

The Messenger

2020



SEPTEMBER

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1901 MIDDLEBOROUGH RD, ESSEX MD 21221**





A YEAR LOST TO LOCUSTS?

There's a verse from the prophet Joel that's stuck in my mind for years. Israel has suffered through a horrible and devastating infestation of locusts followed by drought. The people call out to God for mercy. God responds. God makes his presence known to them and declares that relief is on the way. He promises that the land will be green and bountiful again. Not only does God promise a turnaround

in their circumstances, he makes this straightforward promise: God says, through Joel, "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten" (Joel 2:25).

"I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten."

It's not just that the future will be better. It's that God is going to ... what? ... tack on years to their lives to make up for the years of suffering? Or make the next few years so spectacular that Israel will feel they came out even? We don't know precisely what God had in mind with these words. But they're a powerful reminder of just who we're dealing with when we're dealing with our God. Or, it's probably better to say, we're reminded just who's dealing with us.

This is the God who created and continues to create the world. This is the author of time. This is God who is limitless in compassion as well as in power. This is our God who holds our years in his loving hands.

Which leads me to ask ... How's this particular year going for you? Are you one of the many, many people who find themselves saying they just want 2020 to end? Does it feel like a lost year, not much more than one disaster after another? Have the events of this year—pandemic, economic free-fall, schools closing, weather events, lost loved ones and lost time with loved ones—felt like an inescapable horde of locusts eating their way through your days and nights, leaving nothing green behind?

Well, God is going to more than make up for the limitations of this year, its griefs and its losses. God is going to repay us for this year the "locusts" have eaten.

God is going to bless us with life, joyful and fulfilling life, that will make what we've lost look like a speck in the rearview mirror. We've seen it in Jesus Christ and we're given it in Jesus Christ. Life abundant and eternal. Life in the presence of God.

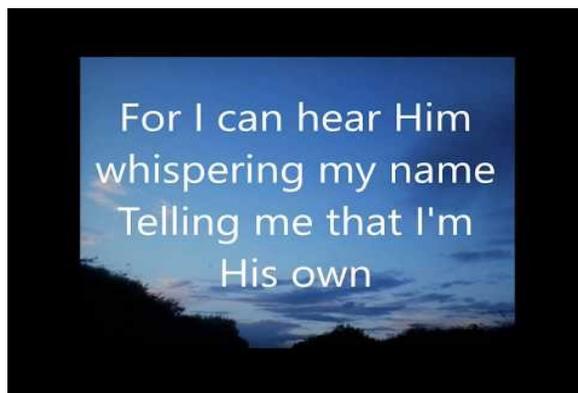
Remember these words from John's vision in Revelation, a glimpse of what's to come:

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21:3-5)

Friends, these words are trustworthy and true. Our hope at all times is in the trustworthy and true promises of God. Our reliance on God is just more obvious during some times than others. This is one of those times when our hope gets a chance to shine. May your hope and trust in God be strong and shining. May it light up not just your own life but also the lives of everyone around you.

In Christ,

Pastor Meheret



In Our Hearts & Prayers



PRAYER CONCERNS: Edgar Amos, Jr., Gail Anuszewski, Connie Baker, Johnny Banack, Dennis & Gail Berry, Mary Bodenschatz, Debbie Bryant, Debbie Button, Margaret Cain, Blanche Cardarelli, Sharyl Clark, Shirley Cosgrove, Ed Cornelius, Beulah Craig, Patrick J. Curran, Pearline & Chuck DeWit, Freddie Ditmar, Gloria Eckles, Fred Eszes, Lois Farber, Cassandra Fleckenstein, Bobbi Floyd, Matthew Floyd, Marina Ford, Sara Garrett & Family, Chris Genco, Pierre Gibbons, Cassidy Gore, Daniel Hanke, Sharon Harris, Juliana Hasson, Beverly Hoffman, Karen Hoffman, Karen Holzopfel, Scott Hower, Leondra Jefferson, Michelle Kincaid, Leah Lane, Michael McCoy, Ellen McKenna, Brian Miller, Jim Nemec, Laurie Nemec, Frank Neukam, Hannah Noack, Harvey Nockowitz's Family & Friends, Terry Novak, Rick O'Dea, Pat Owens, Francesca Prado, Mike Porter, Inez Rasinski, Cass Rayman, Cliff Rodney, Eddie Sabol's Family & Friends, Jeff Sanders, Connie Sanders, Jeanine Schenning, Barbara Shelly, Kevin Shields, Vivian Smith, John Stiemly, Lucille Watson, Richard Wrobel, Susan Yelton,

Our Congregation, all First Responders and all active and reserve members of our armed forces.

