

October 9, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

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

Women of Hope Breakfast

October 15 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

Stewardship Commitment Weekend

October 17 & 18 at all Hope campuses

Stewardship 2027



Letters with information about Hope's 2027 Stewardship Campaign should have arrived at your home over the past couple of weeks.

We ask that you prayerfully consider how God is leading you to help support and grow Hope's Ministries during the coming year.

Pledge cards may be returned by dropping them into the offering plates, or you may mail them to the church.

Stewardship commitment weekend will be October 17-18. During that weekend, donation boxes will be available at each campus and you may return pledge cards there as well.

Let's Raise Our Flag Together!



*Our Flag Represents So Much to So Many
Due To Financial Constraints, This Powerful Symbol
Was Cut from the Hope South Campus Budget*

**WE WANT TO PUT IT BACK
AND WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Our flag has different meanings to all of us. For most, it's symbolic of a special bond between ourselves, our country and our shared values. To some it represents patriotism, to others service above self, and for many, it's the ability to freely worship as we please. The flag and what it represents are vitally important to most members of our congregation and community. That's why we feel it's so important for Hope Lutheran Church to have a flag on Hope South Campus.

Why Your Help Is Needed

The flag display was cut from the original budget as part of the drive to bring costs down for the Hope South Campus building project. While that goal was achieved, it wasn't without some painful decisions and removing the flag was one of them. Now that the Hope South Campus building is nearing completion, we have a second chance to include this powerful symbol which means so much to so many of us. If we act now, we can even have it in place in time for the Open House of our new church building. And yes, that means we need some additional funding.



How Much Funding Is Needed?

To make this happen an estimated minimum of \$30,000 is required. That sounds like a lot for a flagpole. But there is a great deal more to it than that. As you are aware, Hope must comply with the standards The Villages have set, and we must have their approval before proceeding. These standards include commercial-grade construction and size requirements for the flag, flagpole, concrete foundation and electric lighting, all of which, along with approval submission costs, add to the cost. And importantly, there will be annual maintenance of the flagpole, and the cost of replacement flags. So, any additional monies raised will go into a FLAG account to cover those costs in coming years. Your contributions to the FLAG initiative will count toward the Donor Recognition Wall. For a more detailed cost explanation please [**CLICK HERE**](#).

Although meeting these requirements is necessary, what's more important is that the final product will be an inspirational flag presentation that will be seen from every direction, day and night. It truly will be a beacon of hope to all and make the statement that *HOPE IS HERE!*

What Is the Timing?

The funding deadline is **Sunday, November 8**, the weekend before Veterans Day. You can make your contribution anytime between now and November 8, 2026.

This timing will enable us to have everything in place in time to have a very special flag raising ceremony during the Hope South Campus Open House, tentatively scheduled for this spring.

How Can I Donate?

You can contribute now through Sunday, November 8 in three ways:

- **Give Online:** Just go to the HOPE Lutheran Church website (<https://hope4all.church>) and click on the 'Give' section. Then select '**FLAG**' from the 'Fund' listings and follow the on-screen instructions. You may also click the link below.
- **Give In Person at Any Service Offering:** Checks or cash. Checks (memo line) and envelopes must be marked '**FLAG**'.
- **Mail Your Check:** Checks can be mailed to Hope Lutheran Church, 250 Avenida Los Angeles, The Villages, FL 32162. Please write '**FLAG**' on the memo line.

For additional information or questions, [CLICK HERE](#).

All funds raised will go into a dedicated 'FLAG' account which will only be used for current and future flag-related expenses.

Let's raise our flag together!

[Click Here to Help Raise the Flag!](#)

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.

Special Ordination at Hope Central Campus



Florida-Bahamas
Synod, ELCA

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!

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 November 2.



Support the Girl Scout Alumnae Pajama & Book Drive

During the October 21 Social Supper

Local Girl Scouts will be collecting pajamas and books during the Wednesday, October 21 Social Supper at Hope Central Campus to support homeless and needy children living in the tri-county area (Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties).



This collection benefits local children identified by school social workers and community service agencies and blesses them with new pajamas and much-needed books. Many of the children come from families whose income falls below or near the poverty line. These children may be living in cars, foster care, motels, the forest or the street. All can be reached through the combined efforts of Lake, Marion and Sumter County Schools social workers and the Needy Children Program in Marion County Schools.

