

April 3, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

Tenebrae

April 3 at 7:00pm at Hope Central Campus

Easter Vigil

April 4 at 7:00pm at Hope Central Campus (no 4:00pm or 6:00pm worship)

Easter Sunday

April 5 - Worship times below

Easter Monday - Office Closed

April 6 all day

Women of Hope Breakfast

April 16 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

Special Presentation from Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin of ULS

April 16 at 11:00am at Hope Central Campus

Josh Wilson Live in Concert

April 17 at 6:00pm at Hope Central Campus

New Member Orientation

Easter Blessings from Hope



As we journey together through Holy Week and prepare for Resurrection Sunday, your friends at Hope wish you and your family a blessed Easter!

We hope you'll join us for Tenebrae, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday worship. A full schedule can be found below or on our website.

Remember - Hope doesn't end with Easter! We have tons of inspiring, faith-filled events and services coming up in the next few weeks. Be sure to read your newsletter closely and invite your friends and neighbors to connect with Hope this year.

We end with these words from ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry: "Yes, we are Easter people. Even when the ground below us is shaking, we will not grow weary. We know that Jesus is our foundation. Christ is risen, and that truth strengthens us. It gives us courage to live, to hope, and to proclaim joy. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!"

Easter Weekend 2026 At-A-Glance

Good Friday - April 3

Hope Central Campus: 7:00pm (Tenebrae)
Hope Lake Weir Campus: 12:30pm
Hope at Everglades Rec Center: No service



Easter Vigil Saturday - April 4

Hope Central Campus: 7:00pm (*no 4:00pm or 6:00pm
worship*)
Hope Lake Weir Campus: No service
Hope at Everglades Rec Center: No service



Easter Sunday - April 5

Hope Central Campus:
6:00am (Sunrise), 8:00am, 10:00am, 11:45am

Hope Lake Weir Campus:
6:30am (Sunrise), 10:00am

Hope at Everglades Rec Center:
6:00am (Sunrise), 8:00am, 10:00am



Livestream Schedule

Planning to watch from home? We will be livestreaming the Easter Vigil, and the 10:00am Sunday worship services from Hope Central Campus and Hope Lake Weir Campus.

Easter Palm Contributors

Office Closed Monday



Thank you to everyone who contributed funds to provide Easter Palms for our Hope campuses.

A list of contributors is available below. Paper copies are also available.

Palms will be used to decorate the church until May 10.

[Click Here to View Our Contributor List](#)



The Hope Lutheran Church office will be closed on Monday, April 6. All events and activities are cancelled for the day.

If you have a pastoral emergency, you may call the church to be directed to the pastoral emergency phone number. The emergency number is also available on our church website.

The office will reopen as usual on Tuesday, April 7. Thank you!

Important Staff Update

We are pleased to announce the hiring of our new Donations Specialist, Jill Esposito.

Jill became a member of Hope in June 2023 and is highly active within the church as a member of the Hope Lake Weir Campus choir and the Combined Choirs of Hope.

Jill began her new role on March 9 and has been training alongside our outgoing Donations Specialist, Mary Beth Stoner, for the past month. All donations questions may now be directed to Jill. She may be reached by contacting the church office at (352) 750-2321 or via email at jill@hope4all.church.

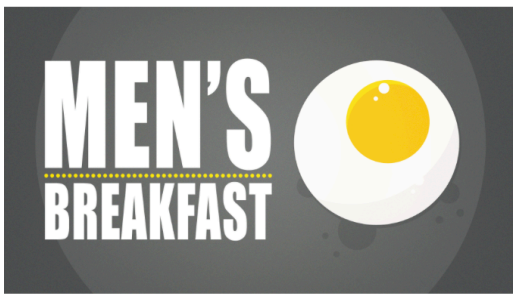


Please join us in welcoming Jill to the Hope professional staff.

After three years of service as Hope's Donations and Membership Specialist, Mary Beth will be retiring this week. We wish Mary Beth a happy and blessed retirement!

**Men of Hope Breakfast
Canceled for April**

Thanks for Your Support!



The Men of Hope Breakfast for April has been canceled.

The next Men of Hope Breakfast will be on Thursday, May 14 at 8:00am at Hope Central Campus. All men of Hope Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend!

Stay tuned for more information and registration.

Thank you for your understanding!



Thank you for your generosity during our Lenten collection! This year, our Lenten Box donations will benefit ELCA World Hunger.

