

Piece by Piece
Placed by God



Hope Lutheran

December 2025



QR Codes for Easy Access

Hope Website:



Office Email:



Giving Form:



Events Page:



Service Times:



Sermons:



QR Codes for Easy Access

To help make registration and event information easier to access, we have added QR codes throughout this month's highlights. Simply scan them with your phone to go directly to event details, sign-ups, or additional information. We hope this makes connecting with the ministries and opportunities at Hope even more convenient.



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Contact Information

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Pastor Letter

Piece by Piece: Placed by God

Colossians 1:15-17

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

It is always an incredible joy to talk about our Advent theme each year. Christmas brings great peace and happiness to our church family and the world around us, and it is a unique opportunity to spread the good news of Jesus. To spread that message of Jesus' incarnation and coming, we try to find a theme each year to pull together the Scriptures into a unified whole that reveals their power to change our lives and connect us with God.

This year, inspired by the humble puzzle, we present "Piece by Piece: Placed by God." Puzzles represent one of the great bonding pastimes that have brought together family and friends for centuries, and they are no less popular today than ever. Part of the joy of puzzles is that they form a unity of experience between the youngest child to the most elderly adult. They build skills, challenge the mind, and ultimately reveal a beautiful picture that can only be seen clearly when all the pieces are in place.

Likewise, God, as our creator and the Lord of our lives, has a wonderful rhythm of assembling our families, lives, and circumstances piece by piece so that we both might receive his promises and be a blessing to those around us. It is through his unique placement that we often find ourselves in places of great joy and in places of real trial with the intent that we might grow as people and learn to ever more trust in Jesus above all things.

Join us this Advent season and invite your neighbors as we eagerly anticipate Christ's coming into our lives. Come see how our lives connect to Jesus and how he holds everything together and reveals a greater picture than anything we could have hoped for or imagined.

Eagerly awaiting the joy of Christmas with you,

Pastor Devin Murphy



Word Scramble

PWRDPEA ESRTNSEP

EICPE BY ECIEP

ARITMCSHS EVE

AGLEN TERE

SPUZZEL

RBWON AGB

EHATCORU

ABEHNDSLL

EITEAVLSRM

MCOOMINUN

EHPO NTHEALRU

LAATR EROSWFL

NIETRCOEBLA

KEIEWDM ESVERCIS

EARLM

News



Drive Safely at Hope

Please continue to drive carefully in and around Hope Lutheran Church. To keep our children and families safe throughout the week, the Trentini Drive entrance will be closed from 8 AM–1 PM on weekdays. With worship services, childcare programs, small groups, and ministry events happening throughout the day, our campus remains active and busy. Your attentiveness makes a meaningful difference in protecting everyone who comes to Hope. Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

Year End Gifts

As we approach the end of 2025, please remember that all gifts and offerings must be postmarked or received by 12/31/25 in order to be included in your year-end giving record. Thank you for your continued generosity, which supports the mission and ministries of Hope throughout the year. Before the year ends, we encourage you to review your giving history on Realm to ensure your records are accurate. Questions? kfaris@hopelutheranwf.org

Nursery Workers Needed

Hope Lutheran Church is hiring nursery workers ages 16 and older to help care for children ages birth to 4 years old. Sunday morning positions are currently fully staffed, but we are looking for additional workers to help reopen nursery care for Saturday services, special events, Bible studies, and Wednesday Night Alive. Applicants should enjoy caring for young children, be able to lift and play with them, and help create a safe and welcoming environment. Questions? nursery@hopelutheranwf.org

Registration For 2026/2027 Preschool Year

Members who are interested in enrolling their child in Hope's Preschool for the 2026/2027 school year are invited to email the Preschool Office to express interest. Please include parent name(s), best contact email, phone number, child's name, and birthdate. Families who submit this information will receive the direct registration link as soon as enrollment opens. This early communication helps ensure that member families are contacted first before registration expands to returning and community families. Questions? preschool@hopelutheranwf.org

Sunday School

December Sunday School Schedule Changes

Sunday School for all ages will take a short Christmas break on 12/21 and 12/28. We pray your family enjoys a season filled with worship, rest, and joy.

Regular Sunday School classes resume in January.

Kids Sunday School

Kids Sunday School will focus on Christmas-themed lessons throughout December. Each class will explore the story of Jesus' birth in ways that are age-appropriate, meaningful, and engaging for their specific group. From crafts and storytelling to Scripture and interactive activities, children will learn about the true meaning of Christmas in a fun and faith-filled environment.

