



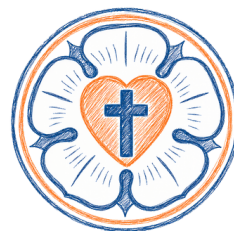
HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST



2026

Newsletter



Pastor Letter

If The Lord Wills...

James 4:13-17

¹³ Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. -ESV

There is sometimes a fine line between living in confidence in the Lord's provision and operating as though God will simply bless any action or path laid out in his name. Many churches I have seen make the mistake of failing to remember that it is not money, people, resources or influence that bring about the kingdom of God, it is God's word, the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus, the administration of his sacraments, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit that drive us toward God's purposes.

We often forget that God does and very well could call us not towards a glorious future of success (especially as the world defines it) but a difficult path of suffering, humility, and weakness. To proclaim the name of Jesus is to invite hardship, rejection, and anger. It comes with many good things as well, but it is never lacking some loss that burns away the dross within our hearts. Likewise, to seek the kingdom above ourselves and our own preferences will come at a cost; first to our pride, but then also to well laid plans that we were just so certain God must be leading us towards.

A friend reminded me that in seeking a vision for this congregation, we ought to commit ourselves to a time of prayer in seeking the Lord's will. This then is my plea: that as we go through August in preparation for the vision meeting I have set for September 2nd at 5:30, that we would begin with prayer, with humility, with a stringent desire not to invoke our own way but be led by the Lord, humbly asking his will, making no plan that does not stand firm upon Christ and his ways. Now is a time for fasting, for prayerful consideration, for preparation as we move forward.

Out of such a seat of seeking, I am confident the Lord will lead us well, to his ends, for our good and for the good of this congregation and community. As we pursue Christ, being built up and firmly rooted in him, the paths forward, the ministries to explore, the people to care for, and the many other things God has set ahead of us he will make clear in his Holy Spirit and through his word.

Praying with you for the Lord's leading,
Pastor Devin Murphy





Sharing the Road Around Hope

As summer winds down and students head back to school, our campus and surrounding neighborhoods become even busier. Between worship, ministry activities, childcare programs, schools, and community events, there are people of all ages coming and going throughout the week. Whether you're arriving for worship, dropping off a child, or simply driving through the area, thank you for helping create a safe and welcoming environment by slowing down, staying alert, and looking out for one another. Your thoughtfulness helps care for our church family, neighbors, and community.

High School Ice Skating Event

Get ready for a cool night with High School Ministry! This August, we're heading to Polar Ice House for an evening of ice skating, fellowship, and fun. Because Polar Ice House releases its public skating schedule about two weeks in advance, the event date and time will be shared through the High School Remind text group as soon as they become available. Be sure you're signed up for Remind so you don't miss the details. Text @hope912 to 81010 Questions? wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

Ways to Give at Hope

Every gift helps share the love of Jesus through the ministries of Hope Lutheran Church. Your faithful generosity supports worship, Sunday School, kids and youth ministries, small groups, outreach programs, community events, care ministries, and so much more. Whether you give online, through Realm Connect, or during worship, every gift helps make ministry possible as we proclaim and live the Word and love of Christ together.

Questions? kfaris@hopelutheranwf.org



Fellowship & Coffee Sponsorships

Looking for a meaningful way to celebrate, honor, or remember a special occasion? A Fellowship & Coffee Sponsorship is a wonderful way to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, weddings, memorials, and other important milestones while providing refreshments and fellowship for our church family after worship. For just \$55, your dedication will be recognized in the bulletin, on weekend slides, and in the Hope Café. Reserve your sponsorship today.

Questions? bevans@hopelutheranwf.org



Kids & Youth Kick-Off Celebration

Join us as we kick off another exciting year of Kids and Middle School Ministry! Bring the whole family for an evening filled with games, activities, laughter, fellowship, and plenty of fun as we celebrate the start of a new ministry year together. We'll provide hamburgers and hot dogs—just bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share. Whether you're new to Hope or have been part of our ministries for years, we'd love to have you join us as we look forward to another year of growing in faith together. Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org



Confirmation Registration is Open

Confirmation Registration is now open for all students entering 6th grade and older who would like to participate in Hope's Confirmation Program, as well as students returning for their second year of Confirmation. Through this two-year program, students grow in their understanding of Scripture, Luther's Small Catechism, worship, and the Christian faith while building relationships with peers and mentors. A required Orientation for students and parents will be held on 8/30 from 9:45–10:30 AM in the Sanctuary. All Confirmation families, both new and returning, should register and plan to attend.

