

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

The end of November marks a time for national thanksgiving, a time to reflect and rejoice in God's goodness, to get quiet and appreciate and give thanks. Our Heavenly Father has been most gracious to us as individuals, as a congregation, and as a nation. There is no place to compare to this place in all the rest of the world (if you have traveled outside the States, you know). There is a reason that God has done so...so that we might be blessings to others with the blessings that we have received from the Father! God meets our needs and asks us to manage the rest for him and his kingdom. Thanksgiving really translates into thanks-living! We are called to follow Jesus and make our lives one of thanksgiving. Take that last Thursday and recommit to thanks-living the rest of the year! Go shopping on Friday :-)



One of the all time favorite festival Sundays for me (The Feasts of the Resurrection and the Nativity of our Lord ranking before, of course) is All Saints' Sunday. Hearing the Scripture telling us of the already and not yet of sainthood. The festive hymns and music reinforce the expectation and lift us to the throne of God, but the real takeaway is the everyday work of the faithful, the saints, those of yesteryear and today! We are urged to emulate them as they lived for Jesus, maybe even to the point of martyrdom, which could again be in the future of the Church. Will our epithet start with our witness to Jesus, no matter what? Or will our witness be some sort of endnote to a long list of other accomplishments? Those who have joined the Church Triumphant have joined that cloud of witnesses that cheer us on to our finish line and the heavenly banquet at which Christ himself will serve. Will there be those who emulate you and your witness? May God grant you a trusting, faithful heart which motivates you to saintly service today and tomorrow!

We are strangers and pilgrims in this place. Our home, constructed and furnished by our Heavenly Father, is not here. And yet, so many of us live as if this existence only defines who we are. As we stand on the threshold of an end of another year (just a few weeks away), take a little Sabbath time to access the priorities that drive your daily living. In the absence of a pilgrim mindset, pray for the new map that will lead you through this foreign land.

Forewarned is forearmed! None of us get out of here alive! So, one of the best gifts an individual can give to his heirs is a well planned scenario for the end of life issues. These include funeral/memorial service arrangements, DNR and Medical Power of Attorney, an up to date original Last Will and Testament (and recent codicils), special bequests, a folder of finances, passwords and accounts. It is ever so much easier for those who follow! Need assistance? Please ask. I've got some resources.

Notes from Pastor Jon

Is a saint just a famous dead Christian? We often think of saints as people like St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Ignatius, etc. Yes, they are saints. But Scripture's definition of a saint is much broader. Paul opens many of his letters by addressing them to the saints: "*all those in Rome loved by God and called to be saints*" — Romans 1:7a; "*To the church of God that is in Corinth, those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*" — 1 Corinthians 1:2.

A saint is a person who has been made holy by Christ — someone whose name has been recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life through faith in Christ. And All Saints' Day is a day to remember our Christian loved ones—grandparents, parents, spouses, siblings, children, and even famous dead church guys — who have preceded us in death and are with Christ. We remember them as examples of faith — examples of Christian living and trust in our Lord. We pause on All Saints' Day, observed on November 6th, to remember all of those who have died in Christ and whose bodies are now asleep in the grave — at rest in peace with Christ waiting for that which is to come.

And you are a saint as well! Like them you too have been baptized into the Name of our Triune God and participate in God's redemption of his children through Christ. Through faith in Jesus, you have been declared a saint. And, at the same time, you are a saint (*not yet*). Yes, we are still sinners. But we wait in faith — in eager expectation for Christ to come again. We wait for the Day of the Lord — the day when Christ will return to earth in power and glory. And just as Christ has risen from the dead, we too will, in our bodies, rise from the grave on that great day to live with Christ forever in the age to come. A Blessed All Saints' Day to each of you!

Once again in September I traveled to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis for their annual Symposium. This year's topic fit right in with what I do here at Hope: "*From Font to Grave: Catechesis for the Lifelong Disciple*." The Symposium addressed the catechetical (teaching the Faith) challenges of today, the life-long use of the Catechism, the understanding of catechesis as a "communal" activity, and more. A few of the sections were very helpful to me. One presenter discussed the adolescent brain (always a mystery!) — how they grow, function, and learn. Another presenter talked about techniques used to each adults — a very different approach than for teaching children and adolescents. One of particular value was a case study of a congregation that completely changed the way they "did confirmation." Some of what they learned may be helpful in shaping the future of our program here. Overall, the Symposium offered volumes of "best practices" that we can utilize as we all continue in the things we have learned from the Scriptures. I have a lot to process!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Do you have a heart for helping people? For listening to people? I would love to talk with you about using those gifts within Stephen Ministry here at Hope. A new class will begin early in 2017. If interested, have any questions, or want to learn more about Stephen Ministry, let me know. We can sit down and talk about it.

