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HOPE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION: TO BE A LIVING EXAMPLE OF THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST.

JANUARY 2012

## SMALL GROUPS: A NEW YEAR OPPORTUNITY

One of the best ways to connect with God and with your friends at Hope is to participate in a small group. Sign-ups for the winter/spring semester will be held on **Sundays, January 15**



### Small Group Sign-Up

and **22** in the family lounge. More than 25 groups will be offered, from service groups to Bible studies. Each group is designed to strengthen one's relationship with God and with others. Everyone is invited to select and try a group that seems to match up with your own interests and needs. A brochure that describes each group will be available on January 8. For more information, please contact Pastor Tom at [pastortom@hopetoledo.net](mailto:pastortom@hopetoledo.net).

## CONNECTING ACROSS THE MILES WITH HOPE'S YOUNG ADULTS

Beginning in January, a new educational forum will allow the Hope community to connect with young adults around the country—and the world!—who call Hope home. Using Skype (an online video communication system), young adults will engage in dialogue with students from Hope, sharing their memories of Hope, what they are doing now, and how their faith impacts their daily life and vo-



in future months to include others in the congregation.

cation. The first Skype forum will be Sunday, January 8 at 9:30 with Megan Hentges, a 2006 Hope "grad" who is currently working as Education and Outreach Coordinator for the group "Citizens for a Healthy Bay" in Tacoma, WA. While this first forum will be limited to High School students, the scope of these events will expand

in future months to include others in the congregation.

## BETHLEHEM MOVERS

We will be packing up the Bethlehem sets and moving everything into storage on Saturday, January 7, at 9:00 am. As you know, this requires a lot of work and we are hoping that we have enough volunteers to make the job easier.

**We need you!**

## SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT

A joint winter retreat is planned with the youth of Olivet Lutheran Church (Sylvania). We will be traveling to Camp Storer in Michigan, January 20–22. The cost is only \$75. Get ready to meet new friends and enjoy great food, great Bible studies, great worship, and late-night games of broomball! Contact Pastor Laura for more information.



## JANUARY EVENTS

**January 6, 13**  
Concessions at Huntington Ctr

**January 7**  
Moving Bethlehem sets

**January 11**  
Confirmation and Choirs resume

**January 15, 22**  
Small Group Sign Ups

**January 16**  
Martin Luther King Day—Office Closed

**January 20-22**  
Senior High Retreat at Camp Storer

**January 22**  
Mission Sunday

**January 28-29**  
CRHP Women's Retreat

## LOOKING AHEAD

**February 4, 17**  
Concessions at Huntington Center

**February 18 & 19**  
CRHP Men's Retreat

**February 22**  
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**February 23**  
Ash Wednesday

**March 10-17**  
Haiti Mission Trip

## THE SPIRIT IS AFLAME IN HOPE'S MUSIC MINISTRY

Hope offers many opportunities to experience the joy of God's love through God's great gift of music. We experience the joy of Jesus Christ through the singing and playing of good music and the Holy Spirit reaches others and spreads God's love as we express our faith through sharing our gifts of music. Start the new year off with a song in your heart—join a choir! Rehearsals will begin the week of January 9. Please contact Lori Bitz, Minister of Music, lbitz@hopetoledo.net, 419-536-8383 if you have any questions.



**Chancel Choir** includes those high school age and up who enjoy singing. Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 7:00-8:05 p.m. in the choir room.

**Hand Bell Choir** is for everyone (high school age and up). The ability to read music is helpful but not necessary. Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 8:05-9:00 p.m. in the balcony.

**Children's Choir** is for children ages four through sixth grade. They are invited and encouraged to come and join in the fun as we sing our praises to God. The children's choir sings primarily at the 11:00 a.m. service and occasionally at the 9:30 service on an average of two Sundays per month. Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:00-6:45 p.m. in the choir room.

**Rejoicing Ringers Hand Chime Choir** is open to all children first grade through sixth grade. They will learn to play the chimes, read music and work as a team while we praise God together. Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 5:15-5:45 p.m. in the choir room.

**Herald Trumpet Choir** invites all members and friends of Hope who play the trumpet to join this choir. We play both Bb trumpets (required) and Herald trumpets (provided). Rehearsals: Saturdays, 11:15 a.m. in the choir room.

**Hope's Praise Team** is the group helping to lead worship at the 9:30 service each Sunday morning. Membership (high school age and up) in the praise team requires an audition with Hope's music staff. Rehearsals: Saturdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

### CRHP MEN'S RETREAT

CRHP Men's Retreat will be held on Saturday and Sunday, February 18 and 19. To register or for more information, contact Andy Evans at 419-345-4713.

## MISSION OUTREACH

January will offer the congregation an opportunity to learn all about Missions. On Sunday, January 22, Mission will be the sermon theme. In addition, there will be an opportunity during Fellowship between services for our congregation to become more aware of what it is that the Mission Outreach Team is all about. There will be videos, table top displays and other means of communication to spread the word about our ministries.

If you would like to take part on our Team, we meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

## THANK YOU

To Our Hope Family, The Ferguson Family would like to extend a tremendously gracious note of thanks for the significant support with our son Trevor's passing. Whether it was your prayers, cards, letters of support, calls, flowers, visits, donations, meals and serving or overall heartfelt concerns, it was appreciated. As we continue in our healing process these gestures of kindness and love were all so ever welcomed. There are some wonderful individuals at Hope Lutheran Church and you have touched our hearts as God continues to surround His loving arms around us with this difficult walk. I am thankful for my faith and those whom I share it with. May God continue to strengthen you so that you may continue to reach out to others in need.

**"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."  
Matthew 5:8**

In God's Peace, The Fergusons

## CROSSWAYS BIBLE STUDY

You can still become a part of the Crossways Bible Study. This 60-lesson Bible Study (30 per year) meets on Thursday evenings beginning January 12 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and is led by Pastor Kevin. Crossways is also the current program on Tuesdays at Lunches with Luther (starting on January 10). If you are interested in joining this group or have questions, contact Pastor Kevin at [pastorkevin@hopetoledo.net](mailto:pastorkevin@hopetoledo.net).