Questions? bagner@hopelutheranwf.org



Worship with Hope Wherever You Are

Still squeezing in one last summer trip? Whether you're traveling, visiting family, or enjoying a weekend away, you can stay connected to worship at Hope wherever you are. Join us each weekend on YouTube to continue hearing God's Word and worshipping with your Hope family. It's also a wonderful opportunity to share Hope with friends and family by inviting them to worship alongside you. Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org



SAVE *the* DATE

SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • NOVEMBER



SEPTEMBER

9/9-10/28



Wednesday Night Alive

Wednesdays • 5:30-7:30 PM

9/13



Christmas Pageant Auditions

12:30 PM

9/18



Middle School Movie Night

6-8:30 PM

9/23



See You at the Circle

8-8:25 AM

9/25



Men's Oktoberfest

6-9 PM

9/25



OktoberBlessed

6-9 PM



OCTOBER



10/2-10/4



Middle School Retreat

10/9



Hope Hoedown

6-8:30 PM

10/24



Trunk or Treat

NOVEMBER

11/13-11/15



Women's Retreat

11/26



Thanksgiving Service

10 AM



Watch for more information
= coming soon!





Wednesday Night Alive

FOOD • FELLOWSHIP • FAITH



SEPTEMBER 9 – OCTOBER 28

EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING



5:30-6:30 PM

DINNER

Enjoy dinner
together with
your Hope family.



6:00-6:30 PM

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITY

A fun all-church
activity during
dinner.



6:30-7:30 PM

BIBLE STUDY

Children • Youth • Adults
Growing together
in God's Word.



THROUGHOUT THE EVENING

FELLOWSHIP

Build friendships and
grow in faith together.



Worship



Prayer



Community



2026 THEMES, DINNER MENUS &
BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

COMING SOON!



Visit Hope's Wednesday Night Alive page
for the latest updates.



MUSIC MINISTRY BEGINS THIS FALL

Music Ministry is getting ready for another exciting season at Hope! Whether you enjoy singing, ringing handbells, or playing an instrument, there are opportunities for children, youth, and adults to use their musical gifts to glorify God while building friendships and serving in worship. New participants are always welcome, and we'd love to help you find the group that's right for you. Visit the Music Ministry page for complete rehearsal schedules, age groups, and additional information.

Adult Groups

Choir

Do you enjoy singing? Hope's Adult Choir welcomes adults of all experience levels to join us as we glorify God through music and lead worship throughout the church year. Whether you've sung in a choir before or are looking for a place to use your musical gifts, we'd love to have you join us. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:30–9:15 PM in the balcony.

Handbell Choir

Have you ever wanted to ring handbells? Hope's Adult Handbell Choir welcomes adults who enjoy making music or would like to learn something new. Join us as we serve in worship and enjoy fellowship together throughout the year. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 6:15–7:30 PM in the sanctuary.

Instrumental Ensemble

Youth in 6th through 12th Grade and adults who play a musical instrument are invited to help launch Hope's new Instrumental Ensemble! This multi-generational group will rehearse periodically after worship and share their musical gifts throughout the church year. We'd love to have you be part of this exciting new ministry.

Amazing
Grace
♡

All for Him 



Kids & Youth Groups

Choir

Kids in Kindergarten through 5th Grade are invited to discover the joy of singing in Hope's Kids Choir! Children will learn music, grow in confidence, and praise God through songs shared in worship throughout the year. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 5–5:30 PM.

Kids Handbell Choir

Kids in 2nd through 5th Grade are invited to discover the fun of ringing handbells! They'll learn the fundamentals of handbell ringing, build musical skills, and share their gifts in worship throughout the year. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 5:40–6:10 PM.

NEW! Youth Handbell Choir

Youth in 6th through 12th Grade are invited to be part of Hope's brand-new Youth Handbell Choir! Whether you've played an instrument before or are simply interested in trying something new, this is a fun opportunity to make music, build friendships, and praise God together. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 5:40–6:10 PM.



