

August 7, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

New Member Orientation

August 8 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

New Members Received

August 8 & 9 at all Hope campuses

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

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

Welcome New Members!



Hope will receive 35 new members across all campuses this weekend! The following individuals will be joining our church family:

- Neal Baker
- Marc Bourdeau & Valerie Rich-Bourdeau
- Vincent & Kerry Castillo
- John Davis
- Luan Fisher
- Mark & Donna Forguson
- Linda Genrich
- Steve & Marie Grimm
- Sheila Jones
- Taylor Kent
- Andrew & Rachel Kildea
- Elaine Klein
- Laura Lampe
- Donald & Loretta Meinzen
- Paul Nuechterlein
- Bruce & Linda Orvis
- Joseph & Irene Pappa
- Stephen & Pamela Pawlicki
- Sherry Preston
- Norbert Rogowski
- Virginia Ronk
- Bonnie Scot
- Thomas Steinert
- Philip & Catherine Taggart

coming soon!

• Camille Wald

Please join us in praying for these new members, and please give them a warm welcome this weekend.

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 soon be receiving 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.

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

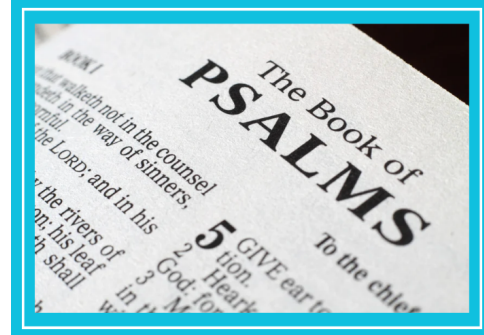
Hope favorite Dr. John Hurtgen returns for a special presentation on Saturday, August 22 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus!

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).

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.

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 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

Please contact Donna Walker at (352) 753-8616 for more information.

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

Photo Update from Hope South Campus

Construction progress continues at Hope South Campus! You can now see significant progress on the front and back of the building. Our congregation's shared vision for this beautiful new campus is coming to life before our eyes!

To support the ongoing construction of Hope South Campus, please consider giving to our building fund. You can donate easily online by [clicking here](#).

And remember, we are praying every day at 1:00pm for the success of our building project and the future community at Hope South Campus! Don't forget our prayer: "God, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in mission for the sake of the Gospel!"



An Update from the House of Hope

Dear Friends of Hope,

Many of you are asking, "How is House of Hope doing and what is going on?" Because of your prayers and support, the men at the House of Hope are continuing to grow in faith, responsibility, and purpose through our newly developed Forge Program. We are grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside these men as they are strengthened in mind, heart, and through Christian discipleship, accountability, brotherhood, and work therapy.



A brief update to share is our campus farm project as it continues to grow. Through this project we teach stewardship, discipline, and responsibility through meaningful work. We presently have 20 men enrolled in the program. 11 of these men have jobs, 8 of which are full time. 5400+ meals have been served and 1886+ nights of housing have been provided. We hope to expand our enrollment to 28. The Forge Program is working.

If you would like to take a minute and log on to our link and meet our Executive Director, Oliver Roberts, please do so. The Facebook link is <http://www.facebook.com/share/r19D7HYC81Z/>.

Our address is House of Hope, 4186 CR 126, Wildwood, FL 34785

If you would like a personal tour, we would be honored to show you our new facility first-hand. Our biggest goal right now is to simply share the wonderful news of these transformed lives.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at lvrobertson@aol.com

With sincere gratitude,
Len Robertson
House of Hope Board Vice President

It's Time to Update Your Information!

Have you moved recently? Perhaps you have a new phone number, a new email address, or updated Emergency Contact information?

The Hope office has recently received several returned mailings, indicating that some of our members may have moved without notifying the office. Additionally, the office has occasionally reached out to a member's emergency contact, only to learn the contact information is no longer valid.



Please consider if your phone number, home address, email, or emergency contact has changed, then contact the church office to let us know. You may also submit an online Emergency Contact form by clicking the link below.

Unsure if your information is up-to-date? Contact the church office at (352) 750-2321 to review your records and request changes.

