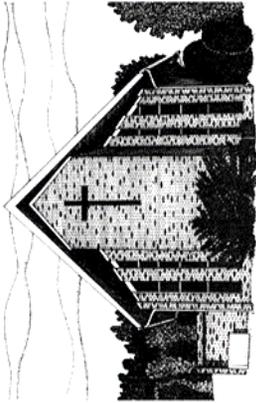


HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
904 N. Mulberry St.  
Elizabethtown, KY 42701



Rev. Pam Thorson

Church Office: (270) 765-4212  
E-mail: [hopenac@windstream.net](mailto:hopenac@windstream.net)  
[pastorhope@windstream.net](mailto:pastorhope@windstream.net)  
Website: [www.lutherantown.org](http://www.lutherantown.org)



Sunday Schedule

Christian Ed. Hour 9:15 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Wednesday

10:30 AM Bible Study

Noon Healing and Holy Communion  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>

**HOUSE OF PRAYER**  
Lutheran Church

Experience the Hope of Jesus Christ  
December 2018



Grace and Peace,

Prepare the way. It's almost winter and the time for shoveling, maybe, that is if we get a harder winter than last year. But when that snow falls and covers the sidewalks and the roads, someone's got to go out and prepare the way. I'm thinking about all the preparations we put into this time of year. We prepare the way for Christmas by decorating, by buying presents, baking, and parties because we've got something to look forward to. But for some, the holidays are heartache and grief because of the memories of the past and many hurts in life. Jesus came for such a reason, to heal those hurts and give us hope. So, the kind of preparation I'm talking about this Advent is preparing the way so that we and others can come to Jesus Christ. There are so many other paths that look good, but there's only one that gives real hope.

You and I are to be the shovelers who clear the path for people to find Jesus. We stand in line with John the Baptist who did the same thing and told everyone within earshot that they needed to turn from their own ways to prepare for the one who is to come. That one is Jesus. People are still looking for fulfillment and hope. The real path they and all of the world need is the one that leads to Jesus the Christ, the Savior. The Spirit draws, but uses believers to show the way, to uncover the path and make it clear. We don't have to save people, we can't, nor can they make a decision to save themselves. Only the work of the Holy Spirit does that. It certainly takes the pressure off.

So, this Advent, turn your heart to prepare for the coming of Jesus, that is the 2nd coming when our Lord will return and every eye on this earth will see him. We do look forward to Christmas, the birth of our precious Savior on earth, but the real focus of Advent is Jesus' return when all will be made well.

Get your shovels out there and clear the way for your friends and neighbors. Jesus is coming and that's the best thing ever!

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Luke 3:5-6.*

In ministry together,  
Pastor Pam



## Women of Hope Christmas Party

You're Invited to the Women of HoPE Christmas Party on Sat, Dec 8 at 10:30 a.m. at House of Prayer. Bring a "White Elephant" for Gift Exchange and a "Christmas Treat" to share as we join together for fun and fellowship. Come and bring a friend!

*Merry  
Christmas*



## Sunday School Pageant

The annual Christmas Pageant will be part of our 10:30 AM worship on Sunday, December 16. There are parts for the youngest and the oldest of our people as we reach out to visibly tell the good news of the coming of Jesus Christ. There will be 1 rehearsal besides the time during the Sunday School hour. Come Saturday, December 15 from 9 to noon. Rehearsals are especially important for older youth with principal parts. See the Sunday School teachers or Pastor Pam for more details. Plan to bring family and friends to celebrate the story of Christmas as seen through the eyes of our children and youth.

## Financial News

Thank you to all those who have turned in their pledge cards for next year. These help to plan our budget. Please help us by filling out your intentions for giving to the work of our House of Prayer. Forms are in the entry hall.

We are behind on our projected giving this year. We have cut some expenses (no church administrator) but we will still fall short. Please consider a special offering so that we can end in the black and not in deficit spending. All our money comes from gifts. We do not generate any revenue. But God has always provided thanks to generous hearts. We will continue with God's grace.

## Christmas Altar Cloths

Thank you to Sue Troha for giving memorial funds in memory of her brother Robert. Sue and Bob grew up in House of Prayer as children of John and Mary Troha. These funds have gone toward purchase of new Christmas paraments. If you'd like to donate to cover the rest of the cost, please do.

## Annual Meeting

January 13 after the worship service. We will have a meal and then conduct our annual business meeting. Items on the agenda: Passing of a budget for 2019, Election of council members, Review of the past year, Hopes and dreams for the future.

**Annual reports** are due by December 31. Each chair person and council member must create a report. Email them to [hopenalc@windstream.net](mailto:hopenalc@windstream.net).

We will elect 3 members to council. If you feel called to serve, see Michelle Eckart, Rich Patterson, or Pastor Pam. Names will be considered by the nominating committee.

## General Ministry Description for all Parish Council Members

**Council members should strive to the best of their abilities to:**

- Have a love of God and demonstrate a commitment to follow the way of Christ; Agree to and affirm the beliefs, constitution, and confession of faith of this church; Be active in and knowledgeable about the congregation, its programs and governance; Be fair, interact well with the members of the congregation; Purposefully strive to be a servant of the people; Have enthusiasm for this ministry: Contribute regularly through tithes and offerings to the general fund of the congregation.

**All Parish Council members should be able to make the following time commitments:**

- Report monthly to the council of area of responsibility activities (verbal or written); Attend Parish Council meetings, committee work; Parish Council retreats; Weekly worship services; Congregational events: coffee hours, meals, fundraisers, adult education programs, etc.; Mission District meetings, as necessary; Congregational Annual meeting.

**All Parish Council members are responsible for:**

- Offering talents to support the congregation's ministry; Praying regularly for the pastor, leaders and members of the congregation; Being active ministers of the Gospel in daily life and work; Bringing one's whole self to the table; being present – mind, body, and spirit; Risking openness with one's ideas, beliefs, and desires.

## Liaison/Support to Ministry Areas

- Encourage and facilitate formation of committees/task forces; Support and nurture committee and/or ministry persons under specific area; Communication liaison to committees under direct area of ministry; Be a resource person for committees.

### Advent Worship

Sundays 10:30 AM

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday December 16, 10:30 AM

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

Monday December 24, 8:30 Pm