

June 19, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

Father's Day
June 21

**Deadline to Order
Independence Day Catering**
June 24

**Independence Day Office
Closure**
July 3 - Church office closed all day

Independence Day
July 4

Vacation Bible School
July 13-17 at Hope Lake Weir Campus -
More info below!

Food Pantry Back to School Shoe & Backpack Drive



There is a great need in our community to support local children as they return to school. Many do not have access to new shoes...and many will be forced to return to school with ruined or ill-fitting shoes.

The Hope Lake Weir Campus Food Pantry is sponsoring a Back to School Shoe & Backpack Drive for the children who come to the Food Pantry and attend local schools. Shoes & backpacks will be distributed in early August.

If you would like to make a donation to the shoe drive, you may give by check, cash, or online. Please indicate Pantry Shoe Drive in the comment section.

Every donation counts as we continue to support these deserving children. Thank you for your generosity!

Hope South Campus Building Update

It's been a very exciting week at our Hope Lutheran Church South Campus!

Earlier in the week, we received our first shipment of block for the exterior walls. Since then, crews have been busily laying the exterior block walls and erecting steel columns to support the Worship Center's sanctuary. Great progress has been shown on the first day of exterior work.

Workers are laboring diligently on our property in the Florida summer heat. We encourage you to pray for them and for our Hope South Campus Building Project.



Aging Grace-Fully Author Series Returns

Last year, H.O.P.E. University partnered with United Lutheran Seminary to offer a thought-provoking series of conversations with authors exploring what it means to

age grace-fully.

We are delighted to continue that partnership this year with four outstanding authors whose work speaks to the challenges and blessings of growing older.



Aging Grace-Fully Author Series

Our 2026 series includes:

- **July 30 at 1:30pm** – Rozella Haydée White, author of *Love Big: The Power of Revolutionary Relationships to Heal the World*
- **September 10 at 1:30pm** – Geraldine Brooks, author of *Horse and Memorial Days*
- **October 8 at 1:30pm** – Ayana Mathis, author of *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*
- **November 12 at 1:30pm** – Kate Bowler, author of *Joyful Anyway*

Through these conversations, participants will explore themes of aging, suffering, loss, resilience, love, and hope. Together we will seek greater understanding and acceptance of life's changing seasons while discovering wisdom for the journey ahead.

Participants will gather with us at our Central Campus in Room 203 to view the presentations together. This program is made possible through a generous grant from the Lutheran Foundation for Long-Term Living.

Cost: \$10 per individual session or \$25 for all four sessions. Register using the buttons below.

Register for July 30 - Session #1 - \$10

Register for September 10 - Session #2 - \$10

Register for October 8 - Session #3 - \$10

Register for November 12 - Session #4 - \$10

Register for All Sessions - \$25

Hope Lutheran Church's Global Impact in Guyana

Some of you may remember, or may have attended, the March 7, 2026 hosting by Hope Lutheran of the Pinelands Conference WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Spring Gathering, with the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider as guest speaker.



Our church was the first stop on a Florida tour where, as an ELCA Mission representative, Dr. Schneider spoke about her fascinating work among the people of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Guyana in developing their Lay Leadership Academy.

Click this link <https://vimeo.com/1196443265?fl=pl&fe=sh> to see a newly released video of Dr. Schneider’s visit and the Global Mission relationships of the Florida Bahamas Synod Global Mission.

You may also enjoy reading Dr. Schneider’s latest newsletter [here](#), which explores the rich history of the Lutheran Church in Guyana. In it, she recounts a remarkable boat journey with her Church History students along the Berbice River to the very location where the church first began.

What makes this story especially meaningful for Hope Lutheran is that a portion of our congregation’s gift to the Lutheran Lay Leadership Academy helped make that educational trip possible.

As Dr. Schneider wrote:
“Many thanks to you, Hope Lutheran Church!”

Office Closed on July 3 for Independence Day



Don't forget!

July Cancellations



Important Reminders:

There will be no Wednesday

Independence Day 2026 is Saturday, July 4.

In celebration of the holiday, the Hope Lutheran Church office will be closed all day on Friday, July 3. All activities at the church are cancelled for this day.

Evening Social Suppers during the month of July.

Additionally, there will be no Wednesday Evening Prayer Service in July.

Both Social Suppers and Wednesday Evening Prayer will resume in August.

Christmas in July

Please Help Support The Infant and Toddler Pantry!

Your Generosity Makes a Difference all Year Round

This is an important initiative to help support vulnerable infants and toddlers in the area. The Infant and Toddler Pantry in Summerfield helps to ensure families in need have access to essential clothes and supplies for their little ones, and your help can make a real difference.



