



# *The Spirit*

Dear People of God,

Epiphany is about Jesus, what Jesus is revealing about Himself. In the season of Epiphany, we acknowledge Jesus' glory, Jesus' identity. We see Jesus' light for all people everywhere.

In this new year of 2025, the church has eight Sundays after Epiphany including Transfiguration Sunday to learn more about Jesus who changes our lives. (The number of Sundays after Epiphany depends on the date of Easter and, therefore, of Ash Wednesday.)

On Epiphany, the wise people are drawn from the east to come and honor Jesus with gifts. Everyone is welcome to come and honor Jesus. Just as the magi showed up with gold, frankincense, and myrrh, so we can bring our gifts and talents to further the brightness of God's light for us and for all. Whatever we bring, is accepted, and contributes to God's purposes.

The Bible readings of this Epiphany season take us from wise people from the east to a dove from heaven and the voice of God, and then the miracle of water into wine—all pointing to the glory and wonder of God-made-flesh. Forty days after the birth of Christ, we will mark the day Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple. There a prophetess named Anna celebrated the gift of redemption that Jesus would bring. Simeon, an elderly prophet also greeted Mary and Joseph with a song describing Jesus as a "light for the nations."

Jesus is the light for all the world. And in the history of the church, Presentation of our Lord Sunday was also known as Candlemas, a day when all the candles to be used in the church were blessed for the coming year. In honor of Jesus' light in the world and in our lives, we will bless our candles. So, I invite you to bring a special candle from home and we will bless them together during worship on February 2. As we bless the candles, we will remember Jesus' presence is with us.

In this season of Epiphany, let us give thanks that Jesus is the light of the world. Let us rise and shine. Let us bear witness to God's light in a weary world.



Peace,  
Pastor Amy

# Thank You!

Thanks to the members of Hope, our Giving Tree shared gifts with 5 families, a total of 18 people. They will have a better Christmas this year because of your generous donations.





*Revised 2024 Donor Listing – Christmas Poinsettias*  
*Given to the Glory of God for the*  
*Gift of his Son, Jesus*

*Nancy and Bill Davis, in memory of Bill and Dorothy Davis, Bill Brown*

*Jeri and Jeff Lange, in honor of their Grandchildren*

*Chris and Charlie Hanford, in honor of their Grandchildren*

*Barb and Kevin Nielsen, in honor of their Children and Grandchildren*

*Bev and Mike Wraspir, in memory of their Parents*

*Marilynn and Art Blacksher, in memory of their Parents, and Lauren and Al Gutleber*

*Gail Satterthwaite, in memory of Daniel Mattingly and Bonnie Eason*

*Nancy and Mark Koupal, in memory of our Parents*

*Jean and Tom Meyers, in memory of our Parents*

*Linda Eder, in memory of Larry Eder*

*Bonnie and John Christensen*

*Betty Kraby*

Pastor Beverly Arnold enjoys visiting Hope on the Sundays Pastor Amy is on vacation. She finds Hope to be very welcoming. And so, she has given to Hope Lutheran Church a chalice (fancy cup) and paten (fancy plate) for use during Holy Communion. Thank you, Pastor Arnold. And thanks to all of you for the warm welcome you extend to Hope's visitors. We blessed the chalice and paten at the 8:30 am worship on December 8.





Coats donated to help families in the St. Charles area stay warm through the ministry of Oasis Food Pantry.

Thank you!



Youth Group  
 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade  
 We will serve through the Sharing  
 Meals ministry on  
 Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>  
 from 9 am-12 pm at St. John United  
 Church of Christ.



In December, the Hope youth, their families and Pastor Amy enjoyed the Christmas lights and fireworks at Fort Zumwalt Park. It was good to be in conversation with one another.

Peace, Pastor Amy

Hope Lutheran ELCA Church  
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St. Charles MO 63303

Phone: 636-946-8922

Office: office@hopelutheranelca.org

Church Website:

[www.hopelutheranelca.org](http://www.hopelutheranelca.org)

Preschool Website: [www.hlcpelca.org](http://www.hlcpelca.org)

**Staff:**

Amy Oehlschlaeger, Pastor  
Sue Easley, Administrative Assistant  
Becky Ikeda, Preschool Director  
Judy Otte, Preschool Bookkeeper  
Journey Carter, Music Director  
Brad Pipal, Keyboardist  
Rich Carlson, Custodian

**Worship Times:**

In Person at 8:30 and 10:45  
Online at 10:45 on YouTube at Hope Video  
Ministry or on Facebook

**Our Mission:**

We care, share, and prepare so that all  
experience the love of Jesus Christ.

**Our Vision:**

To be known as a Spirit-led welcoming  
community of diversity and service.



**Birthdays**

KLUEGEL, Art	01/01
LANGNESS, Ben	01/01
CARR, Kathy	01/02
HEUSS, Danny	01/05
HANFORD, Chris	01/07
SILLS, Susan	01/07
BRODLAND, Ashlee	01/08
NIELSEN, Carter	01/11
ROE, Yvonne	01/12
HANAN, Julia	01/15
BERGAN, Mark	01/16
NIELSEN, Sara	01/17
STOUT, Tricia	01/21
CHRISTENSEN, Susan	01/25
HEIDT, William	01/26
DAVIS, Tommy	01/27
GARCIA, Julian	01/28

**Anniversaries**

KRANZ, Al & Louise	01/08
ROE, Yvonne & Jim	01/15



Hope's Annual Meeting has been  
scheduled for January 26th after the  
second service. We will be having a  
potluck lunch in the gym  
following the meeting.



Sunday School returns January 12  
9:30 am-10:30 am  
No Sunday School for kids and youth on  
January 19 due to holiday.  
Back to Sunday School on January 26.



Hope Kids & Parents  
Prek-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Lunch & a Service Project  
Sunday, January 12 after  
second service in the gym  
@11:50 am-1:30 pm



AS WE BID FAREWELL TO THIS YEAR  
AND WELCOME THE NEW YEAR,  
LET'S JOIN OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER  
FOR OUR BELOVED CHILDREN AND  
THEIR FAMILIES. MAY THE COMING YEAR  
BRING ABUNDANT BLESSINGS, HEALTH  
AND JOY TO EACH ONE OF THEM.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**




**Tammie Meyer**  
Real Estate Sales Associate  
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Come see for yourself.**



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636-940-8740



**Hope Lutheran Church Preschool  
Vision**

A Children's Ministry of Hope Lutheran Church

Hope Lutheran Church Preschool provides a solid and spiritual foundation for preschool children to lead an enriched life through diverse educational experiences

Check out Hope's Facebook page:  
[Facebook.com/hopelutheranelca](https://www.facebook.com/hopelutheranelca)

