

UPCOMING EVENTS

Key Bethlehem Dates:

9 am Dec 3 Build Day
7pm Dec 6 All Volunteer Meeting

A Night in Bethlehem

1:00—4:30 pm December 10 & 11

Hope for Salem Workday:

8 am December 17

Children's Christmas Program

11 am December 18

Christmas Eve Worship

4 pm Family friendly worship with Hope's Praise Team

7 pm Traditional worship with special music

9 pm Traditional worship with music from the Adult Choir

Christmas Day Worship

10 am Worship with a special Christmas Story

January 1

10 am Lessons and Carols

ADVENT AT HOPE



Sermon Series: Prepare the Way for the Lord

The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means coming, arrival, or presence. If you could summarize the aim of Advent, it would be captured by the words of Isaiah, words that defined John the Baptist's work and mission: "Prepare the way of the Lord." While we often think of Advent as a time of preparing to receive Jesus as the babe in the manger, it is also a season to prepare for Jesus' return. Advent calls us to prepare the way of the Lord in our lives and in our world.

PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD

ADVENT AND THE MESSAGE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

11/27/22	The Annunciation	Luke 1:5-17
12/04/22	Zechariah's Prophecy	Luke 1:57-79
12/11/22	John the Baptist	Luke 3:1-8
12/18/22	Fruits Worthy of Repentance	Luke 3:7-24
12/24/20	Witnesses	Luke 2:1-14

Advent Donations for People in Need

As we approach the celebration of God's great gift to us in Jesus Christ, we seek to live out our core value of generosity through our Advent Collections. Items will be collected each week in worship as well as in the church office.

Date	Collection Goal	Donated to
Nov. 27	\$10 Kroger or \$5 McDonald's food cards (\$2,000 total)	Salem Lutheran
Dec. 4	200 sets hats and gloves	Old Orchard Elementary
Dec. 11	50 pounds stick butter, 100 cans cranberry sauce, 250 rolls toilet paper	Redeemer Lutheran
Dec. 18	20 gallons bleach, 1,000 plastic forks, 1,000 plastic spoons, 30 dish towels	Martin Luther King Kitchen for the Poor



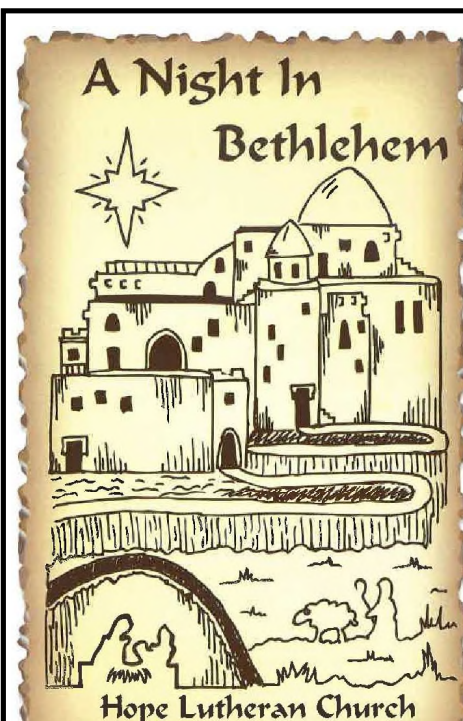
Hope is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.

BETHLEHEM YARD SIGNS ARE AVAILABLE



CONSECRATION SUNDAY

On Consecration Sunday we celebrated All Saints Day and the many blessings God has given us through worship, candles, lunch and fellowship. Sincere thanks to ALL of the volunteers whose collective efforts made the day a success! Thanks also all of you who have turned in your 2023 Giving Card. Based on the preliminary results, Hope is extremely blessed! If you have not yet returned your 2023 Giving Card, please do so as soon as possible. Your generosity will change lives, including yours!



December 10th & 11th

Come between 1:00 and 4:30 pm and experience first century Bethlehem. Take in the sights, smells, and sounds of the bustling marketplace, complete with authentic shops staffed with artisans and live animals.

