

THE ANCHOR

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SELDEN, NY



May 2021

LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEW CHALLENGE

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Special Points of Interest

- We're preparing to meet the challenges of the future.

A GIVING QR SYMBOL

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.



A TIME FOR HEALING AHEAD

In recent weeks, as the numbers of people vaccinated grows, we are making plans for a **"Time for Healing"** for our congregation and our community. Each individual has experienced the Covid pandemic in their own way. Some have experienced serious setbacks and losses, and others have been able to get along in a more positive way, but everyone still needs a time for healing.

Here at Hope, our Parish Health Team is drawing together the resources we have to help us assess the variety of experiences people have had and begin putting together some healing activities. A special new "Healing Team" will be formed to form a strategy for helping people experience healing and hope, and at our May 23rd **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** we will have **"Seeds of Hope"** style conversations in small groups around tables, so we can share our experiences during the past year and learn more about ways we might provide support and assistance to Hope's members and to our larger community. Plans will develop over the summer months.

To prepare for this work, the Healing Team will study **"A Time for Healing"** by J.R. Briggs as a resource for engaging in this healing work. Any interested person wishing to join the Healing Team should speak with the Parish Health Team Leader, Sue Soper, Deacon Dee Hecker, Claudia Lyman, Linda Hill, Stacy Hirsch, or Pastor Hill.

WELCOMING OUR NEW VICAR

On **Sunday, June 13th**, Dale Newton, our new Vicar will begin his one-year internship program with us at Hope. An Induction Ceremony will be part of our 10:30 service, and after the service, we will have a welcoming picnic in the backyard of the church. This event will be a great opportunity for members to begin re-connecting after having been locked down for more than a year. We hope many members and families will be able to share the afternoon together.

THE OPEN DOORS WELCOMING EVENT

Our Outreach Team is organizing a community-wide welcoming event for Saturday, August 7. We will be inviting everyone to join us for a free event with food, fun, and fellowship for adults and children from our community. To fund this event, we have submitted an application for an ELCA Open Doors grant.

VISION OF HOPE by Pastor Hill ***“A Time for Healing Begins”***

In recent weeks God’s Spirit has been leading me to think of the theme for the year ahead as *“A Time for Healing.”*

As the **“15 Days to Flatten the Curve”** is finally coming to an end, we need to be focusing our minds on how we will begin the work God has for us to do to bring about healing and hope here in our congregation and in our local community as well.

It is naïve and simplistic to suggest that all we need to do in the coming year is to go back to various practices and patterns we used in the past and move on as if nothing has changed in our world. The truth is that we have all been profoundly affected by the pandemic and by all the consequences that will continue to affect us for years to come, such as the 2020 presidential election. Many still feel the pain caused by the events of the past year, and that may continue for some time to come.

PARISH CENSUS PLANNED

The Parish Health Team has created a Parish Health Census form that will be sent out to all our members to gather basic information about each household in the congregation.

The information gathered will be for church use only and will not be used for any non-church purpose.

Information collected will include such things as household members, dates of birth, baptisms, and marriages, the type of occupation, and information about emergency contacts.

A letter with a form to fill out will be sent out to everyone in the near future.

But our mission is to proclaim a message of healing and hope through Jesus Christ, and over the next few months we will seek the guidance of God’s Spirit as we explore ways to provide support and promote health with everyone God has given us to serve.

Some of our members have done better than others over the past year, and the effects differ from one person to another, even within the same family. We need to be sensitive to these differences when we try to help one another.

And over the past year we have learned some new things that should become part of our way of life as we emerge from Covid. I wonder, for example, what will worship services be like in the future when people can actually attend them again?

The next twelve months give us a chance to step up and start over again as we return to the mission God has given us. You need to decide whether you will take up the cross of Jesus and follow him once more.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH EXPERIENCES FOR ADULTS

Each week there are three opportunities for adults to engage in spiritual growth.

TUESDAYS 1 p.m.*

“Words of Life” – A Study of the Ten Commandments featuring a book by Adam Hamilton.

THURSDAYS 10 a.m.

“Lessons from the Book of Acts” by Max Lucado, in person at the church.

THURSDAYS AT 1 p.m.*

“One in the Word” Conversations on Zoom that focus on the scriptures used in our weekly worship services.

**Recorded and replayed on Facebook later in the day.*

ANNUAL MEETING PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, MAY 23

This year's annual meeting will begin at noon on Sunday, May 23. In addition to reviewing reports, approving a budget, and electing members to serve on the Congregation Council, at the meeting we will discuss forming a **Building and Property Development Team** to consider how we could improve and expand our building and our property for the mission God is carrying out here at Hope.

We will also have "**Seeds of Hope**" conversations at tables to focus on ways we can help our church and our community begin to recover from the effects of the pandemic and re-engage with renewed vision for the future. Our Parish Health Team is forming a "Healing Team" to study ways to address these needs.

The quorum we need for the meeting is 40 voting members.

AN EVENT FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

We've started planning an exciting event designed to bring our whole community together on Saturday, August 7th. "**See your neighbor, meet your neighbor, love your neighbor**" is the theme for this day-long "free" event that will draw people from all around our Middle Country community together to celebrate the gift of life God has given us. We will provide free food, fun, and fellowship for everyone who wants to join us here at Hope. We'll have games, music, Karaoke, Open Mike, dancing, "Open Door prizes," and a chance for people to meet their neighbors. We'll have a Bouncy House for children, arts and crafts activities, contests, and live entertainment from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We'll also offer local organizations like our scout groups, sports organizations, and other community groups a chance to invite people to participate in their programs.

To provide funds for this special community celebration, we are seeking an Open Doors grant from the ELCA and support from Thrivent Financial, and we will use funds from our own Mission Projects Fund.

We'll need many hands to make this event possible. If you would like to perform music, provide entertainment, cook and serve food, or just serve on the Welcoming Team, your help will be welcome. If you want to help with publicity, social media, or gift solicitation, your help will also be welcome. If you have ideas about how we can make this day even more special for people in our community, please offer them.

Simply put, if you see a way you can help out with this project, please speak with our Outreach Team Leader, Carol Bottstein, or any member of the planning team, Vicki Algieri, Deacon Dee Hecker, Linda Hill, Claudia Lyman, Donna Haller, Leslie Rurup, Sue Soper or Pastor Hill.

ANCHOR NURSERY SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY

Our Anchor Nursery School reopened last October, and we are already enrolling children for September of 2021. Connie Casa and Maria Marques provide a three morning program for children on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, and they hope parents will enable the program to expand to 5 mornings a week .

If you have children ages 3 or 4 or know families whose children will benefit from this great program, please call the church or send a note to: **office@hopeluth.com.**



Hope's "Share
God's Mission"
QR Symbol

Hope Lutheran Church
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

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A Total Life Caring Ministry

WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES THIS SUMMER

This summer we will continue having worship services at 9 and 10:30 a.m. We are also going to survey the church to see whether we should offer a Monday or Tuesday evening outdoor service beginning in mid-June.

We're on the web:

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

**REGISTER FOR ANCHOR NURSERY
SCHOOL NOW**

Three days per week \$ 240
Four days a Week \$320 per month
Five days a week \$400 per month.
Classes are held from 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m..
Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays
Mondays and Fridays are also available
Children ages 3 and 4

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

As we begin returning to an active life as a church, our Finance Committee hopes that we will see an increase in financial support from our members. During the pandemic the attendance at our worship service was hard to measure, and that affect our giving. We encourage everyone to help us to catch up on existing bills in coming weeks.

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