



# Pastor Letter

## God's Varied Grace

1 Peter 4:10-11

*10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Serving at Hope has brought to life for me the truth of these words of the scripture, especially “God’s varied grace.” I am constantly in awe of how God is working among even this little corner of his kingdom: the gifts for teaching, administration, hospitality, compassion, wisdom, love, piety and holiness is evident in numerous forms. I’m humbled all the time by the dedication present among our volunteers who give freely from their life, their substance, and their experience to be Christ’s body in ways both seen and unseen.

Peter teaches us that these activities are not driven by human energy and motivation, but by the inward work and power of God in us. Knowing that he is at work, gives us a new kind of motivation: we are glorifying our God in our very lives and empowered by him to act. There is no higher calling and no greater confidence that we can be given to move.

Knowing all this; what then might God be calling you to do? Where might the hard-won wisdom of Christian experience serve your brother and sister or become a beacon of light to your neighbor? The question is individual and personal; you have to ask, discern, and step up and step in. You have to set aside your own fears and insecurity to move beyond comfort towards service.

Every weekend as I step out with a Bible in hand I feel it. The pressure to speak, to draw-in, to be persuasive, moving, accurate, pious, Christ-centered, focused on the Word. Every weekend I step into deep waters, and every weekend the Holy Spirit shows up for me and for his people so that I can share something of value. It’s nerve-racking, humbling, finger-trembling work, but God is present in my weakness to glorify his Son.

I wish I could promise you the step towards service will be easy. What I can promise, is that I will walk with you, encourage you, direct you, and thank you for all that you do in the name of the Lord. After all, we are on the same team, part of the same family, guided by a shared faith in our one Lord Jesus Christ. We are in this together.

Excited to see what God is doing in you,  
Pastor Devin Murphy

# Moments in Service

## *In Worship*

We're excited to share a recap from our recent Volunteer Fair and all that God is doing through serving at Hope. We introduced new roles and expanded many opportunities to include middle and high school students, making it easier than ever for individuals and families to get involved together. It truly takes many hands to create a meaningful worship experience each weekend, and we're grateful for those already serving and excited to welcome more.

We have upcoming training opportunities for many roles, including Acolytes, Communion Servers, AV Team, Children's Church, and more. Some of our greatest current needs include Children's Church leaders, Altar Care, lesson leaders for youth and WNA, and our Fellowship & Coffee Team. We also launched new opportunities like the Guest Follow-Up Team and Photo Team, offering even more ways to serve based on your gifts and interests.

If you've been thinking about getting involved, now is a great time to jump in. Can't make a scheduled training? We're happy to meet one-on-one and help you get started. Serving is a meaningful way to connect, grow in faith, and be part of what makes worship and community life at Hope possible.

Questions? [bevans@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:bevans@hopelutheranwf.org)

Role	Age/Grade	Training Dates
<b>Acolytes</b>	Rising 5th Grade – Middle School	May 13 at 5:30 PM
<b>Communion Servers</b>	18+	May 6 at 5:30 PM
<b>AV Team (Saturday Night)</b>	High School Adults	May 9 (after service)
<b>Children's Church</b>	Middle School – Adults (11–15 with parent)	May 17 at 9:45 AM
<b>Greeters</b>	High School & Adults	May 17 at 9:45 AM
<b>Altar Care</b>	High School (with parent) & Adults	May 16 at 10:00 AM
<b>Ushers</b>	High School & Adults	June 14 at 9:45 AM
<b>Fellowship &amp; Coffee Team</b>	Middle School – Adults (11–15 with parent)	June 4 at 5:30 PM June 5 at 9:30 AM
<b>Offering Counters</b>	18+	Email Office
<b>Guest Follow-Up Team</b>	18+	Email Office
<b>Photo Team</b>	High School & Adults	Email Office
<b>Tech Team (Sunday Services)</b>	17+ & Adults	Email Office
<b>Lesson Leaders (WNA/Sunday School/Other)</b>	High School (non-Sunday) & Adults	Email Office

# Moments Happening At Hope

## Stitches of Hope Craft Fair

Stop by the Stitches of Hope Craft Fair on 5/16 and 5/17 at Hope in the Children's Center, before and after services. This fair features a variety of handmade items for spring, summer, fall, and holidays, offering something for everyone. Proceeds from the event support local missions, making each purchase a meaningful way to give back. Plan to come early or stay after worship to browse, shop, and support this impactful ministry. Questions? [wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org)

## Hope Store: Now Open

The Hope Store is now open both online and here at Hope. You can shop apparel anytime through our online store, which will continue to expand as we create new designs and apparel. If you have an idea, we would love to hear from you. You can also stop by the office area to see what is available in person as we continue building out our physical store with items like hats, cups, and more. Whether you are looking for everyday wear or a simple way to represent Hope in the community, this is a great time to take a look.