His Peace be with You,

Pastor Jon

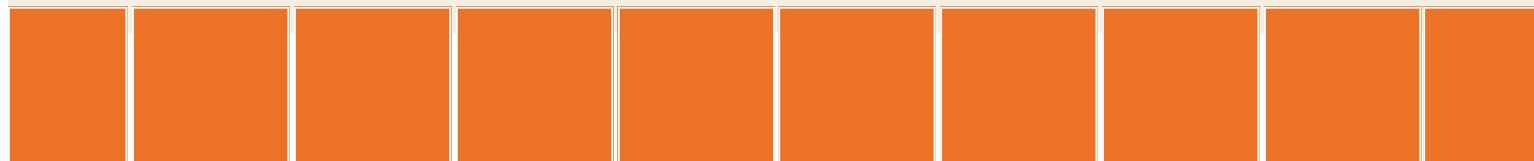
All Saints' Sunday is November 6th. This service will be led by the Hope Festival Orchestra, Hope Sanctuary Choir, and Hope Jubilate Bells. Please join us on Sunday, November 6th for this glorious celebration of eternal life.

Prepare the Way of the Lord! Advent is coming soon. Now is the time to join the Sanctuary Choir. We are looking for singers who would be willing to join us just for our Services of Lessons and Carols on December 11th at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Choir meets on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. If you can spare a couple of Wednesdays in November and December, we would love for you to join us.

The children will be working on the Christmas program music this month in Sunday School Opening. The program, *Shepherds, Sheep, and a Savior*, will be performed on Wednesday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m., following the Advent / Christmas Potluck.. Please join us for this Advent Celebration!

Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord!

Stephanie Poyner
Director of Music



November 6th —
Festival of All Saints'
Sanctuary Choir
Jubilate Bells
Festival Orchestra

November 13th
Celebration Bells
Children's Chimes and Bells

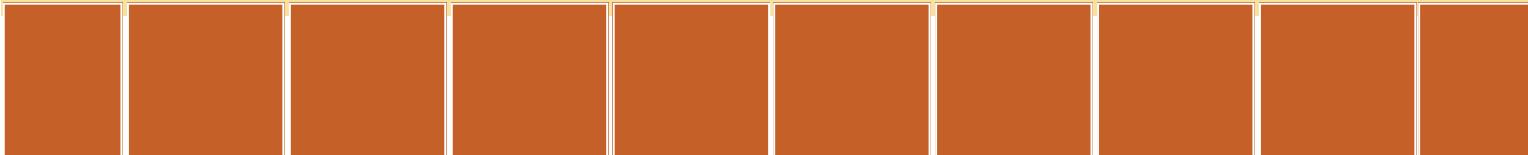
November 20th —
Festival of Christ the King
Sanctuary Choir
Jubilate Bells
Hope Festival Orchestra

November 27th —
First Sunday in Advent

Music
Ministry



One of my favorite bloggers offered a free download of one of his e-books. Go back to “favorite bloggers,” so yeah, I’ll take a free book of your stuff! Click and I’m redirected to Amazon where the not-so-free download actually costs me \$2.99 — fortunately it’s not a huge charge because in a blink I’ve bought it, ready or not. Now the intriguing read is in my “Kindle Cloud Reader” which, praise God, is only one more click away. One chapter in, while I’m loving what he’s written, I wasn’t planning to read the whole book right this minute but my technological handicap has me at a disadvantage. It’s one thing to lose a “free” book, but what if I close this and can never find my way back to this \$2.99 read ever again? Where is this Kindle Cloud Reader — how will I find it next time? There’s no print button — why can’t I just print it? Don’t judge — the dilemma is real. With my usual survival savvy, I leave that tab open while I open a new one and do some experimenting with finding my way back to the book from scratch. I’m not positive but reasonable confident I can close the reader and come back to it another day. It strikes me as I’m clicking and selecting, edging past my comfort zone in the virtual world that this is a common exercise thought not always as intentional. When God offers us a challenge, an opportunity to grow, we like to test for safety, see if we know the way back in case things don’t work out. We’d love some solid proof, some print out that He’s there when we want or need Him. In spite of all those promises in Scripture, the countless life experiences He’s given proving His reliability. . .given the inconsistency of Wi-Fi at my house, I’m glad I can go to Him any time, not on my Kindle Cloud Reader!