ELCA World Hunger responds to hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world by addressing root causes.

If you forgot to bring your Lenten box to services last weekend, don't worry - you can return it this weekend or at the church office anytime during office hours.

United Lutheran Seminary's President, Rev. R. Guy Erwin, to Speak at Hope Lutheran Church in The Villages

Hope Lutheran Church in The Villages is pleased to welcome a distinguished guest this spring. On **Thursday, April 16 at 11:00am.**, Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin, President of United Lutheran Seminary (ULS), will offer a special presentation on the "State of the Seminary."

Rev. Dr. Erwin, a respected theologian, educator, and church leader, has guided ULS with a vision for faithful innovation in theological education. His address will provide an engaging overview of the Seminary's current initiatives, its evolving role in preparing leaders for the Church, and the opportunities and challenges facing theological education today. Attendees can expect both insight and inspiration as he reflects on how ULS continues to serve congregations and communities across the country.



In addition to his presentation, Rev. Dr. Erwin will take part in a meaningful moment of recognition. During the event, he will present a Seminary Philanthropy Award to Karen Albrecht of The Villages. This honor celebrates Karen's generous support and steadfast commitment to the mission of United Lutheran Seminary, recognizing the vital role of philanthropy in sustaining and advancing theological education.

All are warmly invited to attend this special gathering, which promises to be both informative and celebratory. Join us as we welcome Rev. Dr. Erwin and give thanks for the faithful generosity that strengthens the work of the Church.

[Click Here to Read a Complete Biography](#)

[Click Here to Learn More About ULS](#)

Become a Member of Hope Lutheran Church

We invite you to participate in the next step of the membership process by attending Hope's New Member Orientation. Orientation will be held on **Saturday, April 25** from 9:00am to 12:00pm at Hope Central Campus. Continental breakfast will be served.

New members will be received on the weekend of April 25 & 26 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 Monday, April 20.



Hope Southern Neighbors Social Night



Join your friends down south for a fun night of games and fellowship on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

The next gathering will be Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at Everglades Rec Center.

You are invited to bring a beverage though water will be available. You are encouraged to bring a simple

Volunteers Needed for VBS This Summer!



Vacation Bible School (VBS) returns to Hope Lake Weir Campus this summer! From July 13 - 17 at 12:00pm to 3:00pm, children in grades 1-5 will dive into field-tested activities and new adventures in the safety of their loving church family.

finger snack to share. If you have a favorite game, you are welcome to bring it as well. Please remember your Village's ID.

For info, contact Sandy Dorman at sandyjdorman@gmail.com or (330) 718-1572.

We need volunteers! To help, email pastorjohn@hope4all.church or complete the form on the church website.

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)

Don't Wait to Register for Josh Wilson - Live in Concert!

Proceeds to benefit the Hope for the Future Scholarship Fund

The incredible Dove Award nominee and ASCAP Christian Songwriter / Artist of the Year **JOSH WILSON** is coming to Hope Lutheran Church!

Friday, April 17 at 6:00pm
Hope Central Campus

You know his music from Christian radio...now you can see Josh Wilson LIVE right here at Hope.

Known for his unforgettable one-man-band live shows, he loops, layers, and switches instruments in real time, sometimes playing as many as 20 in a single night.

With over two decades in the music industry, millions of streams, and multiple Top 10 radio singles, Josh has built a career on catchy melodies, deep lyrics, and a mission to make people feel less alone.

His newest single, *Who's My Neighbor?* is a joyful and timely reminder to love everyone, without exception. Inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan, the chorus says, "Love my neighbor. Who's my neighbor? Everyone." The song offers a message of unity and kindness in a divided time, grounded in Josh's Christian faith and his own journey through addiction, anxiety, and depression. Now eight years sober, he continues to share songs of hope, honesty, and healing for anyone who needs to hear they are not alone. You can learn more at his website: www.joshwilsonmusic.com. Register online now! \$20 per person.



[Click Here to Register for the Josh Wilson Concert](#)

An Extraordinary Invitation to Ladies of Hope Lutheran Church

This August (20–26, 2026), Pastor Katie of the Florida Bahamas Synod is leading an accompaniment trip to visit our companion churches in Guyana—and there is still room for one or more women from Hope to take part. This is more than a trip—it’s an opportunity to build relationships with our Guyanese sisters in Christ, experience vibrant faith communities, and witness firsthand the impact of our shared mission.

