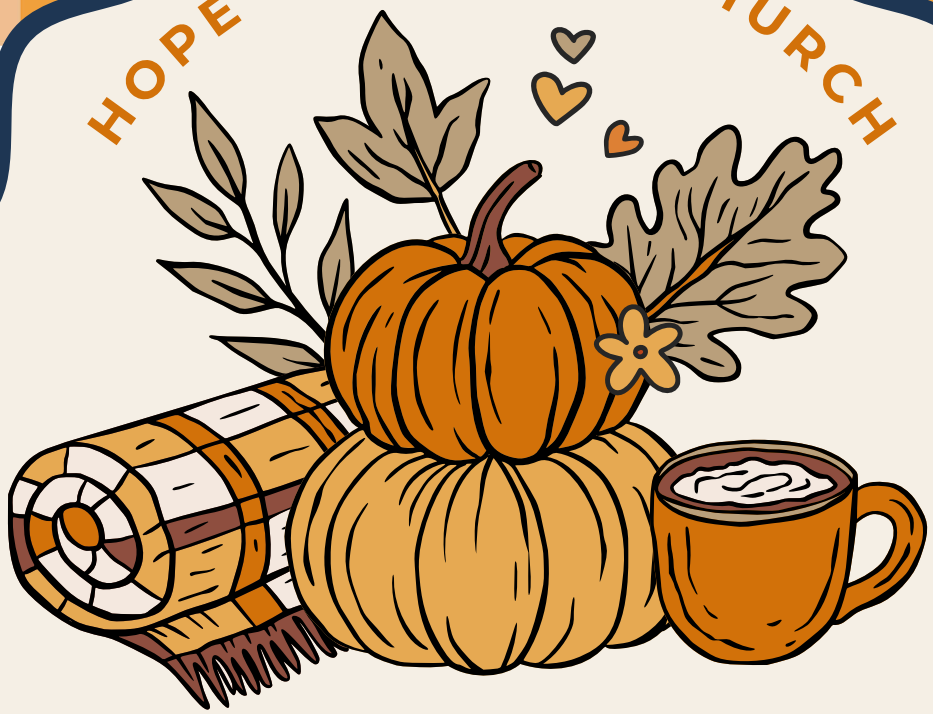
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH



NOVEMBER 2026

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another.”

1 Peter 4:10

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Pastor Letter

All the Saints

Ephesians 1:15-23
For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.-ESV

The New Testament uses the Greek word ἅγιος (hagios) over 60 times. In virtually every case the context appears to be the same: it refers to the “holy ones” or the saints. There is little to nothing to suggest in any context that this refers to a special class of Christian, that it evokes a peculiar status of personal holiness, or that it only applies to the very best among us. Very much to the contrary, not only are there numerous examples that imply a broad definition, but there are also verses, like Ephesians 5:3, that explicitly exhort the saints to abstain from sinful behavior, showcasing the reality that to be a saint is not to suggest perfection or perfect Christian maturity.

So often we want to cloud this concept with differences in human behavior, and we miss out on the better reality. Everyone likes a little hierarchy, to be recognized as a more special kind of case, to be thought of as residing among the mature in faith. Would that we instead were excited and energized by the greater reality: God has abundantly, mercifully, and without distinction called countless sinners out of the darkness of sin and death into the marvelous light of true holiness, that he has by the blood of his Son washed sinners so thoroughly, that he has done what no alchemist ever could: taken the very lead of sinful people and turned them into the pure gold of a saint.

If only we could stop for a moment planning the jewels in our crowns and rejoice more in the fact that God has elevated the most unlikely of souls to a place of royal authority, that he has granted a crown to so many, that he has worked so much in Christ Jesus and poured out so many great and wondrous blessings in the gift of his Holy Spirit.

As I write, I think of our coming service for all Saints Sunday and the many saints gone ahead of us. They weren't sinless, but they were justified. They weren't flawless, but God made them holy. They weren't perfected, but they had a hope that transcends death and awaits something better: life everlasting in Jesus Christ

Remember, then, that today you are a saint, that tomorrow you will be a saint, and one day you will go ahead sainted. And when that day comes, if the Lord tarries, we will rejoice over you in anticipation, longing to join you in the fold of our God's fellowship, and delighted to know that whatever evils befell you, whatever sins you committed, you have been made holy forever by the blood of the lamb.

