

October 23, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

Reformation Weekend

October 24 & 25 - Celebrated at all worship services

Ministry Team Leader Meeting

October 27 at 10:00am at Hope Central Campus

Deadline to Submit a Pastor Appreciation Message

October 30

Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 1 - Remember to "Fall Back"

Cantata Registration Opens

November 2 at 9:00am

New Member Orientation

November 7 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

Angel Tree Distribution

November 7 & 8 at all Hope campuses

Budget Information Meeting

November 11 at 3:00pm at Hope Central Campus

Join Hope's Next 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, November 7 from 9:00am to 12:00pm.**

Continental breakfast will be served.

New members will be received on the weekend of November 7 & 8 at their preferred service. We have three levels of membership: voting, associate, and seasonal.

For more info 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 October 31.

Budget Information Meeting - Wednesday, November 11

The Congregational Meeting for Approval of the 2027 Budget for Hope Lutheran Church will take place on Sunday, November 15, at 12:00pm at Hope Central Campus. Light snacks will be provided ahead of the meeting. This meeting will **not** be live-streamed and it is necessary that Hope have a quorum of members present, so please plan to join the Pastors, Council, and Leadership for this very important meeting.



In preparation for the November 15 Budget Approval Meeting, a **Budget Information Meeting will be held Wednesday, November 11, at 3:00pm in the sanctuary at Hope Central Campus.**

Please join us at Hope Central Campus on November 11... and save the date for our Budget Approval Meeting on November 15!

Fall Back! Daylight Savings Ends November 1



Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 1, as Daylight Saving Time comes to an end!

Enjoy an extra hour of sleep, and be sure to adjust your clocks before heading to church. We look forward to seeing you at worship!

Wear Red This Weekend to Celebrate Reformation



Join the celebration of Reformation Weekend on October 24 & 25.

In honor of this important occasion in Lutheran history, we invite everyone to wear red to worship! Red symbolizes the Holy Spirit and reminds us of the faith and courage that inspired the Reformation. Let's fill our campuses with red as we celebrate our Lutheran heritage together!

Leave a Note for Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month! This year, we're encouraging everyone to share a short message of thanks with any (or all!) of our wonderful Hope pastors.

Please fill out a *Thank You, Pastor...* notecard or submit your message online using the link below. You may return cards in the offering tray or in the pledge card collection bins

at any Hope campus. You may also bring them to the office. All messages will be collected and privately shared with our pastors at the end of October.

Let's come together to remind our pastors that they are appreciated! The deadline to submit your message is October 30.



[Click Here to Leave a Digital Message](#)

Important Updates from the Hope Council

Important News from the Nominating Committee

At the September meeting of the Hope Lutheran Church Council, Pam Fenn, Council Secretary, was affirmed as Chair of the 2027 Nominating Committee.

Bob Krajewski and Gene Oaksmith, affirmed at the October 20 meeting of the Church Council, will serve on the Nominating Committee with Pam Fenn.

The committee will be seeking interested parties to run for positions on the Council of Hope Lutheran Church beginning in February 2027.

Watch for news of open positions and contact information for Nominating Committee Members in next week's News in the Pews.

Important Council Update from Hope

At the October 20 meeting of the Hope Lutheran Church Council, our Council accepted the resignation of Mike Brown as Treasurer. Mike, who has served in the role of Council Treasurer since February 2025, made the decision to step away from his position for personal reasons. He has been a blessing to Hope during his time of service - his professionalism, experience, and warm personality have been an asset to our entire church, and we will miss his presence on the Council.

Greg Inwood, a member of our Church Finance Committee with extensive experience in corporate financials, was elected by the Council to complete the current term of Treasurer, which will end in February 2027.

Please join us in thanking both Mike and Greg, and praying for their success in their future ministries.

The Men of Hope Invite YOU to Breakfast!

