



It would not be possible to help any of these organizations doing God's work without your help and the contributions you give to the Hope Foundation. If you are not contributing to the Hope Foundation, we would ask you to prayerfully consider it.

This year, we are privileged to contribute to Capstone Ministries. This organization has an objective to reconcile the street children of Western Kenya with God and family. Street children (mostly Boys) are the most vulnerable in Kenyan society. Separated from family by dysfunction and compromise of the family setup. Capstone seeks to reconcile these children again and stabilize the family through Christian counseling. The trained staff works with the children and their family to accomplish reconciliation. In addition there are 22 small group Bible studies, and an annual camp for the most recent boys reconciled at home.

Capstone provides Bibles and catechisms as well as "A child's Garden of Bible stories" in Swahili for enhanced devotions for parents with their children. Capstone's staff visits families regularly to encourage education, spiritual development and parental responsibility.

The objectives of the grant is to provide Bibles and catechisms needed for the small group Bible studies as well as communication equipment for phone and internet use. This allows the staff and management in Kenya to have immediate communication and over site by the directors who reside mostly in the United States now.

Capstone is not supported by LCMS or the Kenya government. All sources of income are through individuals in LCMS churches and mission-minded churches of other denominations, along with related foundations of individuals and LCMS churches. No other source for funding the items on this grant are applied for elsewhere.

If you are not familiar with the Hope Foundation, or if you have questions about our endeavors, visit the church website or contact our Chairman Ron Anderson for more information.

Peace be with you-
Susan Schwinn
Secretary, Hope Lutheran Church Foundation

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH- LCMS
25999 OLD 41 RD
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135

Worship Schedule
Sunday Worship
9:00 am - Traditional Worship Service
10:30 am - Contemporary Worship Service

STAY CONNECTED WITH HOPE'S WEBSITE:
<https://www.hopebonita.org>
PHONE: (239) 992-6952 FAX: (239) 992-3254



From the Desk of Pastor Richard

Brighter Than Ever

One of my favorite C.S. Lewis books is The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. While this book is not explicitly about Easter, it has strong themes that resonate with the Easter story, particularly the death and resurrection of Aslan, the mighty lion at the heart of the story, who represents Christ. Aslan's death at the hands of the White Witch and his resurrection that follows mirror the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. At one point in the story, Lewis describes the death and resurrection of Aslan in this way:

"But when he (Aslan) was dead, the whole world was mourning. And when he arose again, the sun shone more brightly than ever."

Lewis uses the resurrection of Aslan to symbolize the hope and renewal that the resurrection of Christ offers humanity. The triumph of good over evil and the victory over death are central to both narratives.

Martin Luther called Easter the "chief festival of the Christian year" because in it we celebrate not just a past event but a present and future reality. The resurrection is not symbolic; it is real, bodily, and victorious. Christ rose not as a spirit or a metaphor, but as the firstfruits of the resurrection we ourselves shall one day experience. The Apostle Paul gives us the following reminder about Jesus' resurrection:

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.
(1 Corinthians 15:17 ESV)

But, thanks be to God, Christ is risen, he is risen, indeed, alleluia! And because He lives, we will live also.

Peace and Joy!
Pastor Rick

May 2025 Weekly Prayers

Sunday– Dear Jesus, prepare my heart for Your coming and remind me that nothing is impossible for You. In Your name, Amen.
1 Thessalonians 5:23 – Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Monday– Dear Jesus, thank You for coming into this world to save me. Through Your grace, help me shine like the stars for You in a world that needs it. Amen.
Daniel 12:3 – And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Tuesday – Dear Jesus, help me to be Your faithful witness, proclaiming Your good news wherever You lead. Amen.
John 15:26–27– “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

Wednesday – Lord, keep me covered with Your shield until I am with You in heaven. In Jesus’ name, Amen.
Ephesians 6:16– In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.

Thursday– Jesus, open my heart to see who You truly are. Amen.
Hebrews 13:9 – Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.

Friday – Jesus, be with me always, even when I feel lonely. Amen.
Isaiah 41:10 – Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Saturday – Heavenly Father, when I am confronted with my sins and confess them, have mercy. In Jesus’ name, Amen.
Hebrews 10:23– Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.



- Yvonne Baremore** -Dedicate to Lew Herm

Anita Parker -Dedicated to Bill Parker

Kay Horst- Their Parents

Brenda Gibbons- Dedicated to Marilyn & Lorraine

Janet Burnett - Ray & Jane Stroud

Marilyn Fenton - In Memory of Gary Insaian, Mary Kay & Gordon

Diane Simon- Memory of Jack Simon

Barbara Perry - In memory of Kathleen Deal

Ron & Gloria Knautz - Dedicated to family & friends

Del & Phil Jennings - Dedicated to Sally & Bob Hobson
- Georgann & Tim Shaffer** - Memory of Ruth Shaffer & Maureen Meeler

Kathleen Weiss- Memory of Jess Weiss

Jenn Fieldman- Dedicated to her uncle, Diane Simon & Chuck Fieldman

Susan Little - In memory of Bob Little

Ken & Susan Schwinn - Their Parents

Janet Langlan

Nancy Benjamin

Barbara Landgrebe

Deb Viviani

Mark & Cindy Nielsen

Tod & Barbara Wikcock

*Thank you to everyone who donated an Easter lily to help beautify the church altar.
Your generosity is truly appreciated!*

A note from our Parish Nurse, Tina Browning

May is **Mental Health Awareness Month**, a time dedicated to raising awareness about mental health challenges, reducing stigma, and promoting support and education. Mental health is just as vital as physical health, yet it often takes a backseat in our busy lives. Spiritual support can play a powerful and complementary role in mental health care.

How Spiritual Support Can Help During Mental Health Awareness Month:

- 1. Providing a Sense of Purpose and Hope**

Spirituality gives people a framework to understand suffering and hope for healing, which can be grounding during mental health struggles.
- 2. Offering Community and Connection**

Church provides strong social support, reducing isolation—one of the major factors that contribute to mental health decline.
- 3. Encouraging Mindfulness and Reflection**

Prayer and meditation can promote calm, focus, and emotional regulation.
- 4. Enhancing Resilience**

God offers forgiveness and grace, helping us to build resilience in the face of mental health challenges.
- 5. Creating Safe Spaces for Expression**

Pastors, Faith Community Nurses and church leaders, can offer non-judgmental, compassionate listening and guidance, outside of a clinical setting. Promoting mental health not only benefits individuals but also creates healthier, more compassionate communities.

Let's prioritize it together!
Tina Browning RN, BSN, FCN
Tina@hopebonita.org

May Birthdays!

- Jim Gienapp May 1

Ken Schwinn May 2

Maureen Nedved May 3

Richard Browning May 4

Nydia Brown May 8

Bill Greenwald May 8

Mark Nielsen May 8

Joan Wenk May 8

Alan Strawn May 9
- Dave Dickerman May 10

Marlene Wilson May 10

Bernita Cornish May 12

Marian Zupin May 14

Randall Perry May 15

Marilyn Fenton May 17

Kathryn Mancl May 22

Tina Browning May 27

Sharon Myhre May 28
- Judy Beumer May 29

Cheryl Hughes May 30

Patsy Lose May 30

Anne Hesson May 31

Kristin Ryan

May Anniversaries

- Kent & Martie White May 4
- Ed & Dee Golob May 8
- Don & Judy Kotula May 11
- Siegfried & Marge Claussner May 19
- Bill & Anita Greenwald May 27
- K.F & Deanna Marner May 28
- Rob & Ramona Kolstedt May 31

