that God will act and help. It is also how we are called to respond to the victims of disasters: with the *steadfast love* of God, that is even more powerful than the greatest storm, the most terrible terror, the most tragic accident, the most debilitating despair.

Peace,
Pastor Martin

P.S. Please take a couple of minutes to fill out and return the enclosed survey. Thank you.



June Anniversaries

- 2 Greg & Sara Baker (2007)
Don & Casie Lewis (2001)
- 5 Terry & Dr. Nancy Alberts (1965)
- 6 Steven & Cheryl Blinn (1998)
- 16 Tim & Kathy Carter (2007)
Dion & Mary Greco (1984)
- 17 Ed & Beth Majors
- 22 John & MaryAnn Banyas
- 25 James & Katherine Kuny (2005)
- 27 Scott & Debbie Angus
- 28 Allen & Shirley Henley (1952)
Matt & Michelle Riggi-Smith (1997)
- 29 H. Dennis & Ruth Ruckert (1979)



Congratulations and best wishes to these very special couples!

We share these birthday and anniversary lists with the congregation to remember and celebrate these special dates through prayer, telephone calls, cards, and/or other appropriate greetings.

Omissions of birthdays or anniversaries are not intentional. If you are missed, please let the office know as soon as possible. Thank you!

To My Church Family,

Thank you for all the cards, monetary gifts and love given to me and my family at the time of my daughter, Roberta's, death.

I love you all,

Alice Barnes

To My Choir Family,

Thank you for all the love and gifts given at the passing of my daughter, Roberta.

I love you all,

Alice Barnes

June Birthdays

- 2 Reed Schwertz
- 4 Leonard Ruckert
- 5 Tracy Barnick
Jake Ruckert
- 6 Alexa Grantz
- 9 Cameron Drake
Bradley Henley
Dave Smart
- 11 Alysynn Lewis
Bill Morgan
- 14 Dylan Bianculli
Chad Majors
Danielle Summerville
- 15 Amanda Hare
- 16 Owen Summerville
- 17 Faith Cornell
Jaden Lewis
- 18 Tim Carter
Charles Drake
Ben Puffinburger
- 19 Matt Matscherz
Leroy McGee
- 21 Jeffrey Ruckert
- 22 Jesse Braun
Brandan Hare
- 23 Alan Ellingson
Eugene Moore
- 24 Georgeann Amrhein
Richard Kelleher, Jr.
Paul Settlermaier
- 25 Elaine Costello
Tonia Kopac
Helen Meeder
Ivey Joe Reynolds
Cassie Rose
Riley Schwertz
- 26 Mary Ann Banyas
Shawn Moore
Makenzie Wentzel
- 27 Justin Moore
- 28 Marianne Mayle
- 29 Kasey Prokop
Emily Tatsch





Youth Group to Kennywood is planned for Sunday, June 23rd.

Mission on the Mon, a mission trip and discipleship training event for youth, will be in McKeesport July 7-12.

Youth Group Biking @ Moraine State Park is planned for Sunday, July 14th.

Youth Group Kayaking (and planning meeting) @ Moraine State Park is scheduled for Sunday, August 18th.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held the week of July 15th. We will be in need of volunteers to help with the different activities. A sign up sheet has been placed on the bulletin board for all wishing to volunteer. A registration form has been included in this month's newsletter, along with being an insert in our weekly bulletins. They have also been placed on the table in the Narthex. Please complete the form and place it in the Education mailbox in the credenza or the Secretary's mailbox in the credenza or the IN box on the door. Please see Helen Meeder, Jen Fessler or Pastor Martin if you have any questions.

The following events and/or gatherings will not be held throughout the summer months. However, they will all resume again in September. Please be sure to review the August Newsletter and Sunday Bulletins for information.

K.F.C. Singers

and God Squad:



Saturday and Sunday School

Monday Afternoon Bible Study

**Confirmation
Class**



Preschool News for June 2013



The preschool is officially closed for the summer! The children worked so hard to complete all of their lessons and are prepared to start a new adventure in new classes next year. Our Mother's Day tea was a huge success the children had so much fun celebrating with their moms. Our End of Year Ceremony and Prekindergarten graduation ceremonies were absolutely wonderful too! We are so grateful to have worked with such awesome families this year. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this last school year a wonderful success.

We are looking forward to our summer break, but we also are excited about working with our new and returning families next school year. Have a great summer!!! See you in September.

We are still accepting registrations for the 2013-2014 school year, so spread the word to your friends and family.

As always thank you for your continued love, prayers and support!

Christine Smith & New Hope Christian Preschool Staff

MAY GATHERINGS & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

PRESCHOOL BOARD will meet Monday, June 3rd, at 7:00 pm.

LUNCH BUNCH will meet Wednesday, June 5th, at 1:00 pm at the Candlelight Lounge.

WELCA will be baking for Meals on Wheels the weekend of June 8 and June 9. Baked goods, ready to eat diabetic desserts, Jell-O and pudding cups can be brought to the kitchen and placed on the island.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet Sunday, June 9th, at 11:30 PM.

