



The Concord

The Newsletter of New Hope Lutheran Church

MAY, 2014



New Hope Evangelical
Lutheran Church
200 2nd Avenue
(Economy Borough)
Freedom, PA 15042

E-mail:
newhopelutheran-
church@comcast.net

Website: newhope
lutheranchurch.com

Like us on Facebook:
**New Hope Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

Pastor:
Rev. Martin J. Galbraith

Council Officers:

President:

Ron Ruckert

Vice-President:

Kathy Carter

Secretary:

Sue Davis

Treasurer: Carol Ruckert

Financial Secretary:

Isabelle Majors

Council Members:

Ron D’Alessandro,

Mike Mazur,

Fran McCandless,

Ben Puffinburger,

Ivey Joe Reynolds

Michelle Riggi-Smith

**Church
Council**



DEATH. (How’s that for the first word of a church newsletter?)

A lot of knowledgeable people who have researched the matter say that ours is a culture that just tries to ignore and deny the reality of death. The biblical faith doesn’t do that at all; the Bible can even be pretty blunt about it. The psalm assigned for worship the first weekend of this month (the Third Sunday of Easter) includes the verse, *The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.* We just observed the most somber day of the Christian year, Good Friday, which has as its basic storyline the suffering and death of an innocent man, executed by the unjust use of power. Death and grief are inescapable realities of our world and our lives. Some are facing their own mortality as they read this page; others are far from “over” a loved one’s death. The Bible not only acknowledges these realities better than we usually do; the New Testament says that in Christ, God even became a part of this human reality. Part of a classical Christian proclamation is the phrase, “Christ has died.”

But that proclamation continues... “**Christ is risen.**” This month we continue our celebration of Easter, of Christ’s resurrection. The essential Christian claim is that **death itself has been overcome.**

Especially if we have been in the Church for our entire lives, we may not even fully realize how astonishing (that’s a gentle way to put it – more blunt words might be ‘ridiculous’ or ‘preposterous’ or ‘crazy’) a claim that is – in the resurrection of Christ, death itself has been overcome. Christ’s resurrection is God’s promise – you might even say, God’s down-payment – on our resurrection. Death (and all the things that go with it... the fear, the threat, the meaninglessness, the sadness, the nothingness, the despair, etc.) is not our ultimate faith; the life, love and joy that God offers are.

And so Easter is something to be lived every day. Death and all the things that go with it need not control us; God’s life, love and joy can be what gives direction to our lives. How we spend our time and our money, how we live with our neighbors and family, how we treat the poor and needy, how we respond to conflict or those who differ from us, what our lips say and what our deeds show to be at the center of our hearts – because of Easter, God’s life, love and joy can be what drives us in all of these things. Because Christ is risen, death and its ways have no more dominion over us!

I have heard Christians say, “We are an Easter people.” Yes, that does mean coming to worship on Easter Sunday. It also means living Easter Sunday, living the new possibilities for life, love and joy that the resurrection brings us.

A world that knows death sure could use some Easter people, couldn’t it?

Pastor Martin



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Janet & Giacomo Buonaiuto (1992)
- 10 Ron & Beth D’Alessandro (2008)
- 11 Leonard & Joyce Skultety (2001)
Clayton & Gail Summers (1957)
- 14 Adam & Christine Shoup (2005)
- 21 Jeff & Kim Bable (1988)
Patrick & Dana Thompson (2005)
- 22 Steve & Cara Hedzik (1993)
Ed & Debbie Moore
- 26 William & Mary Pfeiffer (1968)
- 31 Holly & Terry Brown (1985)

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!

SMILEY FOR MAY

Some minds are like concrete:

Thoroughly mixed up

And perma-

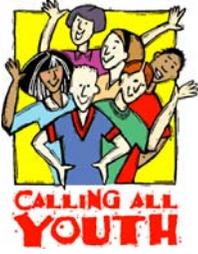
nently set.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sawyer Shoup
Sherri Smart
Dorothy Stonfer
- 2 Kristan Herrington
Judy Herstine
- 3 Amber Hedzik
Joe Malatesta
Alexandre Opferman
- 4 Daniel R. M. Lewis
- 5 Terri Alberts
- 6 Kevin Renner
- 7 Colton Costello
- 8 Rich Lucas
Margaret Parrish
- 9 Maura Banyas
Phil Bendle
Tonya Henley
Sean Malatesta
Zoe Sims
Madeline Smith
- 10 Dan Filbert
Logan Pettis
- 11 Allen Henley
- 13 Michael Lewis
- 17 Gwen Gorski
Danika Probst
- 18 Thelma Filbert
Brandon Murray
- 19 Bristol Bruno
Troy Porterfield
- 21 Betty Barnick
- 22 Michael Yount
- 23 Ken Mengel
Evelyn Moore
- 24 Matthew Schneider
Dale Webster
- 25 Deanna Decanini
Joan Hogue
Madeline Steele
- 29 Jeanne Barto
Tom Law
Cody Morgan
- 30 Laina Schwertz
- 31 Lois Hartenbach





CAMP BLAST is a free day at Camp Lutherlyn - free admission, free food, all kinds of free camp activities, discounts on registrations for new campers, etc. Camp Blast is Saturday, May 10th, from 11-4:30... check out the info on the bulletin board, or see Pastor Martin.