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED: If you are scheduled for surgery, or will be hospitalized, or have an emergency health care issue, please be sure to inform the church office (410-686-7587) so that pastoral care can be offered. It is extremely important to us that we can be there for you!

Please notify our church office or Pastor if you want to add or delete any names from the Prayer List.

Worship Readings for September 2020

Date/Day	Scripture texts	Theme
September 6	Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The prophet's responsibility to warn the people. - I desire the path of your commandments. - Live honorably as in the day. - Reconciliation in the community of faith.
September 13	Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:1-13 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joseph reconciles with his brothers. - Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy. - Accepting diversity in the community of faith. - A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith.
September 20	Jonah 3:10—4:11 Psalm 145:1-8 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God's concern for the city of Nineveh - The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. - Standing firm in the gospel. - The parable of the vineyard workers.
September 27	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-9 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fairness of God's way. - Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love. - Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross. - A parable of doing God's will.



Bible Study and Small Groups

At Hope Church we take seriously the Great Commission of the Risen Jesus to "go, make disciples of all nations... teaching them..." We offer a variety of opportunities for people of all ages to deepen their faith through small group, Bible study and other discipleship groups and classes.

No Monday Morning Pastor's Class until further notice.

meets Mondays 10 – 11:30 AM in the church office.

Wednesday Night Bible Study:

Zoom meetings every other Wednesday at 7 PM. The theme for this Fall season is "Love for One Another" from Augsburg Adult Bible Study Series. Please Join Us!

Saturday Morning Breakfast Bible Study:

meets 8:30 AM-10:30 AM every Saturday. We will be studying "Love for One Another", same as the Wednesday Bible Study Group from Augsburg Adult Bible Studies, by Susie Gamelin.

***If you would like to join any of the Bible Studies, please let Pastor Meheret know and she will share links, phone number and meeting ID with you and more information.

Pastor Meheret, meheretyon@gmail.com, Cell: (240) 413 7515

Bible Studies

of a **ZECHARIAH II, 12.** foolish shepherd.

CHAPTER II.

of Jerusalem. ³ The elect being
the rest are rejected. ²⁰ The staves
and Bands broken by the rejection
²⁵ Type and curse of a foolish

thy doors, ²⁰ O Lebanon,
the fire may devour
rs.

fir tree; for the cedar
because the 'mighty
ed: howl, ²⁰ O ye oaks
in; for ²⁵ the forest of
ge is come down.
ye is a voice of /the
of the shepherds: for

² Or, the poor
of the flock.
Or, certain-
ly knew.
³ ch. 10. 20.
Cp.
Is. 20. 34.
⁵ Heb. If it
be good in
your eyes.
Gen. 26. 6.
⁴ Or,
gallant.
Is. 23. 21.
⁵ Jer. 32. 9.
⁶ Is. 2. 23.
⁷ Cp.
Ez. 21. 32.
Hos. 2. 2.
⁸ Or, the

which I had made with all the
people.

¹¹ And it was broken in that
day: and ²⁰ so the poor of the
flock that waited upon me knew
that it was the word of the
LORD.

¹² And I said unto them, ³ If ye
think good, give me my price;
and if not, forbear. So ⁵ they
weighed for my price ⁴ thirty
pieces of silver.

¹³ And the LORD said unto me,
Cast it unto ² the potter: a

Restoration of Judah. **ZECHARIAH**

salem ² a cup of ³ trembling unto
all the people round about,
² when they shall be in the siege
both against Judah and against
Jerusalem.

