

October 2, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

Blessing of the Animals

October 3 beginning at 8:30am at Hope Lake Weir Campus

Men of Hope Breakfast

October 8 at 8:00am at Hope Central Campus

Ordination of Clair Watson

October 10 at 11:00am at Hope Central Campus

90+ Birthday Party

October 11 at 11:15am at Hope Central Campus

Angel Tree Volunteers Meeting

October 12 at 1:00pm at Hope Central Campus

Join the Angel Tree Volunteer Team!



'Tis the season! It's almost time for the 2026 Angel Tree drive, and we need your help to make this a success.

There will be a Volunteer Meeting on Monday, October 12 at 1:00pm at Hope Central Campus.

This will be the only volunteer meeting of the year, so please bring your calendars and be ready to sign up for your days to help the Angels program in November and December.

Angels will be distributed at all Hope campuses on November 7 & 8, 2026.



 HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hope Lutheran Church's Annual
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

 **Saturday,
October 3, 2026**
Begins at 8:30 AM

 **Hope Lake Weir Campus**
10495 SE Sunset Harbor Road,
Summerfield, FL 34491

 **Pet Photos**

 **Music**

 **Giveaways**

 **Refreshments**

 **More!**

 **Most pets welcome (sorry, no snakes!)**
All pets must be on a leash or in a carrier.

 This is an outdoor event. In case of inclement weather,
please see our Facebook page or website for updates.

 (352) 750-2321 |  hope4all.church |  @HopeLutheranVillages

You're Invited - Healing Service Every First Wednesday

On the first Wednesday of each month, our regular Vespers evening service will become a special Healing Service.

All are invited to experience the Rite of Healing, a time of prayer, reflection, and God's comforting presence. Whether you are seeking healing for yourself, praying for someone you love, or simply wish to join your church family in prayer, you are welcome.

The Healing Service begins at 6:00pm at Hope Central Campus, immediately following the Social Supper. We hope you'll join us for this meaningful time of worship and prayer.



Special Ordination at Hope Central Campus

Hope is excited to host the ordination of Clair Watson in partnership with the Florida-Bahamas Synod on Saturday, October 10 at 11:00am.

Clair has been assigned to a newly authorized worshipping community in the Bahamas. She will be ordained here, then will travel to the Bahamas to begin her ministry.

Bishop Pedro Suárez will preside at this important service. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend to support our Lutheran siblings in the Bahamas!



Florida-Bahamas
Synod, ELCA

Hope Southern Neighbors Social Night Update



The Hope Southern Neighbors Social Night will be on hiatus until the opening of our Hope South Campus building in early 2027.

When the group resumes meeting, we look forward to enjoying the beautiful new facility and welcoming new faces to our fun group!

If you have questions before our next meeting, please contact Sandy

Catching Up with Council



Each month, Hope's Church Council meets to pray, discuss ministry, review finances, and make decisions that support the mission and ministry of Hope. We want to keep you informed about some of the highlights of our recent meetings. Click the link below to read the report.

The Men of Hope Welcome YOU to Breakfast!

The Men of Hope invite all men and women of Hope Lutheran Church (and their friends) to the next breakfast on October 8 at 8:00am.

Mark your calendars to join the Men of Hope to welcome Kathy Beekman, Hope's Bookkeeper, as our guest speaker at breakfast. Our "Faces of Hope Program" continues, as we meet and learn about key people dedicated to serving Christ here at Hope Lutheran Church.



Register online by clicking the link below. Cost is \$10 per person and payment through the Hope website is required. The program starts at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall at Hope Central Campus and concludes at 9:00am.

This program is open to the entire congregation! Bring a friend and enjoy this informative session in Fellowship Hall. See ya there!

Questions? Contact Raybon Gilbert at (352) 205-2078.

[Click Here to Register for Breakfast](#)

Annual 90+ Birthday Party on October 11

Our 13th Annual 90+ Birthday Party will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2026 from 11:15am to 12:30pm at Hope Central Campus.

Hope members who are 90+ years old will be the guests of honor at this wonderful celebration!

If you have a friend or loved one born in 1936 or before, we would love to include them in the celebration. Please let Karen O'Brien know as soon as possible.



We need your help to make this day a success. If you would like to volunteer with decorating, cutting cake, scooping ice cream, or serving a light lunch, contact Karen at fredandkaren@mpinet.net. Alternatively, you may contact her by calling or texting her at (352) 250-3909.

