Hope Lutheran Church Newsletter

www.hopeonbluerock.org

February 2024



#### **GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP**

Coming to Hope!

Mondays 4-5:30 p.m.

January 29 – April 2

Hope will begin hosting our first Griefshare Support Group beginning January 29. Griefshare is a nationally-recognized program that provides resources for churches to host these 13-week, Christian-based sessions for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. ALL are welcome. This program is designed to care for Hope's members and for our larger community, so please share this information with anyone you know who may benefit. The cost is only \$20 to cover the cost of a workbook; everything else is free of charge. For more information or to register, go to <a href="https://www.griefshare.org/groups/180918">https://www.griefshare.org/groups/180918</a>

**Pastor Christie** 

#### COME FOR SOUP ON ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 7 p.m. @ Hope

"Come to me and I will give you rest. "

These words from the book of Matthew serve as our theme for the season of Lent.



Hope will be holding weekly Wednesday night worship services that begin at 7:00 PM. We will kick off Lent on Ash Wednesday, which is February 14th. Please join us and our neighbor church St. Paul's (Old Blue Rock) for a soup and bread meal before the service. The dinner on Ash Wednesday begins at 6:00 PM.



"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. -Matthew 11:28

**Karen Schweinfest** 

## LENTEN EVENING WORSHIP: WITNESSES AT THE CROSS

## Wednesdays, February 21 – March 20 @ 7 p.m. @ Hope

These special services will feature multiple voices in multiple ways! First, we will hear from 5 different pastors, one each week, each from an ELCA Church in the Cincinnati area. In addition to Pastor Christie, we will also hear from the Pastors of Trinity, Augsburg, St. Paul, and



Gloria Dei Lutheran Churches. The pastors will rotate locations each week, and you will have the opportunity to hear these different voices while worshipping right here at Hope. Additionally,

we will hear different voices from scripture using our theme "Witnesses at the Cross." This theme is based on Amy Jill Levine's book Witness at the Cross, and each sermon will examine a different set of characters who were present at the crucifixion: The Women, Bystanders and Scoffers, Soldiers, the Beloved Disciple, and The Other Victims.

Pastor Christie

#### LENTEN SUNDAY WORSHIP: COME TO ME

## Sundays February 18 – March 17 10 a.m. @ Hope

The lyrics Christopher Grundy's worship song, "Come to Me" are based on the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Lent is the perfect time for us to lay all of our burdens at Jesus's feet. Through scripture and song, we will explore this theme Sundays during Lent.

Pastor Christie

#### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for February 4 directly after the worship service for the purpose of reviewing annual reports. All members, please plan to attend.



Spread the Love! Happy Valentine's Day!

## PR. CHRISTIE'S CORNER Ash Wednesday and TruthTelling

Each year on Ash Wednesday, we gather to receive ashes on our foreheads, and you hear me say the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."



This is one of the great honors of my ministry. It's a rare moment when I get to touch each of your heads and look firmly into your eyes, as we share a somewhat frightening truth with one another – we all came from dust, and we all will be dust again someday.

Ash Wednesday is a strange and wondrous time of worship for us, and some of us may even wonder why we partake in this strange ritual. Some may wonder - what is it that we are doing on Ash Wednesday?

Well, we are telling the truth.

Many of us spend a lot of time trying to convince ourselves and each other of things we want to be true - that we're doing fine, or we're happy, or we're living lives that honor God every moment of every day. But on Ash Wednesday, God asks us to strip away any and all pretenses. God invites us to simply come, and to tell the truth - to God, to ourselves, and one another.

On Ash Wednesday, we are invited to put ashes on our heads as we begin our 40-day journey of Lenten repentance. We do not put ashes on our heads so that we can show everyone else what good Christians we are. In fact, the scriptures that are read on Ash Wednesday make it quite clear that this is the opposite of what God wants from us.

