

August 14, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

Women of Hope Out to Lunch Bunch

August 20 at 11:30am at Evans Prairie Country Club - Register below

"Learning to Put the 'Hallel' Back in 'Hallelujah'" presented by Rev. Dr. John Hurtgen

August 22 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

Church Office Closed for Labor Day

September 7 all day

Men of Hope Breakfast

September 10 at 8:00am at Hope Central Campus - Registration coming soon!

Women of Hope Breakfast Meeting

September 17 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus - Registration coming soon!

Oktoberfest at Hope

September 18 at 4:00pm & 6:00pm at Hope Lake Weir Campus - Registration coming soon!

Volunteers Needed for Blessing of the Animals



Volunteers are needed for this fun event on Saturday, October 3, at Hope Lake Weir Campus.

Various roles include setup crew, greeters, registration table, and handing out pet scarves. Lunch will be provided for volunteers following the event.

Please contact Mary Beth Stoner at (865) 207-0889 or email marybeths32@hotmail.com to sign up and for any questions.

Blessing of the Animals 2026

Saturday, October 3
Hope Lake Weir Campus

Registration begins at 8:30 am
Program begins at 10:00am

Walk to Emmaus Autumn 2026

Don't miss this special opportunity!

Walk to Emmaus announces 2026 dates:

- October 1-4 for men
- October 8-11 for women

Both walks are from Thursday afternoon through Sunday afternoon.

This spiritual opportunity is a truly special experience. Bringing you closer to God and to yourself is just a small taste of what you will emerge with from these few days. Call the church office for more information or leave a voicemail for Ellen Welsh at 352-250-9167.



Hope South Campus Donor Recognition Wall

None of us can miss the progress on the Hope South Campus Worship Center. As you drive by on Meggison Road, peer off the bridge for a glimpse, check out pictures on Hope's Facebook page and in News in the Pews, or see the monthly video updates, the unmistakable and exciting conclusion is that Hope is drawing ever closer to the completion of the Hope South Campus Worship Center.



One of the many ways Hope is preparing to occupy that building is the completion of the Donor Recognition Wall which you first learned about during the Matching Challenge in the fall of 2025. All who donated \$5,000 and above to the Hope South Campus Worship Center will have the opportunity for their names to be part of a display on a prominent wall as one enters the worship area.

Everyone who has contributed financially to the Hope South Campus Worship Center will receive a letter verifying the amount of their gifts and asking permission to put their names on the Donor Recognition Wall or in a Recognition Book.

It is not too late to make a contribution which will ensure you a spot on that wall, or even change the level where your name is included by simply making a contribution either online or by placing it in the offering plate and mark it clearly HOPE SOUTH CAMPUS.

As a reminder, the levels are:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| • \$200,000 and over | Cornerstones |
| • \$100,000 - \$199,999 | Shepherds |
| • \$50,000 - \$99,999 | Legacy |
| • \$25,000 - \$49,999 | Pillars |
| • \$10,000 - \$24,999 | Foundation |
| • \$5,000 - \$9,999 | Stewards |

A Recognition Book is also being planned, and it will include the names of all others who have contributed toward Hope South Campus Worship Center.

Blessing Bag Items Needed



Thank you for your generous donations to our Blessing Bag ministry! Our team creates 40-60 bags monthly, so our needs are ongoing.

Our most-needed items currently are: Rain ponchos, tissues, socks, and shampoo.

We also accept financial support. Checks can be made out to Hope with "Blessing Bags" noted on the memo line. Indicate cash donations in donation envelopes marked "Blessing Bags."

Can You Help the Hope Crafters?



The Hope Crafters are in need of someone who can embroider the faces of our baby bears. These small bears are given to children who visit our church as well as to children who have health issues or are facing a difficult time in their lives.

Please contact Donna Walker at (352) 753-8618 for more information.

If we cannot find a willing volunteer to help, we will be forced to drop this ministry.