Sign Up for All
Kids Choirs



Looking for rehearsal schedules, age groups, or more information about Hope's Music Ministry? Visit our Music Ministry page to learn about opportunities for kids, youth, and adults, including choirs, handbells, and instrumental ensembles. Whether you're just getting started or looking for a new way to use your musical gifts, there's a place for you in Hope's Music Ministry.

Questions? rvarner@hopelutheranwv.org





Small Groups

Get Connected This Fall with a Small Group

Fall is a great time to get connected at Hope through a small group. As many of our small groups return from their summer break, we invite you to reconnect with your current group or discover a new one. With more than 30 small groups meeting throughout the week, there's a place for every stage of life and a variety of interests. Whether you're looking to grow in God's Word, build meaningful friendships, serve alongside others, or simply find a place to belong, we'd love to help you find the right fit. Questions?

wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

Nourished by Faith – New Women's Small Group

Looking for a place to grow in faith, build meaningful friendships, and encourage one another in Christ? Nourished by Faith is Hope's newest women's small group for women ages 18 and older. Meeting twice each month at various locations, this group gathers for Bible study, fellowship, and authentic conversation as women grow together in God's Word. New participants are always welcome, and we'd love for you to join us. Questions?

aminor1020@hotmail.com



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Shine
His Light
♡



Brown Bag Ministry

Join Hope's Brown Bag Ministry on 8/15 from 11 AM–1 PM for a morning of fellowship, service, and sharing Christ's love with our neighbors in Wake Forest. Together we'll prepare sandwiches, pack lunches, and then head to a nearby community to distribute meals and a Bible verse. It's a wonderful opportunity to serve with friends, family, or on your own, and first-time volunteers are always welcome. Can't join us this month? Donations of granola bars and individual bags of chips are always appreciated, and there are opportunities to serve behind the scenes as well. Questions? kapernan@gmail.com



ESL Volunteers Needed

Help make a difference in the lives of adults learning English by serving with Hope's ESL Ministry this fall. We're looking for teachers, assistants, and substitute volunteers for our Tuesday and Thursday evening classes. No teaching experience or second language is required—just a heart for people, a willingness to encourage others, and a desire to share Christ's love. Join us for our Teacher & Assistant Workshop on 9/12 from 9–11 AM to learn more about serving. Questions? m.dennen@icloud.com



Mobile Food Ministry at the Durham Boys & Girls Club

Join Hope's Mobile Food Ministry on 9/2 as we serve dinner at the Durham Boys & Girls Club. This is a meaningful opportunity to share Christ's love while serving children and families in our community. Volunteers are needed for planning, transportation, food preparation, cooking, serving, and cleanup, and there is a place for everyone to help. Whether you're serving for the first time or returning to volunteer again, we'd love to have you join us.

Questions? billstevens783@gmail.com



Tri-Area Ministry Donations Needed

As students head back to school, Tri-Area Ministry is seeing an increased need for nonperishable food and household essentials. You can help support local families by placing donations in the Tri-Area Ministry collection bin at Hope. Items such as canned vegetables, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, cereal, macaroni and cheese, toilet paper, paper towels, and other nonperishable pantry staples are always appreciated. Every donation helps care for our neighbors and shares Christ's love in a practical way. Questions?

jmschaef@yahoo.com



School Supply Drive – Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who supported Hope's School Supply Drive! Because of your generosity, school supplies have been organized and delivered to Heritage Elementary and Heritage Middle School to help local students and teachers begin the school year with the supplies they need. We are grateful for the many ways our congregation continues to share Christ's love with our community. If you weren't able to bring your donations before the drive concluded, we are still happy to accept school supplies and will continue delivering them to the schools as they are received. Thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of local students and families.



Walk by
Faith

QR Codes For

Hope Website:



Office Email:



Events Page:



Giving Form:



Worship Info:



Sermons:



Ministries:



Sunday School:



Prayer List:



How to Use QR Codes

To help make registration and event information easier to access, you'll see QR codes throughout this month's highlights. You can scan a QR code by simply opening your phone's camera and pointing it at the code—your phone will automatically pull up the link for you. If you're reading the digital PDF version of the newsletter, the QR codes are also clickable and will take you directly to the linked information. We hope this makes connecting with events, registrations, and ministry opportunities at Hope even easier and more convenient.