The Men of Hope invite all men and women of Hope Lutheran Church (and their friends) to the next breakfast on November 12 at 8:00am. Mark your calendars to join

the Men of Hope to welcome Dr. Debbie Behnke, of Stephen Ministers, 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](#)

Important Staff Notice from Hope Lutheran Church

Several weeks ago, we announced that our longtime Business Administrator, Bob Franceski, would be stepping down from his position as he prepares to move closer to family.

We are pleased to announce that Jill Myers, who currently serves as our Donations Specialist, will assume the role of Business Administrator in January 2027. Jill has previous experience in church business administration and is already an asset to our professional team. We are thankful for her willingness to serve in this new role.



We are now hiring for a Donations Specialist to replace Jill in the coming year. The Donations Specialist is responsible for accounting for the weekly contributions as Financial Secretary. The Donations Specialist is accountable to the Business Administrator.

Click the link below for a complete job description. If you're interested in applying, please send your resume to Bob Franceski at bob@hope4all.church or call (352) 750-2321 for more information. Applications will be accepted until November 6.

[Click Here to View a Complete Job Description](#)

**Ministry Team Leader
Meeting & Packing Party
with Pizza!**

Book Shelf



Calling all ministry team leaders!
There is an important meeting you won't want to miss.

We're hosting a **Ministry Team Leader Meeting on Tuesday, October 27**, starting at 10:00am at Hope Central Campus.

After our business has concluded, we will be packing Christmas gift boxes for our *Sharing the Joy of Jesus* program, to benefit children in need in our local community. Congregation members and team leaders are all invited to pack boxes together.

A pizza lunch will also be served for all volunteers!

There is no cost, but please RSVP to Pam Slating by email at pams@hope4all.church or by calling (352) 750-2321.



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

The November books are:

Second Monday, November 9 at 9:00am is *The Dressmakers of London* by Julia Kelly

First Tuesday, November 3 at 1:00pm is *A Girl Named Samson* by Amy Harmon

First Tuesday, November 3 at 4:00pm is *Sanctuary: Raw Confessions of One of God's Imperfect Servants* by Rev. Harry Schenkel

First Wednesday, November 4 at 9:00am is *Bridge of Sighs* by Richard Russo

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 Sunday December 13 in the afternoon.

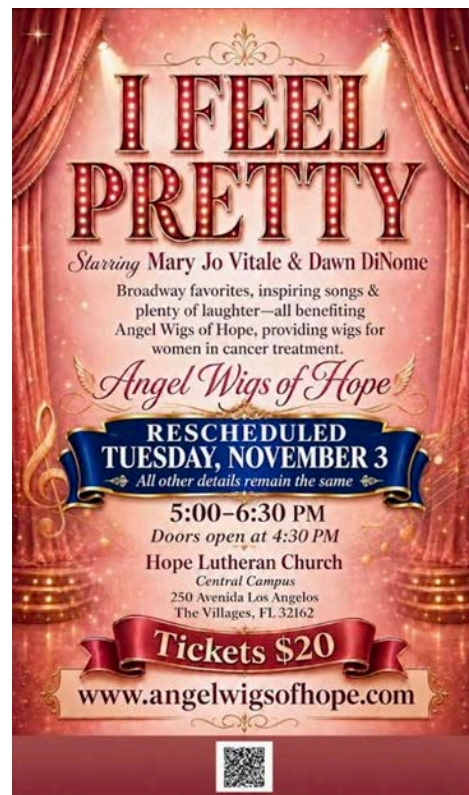
***I Feel Pretty* Concert Rescheduled**

The ***I Feel Pretty*** concert to benefit Angel Wigs of Hope has been rescheduled for Tuesday, November 3 at 5:00pm at Hope Central Campus.

If you've already purchased tickets, your tickets are good for the November 3 concert date. If you are no longer able to attend, you may pass your tickets on to someone else, or donate the money to Angel Wigs, or get a refund to your credit card by sending an email to awohevents@gmail.com.

For more information and questions, please contact Angel Wigs of Hope at (352) 888-3637.