Diabetes Support Group Merges with Community Group

The Diabetic Support Group that had been meeting at Hope Lutheran Church will be joining a larger community group – The Dick Bright Memorial Diabetes Support Group. Non-Villagers are welcome to attend.



The meetings are the first Monday of each month from 10:00am to 12:20pm at the Rohan Recreation Center, 850 Kristine Way, The Villages. The leader is Rick Schnarr. He can be reached at tvdiabetic@gmail.com.

Each meeting has a variety of speakers/presentations and then time after for individual discussion. Contact Rick if you would like your name added to his email list.

Hope Lutheran Church extends its thanks to the Diabetes Support Group for their years of fellowship and education at Hope Central Campus. We wish them all the best!

Questions? Please contact Charlene at cmy13orlk@aol.com.

Women of Hope Breakfast Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 9:00am - Hope Central Campus

The Women of Hope invite both men and women to join us for a delicious breakfast and an engaging morning with guest speaker, Dr. Stephen Post, who will explore the rapidly changing world of Artificial Intelligence (AI).



Dr. Post holds a Ph.D. in AI from George Mason University and brings a wealth of experience as a pioneering researcher and industry leader. After serving as Director of AI Applications and VP of Simulation and Modeling for major defense contractors, he founded his own successful software company in 1996. Though retired since 2016, he remains deeply engaged in the latest AI advancements.

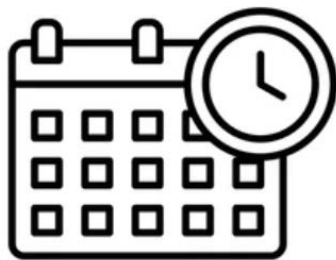
In this informative and easy-to-understand presentation, Dr. Post will put AI into perspective for our daily lives. He will address its unlimited possibilities for good, discuss concerns about its potential risks, and share practical ways we can all use these tools wisely and safely.

RSVP deadline is noon on Monday, October 12. The cost is \$10.00 and includes breakfast. Questions? Contact Bonnie Cook at (352) 460-7672.

[Click Here to Register for Breakfast](#)

**It's Time to Renew Your
Room Reservations**

Book Shelf



If you routinely meet at Hope for a class, group, or ministry gathering, it's time to renew your Room Reservation for 2027!

Please submit room requests with the current Team Leader contact information along with meeting information through our online form by clicking the link below.

If you do not renew your Room Reservation, we will assume your group is no longer meeting at Hope.

Questions? Please contact Pam Slating at pams@hope4all.church or call (352) 750-2321.

[Click Here to Submit a Room Request](#)



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

The October books are:

Second Monday, October 12 at 9:00am is *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

First Tuesday, October 6 at 1:00pm is *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles

First Tuesday, October 6 at 4:00pm is *The Emperor of Gladness* by Ocean Vuong

First Wednesday, October 7 at 9:00am is *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott

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

SAVE THE DATE for the next BOOK EVENT on Sunday, December 13 in the afternoon.

Make Your End-of-Year Giving Plan Now!

Required minimum distributions (RMDs) are the minimum amounts that must be withdrawn from retirement accounts on or before December 31 each year. Generally, one must start taking withdrawals from traditional IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, and retirement plan accounts at the age of 73.

Under previous law, these distributions would become part of one's taxable income for the year. However, under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, an IRA owner can satisfy the minimum distribution and not have to recognize income when making charitable gifts.

This is a great opportunity for people to use their IRAs to make gifts and see the fruits of their gifts during their lives by supporting Hope Lutheran Church's many ministries



and/or to contribute to the Endowment fund, which goes on giving in perpetuity.

A distribution from an IRA to benefit the ministries of Hope Lutheran Church must be an outright gift distributed directly from the IRA trustee or administrator. Please seek the advice of your IRA administrator or your tax advisor to see how this can save on your taxes.

If you are planning a gift to Hope through your IRA, you may wish to begin the process soon to ensure the gift is received by December 31, as the paperwork may take some time to process and be mailed.

Additionally, we will begin end-of-year 2026 closing on January 8, 2027. If you have any donations that you would like to count towards 2026, they must be received by this date.

If you have any questions, please contact Jill Myers, Hope's Donation Specialist at (352) 750-2321.

