

July 10, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

Vacation Bible School

July 13-17 at Hope Lake Weir Campus

Social Suppers & Wednesday Evening Prayer Resume

August 5 at Hope Central Campus -
More details coming soon!

New Member Orientation

August 8 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

New Members Received

August 8 & 9 at all Hope campuses

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.

Hope South Campus Building Project Update

The first walls are standing tall at Hope South Campus!

Construction teams have been hard at work on our property. Concrete has been poured (those vertical steel cages you see below are the steel reinforcement for the front wall columns) and workers have been laboring until the late evening, often in blistering heat and stormy conditions. The photos below depict the current interior of Hope South Campus from multiple angles. As you can see, the campus building is quickly taking shape!

If you would like to support the Hope South Campus building project, we ask that you please pray for both the success of the project and the safety of the construction workers, and consider giving to support the building project [by clicking here](#).



Welcoming Pr. Jeff Vermilya to the Pastoral Care Team

We are excited to welcome a new member of our pastoral care team!

Pastor Jeff Vermilya was born in a small town in north-central Pennsylvania as the sixth of eleven children, growing up with seven brothers and three sisters.

After earning a bachelor's degree in Education, Jeff moved to Dayton, Ohio, to attend seminary. It was there that he met his wife, Paula. They have been married for nearly 49 years and have one daughter, Annie, who lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Jonathan.

In addition to holding a Master of Divinity degree, Jeff completed a chaplaincy residency and earned advanced



degrees in education.

Jeff has served in ministry for more than 30 years as a local church pastor, while also ministering as both a hospital and hospice chaplain. He also worked as a hospital homebound instructor for Cobb County Schools, one of the largest public school systems in the metropolitan Atlanta area.

Jeff and Paula relocated to The Villages in 2017 after living in the Atlanta, Georgia, area since the 1990s. He joins us from New Covenant United Methodist Church in The Villages, where he faithfully served for the past seven years as Director of Pastoral Care. Jeff has a deep passion for pastoral care and considers it a privilege to prayerfully walk alongside people during life's most challenging seasons.

When he's not serving others, Jeff enjoys outdoor adventures including hiking, kayaking, whitewater rafting, ziplining, and, whenever possible, skydiving. You may notice a common theme—he enjoys a little adrenaline! He also proudly claims to have won more radio call-in contests than he can count.

Hope's Financial Update

Below, you will find important financial updates from Hope Lutheran Church as of May 31, 2026.

Each month, Hope will provide a comprehensive look at our current financial situation. A limited number of physical copies will be available at each Hope campus.

If you have questions about the information shared, please contact any member of the Hope Council. Email addresses can be found at hope4all.church/council.

[Click Here to View the Monthly Report](#)

[Click Here to View the Stewardship News](#)

Ladies Bridge On Break for Summer



The Ladies Bridge group will not be meeting in July, August, or September. Enjoy your summer break!

The Bridge Group will resume in October. For more information on the group, including contact

Plastic Grocery Bags for the Hope Lake Weir Campus Food Pantry



Our Hope Lake Weir Campus Food Pantry is running out of plastic shopping bags!

We rely on your donated plastic grocery bags to bag the food for our

information, please visit our website.

[Click Here for More Information on the Ladies Bridge Group](#)

neighbors each week. If you have any extra bags you don't need, we would greatly appreciate the donation.

You may place grocery bags in any of the food pantry collection bins.

Thank you for your generosity!

Catching Up with Council

Overview of recent Council Meetings

Each month, Hope's Church Council meets to pray, discuss ministry, review finances, and make decisions that support the mission and ministry of Hope. We want to keep you informed about some of the highlights of our recent meetings.

Recent Highlights

- Continued planning and oversight of the **Hope South Campus** project.
- Received a generous **\$5,000 donation** from Angel Wigs of Hope for the Hope South Campus building project.
- Heard ministry updates from **House of Hope, Love INC, Hope's Communications Director**, and the **Good Shepherd Initiative Team**.
- Approved the Volunteer Coordinator job description.
- Appointed **Gary Hill** as Chair of the Endowment Committee, succeeding Peg Winters.
- Continued monthly review of Hope's financial reports and ministry updates from our pastors.

Did you know that Council members also serve as ministry liaisons, attend new member classes, approve the Co-Lead Pastors' annual goals, and begin every meeting with prayer and devotion?

Remember full Council minutes and Treasurer's reports are on file in the church office (after they are approved).

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to any Council member.

Pam Fenn

Council Secretary

Calling All Singers: Join the Hope Lake Weir Campus Weekly Choir or Fall Cantata

Hope Lake Weir Campus's Music Director Frederick Blanchard is seeking basses and tenors to join both the regular weekly choir and the Fall Cantata choir.

Anyone interested may email Frederick at frederick@hope4all.church.



