

March 20, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

Al Ernst Comedy Show

March 27 at 7:00pm at Hope Central Campus

Lenten Box Return Collection

March 28 & 29

Palm Sunday

March 29

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 2 at 12:30pm at Hope Lake Weir Campus & 7:00pm at Hope Central Campus

Good Friday Worship

April 3 at 12:30pm at Hope Lake Weir Campus

Tenebrae

April 3 at 7:00pm at Hope Central Campus

Easter Vigil

April 4 at 7:00pm at Hope Central Campus

Easter Sunday

April 5

Comedian Al Ernst at 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.

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](#)

Capital Campaign Commitments

Did you make a pledge to the Hope Lutheran Church Capital Campaign with a three-year commitment in support of the Hope South Campus building project?

If so, the end of this month - March 2026 - marks the deadline for those dollars to be received at Hope's office. Any questions or concerns may be directed to Mary Beth Stoner in the Hope office at (352) 750-2321.



Don't Wait to Register for Josh Wilson - Live in Concert!

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. Register online now! \$20 per person.

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

Holy Week 2026 At-A-Glance

Palm Sunday - March 29

Hope Central Campus: 8:00am & 10:00am (*also celebrated Saturday*)
Hope Lake Weir Campus: 10:00am
Hope at Everglades Rec Center: 8:00am & 10:00am



Maundy Thursday - April 2

Hope Central Campus: 7:00pm
Hope Lake Weir Campus: 12:30pm
Hope at Everglades Rec Center: No service



Good Friday - April 3

Hope Central Campus: 7:00pm (Tenebrae)
Hope Lake Weir Campus: 12:30pm
Hope at Everglades Rec Center: No service



Easter Vigil Saturday - April 4

Hope Central Campus: 7:00pm
Hope Lake Weir Campus: No service
Hope at Everglades Rec Center: No service



Easter Sunday - April 5

Hope Central Campus:
6:00am (Sunrise), 8:00am, 10:00am, 11:45am

Hope Lake Weir Campus:
6:30am (Sunrise), 10:00am

Hope at Everglades Rec Center:
6:00am (Sunrise), 8:00am, 10:00am



Hope South Campus Construction Update

Last month, we alerted Hope members that a previously agreed upon plan to relocate the force main which runs along the turnpike side of Hope South Campus was no longer viable due to a recently discovered inability to divert the flow from Coleman Federal Prison for sufficient time to relocate the force main. That news necessitated a temporary work stoppage on the site while Hope contractors investigated other possible methods of dealing with the issue.



Since that time, the Hope Building Team, architect, civil engineer, and Hope's representative from Mark Cook Builders have been investigating alternative options. The solution that works best involves what is known as a wet tap process. Hope's builder has been in touch with two companies who are skilled at handling this sort of specialized work. It is anticipated that bids for this process will be returned to Hope representatives by early April with work on relocating the force main commencing soon after a contract is awarded.

In order not to lose more time in other areas, building site work is scheduled to begin again the week of March 23. We will continue to keep congregants up to date as more information becomes known.

Easter Sunday Volunteers Needed!



We have an urgent need for Communion Server volunteers to assist with the Easter Sunday 6:00am and 11:45am worship services at Hope Central Campus!

No experience is necessary. To volunteer, please contact Sara Lush at sara@hope4all.church or call (352) 750-2321.

Hope Lake Weir Campus Fellowship Announcement



There will be no after-service Fellowship time on Easter Sunday, April 5.

In lieu of this, "Ice Cream Sunday" will take place on the following Sunday after service on April 12.

Thank you! - The Hope Lake Weir Campus Hospitality Team

April Showers Fundraiser for Shepherd's LightHouse

During the Women of Hope Breakfast Meeting on April 16

This spring, we're showering Shepherd's LightHouse with love and support. Join us as we collect much-needed items for the mothers and their children served through this life-changing residential program.

How You Can Bless a Family

We are collecting donations of:

- Baby wipes and school-age supplies
- 13-gallon trash bags, sandwich bags
- Coffee, cream, and sugar
- Healthy snacks
- Toothpaste, shampoo, hygiene products



- Gas cards, birthday presents

Ways to Give

- Bring your items to the **Spring "Shower"** party during the **April 16** Women of Hope Breakfast at Hope Central Campus
- Alternatively, drop them off in **the Information Hallway Basket** through April 15
- On the weekends of March 21-22 and 28-29 items may be dropped off in designated bin in the hallway near the Fellowship Hall at Hope Central Campus (where the Tree of Hope is located)

Your generosity helps Shepherd's LightHouse continue its mission of rescuing, empowering, and renewing lives. Let's make this a season of blessing for families who need it most. Thank you for your support.

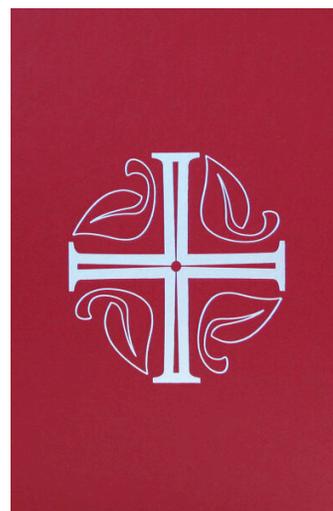
Evangelical Lutheran Worship Vol. 3: The Church Year

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. The following topics will be offered on the date indicated: "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 6:00pm 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 3](#)

**Blessing Bag Donation
Needs**

**Lenten Boxes to Support
ELCA World Hunger**



All Blessing Bag donations are appreciated! Our team creates 40-60 bags monthly, so our needs are on-going.