In Isaiah 58, the people want to know why God is ignoring them when they fast and put ashes on their heads. The people say, "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" And God responds: "Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist." (v. 3-4 NRSV) A few verses later, God reveals what God really wants from us: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the

hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" (v. 6-7

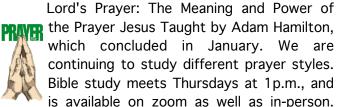
What God wants from us – on Ash Wednesday and always – is our honesty. God wants us to be who we truly are, who God created us to be, not a false image of ourselves that we think others will like best. God is reminding us to love one another the way that God loves us, and to do so with humility.

We come. We confess. We commune. And we remember the very raw and real truth that Ash Wednesday reminds us – "We are dust, and to dust we shall return."

In Christ's Eternal Peace, Pastor Christie

## BIBLE STUDY – Teach us to Pray Thursdays 1 p.m.

Join for fun, fellowship and sharing God's word together! We all enjoyed our study of the book The



Contact Pastor Christie if you have any questions or are interested in joining via zoom. We look forward to having you join us in the new year! **Pr. Christie** 

#### CONFIRMATION SUNDAY February 25th @ 10 am worship



Mark your calendars and plan to support Hope's young people who will become our newest members during worship on Feb. 25. We celebrate with Xander Hermann, Emma Sheppard, Adam Williams, and Rachel Williams. We have spent two years together learning about Lutheran history and catechism, the church today, the Bible, and how all of this works together to form our faith. The four have chosen Bible verses and written faith statements to share with you on Confirmation Sunday. We hope that you will join us for this special service, and for a celebration reception afterward in Fellowship Hall.

PastorChristie



February 19th

#### FEBRUARY THANK YOU'S AND NEWS

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for organizing the Lessons and Carols Brunch in the Fellowship Hall. The familiar carols were sung, the lessons were read, the bountiful potluck food was delicious, and the fellowship even better!

Thank you to Chuck Hasdorff for replacing so many lights in the childcare area and replacing some of the ballasts. He really lights up our church!

#### Thank you's from Ruth Oehler, Altar Guild

- Our church looked so beautiful with 24 poinsettias. Thank you to everyone who purchased the poinsettias. Il appreciate the help from Dave McBride picking up from the greenhouse and bringing into the church the poinsettias.
- Ron Thatcher designed a fantastic Christmas Eve bulletin. Thank you Ron for your hard work.
- I appreciate everyone who brought poinsettias and flower stands from the fellowship hall into the church after the 10:00 am service.
- After the December 31st service thank you to everyone who carried the poinsettias back into the church.

#### **BLESSING OF THE PJ'S WAS A HIT!**

On January 21, at the suggestion of young Cora Leppert, the congregation was invited to wear their PJ's or robes to worship at Hope for a special blessing. During the Children's Message, Pastor



Christie blessed our feet, legs,, arms, heads, and pajamas for every night and every day. From the picture you can see many of the adults joined the children. It was an uplifting time and a welcome change on a cold, cold winter's day!

#### EASTER FLOWERS FOR SALE

Lillies----\$14.00 Daffodils--\$11.00 and Tulips--\$9.00 will be available to decorate the chancel on Easter Sunday. All plants are in foil-wrapped pots. Forms are on the Narthex counter. Indicate the number of each variety and color you wish to order.



Please mark if you wish to have the flowers planted in our Memorial Garden or taken home. Make your separate check payable to Hope Lutheran Church for the total selected. Please give the form and check to Ruth Oehler or place your order in my mailbox. Also, you can order online by going to Hope Lutheran Church website (https:// www.hopeonbluerock.org/easter-flowers) . On Easter Sunday after the service, you can pick up your flowers. Deadline to order is March 3, 2024.

#### HOPE'S ENTRY CODES ARE BEING CHANGED

I will be changing the key codes Sunday 1/21/24. The codes will be passed out then. If I did not give you a key code please contact me and I will make sure you get the codes.

