

# NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

# E VOICE

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New Hope Lutheran Church, 4801 Sun Valley Drive, El Paso, Texas 79924; Jeff St Clair, Pastor  
E-Mail: NEWHOPE4U@SBCGLOBAL.NET, Phone: 915 821-2079 Website: www.LutheransinElPaso.org

## FEBRUARY THE LOVE MONTH!

St. Valentine was a very special priest who lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century in the Roman Empire. Emperor, Claudius, wanted a big army and expected all men to volunteer to serve. However, many were torn between their families and the emperor and refused to leave home! So the emperor banned marriages! Despite his decree, Father Valentine continued to marry couples in his residence! One night, he was caught - the couple escaped; Valentine was put in prison and sentenced to death! He tried to remain cheerful. Many young couples visited him in prison to let him know that they believed in LOVE. A prison guard's daughter visited him regularly to help him keep his spirits up. On the day he was put to death, Valentine wrote her a note, signing it, "Love from your Valentine!" This began a tradition around the world of exchanging messages of love and friendship and proves that LOVE CAN NOT BE BEATEN!

I think this is a special story and fits all of us to this day. It doesn't have to be fancy but words and thoughts of love can be transmitted by a

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday Worship (Traditional) at 9AM and (Joy & Grace) at 11AM. Sunday school and Adult conversation at 10:15AM

Choir practice Wednesday at 7PM  
Bible Study every Wednesday at 9:30am

Outreach Meeting	Feb 2, 7pm
Worship Meeting	Feb 5, 12pm
Education Meeting	Feb 7, 7pm

WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR	Feb 8, 7pm
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Annual Congregational Mtg.	Feb 12, 10:10am
Dove Circle	Feb 14, 1pm
Opportunity Center	Feb. 19, 4pm
Ash Wednesday Service	Feb 22, 7pm
Property Meeting	Feb 28, 7pm

smile or a simple hug. This year, my Valentine still is hospitalized but our love will be remembered with a one-arm hug (his left arm is paralyzed) and a big kiss.

I wish all my church family a special day on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Make it a simple one remembering those who could use the dollars spent on gifts to feed those who have little.

Special Valentine Love to All!  
Your Editor, Joyce Palmer

## PRAYERS AND THANKS

The **Wayne Budnovich Family** would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the church family who sent cards, brought food and condolences to them during their time of immediate loss of Wayne, the beloved husband, Dad and friend. Your kindness is much appreciated by all!

**Kurt Moore** had his knee surgery and is recovering well. His only comment, "Wished I had done it LONG ago!"

**Ed Palmer** has been transferred to the Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Home for Veterans on Kenworthy. He will continue his therapy in hopes of recovering sufficiently so Joyce can bring him home. He does communicate well and appreciates company.

## Church Family Features CHRIS AND HOWARD SWAN

Howard and Chris are active in our church family and regularly attend the 9AM service. Both are “transplanted” Texans! Howard was born in Wisconsin and Chris in North Dakota. Both have Masters Degrees – Howard in Science (Microbiology and Biochemistry) and Chris in Early Childhood Education. Howard is a Vietnam Veteran and has spent most of his working years working either as a Microbiologist or teaching Microsoft Certification courses. He worked for the University of Phoenix for over 10 years teaching computer classes. Howard is now fully retired and spends as much time as he can on the golf course.

Chris, on the other hand, is the Head Start Site Manager at Uxer Early Head Start Site next to Cohen Stadium. She has children from 6 weeks to 3 years old. Currently, there are 72 children and 6 pregnant moms enrolled. She oversees 27 staff members.



She has to coordinate all of the activities of the Site while adhering to federal and state licensing requirements as to proper ratios, nutrition, health and safety and age-appropriate activities. She is (without a doubt) a very busy lady with a very important position.

Howard is on the Church Council and Chris participates in as many activities as possible with her busy job.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING New Hope Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 12, 2012, 10:10am

The meeting will be held in the Worship Center.  
We will vote on the following:

1. Written Annual Reports
2. Constitutional Amendments
3. Synod Assembly Attendee Nominations

Other issues may be brought up for discussion.

### COUPLES BOOK STUDY

**Pastor Jeff St. Clair will lead A Couples Retreat and Book Study on THE 5 LOVE Languages by Gary Chapman.**

**DATE: April 14**

**PLACE: New Hope Sanctuary**

**This book was #1 on the New York Times Bestseller List! It is a personal profile of one person's concept of 5 Love Languages. Mark your calendars!**

### WATOTO CHILDRENS CHOIR

The concert will be held in the New Hope Sanctuary on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. This is an electrifying experience as these youngsters share their faith in song!

If you can open your home to two children and one adult for the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup>, and feed them breakfast and a snack lunch, call the church office at 821-2079.