



HOPE

Lutheran Church



October 2025
Newsletter



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Pastor *Letter*

The Call

To the Precious Saints of God at Hope,

By now you have probably heard that on Sunday, September 21 the congregation held a call service and voted to call Pastor Tab Cosgrove as Hope's Senior Pastor. After more than a year of going without a Senior Pastor, and due to the many months of the exceptional work of the call team, we have finally arrived at this important juncture where we have issued a call to serve in this important role. This is a crucial time of deliberation, prayer, and careful consideration by Pastor Cosgrove and his family as he weighs two calls, his current calling and the call to come serve here at Hope. Your prayers for him and his family are most needed and welcomed.

The calling of a Senior Pastor is a confluence of many gifts, experiences, training, and preparation coming together in one person to serve as a congregation's lead preacher, teacher, administrator of the sacraments, absolver, communicator, visioner, and numerous other areas of general and specific work according to the calling of the congregation. By God's will and mercy, a Senior Pastor brings healthy consistency and longevity that aids a congregation in walking through various trials, transition, and change. A Senior Pastor is "Christ's man," that is to say, a shepherd who must bear in his body and heart the welfare of the congregation in a unique way.



It is essential at this time to recognize that a call to serve is a corporate act by the congregation made together by all. The commitment we share as the people of God is to honor the outcome that we all decided. Let us say together with one voice, as the early church often did, “...it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us... (Acts 15:28a)” The best way to honor that is to take up a position and attitude of hopefulness, positive expectation, and open heartedness. It is the Lord who calls through the congregation; it is the Lord who sets apart, approves, and qualifies.

As we wait with joyful and grateful expectation, it is appropriate to thank God for the work of the call team. They have put countless hours, great passion and dedication, and incredible love into the work of bringing us to this point. Please pray for their welfare and peace as they look forward to the conclusion of the process.

God is at work in our midst. Frail, imperfect people though we be, the Holy Spirit has worked through this spiritual process to bring us to this important and good moment. We need now only wait to see where God is leading Pastor Cosgrove to serve, knowing that Jesus will care for his church, whatever the outcome.

Waiting at Hope in hope with you,
Associate Pastor, Devin Murphy



Church News

Candy Donations for Trunk or Treat

Hope is collecting 50,000 pieces of candy to make our Trunk or Treat event a sweet success! This candy will help supplement what our volunteers bring in their decorated trunks. All candy must be dropped off by October 19. Your donations help us bless hundreds of children and families with a safe, fun evening. Thank you for helping make this community event possible! Questions? bagner@hopelutheranwf.org

All Saints Weekend Remembrance

All Saints Weekend will be observed on 11/1 and 11/2. As we honor the faithful departed, we invite you to share the names of loved ones who have passed away in the last year. Please email office@hopelutheranwf.org with their name and their connection to you (e.g., friend, grandmother, neighbor). Names received will be remembered during worship as we celebrate the eternal hope we have in Christ. Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

Sponsor Coffee & Fellowship Hour

Much like sponsoring altar flowers, this is a meaningful way to celebrate a loved one, honor a special occasion, or simply bless the congregation with fellowship. Your \$55 sponsorship helps provide snacks and supplies for the Sunday Coffee Hour. Sponsors are recognized in the bulletin and on slides with a message such as: "Coffee & Fellowship this Sunday is provided in honor of John & Mary Smith's anniversary." Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

Lutheran Witness Subscription

Stay informed and inspired with a subscription to The Lutheran Witness, the official magazine of the LCMS. This publication offers Christ-centered articles, news from around the Synod, and biblical insights for everyday life. Hope members can subscribe for the 2026 cycle now through October 15. Cost: \$25, due at the time of sign-up. Please register on Hope's Website. Questions? bevans@hopelutheranwf.org

Prayer Requests

Need prayer? Whether you're facing illness, grief, celebration, or uncertainty, Hope is here to pray with you and for you. We believe in lifting up every joy and burden to our loving God. To submit a prayer request or if you'd like to receive our daily prayer email, contact the church office.

Questions?

office@hopelutheranwf.org

Drive Safely at Hope

Please continue to drive carefully in and around Hope Lutheran Church. During the week, the Trintini entrance will be closed from 9:15-10:15 AM and 11:45-1 PM to protect our children and families. Hope's campus is active throughout the day with worship services, three childcare programs, small groups, and ministry events. Your attentiveness makes a difference in keeping everyone safe.