## Hope Yard Sale – Donations & Event

### The Event:

- Sale Day: 5/16
- 8 AM–12 PM
- At Hope

### Donations:

Cleaning out your closets? Donate your items and support our middle school youth trip.

- Drop-off starts 5/9 after services
- 5/10 before and after services
- 5/11–5/13, 9 AM–3 PM
- Clothes, furniture, books, electronics, and more are welcome.

Questions?

[wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org)

## Connect with Hope

Staying connected at Hope is simple, and we want to help you find what works best for you. Whether it is through email updates, Realm, or social media, each option is designed to keep you informed and engaged with what is happening in our church community. As we move into a busy season with events and summer activities, it is a great time to make sure you are connected in the way that fits you best. If you are not receiving emails, missing updates, or getting more notifications than you would like, we are happy to help get things set up for you. Reach out anytime and we will make sure you are connected in the way that works best for you.

Questions?

[bevans@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:bevans@hopelutheranwf.org)

# Moments You Made Possible



## Because of Your Generosity

Because of your generosity, ministry is happening every day at Hope. Each weekend, people gather for worship, growing in faith through God's Word and music, while throughout the week children, students, and adults continue to learn, connect, and serve together. Your support makes it possible for ministries across Hope to continue reaching people in meaningful ways.

In April, we saw this lived out in so many ways—from the Middle School District Youth Gathering to outreach opportunities like Mobile Food Ministry and Brown Bag Ministry. Our community also gathered through events like Trivia Night, youth activities, and small group connections, all creating space for relationships to grow and faith to deepen. Behind the scenes, volunteers faithfully served in worship, hospitality, and care ministries, making each moment possible.

When you give, you are supporting worship, discipleship, outreach, and the many ways Hope connects with our community. You are part of lives being changed, faith being strengthened, and relationships being built. Thank you for being part of what God is doing at Hope. Questions? [kfaris@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:kfaris@hopelutheranwf.org)

# With Them in These Moments



## Confirmation Service

The congregation is invited to join us for Confirmation on 5/3 at 2 PM at Hope in the Sanctuary. This year, 17 students will stand before the congregation to publicly affirm their faith, saying “I believe” and taking ownership of the promises first spoken over them at their Baptism. In the LCMS tradition, Confirmation is a meaningful and important step in a young person’s faith journey, where they confess their faith in Christ, receive the Lord’s Supper, and are strengthened to continue walking in that faith.

This is not only a milestone for these students, but also a moment for us as a church family. We are called to stand with them, encourage them, and continue to support them as they grow in faith. Your presence is a powerful reminder that they are not walking this journey alone. Join us as we celebrate, pray, and surround these 17 confirmands with the love and support of their church community.

Questions? [bagner@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:bagner@hopelutheranwf.org)



## Graduation Blessing Service

The congregation is invited to be part of a special Graduation Blessing Service on 6/2 from 6-7 PM at Hope in the Sanctuary. This is a meaningful opportunity to gather as a church family to pray over our seniors and send them into their next chapter surrounded by love and encouragement. Your presence helps remind them they are supported and rooted in faith as they step into what comes next.

Questions? [wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org)



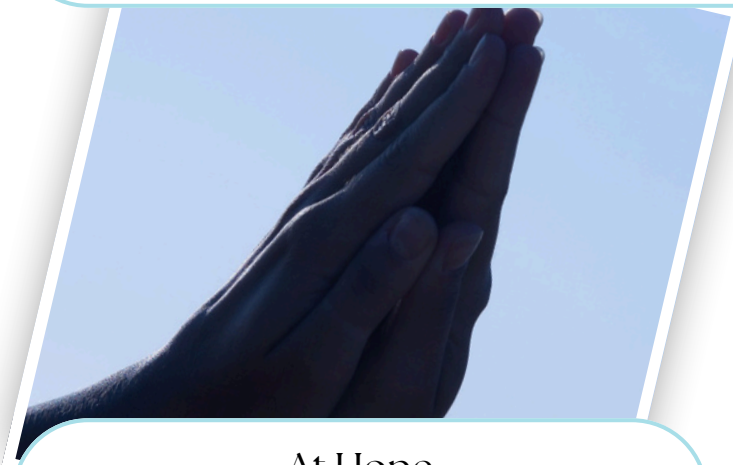
# A Moment for Prayer

## National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer on 5/7 is an opportunity for Christians across the country to come together in prayer for our communities, leaders, and one another. There are many gatherings happening throughout our area, and we encourage everyone to find a prayer opportunity that fits your schedule and take part.

