

August 21, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

"Learning to Put the 'Hallel' Back in 'Hallelujah'" presented by Rev. Dr. John Hurtgen
August 22 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

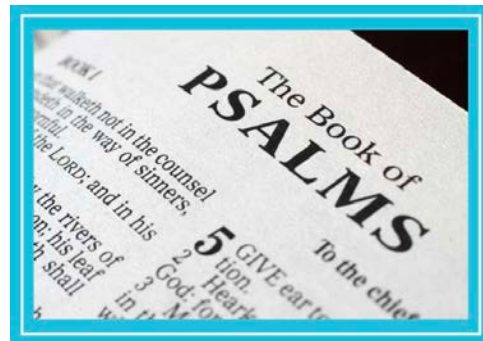
Church Office Closed for Labor Day
September 7 all day

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!

**Rev. Dr. John Hurtgen
Presents at Hope
This Saturday!**



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!

A Message on Donations at Hope

Our Hope family continues to support several local and global ministry initiatives, serving our neighbors and caring for our community as God intends. We thank you for

your faithful generosity and support for all our ministry efforts!

Our Hope Lake Weir Campus Food Pantry does accept donations of new and gently used clothing items year-round. These items directly benefit our neighbors in need and are greatly appreciated.

Clothing donations can be placed in our Food Pantry collection bins. Please avoid any clothing with damage, soiling, or stains.



A Festival of Hymns: Autumn Cantata at Hope Lake Weir Campus

Friday, September 25 at 6:30pm & Sunday, September 27 at 3:00pm

Kick off the fall season with an incredible show at Hope Lake Weir Campus.

Now is the time, more than ever, for believers to come together and share our heritage of hymnody. Brimming with time-honored hymns of our faith, this special show is sure to stir the soul and inspire your faith more than ever before!

Save the date for this upcoming production! Registration will be open soon.



A Baptism Report from Hope Central Campus

We were so excited to recently welcome more than 30 new members into the family of Hope! We give thanks to God for each and every member led by the Spirit to this community of faith. The youngest of our new members was Wyatt at six months old, baptized and received as a member of the family of God.

Congratulations to all and welcome to a place where the love of Jesus is proclaimed, received, and shared.



Pr. Rani

Hope's New YouTube Channel



Each week, Hope Lutheran Church livestreams our worship services on our website and on YouTube. If you prefer to watch on YouTube, please note that we have a NEW channel!

You can find our new YouTube channel by clicking the link below, or by visiting the WATCH tab on our website hope4all.church. Be sure to subscribe to our new channel.

[Click Here to Visit Our New YouTube Channel](#)

All Ministry Team Leaders: Budgets Due Soon!



Attention all ministry team leaders:

Ministry team budgets are due by August 31, 2026. Please submit your budget to our Bookkeeper Kathy Beekman by email at kathy@hope4all.church.

Any questions? Please email Kathy or call the church office at (352) 750-2321.

Hope South Campus Building Project Update

Thank you for your continued support of the Hope South Campus Building Project!

Work continues at a steady pace on our southern property. The community is buzzing with news on our newest church campus, and we can't wait to see what God has planned for us once this campus is open.



Please continue to pray for the hardworking construction crews on our site. If you'd like to support the Hope South Campus Building Project, [**please click here.**](#)

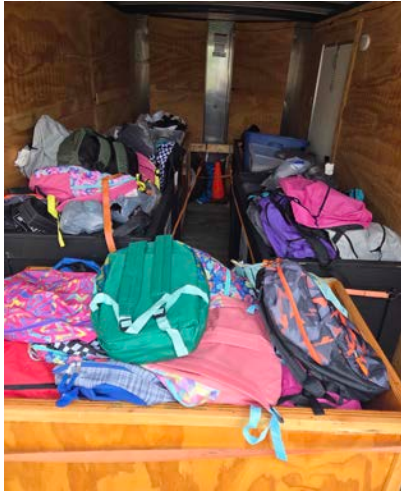
Thank You from the Hope Lake Weir Campus Food Pantry

Thank you for all the support for the Food Pantry's 2026 Shoe and Backpack Drive! The pantry gave backpacks, school supplies and new sneakers to 188 children.

This year was a bit more challenging than in the past. We were faced with limited store inventory on sizes and the high cost of the shoes. The prices on some shoes were doubled from last year. We waited for sales that never seemed to appear. Even two days before Marion County schools were starting, the shoes were still not on sale.

However, with all your continued support, we helped every single child that was in need.

Thank you so much for keeping the food pantry in your thoughts and prayers.



Ushers Needed! Can You Help?

We have an urgent need for ushers at all weekend worship services, especially the 10:00am service at Hope Central Campus!

Ushering is a wonderful way to serve your church community with minimal time commitment... plus couples can easily volunteer together!

No experience is necessary. Training is provided, and you can choose a service that works for your schedule.

We also have an immediate need for a Lead Usher. Training and resources will be provided. All you need is a willing spirit.

If you are interested in ushering or learning more, please contact Ann Bergandi at cannieb@comcast.net.



Support for Colombian Earthquake Survivors

On Monday, August 10, a **magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck western Colombia**, killing at least 289 people and injuring over 4,000 more, with search and recovery efforts still ongoing. More than 120,000 families have lost their homes, and the disaster has hit hardest in some of the country's poorest and most vulnerable regions.

