

JULY 2026

Newsletter



Hope Lutheran Church

Pastor Letter

Building Up

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3b

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
...a time to break down, and a time to build up..."*

The privilege and joy of serving with a lively congregation is that we are always humming with activity and work. While some of us are still recovering from a wonderful VBS (with some 500 kids!) others are on to the next project, mission, activity and goal. We are perpetually about the business of the Lord trying to reach out, care, preach, teach, feed, and disciple in so many ways.

Even as we're working as a congregation, the nation around us is celebrating 250 years soon with the 4th of July, and I can't help but wonder what the future may hold. What will our country look like at its 300-year anniversary? What challenges stand in our way, and where do we need to grow and change? Likewise at Hope, we've been doing the work to listen, reflect, and take stock of what God is doing in our midst. The needs of our congregation, the hopes for our shared future, the calling of God on us has become clearer as we build up and work in ministry.

With the senior pastor call process completed and an associate call underway, it is the right time to lay out a clear vision of where we hope to go next as a congregation. No such vision has any hope of coming to pass unless it is rooted firmly in Christ, led by the Scriptures, and informed by our Lutheran confessions. Without a humble reliance on the Holy Spirit to set our path, a vision is simply words on a page.

In submission to God's will and in view of his calling, we will lay out a vision to honor our God with the gifts, resources, and talents we have, so that our mission to proclaim the word and love of Christ can take root, not only in our lives, but in the lives of the community around us. My hope is to invite you soon to such a moment in the next few months where we can gather together, unite in one Spirit, and go about the work God has given us. My prayer is that you have an open and eager heart for how we may work together to serve our Lord and his people.

Eager to unite in one Hope with you,
Pastor Devin Murphy

A Special Thank You

Note from Craig & Miki Wolff

Dear Hope Family,

We would like to thank all of you for your loving support, cards and texts of prayers and loving concerns for the last month. This is why we love Hope for the support and love you all showed us at the loss of our son Padrick.

Blessings,
Miki & Craig Wolff

Hope is Hiring

Hope Lutheran Preschool is Hiring!

Hope Lutheran Preschool is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant to support our Preschool Leadership and Teaching Staff. This position plays an important role in helping our preschool ministry remain organized, welcoming, and running smoothly for children, families, and staff. If you enjoy administrative work and would like to support a ministry that serves young children and their families, we would love to hear from you. Questions? awhitted@hopelutheranwf.org

Little Blessings is Hiring!

Little Blessings Preschool is looking for caring and dependable individuals to join our team. This position works with children in a Christ-centered environment and offers a flexible schedule of 3–4 days per week, Monday through Friday, from approximately 8:15 AM–12:45 PM. If you enjoy working with children and are looking for a meaningful way to serve families while being part of a wonderful ministry team, we would love to hear from you. Competitive pay is available. Questions?

littleblessings@hopelutheranwf.org

Happening At Hope

Fellowship & Coffee Sponsorships

Looking for a special way to celebrate, honor, or remember an important moment? Fellowship & Coffee Sponsorships provide an opportunity to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, weddings, and more while blessing the congregation with refreshments and fellowship after worship. These moments are recognized in the bulletin, on weekend slides, and in the café area. Reserve your date today. Questions? office@hopelutheranwvf.org



Congregational Assembly

The next Congregational Assembly will be held on Sunday, July 26, at 1 PM. Congregational Assemblies are an important opportunity for members to gather, hear updates about the life and ministry of Hope, and participate in the work of our congregation together. Additional information, reports, and reminders will be shared before the meeting so everyone has time to review materials and come prepared. Nursery care will be provided, and families needing childcare are encouraged to register in advance so we can properly plan staffing and care needs. Questions? office@hopelutheranwvf.org



Mid-Year Giving Check-In

As we reach the halfway point of 2026, now is a great time to log in to Realm Connect and review your 2026 giving history. Realm Connect provides a convenient way to view your contributions, manage recurring gifts, and keep your giving records up to date. Taking a few minutes now can help ensure everything is accurate before year-end. If you have any questions about your 2026 giving records or need assistance reviewing your giving history, we're happy to help. Questions? kfaris@hopelutheranwvf.org





Watch Hope From Anywhere This Summer

Traveling this summer? Heading to the beach, mountains, or visiting family? Don't forget you can stay connected to worship at Hope from wherever you are. Follow Hope on YouTube and join us for worship online while you are away so you can continue hearing God's Word and staying connected with your church family all summer long. It is also a great way to share Hope with friends and family wherever your travels take you.

Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

A Friendly Reminder Around Hope

Summer may be here, but there is still plenty happening around Hope and our surrounding neighborhoods. Between ministry activities, childcare programs, year-round schools, community events, and children enjoying time outdoors, there are people regularly coming and going throughout the week. As you travel to and from Hope, we encourage everyone to be mindful of those around them and help create a safe and welcoming environment for our church family, neighbors, and community. Thank you for helping us care for one another in this simple but important way.

Stephen Ministry

Have you previously served as a Stephen Minister? Have you been looking for a meaningful way to become more involved at Hope? Stephen Ministry provides Christ-centered care, encouragement, and support to members of our congregation during life's challenges. As our church continues to grow, so does the need for caring individuals willing to walk alongside others. Whether you are interested in returning to Stephen Ministry or simply learning more, we would love to connect with you.

Questions? garlingj@yahoo.com

Instrumental Music Group

The Music Ministry at Hope is forming a new Instrumental Music Group beginning this summer. This group will rehearse throughout the church year and share their musical gifts during worship services and special opportunities throughout the year. Brass, woodwinds, strings, percussion, guitar, piano, organ, and more are welcome. Summer rehearsals will take place on Sundays in the Sanctuary. Interested individuals are encouraged to reach out to learn more and get involved. Questions?

rvarner@hopelutheranwf.org

Staff Letter

It Took All of Hope

As I reflect on this year's Vacation Bible School, my heart is filled with gratitude. This summer, 500 children walked through our doors to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. They were welcomed and loved by 140 volunteers and supported by 13 directors who have spent more than six months planning, praying, organizing, and preparing for this incredible week of ministry.

This year was especially unique because, for the first time, our VBS was written and produced entirely in-house at Hope. It became a beautiful reflection of the gifts God has placed within this congregation. Musicians from our church wrote and recorded an original theme song. Congregation members lent their voices and talents to create our Bible Buddy videos. Volunteers painted, built, decorated, organized, sorted, prepared materials, donated more than 2,500 snacks, and gave countless hours behind the scenes. And woven through it all were the prayers of God's people, faithfully lifting up this ministry long before the first child arrived.

In 1 Corinthians 12, we are reminded that the Body of Christ has many parts, each with different gifts, but all working together for one purpose. This year's VBS brought that truth to life in a way I have rarely experienced. It truly took all of Hope to make it happen. Together, the entire Body of Christ shared His love and His promises with 500 children.

When I think back over the 18 Vacation Bible Schools I have had the privilege of directing here at Hope, this one tops the charts. Never have I seen God move so clearly to draw a congregation together to serve Him so powerfully. Thank you, Hope, for hearing God's call and stepping forward when He needed you. Thank you for your time, your talents, your generosity, and your prayers. Most importantly, thank you for helping hundreds of children know that Jesus loves them and inviting them to follow Him.

Beth Agner

VBS 2026 Recap

What an amazing week of Road Trip USA: Journey with Jesus!

- 500+ Kids
- 2,500+ Snacks Served
- 13 Directors
- Largest Prop: 18 Feet Tall
- 140 Volunteers
- 3,635 Balloons Inflated (35 casualties)
- Day 1 Carpool Record: 38 Minutes

Most importantly, hundreds of children spent the week learning about Jesus, growing in faith, and experiencing the love of Christ through an incredible team of volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who helped make VBS possible. We can't wait for next year!

Because of You

Because of your generosity, ministry continues to happen every day at Hope. This summer alone, hundreds of children, youth, adults, volunteers, and community members have been impacted through VBS, Mobile Food Ministry, Friday Night on White, youth trips, worship, fellowship opportunities, facility improvements, and countless other ministries. Your gifts help make it possible for Hope to share the Gospel, serve our community, support families, care for our facilities, and create opportunities for people of all ages to grow in faith and connection. Thank you for being part of what God is doing through Hope Lutheran Church.



Outreach Opportunities

School Supply Drive

Help us support local students through our School Supply Drive benefiting Heritage Middle School and Heritage High School. Donations may be dropped off throughout July, with volunteers coordinating weekly deliveries to the schools. Some of the most-needed items include 3-subject and 5-subject notebooks, sketchbooks, backpacks, drawstring bags, large pencil pouches, and refillable water bottles. For a complete supply list, visit our Outreach page. If you would like to help organize donations or assist with deliveries, we would love to have your help. Together we can help students start the school year prepared and supported. Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org



Mobile Food Ministry at Olive Branch Baptist Church

Join the Mobile Food Ministry as we serve dinner at Olive Branch Baptist Church in Wake Forest on 7/29. This is a meaningful opportunity to share Christ's love through service while helping care for members of our community. Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles including planning, transportation, food preparation, cooking, serving, and cleanup. Whether you can help behind the scenes or directly serve guests, there is a place for you on the team. Questions? bobgallagher@gmail.com