³ ¶ And ² in that day will I
make Jerusalem a burden-
some stone for all people: all
that burden themselves with it
shall be cut in pieces, though
all the people of the earth be
gathered together against it.

⁴ In that day, saith the LORD,
² I will smite every horse with
³ astonishment, and his rider

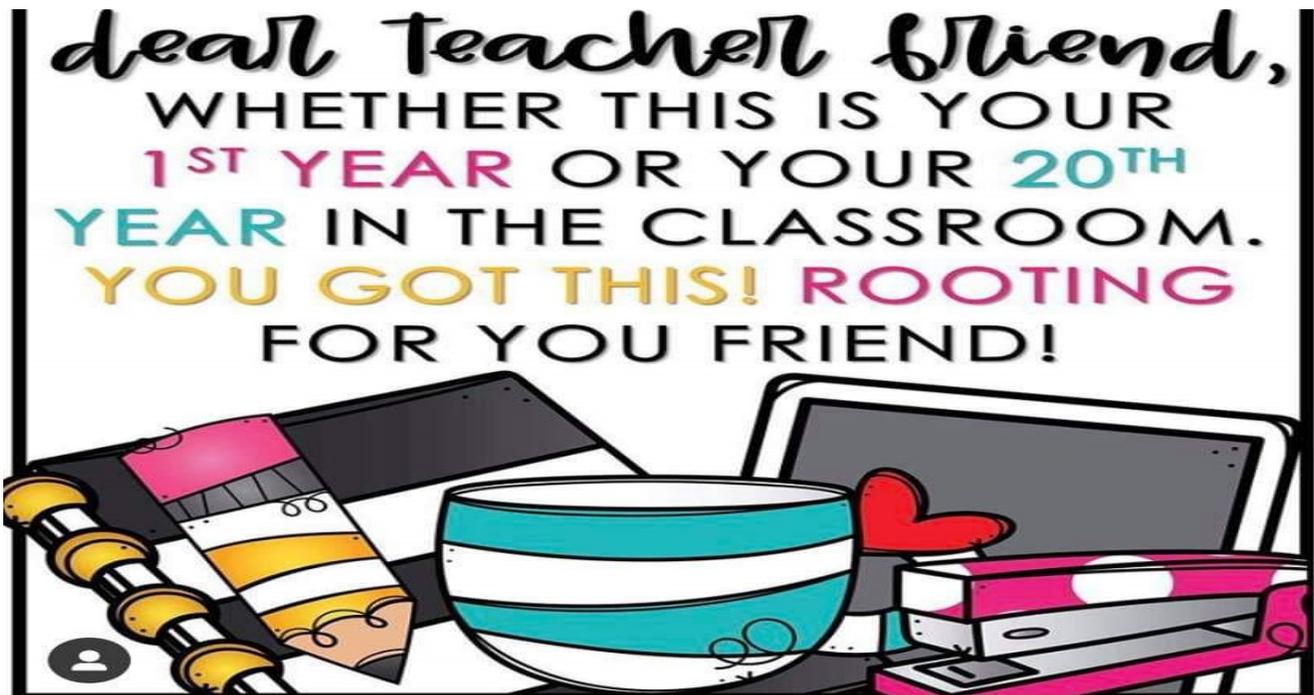
² Ex. 1.
³ Or, ² sinners
of, 20.
³ Or, a
also a
Judah
which
be in
against
Jeru-
⁴ Jer. 1.
Amos
⁵ ver. 4
9. 22.
⁶ 2 Kin
2 Chr
24.
⁷ Judg
Cp.
Rev.
22. 17.

2020-2021 School Year



Join us on our Online Worship Service for our Back to School Blessing Sunday, September 6, 2020 at 10:00 AM. Backpacks, mobile devices, lunchboxes, school supplies, students, school administrators and academic support staff will be blessed in preparation for the start of the new school year. If you would like to share your child/children's picture with their backpack's, you may do so and we will display it on the screen during the special prayer for back to school. Please email pictures to meheretyon@gmail.com.

Join us!



