October 30, 2026

News in the Pews!

Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 1 - Remember to "Fall Back"

Cantata Registration Opens
November 2 at 9:00am

Special STS Presentation from Dr. Matthew Becker
November 4 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

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

Budget Approval Meeting
November 15 at 12:00pm at Hope Central Campus

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 livestreamed, and a quorum of members must be present. Please plan to join the Pastors, Council, and Leadership for this 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!

Special Presentation from Dr. Matthew Becker on November 4



Join us on Wednesday, November 4, at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus for a special presentation featuring Dr. Matthew Becker, an accomplished Lutheran theologian, author, and educator. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn from a distinguished scholar with decades of experience studying and teaching Christian theology!

Dr. Becker will share his theological insights with us as part of the **Society of the Holy Trinity** (*Societas Trinitatis Sanctae* or STS), a ministerium dedicated to the renewal of Lutheran churches and ministry.

Dr. Becker holds a Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Chicago, a Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, and a bachelor's degree from Concordia University. He has authored two major theological books and contributed to or edited numerous additional volumes, including the multivolume *Edmund Schlink Works*. With more than 30 years of university teaching experience, he currently serves as Senior Research Professor of Theology at Valparaiso University, where he has taught since 2004.

All are invited to attend! There is no cost or registration required. We hope you'll join us for this special morning of learning and fellowship!

Angel Tree Weekend: November 7 & 8



Ready to bless a local child or senior this Christmas?

Angel Tree Weekend is November 7 & 8, 2026.

Angel Trees will be displayed at all Hope campuses. Choose your angel and shop, then place unwrapped gifts and gift bags in a large trash bag and attach the Angel to the outside of the trash bag.

Gifts can be returned to any Hope campus on December 5 & 6, 2026.

If you need to return gifts at other times, they must be returned to Hope Central Campus during business hours. Questions? Please call Jenny Dunn at (201) 424-2624.

Important News from the Nominating Committee

Six positions on the Hope Lutheran Church Council will be open for election in 2027.

Interested individuals should contact a member of the Nominating Committee to express their interest. Any Council member would be happy to answer your questions and provide more information about what it means to serve on Council.

- Pam Fenn, Committee Chair, **emptycouncil@gmail.com**
- Bob Krajeski, **bobandjudykrajeski@gmail.com**
- Gene Oaksmith, **oaksmithg@verizon.net**

Interested individuals must fill out a Nomination Form (see link below).

Nominations will close on January 8, 2027. At that time, pictures and biographies of the candidates will be published each week in News in the Pews until the election, which will take place at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 7, 2027.

Open positions

- **Treasurer – 2-year term** (incumbent will be running)
- **Secretary – 2-year term** (incumbent not running)
- **4 Member-at-Large positions**
  - **3 2-year terms**
  - **1 1-year term** (per our constitution, the individual with the fourth highest number of votes will serve the 1-year term.) Several Member-at-Large incumbents are seeking re-election for these positions.

Click Here to Submit A Nomination for Council

Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly Delegates

Interested in being a delegate for the 2027 Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly, usually held in June? Please reach out to Pastor Jon-Marc or Pastor Rani at (352) 750-2321 or by email to express your interest. Delegates will be approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 7, 2027.

Last Chance! 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.

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. We hope you'll join us for this meaningful time of worship and prayer.



Fall Back! Daylight Saving Ends November 1



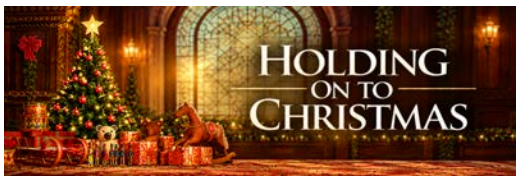
Don't forget!

Please remember 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!

Cantata Volunteers Needed



We are seeking volunteers to **sign in** and **greet** attendees for the annual Christmas Cantatas on December 6, 7, and 8, 2026!

Volunteers may choose the date they prefer to volunteer. You'll need to arrive at Hope Central Campus at 3:00pm prior to serving.

Best part of all: You won't need to purchase a ticket to enjoy the Christmas Cantata! All volunteers attend free of charge.

Interested? Please contact Chris Reed at chris@hope4all.church or by phone at (352) 750-2321. Please respond by November 16.

The Funeral Reception Team at Hope Lutheran Church

The Funeral Reception Team (FRT) at Hope has been supplying food for funeral lunches for over 25 years. This service spares bereaved families the worry of providing food for their guests after a funeral.



Members of this team bring in salads, veggie and cheese trays, and cookies and

brownies for desserts. Chef Michael makes the sandwiches for the lunch.

At this time, we are in need of volunteers from the congregation to:

1. Bring in food when needed.

2. Make phone calls to members to bring in a specific food, for example salads, cheese or veggie trays, and cookies or brownies. We have four teams that make calls to bring in food. We are looking for a couple volunteers to be co-leaders for the callers.