Questions?

office@hopelutheranwf.org

Trunks Needed for Trunk or Treat

Be a part of the fun by decorating your trunk for Hope's Trunk or Treat on 10/25. Arrive by 6:00 PM for setup; the event runs from 6:30-8:00 PM. Plan to bring enough candy for 1,000 children, but don't worry, we'll have supplemental candy available if you start to run low. Help make this a memorable evening of outreach, joy, and fall fun for our community. Please register on Hope's Website. Questions? bagner@hopelutheranwf.org

Digital Safety

Please be vigilant about digital safety. Hope's pastors or staff will never ask you to give outside of our official giving platforms. If you ever receive a suspicious message, take a moment to ask before you give. Your caution helps protect you and our church family from scams.



Sunday School



Kids

Fall is in full swing in Kid's Sunday School! Each age group is diving into exciting new themes: Preschool JAM & K1 Crew are exploring Creation and Me, Level 23 is learning about The 10 Commandments: What Do We Do With Them Now?, and Club 45 is focusing on God Rescues. Mark your calendar for Sunday Funday on 10/12—a special morning of faith and fun for all classes in the Children's Center.

Questions? mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org

Youth

Middle and High School students are invited to dive deeper into God's Word as we continue our journey through Exodus. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM in the Youth Center to explore how God delivered His people, revealed His covenant, and led them toward the Promised Land. Come for the truth, stay for the connection, and discover how God's story is still unfolding in your life today. Questions?

wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

Adults

Come on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM in rooms 301/302 for Saints and Sinners: First Corinthians. Walk verse by verse through Paul's challenging and uplifting letter to the church in Corinth. Explore how the apostle encourages believers who struggle with division, immorality, and spiritual growth—just like we do today. Join us as we learn how to live out our faith more fully in today's world. Questions?

dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org

Wednesday *Night* Alive

Wednesday Night Alive continues through 10/29

Join us each Wednesday for a night packed with food, fun, and faith for all ages. Enjoy dinner from 5:30–6:15 PM, followed by a quick themed congregation activity from 6:15–6:30 PM. Then, from 6:30–7:30 PM, everyone breaks into age-based groups for fellowship, learning, and connection. Whether you're a kid, teen, or adult, there's something just for you. Come grow in community and enjoy midweek moments that matter.

Themes & Dinner

- 10/1 – Pajama Party – Chicken tetrazzini, salad, desserts
- 10/8 – Glow Night – Cheeseburgers, salad, desserts
- 10/15 – Spy Night – Pulled pork, salad, desserts
- 10/22 – Bingo Night – Meatloaf, green beans, salad, desserts
- 10/29 – Costume Celebration & Trick-or-Treat – Brats & mac and cheese, salad, desserts

More Information

Dinner Cost: \$6 for adults & youth, \$3 for children ages 5-10, free for kids 5 and under. Family

Maximum: \$22

Questions?

office@hopelutheranwf.org

Adult Bible Study

Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM in rooms 301/302 for Samuel: Prophet of the Lord, part of our Wednesday Night Alive series. We'll explore the life of one of Israel's most important prophets—from his miraculous birth to his role as both prophet and judge. Discover how Samuel helped establish Israel's monarchy and how his work prepared the way for Jesus, the promised Messiah. No registration required—just come ready to learn and grow. Questions? dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org



NOW *Hiring*

Nursery Workers

Hope Lutheran Church is currently hiring paid nursery staff to care for children ages birth to 4 years old during Sunday morning services and Sunday School. Applicants must be 16 or older, able to lift and play with children, and enjoy helping our littlest members feel safe and loved. There are also opportunities to serve during Saturday services, Bible studies, small groups, Wednesday Night Alive, and other events throughout the year. Please reach out if interested.

Questions? nursery@hopelutheranwf.org

Assistant Children's Choir Director

The Music Ministry is looking for a passionate, energetic Assistant Children's Choir Director to help lead this fall. If you love sharing Jesus' love through music and enjoy working with young children, this could be the perfect fit for you. Reach out to Rob Varner or Pastor Devin Murphy to express interest or learn more. Questions?

rvarner@hopelutheranwf.org



LCMS Celebrates

Church Worker Appreciation Month

Hope Lutheran Church is joining churches across the LCMS in celebrating October as Church Worker Appreciation Month. As we remember the bold faith of Martin Luther during Reformation, we also give thanks for the ongoing ministry of today's church workers who proclaim that same Gospel. Whether it's writing sermons, preparing youth for confirmation, leading worship, teaching children, or walking with someone in crisis, our church workers reflect Christ's love in all they do.

This month, and throughout the year, we encourage everyone to recognize and thank the pastors, teachers, musicians, ministry leaders, and staff who serve our church. Their calling is more than a job—it's a lifelong ministry. Let's uplift and encourage them as they continue to serve God and His people.