“God Bless Our Quilters In their Ministry”



 **A.S.A.P.** 
always say a prayer



WE HAVE THIS HOPE,
A SURE AND STEADFAST

ANCHOR

OF THE SOUL

(HEBREWS 6:19).





All Stars Learning Center

Enrollment is now open for the fall at
great prices!

Accepting students ages 3-12.

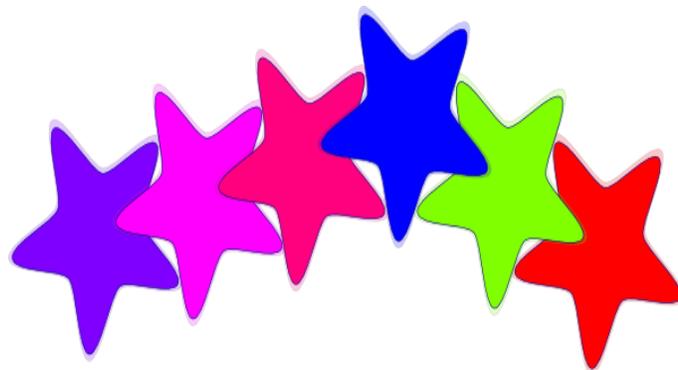
Available daily from 6:30AM-6:00PM.

Offering assistance to children with
virtual learning!

Give Ms. T a call today at 410-686-6060.



1901 Middleborough Rd, Essex, MD 21221





SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Tricia	Hays	September 05
Carolee	Calo	September 10
Khiri	Ford	September 12
San Dee	Koons	September 14
Eric	Eszes	September 16
Sarai	Ford	September 18
Joyce	Craft	September 20
Timothy	Leucht	September 20
Riley	Mason	September 25
Steven A	Horney	September 26
Meheret	Caruthers	September 26
Laurie	Koontz	September 27
Karen	Hoffman	September 29



Happy Birthday To You



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

With a new school year beginning in September but by virtual learning only, we will not be preparing back packs for our Food for Thought students this fall. We are in the process of working with Food for Thought Baltimore County to support their gift card program and are hoping Middleborough Elementary will join with other schools in our eastern region to receive these cards for their FFT families. More information will be available shortly.

We thank all who have provided financial gifts to Food for Thought during the months of May, June, and July, given "To the Glory of God" by: Judith Eszes, Mary Emge, De-loris Phillips, Peggy Talbott, Eric Eszes, Carol Ogle, and the Schweitzers.

