

July 3, 2026



# News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

## Upcoming Events

**Independence Day**  
July 4

**Women of Hope Out to Lunch Bunch**  
July 9 at 11:30am at Belle Glade Country Club - Register below

**Vacation Bible School**  
July 13-17 at Hope Lake Weir Campus

**New Member Orientation**  
August 8 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

**New Members Received**  
August 8 & 9 at all Hope campuses

## Important July Event Changes



Please don't forget!

**There will be no Wednesday Evening Social Suppers during the month of July.**

**Additionally, there will be no Wednesday Evening Prayer Service in July.**

Both Social Suppers and Wednesday Evening Prayer will resume in August.

## Celebrating 250 Years of American History

What an exciting milestone as we gather this Fourth of July Weekend to celebrate 250 years of Independence!

When I lived in Philadelphia some 33 years ago, where I worked as a Chemist, I lived just walking distance from Independence Hall. Right there on Chestnut St. you can take a tour of the actual room where the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution were both signed. The Declaration of Independence was adopted July 4, 1776, but the signing in that room did not take place until August 2, 1776. Standing in that room, one cannot help but be filled with awe surrounded by such incredible history!

One look at the Liberty Bell and you could see it come to life as a true symbol of freedom, equality and independence. One deep breath during such a visit and you could feel the presence of those who have gone before us, who have paved the way to create a path of liberty, freedom, and justice for generations to come.



As we reflect on the amazing history of our nation this Fourth of July, celebrating 250 years, we give thanks to God for leading and guiding our Founding Fathers in paving the way for our nation's greatness. Their love of country was rooted in their faith and love of God. I like how Dwight D. Eisenhower had phrased it: *"Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first-the most basic-expression of Americanism. Thus, the Founding Fathers of America saw it, and thus with God's help, it will continue to be."*

Our Founding Fathers were not ashamed to speak of God's glory, they believed faith was the foundation if a nation is to prosper. In the words of Ronald Reagan: "The Founding Fathers believed that faith in God was the key to our being a good people and America's becoming a great nation." Patrick Henry was even bold to proclaim Jesus and His gospel as the cornerstone of our nation: "It cannot be emphasized too strongly that this great nation was founded — not by religionists — but by Christians . . . on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

I love the words of the second President of the United States, John Adams who said: *"The destiny of America is to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ to all men, everywhere."* The Life and liberty that we pursue are truly a gift from God to begin with: *"Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are of the gift of God?"* — Thomas Jefferson (Notes on the State of Virginia, 1785, abbreviated from Jefferson Memorial).

As we celebrate 250 years this Fourth of July, never taking for granted the sacrifices made for liberty, we give thanks to God for His providence over the last 250 years. And for the next 250 years, we pray for His guidance, His protection, and His abundant blessings. We pray that God will bring our nation together, united and stronger than ever before. We give God the glory for the true freedom that He has granted unto us through His Son and our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who has paid the ultimate price with His own blood on the Cross of Calvary to grant us salvation and the promise of Eternal Life! Amen!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rani Abdulmasih".

The Reverend Rani Abdulmasih

## Hope South Campus Update

We have walls on our Hope South Campus property!

Construction down south continues to advance at a positive rate. Workers are laboring hard to construct concrete block walls, navigating high temperatures and sudden afternoon storms to do so. Please pray for our construction workers and for our Hope South Campus building project!

As always, your continued support is necessary to make this building project a success. You can give online to support Hope South Campus by visiting [hope4all.church/give](https://hope4all.church/give).



## Women of Hope Out to Lunch Bunch

July 9 at 11:30am - Belle Glade Country Club

You are warmly invited to the second **Out to Lunch Bunch** gathering! This month, we'll meet at Belle Glade Country Club, 446 Moyer Loop, The Villages, for a relaxed time of fellowship, conversation, and lunch together. Bring your neighbors and friends as we enjoy the chance to connect, share a meal, and get to know women from all three Hope campuses.

### WOMEN OF HOPE OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

**July 9 at 11:30 AM**

Belle Glade Country Club  
446 Moyer Loop, The Villages, FL 32163

Register Online by July 6 at Noon



Reserve your spot today by registering online using the link below. Please note that this is the second Thursday of the month at 11:30am. There is no cost to register, and everyone will pay individually at the restaurant. Register once for yourself and a second time if you are bringing a guest. The registration deadline is Monday, July 6 at noon. For more information, please contact Bonnie Cook at (352) 460-7672.