Adult Sunday School – Mystery of the Season

Join us this December for Adult Sunday School as Pastor Devin leads *Mystery of the Season*, a study exploring the depth, wonder, and beauty of Christmas. Together we will reflect on the surprising ways God reveals Himself, the meaning behind the traditions we cherish, and the significance of Christ's coming for our lives today. This class offers a meaningful way to prepare our hearts for Christmas and grow in faith together.

Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday School will meet throughout December as we explore the Book of Deuteronomy together during the first two weeks (12/7 and 12/14). Students will look at key themes of faithfulness, obedience, and God's steadfast care for His people. This class is designed to help middle and high school youth grow in their understanding of Scripture while building community.



More Information

Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

MLT Letter



2025 Staff Gifts

Brothers and Sisters of Hope,

We have so much to be thankful for at Hope Lutheran, and we are blessed in many ways! While the past year has seen its challenges, the church continues to grow. Our ministries, Bible study, youth events, and other activities are well attended. New teams are being formed to help guide the church, and initiatives to help evolve the future for carrying out our mission of Sharing the Word and Love of Christ. None of this would have been possible without the dedicated energy of our Pastors, DCEs, and the Staff at Hope Lutheran Church and Pre-School.

The Ministry Leadership Team would like you to thoughtfully consider a year-end gift of appreciation. These funds will be used as gifts to the Hope Lutheran Church staff and the associated preschool personnel. These wonderful people ensure the church and its missions are supported daily for our congregations' spiritual needs.

Staff gifts can be given in the following ways:

- Mailed to Hope Lutheran Church with the memo "Staff Gifts."
- Dropped in an offering plate during services with the memo "Staff Gifts." Envelopes will be next to the donation plates in the sanctuary, if needed.
- Given electronically through Realm by going to the app, visiting Hope's giving page, or following the attached QR code.

We would greatly appreciate receiving the gifts by **December 21, 2025**.

We are always grateful for this congregation's ongoing support and most thankful for your generosity. In the spirit of the Advent season, we would also encourage you to give a simple "Thank you" to any staff member you may encounter. God's Peace to you all.

In Christ,
Ministry Leadership Team

*Mike Owens—Josh Hoopingarner—Ben Mielke—Kathy Pickens—Pam Montgomery
—Don Ketter—Rita Kaess—Joseline Kirkendoll—Amy Ikerd—John Nugent*

Word Search

R A J K V K W G Z S A N G E L T R E E F P N V F E
U Q P R F Q H P E P M N S B Z S G E Y B R K A S U
G J R Y O O U L V N U K U S B R S J G U E S U U C
P X C C G C O B Q O W H W Z Z F E L R L S M T Z D
Y H N P O T O R O R L U N Q S M B H U H C F T M L
B I P F I D O N U R C U G L Y F L V H V H O B W G
Q Y D J V E E N N H U E N I C S R K E D O P O A I
D E L C R X C S W E J W T T G G G Y T Z O C C C B
D B H V G C O E C K C L Q N E M M K C G L C T W O
R V B D E C D W B B L T X X M E G E G V R O X B Q
I M B W T P H Z K Y I X I P L V R D Y I E F S O M
V V P Y L S D R M H P Y K O R F F S U J G F N N P
E U V Z W W E N I W E I X Z N D J D O A I E N F A
S K X P W H R U F S G K E N B S D E L Q S E S I S
A Q M S E O C U E H T O O C M B Q H V V T F B R T
F U E F B T N G T S M M D Q E N X O O S R E F E O
E M P P U E S J W K L X A G I E G A F Y A L A I R
L C O M M U N I O N G C T S V F T U S G T L U Q L
Y I M N V M E O L O K T Y O E X J G R N I O N N E
F H S T B I Y G K B A O B K X V F S N J O W N R T
P O C H R O N I C L E S O C A E E A P Z N S T G T
M U I N Q K C H R I S T M A S P A R T Y P H J S E
K G U Z C C G C E K Q K D V Z W E D E C E I Q T R
K P Z C S Q P O A Q O A G L H B U X Q F Z P A W G
O W U P J L S U N D A Y S C H O O L B R E A K F B

Piece by Piece
Christmas Eve
Pastor Letter
QR Codes
Bonfire
Connections
Coffee & Fellowship

Chronicles
Communion
Christmas Party
Volunteers
Angel Tree
Sunday School Break
Drive Safely
Preschool Registration



Holiday Hours

Office Holiday Closure

The church office will be closed from 12/22–12/26 as our staff prepares for Christmas services and celebrates the season with their families. During this time, messages sent to the office email will be monitored, and staff will respond as they are able, prioritizing urgent needs. Emergency pastoral care will remain available. Thank you for your understanding as we focus on the many details of the Christmas season and take time for rest.

