

May 15, 2026



# News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

## Upcoming Events

### Hope For All Event with Shrimp Fry

May 15 beginning at 4:30pm at Hope Lake Weir Campus

### Diabetes Support Group

May 18 at 10:00am at Hope Central Campus

### Women of Hope Breakfast

May 21 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

### Pentecost

May 24

### Memorial Day

May 25 - Church office closed all day

## Summer is the Perfect Time to Volunteer!



Hope has been tremendously blessed with a fantastic team of volunteers, who work tirelessly together during worship and fellowship times.

With summer approaching and many Snowbirds flying north, we have a need for volunteers in areas like ushering and greeting, hospitality, and more!

If you are curious about a ministry team or looking to get involved, we invite you to check out the Ministries page of our website. You may call the church office for more information.

[Visit Our Ministries Page](#)

## Update on Hope South Campus Building Project

The force main issues with the City of Wildwood have been successfully addressed, and all necessary materials are now on order. This week, work on installing the storm water drainage system is progressing as planned.

Notably, a significant milestone has been reached with the pouring of the concrete foundation, followed by the start of laying the concrete block stem walls. Each of these

steps marks important progress in our construction timeline.



## Looking Ahead to Pentecost & Memorial Day

During the weekend of May 23 & 24, we will observe Pentecost during all worship services at Hope.

Pentecost is when we celebrate God sending the Holy Spirit to be among us and work within us. As a church family, we like to wear red to commemorate the day. We encourage you to wear red this weekend as you worship with your family of Hope.

Additionally, please note that Memorial Day is Monday, May 25. The Hope offices will be closed all day in recognition of the holiday.



## A Heartfelt Thank You for Your Spring Shower Donations

Women of Hope would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the entire congregation of Hope Lutheran Church for your incredible generosity during our "Spring Shower" of love.

Because of your kindness, we were able to deliver a carload *overflowing* with household essentials, infant supplies, and practical items directly to Shepherd's LightHouse in Belleview, Florida.

Your gifts were warmly received, and the staff asked us to pass along their sincere thanks. They were especially touched to see the abundance of baby supplies — a blessing that arrived at the perfect time, as their very first resident recently gave birth while living at the LightHouse. The joy on their faces said everything. Smiles, gratitude, and relief filled the room.

We are so grateful to be part of a church family that pours love into our community so generously. Your support helps strengthen this worthy local outreach mission, and it truly makes a difference for mothers and children working toward a brighter future. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in such a tangible way.



## 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.

We also need adult volunteers! Email [pastorjohn@hope4all.church](mailto:pastorjohn@hope4all.church) or complete the form on our church website.

[Register a Child for VBS](#)

[Register a Volunteer](#)

## Book Shelf



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

The June books are:

Second Monday at 9:00am is off for summer

First Tuesday June 2 at 1:00pm is *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters

First Tuesday June 2 at 4:00pm is *Charles and Emma: The Darwins Leap of Faith* by Deborah Heiligman

First Wednesday May 6 at 9:00am is *Swan Song* by Elin Hilderbrand

Please email Anita Dillman at [anitadillman1@gmail.com](mailto:anitadillman1@gmail.com) if you have any questions or for more information.

## 5 Things You Should Know about Our Stephen Ministers



### Part #1: Who are they?

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. They are non-judgmental listeners. If they seem a bit secretive, it is because privacy is an important cornerstone of the ministry. They will not share any information about you or your situation.

Stephen Ministers are called to use their talents, gifts and training to provide Christian care and walk beside someone hurting. The Stephen Minister provides the care, only Jesus can cure.

## Missing Dishes?



Are you missing a dish or two that you brought to church for a Memorial Luncheon?

We thank everyone who has contributed items for memorial services; however, the dishes need to be picked up!

The dishes are in the hallway on the north side of the kitchen at Hope Central Campus. If dishes are not picked up by May 25, they will be donated.

## Share Your Smile!

Become a



**GREETER**

The 10:00am worship service at Hope Central Campus is looking for volunteers willing to share a friendly smile and a warm handshake as a greeter.

Greeting is an easy way to contribute to your church and make a difference in a big way! No experience is necessary.

If you are interested, please email Sally at [maronde@comcast.net](mailto:maronde@comcast.net).

