



HOPE NOTES

April ~ May 2024

Hope Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 234
E. Pittsburgh, PA 15112
412-242-4476

hopeforesthills@aol.com

Serving the Community with Love

*Hope is a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America*

Sunday Worship

11:15 am in-person
at

McMasters

United Methodist Church
200 Church Street, Turtle Creek
and 3:00 pm on zoom

Taize Prayer Service

7:00 pm on zoom
first Wednesday of every month
(except July & August)

P.L.U.M. Pastoral Team

plumofpa.com

Rev. John Gropp-412-680-7867
Rev. Brenda Henry-412-390-8005
Pastor Susan Devine-412-496-4889

Church Council:

Jane Cushion, President
Barb Kochuba, Vice President
Kathie Nelson, Secretary
Dave Hauser, Treasurer
Bev Koch, Vice Treasurer
Pam Hall, Member
Lynda Joyce, Member
Janet Moberg, Member
Arnold Wlahofsky, Member



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“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30

There is a funny song in the musical Oklahoma called All er Nuthin. Will is a young cowboy in love with a girl named Ado Annie, who is a little on the wild side. Will tells Ado Annie that she needs to settle down and be a one-man woman. Annie laments that for Will it's all or nothing, all for him and nothing for her. In Mark's gospel, a teacher of the law asked Jesus the question; “which is the greatest commandment?” Jesus responded: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

This text was the focus of a five-week Lenten Worship series of the Carnegie Area Ministerial Association which I had the pleasure and privilege of participating in. My assigned part of the text was “you shall love the Lord your God with all your strength”. My question to the congregation on the day that I preached was, “How strong are you feeling today?” How strong are YOU feeling today? Can you move a mountain, lift a boulder, carry the weight of the world on your shoulders? Or, are you barely able to lift a feather? My guess is that it is somewhere in between these two extremes, probably toward the lower end of the scale. Jesus said, “love with all your strength.”

What does it mean to love with all of our strength? It means that whatever our ability is on any given day, it is enough. It is enough because our strength comes from the Lord. The prophet Isaiah wrote: “I will trust and not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.”

PLUM is in a time of transition. We are forming a Call Committee to begin the process of looking for a new pastor or two. We are discerning who we are and what our mission is. All of our congregations are feeling the strain carrying membership concerns, finances, and ministry. Every one of us has our own personal weights to carry. Some days, there is just too much and we feel weak. Other days, we feel like we can carry the weight of the world and then some. Whichever day we are having, we have been blessed with the gift of community. Your weakest day is someone else's strong day. That is the beauty of PLUM.

As we move forward into a future that none of us can predict, we can do so with confidence because we know that God is in control

and will carry us when needed. So love yourself, love your siblings in Christ, love God with all that you have. That is all that you can do.

So, yes Ado Annie, with God it is all er nuthin.

I close by asking all of you to include the following prayer in your prayers:

Most Gracious, generous, loving God;

You have called us all as ministers of our congregation and Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries. You have healed us through Jesus' incarnation, death and resurrection. You have called and entrusted us with the task of being disciples. Guide us in this important work for our congregation and for PLUM. Give us all courage to look back, to look ahead and to see where we are. Give us vision to see where you are working in and through us. Open our eyes to the needs of this community of believers and to the needs of the community that we are called to serve. Reveal your Spirit to us. Guide us as we seek to do your will in our daily lives.

We ask this in the name of Jesus who told us to ask in order to receive, to seek in order to find, and to knock for the door to be opened to us. Amen.