Participants will enjoy fellowship, guided site visits, and a deeper understanding of what it means to walk alongside our global church partners.

Cost is approximately \$1,600, which includes airfare from Miami, in-country transportation, lodging, and meals.

Sponsorship funding is available, as we are also seeking sponsors from our congregation who feel called to support someone on this journey.

Want to learn more before deciding? Join an upcoming Zoom session: April 8 at 2:00pm ET or April 15 at 7:00pm ET. Spots are limited, and the opportunity is truly special. If you feel called to go—or to help send someone—please contact the church office at (352) 750-2321 as soon as possible.



The ELCG Women's Convention
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
August 20 - 26, 2026

Highlights

- Fellowship with ELCG Guyanese partners
- Learn about participating in an 'Accompaniment Trip'
- Open to women of the Florida - Bahamas Synod
- Explore Guyana on guided site visits

Join us on Zoom to learn more!

April 8 · 2:00 PM ET / 1:00 PM CT
April 15 · 7:00 PM ET / 6:00 PM CT

Approximate Costs: \$1600

- Airfare from Miami
- In-country transportation
- In-country Lodging
- Meals

Scholarship funding available

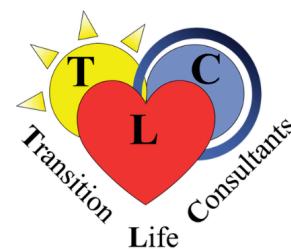
Contact
Rev. Kathryn Carroll
Global Mission Table Chair
revkhc@gmail.com

Women of Hope Breakfast Meeting April 16 at 9:00am – Hope Central Campus

The title of the next Breakfast Meeting for Women of Hope on April 16 is “Adjusting To Life Changes: Finding Purpose And Fulfillment.” This presentation will share enlightening information for all women. As we grow older, changes in our health, lifestyle and roles can sometimes influence how we see ourselves and our place in the world. We are going to apply your experiences and wisdom to look at how that impacts you today.

We welcome Jean Yingling, LMFT, NCSP and Karen Haskell, MA. EdD from TLC (Transition Life Consultants) Services. As you read their bio (below), each of these ladies have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with us.

All women are invited to come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, fellowship and this very informative presentation. Guests are always welcome. The cost is \$10.00. Reserve your place by noon on Monday, April 13. If you have questions, please contact June Cook at (352) 430-5025.



In addition, a "Spring Shower for Shepherd's LightHouse" will take place during this meeting. Please see related article in the News In The Pews for items needed and collection. Thank you for your support to this Outreach Ministry located in Belleview, Florida.

[Click Here to Register for Breakfast](#)

[Read a Biography on Our Guest Speakers](#)

April Showers Fundraiser for Shepherd's LightHouse

During the Women of Hope Breakfast Meeting on April 16

This spring, we're showering Shepherd's LightHouse with love and support. Join us as we collect much-needed items for the mothers and their children served through this life-changing residential program.



How You Can Bless a Family

We are collecting donations of:

- Baby wipes and school-age supplies
- 13-gallon trash bags, sandwich bags
- Coffee, cream, and sugar
- Healthy snacks
- Toothpaste, shampoo, hygiene products
- Gas cards, birthday presents

Ways to Give

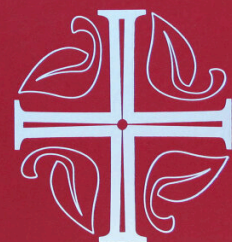
- Bring your items to the **Spring "Shower"** party during the **April 16** Women of Hope Breakfast at Hope Central Campus
- Alternatively, drop them off in **the Information Hallway Basket** through April 15

Your generosity helps Shepherd's LightHouse continue its mission of rescuing, empowering, and renewing lives. Let's make this a season of blessing for families who need it most. Thank you for your support.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Vol. 3: The Church Year

Join Pastor Bruce as he concludes his 3-year study of Evangelical Lutheran Worship by offering a 5-week series this March and April on "Daily Prayer."

Lutherans have kept alive the centuries-old tradition of pausing work or recreation to come together for prayer at key hours of the day. Originally practiced only in monasteries, daily prayer is now practiced by many Christian denominations in parish life. Lutheran prayerbooks through the decades have contained rites for these prayers, and this practice is continued to our own day in the ELW prayerbook (the "red" book).