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE our synod's monthly gathering for youth, will be held on Sunday, May 18th, from 5-8 PM. We will be meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, 120 Sunset Drive, Butler, PA 16001. Please see Pastor Martin if you're interested in attending.

CAMP LUTHERLYN offers life-changing adventures in faith with a fantastic variety of camp offerings throughout the summer. Pick up a catalogue from Pastor Martin.

YOUTH CONVO: This gathering of Lutheran high-school-aged youth (held in conjunction with our synod assembly) will be held at St. Vincent's College in Latrobe June 11-14 (Wednesday - Saturday). Please see Pastor Martin if interested in attending.

LUTHERAN DAY AT KENNYWOOD: Plan to join Lutheran Youth from throughout our synod at Kennywood Park on Tuesday, July 29th.

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING will be held next summer (July 15-19, 2015) in Detroit, celebrating the theme, **Rise Up Together**. The Gathering is for youth who will be entering 9th grade the following school year through those who will have just graduated from high school (classes of 2015-2019). Registration for either a youth or an adult leader is \$325/person, plus travel, lodging, meals and tips, etc. Those interested in attending the Gathering as youth, adult leaders or volunteers should see Pastor Martin for more information - it seems like a long time from now, but plans and fundraising need to start soon!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING

MONDAY, JULY 21 THROUGH THURSDAY, JULY 24

WATCH UPCOMING BULLETINS AND NEWSLETTERS FOR MORE INFORMATION

ELEMENT BEARER, ACOLYTE AND CRUCIFER TRAINING

Training will be held for all children wishing to participate in our weekly services. The May session will be held Sunday, May 4th, after the Opening of Sunday School, at approximately 9:40 AM.

**K.F.C. Singers
and God Squad:**



K.F.C. Singers are meeting during the Sunday School opening time. We are still undecided about a start date for God Squad. We have decided to postpone announcing any dates until later in 2014. We will be sure to keep you updated in future bulletins and newsletters.



SUNDAY SCHOOL for all ages meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.

MONDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY meets at 1:30 p.m.



ATTENTION ALL 7TH & 8TH GRADERS

Confirmation classes for 7th and 8th graders are being held on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

**MAY GATHERINGS, COMMITTEE
MEETINGS
AND REQUESTS**

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet Thursday, May 1st, at 8:00 PM.

WELCA SPRING TRASH & TREASURE SALE will be held on Saturday, May 3rd, from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Donations can be dropped off from Monday, April 28th through Thursday, May 1st, from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. They may also be dropped off on Friday, May 2nd, between 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

We **do not** accept clothing, TV's and computer items. Donations for our Bake Sale will be greatly appreciated. We will also be offering refreshments. Our menu will be posted in the near future. Please be sure to watch upcoming bulletins and community advertising for more information on our annual event.

SAFE CHURCH COMMITTEE will hold a training session on Sunday, May 4th, at 12:45 PM. A second session will be held on July 17th. Anyone interested in working with children and youth should sign up on the bulletin board for one of the sessions.

LUNCH BUNCH will meet Wednesday, May 7, at 1:00 pm, at the Candlelight Lounge on Conway-Wallrose Rd.

WELCA TRIENNIAL GATHERING FUNDRAISER (which helps support the cost of those attending our gathering) will be held on Friday, May 9th. We will be serving our Stuffed Pork Chop Dinner from 5:00 until 6:30 PM. The cost is \$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 for ages 10 and under. Take out is available with advanced notice. Tickets are on sale and available from Fran Mazur, Jo Johnson, Janet Fishovitz, and Roberta Herrington. Please make checks payable to Roberta Herrington. The deadline for purchasing tickets is May 4th. Thank you for your support, and enjoy your meal!!

CAMP BLAST is a free day at Camp Lutherlyn – free admission, free food, all kinds of free camp activities, discounts on camp registrations, etc. Camp Blast is Saturday, May 10th, from 11-4:30... check out the info on the bulletin board, or see Pastor Martin.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet at the church at 6:30 PM on Monday, May 12th. We will continue with our current projects and begin making scarves for the soldiers. Please come join us for the evening.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet Monday, May 12th, at 7:00 PM.