Yearning with you until that day,
Pastor Devin Murphy

News & Updates

Trimming the Tree: Decorate With Your Hope Family

Help us deck the halls and prepare Hope for Christmas! Join your Hope family on 11/29 following the 11 AM service for our Trimming the Tree event. Everyone is invited, from our youngest children to our elders, to share in the joy of decorating our church home as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Bring Christmas decorations such as ornaments, tinsel, garland, and more to help adorn the trees in the Sanctuary and possibly the Narthex. Homemade creations and store-bought decorations are equally welcome! Whether you enjoy making something special or choosing a decoration to share, your contribution will help fill our worship spaces with the warmth and joy of the season. Come spend time with your Hope family, lend a hand, and help turn our trees into a beautiful expression of our celebration together. We'd love to have every generation be part of making Hope ready for Christmas!
Questions? dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org



Take a Look at Your 2026 Giving

As we celebrate this season of Thanksgiving, we give thanks for you—our Hope family and friends—and the many ways you have supported ministry throughout 2026. Your faithful generosity helps us share the love of Jesus, care for one another, and serve our neighbors. Thank you for your continued support and for all you have helped make possible this year! As we approach year-end, please take a moment in Realm to review your giving history. Questions? kfaris@hopelutheranwf.org

2027 Altar Flowers & Fellowship Sponsorships Are Open

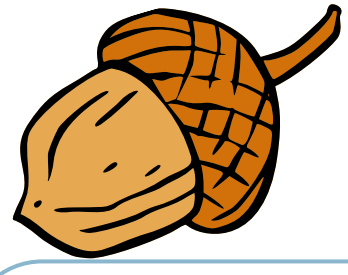
Looking ahead to 2027? Altar Flowers and Fellowship sponsorship dates are now open! Sponsoring is a meaningful way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, baptism, confirmation, wedding, or another special occasion, remember a loved one, or simply give thanks for God's blessings. Choose a date that is meaningful to you and help add something special to our worship and fellowship together at Hope. Dates can fill quickly, especially around holidays and special weekends, so take a look at the 2027 calendar and reserve your preferred date early. Questions? bevans@hopelutheranwf.org

Serve With Our Worship Volunteer Team

Help make worship a welcoming place for everyone by joining our worship volunteer team. We're looking for Youth in Middle School and above and adults to serve in many roles, including Children's Church, ushering, and altar care, with opportunities suited to different ages and abilities. We'd love to talk with you about your God-given gifts and skills and help you find a place to serve. Just one weekend a month can go a long way toward sharing the responsibilities and giving fellow volunteers more opportunities to worship. Questions? bevans@hopelutheranwf.org

Help Us Grow Our Nursery Team

Do you have a heart for children and helping families grow in faith? Hope is looking for loving, caring adults (18+) to join our Nursery Team! Our Nursery workers provide a safe and welcoming place for our littlest ones while giving parents the opportunity to worship knowing their children are being cared for and loved. By serving in the Nursery, you're not just helping care for babies and young children—you're helping make worship possible for families and becoming part of their faith journey at Hope. If this sounds like a place where you could serve, we'd love to hear from you!
Questions? nursery@hopelutheranwf.org



Fall Events

Touch-A-Truck

Big vehicles, curious kids, and plenty of family fun—Touch-A-Truck is rolling into Hope's back parking lot on 11/14 from 10 AM-2 PM! Bring the family to explore vehicles up close, then grab lunch from the BBQ food truck, with food purchased separately. Admission is $5 per kid with a $20 maximum, and parents are free. Additional donations are welcome, and all event proceeds will support Little Blessings and help revitalize the playground and equipment for more adventures ahead.

Questions? littleblessings@hopelutheranwf.org

Kids & Youth Servant Event: Care Packages

Our Kids and Youth are putting their faith into action! On 11/8, they'll spend the Sunday School hour assembling care packages for our friends in nursing homes and those who are homebound. Our whole Hope family can help make these packages extra special by donating needed items from our Amazon Wish List. Choose an item to donate and help our Kids and Youth share Christ's love, and remind members of our Hope family that they are remembered and cared for. Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org

Middle School & Club 45 Lock-In

Calling all Middle School and Club 45 students—it's time for a magical night at Hope! Join us for an overnight Harry Potter-themed Lock-In beginning 11/20 at 6 PM and ending 11/21 at 8 AM. Grab your friends and get ready for a night filled with themed fun games, food, and plenty of time together. Cost is $20 per student. Pack your overnight gear, bring your best wizarding spirit, and save your spot for a night at Hope you won't want to miss!