All classes are offered on Wednesdays at Hope Central Campus in room 203 from 10:00am to 11:30am, and both Zoom and LiveStream options are available. The following topic will be offered on the date indicated: "Other Prayer Forms" on April 8. Time will be spent in class practicing each prayer format. It should also be noted that at 6:00pm on all Wednesdays (outside Advent and Lent), we pray Vespers or Compline here at Hope Central Campus in our sanctuary.

So come and not only learn about Daily Prayer in the life of the church, but perhaps learn how to develop a habit of personal daily prayer.

[Click Here to Read the Notes for Class 5](#)

Women of Hope Retreat at Luther Springs

The Women of Hope invite all women to join in on the retreat which will be held May 5, 6, & 7, 2026 at Luther Springs in Hawthorne, Florida.

The theme for the retreat is "She Laughed": Exploring faith, humor, and hope through the story of Sarah — and how God continues to create new things in our lives, even when it feels unlikely. We'll be focusing on how laughter can be:

- A way we cope and survive
- A way God surprises us
- A sign of healing and hope

Pastor Trixie Richter has spent over 30 years in full-time ministry and joyfully (and faithfully... and maybe a little stubbornly at times!) answered God's call to rostered ministry, graduating from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 2022. She now serves as pastor of St. Philip Lutheran Church in Mount Dora, Florida.

Pastor Trixie believes deeply that faith is meant to be lived in real life—not just in the serious moments, but in the laughter, the unexpected turns, and even the places where we wonder what God is up to. She has a heart for helping people experience God's grace in ways that are honest, approachable, and sometimes even a little humorous. She loves creating spaces where people feel welcomed, encouraged, and reminded that they don't have to have it all together to belong to God.

When she's not serving in ministry, Trixie is spending time with her best friend and husband, Adrian, and their daughter, Tabitha. She loves laughter, meaningful conversation, and the kind of moments that turn into stories you'll tell again and again.

Registration forms are available at the Hope Central Campus office OR print out a registration form by clicking the link below. Please do not detach the bottom half of the registration, keep it whole when registering. Details regarding the retreat, such as time, cost, location, and how to remit can be found on these forms. It is possible this year for ladies to attend for one day – Wednesday, May 6. The cost for one day, which includes meals and fellowship is \$40.00 per person. Please check the details on the one-day retreat form below.



Arrangements for carpooling from Hope Lutheran Church parking lot will be available for the three-day retreat only. The registration deadline is Friday, April 24 for one day or for three days. If you have questions, please contact June Cook at (352) 430-5025.

[Click Here to Download the Day-Only Retreat Form](#)

[Click Here to Download the Three-Day Retreat Form](#)

Hope's Job Board: Employment Opportunities

Part-time Worship Publications Specialist

Help compile and prepare printed details for weekly worship services. Ideally suited for someone with both (written) music competency and computer literacy, including navigating cloud file storage and Microsoft Office suite software.

Interested to hear more? Call the office and ask to speak to Ken Wood, Director of Music Ministries, or email Ken@hope4all.church.

Open to anyone from within, or outside the Hope community.

Part-time Service Accompanist

Seeking a seasoned musician with both piano and organ (Allen Renaissance, 3-manual electric) skills to provide congregational accompaniment for two Sunday morning worship gatherings (traditional/liturgical style) as well as thematically appropriate, solo incidental music underscoring for live service. Liturgical worship format familiarity recommended, and music reading a must.

To apply, provide recent resume and/or experience and references to Ken@hope4all.church.

Returning to Hope: The Beat Goes On

(Formerly Bach with a Beat)

Come enjoy a heart-warming concert dedicated to love, joy, and gratitude!

Songs from the Heart

When: Friday, April 10, 2026 at 5:00pm.
Doors open at 4:30pm.

Tickets: \$20. **Seating:** General Admission (Open Seating).

For more information and tickets, contact Al Hellwege: (352) 751-4535
Visit the [Beat Goes On Website](#)

Tickets also available at the door!



Gatherings of Hope

Pastor Rani is leading Gatherings of Hope on the 2nd and 4th 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. Water, coffee/tea is provided. 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 March 28 & 29, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 256
6:00pm - 116
8:00am - 228
10:00am - 552

Online:

4:00pm - 58
10:00am - 175
10:00am (HLWC) - 14

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 146

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 144
10:00am - 235



Flowers on the Altar Given By...

- Bill & Diane Beckey, in honor of their first wedding anniversary

Scripture Reading for

Scripture Reading for

April 5
Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18

April 12
Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-32; John 20:19-31

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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