

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR Nov 27– Dec 4, 2022		
SUN	9 & 10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
MON	6:00 p.m.	Transition Team Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
TUES	1:00 p.m.	One in the Word
WED	10:30 a.m.	Prepare the Way Group
	12:00 p.m.	Advent Devotional Service
	1:00 p.m.	Prepare the Way Group
	4:30 p.m.	Kids' Club
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Devotional Service
	7:30 p.m.	Prepare the Way Group
THU	12:30 p.m.	Food Pantry Opens
	6:30 p.m.	Teen Ministry Leaders
	7:00 p.m.	Hope and Healing Group
SAT	3:00 p.m.	Teen Ministry
	5:00 p.m.	Holy Communion Service
SUN	9 & 10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	2:00 p.m.	Advent Workshop

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**(631) 732-2511**

Dr. Richard O. Hill, STS, *Pastor*  
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Dale Newton—*Pastoral Assistant* (215) 941-0362  
Dee Hecker —*Synod Deacon* (516) 316-5254  
Lisa Spinazzola—*Synod Deacon* (631) 872-9936

### OUR CHURCH STAFF

Joyce Stahl *Director of Music* (631) 698-6616  
Stacey Hirsch *Secretary/Office Coordinator*  
Connie Casa, *Teacher ANS*  
Maria Marques, *Teacher Aide* (631) 960-6920  
Jonathan Laza, *IT Coordinator*  
Donna Haller *Youth Coordinator* (631) 624-6929  
Linda Favale, *Bookkeeper* (631) 732-5006  
Tom Ross, *Sexton* (631) 830-8323  
Barbara Bussing  
St. Mark's Bread Food Pantry

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES IN DECEMBER

### THE ANNUAL XYZ CHRISTMAS PARTY

**December 7th** beginning at 12:30 p.m. Bring food and a Grab Bag gift. Sign up in advance.

### WOMEN'S POTLUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY

**December 8th** at 6 p.m. Bring a dish (of food) to share. All women ages 14 and older are welcome. A \$10 Grab Bag gift is optional.  
*(There will be no meeting on December 24.)*

### SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

We invite you to worship on Saturday evening at 5 p.m. Youth service is held on 1st and 3rd Saturdays, Taize' Prayer with communion on 2nd Saturday.

### HOPE AND HEALING SUPPORT GROUP

Every Thursday, at 7:00 p.m. Vicar Dale leads a "Hope and Healing" group for everyone who wants to benefit from having a chance to share their struggles in a supportive, friendly, and confidential environment.

### CURRENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We can always use Peanut Butter and Jelly and Mac-and-cheese.

## OUR 2022-23 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Carol Bottstein	<i>President</i>	(631) 664-2477
Claudia Lyman	<i>V. President</i>	(631) 901-8505
Sue Soper	<i>Secretary</i>	(631) 774-2372
Eugenia Doell	<i>Treasurer</i>	(631) 972-8587
Mary Ellen Reindl		(631) 338-6645
Brian Steck		(631) 637-5659
Steve Lois		(631) 466-0660
Phil Millwater		(631) 526-8780
Liam Overholser		

# ANCHOR LINES

## NOVEMBER 27, 2022

### THE SEASON OF ADVENT

#### WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION

We celebrate Holy Communion every week at Hope. When we receive the sacrament, we receive the body and blood of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine.

We encourage every baptized believer to take part in this holy sacrament. When you come to receive, take an individual empty cup to be filled by the pouring chalice or a cup pre-filled with grape juice. We are also experimenting with using **gluten-free pita bread**.

**TODAY'S MESSAGE:** "The Penitent Malefactor"

### THE SEASON OF ADVENT HAS BEGUN

This Sunday is the beginning of Advent. As a new church year begins we focus on the theme: "**Prepare the Way for the Lord.**" On Sundays Pastor Hill will preach a series called, "**The Questions of Advent,**" and on Wednesdays Vicar Dale will focus on the Advent theme during our services at noon and 7 p.m. Study groups using Adam Hamilton's video course will be at 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sign up today!

### GIVING METHODS AVAILABLE

More and more members are using electronic giving as a way to give their ongoing support for Hope's ministry. Some use the My E-Offering provided through our envelope program. Others avoid paying the extra fee by simply instructing their banks to mail or transfer funds weekly or monthly on a scheduled basis. We also now have a Debit card/ credit card device that can be used not only for giving but also for programs like Anchor Nursery School, Summer Camp, VBS, etc. A 4% fee is added. If you have a cellphone with a QR code reader app, you can use this symbol to open Hope's webpage to for making online donations, even while attending a worship service. It is included on the weekly Anchor Lines.