SUMMER MISSION TRIPS for 2017 will send youth and adults to both Denver, Colorado and San Antonio, Texas! Registration is happening NOW (initial registration due October 30, however registration for San Antonio is still possible). We look forward to sharing more with you soon!

BUILD happens Sunday mornings in the gym! Youth in grades 6-8 gather from 9:15 a.m.—9:40 a.m. Come see what's happening and BUILD relationships.

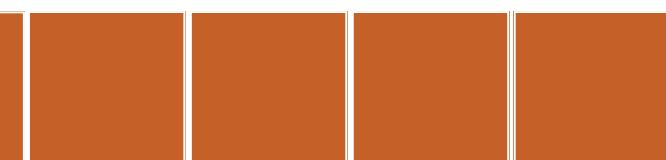


Want to hear about the **NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING**? Want to know what it's like to worship with more than 20,000 other LCMS members at the same time? We'll share pictures, music and stories at the **NOVEMBER CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH** after the late service! Bring a dish to share and grab a seat among your faith family.

BASIC for Senior High, grades 9-12, meets Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. for fellowship and a mid-week devotion to refresh you! Friends are always welcome.

Mark your calendar: Saturday, December 10th we'll **SERVE** our faith family members who are preparing for the Festival of Lessons & Carols. Let's make breakfast and some smiles for the musicians!

Youth Ministry



Children's Ministries

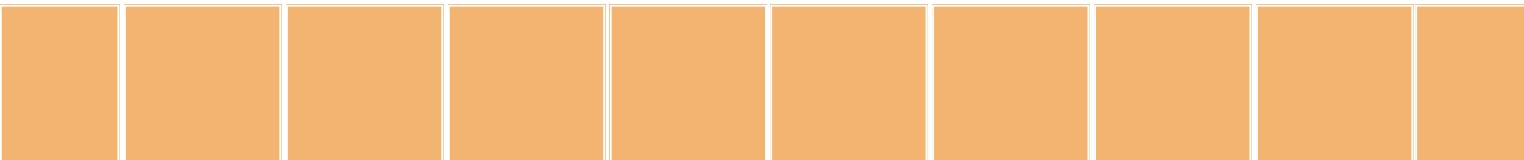
GIVING THANKS

Fall... a season, usually, of cooler temperatures, the new school year, football, pumpkins, costumes & candy, and Thanksgiving. Anticipation builds for the feast to come, time with friends and family, and hopefully, time to give thanks.

Often as I start to think of all the people and things I am thankful for, I am quickly reminded of the many blessings in my life. So many people and things, usually taken for granted day to day, that make a difference in my quality of living, big and small.

Fall... we get so caught up in the new school year, the football, the pumpkins, the costumes & candy, the turkey and dressing, that we often lose sight of how truly blessed so many of us are.

This Thanksgiving, as we anticipate the feast to come and the time with family and friends, make a point to also take time to give thanks. Encourage your children to think about the people and the things they are truly thankful for. Build on that conversation and talk with your child about the blessings in your lives; all given by the grace of God.



SUNDAY MORNINGS

All our children's classes are using the *Hands-On Bible* Curriculum on Sunday mornings. Has your child been sharing their take home sheet with you each Sunday? These sheets are designed to give you an overview of the lesson studied in class, as well as some ideas on how to carry that theme through your week.

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

Wednesday, December 14th — Children's Christmas Musical — 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center following our Christmas Potluck.

UPWARD BASKETBALL

Hope Lutheran Church is again partnering with Friendswood United Methodist Church in the Friendswood Upward Basketball League. Volunteers are the key ingredient for the success of this league. Join the team! Help us put our great gym to use and invite the community in.

I hope that you will prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry here at Hope Lutheran Church.