WELCA NEWS: Because of Election Day on May 20th, WELCA will hold our regular meeting on Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00 PM. Along with our Spring Trash & Treasure Sale on May 3rd, our agenda includes the following: Our Love Gift is the Salvation Army Kitchen in Beaver Falls, PA. Our Program Leaders and Hostesses are Fran Mazur and Beth Majors. Our annual convention will also be held on May 16 and 17, in Greensburg, PA.

NOOMA DINNER: We will be holding a second potluck meal on Wednesday, May 14th at 6:00 PM, for those who missed the one held in March. Dinner will be followed by a video on Rob Bell's NOOMA series on discipleship and God's calling. A sign-up sheet has been posted for all wishing to attend.

ADULT NIGHT OUT: Please watch upcoming bulletins for information about our place, date and time for our May gathering. Thank you.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet Sunday, May 18th, at 12:45 PM, in order to avoid conflicts with Mother's Day celebrations.

BOOK CLUB will meet at Panera's on Monday, May 19th, at 7:00 PM. Our book for May is "*The Johnstown Girls*" by Kathleen George.

SOCIAL CONCERNS will be serving dinner at the Hearth & Ladle in Ambridge on Monday, May 19th. If you would like to join our group to help prepare, serve, cleanup, etc., please sign up on the bulletin board. Thank you.

BAKE SALE: Social Concerns will be having an Election Day Bake Sale on Tuesday, May 20th. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to contribute.

BREAKFAST BUFFET: Our May Breakfast Buffet will be Saturday, May 24th, from 8:00—11:00 AM. The beneficiary of the breakfast is our Youth Group. WE WILL BE FEATURING MADE TO ORDER OMELETS! Our own Omeleteers, Kathy Carter and Lisa Herrington are back by popular demand! Please consider volunteering to help. We can guarantee a great fun-filled morning. Thank you.

ASCENSION DINNER AND WORSHIP will be held on Thursday, May 29th. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM and our worship service will immediately follow around 7:00 PM. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

BIBLE STUDY meets every Monday, at 1:30 PM.

GRIEF SHARE meets Wednesday evening, at 7:00 PM

CONFIRMATION CLASS meets Thursday, at 7:00 PM.

CHOIR PRACTICE will resume meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM, beginning on May 1st.

**MAY GATHERINGS, COMMITTEE MEET-
INGS
AND REQUESTS (continued)**

LOOKING AHEAD:

CAMP LUTHERLYN offers life-changing adventures in faith with a fantastic variety of camp offerings throughout the summer. Pick up a catalogue from Pastor Martin.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY: New Hope is looking for folks to attend our Synod Assembly as voting members. The Assembly will be held Thursday, June 12—Saturday, June 14. For more information, please see Pastor Martin.

CANAAN VALLEY: Our annual parish trip to Canaan Valley, West Virginia is scheduled for Monday, June 23 thru Friday, June 27, 2014. **The deadline for registration is Sunday, March 30th, with final payment due by Sunday, April 13th.**

THRIVENT DAY AT WALDAMEER will be held Sunday, July 13, 2014. Tickets will be \$14.00 which includes admission to the Park and a light lunch. Tickets must be purchased in advance, no later than July 4th. Please contact Anne Baver at

FREE HOUSECLEANING SERVICE FOR WOMEN UNDERGOING CHEMOTHERAPY:

If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning, once a month for 4 months, while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. **Cleaning for a Reason** will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. It's our job to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there that care. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along.

Cleaning for a Reason can be contacted at the following address:

<http://www.cleaningforareason.org/>

You may not know of someone going through chemo, but someone on your email list might. Please pass this information on to your family and friends.

An Easter Message from Our Presiding Bishop

"Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means teacher)."

John 20:16

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

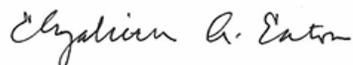
My favorite story in Scripture is the account in John's Gospel of Mary Magdalene going to the tomb. It was the first Easter, but Mary didn't know that. She expected death. In her profound grief she couldn't recognize Jesus. It was only when Jesus called her by name that she was able to see the risen Lord.

Jesus saw Mary. Jesus knew Mary. Jesus spoke "Mary". It was being completely seen, utterly known and lovingly called that opened Mary Magdalene to the hope of the resurrection and into a deeper relationship with Christ. Because she was seen she could see.