Rehearsal/Performance schedule:

Sunday, 8/23/26 - Hope Lake Weir Campus Sanctuary: 2:30 - 4:30pm ... Soprano/Alto Sectional Rehearsal

Sunday, 8/30/26 - Hope Lake Weir Campus Sanctuary: 2:30 - 4:30pm ... Tenor/Bass Sectional Rehearsal

Sunday, 9/6/26 - Hope Lake Weir Campus Sanctuary: 2:30 - 4:30pm ... Full CCH (choir) Rehearsal

Sunday, 9/13/26 - Hope Lake Weir Campus Sanctuary: 2:30 - 4:30pm ... Full CCH (choir) Rehearsal

Sunday, 9/20/26 - Hope Lake Weir Campus Sanctuary: 2:30 - 4:30pm Full CCH w/ Instruments Rehearsal

Friday, 9/25/26 - Hope Lake Weir Campus Sanctuary: 2:30 - 4:30pm DRESS REHEARSAL

- 4:30 - 6:00pm IN HOUSE DINNER AND REST
- 5:45pm DOORS OPEN TO AUDIENCE
- 6:00pm CCH CALL TIME
- 6:30 - 7:30pm 1ST PERFORMANCE
- 7:30pm RECEPTION IN HALL

Sunday, 9/27/26 - Hope Lake Weir Campus Sanctuary: 2:00pm CCH CALL TIME

- 2:15pm DOORS OPEN TO AUDIENCE
- 3:00 - 4:00pm 2ND PERFORMANCE
- 4:00pm RECEPTION IN HALL

Food Pantry 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

A Stephen Minister Testimonial



"I thank the Lord for my Stephen Minister! He didn't try to solve all my problems but lovingly, as a

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!

Christian brother, walked with me through this valley in my life. If you are dealing with some type of crisis or difficulty in life, I encourage you to meet with a Stephen Minister. You won't regret it."

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

Support Clothe-A-Kid with Our Partners at Love INC

A young boy we'll call Michael walked into The Rock a few years ago. His eyes stayed fixed on the floor. His clothes were worn. His shoes had holes in them. He barely spoke as he walked beside a volunteer, who was doing everything she could to help him select some items he needed.



Then something remarkable happened.

As volunteers helped Michael choose new clothes, his shoulders began to straighten. He smiled when he found a shirt he liked. He stood a little taller when he tried on a new pair of shoes. By the end of the visit, he wasn't looking at the floor anymore, he was looking ahead.

That day, Michael didn't just receive shoes. He received confidence. He received dignity. He received hope. And that happened because of generous people like you.

Last year, your support helped local children start the school year with the clothing, shoes, and confidence they needed to succeed. This year, the need continues.

Love INC's goal is to provide back-to-school clothing for 300 local children, but they cannot do it alone. They need to raise \$34,500 before school begins.

This year's Clothe-A-Kid shopping days will take place on July 23, July 28, and July 30 along the Rolling Acres Plaza corridor in The Villages. Families who are struggling financially will be paired with caring volunteers who help them shop, encourage them, and remind them that their community cares.

Would you consider sponsoring a child today?

At Love INC, we believe every child deserves to begin the school year with confidence and every family deserves to know they are not alone. Because of your generosity, children will walk into their classrooms ready to learn, ready to belong, and ready to thrive.

Thank you for the difference you've already made.

Would you consider sponsoring a child today?

	\$115 SPONSORS ONE CHILD		\$230 SPONSORS TWO CHILDREN		\$575 SPONSORS FIVE CHILD	 EVERY GIFT REGARDLESS OF SIZE HELPS A CHILD WALK INTO SCHOOL FEELING SEEN, VALUED, AND PREPARED.
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[Click Here to Support Clothe-A-Kid](#)

Prayer & Support for Venezuela

Venezuela is continuing to recover after two powerful earthquakes struck the country's northern coast, 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](#)

Two New Offerings from Our Friends at TLC

Moving Through Grief

(6 weeks) September 8 – October 13
(Tuesdays, 9:30am – 11:00am),
facilitated by Judy Maloney, LMHC.

When a loved one dies, whether a spouse, family member, or friend, we can feel lost and alone. Being with others who understand can ease the pain and guide us toward healing.

Hope and Healing After Suicide Loss

(8 weeks) October 28 – December 16,
1:30pm – 3:30pm,
facilitated by Melinda Billig, licensed
clinical social worker.

The loss of a loved one to suicide can bring overwhelming grief, unanswered questions, and a sense of isolation. This support group offers a safe, compassionate space where participants

Please join us if your loss occurred at least 4 months before the start date.

[Click Here for the Location and Registration](#)

can connect with others who share a similar experience, receive understanding and support, and find hope for the future. Whether the loss was recent or many years ago, members are invited to share their stories through guided discussions, explore healthy ways to cope, honor their loved one's memory, and move forward on their healing journey.

[Click Here for the Location and Registration](#)

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 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in

Faith & Fellowship

Faith and Fellowship creates a weekly opportunity to look at the scriptures in light

Join a G.I.F.T. Group

Hope Lutheran Church has officially launched our G.I.F.T. Groups (Growing 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.

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.

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 July 4 & 5, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 114
6:00pm - 33
8:00am - 103
10:00am - 223

Online:

4:00pm - 76
10:00am - 162
10:00am (HLWC) - 19

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 97

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 102
10:00am - 140

Flowers on the Altar Given By...



- The children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, in honor of Jerry & Kay Buhrow's 70th wedding anniversary
- Larry & Bev VanDenEinde, in memory of John & Gracia Luoma, who lived their lives in the glory of God
- Donna Vierow & Gordon Hansen, in memory of Rev. Bill & Sue Ann Corkish

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

**Scripture Reading for
July 19
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

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

Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30

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 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

[Visit our Website](#)

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