

September 4, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

Church Office Closed for Labor Day

September 7 all day

Thrivent Lunch and Learn

September 8 at 11:30am at Hope Central Campus

Men of Hope Breakfast

September 10 at 8:00am at Hope Central Campus

Women of Hope Breakfast Meeting

September 17 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

Oktoberfest at Hope

September 18 at 4:00pm & 6:00pm at Hope Lake Weir Campus

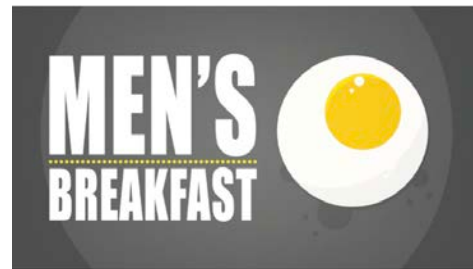
Festival of Hymns Autumn Cantata

September 25 at 6:30pm at Hope Lake Weir Campus

Festival of Hymns Autumn Cantata

September 27 at 3:00pm at Hope Lake Weir Campus

Everyone Welcome at the Next Men of Hope Breakfast!



We welcome all congregants - men and women alike - to the first 2026 Fall Men of Hope Breakfast.

Our two Co-Lead Pastors, Pastor Jon-Marc MacLean and Pastor Rani Abdulmasih, will open this year's breakfast in a tribute to key members, staff, and leadership at Hope Lutheran Church.

Breakfast 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.

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us on **September 10, 2026**. All campus attendees and their friends are welcome!

Questions? Call Raybon Gilbert, Team Leader at (352) 205-2078.

[Please Click Here to Register](#)

Oktoberfest: September 18 at 4:00pm & 6:00pm Hope Lake Weir Campus

Join us for Oktoberfest—a joyful celebration inspired by the beloved Bavarian tradition that began in Munich, Germany. Enjoy a festive evening filled with German-style food, lively music, dancing, seasonal fun, and plenty of time to relax, visit, and connect with friends, family, and neighbors. We're delighted to welcome the VILLAGES GERMAN BAND, who will entertain us during the meal and add to the festive atmosphere.



Proceeds will benefit **House of Hope**, a Christian men's addiction recovery program based in Wildwood.

Our menu will include brats, German potato salad, sauerkraut, and an ice cream truck for dessert!

Please mark your calendar for Friday, September 18, 2026, at Hope Lake Weir Campus. Choose from two seatings: 4:00pm or 6:00pm. The Christians In Action Ministry and Hospitality teams are preparing a warm and welcoming celebration where everyone can enjoy great food, friendly conversation, and a memorable autumn evening together. We hope you'll join us!

Registration: \$15 per person. Please register by noon on Monday, September 14.

[Click Here to Register for the 4:00pm Seating](#)

[Click Here to Register for the 6:00pm Seating](#)

Save the Date: 90+ Birthday Party!

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!

Invitations will be personally mailed to these individuals on or around September 11.



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. Karen will

require the individuals' names, birth dates, and addresses to mail their invitations.

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, please contact Karen via email at fredandkaren@mpinet.net.

(Your email will go to her Suspect Folder, but she checks that every day and will receive your message. Alternatively, you may contact her by calling or texting her at (352) 250-3909)

Progress Photos from Hope South Campus

Our beautiful Hope South Campus is rising before our eyes, and we're so excited by the tremendous progress being made on our property!

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. Hold our construction workers in your hearts especially during Labor Day weekend.



Church Office Closed for

Grief Support Group

Labor Day



The church office will be closed all day on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. All activities and meetings will be canceled on this day.

The office will reopen as usual on Tuesday, September 8.

Resuming



The Grief Support Group will start meeting again on Tuesday, September 15.

After September, we will meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 11:00am at Hope Central Campus. Please join us if you are grieving because of the loss of a loved one. Being a church member is not necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Moseley at moseleybarb@gmail.com.

A Festival of Hymns: Autumn Cantata at Hope Lake Weir Campus

Friday, September 25 at 6:30pm & Sunday, September 27 at 3:00pm

Kick off the fall season with an incredible show at Hope Lake Weir Campus.

