

July 31, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

Stephen Ministers Information
August 1 & 2 at all Hope campuses

Social Suppers & Wednesday Evening Prayer Resume
August 5 at Hope Central Campus

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

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the office has occasionally reached out to a member's emergency contact, only to learn the contact information is no longer valid.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](#)

Email Scam Alert

An ongoing email scam has once again been reported to our church office.

Scammers are impersonating some of Hope's pastors (including Pastors Jon-Marc, Rani, and Jeff) requesting money or gift cards. These messages often ask you to communicate only by email, and sometimes begin with a vague statement, such as "Do you have time for a chat?"



Please be aware that Hope's pastors will never solicit gift cards or money from you via private email. Any suspicious emails should be immediately deleted. When in doubt, call the church office or speak with the pastor face to face at the next opportunity.

THANK YOU for Supporting Venezuelan Earthquake Victims

Our incredible Hope family has raised nearly \$18,000 for Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) in support of Venezuelan Earthquake Victims. From all of us at Hope Lutheran Church, thank you for your amazing generosity and desire to support those in need.



As many of you know, Bishop Pedro Suárez, Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, and his wife Aura are originally from Venezuela. Their families were personally impacted by the double earthquakes, and they have witnessed the devastation firsthand. Upon learning of your donations, both Bishop Pedro and Deacon Aura offered their heartfelt thanks to the people of Hope for your generosity.

The bishop writes, "What can I say, but that my heart is very touched by the generosity of the people of Hope. This is amazing." Aura added, "Thank you so much for your amazing generosity, constant prayers, and kind hearts to the people of Venezuela. We cannot thank you enough. This help is a generous contribution in the middle of so much pain and loss. May God Bless You and strengthen you in his mission."

THANK YOU again for your tremendous support. Please continue to pray for the people of Venezuela during their recovery efforts.

A Message on Livestreaming Issues

You may have noticed that livestreaming of our weekend worship services from Hope Central Campus has been unavailable for a few weekends. You may also notice that our Hope Central Campus YouTube channel is currently inaccessible.



Several weeks ago, our streaming box (the piece of equipment that facilitates the streaming of our services onto the internet) was found to be unresponsive. This is a specialized piece of equipment which requires set-up through our IT company. Receiving and activating the new streaming box has taken longer than anticipated, leading to further delays.

Earlier this week, we also discovered that our Hope Central Campus YouTube channel was deactivated. We are currently working with YouTube to determine why this deactivation took place and how we may reinstate our channel.

We thank you for your patience as we manage these technical difficulties. We understand that disruptions to your livestreaming schedule are very inconvenient, and we are working around the clock to fix these issues.

For now, you can stream Sunday worship from Hope Lake Weir Campus by clicking the link below or visiting our website.

[Click Here to Watch Worship from Hope Lake Weir Campus](#)

Grief Support Group on Break for Summer

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

Suppers & Vespers Return



After a brief hiatus, both our Social Suppers and our Evening Prayer (Vespers) at Hope Central Campus resume on Wednesday, August 5.

You may register for next week's Social Supper by clicking the link below or visiting our website.

90 Years Blessed & Loved!



Ruth Leininger is turning 90!

Join us for her birthday celebration Sunday, August 9, at 2:00pm Hope Central Campus Fellowship Hall.

Friends of Ruth kindly RSVP to Debbie at dblunk@att.net by

Our Vespers service is held immediately following the Social Supper at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary.

[Click Here to Register for Supper](#)

Sunday, August 2. Cake and ice cream will be served.

Memorial Gifts in Honor of Joe Carey

Last week, Hope learned of the passing of Joe Carey, a longtime part of our church family. Joe was an active and joyful supporter of Hope, especially our Hope South Campus initiative.

Joe was preceded in death by his loving wife, Karyne, and requested that no public memorial service be held. However, because of Joe's deep commitment to Hope and his passion for our southward expansion, his loved ones have requested that memorial gifts in Joe's honor be directed to the Hope South Campus Building Fund.