Carmen Hasdorff, Property Chair

#### FANTASTIC FERRIJARY RIRTHDAYS

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3	<b>Tavia Pennington</b>	19	Karen Schneider
7	Kim Arany	20	Sam Kless
	Khalil Small	23	Gabrielle Buccino
8	Ben Gundrum	25.	<b>Lois Hollingsworth</b>
	Ruth Oehler	26.	John Groth
10	Emma Sheppard	28	Katelyn Hunt
11	Sue Millard		James Thompson
14	Raegan Beneker		6
	Mary Bryant	· •	26 4 4 2 M C . C
17	Judy Royse	• [[	DDI INDV

#### FIRST COMMUNION OPPORTUNITY

**Hannah Gabbard** 



Calling all parents/grandparents of children in the first grade or older who have not yet taken their First COMMUNION Communion. If you would like to have your child(ren) participate in First

Communion classes this winter or spring, please reach out to me and let me know. Thanks! - Pastor Christie

(317) 828-5949 pastor@hopeonbluerock.org

"Time with God will never be wasted."

From Sue Millard's Council devotional.

#### **MORE NEWS**

The Wendel and Hasdorff families are so proud to the births of their new greatannounce grandchildren.



Luke Adam Hasdorff was born o n September 2 3 weighing 5 lbs. 15 oz. to **Brad and Rachel** Hasdorff, grandson of Chuck and Carmen Hasdorff. All are so happy for this new addition to their family.

Judi Wendel is so thankful for her new great-grandchild, Viola Jean Wendel. She was born on October 28 weighing 7 lbs 13 oz. and 21" in length. Her parents are William and Amanda Wendel grandparents are John and Regina Wendel. She is pictured here with her older sister Ruthie.



Our best to these young families!

#### WOMEN HELPING OTHERS AND **OURSELVES**

The January 26th meeting featured homemade



bean soup prepared by their leader, Kathy Mushaben, using the leftover ham from the group's Christmas dinner. It was delicious!! (Kathy was unable to attend herself since she had hand surgery that day.) The women really appreciated her

culinary efforts and Lana Albright's dessert.

During the meeting, the women discussed several ideas for work projects to help others and a "Good Cheer Basket" for a Hope member. More information regarding this idea will be coming.

he women at Hope normally meet on the fourth Thursday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for February 22nd at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a light dinner for yourself and join in their project decisions and fellowship.

#### SON MINISTRIES

Over 2023, SON Ministries served 2,080 families (7,082 people) with 106,260 meals. This was an increase of 2,310 people from 2022.



Given this increase, your continued support is doing a fantastic job helping this need in our community. Thank you most sincerely for being part of our mission!

For February we are asking for donations of 14-16 oz. cans of beef stew & ravioli, and also any size cans of tuna and chicken.

Thank you, Carole Klein and Jo Dossenback

#### OFFERING ENVELOPES AND ONLINE GIVING

Need a box of offering envelopes for Offering the new year? The boxes are now Fivelopes available on the counter in the Narthex. Please take a box if you need one. If you prefer online giving, check out Hope's website at finance@hopeonbluerock.org

for information on how to set up reoccurring gifts, make honorary or memorial donations, and more!

**Generosity Committee** 

#### **HOPE NAME TAGS**

As we continue to welcome new visitors each week.



all Hope members and regulars are encouraged to once again begin wearing their name tags. Your name tag should be in your mailbox in the Hope narthex, and if you are unable to find it, please contact Marv

Bryant mabryant@cinci.rr.com and a new one will be made for you. **Outreach Team** 

> For God so loVed the world That He gAve His onLy **BegottEn** SoN That who soever Believes In Him Should Not perish But have Everlasting life."

> > John 3:16

## DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUR "BOOK NOOK"

**FOR ALL ADULTS** 



The Book Nook now has a second bookcase for the growing number of books. There are numerous categories of books available for loan in the "Book Nook" located inside the left door of the Fellowship Hall.

There are also books that men might find interesting. Be sure to check them out for a little relaxing quiet time!

#### MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY BETTER!

All occasion cards are available for many different holidays and situations to show the friend or family member you care. The card assortment was moved to the coatroom above the mailboxes. And the beautiful prayer shawls in the Narthex/Lobby, so loving made, are ready to put a warm smile on someone's face.