*Cherish God's
Bounty*



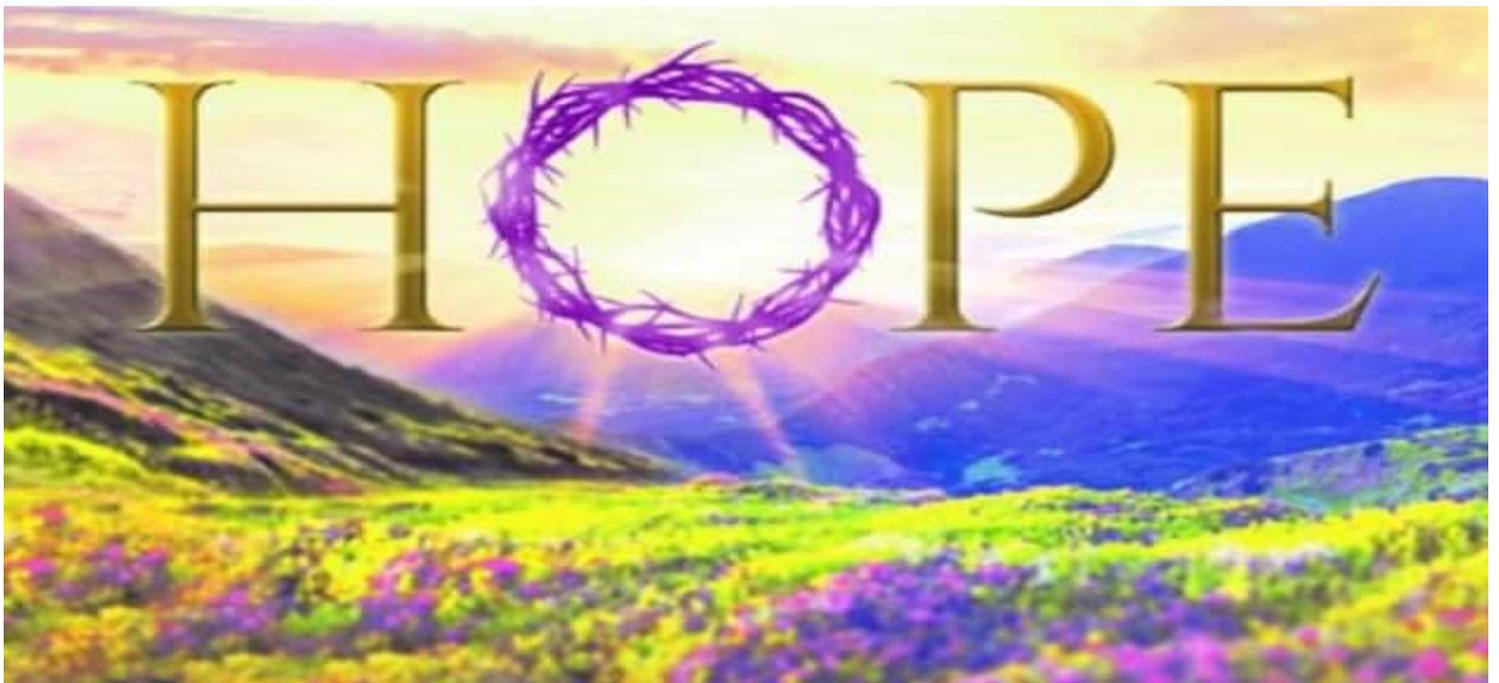
Duty Schedule for September 2020

10:00	Sept 6	Sept 13	Sept 20	Sept 27
Assist	No in person worship	Robin Palmer	Bob Schweitzer	John Kelly
Lector	for this Sunday	John Kelly	Joan Schweitzer	Marge Carl
Ushers	On Line Service	Sandy Cincinnati Thea Melton	Linda Moler Carol Ogle	Donna Smith Peggy Talbott
Counters	Linda Moler Donna Smith	Colan Kahl Donna Smith	Linda Moler Joan Schweitzer	Donna Smith Steve/Sharyn Kahl
Flowers		Schweitzer Kahl	Kahl Calo	Talbott Haught



September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday 		1	2 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	3 10:30 AM Chapel 7:00 PM Choir Practice TBA	4	5 8:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion via Zoom
6 10:00 AM Worship Service via zoom	7 9:00 AM Quilters	8	9	10 10:30 AM Chapel 7:00 PM Choir Practice TBA	11	12 8:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion via Zoom
13 10:00 AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary	14 9:00 AM Quilters	15	16 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	17 10:30 AM Chapel 7:00 PM Choir Practice TBA	18	19 8:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion via Zoom
20 10:00 AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary	21 9:00 AM Quilters 1	22	23	24 10:30 AM Chapel 7:00 PM Choir Practice TBA	25	26 8:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion via Zoom
27 10:00 AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary	28 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Council Meeting	29	30	1 7:00 PM Choir Practice	2	3 8:00 AM Breakfast Bible Discussion at Alice's Restaurant





From the Bishop!

The Church is not closed!

The picture is from **Hope (Middleborough)** congratulating their Virtual Vacation Bible School Team, Mrs. Lynda Frueh, Mr. Eric Carl and Pastor Meheret Caruthers, who led Hope's well appreciated annual VBS experience, for the congregation and community, totally online this year! **Grace (Hockessin)** offered a virtual Vacation Bible School with nearly 50 children "gathering" for music, crafts, learning and connection! **Chapel (Libertytown)** and **Grace (Rocky Hill)** are collaborating on shared parking lot services, and these two town and country congregations are supporting each other in coming into the technological age with technology to bring their worship online! **St. Peters "by the Mall" (Eastpoint)**, a small but mighty congregation, has leveraged their nearly 50 years of feeding ministry during the pandemic, supplying 241 individuals with food in June, with partnerships they've developed with the Maryland Department of Human Services, the Maryland Food Bank, as well as a faithful cadre of volunteers that have gloved, masked and show up for their neighbors; St. Peters has also continued its community meal program with "Grab and Go" meals three times a month! **Harmony Community (Myersville)** has begun to return to in-person gatherings, gathering backpack and school supplies for children in the community and around the world, as well as seizing the opportunity to gather a community book group to read *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*! **Zion (City Hall Plaza)** has packed and donated 1,000 shelf-stable lunches for the **North Avenue Mission** in Baltimore! Friends, your sacrifices and leadership continues to change lives and bring good