We're called to respond as the body of Christ to help our siblings in Colombia recover from this disaster. Here's how you can help:



- **PRAY: Lift up those affected by the earthquake.** Pray for comfort and strength for those who've lost loved ones and homes, and wisdom and endurance for rescue teams and relief workers.
- **GIVE: Urgent financial support is needed for shelter, food, and rebuilding.** If you wish to support these efforts, please indicate your donation for Colombia Relief through Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). Make checks payable to Hope Lutheran Church and include Colombia Earthquake Relief in the memo line.

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

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

Hope Lake Weir Campus

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

information or leave a voicemail for
Ellen Welsh at 352-250-9167.

Last Call for Stephen Ministers Training Class

Are you looking for a way to put your faith into action? Is God nudging you to consider becoming a Stephen Minister?

Our annual training class will equip and prepare you to provide emotional and spiritual care to people facing difficult times. We provide the care and let God provide the cure. Christ works through us and as we open ourselves to help others, we are also touched and blessed.



You can still apply this weekend for our annual training beginning September 14. Contact the church office or Deacon Kathy Smith at (352) 399-5103 or deaconkathy@hope4all.church.

Our Pilgrimage with Paul Continues: 1 Corinthians

**Beginning September 2 at 10:00am
Room 203 at Hope Central Campus**

Our pilgrimage through the letters of the Apostle Paul continues!



We began our journey with the Thessalonians, where Paul invited us to discover a faith grounded in **hope**. We then traveled into Galatia, where we encountered Paul's passionate proclamation of **freedom through the grace of Christ**.

Our next stop takes us to **Corinth**—and to a church trying to discover what it really means to live together as the people of Christ.

Beginning September 2, we will embark on a seven-session study of **1 Corinthians: Called to Be the Church**.

Corinth was a thriving, diverse, complicated city, and the Christian community Paul helped establish there reflected many of those same complexities. They wrestled with division, relationships, worship, spiritual gifts, Christian freedom, love, and questions about resurrection and eternal life.

Across nearly two thousand years, their struggles can sound remarkably familiar.

Our first session will introduce us to Corinth, its culture, Paul's relationship with the church, and the circumstances that prompted this remarkable letter. During the following six weeks, we will walk through 1 Corinthians asking one continuing question:

What does it mean to be the Church of Jesus Christ in a culture pulling us in many different directions?

Join our continuing pilgrimage with Paul beginning **Wednesday, September 2, at 10:00am in Room 203 at Hope Central Campus**. Classes continue through **October 21**, with **no class October 14**.

Come travel with us. There is always room for another pilgrim on the journey.

Blessing Bags Receive Generous Donation!



Hope's Blessing Bag ministry received a very generous gift of pre-made Blessing Bags! On behalf of the entire ministry and those who will receive these donations, we would like to thank the person(s) who gave this gift.

The Blessing Bag team would love to thank you in person and welcome you to one of our packing meetings.

If you are our mystery donor, please contact Pam Bixler at jlbbixler@embarqmail.com.

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.

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.

Oktoberfest: September 18 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.

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, September 14, at 9:00am is *As Bright As Heaven* by Susan Meissner.

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

There will be two seatings, at 4:00pm and 6:00pm. 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.

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.

Lutheran World Relief - Thank You for Your Support!

Each year the Women of Hope assemble 90 school kits with specific items collected for each bag. Each bag is assembled with the same exact items: 4 notebooks, 5 pens, 5 pencils and 1 of each item listed below. This ensures that each recipient receives uniform items that are useful to their situation. This is a program sponsored by Lutheran World Relief, serving communities living in poverty overseas.



We are seeking the following items for each school kit:

- 70-80 page wide or college ruled notebooks (no loose leaf)
- Wood rulers only with both inches and metric
- Ink pens, blue or black ink (no gel pens please)
- 2 ½ inch erasers
- Unsharpened pencils, #2 lead
- Sharpener
- Scissors with round blunt edges
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons

Please note: Items should not include religious symbols, messages, or decorations of any kind. Donations may be dropped off at Hope Central Campus in the Information Hallway or the Tree of Life Hallway during August. If you choose to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to Hope Lutheran Church and write "LWR School Kits" on the memo line. For questions, contact Joyce Hope at (352) 350-6750.

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

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.

Join a G.I.F.T. Group

Hope Lutheran Church has 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

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.

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.

wherever God provides space.

[Click Here to Get Involved](#)

Worship Attendance for August 14 & 15, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 179

6:00pm - 67

8:00am - 117

10:00am - 241

Online:

4:00pm - 8

10:00am - 10

10:00am (HLWC) - 84

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 101

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 102

10:00am - 109



Flowers on the Altar Given By...

- George & Mary Leviska, in loving memory of our daughter, Carol Ann Forest
- Carolyn & David Bishop, Randy and Jay, in memory of Dick Wiberg

In Memoriam



Dick Wiberg passed away on August 17, 2026. Dick was born on January 8, 1938. He and his wife, LaVera, were married on September 9, 1965. They joined Hope Lutheran Church on October 27, 2002.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

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

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

**Scripture Reading for
August 30
Fourteenth Sunday After
Pentecost**

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

Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

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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