## Explanation & Distribution of Palms

A Message from Nancy Shephard, Team Leader of Seasonal Decorating:

Before Covid, we used live plants for Christmas and Easter, and members of the congregation signed up to sponsor plants in honor of loved ones. After we invested in artificial plants, we stopped this practice. I have been approached by several individuals throughout the years wanting to have a way to continue this.



This year, when I was trying to purchase palms after the frost, I found they were scarce and much more expensive. I approached the church administration and asked if we could ask members to help defray the cost. I did not want to deplete the Seasonal Decorating budget knowing the new church building would also need decorations.

Your response was wonderful! The decorations have been enjoyed at Hope Central Campus and Hope Lake Weir Campus throughout the Easter season. Everglades, being a Rec Center, could not have a permanent display.

The palms cost between \$20 and \$40. It is time to take down these Easter decorations. Some of you have expressed an interest in having one for your home. I want to make that happen for as many as possible. Obviously, I do not have 100 palms, but what I have will be available in the grassy area outside the Fellowship Room at Hope Central Campus beginning at 9:00am on Monday, May 18.

Nancy Shephard, Team Leader of Seasonal Decorating.

### The Diabetes Support Group Invites YOU!



The next meeting of the Diabetic Support Group will be held on **Monday, May 18** from 10:00am to 11:30am at Hope Central Campus. Meetings will be held in room 205.

This will be our last meeting until September 21. Come check out this great group before summer break!

All are welcome, including all levels of Diabetes from pre-diabetes, type 1, type 2, and those on insulin pumps along with CGM wearers. We look forward to seeing old and new friends alike!

Questions? Contact Darlene Harris at [harris2257@hotmail.com](mailto:harris2257@hotmail.com) or call (614) 832-0910. Please join us!

### Support Your Blessing Bag Ministry



The Blessing Bag team's **Most Needed Items** are small deodorants and small bottles of shampoo.

In addition to the hats, socks, and personal care items that are included in the Blessing Bags, we also include a McDonald's Gift Card. These are so much appreciated by the recipients!

Financial donations are greatly appreciated in order to continue to purchase and distribute these gift cards. Checks can be made out to Hope Lutheran Church with "Blessing Bags" noted on the memo line (or on the outside of the donations envelope). Cash is also gratefully accepted - in a donation envelope marked "Blessing Bags".

### Women of Hope Breakfast Meeting

**Thursday, May 21 at 9:00am - Hope Central Campus**

The Women of Hope will welcome Cindy Hanauer, who will present "Nature's Masterpiece: Experience God's Artistry Revealed Through Flowers Across the Globe" on Thursday, May 21, at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus.

From a family-owned florist shop to the global flower market, Hope member Cindy Hanauer brings a lifetime of floral expertise to this program. As a leading flower importer to the U.S., Cindy traveled across the country and to 15 nations, working directly with the world's largest flower growers. In this visually rich presentation, enjoy behind-the-scenes stories and stunning images from flower farms around the globe—along with practical, easy-to-use tips on flower design, care, and handling that you can use right away.



Cindy is the Volunteer Director of “My Time for Free Time,” Hope’s weekly respite program for caregivers. She also sings in the Hope South and Combined Choirs, co-hosts an in-home Bible study group, and serves in numerous other roles primarily focusing on the launch of Hope South Campus. Her joyful enthusiasm for life and serving will inspire you!

All women are invited to come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, fellowship, and this fun and informative presentation. Guests are always welcome! The cost is \$10. Reserve your place by noon on Monday, May 18. If you have questions, please contact June Cook at (352) 430-5025.

[Click Here to Register for Breakfast](#)

### 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 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 May 9 & 10, 2026

## Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 209  
6:00pm - 51  
8:00am - 131  
10:00am - 300

## Online:

4:00pm - 66  
10:00am - 133  
10:00am (HLWC) - 76

## Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 118

## Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 108  
10:00am - 171



## Flowers on the Altar Given By...

- Lew & Mary Beth Stoner, in celebration of their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
- Skip & Carol Bryan, in celebration of their 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

Scripture Reading for  
May 17  
Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14; John 17:1-11

Scripture Reading for  
May 24  
Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39

## 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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