This is Easter vision. We have been seen, known and called by God through the crucified and risen Savior and, having received the Spirit through baptism, we all can now see. We can see Christ, and we can see Christ in our neighbor. No one is invisible to God, and no one is invisible to us. What wondrous love is this!

So beloved, with newly opened eyes let us be bold to say, "Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah!"

Blessed Easter,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Preschool News for May 2014

April was Awesome!! First we started the month by taking a field trip to Bounce U. The children had a wonderful time and it was a really great experience. In the middle of the month we had our Easter Parties to celebrate the egg-cellent season. At the end of the month we had our hop-a-thon. We still have donations and sponsors coming in so we do not yet know the total we raised, we will be sure to post it in the next newsletter. Thank you to everyone who helped sponsor our children. We have also been learning songs, and completing special crafts to present to our Moms at our mother's Day Tea. Don't worry we have continued to learn letters and numbers too. In fact we are finished learning letters and numbers and we are now applying them to new skills.

During the Month of May we will continue to use letters and numbers to learn and practice other important skills that we need for Kindergarten. We will also complete our final assessments for the year. Of course we will have our Mother's Day Tea Party to honor our moms. In addition to this we will have a movie day in order to celebrate all our hard work all year. Finally we will finish the year with our Pre-school End of Year and Pre-Kindergarten Graduation ceremonies.

We are currently accepting registrations for the 2014-2015 school year. Spaces are filling fast 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

Volunteers Needed

Only a one time commitment is requested ~ Current PA Clearances may be required

Mother's Day Tea Help: We will need people to bake cookies for our annual tea parties. Tea parties will be May 7th and May 8th.

Graduation Ceremony Cookies: We are also in need of helpers to bake cookies for the Pre-school End of Year Ceremony on May 15th and for the Pre-Kindergarten Graduation on May 16th.

Please contact Miss Christine at newhopepreschool@comcast.net for details or for clearance information.



MAY 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Worship & Music Committee	2 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 9:00 am-7:00 pm Trash & Treasure Setup	3 9:00 am-1:00 pm Trash & Treasure Sale (3rd Sunday of Easter) 6:30 pm Worship
4 (3rd Sunday of Easter) 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am SS 9:40 am Element Bearer Training 11:00 am Worship 12:45 pm SCC Training	5 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 1:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Girl Scts. 7:00 pm Cub Scts. @ Stange House	6 9:00-11:30 am Preschool	7 9:-11:30 am Preschool Party in Fellowship Hall 1:00 pm Lunch Bunch @ Candlelight 7:00 pm Grief Share	8 9:-11:30 am Pre-school Party in Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm Choir	9 Hall in use all day 5:00 pm Stuffed Pork Chop Fund-raiser Dinner	10 (4th Sunday of Easter) 6:30 pm Worship
11 (4th Sunday of Easter) 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am SS 11:00 am Worship HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY	12 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 1:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 pm Property Committee	13 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 7:00 pm WELCA	14 9:00-11:30 am Preschool 6:00 pm NOOMA Dinner 7:00 pm Grief Share	15 9:00-11:30 am Preschool (Closing Program - Hall & Sanctuary in use) 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir	16 9-11:30 am Pre-school 6:30 pm Preschool Graduation (Hall & Sanctuary in use) WELCA Convention @ Greensburg	17 WELCA Convention in Greensburg (5th Sunday of Easter) 6:30 pm Worship
18 (5th Sunday of Easter) 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am SS 11:00 am Worship 12:45 pm Council 5-8 pm SNL @ Trinity LC Butler	19 1:30 pm Bible Study 4:00 pm Social Concerns @ Ladle 7:00 pm Book Club 7:00 pm Preschool Board 7:00 pm Cub Scouts—Stange	20 ELECTION DAY AND BAKE SALE	21 7:00 pm Grief Share	22 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Confirmation	23	24 8:00 am—11:00 am Breakfast Buffet (6th Sunday of Easter) 6:30 pm Worship
25 (6th Sunday of Easter) 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am SS 11:00 am Worship	26 HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	27	29 7:00 pm Grief Share	29 6:00 pm Ascension Dinner & Worship	30	31 (7th Sunday of Easter) 6:30 pm Worship

New Hope Evangelical Lutheran
Church
200 Second Ave. (Economy Borough)
Freedom, PA 15042

Non-Profit Organization

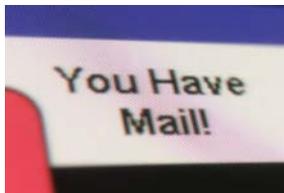
U. S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 14



Time Dated Material



Saturday Evening Worship - 6:30 pm
Sunday Worship - 8:00 am
Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 am
Sunday Worship - 11:00 am