ADULT NIGHT OUT will be held Sunday, June 9th, at 5:30 pm, at Stone Peppers Grill, Route 228, Mars, PA. A sign up sheet has been posted for all who wish to attend.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet Monday, June 10th, at 6:30 pm at the church. We are continuing to make prayer shawls, chemo caps, scarves for the soldiers, 4x4 squares and 7x9 rectangles. Summer is the time for fun and relaxing but take along some yarn and make a little something while you are tanning. We are instituting a new phase to our ministry. There will be 2 prayer shawls displayed on a rack in the foyer. A sign will indicate that these are for anyone to take as there is a need. As always, please consider joining us in our ministry. All work is done on your time, when you choose and at the pace you wish to go. The only items with a time period are the scarves for the soldiers. We would like to be able to give them to the Yellow Ribbon Girls by October 1st. Last year we were able to give them 54 scarves so we would like to be able to match that or surpass that amount.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet Monday, June 10th, at 7:00 pm. We are still looking for someone to fill our chairperson position. If you, or someone you know, would be interested, please see Pastor Martin or any council member.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY will be held June 13-15, at California University of PA.

RIVERSWEEP is June 15th. If you would like to help clean the banks of the Ohio River please sign up on the bulletin board. We are fortunate to have easy access to water recreation on the Ohio. Please consider giving a few hours to help with the cleanup. Sign up by June 2nd so we can notify the organizers of the number of volunteers. Each volunteer receives a t-shirt. Children must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.

THRIVENT will hold a summer event, Thrivent Day at Waldameer, on Father's Day, June 16th. The cost is \$14.00 for the standard Combo Pass. A light lunch will be provided. Please sign up by June 6th to qualify for the discounted price. Reservations can be made by contacting Anne Baver (724-662-9392) or at abaver@zoominternet.net.

BOOK CLUB will meet Monday, June 17th, at 7:00 PM at Panera's in Cranberry. We will be reading "*Gone Girl*" by Gillian Flynn.

WELCA'S annual pizza/movie night is Tuesday, June 18th, at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. June's Love Offering will benefit New Hope's Prayer Shawl Ministry.

BREAKFAST BUFFET will be June 22, 2013 from 8 am to 11 am. This month we will be benefiting the New Hope Youth Group. Please come out and support our youth. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help at the buffet, please sign up on the bulletin board.

CANAAN VALLEY: Our Canaan Valley Parish Adventure will be held Monday, June 24 through Friday, June 28.

GRIEF SHARE meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm.

PEW TORCH ORDER DEADLINE has been extended until June 9th. A copy of the torch, along with an order form, have been included in the Newsletter. Please complete the order form and have your payment in no later than Sunday, June 9, 2013.

SOCIAL CONCERNS would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Election Day Bake Sale in May. As a result of your efforts we raised \$158.50. Thanks for your help and generosity.

CROSSROADS SHELTER at Christ Lutheran Church in Beaver Falls is a severe weather, emergency overnight shelter for homeless men (up to ten per night) who have nowhere to go on cold winter nights. Men are needed to volunteer to staff this crucially important ministry. If you might be interested, you can talk with Pastor Martin, or call Crossroads at 724-847-8807. Be sure to read the Thank You Note received from Crossroads which is posted on the bulletin board.

TRASH & TREASURE — A HUGE SUCCESS!!!

This is why we felt it to be a success: We enjoyed this time together, welcoming our members, neighbors, and friends. Offering very fair prices, lots of good food and providing a community outreach.

Thank you for helping in any of these ways:

Brought items	Bought items	Baked	Made
Cleaned	Sorted	Priced	Donated
Bagged	Boxed	Served	Cooked
Swept	Cashiered	Lifted	Ate
Moved tables	Carried chairs	Loaded	Unloaded
Stayed to receive	Advertised	Brought lunch	Put up signs
Invited friends	Smiled	Welcomed	

Each job was important to us and helped so much. Thank you.

The Vietnam Veterans received the unsold items.

In Christian love,

Judy Majors & WELCA

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: Make 2013 the year you resolve to make your marriage a more romantic, intimate, joy-filled relationship! For over 30 years Lutheran Marriage Encounter has been enriching and revitalizing marriages by presenting Weekends. Weekends run from Friday night at 8 PM to Sunday at 5 PM and are designed to enrich ALL MARRIAGES whether you are newlyweds or have been married upwards of 50 years. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. There is a \$45 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward continuation of the program. The 2013 Pennsylvania Weekends are:

- **September 13-15, 2013** at Olmsted Mansion and Retreat Center, Ludlow, PA (a 1917 Manor with a lovely, modern retreat center in the Allegheny National Forest -- 20 miles southeast of Warren, PA)
- **October 11-13, 2013** at Mountain Laurel Resort, White Haven, PA (in the beautiful Pocono Mountains -- 2 hours north of Philadelphia, just off of Interstate 80)

Registrations are limited, so sign up today to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice. Simply go to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and register using your credit card, or for questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: fjschamber@comcast.net.

COMPANY IS COMING
2013 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA
August 12-17, 2013
David L. Lawrence Convention Center
Pittsburgh, PA
Always being Made New - 25 years together in Christ

We need to get ready for our guests from across the USA and beyond.

The smooth operation of The Churchwide Assembly and the spirit of Pittsburgh hospitality depend on hundreds of volunteers who contribute their time, effort and considerable talent.

What tasks will the volunteers be asked to do? There are many different tasks from ironing albs and washing communion service pieces, greeting guests at the airport and directing them to transportation, to assisting with worship, registration, and on and on.

To volunteer please go to the website, www.micahscall.org/elca2013 and register on the volunteer page. You will be able to choose a task, day and time.

PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY!

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Time Dated Material

*Thanks
Dad!*

Saturday Evening Worship - 6:30 pm

Sunday Worship - 8:00 am

Sunday Worship - 10:00 am