Prayer is an important part of our life of faith. It is how we are invited to speak to God, to bring our needs and the needs of others before Him, and to trust in His guidance, provision, and care. As we gather with others in prayer, we are reminded that we are not alone, but part of a larger body of believers united in Christ.

Whether you attend a gathering, pray with your family, or take time on your own, we encourage you to be part of this day. Join with others as we lift up our community and place our trust in God.



## At Hope

Hope will be hosting a National Day of Prayer gathering on 5/7 from 8:10–8:30 AM in the Grass Circle. Come meet in the circle with ministries from across Hope for a special time of prayer as we gather together and lift up our nation, our community, and one another. This is a simple but meaningful opportunity to pause in the middle of a busy day and be rooted in prayer alongside your church family. Coffee, donuts, and apple juice will be available as we gather. Questions?  
[wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org)

## In Wake Forest

The Wake Forest National Day of Prayer Committee has invited Hope and all Christians to be part of the opportunities to gather on 5/7. A Prayer Breakfast will take place at 7 AM at Southeastern Seminary (registration required.) Then at 12 PM at the Wake Forest Town Hall Flagpole community gathering will be held. These are meaningful opportunities to join others across our community in lifting up our neighbors, leaders, and one another in prayer. Questions?  
[bobggallagher@gmail.com](mailto:bobggallagher@gmail.com)



# Staff Letter

## Public School Ministry

Dear Church Family,

I'm grateful for the opportunity to share an update on the incredible work God is doing through our student ministry partnership with Heritage High School.

If you did not already know, Hope has partnered with Heritage High School through the FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). Every Tuesday Wesley meets before school with the youth leadership team to plan a weekly Bible study every Friday morning from 7:00–7:15 a.m. This Bible Study consistently welcomes over 100 students. Being an athlete is not a requirement. In addition, once a month we hold a special event called “Pack Day,” where students are allowed to miss class to attend a 1.5-hour gathering. These events include food, drinks, games like 9-square, and a 15-minute Gospel-centered lesson. At our most recent Pack Day, we had 230 students in attendance. All this on a public-school campus.

This growth has significantly expanded the mission impact of our congregation. What began with around 40 students has multiplied beyond our current capacity. In fact, we now face the challenge of having to turn students away from Pack Day due to limited space and the need for more approved adult leaders to ensure a safe environment. This is a clear sign that God is moving and that students are hungry for connection, truth, and community.

We have also witnessed encouraging spiritual growth among the students. Many are asking deeper questions and engaging more intentionally with their faith. These conversations reflect a growing curiosity and openness to the Gospel, and it is a privilege to walk alongside them in this journey.

Beyond gatherings, this ministry has made a meaningful impact through service. Students have participated in monthly outreach projects such as writing cards to children battling cancer, organizing a book drive for schools affected by hurricanes, supporting Hope's Night to Shine by serving as buddies for individuals with special needs, and sending encouragement to residents in nursing homes. These acts of service are helping students live out their faith in tangible ways while blessing others in our community and beyond.

June 14, Hope will host a special baccalaureate service inviting all Heritage graduating seniors and their families. Last year we had over 200 people attend.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We are excited about what God is doing and look forward to how He will continue to grow this ministry. If you are interested in helping expand this outreach by serving as a leader or by donating funds to purchase weekly donuts for Friday meetings, we would love to connect with you.

Blessings,  
DCE Wesley Spottiswood



## Summer at Xplore Camp

Summer at Xplore Camp is packed with fun, creativity, and new experiences each week at Hope in the Children's Center. Kids will enjoy themed weeks like Wonderful World of Disney, Summer Olympics, Water Fun, Christmas in July, and Cowboy Up, plus many more. Each week brings something different, making it easy to find the right fit for your child. Xplore will be closed the week of 6/22-6/26 for VBS, as well as the weeks of 8/24-8/28 and 8/31-9/4. Visit the Xplore page to view the full schedule and learn more about each week. Questions? [xplore@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:xplore@hopelutheranwf.org).

