

August 28, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

Deadline for Ministry Team Budgets

August 31 - More information below

Church Office Closed for Labor Day

September 7 all day

Thrivent Lunch and Learn

September 8 at 11:30am at Hope Central Campus

Men of Hope Breakfast

September 10 at 8:00am at Hope Central Campus

Women of Hope Breakfast Meeting

September 17 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

Oktoberfest at Hope

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

Message of Thanks from Venezuela



Hope members contributed generously to earthquake disaster relief for Venezuela. Thank you!

Pastor Gerson Hernández of Centro Esperanza Church (which means Hope Central) in La Guaira, the area hardest hit by the June 24 earthquakes in Venezuela, shares a message of thanks to the congregations of the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

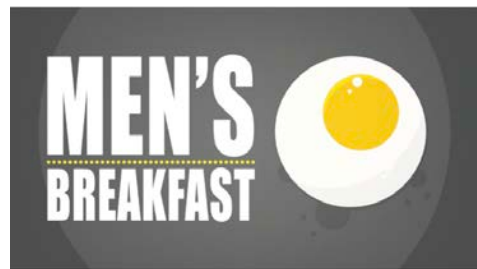
Watch a special video by clicking the link below to see how your gifts are helping bring hope and support to families affected by this disaster. Subtitles in the video translate his message into English.

[Click Here to View the Video](#)

Everyone Welcome at the Next Men of Hope Breakfast!

We welcome all congregants - men and women alike - to the first 2026 Fall Men of Hope Breakfast.

Our two Co-Lead Pastors, Pastor Jon-Marc MacLean and Pastor Rani Abdulmasih, will open this year's breakfast in a tribute to key members, staff, and leadership at Hope Lutheran Church.



Over the next two years, it is planned to profile and honor a different member of the church, so that more people will appreciate the incredible job our members do week after week. These breakfasts are intended to offer an opportunity for fellowship, prayer, and information sharing that increases everyone's knowledge of our church family and permits the congregation to better know the faces that get things done. These are the Faces of Hope!

Breakfast is \$10 per person and payment through the Hope website is required. The program starts at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall at Hope Central Campus and concludes at 9:00am.

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us on **September 10, 2026**. All campus attendees and their friends are welcome!

Questions? Call Raybon Gilbert, Team Leader at (352) 205-2078.

[Please Click Here to Register](#)

Staff Update from Hope Lutheran Church

After more than eight years in service to our congregation - first as our Donations & Membership Specialist, and then as our Church Administrator - Bob Franceski will be stepping down from his position at the end of the year and moving to be closer to family.

The staff and leadership of Hope Lutheran Church wish to extend our sincere thanks to Bob for his fine work, wise leadership, and dedication to our church during these pivotal eight years. He will be greatly missed but will remain part of the Hope family in our hearts.



We are now seeking a talented individual to fill the position of Business Administrator for Hope. To provide a smooth transition, the successful candidate will begin on or before November 1 so they may spend time working with Bob and reviewing all facets of the position.

The ideal candidate will have experience in business management, accounting, administration, or a related field. They must also have strong computer skills and a willingness to learn church management software.

For a complete job description, please click the link below. Interested candidates are asked to submit resumes and letters of interest to Bob Franceski at bob@hope4all.church. Applications will be accepted until September 30, 2026.

Questions? Please contact Bob Franceski at bob@hope4all.church or call (352) 750-2321.

[Click Here to View a Complete Job Description](#)

Church Office Closed for Labor Day



The church office will be closed all day on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. All activities and meetings will be canceled on this day.

The office will reopen as usual on Tuesday, September 8.

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.

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! A love offering will be taken.

Registration is now open! Don't delay - make sure you reserve your place now!



Click Here to Register for the
September 25 - 6:30pm
Showtime

Click Here to Register for the
September 27 - 3:00pm
Showtime

Lunch & Learn from Thrivent Financial

Thrivent announces a **Lunch & Learn** event at Hope Central Campus on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 11:30am.



Come enjoy an "Intro to Thrivent" and learn who we are and what we do for Christians, their families, their churches, and their communities. Together, we will discuss your retirement, your legacy, and the importance of taxation strategies and charitable giving. This is a great event to enjoy with friends!