On behalf of our pastoral team,
Pastor Sue



Hope Lutheran Church
at McMasters United Methodist Church,
200 Church Street, Turtle Creek

Worship at 11:15 am

Check your weekly email for Hope's calendar
and up-to-date announcements

Taize Prayer

Wednesday, April 3 & May 1 ~ 7:00 pm on zoom

"How Yinz Doing? Luncheon"

Sunday, April 21 ~ after worship

PLUM Bible Study

April 25, May 2, 9, 16 at 7:00 pm on zoom

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 19 ~ 7:00 pm on zoom
Agenda: vote to accept Council Members

Leadership Opportunities

*We are looking for members to serve on the church council

*We are also looking for anyone who would be willing to administer our Facebook page

Interested?... contact any member of council

The Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr:

Fires of Freedom and Cloud of Witnesses

Sunday, April 7, 2024

2:00 PM - 7:30 PM

House of Prayer Lutheran Church, 2100
West Irwin Street, Aliquippa, PA 15001

God's work. Our hands.

September 8, 2024

Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 8,
when congregations of the ELCA will join together
for our annual day of service.

Pocket Change & G&J Dollars

are designated to Lutherlyn

Collections Continue!

Hope continues to collect clean used prescription bottles as well as can pull tabs

The May Sanctuary Candle of Hope has been sponsored by Ken Noll in memory of his father, Wm. A. Noll.

Eastern Area Adult Services

Thank you again for your generous donation to Eastern Area Adult Services. We greatly appreciate the generosity of your congregation in helping to support providing older adults nutritious meals.

Your kindness is greatly valued and we are thankful of this donation

*Sincerely, Joseph Aul,
Executive Director*

Note from Pr. Lubold

Very nice transition from Forest Hills!

As we sang the sending hymn, #551, v. 3 "We go to be the hands of Christ..." I remembered the story of Pr. Elwood Hauser, who helped design the Christ window, telling of Christ's hands not being visible...signifying WE are his hands.

There were 3 of Pr. Hauser's sons in attendance. That verse did not go unnoticed.

Peace be with the ministry of Hope.

Pr. Paul Lubold

April Birthdays

3rd Janice Kuretich
12th Cheryl Finlay
15th Dawn Dietz
23rd Kathie Nelson
27th Bonnie Straley
29th Lorraine Easudes
30th Steven Beech

May Birthdays

7th Kayla Tarpley
8th Leann Dase
14th MaryBeth Tomo-Gardner
14th Kristie Hayakawa
16th Pam Hall
19th Kirstie Beech
24th Kyle Tarpley
26th Bev Koch
30th Ruth Boyle
30th Christine Hughes
31st Heather Schillinger

May Anniversary

19th John & Janice Kuretich

Hope Prays Every Day



Mike Ciavarella, heart problems 1/24
James Brizzi, esophageal cancer 1/24
Greg Macintyre 11/23
Dawn Dietz, cancer 8/23
Don Pearrell, cancer 7/23
Jill Ann Swick, breast cancer 7/23
Bob Leech, brain tumor & myasthenia gravis 7/23
Alecia Francis, bladder cancer 7/23
Ken Noll, pinched nerve
Don Furtivo, throat cancer 5/23
Connie Leach, health issues 4/23
Diane Armstrong, clots in lung & leg 3/23
Alan Milloy, prostate cancer 2/23
Val, health issues 2/23
Bob Koschik, cancer 11/22
Amy T, health concerns 11/22
Bob B, cancer 11/22
Peter B, 11/22
Karen V, difficult life situation 11/22
Dick Dougherty, breathing problems 11/22
Doug McIntyre, health concerns 11/22
June Perry, health concerns 11/22

*We pray for members of our armed forces
*We pray for those facing difficult life situations
*We pray for our loved ones who are homebound, in Care facilities, or in need of on-going prayer, including: Mary Beth Tomo-Gardner, Peg Portera, Esther Harris and Doris Hoffman
*We pray for our congregation and for our leadership: Jane, Barb, Lynda, Dave, Kathie, Janet, Pam, Bev and Arnold
*We pray for Bishop Eaton, Bishop Kusserow and their Staff
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Time Value

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the Community
with Love*

April ~ May '24

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship

11:15 am ~ in person Worship

3:00 pm ~ zoom Worship

www.plumofpa.com

for additional news and event updates.

Please call our Pastoral Team at 412-496-4889 for pastoral concerns and emergencies.

Let us remember that GOD is with us ALWAYS.