Thank you for your continued support of Angel Wigs of Hope.



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

National Estate Planning Awareness Week

Most people recognize the importance of having a will, yet nearly 66% of Americans still don't have one in place. Beyond preventing unnecessary stress and a financial burden for your family, creating a plan is a powerful act of stewardship, a way to foster a lasting legacy of faith, love, and generosity.



During National Estate Planning Awareness Week (October 19–25), we encourage every member of the Hope community to take this essential step. Regardless of your age or financial means, a legacy plan allows you to:

- Protect your loved ones: Provide peace of mind and clarity for your family when they need it most.
- Direct your stewardship: Maintain clear guidance on how your hard-earned assets and possessions are distributed.
- Proclaim your values: Support the people, ministries, and causes closest to your heart.

Churches in the Florida-Bahamas Synod are served by a Regional Gift Planner. This talented individual works closely with our Endowment team and our church leadership to foster successful gift plans, establish legacy gifts, and more!

Gift planners offer their services free of charge, as part of their ministry with the ELCA. Our Regional Gift Planner is Rev. Ana L. Lugo. She can be contacted at (904) 219-2769 or Ana.Lugo@ELCA.org.

Join the Hope Flag Team!



We're looking for interested individuals to be part of the Flag Team at Hope South Campus!

Responsibilities include lowering the flag on appropriate holidays or as directed for unique events, and taking the flag down and stowing it in the Worship Center when necessary. Team members will also work with the office as needed to order replacement flags, which we anticipate will be every six to eight months, and help plan ceremonies on appropriate holidays such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and more.

If you are interested in being part of this new team, click the link below to sign up or call the church office at (352) 750-2321.

[Click Here to Sign Up for the Flag Team](#)

Hope's Financial Report as of September 30, 2026



Hope's latest financial report is ready!

Please click the link below to view Hope's latest financial report.

A limited number of physical copies will be available at each campus beginning this weekend.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Hope Council. Email addresses can be found at hope4all.church/council.

[Click Here to View a Financial Report](#)

Hope's Annual Christmas Cantata

One of Hope's most beloved Christmas traditions returns this year!

Our 2026 Christmas Cantata is called, "Holding Onto Christmas." This narrative and musical event will include familiar sing-along opportunities for the audience, interspersed with festive, original songs, all centered around a story sure to bring warmth to your holiday.



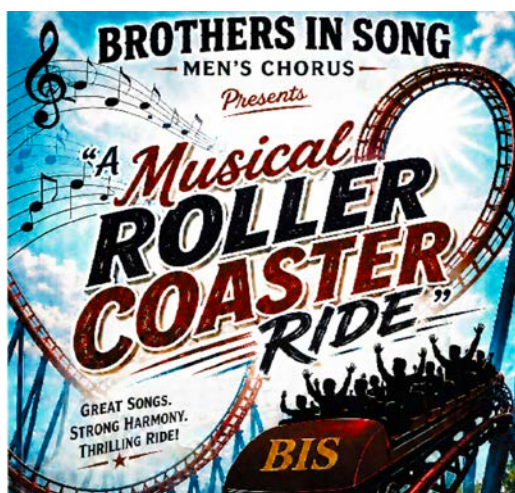
Ken Wood, Director of Music Ministries at Hope, once again conducts a combined choir of congregants from all of Hope's campuses, joined by friends from the surrounding

community. Hope's own Mary Jo MacLean, Frederick Blanchard, and Lila MacLean will all lend their voices to the three presentations this year.

Cantata registration will open on Monday, November 2 at 9:00am. You'll be able to register on our website hope4all.church. Cost is \$10.00 per person, and all proceeds will benefit the Blessing Bags ministry and the On Our Own Snack Packs. Blessing Bags are convenient essential bags for the unhoused in our community, while Snack Packs are food bundles delivered to the children of Stanton-Weirsdale Elementary School.