[Click Here to Update Your Information Online](#)

Video Update from Hope South Campus



If you missed our most recent video update from Hope South Campus (or want to watch it again) you can check it out now!

Stay tuned to your News in the Pews and the Hope Lutheran Church Facebook page for regular updates about our building project.

Memorial Gifts in Honor of Joe Carey



The family of Joe Carey have requested that memorial gifts in honor of Joe be directed to the Hope South Campus Building Fund.

To make a memorial gift, please click the link below or designate your weekend offering. Simply select Hope South Campus Building Fund from the online giving options, or write "In memory of Joe Carey" on the memo line of your check or include a note with your cash donation.

[Click Here to Offer a Memorial Donation](#)

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.



A Heartfelt Thank You for Supporting the Infant & Toddler Pantry

Women of Hope extend our deepest gratitude to the entire congregation of Hope Lutheran Church for your remarkable generosity during this year's *Christmas in July* collection for the Infant and Toddler Pantry.



Thanks to your kindness, we delivered a car filled with essential items for mothers, infants, and toddlers — including baby supplies, clothing, and everyday necessities. We were also blessed with beautifully hand-crocheted sweaters, hats, and blankets lovingly made by our talented members. In addition, your gifts allowed us to provide a cash donation to help the Pantry meet special toddler needs as they arise.

The staff at the Pantry received these donations with heartfelt appreciation and asked us to share their sincere thanks. The joy, relief, and gratitude in the room were unmistakable.

We are truly grateful to be part of a church family that pours Christ's love into our community so generously. Your support strengthens this important outreach mission and makes a meaningful difference for families working toward a brighter, more secure future.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in such a tangible and compassionate way.

Greeters Needed at Hope Lake Weir Campus



Please consider joining the Hope Lake Weir Campus Greeters Team!

Grief Support Group on Break for Summer



Our Grief Support Group will be taking a break for the summer. The

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.

group will resume meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in autumn.

In the meantime, all those seeking grief support are warmly invited to attend Gatherings of Hope on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 9:30am at Hope Central Campus.

Gatherings of Hope is a small group committed to offering 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.

For more info, contact Pastor Rani at pastorrani@hope4all.church.

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**](#)

SAVVY CAREGIVER TRAINING

ARE YOU PREPARED TO CARE FOR A LOVED ONE WITH MEMORY LOSS AND CONFUSION?

Join us for this *free* 7-week course designed for family caregivers who assist individuals with dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or cognitive decline.

WORKSHOP DETAILS

Location: Villages Public Library at Belvedere
325 Belvedere Boulevard The Villages, FL 32162

Dates: Thursdays, August 13 to September 24

Time: 10 am to 12 pm

WORKSHOP BENEFITS

- ✓ Gain more knowledge
- ✓ Refine your skills
- ✓ Shift your perspective
- ✓ Reduce caregiver stress
- ✓ Improve quality of life

REGISTER TODAY!

- 📞 352-692-5233
- ✉ tannerj@agingresources.org
- 🌐 agingresources.org/event/sct-thevillages/



**Elder
Affairs**
FLORIDA



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.

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

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.

meeting times by clicking here.

All are welcome, including non-Hope members.

Worship Attendance for August 1 & 2, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 161

6:00pm - 55

8:00am - 79

10:00am - 201

Online:

4:00pm - Streaming issues

10:00am - Streaming issues

10:00am (HLWC) - 86

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 112

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 95

10:00am - 155

Flowers on the Altar Given By...



- Greg & Mary Inwood, in honor of their 30th wedding anniversary
- Debbie Hajeck, in memory and in honor of Al & Debbie's 41st wedding anniversary
- Mrs. Swenson and son, Roy Swenson, Jr., in memory of husband and father, Roy Swenson

In Memoriam



Joan F. Hoppe passed away on July 21, 2026. Joan was born on June 24, 1942. She and her husband, Ron, were married on August 14, 1965. They joined as Hope Lutheran Church on January 27, 2019.

No service is planned at this time.

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

**Scripture Reading for
August 9
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost**

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

Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

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

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

Hope Lutheran Church | 250 Avenida Los Angeles Corner of Morse Blvd & Hwy 466 | The Villages, FL 32162 US

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