Volunteer with ESL This Fall

Hope's ESL Ministry is looking for teachers and classroom assistants to serve during our Fall ESL semester. No teaching experience is required, and there is no need to speak another language. Volunteers help create a welcoming environment where students can learn English, build relationships, and experience Christian hospitality. Whether you are interested in teaching or assisting in the classroom, we would love to have you join the team. Training and support will be provided before classes begin. Questions? m.dennen@icloud.com

Brown Bag Ministry

Join the Brown Bag Ministry on 7/18 from 11 AM–1 PM as we gather for fellowship, service, and the opportunity to care for our neighbors in need. Thank you to everyone who has donated granola bars to support this ministry. As Brown Bag continues serving our community, donations of granola bars are always appreciated and help make these outreach efforts possible. Whether you can serve, donate, or pray, there is a place for you in this ministry. Questions? kapernan@gmail.com



Small Groups

Nourished by Faith – New Women's Small Group

Looking for a place to grow in faith and build meaningful connections with other women? Nourished by Faith is a new small group for women 18 and older that will gather twice each month for fellowship, encouragement, and Bible study. Join us for the first gathering on 7/30 from 6:30–8:30 PM for dinner and Bible study as we begin this new journey together. Email Amy to RSVP and receive the location for the first meeting. Questions? aminor1020@hotmail.com

Tabletop Gamers

Looking for a fun and casual way to connect with others this summer? Tabletop Gamers is a small group for anyone ages 10 and older who enjoys strategy, teamwork, and games beyond the usual classics. Bring a snack to share and join us for a night of laughter, friendly competition, and connection together. Whether you are an experienced gamer or just curious to try something new, there is a place for you at the table. Please note that children under 10 will need separate childcare arrangements, as the games played are geared toward older participants. Questions? jslaldin@yahoo.com

Summer Stitches Quilting

Looking for a creative way to connect this summer? Join Summer Stitches Quilting on Tuesday mornings from 9 AM–12 PM. Whether you are an experienced quilter or just getting started, all skill levels are welcome. Enjoy fellowship, learn new techniques, share ideas, and help create quilts that bless local charities and ministries, including Durham Rescue Mission, Myra's Angels, and baptisms at Hope. Bring your sewing machine and supplies, or make use of available fabric as you stitch, learn, and serve alongside others. Questions? catcoopr@yahoo.com

Grandparents Small Group

The Grandparents Small Group is a place for grandparents and grandparent figures to connect, encourage one another, and grow in faith together. Through Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and conversation, this group creates space to share both the joys and challenges of grandparenting while building meaningful relationships within the Hope family. The group also hopes to help connect “adoptive grandparents” with families and individuals who may not have local grandparents nearby. Whether you are a grandparent, soon-to-be grandparent, or simply feel called to encourage and support younger generations, this may be a great place for you to connect. Questions? hopegpsg@gmail.com

Faith, Friends & Fun

Confirmation 26-27

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



Stay Connected to High School Ministry

Have a rising or current high school student? Are you a high school student yourself? Stay connected to everything happening in High School Ministry through our text notification group. This is one of the easiest ways for both students and parents to receive reminders about youth group meetings, events, schedule updates, and important announcements throughout the year. Simply text @hope912 to 81010 get started.

Questions?

wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org



Summer Sunday School

Summer is a great time to grow in faith together! Join us each Sunday from 9:45–10:45 AM for Summer Sunday School. With classes for preschoolers, kids, youth, and adults, there is a place for everyone to study God's Word, build friendships, and stay connected throughout the summer. Whether you are a longtime participant or looking to join for the first time, we'd love to welcome you. Visit our Sunday School page for class locations, current studies, and additional information.



Kid's Lessons

Adventure is waiting every Sunday morning! Kids Summer Sunday School continues throughout the summer with our Summer Road Trip theme. Each week, children explore God's Word through engaging Bible lessons, fun activities, and meaningful connections with friends as they discover more about Jesus together. Whether your child has been with us all summer or is joining for the first time, there is always room for one more.

Youth Lessons

Youth Sunday School continues throughout the summer, and even though we are already partway through our current study, now is still a great time to jump in. Each week students explore Scripture, ask questions, build friendships, and grow in their faith together. Whether you have attended every week or have not joined us yet this summer, there is always a place for you. Come be part of the conversation and continue growing alongside other students at Hope.

Adult Lessons

Join us throughout July for an Adults will study the book of Deuteronomy, often called "The Second Telling of the Law." Together, we will walk through Moses' final words to the people of Israel as they prepare to enter the Promised Land, exploring both the faithfulness of God and the repeated struggles and faithlessness of His people. This study is a meaningful opportunity to grow deeper in Scripture, better understand God's promises, and reflect on what these words continue to teach us today.



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.