December Youth Groups Schedule Changes

High School and Middle School Youth Groups will pause from 12/17–12/31 as we celebrate the Christmas season. We hope your families enjoy this special time together, and we look forward to gathering again when youth programming resumes in January.

December Sunday School Schedule Changes

Sunday School for all ages will take a short Christmas break on 12/21 and 12/28. We pray your family enjoys a season filled with worship, rest, and joy. Regular Sunday School classes resume in January.



Christmas *Prepping*

Getting Ready for Christmas Card Season

Christmas card season is coming! Make sure your Realm privacy settings are updated so your information appears just how you'd like it in Hope's online directory. If you don't have a Realm account yet but want to be included before the holidays, reach out to the Church Office and we'll help you get set up. Let's stay connected this Christmas season!

Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias will adorn the Sanctuary and Narthex during Advent and Christmas. These beautiful seasonal flowers may be purchased in memory or honor of loved ones for \$15 each. Flowers can be picked up after the 11 PM service on Christmas Eve or the following weekend. You can find registration on Realm or Hope's Website. Questions? bevans@hopelutheranwf.org



Christmas Parties

Celebrate the Season Together!

December at Hope is filled with festive gatherings for kids, teens, adults, and families. Whether you're looking for a playful party, a cozy evening with friends, or a space to relax and refresh in the middle of the holiday season, you'll find something just right for you.

Invite friends and family to join in the fun—everyone is welcome!



Women's Christmas Tea – Dec 5

A cozy evening with tea, desserts, and fellowship.

Kids' Ministry Christmas Party – Dec 6

Games, crafts, snacks, and Christmas fun for kids.



Middle School Christmas Party – Dec 7

A night of games, food, and festive fun for middle schoolers.

High School Christmas Party – Dec 7

A relaxed and fun night for high school students.

Girls' Night: Ages 16–24 – Dec 19

A Christmas hangout for young women to relax and connect.



BREW Christmas Party – Dec 20

Food, fun, and fellowship for adults in BREW.

Men's Christmas Bonfire – Dec 20

A casual outdoor gathering around the fire.

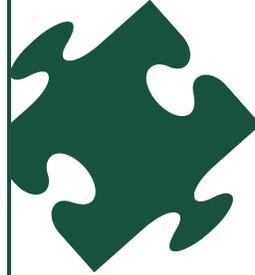
More Information

Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

Angel Tree

Angel Tree Gift Donations

Angel Tree is right around the corner, and we invite you to help make Christmas special for families in our community. Select your angels between 11/22 and 12/7 and return all wrapped or bagged gifts by 12/8. Each child's gifts should be packaged together in one bag or wrapped box to keep items organized for families. Your generosity helps share the love of Jesus with more than 30 families this Christmas season.



Help with the Angel Tree Party

Hope's Angel Tree Ministry is hosting a special Christmas celebration for families receiving gifts this year, and we need volunteers to help make the day memorable. Volunteers are needed on 12/13 from 9:30 AM-12:00 PM to assist with setup, host craft and game stations, welcome families, and help clean up after the event. We are also collecting food and party supply donations to create a warm and festive atmosphere for our guests. All food donations should be dropped off by Thursday, 12/11, before 5 PM. You can find registration for volunteer roles on Realm or Hope's website.



More Information Questions?

angeltree@hopelutheranwfb.org

Advent Season



Live Nativity

Experience the wonder of the Christmas story at Hope's annual Live Nativity on December 6 & 7 at 6:45 PM behind the Preschool. This 20-minute outdoor retelling of Jesus' birth is a beautiful way for families and guests to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Come enjoy Scripture, music, and the sights of Bethlehem as the story comes to life. All are welcome—invite neighbors, friends, and loved ones to share this joyful tradition.