During our Social Supper, we will be collecting:

- New Pajamas, any size (0-18 Years) for either gender
- New Children's Books

The Girl Scout Alumnae have “zero administrative cost” to provide this service to the community. Absolutely everything collected goes out to area children.

Do we make a difference? Yes! One of our recipients wore his pajamas the following October to school as his Halloween costume. When his teacher said, “Johnny, we could have helped you make a Halloween costume.” Johnny replied, “You don’t understand. When I wear my pajamas, it’s like I’m a real boy.” Please help us help more kids to feel that they’re “real.”

Registration for the October 21 Social Supper will open on Thursday, October 15.

Don't Miss the Next On Our Own Meeting

On Our Own’s October meeting is coming up on Wednesday, October 14, at Hope Central Campus.

We will be assembling 120 snack packs for needy children at Stanton-Weirsdale Elementary School in the narthex starting at 9:00am. At 10:00am, we will meet in the fellowship hall for a short meeting, followed by our On Our Own’s version of the TV program, Deal or No Deal. It’s a fun time, and you could win a “wonderful” prize, or you could end up with a clunker! Either way, it’s a lot of laughs!



On Our Own is a group of women who are single, widowed, divorced, or caregivers whose spouse is unable to be socially active, i.e., 'On Our Own.' We would love to have you come to our meeting and check us out.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ginny Wilson at (352) 430-3326.

Hope South Campus Building Progress

Check it out! Here are a few new photos of the progress at Hope South Campus.

Your support of this building project is more important than ever. Please consider giving to the building fund. You can donate easily online by [clicking here](#).

As always, we encourage you to pray for the success of Hope South Campus and the safety of all those working on this building project.



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**”. As in years past, there will be plenty of familiar sing-along opportunities for the audience, interspersed with festive, original songs, all centered around a narrative 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.



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**](mailto: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**](mailto: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**](mailto:musicupdate@hope4all.church). ***Everyone will need to do this for our record-keeping.***

Complete List of Rehearsal Dates and Times

Waiting for Tickets?

Cantata tickets will be available starting November 6 through our church website **hope4all.church**. Each seat is \$10.00. Reservations 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 6.

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!

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**](mailto:fredandkaren@mpinet.net).

Alternatively, you may contact her by calling or texting her at (352) 250-3909.



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](#)

Concert to Benefit Angel Wigs of Hope

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



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](#)

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.



[Click Here to Register Online](#)

Walking the Labyrinth of Grace

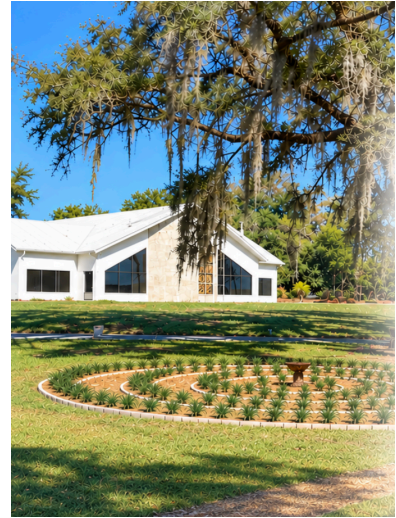
Women of Hope Fall Retreat

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 October 3 & 4, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 175
6:00pm - 59
8:00am - 114
10:00am - 193

Online:

4:00pm - 61
10:00am - 128
10:00am (HLWC) - 58

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 118

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 114
10:00am - 158

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

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

**Scripture Reading for
October 18
Twenty-first Sunday after
Pentecost**

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22



Flowers on the Altar Given By...

- Fred & Karen O'Brien, in honor of Hope's 90+ year-old members who are celebrating their birthdays today.

In Memoriam



David Seward passed away on Saturday, October 3, 2026. David was born on February 17, 1948. He and his wife, Debbie, were married on August 19, 1972. They joined Hope Lutheran Church on February 4, 2024.

Arrangements are pending at this time.

Please keep Debbie and their family in your hearts and prayers during this 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!

[Visit our Website](#)

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