

PASTOR'S CORNER

Opening Doors

I never realized how great an influence a song could have in shaping a person's identity, but there's a song my mom used to sing to me that was very popular on the radio in the year when I was born. It was by Count Basie, and its name was *"Open the Door, Richard."*

That song has served throughout my life, and especially throughout my ministry as a pastor, as a guiding principle. It has shaped my identity both as an evangelist and as a pastor. It is my purpose for living.

Opening doors is what the church needs to be doing all the time, and the doors need to be open to all people, whoever they are. That's God's mission in a single expression. We open doors and welcome people into the Kingdom of God, so they can learn about Jesus and begin to love him and one another.

Recently the Churchwide office of the ELCA sent out an invitation to churches to apply for grants that are to be used creatively to help them meet and become better acquainted with their neighbors in their own local communities. We're going to apply for one of them because inviting people and welcoming them is what our church's ministry is all about. We are here to open the doors of God's kingdom to all people, young and old, singles and families, white, black, straight, gay, poor, rich, of all backgrounds and nationalities and ethnicities.

We need to do this, not so we can fill the church with people, but because we have been blessed by the riches of the gospel and we've experienced the life-giving, healing presence and power of God. We also need to do this because there are so many people who need to receive the blessings God has given us, especially after having lived through the terrible pandemic we've all experienced.

So we are going to put together a plan for an event that will reach out to our whole community and invite them to come together to be renewed in mind, heart, and spirit as a community. I think of it as being like a slogan, *"See your neighbors, meet your neighbors, love your neighbors."* This kind of event has the potential for bringing together a large number of people in a way that can promote a sense of community among folks who might otherwise never experience it without our efforts.

We will need to use a variety of means of communication to reach people: posters, fliers, mailings, News12, and social media. Also, to make such an event successful, we need to be willing to stretch ourselves and extend an invitation to others in the name of Jesus. But ultimately, if we really want to reach out to our neighbors, we will need to take time and make the effort to pray for our community and for one another so we also can see our neighbors, meet our neighbors, and love our neighbors in the same way God sees, knows, and loves them, and us. God is giving us a great opportunity to get back on track as people of Hope.

Help Us Plan a Community Welcoming Event for this Summer

You are invited to take part in planning a special event to welcome families in our community for a fun event at our church this summer. We will apply for an "Open Doors" grant from the ELCA for \$2,500 to provide a full day of fun activities at no charge for local families from our community. We will have food and drink, music, games with prizes, a bounce house, water fun, relay races, Superheroes, a petting zoo, and a warm welcome for young and old. **A planning session will be at the church this Wednesday at 7 p.m. We need creative, fun-loving planners to make this happen!**

THE WEEKS AHEAD AT HOPE

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICES in church and online on Zoom, YouTube Live, and on Facebook Live at 5 p.m.

A VIDEO-BASED BIBLE STUDY ON THE TEN COMMANDMENTS is offered on Tuesday and meets now at 1 p.m. on **Zoom ID 388-768-1338**.

ADDITIONAL ONGOING ADULT STUDY GROUPS are held every Thursday.

- **Life Lessons from the Gospel of Mark** meets Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
- **"One in the Word"** 90-minute online Zoom sessions by Pastor Hill is on Thursdays at 1 p.m.
- **Hugs Toddlers** music program meets on Wednesdays. Children 12 months - 3 years from 9:15-9:45 a.m. with parents, in the sanctuary.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Will be held on Sunday, May 23 at 12:30 p.m.

All voting members of Hope are urged to attend this important event.

After Camp Hope . . .

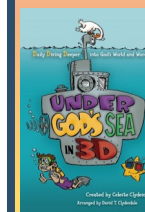
Vacation Bible School (August 9-13)

Led by Melissa Itara. From a whimsical lighthouse on an enchanted island, Explorers are guided by a Lighthouse Keeper and Beacon the Puffin on an exciting quest to find five mysterious Infinity Lanterns to help light their way. Using map coordinates from their Reference Book (the Bible), children discover clues to finding each Lantern while learning how God's light shines in the lives of familiar biblical characters in Old and New Testament stories.



Drama Camp (August 16-20)

Our one week Drama Camp directed by Joyce Stahl will be a full-day activity also, culminating in a production on Friday evening. Dive into this release from best-selling children's music creator Celeste Clydesdale! Join Jonas Joppa and the rest of the God Squad from Alleluia Aquatic Academy as they venture out in a submarine to learn more about God through His underwater world. Children create costumes and scenery. They also have fun with outdoor summer activities.