Now is the time, more than ever, for believers to come together and share our heritage of hymnody. Brimming with time-honored hymns of our faith, this special show is sure to stir the soul and inspire your faith more than ever before! A love offering will be taken.

Registration is now open! Don't delay - make sure you reserve your place now!



**Click Here to Register for the
September 25 - 6:30pm
Showtime**

**Click Here to Register for the
September 27 - 3:00pm
Showtime**

Join the Next On Our Own Meeting

On Our Own's next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 9. We will be gathering in the narthex at Hope Central Campus at 9:00am that day to assemble 120 snack packs for the children at Stanton-Weirsdale Elementary School.



At 10:00am, we will meet in the fellowship hall for a short meeting, followed by a bingo game run by Ruth Leininger. Questions will be related to our country's 250th anniversary, but don't worry about knowing the right answer....we'll all share in trying to get the correct answer, and if that answer is on your bingo card, you can cover it with a marker! Prizes will be awarded for a bingo! Should be a fun time.

On Our Own is a group of individuals 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 a meeting and check us out. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ginny Wilson at (352) 430-5289, or randy572@msn.com.

Walking the Labyrinth of Grace

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 will include breakfast, lunch, fellowship and the opportunity to meet new friends in Christ plus 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, retreat begins at 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](#)

A Message from the Hope Lake Weir Campus Hospitality Team



All who attend fellowship hour after worship at Hope Lake Weir Campus are welcome to bring a favorite dish to share or a favorite item they've purchased.

The volunteers who work in the kitchen each week devote their time and love to their ministry and enjoy serving and bringing items to share. Your additional food items are greatly appreciated and add to the enjoyment of fellowship time!

Thank you for your contributions.
The Hope Lake Weir Campus Hospitality Team

Message of Thanks from Venezuela



Hope members contributed generously to earthquake disaster relief for Venezuela, thank you! Pastor Gerson Hernández of Centro Esperanza Church (Hope Central) in La Guaira, the area hardest hit by the June 24 earthquakes in Venezuela, shares a message of thanks to the congregations of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Watch this video to see how your gifts are helping bring hope and support to families affected by this disaster. Subtitles in the video translate his message into English.

[Click Here to View the Video](#)

Lunch & Learn from Thrivent Financial

Thrivent announces a **Lunch & Learn** event at Hope Central Campus on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 11:30am.

thrivent®

Come enjoy an "Intro to Thrivent" and learn who we are and what we do for Christians, their families, their churches, and their communities. Together, we will discuss your retirement, your legacy, and the importance of taxation strategies and charitable giving. This is a great event to enjoy with friends!

Our guest speakers will be Kevin Braunschweiger, Hope's own electric guitarist from our Saturday 4:00pm service and 32-year representative for Thrivent, and Scott Morris,

former Vice President of the Southeast Region of Thrivent with more than 41 years with the organization.

Please come and learn how wholistic financial planning and information can affect you and your loved ones!

A wonderful lunch will be prepared by Hope's own Chef Michael. Both regular and vegan dishes are on the menu. Enjoy Chicken Madeira with sautéed mushrooms, asparagus, scalloped potatoes, beverages, and much more... plus a delicious Cherry Jubilee Cheesecake for dessert to top it off.

Please make reservations by calling Kevin's office phone at (352) 779-9066. Only 100 people may attend, so make your reservation now! Please leave your full information with your name and the number of people you plan to bring.

There will also be door prizes!

Don't miss this chance to get to know Thrivent, its Christian benefits, and our friends Kevin and Scott. Invite a friend to this great event!

Women of Hope Breakfast Meeting

September 17 at 9:00am - Hope Central Campus

The Women of Hope will welcome Wayne Hughes, “Marion County's Gangster Historian” and authority on local celebrity Ma Barker, on Thursday, September 17, at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus. Kate “Ma” Barker is notorious for being on the wrong side of the longest shootout in FBI history—right here in Marion County.