To make a memorial gift in honor of this wonderful man, 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.

Most importantly, please join us in praying for Joe's surviving brother and the many friends who mourn his passing.

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

Stephen Ministry Information Coming This Weekend

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, Stephen Ministry is a complete ministry system founded in 1975 and used by over 14,000 congregations worldwide to provide high-quality Christian care and outreach to hurting people in the church and the community.



Through Stephen Ministry, congregations train a team of lay members who have been equipped to provide one-to-one emotional and spiritual care in difficult times. We draw our name from Acts 6 where Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need.

Hope Lutheran is part of the local network of 7 churches that will train together beginning September 12. Check out the information tables at each Hope location this

weekend, manned by our team of Stephen Ministers in the blue shirts. Pick up an application or sign up for more information.

For more info, call the church office or contact Kathy Smith at deaconkathy@hope4all.church or (352) 399-5103.

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**](#)

Join the Hope Lake Weir Campus Weekly Choir or Fall Cantata



Hope Lake Weir Campus's Music Director Frederick Blanchard is seeking basses and tenors to join both the regular weekly choir and the Fall Cantata choir.

Last Chance to Join the August New Member Orientation!



Ready to make Hope your church home? We invite you to participate in the next step of the membership process by attending Hope's New Member Orientation on **Saturday, August 8** from 9:00am to 12:00pm

Anyone interested may email
Frederick at
frederick@hope4all.church.

**Fall Cantata Singers:
Click Here to Sign Up**

at Hope Central Campus.
Continental breakfast will be
served.

New members will be received on
the weekend of August 8 & 9 at
their preferred service.

We have three levels of
membership - voting, associate,
and seasonal. For more information
on membership options, please visit
our website by [clicking here](#).

Questions? Contact Pam Slating at
pams@hope4all.church or by
phone at (352) 750-2321. Deadline
to submit paperwork is August 3.

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](#)

Greeters Needed at Hope Lake Weir Campus



Please consider joining the Hope 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.

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 August 4 at 1:00pm is *Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce

First Tuesday August 4 at 4:00pm is *Night Watch* by Jayne Anne Phillips

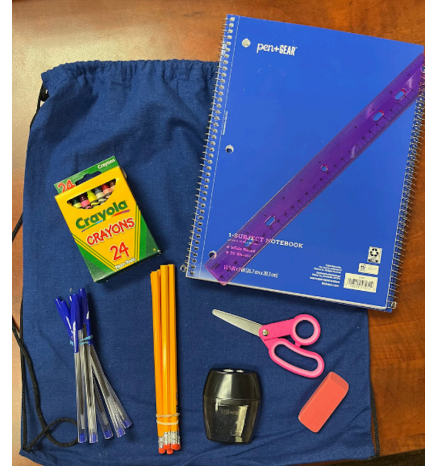
First Wednesday August 5 at 9:00am is *Pope Joan* by Donna Woolfolk

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

Lutheran World Relief

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.

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that children attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, which has even stronger results. School kits contain essential supplies to help children – and in some cases, adults – continue in the face of serious obstacles. Learning leads to a better life for them, their families, and their communities.



We are seeking the following items for each school kit:

- 70-80 page wide or college ruled notebooks (no loose leaf)
- Wood rulers 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. Florida's Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday runs from now through August 20. 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 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

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.](#)**

All are welcome, including non-Hope

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 July 25 & 26, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 169

6:00pm - 50

8:00am - 96

10:00am - 232

Online:

4:00pm - Streaming issues

10:00am - Streaming issues

10:00am (HLWC) - 110

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 106

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 91

10:00am - 157

Flowers on the Altar Given By...



- Ruth and Nick Sgaglione, in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary
- Bob and Donna Ulrich, in honor of their 51st wedding anniversary

In Memoriam



Joe Carey passed away on Wednesday, July 22, 2026. Joe was born on December 12, 1941. He was preceded in death by his wife Karyne.

Arrangements will be held privately.

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

**Scripture Reading for
August 2
Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

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

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

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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