Each week, I watch church newsletters and social media for glimpses of the good work you are doing in the name of Christ and the church! Have I missed a way that your congregation or ministry is serving during these strange times? Email me, bgohl@demdsynod.org, and put *The Church is Not Closed* in the subject line!



On July 8th I celebrated one year of service at Hope Lutheran Church as your Office Administrative Assistant. Thank you Hope Church for a rewarding experience and welcoming me into your church family. I look forward to many more years to come!



VBS July 20th-24th, 2020



RAMSEY

Bible Point Day 1
 Jesus' power helps us do hard things.

Bible Verse
 "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

Bible Story
 Ananias helps Saul. (Acts 9:1-19)



AVA

Bible Point Day 2
 Jesus' power gives us hope.

Bible Verse
 "So be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the Lord!" (Psalm 31:24)

Bible Story
 Paul encourages others in a storm and shipwreck. (Acts 27)



SIERRA

Bible Point Day 3
 Jesus' power helps us be bold.

Bible Verse
 "He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless." (Isaiah 40:29)

Bible Story
 Peter and John teach about Jesus. (Acts 3:1-4:31)






Bible Point Day 4
 Jesus' power lets us live forever.

Bible Verse
 "The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you." (Romans 8:11)

Bible Story
 Jesus' death and resurrection.
 (Matthew 26:17-28:10)

FINN

ROCKY RAILWAY - DAY 5



LAWRENCE ELK

- **BIBLE POINT:** Jesus' power helps us be good friends.
- **BIBLE STORY:** The church is united. (Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35)
- **KEY VERSE:** John 15:12



THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our 2020 Virtual Vacation Bible School it was very successful. Thank you, Lynda Frueh for putting this VBS together! Thank you, Eric Carl and Pastor Meheret for taking part in it!



For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Paul, in his Letter to the Church at Rome, Romans 8.38-39 (NRSV)

Beloved, all:

We surely face a host of troubles in the world. Some we bring on ourselves, just consequences for poor choices or collateral unintended damage; while still others are unfairly thrust upon us. Paul recognized this reality, but in the midst of all it, he offers a word of reassurance: *“In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Inseparable! Nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ, not health or money, not family or broken relationships, not job loss, not dreams that never come to pass, nor diagnoses that seem hopeless, not pandemics multiplied, not anything. God is here. God lives in you and through you for the sake of this world God still so loves.

Indeed, we have been called to faith in Jesus, for such a time as this. The Holy Spirit works in us through the gospel and enlightens us with gifts to share – gifts we didn’t even realize we had until the need was great. In Baptism, God names and claims us as beloved, God’s own forever, in water and the Word we receive the saving gift of such a faith, marked with the indelible cross, and assured that we belong to God, forever, no matter what.

In the midst of all that confronts us today – as individuals and the church scattered throughout Delaware, Maryland and beyond – today, I want you to hear that God loves, that God loves you and that nothing will, not anything can, ever, separate you from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. And so, we go then, to be the Church, the body of Christ alive in the world; powered by the promise that from God’s love we are inseparable.

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Staff

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Sharyn Kahl 410-574-3060

Trish Hays 410-687-3411

Nicole Eck 443-271-4014

San Dee Koons 443-421-4477

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Lynne Lake—Youth Leader 443-854-0708

Jack Crout—Youth President



**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Articles for the October

**issue of the Messenger, are due
by Monday, September 14th!**