

February 27, 2026



# News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

## Upcoming Events

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### WELCA Pinelands Conference Gathering

March 7 at 9:00am (registration begins at 8:30am) at Hope Central Campus

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### Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 8 - Turn clocks forward 1 hour

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### Special Presentation from Bishop Matthew Riegel

March 11 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

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### Special Presentation on WWII War Brides

March 11 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

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### Women of Hope Breakfast Meeting

March 19 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

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### Al Ernst Comedy Show

March 27 at 7:00pm at Hope Central Campus

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## Donate an Easter Palm to Honor a Loved One



As we prepare for the Easter season, we will once again be decorating our sanctuaries and the Everglades Rec Center with potted palms.

This year, we are offering the opportunity to make a donation for palms "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" a loved one. This is similar to what we have offered in the past for lilies during the Easter season.

To make a donation, please click the link below and complete the form. The donation for one palm is \$10.

Please note: Donators' names will be published, along with the name of their loved one and the intention of their gift. Donators are not guaranteed a potted palm to take home.

[Click Here to Donate an Easter Palm](#)

## Special Presentation from Bishop Matthew Riegel

"What Did We Die For? What Might We Have to Die for Again?"

Wednesday, March 11 at 9:00am - Hope Central Campus

In the aftermath of the Great Persecution, more than the Trinity was occupying the Council of Nicea. Renunciations of the faith, castration, repatriation of heretics, and questions of dignity were dealt with in 20 rules adopted by the Council.

Bishop Matthew Riegel will address these topics and revisit the history of the Council Nicea in one incredible presentation!

Political compromise, pastoral sensitivity, and the looming presence of the Emperor interact as the Council Fathers ask, "What did we die for? And what might we have to die for again?"

Join us on Wednesday, March 11 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus for this special event. There is no cost and no registration necessary. Coffee will be served.



## Comedian Al Ernst Returns to Hope!

Friday, March 27 at 7:00pm  
Hope Central Campus  
To benefit **House of Hope**

Back by popular demand! Don't miss this fantastic comedy show to benefit House of Hope.

Get ready to laugh with comedian Al Ernst, an international touring comic and 3-time Carnival Cruise Lines Entertainer of the Year! Also known as the Jester Dog, Al lives his famous mantra 'Laughter Saves Lives' every day.

House of Hope is a Christ-centered residential substance abuse recovery program in Wildwood for men who desire lasting freedom from addiction.

Registration is required. The cost is \$15 per person in advance, or \$20 per person at the door. Al is a Hope favorite - so don't wait to register! Invite your friends and neighbors to join you.

[Click Here to Register for Al Ernst Comedy Show](#)



## Daylight Savings Time Begins March 8



**SPRING FORWARD**  
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

Prepare to spring forward! Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00am on Sunday, March 8.

Please remember to move your clocks forward before bed... or you might be late for church on Sunday!

Some of your devices, like your phone and computer, will automatically update. Appliances like your microwave, coffee maker, and car clock will need to be manually changed.

## One Day VBS Event Inviting Students & Parents/Grandparents



On March 21, H.O.P.E. University is sponsoring a special one-day-only Vacation Bible School (VBS) entitled, "It Happened One Week." VBS will last from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

Students and grandparents who will participate will experience the true story of Easter through Bible lessons, crafts, music, games and more..

Contact [pastorjohn@hope4all.church](mailto:pastorjohn@hope4all.church) or complete the student registration on our church website.

[Click Here to Register as a Participant](#)

## Josh Wilson - Coming to Hope in April!

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 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](http://www.joshwilsonmusic.com). Register online now! \$20 per person.

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

## On Our Own Meeting with Special Guest Speaker

The On Our Own group invites everyone to attend a special presentation on the War Bride of World War II on Wednesday, March 11 at 10:00am at Hope Central Campus, Room 205.



We are excited to welcome guest speaker Beth Braun, who will tell us the story the American soldiers who met and married women in foreign countries during the war and brought them home to America. More than 300,000 women and children sailed on troop ships and settled in every U.S. state where they faced homesickness, language barriers, suspicious in-laws, and husbands they barely knew, all while dealing with war trauma and unemployment.