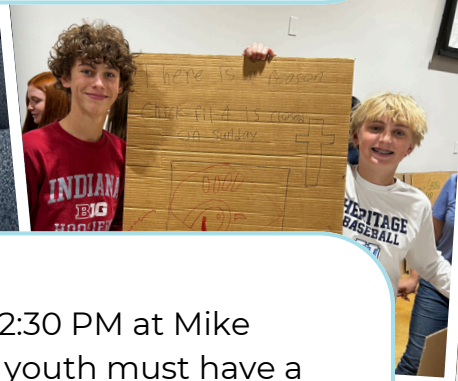


# Moments of Connection

## Wine and Watercolor

Join us on 5/29 at 7 PM for Wine and Watercolor, a relaxed and creative evening for women to gather, connect, and enjoy time together. The event will take place at Amy Minor's home, with the address shared after registration. Bring your favorite wine and come ready for a fun night of painting, conversation, and community. No experience is needed, just a willingness to try something new and enjoy the evening. Questions?

[bagner@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:bagner@hopelutheranwf.org)



## Sportsman Outing

Join us for the Sportsman Outing on 5/30 from 9:30 AM–2:30 PM at Mike Meehan's Farm. This event is open to ages 8 and up, and all youth must have a parent or legal guardian present. Lunch will be provided, and all participants are required to attend a safety briefing before participating. If you are interested in carpooling, we will coordinate a group meeting at Hope ahead of time, so be sure to reach out. This is a great opportunity to spend time outdoors, connect with others, and enjoy the day together. Questions?

[tedbachman@mindspring.com](mailto:tedbachman@mindspring.com)



## Middle School Fan Favorite Night

Join us on 5/27 from 6:30–8 PM at Hope in the Youth Center for Middle School Fan Favorite Night. This event is our kickoff to summer and a special send-off for our 8th graders as they wrap up their middle school time. The night will include their favorite games, activities, and time together as a group, along with dinner provided. Come celebrate, connect, and be part of this fun and meaningful evening. Questions?

[mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org)



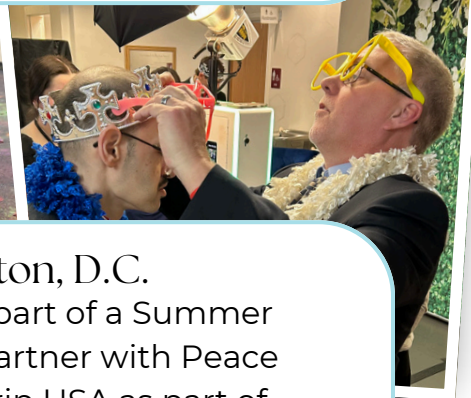
## High School Lock-In

High school students are invited to the Lock-In on 5/1 starting at 8 PM through 8 AM on 5/2 at Hope in the Youth Center. Bring a sleeping bag or blanket and a pillow, and get ready for a night of games, movies, and time to hang out with friends. We will stay up late playing games before transitioning into movies and time to rest. If you need to leave early, you are still welcome to come for as long as you can, just reach out ahead of time. Students may not drive after 9 PM without parent approval. Questions? [wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org)



## Graduation Blessing Service

Families of graduating seniors are invited to a special Graduation Blessing Service on 6/2 from 6–7 PM at Hope in the Sanctuary. During this meaningful communion service, each graduate will be recognized and prayed over as they step into this next chapter. Parents are invited to bring or create a blanket to present during the service, symbolizing that your child is wrapped in God's love and your love. This is a beautiful opportunity to celebrate and bless our seniors as a church family. Questions? [wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org)



## High School Summer Mission Trip – Washington, D.C.

Current and rising high school students are invited to be part of a Summer Mission Trip to Washington, D.C. from 7/23–7/27. We will partner with Peace Lutheran Church to lead a weekend VBS themed Road Trip USA as part of America's 250th anniversary, along with additional service projects throughout the trip. During free time, the group will explore museums, monuments, and landmarks across D.C. The cost is \$350 per person and includes housing, meals, and transportation, with lodging at a hotel. Registration is due by 5/14 with a \$150 deposit. This is a meaningful opportunity to serve, grow in faith, and experience something new together. Questions? [wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org)

# Moments Together

## *In Small Groups*

### Connections Small Group

#### Friday Night on White

Connections Small Group for ages 25–35 is gathering on 5/8 from 6–9 PM at Friday Night on White in Downtown Wake Forest. This is a great opportunity to spend time together, build friendships, and connect in a relaxed and fun setting. Exact meeting details will be shared after you reach out, so be sure to email for more information. Whether you are new or have already been part of Connections, you are invited to come and be part of it. Questions? [msrepak@gmail.com](mailto:msrepak@gmail.com)