Special LCMS Recognition Dates:

- October 12 – Pastor Appreciation
- October 25 – Appreciation for Deaconesses, Directors of Family Life Ministry, Christian Outreach, and Church Ministries
- April 26 – Director of Parish Music Appreciation
- May 4–8 – Teacher Appreciation Week
- June 26 – Director of Christian Education Appreciation

Join us in showing our gratitude for those who live out the love of Christ through faithful service every day.



Saturday Service *Kick Off*

Kick Off October 11 at 5:30 PM

Then continuing every Saturday evening!

Come as you are

Hope's Saturday evening worship service is kicking off a new phase on October 11 from 5:30–6:30 PM, and we want YOU to be part of it! This blended service combines the richness of traditional worship with the energy of contemporary praise, introducing our new Praise Team Leader and incredible Praise Band.

Whether you're a long-time member or first-time guest, you'll feel right at home in this relaxed, intergenerational atmosphere—perfect for families, singles, seniors, and everyone in between.

Kickoff Fellowship Meal!

Stay for food, fun, and connection on October 11 following the service as we begin this new evening worship experience together.

Want to get involved?

We'd love to have you serve! From altar care and ushering to fellowship hour and Children's Church, there are many ways to support this new service. Anyone 14 years and older is welcome to serve! Questions?
bevans@hopelutheranwf.org

More Information

General Questions? Contact the church office at
office@hopelutheranwf.org



Welcome Ty Perry To Saturday Night Worship

On behalf of Pastor Devin and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you our latest addition to our Saturday evening Worship Service and Praise Team, vocalist and guitarist Mr. Ty Perry. Ty will be our new Praise Team Leader where he will collaboratively work alongside our instrumentalists and vocalists and continue to enhance and create engaging and meaningful worship experiences each week.

Ty is a Contemporary Christian Artist and serves as the Worship, Arts, & Production Director for Vintage Church, Carrboro on Sunday Mornings and Worship Leader for Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Raleigh on Sunday evenings. He is a graduate of NC State University and resides in Chapel Hill with his wife Desiree and his two children Ellis and Maeve.

Ty brings with him many musical and spiritual gifts to our worship experience. He is a dynamic and passionate worship leader with over ten years' experience specializing in developing worship environments that highlight both traditional and modern-contemporary worship. We are truly blessed to have the chance to welcome Ty in this musical worship role and look forward to our musical journey glorifying God together. I encourage you to take a moment after Saturday evening worship to introduce yourself and welcome Ty.

Godspeed,
Rob Varner
Director of Worship Arts



B.R.E.W.

Pumpkin Carving Night

Join Brew and Connections on 10/11 for a night of worship, fellowship, and fall fun! We'll attend worship at 5:30 PM, followed by pumpkin carving and appetizers at 6:30 PM in the Youth Center. Bring your own pumpkin (or grab one at HopeFest the week before at a great price!) and an appetizer to share. It's a perfect evening to connect and celebrate the season.

Drive Shack Night

BREW is heading to Drive Shack on 11/15 at 7:00 PM! Join us for a night of swinging clubs, hanging out, and having fun at 6901 Play Golf Way, Raleigh. Cost: \$10 per person (plus money for food). Invite a friend and enjoy a relaxed evening with your BREW community.

More Information

Please register on Realm or Hope's Website. Questions? mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org

Winter Retreat - Unbreakable

Kick off 2026 with the BREW Winter Retreat, January 3–6 in Boone, NC! This year's theme is UNBREAKABLE, based on Romans 8:38–39, reminding us that nothing can separate us from God's love. Open to ages 18–26, the retreat includes worship, Bible study, community time, and optional skiing or snowboarding. Cost: \$175 (with a \$75 nonrefundable deposit.) You can also grab an exclusive retreat sweatshirt for \$35. Meals, lodging, and activities are included—don't miss this epic start to the year!



Women's *Events*

Retreat -

A Seat at the Table

Join us for this year's Women's Retreat from 11/7-11/9 at the beautiful Crystal Coast Ocean Front Hotel. This special weekend will focus on the theme "A Seat at the Table" as we gather in fellowship and faith. Registration closes 10/19 and spots after that date are not guaranteed. Pricing varies depending on room selection.

Vegas Game Night

Ladies, you're invited to a fun-filled evening at Hope on 10/18 at 6:30 PM for a Vegas-style game night just for women! We'll be playing non-gambling versions of classic casino games like blackjack, roulette, Texas Hold'em, and craps, along with other favorites like Uno, Phase 10, and Mexican Train. It's free to attend, and the laughs and memories are priceless.