"And God is able to shower all kinds of blessings on you. So in all things and at all times you will have everything you need. You will do more and more good works."
2 Corinthians 9:8

Children's Ministry volunteers, thank you, over and over again, for leading and blessing Hope's children!

Krista Beken
Director of Children's Ministry

LADIES GUILD

Ladies Guild is certainly not a copy-cat, but we also do have an election in early November. Ours, however, will be prayerfully and happily observed with the election of a President and Treasurer to lead us for the next two years. Committed and enthusiastic women who offer their services receive our trust, support and thanks.

Thanksgiving is the highlight of this month, and Ladies Guild has much to be grateful for as do so many of Hope's organizations. We will have not only our regular meeting, this time on November 8th, when we review the recent work of all committees, but we will meet again, this time just for fun, food and fellowship. That means November 29th will be Ladies Night Out. Yet to be decided is the location, but guaranteed, as always, is a good time to be had by all.

We would love to have more Women of Hope "Come and See" us at these gatherings and not only to visit, but join as an active member. No age requirement or application to fill out...there is a place just for you.

Oh, Give thanks to the Lord, for He is Good!

Blood Drive Thanks!

It is our joy to report that the Blood Drive at Hopfest, sponsored by the SIP Small Group, was a great success! The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center collected 40 units of blood which will benefit over 100 people!

Thanks to all who supported this Blood Drive. It is truly the gift of life!



Poinsettias / Norfolk Pines

The Altar Guild will be decorating our Chancel and Nave for Christmas with beautiful red and white Poinsettias and Christmas Norfolk Pine. All plants are decorative wrapped at a cost of **\$7.00 EACH FOR THE POINSETTIAS, AND \$8.50 EACH FOR THE NORFOLK PINES**. Look for ordering details in the Sunday bulletin beginning November 27th. A donor list will be published in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins.

Note: All flowers may be picked up after Christmas Eve or Christ Day worship services.

Please contact Miria Castille at 281-996-1084 for questions or further details.

Extra Hour of Sleep!

Central Standard Time resumes Sunday, November 6th at 2:00 a.m. Be sure to set your clocks back 1 hour — otherwise you'll be early for worship on Sunday morning.

Flower Chart

The 2017 Flower Chart sign up for Altar Flowers is now available in the Narthex. The cost is \$30.00 per arrangement. Each arrangement can be taken home after the 11:00 a.m. service. (Please do not take the liner home.) Check should be made payable to Hope Lutheran Church and placed in the envelope attached to the Flower Chart.

Please pay for your flowers when you sign up. This will save the office staff time and make the process easier and more efficient. There is a place on the sign up sheet to mark when you pay — check or cash. In the past cash has just been placed in the envelope, and we have no way to track that payment, so please make sure you mark as “paid with cash”.

Questions? Contact Katherine Kohn or Debbie Hasty at 281-482-7943. Thank you.

2017 Coffee Hour and Greeters!

The time is here to sign up for those volunteering in 2017 for Coffee Hour and Greeters! First, our thanks for all those who helped serve in 2016. You are much appreciated. For 2017, the sign up is now available in the Narthex.

Get your groups together and help host our special time for fellowship; the Coffee Hour! If it is 1 week, 2 weeks, or 1 month, we would love to have you host. Detailed directions are given.

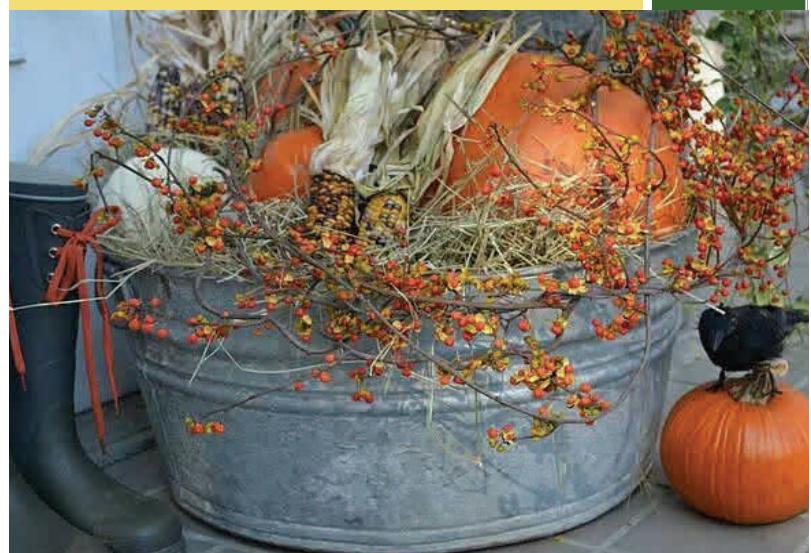
If you have the desire to extend a warm welcome to worshippers at Hope, the please serve as a greeter. You are asked to come 15 minutes before a Sunday service (8:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.) and greet all as they come to worship. We encourage you to commit for a month if possible.