Questions? wpalozzi@gmail.com

Christmas Cantata –

A Light Shines in Bethlehem

Join us for a morning of worship, music, and joy at Hope's 2025 Christmas Cantata, A Light Shines in Bethlehem, on Sunday, 12/14, during Sunday worship services. This special musical celebration features Hope's Adult Choir, Adult Handbells, Youth Bell Choir, and Instrumentalists as they share the story of Christ's birth through inspiring arrangements and heartfelt praise. Come experience the beauty of the Christmas story as we rejoice in the light of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Invite your family and friends to join us and hear the Christmas story shared through God's gift of music.

Questions? rvarner@hopelutheranwf.org

Advent Services – Piece by Piece:

Placed by God

Join us this Advent season as we begin our series, Piece by Piece: Placed by God. Through Scripture and reflection, we will explore how God works in every season of our lives, placing each piece with purpose and care. Weekend Advent services begin 11/29, and our Midweek Advent Services will be held on 12/3 and 12/10 at 6:30 PM.

These midweek gatherings offer a peaceful pause during a busy season and help prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. All services will be livestreamed. Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

Kids' Christmas Pageant

Come support our Kids and Youth Ministries as they present this year's Christmas Pageant, Christmas EVE, on 12/17 at 6:30 PM. Follow Eve and her friends on a heartwarming and humorous journey to save Christmas and rediscover the true meaning of the season—the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This joyful performance is a wonderful way to celebrate the story of Christ's birth, enjoy the gifts of our young people, and share Christmas spirit with family and friends.

Questions?

mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Services

Experience Christmas Eve at Hope

Celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas Eve at Hope Lutheran Church as we continue our Advent series, Piece by Piece: Placed by God. Throughout the evening, we gather in worship, music, candlelight, and Scripture to remember the miracle of Jesus' birth. Whether you prefer a family-friendly celebration, a traditional candlelit service, or a late-night communion experience, there is a place for you at Hope.

3:30 PM & 5:00 PM – Children's Christmas Services

These two identical services are designed especially for families with young children, offering a joyful and interactive worship experience centered on the Christmas story. Through kid-friendly readings, music, and moments built to engage little hearts and minds, children are invited to see themselves within the nativity story.

To make the candlelight portion safe and accessible for all ages, children and families will receive battery-operated candles to participate fully in the candlelight moment—creating a beautiful, glowing sanctuary without the worry of open flames.

Parents can expect a warm, relaxed environment where wiggles, whispers, and movement are welcome. These services are a wonderful introduction to Christmas Eve worship for families and guests joining us for the first time.

6:30 PM – Traditional Candlelight Service

The 6:30 PM service offers a classic Christmas Eve worship experience filled with beloved hymns, Scripture, and candlelight. This service is beautifully simple—reflective and joyful—perfect for anyone who cherishes the traditional rhythms of Christmas Eve worship. We gather as one church family to hear the story of Christ's birth, lift our voices together, and share the light of Christ in a sanctuary glowing with candles.

8:00 PM – Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion

This service continues the traditional evening style of worship with Scripture readings, carols, and the lighting of candles, while also including the celebration of Holy Communion.

The 8 PM service offers a meaningful way to enter the night with reverence, beauty, and the peace that comes from receiving Christ's gifts at the table.

11:00 PM – Celebration Service with Communion

Our final service of the night offers a beautiful, late-evening celebration of Christ's birth. With choir, brass, candlelight, and Communion, the 11 PM service invites worshipers to step into Christmas morning with hearts centered on the good news of Jesus.

This service blends reverence and celebration, creating a powerful and memorable way to conclude Christmas Eve worship.



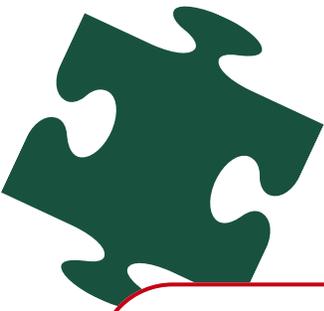
Join Us—In Person or Online

All services will be livestreamed, making it easy to celebrate from home, while traveling, or with loved ones near and far. Invite friends, bring family, and experience the light, joy, and hope of Christmas together. Scan the QR Code to go straight to Hope's YouTube.



More Information

Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org



Small Groups

Chronicles – Books of The Bible

This new small group for men and women meets on the first Sunday of each month from 4:30-6 PM in Room 300. Over the course of six months, the group will explore the Book of Chronicles and dive deeply into the themes, history, and faith lessons found within these Old Testament writings. All adults are welcome to join as we grow together through Scripture and conversation. Questions? Please contact Shelia Bishop at 919-562-1681.