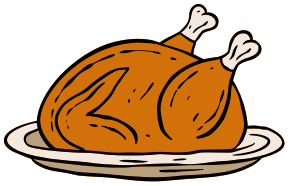
Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org

College & Young Adult Friendsgiving

Pull up a chair and join your Hope friends for College & Young Adult Friendsgiving! Young Adults ages 18–30 are invited to gather on 11/25 from 6–7:30 PM in the Youth Center for a meal and time to connect. Whether you're in college or beginning your career, come get to know others in a similar season of life and hear what's ahead for Young Adult Ministry at Hope. Dinner will be provided, and the cost is $5. Help us set a place for everyone by signing up!

Questions? wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

& More!



New Small Group: Selah Sessions

Do you play an instrument? Come make music with your Hope family through Selah Sessions, a new small group where musicians can glorify God while practicing and playing together! Join us on the 1st & 3rd Sundays from 5–6 PM in the Sanctuary to connect with fellow musicians and share your God-given gifts. There is no cost to participate—just bring your own instrument. We'd love to have you join us! Questions? bassicswithmatt@gmail.com

Mobile Food Ministry: Serving Our Neighbors

Come share God's love through a meal and a helping hand! Join Hope's Mobile Food Ministry on 11/15 as we prepare and serve dinner for neighbors experiencing homelessness in Raleigh. Volunteers are needed for planning, meal preparation, cooking, packing, serving, and cleanup. We'll begin cooking and packing in Hope's Kitchen at 1 PM, then clean up and transport the meals to 235 Wilmington St. in Raleigh to serve at 3 PM. Whether you help in the kitchen or serve downtown, your time can make a meaningful difference for our neighbors. Explore the opportunities and sign up for a way to serve! Questions? billstevens783@gmail.com

Support Hope's Brown Bag Ministry

Hope's Brown Bag Ministry gives thanks for the many hands and hearts that help us care for our Wake Forest neighbors! Thank you to everyone who prepares and distributes lunches, supports us through prayer and donations, and to the Men of Hope for their ongoing financial support. We are currently in need of granola bar donations and are looking for leaders to help organize, lead, and promote our lunch distributions. These are wonderful ways to share your gifts and help bring lunches, smiles, and the love of Jesus to our community. Interested in donating or exploring a leadership role? Reach out to learn more! Questions? kapernan@gmail.com

Thanksgiving Donations for Tri-Area Ministry

Help our neighbors gather around the table this Thanksgiving by donating nonperishable food to Tri-Area Ministry. Most-needed items include canned green beans, french-fried onions, mushroom soup, instant potatoes and gravy, canned pumpkin and dry pie crust mix, canned cranberry sauce, and stuffing mix. Bring donations to any service before Thanksgiving and place them in the Tri-Area Ministry bin in the Café area. Thank you for sharing Christ's love through these practical gifts and helping provide Thanksgiving meals for our neighbors. Questions? jmschaef@yahoo.com

Getting Ready For Christmas

Christmas Wreath Sale

The Christmas Wreath Sale is here! Support Hope's High School youth by ordering your fresh wreaths or garland till 11/15. Choose from a 16-inch wreath for $17, a 24-inch wreath for $26, or a 25-foot garland for $45. (Wreath sizes are measured by outer ring).

New this year, purchase a 24 inch wreath for $26 to decorate the church. You can order decorations for your home, purchase a wreath to help decorate Hope, or do both!Pick-up your order after services on 12/5-12/6. Proceeds help fund Hope's youth ministry programs and events!