3. You can also help in the kitchen by setting up and serving and/or serving and cleaning up at a memorial lunch.

If you are interested in helping, you can call Karen O'Brien at (352) 250-3809. Leave a message or email her at **fredandkaren@mpinet.net**.

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 the 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.

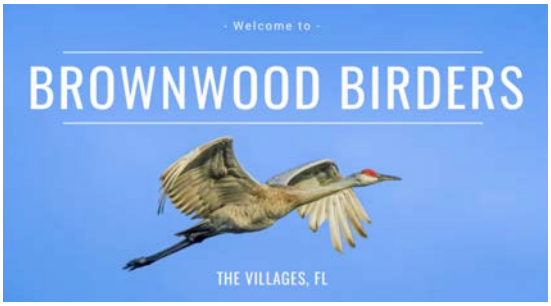
This program is open to the entire congregation! Bring a friend and enjoy this informative session in Fellowship Hall. See ya there!

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

Click Here to Register for Breakfast

Women of Hope Breakfast Meeting

November 19, 2026 at 9:00am - Hope Central Campus



The Women of Hope are delighted to welcome Liz Stakenborg, Vice President and Program Chair of Brownwood Birders, for an informative and engaging presentation, "Birding 101."

Founded in the fall of 2014, Brownwood Birders became an official Villages Club in 2023. Learn more at brownwoodbirders.com.

Men and women are invited to enjoy a delicious breakfast while discovering the beauty and diversity of Florida's bird community. Whether you are an experienced birder or simply curious, this program offers something for everyone.

Cost: $10 per person. Please reserve your place by noon on Monday, November 16. For questions or reservations, contact Bonnie Cook at (352) 460-7672.

Click Here to Register for Breakfast

Join the Hope Professional Team!



We are seeking a skilled Donations Specialist to join our professional team!

The Donations Specialist is responsible for accounting for the weekly contributions as Financial Secretary. The Donations Specialist reports 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

Book Shelf



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 on Sunday, December 13 in the afternoon.

Walking Away the Pounds



Are you ready to make a commitment to a healthier lifestyle?

Walking Away the Pounds meets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00am to 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall at Hope Central Campus. We use various exercise videos to improve our health and strengthen our bodies! And contrary to our name, we do not use a scale, so you can relax.

Our group includes both church members and nonmembers, with participants ranging in age from their 60s to their 80s. The benefits to our walkers are different for each of us, and you can do 1 mile, 2 miles, or 3 miles—it's up to you! Stretch bands and weights are sometimes used, but these are optional. But don't forget to bring your water!

We would love to have you come and try us out. We have plenty of room, it's climate controlled, and ALL ARE WELCOME! For more info, contact Ginny Wilson, Team Leader, at (352) 430-3326.

Hope's Heroes



The Women of Hope proudly continue to support the Hope's Heroes Ministry, which is dedicated to welcoming and nurturing young children within our church community.

This ministry provides age-appropriate Bibles, religious books and other faith-based materials designed for children at various stages of development.

These resources are displayed on dedicated bookshelves in the Narthex at both Hope Central Campus and Hope Lake Weir Campus. As the ministry and church grow, an additional bookshelf is planned for the southern campus.

To help children remain engaged during worship services, activity bags are available at the back of the church for use during services.



During special seasons such as Christmas and Easter, additional themed materials are offered either on the bookshelves or within the activity bags.

Hope's Heroes has been a meaningful and ongoing ministry for several years, serving children and families at both campuses and reinforcing our commitment to faith formation from an early age.

As part of this ministry, we encourage the children to remove the sheets they are working on and finish at home. Recently, we discovered this prayer left in one of the coloring books – a message to share for each one of us:

Dear God, I want to thank you [for] my life. I want to thank you for the people reading this. I want to pray for the sick, happy and everyone in between. Thank you for keeping me safe and being a real friend. Amen

---

A Love Story from Our Friends at Love INC

Hope Lutheran Church is a partner of Love INC, which mobilizes more than 45 local churches working across denominational lines to meet real needs with real relationships - bringing hope, dignity, and transformation to people in need.

The following is a love story shared by Love INC:

She called our Connection Center because she needed furniture.

Due to her health, she could no longer manage the stairs to her upstairs apartment and needed to move to the first floor. Love INC was able to help with furniture and household items, and soon our delivery team was at her door.

But while they were there, they noticed something else. Her teenage son greeted them wearing a pair of glasses that were broken and clearly no longer fit him. It would have been easy to deliver the furniture, **check the need off the list**, and move on. **But that isn't how love works.**

Our Resource Navigator followed up with his mom and asked a simple question: ***Would you be willing to take your son to get new glasses if we could help?***

Through a partnership with the **Lake Sumter Lions Club**, this tenth grader received an eye exam and new glasses. And because it happened during a back-to-school special, he didn't receive just one pair. He received two.