Connections News

The Connections Small Group invites adults ages 25-35 to join them for several upcoming December gatherings. The group will meet for Bible Study on 12/11 at 7 PM, celebrate together at a Christmas Party on 12/14 at 6 PM, and serve the community on 12/20 at 11 AM by helping with Brown Bag Ministry at Hope. This group provides a meaningful place for faith, fellowship, and connection throughout the year. Questions? msrepak@gmail.com



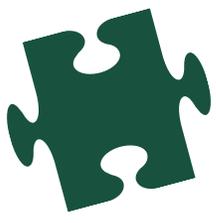
Interested in Joining a Small Group?

Are you looking to connect with others, grow in your faith, and find your place in community? Hope offers a variety of small groups for adults of all ages and stages, and we would love to help you get connected. Whether you're brand new to Hope or have been here for years, we can work with you to find a group that fits your schedule, interests, and season of life.

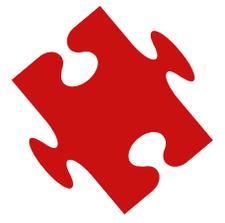
If you have a passion or interest you'd love to share with others—whether it's a Bible study, a book discussion, a craft or hobby group, a service project, a parent circle, a men's or women's gathering, or something completely new—we encourage you to consider hosting a group.

You don't need to have everything figured out. Simply reach out to Wesley with your idea, and he will help you determine if the group is a good fit for Hope's small group ministry, answer your questions, and support you in getting started.

Questions? wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org



Welcome 2026



2026 Father Daughter Dance

Join us on 2/7 from 6-8:30 PM, a special evening designed to celebrate family, connection, and joy. A fairytale atmosphere where guests can enjoy dancing, photo opportunities, and hors d'oeuvres. Whether attending as a father, grandfather, or special father figure, this event creates memories that last a lifetime. Cost: \$15 per person with a \$45 family max. Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org



Kids Ministry Family Movie Night

Join us for Family Movie Night on 1/9 from 6-8 PM. This fun and faith-filled evening is designed for families to enjoy time together while building community with others from Hope. Concessions will be available at our Hope Snack Shack, offering popcorn, candy, soda, and more. Cost: \$5 per family member or \$25 family max. Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org



2026 Sponsorship Opportunities

Altar Flower Sponsorships for 2026 are now open! Each adult may reserve one weekend per year to give more people the opportunity to participate. If you would like to recognize additional loved ones or moments beyond your altar flower weekend, consider a Coffee & Fellowship Sponsorship, another wonderful way to honor special occasions and bless the congregation. You can find registration on Realm or Hope's Website. Questions? bevans@hopelutheranwf.org



2026 Altar Flowers



Coffee & Fellowship

Winter Wednesday Night Alive

Get ready—Wednesday Night Alive returns on 1/7 and continues each Wednesday through 2/11. Join us for an evening packed with food, fun, and faith for all ages. Enjoy dinner, followed by a quick themed congregation activity. Then, children, youth, and adults break into age-based groups for fellowship, learning, and connection. Whether you're a kid, teen, or adult, there's a place for you to grow and belong.

Outreach Opportunities



The people of Hope Lutheran Church proclaim and live the Word and Love of Christ.

ESL Classes

Hope's ESL Ministry begins its next session in January, offering weekly classes from 6:30-8:30 PM for adults in our community. To support this growing outreach, we are seeking additional volunteers to serve as teachers, assistants, and substitutes. No teaching experience is required—just a willingness to learn and a heart to serve. This ministry provides a meaningful way to support our neighbors and build relationships across cultures. Questions? m.dennen@icloud.com

Mobile Food Ministry

The Mobile Food Ministry extends heartfelt thanks to the Hope family for your support throughout 2025. With the help of 84 volunteers, more than 575 meals were prepared and served across five community events this year. Our teams partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of Wake Forest, Olive Branch Baptist Church, and our newest outreach effort serving individuals experiencing homelessness in downtown Raleigh. Looking ahead to 2026, the ministry plans to host ten community events, along with responding to any disaster-related needs as they arise. Questions? gismay@afcurgentcare.com

Habitat for Humanity –

Upcoming 2026 Opportunities

Hope's Habitat for Humanity team is preparing for new serving opportunities in 2026. Be on the lookout for an upcoming Wake Forest preservation project in March 2026 and new home build dates as we continue partnering with Habitat to support families in our local community. Join our Habitat group on Realm to receive updates, registration links, and project information as soon as they become available. Serving together allows us to reflect Christ's love in practical and meaningful ways, building homes, hope, and lasting community. Questions? rogermadariaga@aol.com

