



Hope Renea Theisen-Claxton

July 30, 1956 - January 5, 2023

Hope Renea Theisen-Claxton, 66, died at 6:15 a.m. Thursday, January 5, 2023 at her son's home in Bunker Hill. Born July 30, 1956 in Alton, she was the daughter of William Charles and Wanda (Siddens) Theisen. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Bethalto and retired as a school teacher for Metro East Lutheran High School. She enjoyed her cat, Ruby, red-winged black birds, beautiful flowers and writing poetry. She was also a Trekie. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family. Surviving is a son, Gary James Claxton and daughter-in-law, Kristina Bushman of Bunker Hill, six grandchildren, McKayla Bushman, Anthony Bushman, Nicholas Claxton, Arianna Bushman, Drake Bushman, and Jamie Claxton. Also surviving are two brothers, William Theisen (Robin) of New Delhi, and Thomas Theisen of Alton, two sisters, Tammie Emons (Cliff) of Alton, and Gen Tindall (Scott) of Alton and many nieces and nephews. Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. until time of memorial service at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. Following the memorial service, there will be a Celebration of Life at Julia's Banquet Center. Memorials may be made to the Zion Lutheran Church, 625 Church Drive, Bethalto, IL 62010. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 10. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services
2409 State Street
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 466-5544
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

Memorial Service

JAN 10. 5:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services
2409 State Street
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 466-5544
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

Celebration of Life

JAN 10. 6:30 PM (CT)

Julia's Banquet Center
101 Eastgate Plaza
East Alton, IL 62024

Tribute Wall



“ I'm so sorry to just learn that Hope passed!! She always took my kids to Vacation Bible School in the summers when they were little! She was a wonderful neighbor❤️ My sympathy to her son Gary and all who knew and loved her .

Jill Michele - March 05, 2023 at 08:25 PM



“ Hope Renea Theisen-Claxton

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ Hope Renea Theisen-Claxton

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Hope Renea Theisen-Claxton.



January 10, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Hope Renea Theisen-Claxton.



January 09, 2023 at 09:22 AM

“Surely Hope touched a multitude of lives over the years, making the world a better place one student at a time. Although I graduated from MELHS in 2006, I still think about her when I write. I still, to this day, joke about puppies being messy, noisy, and expensive.

My wife and I homeschool our 4 children, and although they're a little young for 5 paragraph essays, they're already aware of this timeless truth, and when the time comes, you bet they'll remember to show me and not just tell me about puppies being messy, noisy, and expensive.

As memorable as Hope's personality and teaching was, I also remember her chapels. She used an old liturgy of confession where she would confess to us, and then we—the congregation—would confess back to her. It went something like this “I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my own fault, through my most grievous fault.” There is something humbling about having someone in authority confess their sinfulness to you.

This chapel doesn't end there, of course. It's followed by the proclamation of the gospel—that the blood of Christ, our Paschal lamb, was shed to blot out our sins and purify us of our uncleanness. Moreover, Hope has been united in the Lamb's resurrection. Know this: our God is not a God of the dead, but of the living. Hope's body may have passed away, but make no mistake—she lives. She lives with her savior Jesus Christ, and on the last day she will rise with a multitude of students to a world where puppies are no longer messy, noisy, or expensive.

So, here's my clincher and call to action: if you're one of her former students, family, or friends, and you don't know Christ the way Hope did, I've got good news, and it's the same Good News which Hope is resting in this very moment, that God has redeemed us, and his blood is powerful to cover all our failures and repair all our

brokenness. As I'm sure she knew and has full realization of this very moment, his yoke is easy and his burden is light. God blesses his people with blessings that make the things of this world look like horse manure. Turn to Christ and live. Live with Hope.

Jonathan Grotefendt - January 06, 2023 at 11:29 PM

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I agree with Mr. Grotefendt. Hope has left a great legacy of faith and service in Christ. I remember well our early morning Bible studies before school, and her gentle, wise ways. So thankful to have had her faithful witness in my life. It has made a difference to me in my faith. "Thank you Lord, for Hope."

Davina Robbins Ethridge - January 07, 2023 at 10:29 PM