Concert to Benefit Angel Wigs of Hope

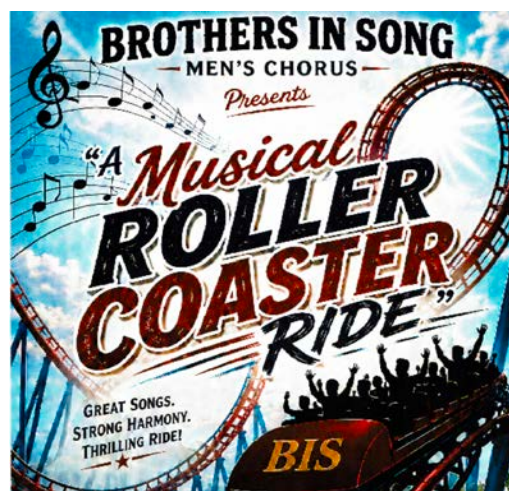


Don't miss your chance to see Mary Jo Vitale and Dawn DiNome live for a good cause!

Tickets \$20 per person. Click the link below to purchase.

[Click Here to Register](#)

The Brothers in Song Invite YOU!



The Brothers in Song invite you to their next performance at Hope Lutheran Church!

A Musical Roller Coaster Ride

November 13 at 6:00pm
Hope Central Campus

Ben Osborne, Director
David Flanigan, Accompanist

Tickets \$20 per person. Click the link below to purchase, or buy your ticket at the door.

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

Florida-Bahamas Synod WELCA Fall Gathering 2026

November 13-15, 2026 - Warren Willis United Methodist Conference Center
4990 Picciola Road, Fruitland Park, Florida

Join your sisters from across Florida as we welcome the Holy Spirit to refresh and renew our souls with Worship, Bible Study, Workshops, Fellowship and Fun.

The Gathering will begin at 4:00pm on Friday, November 13 and concludes with lunch on Sunday.

For this gathering, there is a choice of commuter registration (daily attendance) or overnight registration. The registration form and a list of available workshops are available for download on their website, www.flwelca.com. Registration



forms are also available at Hope Central Campus, at the front desk. Registration deadline is October 13, 2026.

Questions? Please contact Virginia Robertson by phone at (612) 619-0220 or by email at luvbutkus@aol.com.

[Click Here to Register Online](#)

Walking the Labyrinth of Grace

Women of Hope Fall Retreat

A Pilgrimage of Conversation, Reflection, and Renewal

What if Christ has been walking beside us all along—and we simply haven't noticed?

The Women of Hope invite you to join **Pastor John LeCain** at Hope Lake Weir Campus on Saturday, October 17 for a special day of conversation, reflection, fellowship, and spiritual renewal.

Rather than spending our day listening to lectures, we will become pilgrims together. Guided by the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we will share stories and conversation, enter times of silence and prayer, walk the labyrinth, gather around the table, and celebrate Holy Communion.



Along the way, we will consider a simple question: **“Where has Christ been walking beside me without my recognizing Him?”**

Faith is often less about finding a God who has disappeared and more about recognizing the God who has been present all along. And perhaps the older we become, the more sacred ground there is behind us—roads we once traveled without understanding but can now recognize as places where grace was quietly at work. There is nothing you need to prepare. Simply come as you are. Come ready to notice, receive, walk, and bless.

Come walk with us. The labyrinth may end. The pilgrimage does not.

The cost is \$20.00 per person, which includes breakfast, lunch, fellowship, and the opportunity to meet new friends in Christ and enjoy Hope Lake Weir Campus (10495 SE Sunset Harbor Road, Summerfield, FL). The retreat is open to all women of Hope Lutheran Church, and we encourage you to invite your friends. Check-in begins at 8:30am, and the retreat runs from 9:00am until 2:30pm.

Registration deadline is Monday, October 12 at Noon. Contact June Cook at (352) 430-5025 or frankjunecook@gmail.com.

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

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 members.

Join a G.I.F.T. Group

Hope Lutheran Church has 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 September 26 & 27, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 167

6:00pm - 57

8:00am - 129

10:00am - 272

Online:

4:00pm - 49

10:00am - 92

10:00am (HLWC) - 45

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 101

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 106

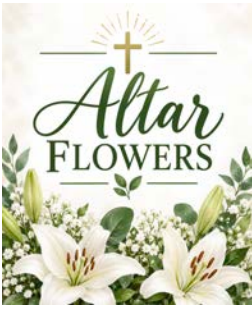
10:00am - 155

**Scripture Reading for
October 4
Nineteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

**Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew
21:33-46**

**Scripture Reading for
October 11
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-
14**



Flowers on the Altar Given By...

- Chuck & Margaret Walter, in honor of their 58th wedding anniversary.

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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