And did you hear the exciting news? A baby has been born!

Come and receive the greatest gift of all... Jesus Christ!

It's free. No strings attached.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT HOPE

Christmas Worship Services

There will be 3 worship services on Christmas Eve:

4 pm Family friendly worship with Hope's Praise Team

7 pm Traditional worship with special music

9 pm Traditional worship with music from the Adult Choir

Communion and Candlelight will be at all services.

A special Christmas Day service will be held on Christmas morning at 10:00 a.m.

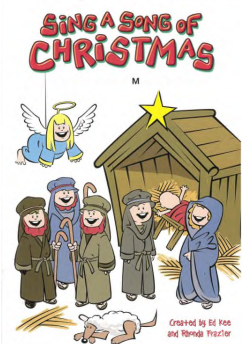


An Invitation to Hope

Research has found that most people without a church home are most interested in worship at Christmas. The biggest factor determining whether they will attend is an invitation. Who might you invite to hear the great news of Christmas? Invitations are available to help in your inviting. Time and time again people comment how great our Christmas Eve services are, and this is your chance to share that with others.



Children's Christmas Program



It's that time of year again! Time for the Children's Christmas program! We are looking for some energetic children to help to set this program in motion. We started practicing on November 27th but it's not too late to still join! The program will be during the 11:00 service on Sunday, December 18th. It is entitled, "Sing a Song of Christmas." We will have costumes, speaking and non-speaking roles. Please let Pam Ferrara know if you or someone you know is interested in helping or participating at pferrara@hopetoledo.net.

Please come and see the wonderful Christmas program the children have worked up this year on Sunday, December 18th at the 11:00 service. The title this year is "Sing a Song of Christmas." Hope to see you there to celebrate this Joyous Christmas season!

TOGETHER IN CHANGE

Our purpose is to be a social outlet and fellowship for anyone adjusting to their new lifestyle after the loss of a spouse or partner. We will meet at 10:00 am January 29th in the Nest to discuss new activities. Feel free to invite others who you may know that would be interested. If you have any questions contact Helen Jodouin (419-509-6143).

YEAR-END STOCK & IRA CONTRIBUTIONS

As Christians, we believe in being good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. To that end, consider the advantages of giving stock to Hope Lutheran Church. By donating appreciated stock to a charitable organization, you avoid paying capital gains tax on the increased value of the stock. You may also be able to take a deduction for the market value of the stock at the time it was given. If you plan to give securities to the Church, please notify Cindy Franklin at (419) 536-8383 to help facilitate the process.

Another option is making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA. The gift stays out of your adjusted gross income only if you make a direct transfer from your IRA to the charity. It doesn't count as a tax-free transfer if you withdraw the money first and then make a donation to the charity. Please consult your tax advisor on either matter.

Christmas Decoration Fund



If you would like to contribute to our Christmas Decoration fund, you may do so by calling the office or filling out a form in worship by December 15. Honorariums and Memorials will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.



Youth Christmas Party

The youth group will gather for our Christmas party on Saturday, December 17 at 4pm at Pastor Kevin's house for make-your-own pizza night and other fun Christmas activities. RSVP to Pastor Kristin.



HOPE'S GUARDIAN ANGELS

With the excitement of hiring a new director of children & family ministries this fall, we decided to wait to match children and adults as Guardian Angels until the beginning of 2023. We will be sending out Guardian angel letters in January. If you are interested in serving as a Guardian angel for a child in DIT or have questions, please contact Pam (pferrara@hopetoledo.net) or Pastor Kristin (pastorkristin@hopetoledo.net).

2022 YEAR-END GIFTS

As you plan your year-end giving, please note that the last day the office will be open in 2022 is Friday, December 30 until noon. You may also place your year-end contribution in the offering on Sunday, December 25. Any contributions postmarked by December 31st will be counted towards 2022 giving.

