

THE ANCHOR

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SELDEN, NY



December 2021

A NEW CHURCH YEAR— A NEW CHALLENGE

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A TIME FOR HEALING AHEAD

As the Advent season gets underway, we are aware of the fact that our world has to continue the process of healing in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic. What started out as a lockdown of “fifteen days to flatten the curve” will soon be reaching its second year anniversary.

While the healing process is global in nature, it is also quite local, especially for churches like ours. There are still many members who have not returned to active in person worship, receiving holy communion, and even just giving some support to the mission of God through our congregation. We can't say what the long-term effects of the pandemic will be, but we are already experiencing some shortages in financial support as a congregation, and leaders will be sending out letters to all members, appealing for their special efforts to support our church before the end of the year. People are back to work, children are back to school and to sports, and Christmas decorations are going up, but will God's people return to worship and service through the church? That's a decision that every member of the church will have to make for themselves.

WE'RE MOVING AHEAD ANYWAY

Sunday School classes and Teen Ministry sessions are underway. Kids' Club and Hugs have been meeting regularly. Our scouting programs are using our church building and parking lot every week, and our Anchor Nursery School is full in the morning and growing in the new afternoon program. Even XYZ is having their annual Christmas Party again this year.

We're also hoping to mobilize our young adults in a new project, with the development of an outreach program following a café or coffee house model on Friday nights with a band, special musicians, comedy, run by and for our young adults who are working or going to school locally. We're excited about doing this and hope that young adults out of high school will provide their creative leadership to organize and manage a program for their peers and for younger students from our church and community. Young adults who want to take part in this project can speak with Outreach Team Leader Carol Bottstein, our Vicar Dale Newton or Council member Matt Hirsch.

Don't you think that the time has come for all of us to come out from the lockdown?

CHRISTMAS EVE

4, 7, & 9 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 a.m.

**CHRISTMAS
SUNDAYS**

9 & 10:30 a.m.

A GIVING QR SYMBOL

A QR code reader app can open the “Giving webpage” you can use in making online donations.



VISION OF HOPE by Pastor Hill *"Hope for the Holidays"*

With the celebration of Thanksgiving, the holiday season gets underway, and for many of us this year, it feels like it is long overdue. We are weary after having lived under the cloud of Covid all these months. With the shortage of goods due to the ongoing supply chain crisis, the rapid increase in prices of gas, fuel oil, and household goods, and the constant drumbeat of fear caused by the reports of danger from the coronavirus, it may turn out that for the first time in many years, we may be able to focus simply on the Christmas Story itself.

During the season of Advent we will focus on the four main themes of the season: hope, love, joy, and peace. We've heard them many times before, but this year it seems like they will take on an even deeper meaning for us all. We need hope, love, joy, and peace, and these gifts from God come to

us in a powerful way through the Word God has given us in the scriptures.

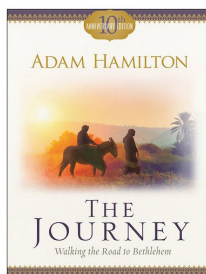
We will have the regular services of the holiday season: weekly Advent devotions, Advent study groups, a special *"Night in Bethlehem"* event for families, three Christmas Eve services, a Christmas Day service, two Christmas Sundays, and a celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord.

We will also celebrate the holiday with our Anchor Nursery School Christmas program, an XYZ fellowship Christmas party, and our Teen Ministry Christmas party. All of these will be different because of the trauma we've been experiencing this year, but I am sure they will be quite welcomed by many.

There will be much to celebrate during this holiday season, so let's make the most of the opportunity God has given us to draw closer to him and to one another in spirit and truth and share the hope, love, joy, and peace he gives us.

JOURNEY WITH US TO THE HOLY LAND ON TUESDAYS TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS

It's a story you know by heart, but **The Journey** combines historical information and archaeology with Adam Hamilton's thoughtful, conversational teaching style to give you a new perspective on the story of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.



Over five weeks, beginning on Tuesday, November 23, a group led by Linda Hill will watch and discuss a video focusing on that familiar story we celebrate each Christmas. In addition to their conversation about the videos, participants will have the chance to reflect on the devotional book accompanying Adam Hamilton's course.

Bring a lunch and attend an Advent worship service that begins at noon each Tuesday.

SPECIAL WAYS TO OBSERVE ADVENT

THURSDAY MORNING ADVENT REFLECTIONS GROUP

"You Shall Have a Song" is the basis for Thursday AM Bible Study group at 10 am beginning December 2nd.

We will focus on God's New Song, Song of Light, Mary's Song, and Servant Song for the four weeks of Advent.

All are welcome to join us.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

"Heaven and Nature Sing" is the theme of this year's Advent devotionals. Pick one up for the season. It will lift your spirit.