Brown Bag Ministry

Thank you to everyone who served with Brown Bag Ministry throughout the year. As we prepare for 2026, be on the lookout for new Brown Bag registration information coming soon. If you would like to stay connected, receive updates, and be the first to know about upcoming serving dates, join our Brown Bag group on Realm. Serving with Brown Bag is a simple and meaningful way to share the love of Jesus with our neighbors in need. Questions? kapernan@gmail.com

Night to Shine

Volunteers Needed

Volunteer registration for Night to Shine is officially open! We need the support of our entire Hope family to make this incredible event possible. There are two volunteer registration options available now—one for volunteers serving before the event (decorating, crafting, set up) and one for volunteers serving the night of the event. You are welcome to sign up for one or both, depending on your availability. We need over 200 volunteers on the night of the event, along with many helping hands leading up to the celebration, to bring our Enchanted Forest theme and guest experience to life. Visit hopelutheranwf.org/nts to register for your preferred role(s). Volunteers ages 18+ must complete a background check, and volunteers under 18 must bring a parent-signed waiver.



Event Night



Preparing for the Event

Guest Registration Save the Date

Save the date for Night to Shine on February 13, 2026! This unforgettable prom-night experience, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, celebrates God's love for people with special needs ages 14 and up. Guest registration opens December 15 at 9:00 AM. Please share this event with friends, neighbors, and community members who would be blessed by attending.

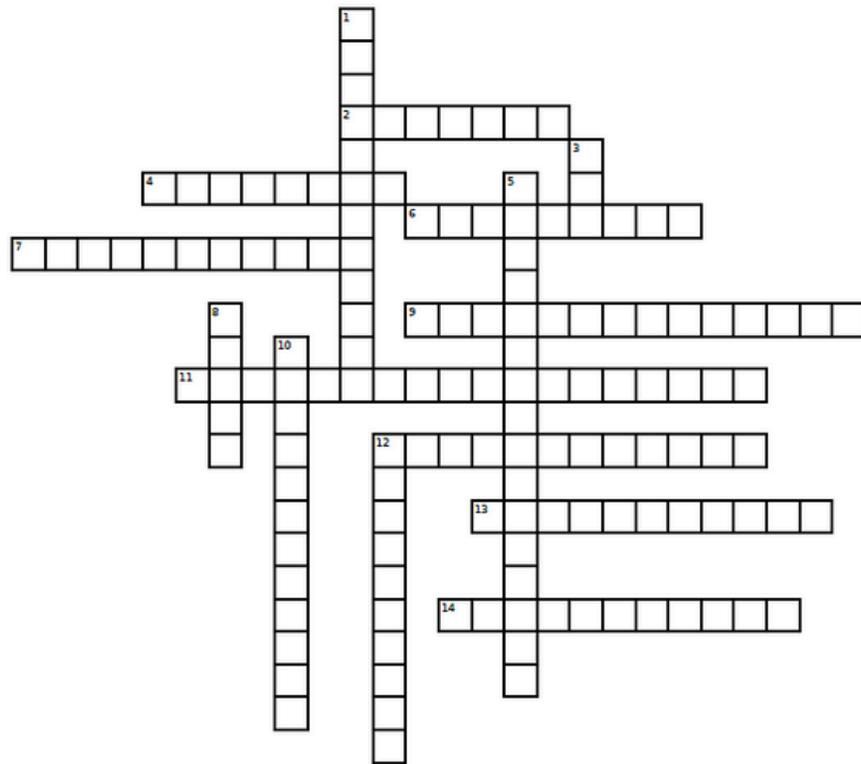
More Information

Questions? nighttoshine@hopelutheranwf.org



Website Link

Hope Crossword



Down:

1. Special needs prom event in February
3. Main character in the Christmas pageant
5. Kids' program "Christmas EVE"
8. Group performing in the Cantata
10. Advent theme title
12. Book quoted in the pastor letter

Across:

2. Outreach ministry building homes
4. Live retelling of the Christmas story
6. City where Jesus was born
7. Flowers decorating the sanctuary
9. Staff needed for childcare ministry
11. Community meal outreach
12. Night celebrating Christ's birth
13. Tradition used during Christmas Eve services
14. Ministry offering adult connections