More Information

Please register on Realm or Hope's Website. Questions?
bagner@hopelutheranwf.org

October *Staff Letter*

All Are Welcome

Dear Hope Family,

This year, our Women's Ministry Team has embraced a simple yet powerful theme: All Are Welcome. As our congregation moves through a season of change and new beginnings, we believe Christ calls us to make room for every woman at His table.

Think of the variety of stories already among us:

- the new mom who longs for care and support,
- the young professional searching for a faith that shapes her daily life,
- the mom in the middle years; juggling work, school schedules, aging parents, and the never-ending to-do list—who feels pulled in every direction,
- the empty nester looking for a place to belong,
- the retiree who misses the laughter and fellowship of coworkers.

Each life stage brings its own joys and challenges, but the invitation of Jesus is the same for all. At the Lord's table there is no reserved seating; His sacrifice opened the way for everyone.

Jesus summarized God's commands when He said, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). This love is active. It means noticing the woman sitting alone at an event, greeting the newcomer with warmth, and encouraging a friend to join a Bible study or retreat even if it's her first time.

One wonderful way to live out this welcome is our Women's Retreat, A Seat at the Table. It's a beautiful time to step away from the busyness of life, engage deeply with other women, and encounter Christ in a powerful setting of worship, study, and rest. Whether you're brand-new or have been part of Hope for decades, we would love for you to join us.

From now until next summer, our Women's Ministry will continue to plan gatherings, studies, and service opportunities designed to help every woman find her place and her people here at Hope. Whether you come for the retreat or another event, know that you have a seat at the table.

Come. Bring a friend. Experience the welcome of Christ.

Beth Agner
Lead DCE



Small Groups

Women In Faith - New Small Group

Join us for a new small group designed just for women! Women in Faith is a warm and welcoming group focused on growing together in God's Word and meaningful fellowship. We will meet on October 7 and 21 to kick off our regular rhythm of gathering on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in Room 300. All women are welcome—come grow with us! Questions?
rivera.anita211@gmail.com

Men Of Hope -

Monthly Breakfast & Fellowship

The Men of Hope group is for men who wish to grow through devotion, fellowship, and service at Hope Lutheran Church. Join us on the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM for breakfast and fellowship at church. From supporting Wednesday Night Alive dinners to maintaining the Prayer Garden and more, there's a place for you to serve. All men 18+ are welcome. Questions? Contact Rick Hall at 919-602-2175.

Connections Group in October

If you're in your 20s or 30s and looking to build community, check out what the Connections Group is doing this October! Join us for a hike at Falls Lake on 10/4 at 10 AM, a Saturday evening service followed by pumpkin carving with BREW on 10/11, and a Bible Study at Hope on 10/16. Whether you can come to one or all, we'd love to connect with you! Questions? msrepak@gmail.com

Looking For a Small Group?

Want to grow in faith and friendship? Hope has a variety of Small Groups for all ages and life stages. Questions?
wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

Blessings in *Our Building*

Hope Narthex Enhancements

God is so good, in all things, all the time! Several years ago, a charter member's family purchased three old courtroom benches through an auction. They are from Forsyth County, NC.....solid oak, stained/bruised, and estimated ~80+ years old. The benches and the wood have been used in some of the recent baptismal frames, and the restored benches now sit in our narthex. Thank you for the generous gift, from Janice and her late husband Steve Mortensen. Bill Klose and his wife Linda are new members, Bill used his time and talent to repair/restore/rebuild the 2 shorter and 2 longer benches. We now have place of rest and comfort in the Narthex for all who enter Hope.

Additionally in the Narthex is a beautiful oak Children's Center Bookcase, handcrafted by Steve Hilla (member of A Cut Above, Hope's wood working small group). This is an important place for children to visit, getting a weekly Bible verse and a picture for the message. Hope is blessed with so many children interested in our loving savior, Jesus! Thank you for the God given talents shared, helping Hope to live our mission



Outreach Ministry

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

Join us on 10/18 at 8:45 AM in the Traffic Circle for our next Adopt-A-Highway cleanup! Orange safety vests will be provided. Please wear long sleeves and pants, and bring gloves and a trash pickup tool if you have one (not required). Children ages 12–18 are welcome to participate with a signed NC DOT waiver. Help us care for our community and God's creation!

Questions?

lizcitypirate@hotmail.com

Angel Tree 2025 - Save The Dates

Angel Tree is right around the corner! Select your angels between 11/27–12/7 and return gifts by 12/8. Planning early helps us bring joy to more than 25 families this Christmas season. Thank you for your support and generosity as we share the love of Jesus with those in need.