### Fix-It Fellowship

A new small group is forming at Hope called Fix-It Fellowship, meeting monthly at Hope with dates shared after sign-up. This group focuses on caring for our church buildings through simple, hands-on projects like changing light bulbs, painting, small repairs, and general upkeep. There are opportunities for all skill levels, so no experience is needed to be part of it. If you enjoy working with your hands or want to help care for the place we call home, this is a great way to get involved. Questions? [wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org)



### Connections Small Group Meeting

Connections Small Group for ages 25–35 is gathering on 5/21 from 7–8:30 PM at Hope in Room 300. This group is a space to grow in faith, build meaningful friendships, and connect with others in a similar stage of life. Whether you have been part of Connections or are just looking for a place to get plugged in, you are invited to join us. Questions? [msrepak@gmail.com](mailto:msrepak@gmail.com)



# Vacation Bible School

*2026: Road Trip USA*

Get ready for an unforgettable week of faith, fun, and adventure! This Hope-created VBS experience is designed just for our community—combining meaningful faith moments with high-energy fun. Kids (and volunteers!) will hit the road as we explore God’s love in creative, engaging ways all week long.

## Dates & Times

June 22–26, 2026

Day Session: 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Evening Session: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

## Who Can Attend & Serve?

- Kids: Age 4 (by Aug. 31, 2026 & potty trained) through rising 5th grade
- Volunteers: Rising 6th grade through adult

**VBS is for everyone—whether you’re attending or helping lead the fun!**

## What Makes This VBS Special

- Designed and created by Hope—a one-of-a-kind experience you won’t find anywhere else
- High-energy music and worship
- Interactive Bible stories
- Games, crafts, and hands-on activities
- A welcoming environment where every child belongs

Each day is a new stop on the journey—full of discovery, laughter, and learning.

## Be Part of What Makes VBS Possible

Each year, VBS welcomes 500+ kids—and it takes a strong team to make it all happen. We’re looking for 150+ volunteers across both sessions to help create a safe, fun, and faith-filled experience.

Whether you love leading, organizing, cheering kids on, or working behind the scenes—there’s a place for you to serve and make a difference.



Ready to Join the Journey?



# Moments in Service In Care & Outreach

## Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

Join us on 5/16 from 8:45–11 AM as we serve our community through our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup. We will meet at The Circle at 8:45 AM before heading out together. This opportunity is open to adults and youth ages 12 and up, with a parent or guardian required to sign a waiver for all participants ages 12–17. Come be part of caring for our local environment and making a visible impact in our community. Be sure to sign up in advance so we can plan accordingly. Questions? [lizcitypirate@hotmail.com](mailto:lizcitypirate@hotmail.com)



## Mobile Food Ministry Training

Interested in serving with Mobile Food Ministry? Join us on 6/6 from 9 AM–1 PM at Hope in the parking lot for a hands-on training opportunity. This training will walk through what to expect, how to serve, and ways you can be part of this meaningful outreach. Whether you are new or just want to learn more, this is a great first step to getting involved and making an impact in our community. Questions? [gismay@afcurgentcare.com](mailto:gismay@afcurgentcare.com)



## Brown Bag Ministry Granola Bar Collection

Brown Bag Ministry is collecting granola bars all month to include in lunch bags for those in need in our local community. Donations can be dropped off anytime at Hope in the Café donation bin, making it easy to give as you are able. This simple contribution helps provide meals and care to others in a meaningful way. Thank you for continuing to support this outreach and help care for our community. Questions? [kapernan@gmail.com](mailto:kapernan@gmail.com)







## Friday Night on White: Volunteers Needed

Hope will be part of Friday Night on White each month from through September, and we're looking for volunteers to help make it happen. This outreach takes place in downtown Wake Forest on the second Friday of each month and is a simple, meaningful way to connect with our community. Volunteers help hand out water, welcome visitors, and assist with set-up and take-down, creating a friendly and visible presence for Hope. Whether you can serve one time or throughout the season, your time makes a real impact. Sign up for the month that works best for you and be part of this opportunity to connect and serve.

Questions? [wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org](mailto:wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org)



**May**



**June**

## Brown Bag Ministry Lunch Packing & Distribution

Join Brown Bag Ministry on 5/16 from 11 AM-1 PM at Hope in the Café area as we pack lunches to distribute in Wake Forest. This is a hands-on opportunity to serve our local community and make a meaningful impact. You can also come early to shop the Youth Yard Sale before helping pack and prepare meals. Sign up through Realm or reach out for more information and be part of this outreach.

Questions? [kapernan@gmail.com](mailto:kapernan@gmail.com)





# QR Codes for

# *Easy Access*

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.