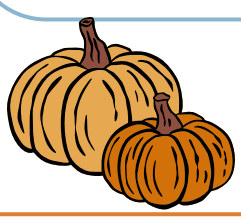
Questions? wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

Christmas Poinsettias

Help fill Hope's Sanctuary and Narthex with beautiful poinsettias as we celebrate the birth of our Savior this Advent and Christmas Season. Flowers may be purchased in memory or in honor of loved ones for $15 each, offering a meaningful way to remember and celebrate those dear to us. All orders and payments must be completed online through Realm by 12/15. Flowers may be picked up after the 11 PM Christmas Eve service or the following weekend. Questions? bevans@hopelutheranwf.org

Angel Tree

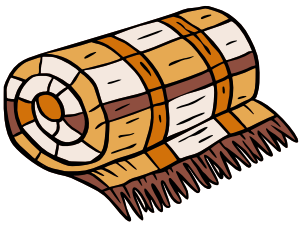
Share the joy of Christmas and the love of Jesus with more than 30 families through Hope's Angel Tree ministry. Select your angels between 11/21–12/6 and return gifts by 12/8 so we can prepare to bless these families this Christmas Season. Each angel should have one wrapped or bagged gift; if you purchase multiple items for an angel, please place them together in a single wrapped bag or box. Thank you for your generosity and for helping our neighbors feel the care of their Hope family. Questions? angeltree@hopelutheranwf.org



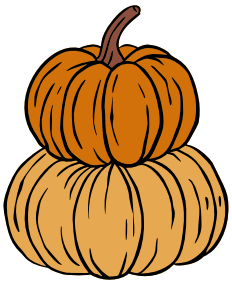


Live Nativity Volunteers Needed

Help bring the Christmas story to life through Hope's Live Nativity! We need actors, from angels to shepherds, and volunteers behind the scenes to make both nights on 12/12 & 12/13 possible. This special community outreach is a wonderful opportunity to share the good news of our Savior's birth with our Hope family and neighbors. Whether you enjoy stepping into a role or lending a hand behind the scenes, we'd love to have you involved! Reach out to Wendi to learn how you can help. Questions? wpallozzi@gmail.com



Christmas Parties



Kids Ministry Christmas Party

Join us for a holly jolly afternoon at our Kids Ministry Christmas Party! Kids in Preschool through 5th Grade are invited to the Children's Center on 12/12 from 3:30–5:15 PM for crafts, games, a devotion, hot cocoa, and a family dinner as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Come enjoy Christmas fun and fellowship with your Hope family! The party is free, with a freewill offering for dinner. Let us know you can make it by signing up!

Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org

Middle School Christmas Party

Middle School students, come celebrate the joy of Christmas with your Hope friends! Join us for our Middle School Christmas Party on 12/13 from 5–7 PM in the Youth Center as we enjoy time together and celebrate the birth of our Savior. The cost is $5; please register through Realm. Parents, pickup will be at the Live Nativity in the back parking lot at 7 PM.

Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org

High School Youth Christmas Party

High School Youth, come celebrate Christmas with your Hope friends! Join us on 12/13 from 6:30–8 PM in the Youth Center for an evening of Christmas fun and a white elephant gift exchange. Bring a wrapped, new gift valued around $15–$20 and get ready for some laughs and surprises as we enjoy time together this Christmas Season. The party is free—let us know you're coming by signing up! Questions? wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

Together in Joy - Women's Christmas Tea

Celebrate the joy of the Christmas Season with an evening together at Together in Joy – Women's Christmas Tea! Women 18+ are invited to gather in the Children's Center on 12/4 from 6:30–9 PM for a warm evening of fellowship as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Come enjoy time with friends and make new connections within our Hope family. This event is free; please register through Realm. Questions? bagner@hopelutheranwf.org