These are the items we need every month:

- Socks
- Small tubes of toothpaste
- Knitted hats
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Protein bars
- Shampoo
- Ponchos
- Small bar soaps
- Band-Aids
- Purse-size tissue packs
- Individually wrapped alcohol wipes



Thank you for your generosity during our Lenten collection! This year, our Lenten Box donations will benefit ELCA World Hunger.

ELCA World Hunger responds to hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world by addressing root causes.

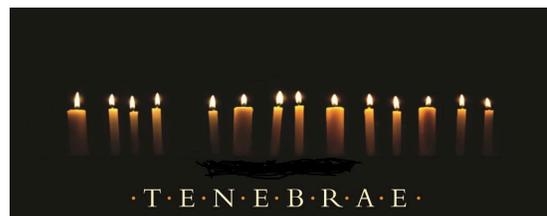
You can save your money or write a check. Make checks payable to Hope Lutheran Church and write World Hunger on the memo line.

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

Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness Returns to Hope

After a one-year hiatus, our Lenten tradition of Tenebrae returns on Good Friday, April 3, 2026.

This classic program provides a participatory, immersive worship experience, joining the CCH (Combined Choirs of Hope) and a professional vocal quartet and chamber ensemble.



Tenebrae is an ancient Holy Week tradition that dramatizes the story of Jesus' final hours, betrayal, crucifixion, and burial. Through solemn scripture readings and music, candles are gradually extinguished, plunging the sanctuary into darkness to symbolize the world's darkness and the abandonment of Christ.

There will be one Tenebrae service on Good Friday, April 3, at 7:00pm at Hope Central Campus.

There is no registration necessary for this worship event. Seating will be first come, first served. Doors will open 45 minutes in advance of the service.

Order Easter Catering from Chef Michael



Chef Michael is once again offering catering options for anyone who wishes to enjoy a delicious Easter appetizer or dessert without the stress of cooking.

Easter Catering forms are available at Hope Central Campus, or click the link below and print one out at home. Complete the form and return it to Chef Michael by March 25. Payment will not be due until the day of pickup, April 4.

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

[Click Here to View an Order Form](#)

Opportunity to Serve Hope Central Campus in the Altar Angel Guild



Hope Lutheran Church has been blessed to have many Altar Angels throughout the years; however, many people have had to retire due to illness, or relocation.

We are in dire need of additional Angels at all four services at Hope Central Campus. Would you prayerfully consider serving? This is also an excellent way for our seasonal members to serve.

If you would like to be added to our team or need more information, please call: Nancy Metcalf at (612) 751-5884, Lynn Voelke at (352) 461-3832, or Pam Slating at (352) 552-3703.

New Workshop from Our Friends at TLC

There will be a free, 2-part TLC Workshop called **“From Small Talk to Real Talk: Where Friendships Take Root”** on Thursday, April 23 and Thursday, April 30 from 10:00am to 11:30am at Hope Central Campus.

Nearly every relationship begins with small talk, but a real connection happens when we move beyond it. Master the art of real talk and discover practical ways to escape the small-talk rut, ask better questions, share authentically, and build genuine long-term relationships.

Registration is required. Please note: This is not a Hope Lutheran Church event. Questions should be directed to TLC.



[Click Here for Location and Registration](#)

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.

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.

Returning to Hope: The Beat Goes On

(Formerly Bach with a Beat)

Come enjoy a heart-warming concert dedicated to love, joy, and gratitude!

Songs from the Heart

When: Friday, April 10, 2026 at 5:00pm.
Doors open at 4:30pm.

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

For more information and tickets, contact Al Hellwege: (352) 751-4535
Visit the [Beat Goes On Website](#)

Tickets also available at the door!



Stephen Ministers Care

Are you feeling overwhelmed? Are you struggling to take care of a loved one or deal with a medical diagnosis? Are you grieving a death? Are you confused, worried, discouraged, or scared? Are you wondering where God is in the midst of it all? A Stephen Minister may be for you.

We have a team of trained Stephen Ministers just waiting to help you by providing a listening heart and a safe place for you to explore your thoughts and feelings.

They provide spiritual and emotional support that is confidential and non-judgmental. The Stephen Minister is there to walk with you throughout your crisis and to help you see that, with God's love, you will be okay.

Contact Deacon Kathy Smith to learn more about this wonderful ministry at (352) 399-5103 and deaconkathy@hope4all.church.



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. 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 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 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 March 14 & 15, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 221

6:00pm - 76

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 121

8:00am - 164
10:00am - 395

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:
8:00am - 118
10:00am - 220

Online:
4:00pm - 115
10:00am - 214
10:00am (HLWC) - 12



Flowers on the Altar Given By...

- Augie & Marilyn Wegener, in honor of their 63rd wedding anniversary
- Mary Martin, in memory of Bob Martin's birthday

**Scripture Reading for
March 22
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130 (1-8)

**Scripture Reading for
March 29
Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 21:1-11

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!

[Visit our Website](#)

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