Rev. Dr. John Hurtgen Returns to Hope This August!

Hope favorite Dr. John Hurtgen returns for a special presentation on Saturday, August 22 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus!

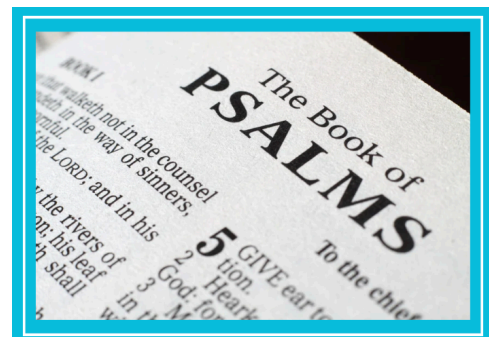
Dr. Hurtgen will present **"Psalms 111-117: Learning to Put the 'Hallel' Back in 'Hallelujah.'"**

Together, we will learn to sing, pray, and be spiritually formed by this selection of psalms.

This event is free and no registration is required!

The presentation will begin promptly at 9:00am and coffee will be served. All are invited - so invite a friend or neighbor to join you!

The Reverend Dr. John Eric Hurtgen is Professor of New Testament & Greek, School of Theology, Campbellsville University.

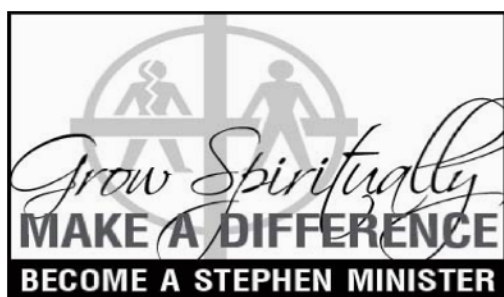


Now in his 35th year of service at CU, Dr. Hurtgen served as dean of the SOT (2004 – 2024) and continues to teach both undergraduate and graduate courses in NT studies as well as Greek. He just finished a sabbatical leave (January – June 2026) that took him from Durham, England to Thessaloniki, Greece, as he worked on his current book, *The Gift, The Shame, The Family in the Pastoral Letters: An Ecclesial Biblical Theology*. The book examines the power of grace, the moral compass of shame, and God's plan for his family (the church) in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus.

Dr. Hurtgen is a member of the Evangelical Theological Society and Society of Biblical Literature. He also serves as pastor (since 2017) of Mt. Gilboa Baptist Church and is volunteer chaplain at Taylor Regional Hospital (since 2018).



A Stephen Minister Testimonial

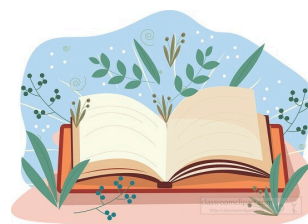


"Since becoming a Stephen Minister, I've experienced a richness of God's grace beyond anything I could have imagined. To truly listen with the ears of Christ, to see others through his eyes, to know his heart, to see Jesus working through me to touch the life of someone else is a window into heaven."

God may be calling you to become a Stephen Minister. Applications are due August 20. Training begins September 12.

Contact the church office or Deacon Kathy Smith at (352) 399-5103 or deaconkathy@hope4all.church for more information.

Book Shelf



Love to read? Please consider joining one of Hope's four book groups. They all meet at Hope Central Campus. The August books are:

Second Monday at 9:00am is off for summer

First Tuesday, September 1 at 1:00pm is *Chilbury Ladies Choir* by Jennifer Ryan

First Tuesday, September 1 at 4:00pm is *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune

First Wednesday, September 2 at 9:00am is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

Please email Anita Dillman at anitadillman1@gmail.com if you have any questions or for more information.

SAVE THE DATE for the next
BOOK EVENT on Sunday,
December 13 in the afternoon.