Beth, an amateur genealogist, is the daughter of a WWII war bride and will introduce us to some of these gutsy gals who were ahead of their time and have contributed to our country in ways no one would have predicted. They were, indeed, the women of the Greatest Generation! We hope you can join us for this entertaining presentation...and feel free to bring a friend. No registration is necessary.

## Disruption to Parking at Hope Central Campus



The Villages has informed us of planned maintenance at the corner of 466 and Morse Blvd in the coming weeks. Because of this, the golf cart path leading under 466 will be temporarily rerouted to cut through the Hope Central Campus parking lot. We anticipate

## Lenten Boxes to Support ELCA World Hunger



ELCA World Hunger can use your help to provide much-needed essential food. Around the world, many people don't know where their next meal is coming from. Many times, food is not even available.

maintenance will last from March 2 until March 15.

This will result in the loss of about 35-40 parking spaces on the far side of our lot. During that time, we will also need to disable the drinking fountains at Hope Central Campus.

To help deal with this loss of parking, we advise you to arrive early for worship services and to consider driving your golf cart if possible.

Thank you for your understanding.

Most of us live comfortably, and have snacks in addition to meals. It is good to provide for those who struggle with hunger, especially during the Lenten season.

Lenten Boxes will be available at all Hope campuses this weekend. You can save your money or write a check. Make checks payable to Hope Lutheran Church and write World Hunger on the memo line.

Lenten boxes should be returned on Palm Sunday weekend, March 28 and 29. Thank you for your support!

## Holy Land Bible Tours

### A Journey To Remember

Live the Bible and take a step  
to where Jesus walked!



**Hope Journey to the Holy Land**  
**Coordinated by Rev. Rani Abdulmasih**  
Email [pastorrani@hope4all.church](mailto:pastorrani@hope4all.church) for info

## Women of Hope Breakfast Meeting March 19 at 9:00am - Hope Central Campus

The Women of Hope will welcome Nehemiah Wolfe, Chief of Community Watch, who will speak on Thursday, March 19, at 9:00am at the Hope Central Campus.

Chief Wolfe's presentation will cover all the programs Community Watch comprises, including the familiar neighborhood patrols that Villagers see each day, but also a whole variety of programs—both in front of and behind the scenes—that provide peace of mind to Villagers, and support safety and wellness in the community. These include management of the House Check and Adult Watch programs, gate attendants, a 24/7 dispatch center, CHIRPS (Community Help Initiative Response Program), and much more. The Chief will also have some very useful take-home items for attendees.

Originally from Okahumpka, Chief Wolfe spent 30 years with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office before joining The Villages Community Development Districts in 2017. His passion is protecting and serving in the interest of public safety. Among other achievements, he organized the first Villages Golf Cart Charity Challenge Parade, which resulted in a Guinness World Record for the largest golf cart parade!

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. Reserve your place by noon on Monday, March 16. If you have questions, please contact June Cook at (352) 430-5025.



[Click Here to Register for Breakfast](#)

## 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](mailto:Ken@hope4all.church).

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

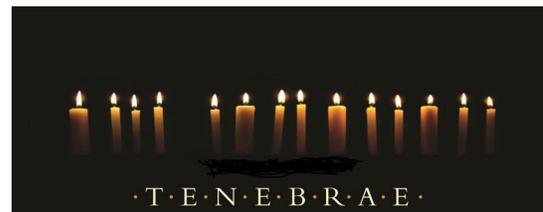
### Part-time Service Accompanist

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](mailto:Ken@hope4all.church).

## Preparing for Holy Week 2026

As Hope embarks upon the 2026 Lenten journey, we look forward to another series of unique Holy Week celebrations. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Holy Saturday will again bring with them each a significant, yet unique portion of the annual pilgrimage leading into Easter.



After a hiatus last year, we will again also be presenting "Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness". This favorite of many will provide the congregation a participatory immersive

worship experience, joining the CCH (Combined Choirs of Hope) and a professional vocal quartet and chamber ensemble.

Just like our annual Christmas cantata, this is a special opportunity for those from outside Hope's music ministry to consider trying us out for this individual presentation. Singers of all levels are encouraged, from any campus as well as the surrounding community. Interested musicians need only be able to commit to the rehearsal and service schedule.