Registration will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis, with a maximum seating capacity of 525 for each of the three performances. Fellowship with light refreshments will follow each performance. Reservations can also be made in person during business hours at Hope Central Campus starting November 2.

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](#)

'That's Christmas to Me' from The Beat Goes On



Celebrate the joy of the Christmas season with The Beat Goes On as they present *That's Christmas to Me* on Friday, December 11, at 5:00pm at Hope Central Campus (corner of CR 466 and Morse Boulevard). Doors open at 4:30pm.

Enjoy a festive evening of music and holiday cheer as we come together to celebrate this wonderful time of year!

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased online by clicking the link below or at the door, if available.

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

Calling All Singers! Join the Christmas Cantata!

This December, you're invited to be part of Hope's annual Christmas Cantata.

Our presentation this year is entitled “**Holding Onto Christmas**”. Ken Wood, Director of Music Ministries at Hope, once again conducts a combined choir of congregants from all of Hope’s campuses, joined by friends from the surrounding community. Hope’s own Mary Jo MacLean, Frederick Blanchard, and Lila MacLean will all lend their voices to the three presentations this year.

Anyone looking for a wonderful way to usher in December is encouraged to join us for our weekend rehearsal schedule, regardless of experience level. You don’t even have to be in any of our other choirs!



If you prefer to enjoy the presentation from the congregation, then come kick off your Christmas season by bringing your joyous spirit as you lift your voice with us. Presentations are on **December 6, 7, or 8 at 4:00pm** at Hope Central Campus. You won’t want to miss this annual tradition, or this special trip down memory lane as we bring glory to the newborn King.

Interested singers, please email musicupdate@hope4all.church with your intent to join us so we can get you on our digital roster. We ask that you do not call the church office to convey your interest. Direct questions to musicupdate@hope4all.church as well.

Before the first rehearsal, you’ll get a more detailed schedule and materials sent to you via digital links, where we upload everything needed to learn your part at home between rehearsals. Digital competency with cloud-based file storage, downloading files, and sending and receiving emails is a “must” for us to be able to accommodate everyone equally. Thanks for understanding.

The cut-off to join the Cantata is Wednesday, October 28 at 5:00pm.

If you can commit to the dates and times linked below and would like to join us in this annual tradition, email musicupdate@hope4all.church. ***Everyone will need to do this for our record-keeping.***

Complete List of Rehearsal Dates and Times

Gatherings of Hope

Pastor Rani is leading Gatherings of Hope on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in

Faith & Fellowship

Faith and Fellowship creates a weekly opportunity to look at the scriptures in light

Join a G.I.F.T. Group

Hope Lutheran Church has launched our G.I.F.T. Groups (Growing 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.

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.

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 October 17 & 18, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 170

6:00pm - 63

8:00am - 129

10:00am - 404

Online:

4:00pm - 68

10:00am - 143

10:00am (HLWC) - 47

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 112

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 122

10:00am - 185

**Scripture Reading for
October 25
Reformation**

Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

**Scripture Reading for
November 1
All Saints**

1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

In Memoriam



Joan Schnabel died on Friday, October 16, 2026. Joan was born on January 10, 1940. She was widowed. Joan joined Hope Lutheran Church on November 18, 2012.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, October 29 at 10:00am at Hope Central Campus. Visitation will be from 9:30am until the hour of service.

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



Barbara Vinson died on Saturday, October 17, 2026. Barbara was born on October 23, 1948. She and her husband, Chris, were married on December 28, 1968. They joined Hope Lutheran Church on October 17, 2010.

Arrangements are pending at this time.

Please keep Chris and their family and friends in your hearts and prayers during their time of grief.



Christina (Chris) Thomas died on Sunday, October 18, 2026. Chris was born August 5, 1944. She and her husband, Ron, were married on July 11, 1964. They joined Hope Lutheran Church on April 26, 2026.

Arrangements are pending at this time.

Please keep Ron and their family and friends in your hearts and prayers during their time of grief.

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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