The Spirit

Henri Nouwen, a writer of many Christian spiritual books, wrote:

"Birthdays need to be celebrated. I think it is more important to celebrate a birthday than a successful exam, a promotion, or a victory. Because to celebrate a birthday means to say to someone: "Thank you for being you." Celebrating a birthday is exalting life and being glad for it. On a birthday we do not say: "Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished." No, we say: "Thank you for being born and being among us." On birthdays we celebrate the present. We do not complain about what happened or speculate about what will happen, but we lift someone up and let everyone say: We love you."



On our birthdays, we give thanks to God, for the gift of you and me to the world. We are a gift. This year, for my dad's birthday, each family member shared a story of what we appreciated about him. It was awesome to hear what my niece and nephew said, about their "Papa".

Often on Facebook, I see people ask friends to give to a cause they care about, donate in their name.

What if we tried this Birthday fund idea in reverse? Instead of receiving gifts from one another, what if we gave a money gift to one of Hope Lutheran Church's ministries? A dollar or fifty cents for each year of life, for example, five dollars if you are five.

Another gift from the gift of you! Thank you, God, for being born and being among us! Happy Birthday!

Peace, Pastor Amy



The Spirit

February 2025

Many Thanks To all who stayed after church On short/no notice To get Christmas packed Up till next year!! Youth Group is for 6th-12th grade Linda Eder Let's pack for Kids Against Hunger Beth and Rick Fauser Second shift, 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Jan Karibian We will follow up with pizza in the vouth room. Susan and Tim Hinton Sign up for a shift at the welcome The Lutzeier Family desk or by emailing Steve. The Silvey Family Email: sv Tompkin@sbcglobal.net The Anthony Family Shirley and Bob Stenberg Hope Kids/Secret Service will meet on If we missed anyone, we surely apologize -Sunday, 2/9 for lunch Each and every pair of helping hands is appreciated! and a service project ecret Service after the second Thank you, Hope Kids service, @11:45 am. Mark and Nancy Koupal Kids, from 3 - fifth grade are welcome to ioin us.



Super Bowl Kids Against Hunger Packing It's Hope's Million Meal Year! In 2025, we will cross the 1 million meals mark. Let's serve! Saturday, February 8 Two shifts: 8:30 am-12:30 pm Bring a friend. Pack together. Sign up by email <u>sv_Tompkin@sbcglobal.net</u> 20,000 meals for hungry neighbors. Wear your favorite team's hat and/or jersey.



Chili Cook-off!

Join us on Sunday, February 23rd at 4:30 pm for chili! Even if you don't enter the cook-off yourself, come and enjoy good food and fellowship! DAVEY, John

HANAN, Brad

Hope Lutheran ELCA Church

1975 Old Hwy 94 S

St. Charles MO 63303

Phone: 636-946-8922 Office: office@hopelutheranelca.org Church Website: www.hopelutheranelca.org

Preschool Website: www.hlcpelca.org

Staff:

Amy Oehlschlaeger, Pastor Sue Easley, Administrative Assistant Becky Ikeda, Preschool Director Judy Otte, Preschool Bookkeeper Journee 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.

february

Birthdays

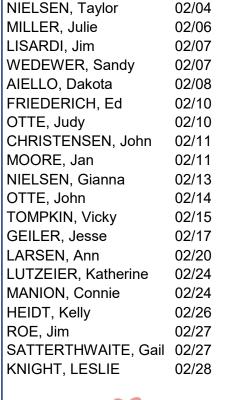
Anniversaries

 02/01
 FAUSER, JR, Rick & Beth
 02/11

 02/01
 ROUTH, Forrest & Pat
 02/14



For the Christmas bonus from the Church Staff





Www.hopelutheranelca.org

Hope Spirit







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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