ADVENT CALENDARS

We have an ample supply of Advent Calendars ordered from the ELCA Hunger Program. Please take some and give them to others to use during Advent.

A CHRISTMAS EVENT FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

This Christmas season will include a visit for the families of Hope and our community to the Little Town of Bethlehem where the birth of Jesus took place. On Sunday, December 19, from 2-4:30 p.m. we will have ***A Night in Bethlehem— a Bible-times Christmas Event for families*** designed to build the faith of moms, dads, and kids alike as they discover Jesus in Bible-times Bethlehem!



During this 2-hour Christmas program, families wander through the bustling Bethlehem marketplace and discover what life was like when Jesus was born.

Unlike your typical “living Nativity,” everyone will create unique keepsakes as they interact with local shopkeepers who share the Christmas story. And...they’ll love talking to Mary and Joseph in The Stable—and hearing about the miracle of Jesus’ birth. We will take time to sing and share food with one another as part of the afternoon. A sign-up sheet will be posted to help us know how many people to plan for, and we hope you will bring along relatives and friends so they can share in this exciting event.

CHRISTMAS EVE
4, 7, & 9 P.M.
CHRISTMAS DAY
10:30 a.m.
CHRISTMAS SUNDAYS
9 & 10:30 a.m.

“HOPE AND HEALING”— A SMALL SUPPORT GROUP EXPERIENCE STARTING IN JANUARY LED BY VICAR DALE

Have you experienced any negative spiritual or emotional effects due to personal crises? Such crises may include depression, anxiety, bereavement, grief, divorce, addiction, addiction in the family, unemployment, abuse, a life altering diagnosis, effects of the COVID-19 crisis, and all other forms of crisis — crisis is subjective, and *nothing is too small*.

If you have, or if you are interested in ministering to someone who has, than you may want to participate in my internship project starting in January.

Having experienced numerous personal crises and years of Bible-based 12-Step ministry, work in a Christian drug rehab and a state psychiatric hospital, I believe the Lord has specifically called me to initiate a confidential anonymous Christian peer-support group at our church. If you are interested, look for a poster in the narthex soon, which will provide a way for you to sign-up while remaining completely anonymous. To contact me directly: call me at 215-941-0362 or send e-mail to me at dpn8017@yahoo.com.

HELP US FORM A COFFEE HOUSE OUTREACH MINISTRY

Hope’s Outreach Team is exploring the possibility of starting a young adult coffee house style ministry at Hope by joining forces with the River of Peace Assembly of God group that meets at Hope.

Because we have many so young adults living at home while working or going to school locally, the Outreach Team hopes to form a planning team to start a program using All Saints’ Hall on Friday or Saturday nights as a gathering place for young adults

to enjoy Christian music, comedy, food, and friendly conversation on a regular basis.

The key to success with such a project is to form a ministry team of young adults willing to reach out to others, invite friends, and provide hospitality. There are many talented musicians, actors, and artists who could use a way to express themselves and share their talents with others. If you are willing to take part in this outreach effort, speak with Carol Bottstein or Vicar Dale before Christmas.



Hope’s “Share God’s Mission” QR Symbol

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46 Dare Road Selden, NY 11784

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WELCOMING STATEMENT

Hope Lutheran Church is a diverse community of believers in Jesus Christ committed to reaching out to all people who seek to find God. We welcome everyone without regard to their age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, national origin, political affiliation, mental, emotional, or physical challenges, learning or developmental differences, economic status, or personal history. We invite everyone to experience the hope and healing God offers to all people through a relationship with Jesus Christ

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Total Life Caring Ministry

46 Dare Road Selden, NY 11784

Phone: 631-732-2511 Fax: 631-732-8369

Email: office@hopeluth.com

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES SCHEDULE

On **Christmas Eve** we will have 3 services: at 4, 7, and 9 p.m. Our **Christmas Day** service is at 10:30 a.m. and on the two Sundays of Christmas season, we will have worship services at 9 and 10:30 a.m. We will have **NO Saturday services** on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1

We're on the web:

www.hopeluth.com
www.hopespastor.blogspot.com
Zoom ID 388-768-1338

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

As the year comes to an end, we are very aware of the shortfall in giving we have suffered since the pandemic began. We need everyone to give generously to help us to catch up on our existing bills in coming weeks.

REGISTER FOR ANCHOR NURSERY SCHOOL NOW

HOPE'S GIVING QR SYMBOL

ANCHOR NURSERY SCHOOL TUITION

Three days per week \$ 240
Classes are held for Children ages 3 and 4
On Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays
from 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

If you have a cellphone with a QR code reader app, you can aim it at this symbol and it will open the webpage to use in making online donations.