A new year has begun, and God is working in our midst every day.

The weekly newsletter of  
**Hope Lutheran Church**  
**Selden, NY**

**Rev. Dr. Richard O. Hill.**  
**Pastor**

**Dale Newton, M.Div.**  
**Pastoral Assistant**

# THE PASTOR'S CORNER

## *""Hopes for the New Year"*

When a new year begins, it seems natural to me that I would think about what that new year might bring. Of course, when it comes to church life, there are certain things we can expect to see happen. After all, that's the blessing of having a church year and a liturgy to use throughout the year. One season leads to another and so on.

In addition to that, we can project certain things already underway that can be completed in the course of the year. For example, we've started a process to call a second pastor, and that will bring about some significant changes in the church budget and in my responsibilities as pastor of Hope. I hope we can bring about this transition before the summer of 2023. Also, we started a drive to raise funds to purchase and install a digital sign for the church. This actually started several years ago and was postponed, but now, thanks to a generous "starter gift," I think we could do this before Easter with some larger gifts and memorial gifts in a timely manner.

Other hopes for 2023 that I have include:

1. that we will see members return to active participation in our congregation. We seem to have many we have not seen at our worship services or other events. Some may have actually moved away and may be still participating, (if at all), via the online worship services we have, but there are others who seem to have simply taken leave of the church. I would like to see us make a serious effort to reach out to them and help them return to active participation in the church.

2. that we will increase participation in our programs for children and teenagers such as Sunday School and Teen Ministry. I am pleased to see that Kids' Club membership has grown this fall, but we can see even more children benefit from our ministry if we can start other types of afternoon ministry for children, either on weekdays or Sundays.

3. that we will increase our efforts to invite and welcome more newcomers to our worship and fellowship events at Hope. Many people are seeking a community like ours to strengthen them and their families spiritually, and we can offer them that if we are willing to simply invite them to come and meet Jesus at Hope.

4. that we will make financial support of the Lord's work a priority in our lives and make an effort to increase the *frequency* of our giving by using electronic giving resources we have available already such as free electronic funds transfers from local banks, Zelle, MyEOffering, and similar giving platforms. We can also now use debit cards at Hope. Frequent giving helps us tremendously.

5. that we will resume a healthy level of activity in every area of church life. The pandemic has not only done tremendous harm to the lives of so many people, it has also created a cloud of spiritual uncertainty, and we seem to be suffering from a type of Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome that affects every aspect of our lives, a "spiritual lockdown" that keeps us fearful even when there are clear signs that we can come out in the open and resume life as God intended. I will do all I can to help us to become free again. I hope you will respond eagerly.

## 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.

## LOOKING AHEAD WITH HOPE

- ◆ **TEEN MINISTRY**—Parents may enroll teens 6th grade and older to start in January in this 3-year long program held on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 3-6 p.m.
- ◆ **AN ED GILDERSLEEVE MEMORIAL SERVICE** will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m.
- ◆ **DECEMBER EVENTS** include a Family Advent Workshop on December 4 and "A Night in Bethlehem" on December 11. Both events are from 2-4 p.m. Tree decorating and caroling to shut-ins will be on December 18, following worship. Christmas Eve services are at 4, 7, and 9 p.m. and Christmas Day at 10:30 (only).

## OUR NEW GAGA PIT

Scouts from Troop 229 built a "Gaga Pit" in our church's backyard as an Eagle Scout project led by Andrew Wanamaker. This will be the source of many fun-filled events for the children and young people of Hope for years to come. Check it out after worship.

## "A SIGN FROM GOD CAMPAIGN"

After several years of waiting, the Council is launching a drive to raise \$20,000 in special gifts and memorials to purchase a digital sign for our church by next spring. Watch for more details about how you can take part in this project in coming weeks.

## STAFF POSITION AVAILABLE—SEXTON

We are seeking a person to take on the work of our church sexton. This part-time role is very important and is a paid position with flexible hours. Duties include cleaning all rooms at the church, disposing of trash, and light repairs as needed. Contact Carol Bottstein for more info.

## HOPE'S CALL PROCESS UPDATE . . .

This week the Transition Team will begin work on the process of calling an Associate Pastor. This group will work on specific tasks to will support calling an associate by coming up with changes in our budget and in our expectations for how our pastors will serve. They will seek

## WINTER COATS NEEDED

The food pantry is collecting coats for both children and adults to hand out. A tote box is in the narthex for them, and your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued food donations. Without the support of the congregation the families would go hungry.