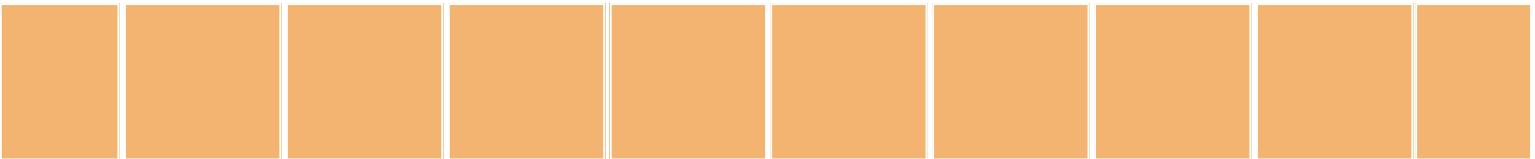
Please sign up now so we can plan our year and you will get your preferred times to serve! Reminders will be sent out a few weeks before you volunteer. The sign up board is in the Narthex or you can contact Debbie Hasty at dhasty@hope-lutheran.org or 281-482-7943.

Do You Enjoy Our Coffee Hour?

If you are one of the many who enjoy our Coffee Hour on Sundays, we have an opportunity to serve! On **December 18**, we need a host for our Coffee Hour. Consider gathering friends, family, groups, etc. to serve during this time of fellowship. Without your help, there will be **“NO coffee hour”** on this date.

If you would like to volunteer for this opportunity, please contact Debbie Hasty in the church office at 281-482-7943 or dhasty@hope-lutheran.org.





Stephen Ministry

Fall is in the air and will be very welcome for months to come. We are approaching the time when our nation pauses to observe Thanksgiving as a holiday. Aren't we Christians fortunate to know that we can give thanks to our Lord any and every day. We thank him for the family, employment, and relationship blessings we experience in our personal lives. And we thank Him for His love, care and guidance in the difficult days, as well.

When you felt overwhelmed by trying times in your life brought on by family, faith, health and money issues, grief or life's uncertainties, chances are as a believer, the distress brought a deep need in the heart and soul, and led to prayer. It is not by chance that God has placed Stephen Ministers in this congregation. He knows the stress, the hurt, the help-seeking heart led by His guidance, and He has provided it and offers it here. As an all-knowing God, He does not force or push asking for a Stephen Minister, He only provides and offers. You are the one who accepts and asks for a private, personal Stephen Minister to spend time with you.

Few opportunities come with the assurance of confidentiality, compassion, and non-judgment. A call to Pastor Jon begins the process, and it lasts as long as you have need of it. Thanks, indeed, this month and every day for such a Lord.



How to Avoid Taxes on IRA Withdrawals

You won't owe income tax on your required minimum distributions if you donate them to Hope Lutheran Church.

Retirees typically need to pay income tax on withdrawals from traditional retirement accounts. And once you turn age 70 1/2, annual IRA withdrawals become required. There's a stiff 50% tax penalty if you miss a distribution. However, if you are in the fortunate position of not needing your IRA distribution to pay for living expenses, you can avoid income tax on the withdrawal if you donate it to charity.

Retirees ages 70 1/2 or older who directly transfer their IRA withdrawals of up to \$100,000 to a qualified charity will not owe income tax on the distribution. A charitable distribution from your IRA can be used to satisfy your minimum distribution requirement.

A nontaxable charitable distribution must be made directly from the trustee of the IRA to a charitable organization. If you withdraw the money yourself and then donate it to charity you will need to pay income tax on the distribution. Contributions from workplace retirement accounts including 401(k)s and 403(b)s are not eligible for this tax break, but you could roll the money over to an IRA and then make a contribution directly to a charity. You must also be at least age 70 1/2 at the time the distribution is made. You cannot additionally claim a charitable contribution tax deduction on a charitable distribution from your IRA but you have avoided paying income tax on the minimum distribution.