Wayne has been intrigued by all things gangster-related since he was a preteen. He's studied extensively, collected memorabilia, visited hundreds of graves of “the good, the bad, and the ugly,” and been interviewed for national podcasts. When Wayne first visited the Ma Barker House—which is located not far from Hope's Lake Weir Campus—the staff realized he knew as much as (or more than) they did about Ma Barker—and that he had a larger collection of related items than they did. On his second visit, he was leading tours! Come and listen as Wayne shares fascinating stories about Ma Barker and her gangster sons.

Both men and women are invited to come and enjoy a delicious breakfast and hear Wayne's entertaining stories. The cost is \$10. Reserve your place by noon on Monday, September 14. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie Cook at (352) 460-7672.

[**Click Here to Register for Breakfast**](#)

Walk to Emmaus 2026



Walk to Emmaus 2026 dates:

- October 1-4 for men
- October 8-11 for women

Both walks are from Thursday afternoon through Sunday afternoon. This spiritual opportunity is a truly special experience.

Bringing you closer to God and to yourself is just a small taste of what you will emerge with from these few days. Call the church office for more information or leave a voicemail for Ellen Welsh at 352-250-9167.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Diabetes Support Group

The Diabetes Support Group invites you to join us for a special meeting on Monday, September 21 at 10:00am at Hope Central Campus.



Hope's Diabetes Support Group exists to share love, support, education, and encouragement. We typically meet every third Monday of each month. 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 or call (614) 832-0910.

Join the Hope Professional Team

We are seeking a talented individual to fill the position of Business Administrator for Hope. To provide a smooth transition, the successful candidate will begin on or before November 1 so they may spend time working with our outgoing Business Administrator Bob Franceski and reviewing all facets of the position.



The ideal candidate will have experience in business management, accounting, administration, or a related field. They must also have strong computer skills and a willingness to learn church management software.

For a complete job description, please click the link below. Interested candidates are asked to submit resumes and letters of interest to Bob Franceski at bob@hope4all.church. Applications will be accepted until September 30, 2026.

Questions? Please contact Bob Franceski at bob@hope4all.church or call (352) 750-2321.

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

Greeters Needed at Hope Lake Weir Campus



Please consider joining the Hope Lake Weir Campus Greeters Team!

Serving as a greeter is a meaningful and enjoyable way to welcome members and visitors as they arrive for worship.

Our goal is to add a few more helping hands to make the scheduling process easier and ensure guests receive a warm welcome each Sunday. Each month, you will receive an email where you can indicate your availability to help greet. Two volunteers are needed each Sunday to serve at the Welcome Center.

Please contact either Virginia Robertson at (612) 619-0220 or LouAnn O'Brien at (352) 643-1558.

Ushers Needed! Can You Help?



We have an urgent need for ushers at all weekend worship services, especially the 10:00am service at Hope Central Campus!

Ushering is a wonderful way to serve your church community with minimal time commitment - plus couples can easily volunteer together!

No experience is necessary. Training is provided, and you can choose a service that works for your schedule.

We also have an immediate need for a Lead Usher. Training and resources will be provided. All you need is a willing spirit.

If you are interested in ushering or learning more, please contact Ann Bergandi at cannieb@comcast.net.

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 August 29 & 30, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 210

6:00pm - 61

8:00am - 101

10:00am - 210

Online:

4:00pm - 60

10:00am - 90

10:00am (HLWC) - 36

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 110

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 107

10:00am - 136

In Memoriam



Don Weister passed away on Monday, August 31, 2026. Don was born on July 25, 1936. He was widowed in 2019. He and his late wife, Leona, joined Hope Lutheran Church on May 1, 2016.

Arrangements are pending at this time.

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



Maxine Crouse passed away on Monday, August 31, 2026. She was born on July 18, 1942. Maxine and her late husband, Bob, joined Hope Lutheran Church on August 27, 2006. She was widowed in 2011.

No service is being planned at this time.

Please keep Maxine's family in your hearts and prayers during their time of grief. Donations in Maxine's memory can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

**Scripture Reading for
September 6
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

**Scripture Reading for
September 13
Holy Cross**

1 Corinthians 1:18-24; John 3:13-17

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**](#)

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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