

JANUARY EVENTS

December 31

Lessons & Carols Service, 10:00 a.m.
(One worship service this Sunday)

January 7

Remembrance of Baptism

LOOKING AHEAD

February 11

Congregational Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

February 14

Ash Wednesday Services

April 1

Easter Sunday Services



Hope is a
Stephen Ministry
Congregation.

FAITH PAUSE: ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUP

This January we are starting a new online discussion group at Hope. We understand that life can be hectic and busy. That's why finding time to pause is so important. Each week, a new video will be posted into the Facebook group "Faith Pause at Hope" along with questions for discussion and prayers. It is an opportunity for you to pause as you are able and to participate in discussion and community from wherever you are. Feel free to join the group on Facebook or send your Facebook name to Pastor Kristin at pastorkristin@hopetoledo.net, and she will add you to the group.

NEW SERMON SERIES: COME & SEE

The Gospel of John begins with:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. ⁴What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

The following verses and chapters then invite us to see who Jesus is through his actions and early ministry



interactions. This January we invite you to **Come and See Jesus** again and explore how his coming into the world transforms our lives yet today. Like visiting the eye doctor to make sure we see clearly, taking time to explore who John says Jesus is, helps us to follow more closely and see him more clearly.

1/7	Voice of Truth
1/14	Come and See
1/21	Grace Revealed in Glory
1/28	A Temple Destroyed
2/4	Seeing Through the Water
2/11	Blind Yet Sees

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

On Sunday, January 7, we will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord. As a part of the celebration, we will be presenting Bibles to everyone who was baptized at Hope this past year. We look forward to seeing you there to celebrate together.



LESSONS & CAROLS DECEMBER 31

Lessons & Carols

Join us on Sunday, December 31 at 10:00 a.m. for ONE worship service of Christmas Lessons & Carols. There will be no Disciples in Training or Adult Spiritual Formation that day.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

On Wednesday, January 3 at 6:00 p.m., confirmation students are invited to gather for a Christmas dinner and party. There will be food, games and Christmas cookies. Friends are welcome! Confirmation classes begin on January 10 with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and class from 6:30-7:45 p.m.

THANK YOU, VOUNTEERS!



A huge thank you to all our volunteers throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons – especially our musicians, worship assistants, readers, welcome team, altar care, decorations team, confirmation students, and office assistants! We couldn't have done this without you!

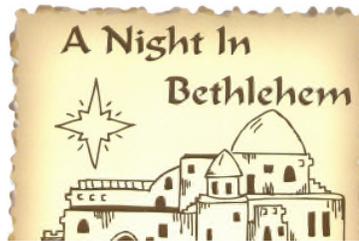
As a new year begins, we are looking for a few more volunteers for some of our teams. If you are interested in serving on welcome team for 9:00 or 11:00 worship, as a worship assistant for 11:00 services, or as an office helper with bulletins on Fridays, please contact Jennifer Bailey at jbailey@hopetoledo.net.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The music ministry of Hope was very busy in December. We sang *Messiah*, the praise team sang for Night in Bethlehem, and the children sang and played for Christmas Eve services. The Children's Christmas presentation told the story of Jesus' birth with carols and storytelling. Thank you to everyone who is involved in making music a vital part of our church.

NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM 2017

We welcomed more than 1,000 people to our church for Night in Bethlehem. We are living our mission of living out servant love, showing hospitality, extending generosity, and worshipping the risen Lord. Thank you to everyone who had a part in our event. We needed every bit of help received, and it is very much appreciated.



ADVENT GENEROSITY

Thank you for your amazing generosity in donating to our Advent collections! Donations totaled:



\$2,395 worth Kroger & McDonald Gift Cards for ministries at Salem Lutheran Church

199 sets of hats & gloves for children at Old Orchard Elementary and Redeemer and Salem Lutheran Churches

544 pairs of socks for Martin Luther King Kitchen for the Poor

400 food items for Backpacks of Hope at Old Orchard Elementary

Plus enough cash offerings to ensure that we reach and exceed all our goals! Thanks again for your generosity!

2017 YEAR-END GIFTS

As you plan your year-end giving, please note that the office will not be open on Sunday, December 31. The last day the office will be open in 2017 to receive your final year end gifts is Friday, December 29 until noon. Any contributions postmarked by the 31st will be counted towards 2017 giving.