Our guest speakers will be Kevin Braunschweiger, Hope's own electric guitarist from our Saturday 4:00pm service and 32-year representative for Thrivent, and Scott Morris, former Vice President of the Southeast Region of Thrivent with more than 41 years with the organization.

Please come and learn how wholistic financial planning and information can affect you and your loved ones!

A wonderful lunch will be prepared by Hope's own Chef Michael. Both regular and vegan dishes are on the menu. Enjoy Chicken Madeira with sautéed mushrooms, asparagus, scalloped potatoes, beverages, and much more... plus a delicious Cherry Jubilee Cheesecake for dessert to top it off.

Please make reservations by calling Kevin's office phone at (352) 779-9066. Only 100 people may attend, so make your reservation now! Please leave your full information with your name and the number of people you plan to bring.

There will also be door prizes!

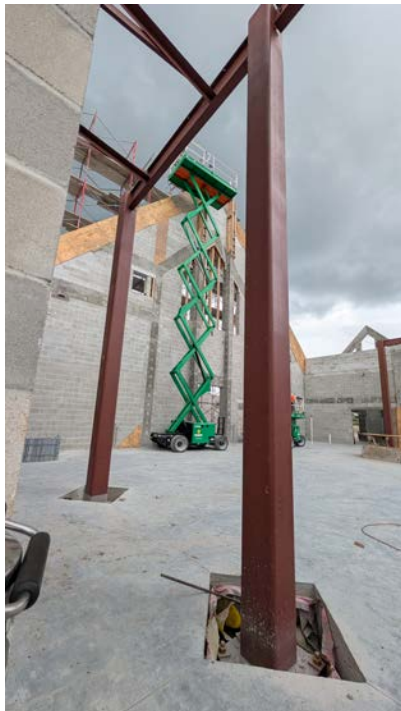
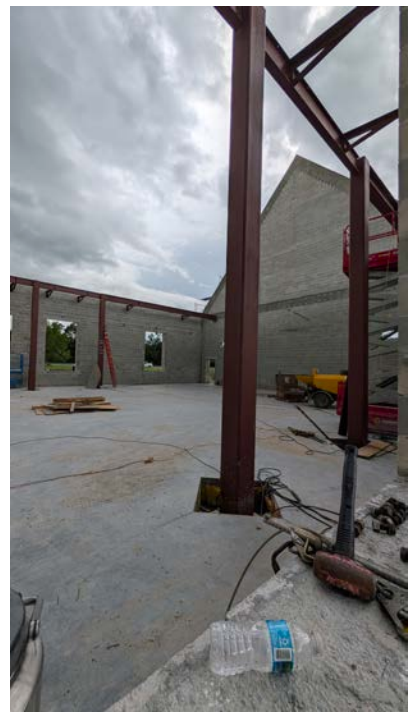
Don't miss this chance to get to know Thrivent, its Christian benefits, and our friends Kevin and Scott. Invite a friend to this great event!

Hope South Campus Building Project Update

Thank you for your continued support of the Hope South Campus Building Project! Progress continues steadily, and our beautiful third campus is coming to life before our eyes.

Most notably, trusses were delivered on Wednesday morning, which means we will soon have a roof! These must be assembled from three sections and then put in place.

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](#)**.



Greeters Needed at Hope Lake Weir Campus



Please consider joining the Hope

Ushers Needed! Can You Help?



We have an urgent need for ushers at all weekend worship services,

Lake Weir Campus Greeters Team!

Serving as a greeter is a meaningful and enjoyable way to welcome members and visitors as they arrive for worship.

Our goal is to add a few more helping hands to make the scheduling process easier and ensure guests receive a warm welcome each Sunday. Each month, you will receive an email where you can indicate your availability to help greet. Two volunteers are needed each Sunday to serve at the Welcome Center.

Please contact either Virginia Robertson at (612) 619-0220 or LouAnn O'Brien at (352) 643-1558.

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.

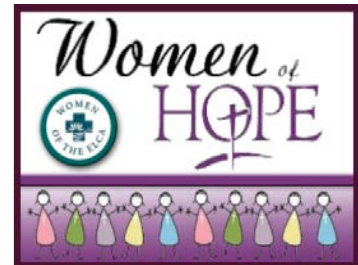
We also have an immediate need for a Lead Usher. Training and resources will be provided. All you need is a willing spirit.