All children ages 3 and older are invited to participate in the programs we offer. For more information about these programs, send email to

office@hopeluth.com or call 631-732-2511.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

(April 25-May 1, 2021)

SUN	9: & 10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
MON	7:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
TUE	9:15 a.m.	Anchor Nursery School
	1:00 p.m.	Words of Life Live & Zoom
	7:00 p.m.	Worship Team
WED	9:15 a.m.	Hugs/Toddlers
	4:00 p.m.	Kids' Club
	7:00 p.m.	Open Door Grant Meeting
TH	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study on Mark
	1:00 p.m.	One in the Word
SAT	3:00 p.m.	Teen Ministry
	5:00 p.m.	Saturday Evening service
SUN	9 & 10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	9 a.m.	Sunday School (here and Zoom)

SPECIAL DAYS IN OUR LIVES

BIRTHDAYS

(S) James Fox, Gabrielle Luongo, (M) Wayne Ciavarella,
Edward Gildersleeve IV, (W) Carol Hoffman,
(F) Christine Wright, Joshua Poshka, Lauren Cappello,
(SA) Karl Ramjeet

Flowers on the altar— In Honor of Joe and Stacey
Hirsch's Wedding Anniversary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Richard O. Hill, STS, *Pastor*

Home: (631) 331-5131 Cell: (516) 848-5386

Dee Hecker —*Synod Deacon* (516) 316-5254

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Joyce Stahl *Director of Music* (631) 698-6616

Stacey Hirsch *Secretary/Office Coordinator*

Connie Casa, *Lead Teacher ANS*

Maria Marques, *Teacher Aide* (631) 960-6920

Jonathan Laza, *IT Coordinator*

Donna Haller *Youth Coord.* (631) 624-6929

Linda Favale, *Bookkeeper* (631) 732-5006

Connie Casa, *Sexton* (631) 977-9558

John Kelly and Barbara Bussing

St. Mark's Bread Food Pantry

Ed Gildersleeve, Carol Wolff, Rich Wolff

ANCHOR NURSERY SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS

are already coming in for this fall's program. A "No registration fee Incentive" is available now through the month of April to encourage people to register now.

There is still space in this spring's program for new children who are now 33 months old and older.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND KIDS' CLUB

Are offered every week during the 9:00 service in the Sunday School room. As our children are now returning to classes in their schools, they can also now return to Sunday School and Kids' Club. They will be welcome on Sundays at the church.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

2021

Phil Millwater, President (631) 633-4905

V. Pres

Sue Soper Secretary (631) 774-2372

Henry Schlobohm, Treas.* (631) 447-0536

Barbara Bussing (631) 748-9150

Kevin Carroll (631) 846-4465

Melissa Itara (631) 987-4464

Kathy Lewis (631) 965-2922

Claudia Lyman (631) 901-8505

Christine McCarthy (516) 647-7443

Tom Reeve (631) 732-7613

Rachel Steck (631) 476-2132

Andrew Wanamaker (631) 331-4849

ANCHOR LINES

The weekly newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church Selden, NY
for the week beginning April 25, 2021

WE WELCOME ALL WHO JOIN US IN PERSON FOR WORSHIP TODAY.

We also welcome all who join us via Zoom and the internet. We use the **Zoom ID number 388-768-1338** for these services and for all church meetings and our two Facebook groups are: "Friends who like Hope Lutheran Church" and "Hope Lutheran Church Selden, NY".

All who join the service indoors need to wear masks, and persons who are at risk or who are experiencing flu-like symptoms should not attend. They should attend via Zoom, Facebook, or YouTube.

We distribute the wafers for the celebration of Holy Communion. All worshippers will remain in their pews for the sacrament. Offering plates are placed next to the baptismal bowl instead of being passed around.

IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT THAT EACH FAMILY FILL OUT A WORSHIP RECORD FORM EACH WEEKEND SO WE CAN PUT TOGETHER A LIST IF WE ARE ASKED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONTACT TRACING TEAM.

TODAY'S MESSAGE: Deacon Dee Hecker

Camp Hope's Summer Programs

Register children ages 3-11 for the weeks of Camp Hope this summer.

5 Weeks of fun and friendship at a reasonable cost.

All camp's run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Dinosaur Digs (July 5-9)

Pirate Adventures (July 12-16)

"Out of this World" Space Exploration. (July 19-23)

TEAM UP! Super Hero Week. (July 26-30)

Ready, Set, Go !!! Olympic Week. (August 2-6)