Future locations and dates for luncheon sites and breakfast meetings:

- August 20, Evans Prairie Country Club, 11:30am
- September 17, Ma Barker & Her Gangster Sons (Breakfast Meeting at Hope Central Campus, 9:00am)
- October 15, Artificial Intelligence: Everyday Applications, Fears, and Facts (Breakfast Meeting at Hope Central Campus, 9:00am)

[Click Here to Register for Lunch](#)

**Become a Member of Hope!**

Ready to make Hope your church home? We invite you to participate in the next step of the membership process by attending Hope's New Member Orientation on **Saturday, August 8** from 9:00am to 12:00pm at Hope Central Campus. Continental breakfast will be served.



New members will be received on the weekend of August 8 & 9 at their preferred service.

We have three levels of membership - voting, associate, and seasonal. For more information on membership options, please visit our website by [clicking here](#).

Questions? Contact Pam Slating at pams@hope4all.church or by phone at (352) 750-2321. Deadline to submit paperwork is August 3.

### **Food Pantry Back to School Shoe & Backpack Drive**



There is a great need in our community to support local children as they return to school. Many do not have access to new shoes...and many will be forced to return to school with ruined or ill-fitting shoes.

The Hope Lake Weir Campus Food Pantry is sponsoring a Back to School Shoe & Backpack Drive for the children who come to the Food Pantry and attend local schools. Shoes & backpacks will be distributed in early August.

If you would like to make a donation to the shoe drive, you may give by check, cash, or online. Please indicate Pantry Shoe Drive in the comment section.

Every donation counts as we continue to support these deserving children. Thank you for your generosity!

### **Last Chance to Register for Vacation Bible School!**



**Calling all explorers:** Hope Lutheran Church invites all kids grades 1-5 to join the adventure during Vacation Bible School this year!

**Vacation Bible School (VBS) returns to Hope Lake Weir Campus on July 13 - 17 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm.**

Children will dive into field-tested activities and new adventures in the safety of their loving church family.

**Register a Child for VBS**

## Prayer & Support for Venezuela

Venezuela is continuing to recover after two powerful earthquakes struck the country's northern coast last week, causing widespread destruction and one of the nation's deadliest natural disasters in modern history.

The twin earthquakes, measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude, occurred just 39 seconds apart. Officials report that nearly 2,595 people have lost their lives, more than 12,000 have been injured, and thousands remain displaced. The number of missing persons remains high, and authorities expect recovery efforts to continue for weeks.



We join our siblings in the ELCA in praying for the people of Venezuela and their ongoing recovery efforts. If you would like to support those impacted by the earthquakes, we encourage you to give through our partners at Lutheran Disaster Response. If you prefer to give cash or check, you may place your gift in the offering plate during worship or bring it into the church office. Please make checks out to Hope Lutheran Church and indicate "Venezuela Relief" on the memo line or on the outside of your offering envelope.

[Click Here to Give Now Online](#)

## A Stephen Minister Testimonial

"I was so thankful to talk with someone outside my regular circle of friends. My friends certainly continued to have an important place in my life, but I needed someone who could see me objectively. That made it easier to share personal parts of my life. Also, knowing my Stephen Minister would be there for me each week until I no longer needed care gave me confidence. Looking back, I see now how much I needed regular encouragement as I rode the roller coaster of emotions that came during this period of instability in my life."



Are you dealing with some challenges right now? A Stephen Minister may be just what you need. For more information, contact Deacon Kathy Smith at (352) 399-5103 or [deaconkathy@hope4all.church](mailto:deaconkathy@hope4all.church).

## Christmas in July

Please Help Support The Infant and Toddler Pantry!

### Your Generosity Makes a Difference all Year Round

This is an important initiative to help support vulnerable infants and toddlers in the area. The Infant and Toddler Pantry in Summerfield helps to ensure families in need have

access to essential clothes and supplies for their little ones, and your help can make a real difference.

### What Are We Collecting for the Pantry?

We are seeking donations of:

- Baby sunblock, shampoo, ointments, lotions and wipes
- Children's shoes sizes (6 mo to size 6 toddler), boxed or unboxed
- Clothing for infants and toddlers (new or gently used)
- Crib sheets, rattles, toys and books
- Baby layette essentials
- Packs of disposable diapers (Infant through toddler sizes)



### How Can You Help?

Donations can be made in the following ways:

- Bring to the Sunday worship services at all three campuses on July 26, or
- Use the labelled collection bins at Hope Central Campus throughout July in the Information Hallway and the Tree of Hope Hallway.
- Checks should be made payable to Hope Lutheran Church, include *Women of Hope* in the Memo line.

### Why Your Support Matters

Every donation helps provide critical resources to families who are struggling to make ends meet. Together, we can ensure that every child has access to the basic necessities that support their growth, health, and happiness.