Women of Hope Out to Lunch Bunch

Evans Prairie Country Club – August 20 at 11:30am

Join us for our third and final Women of Hope Out to Lunch Bunch gathering of the season. We will meet at Evans Prairie Country Club, located at 1825 Evans Prairie Trail in The Villages. Bring a friend and enjoy a warm, welcoming luncheon with good food and fellowship.



Please reserve your spot by registering online using the link below. There is no cost to register; each attendee will pay individually at the restaurant. If you are bringing a guest, please register once for yourself and complete a second registration for your guest.

Registration closes on Monday, August 17, at noon. For additional information, please contact Bonnie Cook at (352) 460-7672.

Please save the following dates for upcoming breakfast meetings at Hope Central Campus at 9:00am.

- September 17 – Ma Barker & Her Gangster Sons
- October 15 – Artificial Intelligence: Everyday Applications, Fears, and Facts

[**Click Here to Register for Lunch**](#)

Save the Date! You're Invited to Oktoberfest - September 18 at Hope Lake Weir Campus

We're looking forward to gathering together for Oktoberfest, a joyful celebration inspired by the beloved Bavarian tradition that began in Munich, Germany. This festive evening is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy German-style food, music, dancing, community spirit, seasonal fun, and warm fellowship with friends, family, and neighbors.

Please mark your calendar for Friday, September 18, 2026, at Hope Lake Weir Campus.



There will be two seatings, at 4:00pm and 6:00pm. Registration will begin on August 28, with more details coming in News In The Pews. The Christians In Action Ministry and Hospitality teams are preparing a welcoming celebration, and we hope you'll join us for this special autumn gathering.

Support Offerings from Our Friends at TLC

Moving Through Grief: September 8 – October 13, on Tuesdays from 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. Please join us if your loss occurred at least 4 months before the start date.

[Click Here to Register for Moving Through Grief](#)

Hope and Healing After Suicide Loss: October 28 – December 16 from 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 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 to Register for Hope and Healing After Suicide Loss](#)

Enhancing Weight Loss October 5 – November 9, on Mondays, from 1:00pm - 3:00pm, facilitated by Wendy Roberts, LCSW. Weight loss plans can be difficult to commit to and maintain. This six-week program aims to assist participants in the following areas: 1. Develop new thinking styles and behaviors to increase the likelihood of successful weight loss, 2. Establish new coping strategies to deal with negative emotions and difficult situations to reduce the risk of straying from weight loss plans, 3. Develop skills and confidence in dealing with setbacks and set realistic and achievable life goals aimed at committing to and maintaining healthy eating habits.

[Click Here to Register for Enhancing Weight Loss](#)

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.

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

Join a G.I.F.T. Group

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

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

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 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 August 8 & 9, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 178
6:00pm - 57
8:00am - 83
10:00am - 267

Online:

4:00pm - Streaming issues
10:00am - Streaming issues
10:00am (HLWC) - 61

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 93

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 117
10:00am - 151

Flowers on the Altar Given By...



Altar Flowers

- Bob & Pat O'Dell, in honor of their 55th wedding anniversary
- Darlene Goodwin, in honor of Jim & Sharla Van Dyke's 66th wedding anniversary on 8/13
- Deborah Conrad, in memory of her husband, Robert Conrad

In Memoriam



William (Bill) Walker passed away on Monday, August 3, 2026. Bill was born on March 13, 1937. He joined Hope Lutheran Church on September 1, 2023. Bill was widowed.

A service was held on Friday, August 14 at 10:00am at Heirs Baxley.

Please keep Bill's family in your hearts and prayers during their time of grief.



Mary Brennan passed away on August 8, 2026. Mary was born on June 8, 1944. She joined Hope Lutheran Church on September 30, 2001. Mary was widowed.

Arrangements are pending at this time.

Please keep Mary's family in your hearts and prayers during their time of grief.

**Scripture Reading for
August 16
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**

**Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew
15:10-20**

**Scripture Reading for
August 23
Thirteenth Sunday After
Pentecost**

**Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-
20**

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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