When we spoke with his mom recently, she told us he was overjoyed with his new glasses. **And the story didn't end there.**

His birthday was approaching, and through Love INC's Birthday Box Ministry, he received another unexpected reminder that he was seen, remembered, and worth celebrating.

Furniture. A pair of glasses. A birthday gift. None of these things may seem extraordinary on their own. But to a family walking through a difficult season, the little things can mean so much.

This is what can happen when the local Church is connected and paying attention. One need opens the door to a relationship. A relationship helps us see another need. And suddenly, what began as a request for furniture becomes something much bigger:

A family knows they are not alone. And there are so many more families waiting to be seen. Maybe your part is delivering furniture. Maybe it's making a phone call, providing a Birthday Box, partnering through your church, or simply noticing what someone else might miss. **Whatever your part may be, there is a place for you in this story.**

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.

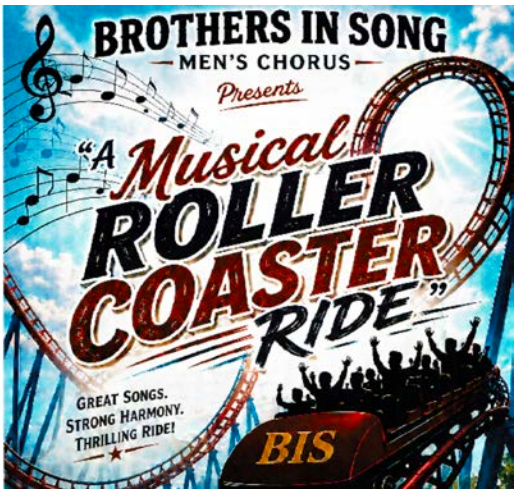
There will be three showings - on December 6, 7, and 8 at 4:00pm at Hope Central Campus.

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.

Registration will be 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!



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



Celebrate the joy of the Christmas season with The Beat Goes On as

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

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

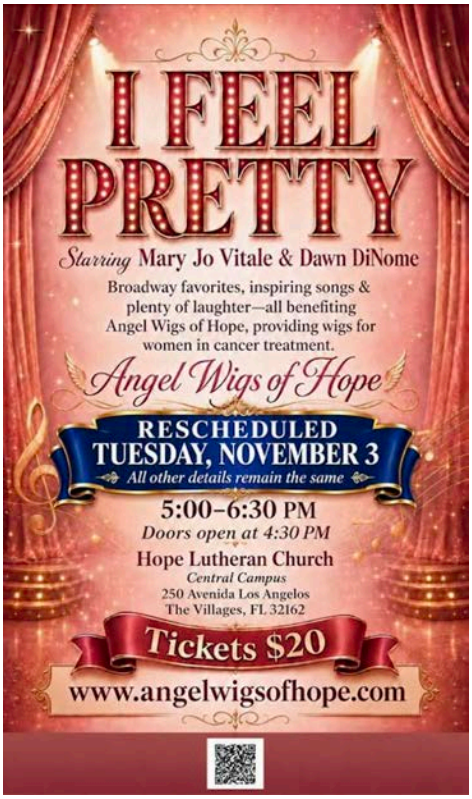
I Feel Pretty Concert - November 3

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 give your tickets to someone else, donate the ticket cost to Angel Wigs, or request a refund to your credit card by emailing 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

Gatherings of Hope

Pastor Rani is leading Gatherings of Hope on the 2nd

Faith & Fellowship

Faith and Fellowship creates a weekly opportunity to look at

Join a G.I.F.T. Group

Hope Lutheran Church has launched our G.I.F.T.

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.

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.

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 October 24 & 25, 2026

Hope Central Campus:
4:00pm - 208
6:00pm - 59
8:00am - 104
10:00am - 348

Online:
4:00pm - 86
10:00am - 123
10:00am (HLWC) - 49

Hope Lake Weir Campus:
10:00am - 146

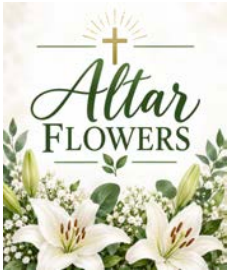
Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:
8:00am - 142
10:00am - 180

Scripture Reading for November 1
All Saints

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

Scripture Reading for November 8
Veterans Day

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13



Flowers on the Altar Given By...

- Bob & Joyce Hope, in honor of the 4:00pm usher volunteers
- Jim & Karen Ombrello, in honor of their 46th wedding anniversary and in memory of our family and friends who are no longer with us

In Memoriam



Carrol A. Walther passed away on Saturday, October 24, 2026. She was born on July 22, 1942. Carrol was widowed. She joined Hope Lutheran Church on December 11, 2010.

A service is being planned for Saturday, November 7 at 11:00am at Hope Central Campus. Pr. Rani will officiate.

Please keep Carrol's family 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**

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