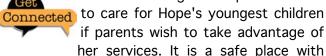
#### **GET CONNECTED TO HOPE!**

Ever want more information what happening at Hope? There are many ways to get connected to Hope's activities. Check us out on Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/hopeonbluerock">https://www.facebook.com/hopeonbluerock</a> - and be sure to like us and check in! Also check Hope's website regularly <a href="https://www.hopeonbluerock.org">https://www.hopeonbluerock.org</a> for information on events, ways to make donations, a handy up-to-date Google calendar, photo albums, and much more!

Pastor Christie

#### **HOPE'S NURSERY IS OPEN**

Don't forget that Kayla Terbrueggen is available during worship



toys and activity.

#### A CHUCKLE FOR YOU

Pastor Dave Charlton tells us, "After a worship service at First Baptist Church in Newcastle, Kentucky, a mother with a fidgety seven-year old boy told him how she finally got her son to sit still and be quiet. About halfway through the sermon, she leaned over and whispered, 'If you don't be quiet, Pastor Charlton is going to lose his

place and will have to start his sermon all over again!' It worked.

#### **EVEN MORE HUMOR FOR YOU**

A minister parked his car in a no parking zone in a large city because he was short on time and couldn't find a space with a meter. So he put a note under the



windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. It I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES." When he returned, he found a citation from a police office along with this note. "I've circled this block for 10 years. It I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION."

#### PRAYER'S CERTAIN PAYOFF

Prayers prayed in the Spirit never die until they accomplish God's intended purpose. His answer may not be what we expected, or when we expected it, but God often provides much more abundantly than we could think or ask. He interprets our intent and either answers or stores up our prayers. Sincere prayers are never lost [and] will never be wasted or go unrewarded.

—Missionary Wesley Duewel

#### GOD'S VALENTINE GIFT

God's Valentine gift of love tp us
Was not a bunch of flowers,
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man, So He could freely give His sacrificial love for us, So you and I could live.

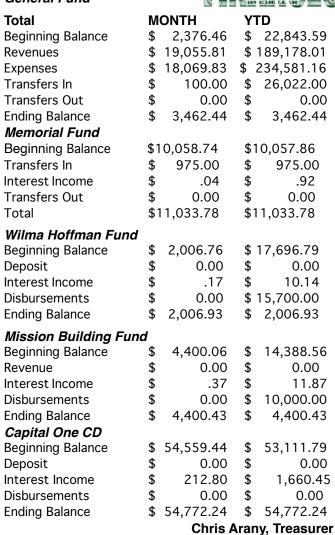
He gave us sweet salvation and Instruction, good and true—
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines, Let's thank our Lord and King; The reason we have love to give Is that He gave everything. By Joanna Fuchs

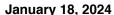
#### **HOPE'S BOTTOM LINE**

#### December, 2023

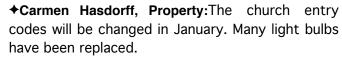
#### General Fund



#### COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



- **♦Ron Long, Financial Secretary:** Total receipts for December were \$19,056.06.
- **♦ Chris Arany, Treasurer:** Total income was down this year. \$15,700 was transferred from the Wilma Hoffman Fund and \$10,000 from the Mission Building Fund to cover expenses.
- \*Joy Ivins, Worship/Music: There was a discussion of passing the collection baskets again, but the decision was to leave them in the rear of the sanctuary.
- **♦Erica Leppert, Christian Education:** The Children's Christmas story was well received on 12/17.
- **♦**Outreach: In need of a chairperson
- **♦Bonnie Long, Generosity:** Her committee has been selected.