Financial News



	ANNUAL PLAN	Y-T-D PLAN	Y-T-D ACTUAL	% OF PLAN
Operating Receipts	\$1,040,751.00	\$501,058.72	\$432,021.82	86.22%
Early Childhood Tithe	\$45,000.00	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00	100.00%
Total Receipts	\$1,085,751.00	\$521,308.72	\$452,271.82	86.76%
Outreach	\$74,318.00	\$37,063.01	\$36,464.95	98.39%
Education	\$8,850.00	\$3,700.00	\$2,720.01	73.51%
Children	\$2,300.00	\$339.61	\$202.87	59.74%
Youth	\$13,200.00	\$4,694.96	\$2,864.80	61.02%
Music	\$6,000.00	\$2,486.17	\$1,392.78	56.02%
Assimilation	\$800.00	\$230.09	\$74.93	32.57%
Misc. Ministries	\$10,100.00	\$5,324.60	\$2,572.41	48.31%
Personnel	\$637,528.00	\$331,835.55	\$321,793.04	96.97%
Finance	\$55,555.00	\$27,777.48	\$18,385.20	66.19%
Facilities	\$227,400.00	\$114,398.35	\$89,093.61	77.88%
Office & Worship	\$40,700.00	\$19,173.44	\$15,605.50	81.39%
Omnibus	\$9,000.00	\$5,272.67	\$771.46	14.63%
Total Expenditures	\$1,085,751.00	\$552,295.93	\$491,941.56	89.07%
Income Less Expenses		(\$30,987.21)	(\$39,669.74)	

Debt: \$1,296,603.28

**Fiscal Year (04/01/16 - 03/31/17)
As of September 2016**

Hawkins, Karen	11/1	Connor, Logan	11/14	Edward & Dolores Jackowski	11/1
Sieraski, Catherine	11/1	Huning, Therese	11/14	Jacob & Noelle Johnson	11/5
Wagner, Kurt	11/1	Cruz, Raul	11/15	Kurt & Ruth Wagner	11/13
Matthijetz, Blake	11/2	Russo Jr., Edmond	11/15	Rich & Terri Wenzel	11/17
Davis, William	11/3	Fennell, Patricia	11/16	Raymond & Krista Beken	11/18
Wiedenhoeft, Lynette	11/3	Warren, Matthew	11/16	John & Laura Plumpton	11/18
Castleberry, Brentan	11/5	Williams, John	11/16	Paul & Lynette Wiedenhoeft	11/19
Behrend, Al	11/6	Kubosh, Jeff	11/21	Jonathan & Lyzdeanna Cox	11/21
Pfleeger, Brooke	11/6	Beken, Jamie	11/22	Michael & Amy Heinlein	11/29
Taylor, Sabrina	11/6	Shannon, Charlotte	11/22		
Wenzel, Matthew	11/6	Korth, Eric	11/23		
Murphy, Skylar	11/8	Creek, Patricia	11/24		
Hinga, Erin	11/9	Matthijetz, Diane	11/24		
Barski, Victoria	11/11	Taylor, Heather	11/24		
Heinlein, Emma	11/11	Wenzel, Bailey	11/24		
Mittendorf, Olivia	11/11	Benson, Kevin	11/25		
Guzman, Elisabeth	11/12	Peterson, Dale	11/25		
Harclerode, Martin	11/12	Ramming, Frank	11/25		
Henry, Wyatt	11/12	Sauer, Carol	11/25		
Plumpton, Laura	11/12	Utsey, Aiden	11/25		
Thomas, Michael	11/12	Haverty, Mike	11/26		
Klein, Kevin	11/13	Ross, Laura	11/28		
Sauer, Lauren	11/13	Rebstock, James	11/30		

Birthdays And Anniversaries



This Month at Alope



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1804 S. Friendswood Dr.
P.O. Box 1076
Friendswood, TX 77549

Return Services Requested

A Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #14
Friendswood, TX 77549

Anchor Chain

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Ralph W. Hobratschk, Senior Pastor

Jonathan E. Petering, Associate Pastor