The sign-up deadline is February 28. Rehearsals take place at Hope Central Campus on the 5 successive Sundays in March, from 2:30pm to 4:30pm. Folks are asked to commit to AT LEAST 4 of the 5 Sundays. On Friday afternoon, April 3 we hold our combined dress rehearsal before breaking for dinner and then the 7:00pm Tenebrae service itself.

For sign ups or questions, please do not call the church office. Rather, please email [musicupdate@hope4all.church](mailto:musicupdate@hope4all.church) and someone will connect with you.

## 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. After a brief introduction on March 4 called "Keeping Time for Daily Prayer," the following topics will be offered on the date indicated: "Morning Prayer (Matins)" on March 11 ; "Evening Prayer (Vespers)" on March 25; "Night Prayer (Compline)" on April 1 and "Other Prayer Forms" on April 8. Time will be spent in class practicing each prayer format. It should also be noted that at 6:00 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 1](#)

**Pinelands Spring Gathering**  
**Saturday, March 7, 2026 at Hope Central Campus**

# Women of the ELCA

Welcome to all! Ladies, you are invited to the annual Pinelands Conference WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) Spring Gathering at Hope Lutheran Church Central Campus. Registration begins at 8:30am. Conference runs from 9:00am to 2:30pm on Saturday, March 7.

The theme this year is **WORRY NO MORE**. There will be six other regional ELCA churches joining us for fellowship, worship, and sharing information and ideas. The cost for this conference is \$10.00 per person, which includes breakfast, lunch, and materials. The conference will include a communion worship service in the sanctuary, and our special guest speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider.

For further information contact Virginia Robertson at (612) 619-0220 or [luvbutkus@aol.com](mailto:luvbutkus@aol.com). Registration deadline is Monday, March 2 at noon.

[Click Here to Register for the Pinelands Conference](#)

[Click Here to Read More About Our Guest Speaker](#)

## Women of Hope Board Nominations

The Women of Hope Nominating Committee Members are seeking women to fill the following positions on the Board for 2026. We meet as a board once a month at Hope Lutheran Church Central Campus.

The following positions are open to women who are full time members of Hope Lutheran Church. Please note that these positions are up for election at our April 16 Breakfast Meeting.



- **President:** 1 current nominee
- **Vice President:** 1 current nominee
- **Mission Co-Leader A:** 1 current nominee
- **Program Co-Leader A:** 1 current nominee
- **Retreat Coordinator:** 1 current nominee
- **Circle/Bible Study Coordinator:** No current nominee
- **Hospitality Coordinator:** No current nominee
- **Lutheran World Relief Coordinator:** 1 current nominee

If you have questions or would like additional information about any of these positions, please contact Jan Keller at (320) 491-0504 or [jkellerwoz@gmail.com](mailto:jkellerwoz@gmail.com).

# Returning to Hope: The Brothers in Song!

Hear The Villages' premier four-part men's chorus, and enjoy a wide range of music and fun that will surely keep you entertained!

## How Can I Keep From Singing?

### The Brothers In Song's Spring 2026 Concert

Ben Osborne, Director  
David Flanigan, Accompanist



**When:** Friday, March 20, 2026 at 6:00pm. Doors open at 5:15pm.

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

**For More Information Contact:** Jim Cunningham: (352) 750-9336

Email: [BrothersInSongChorus@gmail.com](mailto:BrothersInSongChorus@gmail.com) Visit the [Brothers In Song Website](#)

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

### Gatherings of Hope

Pastor Rani is leading Gatherings of Hope on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 & 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 February 21 & 22, 2026

## Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 286  
6:00pm - 71  
8:00am - 129  
10:00am - 364

## Online:

4:00pm - 118  
10:00am - 136  
10:00am (HLWC) - 27

## Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 144

## Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 131  
10:00am - 232



## Flowers on the Altar Given By...

- Darlene O'Donnell, in memory of John O'Donnell

**Scripture Reading for  
March 1  
Second Sunday in Lent**

**Genesis 12:1-8; Psalm 121 (1-8)**

**Scripture Reading for  
March 8  
Third Sunday in Lent**

**Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95 (1-7)**

## 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](http://hope4all.church)

[Visit our Website](#)

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