- ◆Pastor Christie: The Blessing of the PJ's will be January 21. The Griefshare program will being on January 29. Confirmation Sunday is February 25.
- **♦**Sue Millard, President: Kick off for Strategic Planning Committee will be January 27. Pastor Matt Byrd from Christ the King Lutheran Church will be helping the committee that day.
- ♦There was a motion to add Mary Bryant to the 2024 Audit Committee since Skip Lister is unable to fulfill that position.
- ◆There are no current Outreach Committee Chairs. Potential changes to how that committee interacts with counsel were discussed. Pastor will talk with the Outreach Committee members regarding how to manage the responsibilities usually handled by the committee chair.
- ♦Most proposed goals for 2023 were met, other than increasing membership. Sue Millard and Pastor previously discussed a Mutual Ministry Committee, and they decided it is not a priority at this time.
- ◆There was discussion regarding setting long-term goals in addition to short-term goals.
- ◆The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.
- **♦**The next meeting will. be February 18th by Zoom.

### From the minutes of Alita Simpson, Council Secretary



Council

#### **HOPE DIRECTORY APP**

FOR YOUR COMPUTER OR PHONE Directions are on the church counter or check for Instant Church Directory.



\*Changes are continuously made. New pictures are requested. If you have changed your email address, you will need to re-enroll. It will not recognize the new email address for confidentiality purposes.

Please contact Jerry Ivins for any changes.

#### KROGER REWARDS PROGRAM

1. Visit KrogerCommunityRewards.com



- **SUPPORT US** 2. Sign in to your online account, or create an account.
  - 3. Find and select Hope Lutheran dsand click "Enroll."

Hope's 5 digit number is 80286. Please join today! Hope received \$89.51 from Kroger awards.

#### HOPE'S CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

To donate to Hope: Checks may be mailed to 4695 Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247 or brought to church.

Digital donations may be submitted at www.hopeonbluerock.org Click on "Giving" and then click on "Online Giving" and choose how you wish to donate - either by ChurchTrac or PayPal. For questions email Ron Long at



finance@hopeonbluerock.org

#### YELLOW BRICK ROAD CHILD CARE



We are proud of Kayla Willey's 2 Star award rating for her child care facility!

Need childcare? Call 513-601-2596 or send an email to the address below: yellowbrickroadchildcare@gmail.com

#### PRAYER CHAIN INSTRUCTIONS

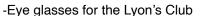
To submit a prayer chain request: Complete this online form <a href="https://www.hopeonbluerock.org/prayer-">https://www.hopeonbluerock.org/prayer-</a> requests/, or send an email to prayer@hopeonbluerock.org, or call Pastor Christie 317-828-5949 (cell) 513-923-3370 (church office)

Interested in receiving prayer chain emails?

Email <a href="mailto:prayer@hopeonbluerock.org">prayer@hopeonbluerock.org</a> with your contact information, and we will get you added to the list.

#### DON'T FORGET OUR NARTHEX BINS!

- -Used toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes and floss containers for UC Dental
- -Food and personal care donations for SON Ministries
- -Pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- -Religious materials for Love **Packages**
- -Pill bottles that are cleaned and without labels

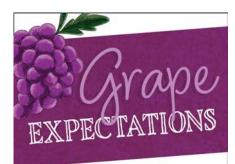


- -New or gently used Books for Sideby-Side Ministry
- -Men's & Women's Clothing for Franciscan Sisters of the Poor

You come from dust and you will return to dust. That's why I don't dust. It could be someone I know. For More Funny Quotes Visit:

www.bizwaremagic.com





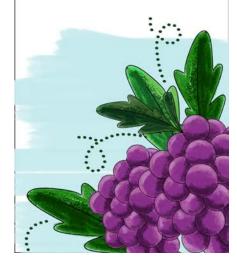
Try this chilly new take on a healthy snack.

#### What you need:

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

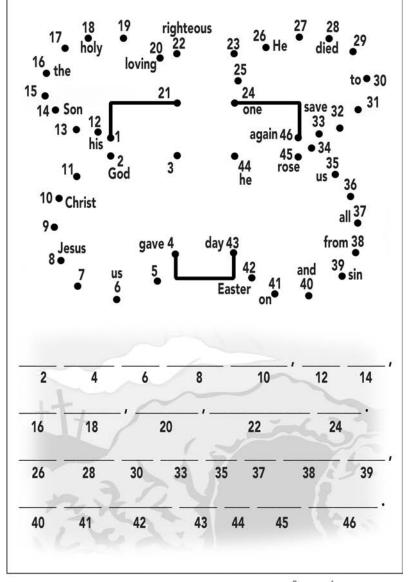
#### What you do:

- On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
- 2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
- 3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
- 4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
- 5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!