Worship Services

Christmas Cantata 2026

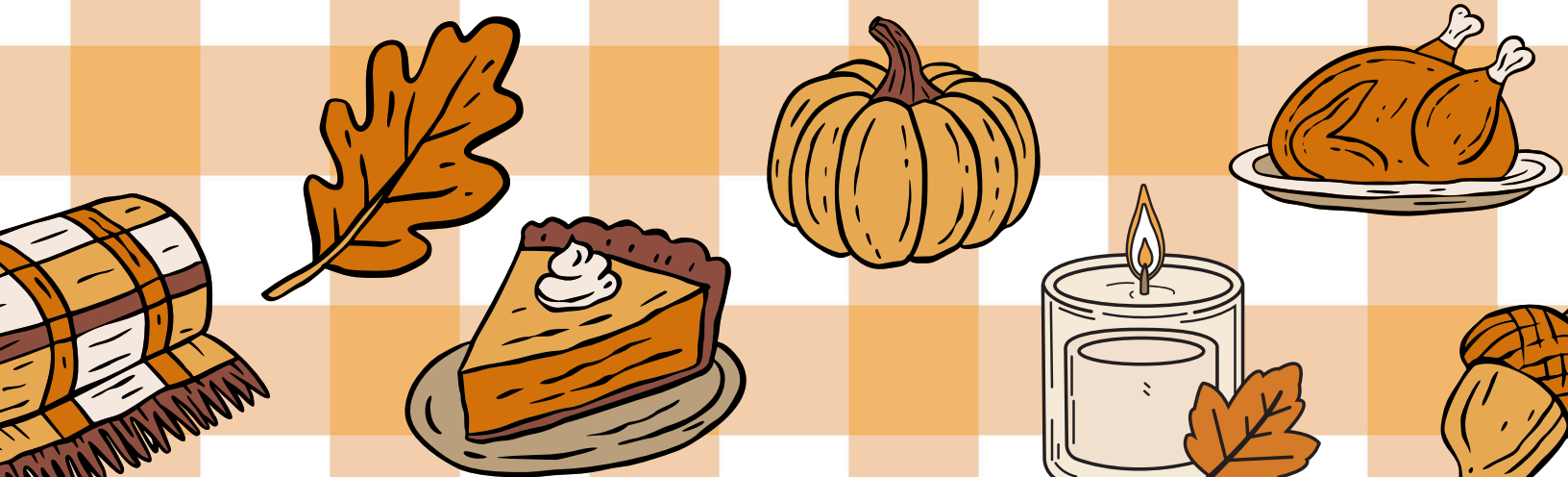
Celebrate the coming of the Christ Child through music and song at Hope's 2026 Christmas Cantata! Join us on 12/6 during the 8:30 & 11 AM worship services in the Sanctuary as our Adult Choir, Adult Handbells, Children's Choir, Youth Bell Choir, and instrumentalists share the beautiful story of our Savior's coming. Our Music Ministry looks forward to sharing this special morning with you. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join your Hope family as we rejoice in the gift of Jesus—all are welcome! Questions? rvarner@hopelutheranwf.org

Advent Season Services

Come celebrate the birth of our Savior! Gather with your Hope family for worship beginning the weekend of 11/28 and continuing through 12/20, with services on Saturdays at 5:30 PM and Sundays at 8:30 & 11 AM. Join us for two special midweek Advent services on Wednesdays, 12/2 & 12/9, at 6:30 PM. Through music, Scripture, and a message, we'll reflect on God's peace and promise as we look forward to Christmas. Services will also be livestreamed. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you, all are welcome! Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

Kids and Youth Christmas Pageant

Come celebrate the birth of our Savior with our Kids and Youth Christmas Pageant on 12/16 at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary! Our Kids and Youth have been working hard to share the Christmas story with their Hope family, and we'd love for you to come encourage them and enjoy all they've prepared. Bring your family and friends for a joyful evening together as we celebrate the wonderful gift of Jesus. This event is free, and all are welcome! Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org



Christmas Eve at Hope

Experience the joy of Christmas Eve

Celebrate our Savior's birth through worship, music, Scripture, and candlelight. From a family-friendly celebration to a late-night Communion service, there's a place for you at Hope. Bring your family, invite a friend, and join us!

3:30 PM

Children's Candlelight Service

An interactive telling of the Christmas story with kid-friendly readings and music. Battery-operated candles welcome all ages into the candlelight moment. Wiggles and whispers are welcome!

5:30 PM

Children's Candlelight Service With Communion

An interactive telling of the Christmas story with kid-friendly readings and music, and Holy Communion. Battery-operated candles let all ages join in. Wiggles and whispers are welcome!

6:30 PM

Traditional Candlelight Service

Gather for beloved Christmas hymns, Scripture, and candlelight. Hear the story of Christ's birth, lift your voice in praise, and share the light of Christ in a sanctuary glowing with candles.

8 PM

Traditional Candlelight Service With Communion

Share in Scripture readings, beloved Christmas carols, candlelight, and Holy Communion. Reflect on our Savior's birth and receive Christ's gifts at His table.

11 PM

Celebration Service With Communion

Welcome Christmas morning with choir, brass, candlelight, and Holy Communion. Rejoice in our Savior's birth and receive Christ's gifts as Christmas Eve gives way to Christmas morning.

Join Us - In Person or Online

All five Christmas Eve services will be livestreamed on Hope's YouTube channel. Join us from home, while traveling, or with loved ones near and far. Experience the light, joy, and hope of Christmas together!

Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

QR Codes

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.