What Are We Collecting for the Pantry?

We are seeking donations of:

- Baby sunblock, shampoo, ointments, lotions and wipes
- Children's shoes sizes (6 mo to size 6 toddler), boxed or unboxed
- Clothing for infants and toddlers (new or gently used)
- Crib sheets, rattles, toys and books
- Baby layette essentials
- Packs of disposable diapers (Infant through toddler sizes)

How Can You Help?

Donations can be made in the following ways:

- Bring to the Sunday worship services at all three campuses on July 26, or
- Use the labelled collection bins at Hope Central Campus throughout July in the Information Hallway and the Tree of Hope Hallway.
- Checks should be made payable to Hope Lutheran Church. Include *Women of Hope* in the Memo line.

Why Your Support Matters

Every donation helps provide critical resources to families who are struggling to make ends meet. Together, we can ensure that every child has access to the basic necessities that support their growth, health, and happiness.

Thank you for your continued support for this important mission!
The Women of Hope

A New Opportunity As We Say Goodbye to Lead Ushers

We give thanks for Wayne and Maddy Burgess for many years of service as Lead Ushers at the 6:00pm Saturday service at Hope Central Campus. They are now stepping down from their Lead Ushering position. They will be missed and we wish them all the best in the future.

There is now a Lead Usher position to fill. What is required? Our Lead Usher will schedule ushers for each worship service from a list of current ushers. A willingness to serve and a welcoming smile is all that's required!



If you are interested, please call the church office or contact Ann Bergandi (Head Usher) by email at cannieb@comcast.net or by phone (815) 252-1812.

5 Things You Should Know About Our Stephen Ministers

#1: Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who have been trained to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to members of our congregation and community.

#2: Stephen Ministers meet with you one-to-one to listen, pray, encourage, support and offer the love of Christ during a time of need.

#3 You can refer a friend, neighbor, or family member to have a Stephen Minister or become a Stephen Minister by calling the church office or Deacon Kathy Smith at (352) 399-5103. You will be matched with a Stephen Minister or can enroll in the training session that begins September 12.

#4: This ministry is Biblically-based (Acts 6:1-7). Stephen was chosen by the apostles to care for the needs of the early Christian community. He is described as exemplifying a life of service, compassion, and spiritual wisdom demonstrating that caring for others is both practical and spiritually transformative.

#5: Stephen Ministry is love in action rooted in the example of Stephen and the teachings of Jesus, demonstrating that Christian caregiving is both a spiritual calling



and a tangible expression of God's love. Christ cares for people through people and Stephen Ministry equips and enables congregation members "To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known."

Register Your Child for Vacation Bible School



Calling all explorers: Hope Lutheran Church invites all kids grades 1-5 to join the adventure during Vacation Bible School this year!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) returns to Hope Lake Weir Campus on July 13 - 17 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm.

Children will dive into field-tested activities and new adventures in the safety of their loving church family.

[Register a Child for VBS](#)

Join the Hope Professional Team



Hope Lutheran Church is seeking a part-time Volunteer Coordinator to join our professional staff!

This position will assist in the recruitment of volunteers and help equip and train volunteers to serve in various roles within Hope Lutheran Church, as well as work with staff members and team leaders to ensure smooth day-to-day operations of all Hope Lutheran Church campuses.

Interested candidates should submit a resume and letter of interest to Bob Franceski at bob@hope4all.church by July 1.

[Click Here to Read the Full Job Description](#)

Summer Study: Sacred Partnerships II

Join us this summer for **Sacred Partnerships II**, a seven-session study exploring some of Scripture's most powerful, honest, and hope-filled relationships.



Building on the foundation of last summer's *Sacred Partnerships*, this new series begins **July 1** with an introductory session and continues on **July 8, 22, 29, and August 5, 12, and 19** at **10:00am** at Hope Central Campus.

Classes will be offered both **in person and via livestream**, making participation accessible wherever you may be.

The opening session will introduce the course, provide an overview of the biblical partnerships we will study, and include distribution of a participant workbook. Each week, participants will be asked to complete the workbook assignments and Scripture readings in preparation for the upcoming class. Additional handouts and study materials will also be made available throughout the course.

Together we will examine relationships marked by love, loss, courage, faith, failure, and redemption. Through these stories, we will discover how God works through real, imperfect people to accomplish His purposes. Our journey will include:

- Jacob, and Rachel,
- Hannah and Elkanah
- David and Bathsheba
- Hosea and Gomer
- Esther and King Xerxes
- Paul and Lydia

Whether you are married, single, widowed, or simply seeking to grow in faith, this study is for you. These biblical accounts remind us that God's grace is greater than our failures and that faithful relationships of many kinds can become part of His redemptive work in the world.