# Puzzle!

Connect the dots to find two symbols of Easter. Then write the words in the correct blanks to complete an Easter poem.



Answer: God gave us Jesus Christ, his Son, the holy, loving, righteous one. He died to save us all from sin, and on Easter day he rose again.



## February 2024

January 2024 February 2024 March 2024 S M T W T F S SMTWTFS S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 28 29 30 31 25 26 27 28 29 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Hope Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
= 10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream	= 10:00AM SON @ GUMC = 4:00PM Griefshare Support Group = 6:00PM Praise Band	= 10:00AM Pastor's Office Hours	= 10:00AM Pastor's Office Hours = 10:00AM SON @ GUMC = 4:30PM SON @ GUMC	= 10:00AM Pastor's Office Hours = 1:00PM Bible Study	= 7:00AM Pastor's Day Off	3
4  10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream  11:00AM Congregational Meeting	5  10:00AM SON @ GUMC  4:00PM Griefshare Support Group  6:00PM Praise Band	■ 10:00AM Pastor's Office Hours	= 10:00AM Pastor's Office Hours = 10:00AM SON @ GUMC = 4:30PM SON @ GUMC	= 1:00PM Bible Study = 7:00PM Council Meeting Zoom	= 7:00AM Pastor's Day Off	10
11 = 10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream	12  10:00AM SON @ GUMC  4:00PM Griefshare Support Group  6:00PM Praise Band	■ 10:00AM Pastor's Office Hours	14  10:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 10:00AM SON @ GUMC 4:30PM SON @ GUMC 7:00PM Ash Wednesday Service @ Hope	= 1:00PM Bible Study	= 7:00AM Pastor's Day Off	17
18  10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream  11:00AM Confirmation	19  10:00AM SON @ GUMC  4:00PM Griefshare Support Group	■ 10:00AM Pastor's Office Hours	21  10:00AM Pastor's Office Hours  10:00AM SON @ GUMC  4:30PM SON @ GUMC  7:00PM Lenten Worship  7:45PM Praise Band	= 10:00AM Pastor's Office Hours = 1:00PM Bible Study = 6:00PM WHOO Women	7:00AM Pastor's Day Off	24
25 Confirmation Sunday  10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream	26 10:00AM SON @ GUMC 4:00PM Griefshare Support Group	= 10:00AM Pastor's Office Hours	28  10:00AM Pastor's Office Hours  10:00AM SON @ GUMC  4:30PM SON @ GUMC  7:00PM Lenten Service  7:45PM Praise Band	= 10:00AM Pastor's Office Hours = 1:00PM Bible Study	7:00AM Pastor's Day Off	2

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The Hope Herald
Hope Lutheran Church
Pastor Christie Beckmann
4695 Blue Rock Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45247-3571
513-923-3370
office@hopeonbluerock.org
www.hopeonbluerock.org



#### **OUR MISSION**

We are anchored in faith and saved by God's grace. Led by the Holy Spirit, it is our purpose to invite all to know hope, love, and peace through Jesus Christ.



Pastor: Christie Beckmann
Choir Director: Karen Schweinfest
Organist: Dale Renner

Altar Care: Ruth Oehler
Prayer Chain: Carmen Hasdorff
Web Site: Pastor Christie

Jerry Ivins

Facebook: Mary Bryant
Kitchen Manager Karen Schneider

#### **HOPE HERALD STAFF:**

Worship Assistants: Nan Davis

Jerry Ivins Joy Ivins Ruth Oehler

Editor: Joy Ivins Clip Art: Jerry Ivins