Thank you for your continued support for this important mission!  
The Women of Hope

## Aging Grace-Fully Author Series Returns

Last year, H.O.P.E. University partnered with United Lutheran Seminary to offer a thought-provoking series of conversations with authors exploring what it means to age grace-fully.



### Aging Grace-Fully Author Series

We are delighted to continue that partnership this year with four outstanding authors whose work speaks to the challenges and blessings of growing older.

Our 2026 series includes:

- **July 30 at 1:30pm** – Rozella Haydée White, author of *Love Big: The Power of Revolutionary Relationships to Heal the World*
- **September 10 at 1:30pm** – Geraldine Brooks, author of *Horse and Memorial Days*
- **October 8 at 1:30pm** – Ayana Mathis, author of *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*
- **November 12 at 1:30pm** – Kate Bowler, author of *Joyful Anyway*

Through these conversations, participants will explore themes of aging, suffering, loss, resilience, love, and hope. Together we will seek greater understanding and

acceptance of life's changing seasons while discovering wisdom for the journey ahead.

Participants will gather with us at our Central Campus in Room 203 to view the presentations together. This program is made possible through a generous grant from the Lutheran Foundation for Long-Term Living.

**Cost:** \$10 per individual session or \$25 for all four sessions. Register using the buttons below.

**Register for July 30 - Session  
#1 - \$10**

**Register for September 10 -  
Session #2 - \$10**

**Register for October 8 -  
Session #3 - \$10**

**Register for November 12 -  
Session #4 - \$10**

**Register for All Sessions - \$25**

### **Gatherings of Hope**

Pastor Rani is leading Gatherings of Hope on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays in Room 204 at Hope Central Campus from 9:30am to 10:30am.

Experience a community of support that cares for you no matter what you are going through. You are welcome to bring your lunch. All are welcome, including non-Hope members, so please invite your friends to join us.

### **Faith & Fellowship**

Faith and Fellowship creates a weekly opportunity to look at the scriptures in light of everyday life. Together we continue to unpack the gift that we have in and through God's grace.

Faith & Fellowship is now meeting at all Hope campuses! You can find a list of locations and meeting times **by clicking here.**

All are welcome, including non-Hope members.

### **Join a G.I.F.T. Group**

Hope Lutheran Church has officially launched our G.I.F.T. Groups (Growing In Faith Together) ministry!

Join a small group of 6–10 people who will meet in homes, at church, online, or wherever God provides space.

**Click Here to  
Get Involved**

## **Worship Attendance for June 27 & 28, 2026**

**Hope Central Campus:**

**Hope Lake Weir Campus:**

4:00pm - 171

6:00pm - 54

8:00am - 108

10:00am - 245

**Online:**

4:00pm - 112

10:00am - 108

10:00am (HLWC) - 12

10:00am - 100

**Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:**

8:00am - 119

10:00am - 150

## Flowers on the Altar Given By...



- Sharon Ebol, in loving memory of her husband, Tom's birthday (July 5)
- Betty Massare, in loving memory of her husband, Tony Massare
- Jack Ratzke, in loving memory of Barbara Ratzke

## In Memoriam



Barbara Ratzke passed away on June 24, 2026. Barbara was born on August 13, 1946. She and her husband, Jack, were married on May 15, 1965. They joined Hope Lutheran Church on February 25, 2007.

No service is being planned at this time.

Please keep Jack and their family in your hearts and prayers during their time of grief.



Phil Radford passed away on July 2, 2026. Phil was born on June 15, 1932. He and his wife, Leadema, were married on May 28, 1966. They joined Hope Lutheran Church on June 25, 2020.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Please keep Leadema and their family in your hearts and prayers during their time of grief.

**Scripture Reading for  
July 5  
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost**

**Romans 7:15-25; Matthew 11:16-  
19, 25-30**

**Scripture Reading for  
July 12  
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost**

**Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:18-  
23**

## This Weekend's Worship Bulletin

Click the button to view this weekend's worship bulletin for traditional services.

[View the Worship Bulletin](#)

## Inform the Church of Visitation Needs

Do you know of someone who needs a visit from a Hope pastor? Please call the church office at (352) 750-2321 and let us know. Our Pastoral Care Team would love to visit with you or your loved one.

## Submit a Prayer Request

Need Prayer? Submit a prayer request via our [hope4all.church](http://hope4all.church) website.

[Click Here to Submit a Prayer Request](#)

## Hope Lutheran Church Office Hours

Monday to Thursday - 8:00am to 4:00pm Friday - 8:00am to 1:00pm

Have news to share? Please fill out the [Newsletter Article Request Form](#) for inclusion in a future edition!

Hope Lutheran Church | [hope4all.church](http://hope4all.church)

[Visit our Website](#)

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