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

Women of Hope Breakfast Meeting

September 17 at 9:00am - Hope Central Campus

The Women of Hope will welcome Wayne Hughes, "Marion County's Gangster Historian" and authority on local celebrity Ma Barker, on Thursday, September 17, at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus. Kate "Ma" Barker is notorious for being on the wrong side of the longest shootout in FBI history—right here in Marion County.



Wayne has been intrigued by all things gangster-related since he was a preteen. He's studied extensively, collected memorabilia, visited hundreds of graves of "the good, the bad, and the ugly," and been interviewed for national podcasts. When Wayne first visited the Ma Barker House—which is located not far from Hope's Lake Weir Campus—the staff realized he knew as much as (or more than) they did about Ma Barker—and that he had a larger collection of related items than they did. On his second visit, he was leading tours! Come and listen as Wayne shares fascinating stories about Ma Barker and her gangster sons.

Both men and women are invited to come and enjoy a delicious breakfast and hear Wayne's entertaining stories. The cost is \$10. Reserve your place by noon on Monday, September 14. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie Cook at (352) 460-7672.

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

A Love Story from Journey INC

Each week, our friends at Love INC host Journey INC at Hope Central Campus. Families meet to break bread, pray, and learn practical life skills that are helping to transform their lives. Over the past 6 years, Love INC has completed 34 12-week courses reaching over 100 participants (adults, children, and volunteers), on average each week.

Their Director recently shared a wonderful Love Story of an interaction from Journey:

"Love Story: Let the little children come to me."

One of my Journey Kids asked me a question I will never forget.

"If I tell God I'm sorry, will He forgive me?"

I told him, "Absolutely. All you have to do is ask God to forgive you and truly mean it with all your heart. He will forgive you."

He smiled. And then, right there, he bowed his head and began to pray.

Sometimes we wonder if the words we say to these kids really make a difference. We may never know the impact of every conversation, every lesson, every hug, or every prayer.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

But in that moment, I knew. A child had heard that God's grace was for him and he didn't want to wait another minute to receive it. That smile, followed by his immediate prayer, is something I will carry in my heart for a very long time.

This is why Journey Kids matters. It is more than a Tuesday night. It is creating a safe place where children are loved, where questions about faith can be asked, and where seeds of truth are planted that can last a lifetime.

JOURNEY INC

Journey In the Name of Christ



from striving to thriving

**Oktoberfest: September 18
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 September books are:

Second Monday, September 14, at 9:00am is *As Bright As Heaven* by

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. 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.

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

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.

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**

**Walk to Emmaus Autumn
2026**



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 8:30am
Program begins at 10:00am



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.

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.

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.

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 marking 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.

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. All are welcome, including non-Hope members,

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.**

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 wherever God provides space.

[Click Here to Get Involved](#)

so please invite your friends to join us.

All are welcome, including non-Hope members.

Worship Attendance for August 22 & 23, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 165
6:00pm - 64
8:00am - 90
10:00am - 229

Online:

4:00pm - 52
10:00am - 82
10:00am (HLWC) - 56

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 117

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 103
10:00am - 138

Flowers on the Altar Given By...



- Kathy Bernado, in honor of her husband, Gary's, 90th birthday
- Donald & Dorothy Stake, in honor of their 76th wedding anniversary
- Ron & Donna Durian, in celebration of their 67th wedding anniversary
- Terry & Joe Frangione, in honor of their 58th wedding anniversary
- Mike & Nancy Kasperski, in celebration of their 58th wedding anniversary

In Memoriam



Lois Ann Tosney passed away on Sunday, August 23, 2026. Lois was born on November 20, 1935. She joined Hope Lutheran Church in 1999.

Arrangements are pending at this time.

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



Jay Gaines passed away on Wednesday, August 28. Jay was born on May 27, 1937. He and Bobbi were married on June 3, 1962. They joined Hope Lutheran Church on October 31, 1999.

Arrangements are pending at this time.

Please keep Bobbi and their family in your hearts and prayers during this difficult time.

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

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

**Scripture Reading for
September 6
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

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**](#)



Try email marketing for free today!