We invite you to join us as we explore these remarkable stories and discover what they teach us about relationships, faith, and the God who works through them all.

**May Golf Scramble
Winners**

Book Shelf



Because there was a four-way tie for Second Place, everyone's a winner as listed below:

1st Place - Score 27

- Bill and Diane Beckey
- Bryan and Janie Sape

2nd Place - 4-way tie - Score 29

- Ken Flory
- Rich Detar
- Gary and Phyllis Hill
- Cindy Polster
- Steve Torda
- Jim and Karen Ombrello
- Mike Brown
- Susan Blomenberg
- Gail Gratzick
- Dennis Woodman
- Mike and Nancy Heiter
- JoAnn Goodwin
- Jack Ratzke



Love to read?

Please consider joining one of Hope's four book groups. They all meet at Hope Central Campus.

The July books are:

Second Monday at 9:00am is off for summer

First Tuesday July 7 at 1:00pm is *Atmosphere* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

First Tuesday July 7 at 4:00pm may contact group leader for book title

First Wednesday July 1 at 9:00am is *The Only Way Home* by Jennette Minniti

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

Learning Together, Wherever You Are

At H.O.P.E. University, we remain deeply grateful for the many ways people connect with our classes. Whether attending in person or joining us online, each participant is a valued part of our learning community.

Over the past several years, approximately one-quarter of our class participants have joined remotely. We believe this



online community is an important extension of our ministry, allowing people to remain connected when travel, health concerns, schedules, or distance make in-person attendance difficult.

After careful review, our Education Team has decided to discontinue Zoom participation for classes. While Zoom has served us well, ongoing technical challenges have made it difficult to provide a consistent and reliable experience.

Moving forward, all classes will continue to be available through our livestream platform. Those joining live will have the opportunity to participate through comments and interaction during the class session.

Our commitment to serving both our in-person and online learners remains unchanged. We are grateful for each person who studies God's Word with us and look forward to continuing to learn, grow, and share together in faith.

Blessings,
Pastor John and the H.O.P.E. Education Team

Independence Day Catering from Hope

Celebrate America's historic birthday with a catered meal prepared by Hope's Chef Michael and Sarah!

Take the stress out of entertaining this year. You can order a selection of appetizers and sweets, or reserve an entire dinner plate. Catering order forms and flyers are available through the links below and at the Hope Central Campus office.

You will need to print the order form or pick up a physical copy in the office, fill it out, and submit it for all catering orders. Online ordering is not available.

Orders must be placed by June 24 and picked up on July 3. Directions are included in the flyer.



[Click Here to View a Catering Flyer](#)

[Click Here to View a Catering Order Form](#)

How H.O.P.E. University Works

Learning Together at H.O.P.E. University



H.O.P.E. University is committed to making Christian learning accessible, engaging, and available to everyone in our congregation and beyond.

Before each class begins, a class announcement will be provided describing the course, its goals, and any materials needed. Depending on the class, participants may need a Bible, a study text, or other resources. Many classes will also include a workbook designed to enrich the learning experience.

For those unable to attend in person, each class announcement will include a livestream link. Participants joining online will have the opportunity to submit comments and questions during the class. These comments will be monitored and, when appropriate, incorporated into the discussion so that our online learners can actively participate in the learning experience.

To support learning throughout the week, class assignments, presentation slides, and related materials will be available through tabs in News in the Pews. Participants will be able to review content, prepare for upcoming sessions, and revisit previous lessons at their own pace.

As always, every class will be recorded and uploaded to the H.O.P.E. University YouTube channel, creating a growing library of Christian education resources available whenever and wherever you choose to learn.

We look forward to growing in faith together.

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

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 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

community of support that cares for you no matter what you are going through. You are welcome to bring refreshments for yourself. 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 June 13 & 14, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 175
 6:00pm - 56
 8:00am - 102
 10:00am - 259

Online:

4:00pm - 74
 10:00am - 112
 10:00am (HLWC) - 7

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 107

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 106
 10:00am - 159

Flowers on the Altar Given By...



- Ron & Jeanne Krass, in honor of their 65th wedding anniversary
- The Bond Family, in memory of Art Bond
- Chuck & Laurie Miller, in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary
- Roger & Mary Henningson, in honor of their 66th wedding anniversary

Scripture Reading for
 June 21

Scripture Reading for
 June 28

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39****Fifth Sunday After Pentecost****Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42****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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