Questions?

angeltree@hopelutheranwf.org

Brown Bag Ministry

Come sow some seeds with Hope's Brown Bag Ministry! Join us on 10/18 from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM as we prepare and distribute bagged lunches to those in need right here in Wake Forest. It's a great way to serve as a family, share God's love, and build community one lunch at a time. All ages are welcome, and all supplies are provided. Please register on Hope's Website.

Questions? kapernan@gmail.com

Angel Tree Volunteers Needed

Help us bring the Angel Tree celebration to life on 12/13 from 10–11:30 AM in the Children's Center! We need volunteers to bring food, supply festive items, and lend a hand during the event. This is a wonderful way to directly bless families receiving gifts through Angel Tree. Please register on Hope's Website.

Questions?

angeltree@hopelutheranwf.org

In Action

Mobile Food Ministry Opportunities

Hope's Mobile Food Ministry has several opportunities coming up to serve our neighbors in need.

Join us offsite on 10/2, 10/29, or 11/9 to help distribute meals and share God's love in action.

Volunteers of all experience levels are welcome! For details and to sign up, please register on Hope's Website or Realm. Questions? david.w.critchley@gmail.com

Night To Shine - Save The Date

Save the date for Night to Shine, happening 2/13 from 6-9 PM! This unforgettable prom night experience, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, celebrates God's love for people with special needs ages 14 and up. Volunteer registration opens 11/12 at 9 AM, and guest registration opens 12/15 at 9 AM. Watch for more information in the coming months! Questions? nighttoshine@hopelutheranwf.org

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Tri-Area Ministry

Let's stock the shelves and spread some hope. Tri-Area Ministry is collecting much-needed donations for local families—including nonperishable food, diapers (all sizes), personal hygiene products, paper goods, and household basics. These simple items go a long way in helping our neighbors through tough times. Drop off donations at Hope anytime and visit the Outreach page to see how you can keep making a difference.

Questions?

office@hopelutheranwf.org



Kids & Youth

Trunk or Treat

Join us for Trunk or Treat on 10/25 from 6:30-8:00 PM in Hope's back parking lot! This fun-filled evening includes trick-or-treating, food trucks, a not-so-scary haunted house, and a movie under the stars. Kids of all ages are invited to come in costume and enjoy a safe and festive night with their families and church friends. Don't miss this spook-tacular community event!

Questions?

bagner@hopelutheranwf.org.

PokePalooza: Pokémon Party

Calling all K1 Crew Trainers! Join us for PokePalooza—a Pokémon-themed party full of exciting games, pizza dinner, and fun surprises on 10/18 from 4:00-5:15 PM in the Children's Center.

Cost: \$10 per person. Kids are encouraged to stay for worship after the event. Get ready to catch all the fun! Please register on Hope's Website. Questions? bagner@hopelutheranwf.org

Kids & Youth Servant Event

On 11/2 from 9:45-10:45 AM, all children and youth are invited to join a special servant event as we assemble Disaster Relief Buckets to help families impacted by crisis. Monetary donations are appreciated (not required) to help supply materials. This hands-on opportunity teaches our young people about compassion and service in the name of Jesus.

Questions?

bagner@hopelutheranwf.org

The Halloween Clue Chase: Where Is Ms. Makayla?

Ms. Makayla has... DISAPPEARED! Strange sightings of ghouls and goblins have surfaced, and it's up to our middle schoolers to crack the case before time runs out. Join us on 10/24 from 6-8:30 PM for a night challenges and team competition. Come hungry and in costume (no gore or weapons.) Are you brave enough to find Ms. Makayla before the clock strikes?

Cost: \$5. Questions?

mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org

Growing In Faith

Level 23: Pikachu's Adventure

Level 23 is taking a journey with Pikachu! Join us on 10/18 from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Children's Center for Pikachu's Adventure, a night packed with dinner, exciting Pokémon-themed activities, and surprises! This electrifying event is for all 6th graders and costs \$10. Please register on Hope's Website.

Questions?

bagner@hopelutheranwf.org

Club 45: Pokémon Trainer Tournament

Get ready, Trainers! Club 45 is hosting a Pokémon Trainer Tournament on 10/17 from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Children's Center.

Join us for dinner, themed activities, and fun challenges. Dress up as your favorite trainer or Pokémon and come ready to catch some memories. This is open to all 4th and 5th-graders.

Cost: \$10. Please register on Hope's Website. Questions?
bagner@hopelutheranwf.org



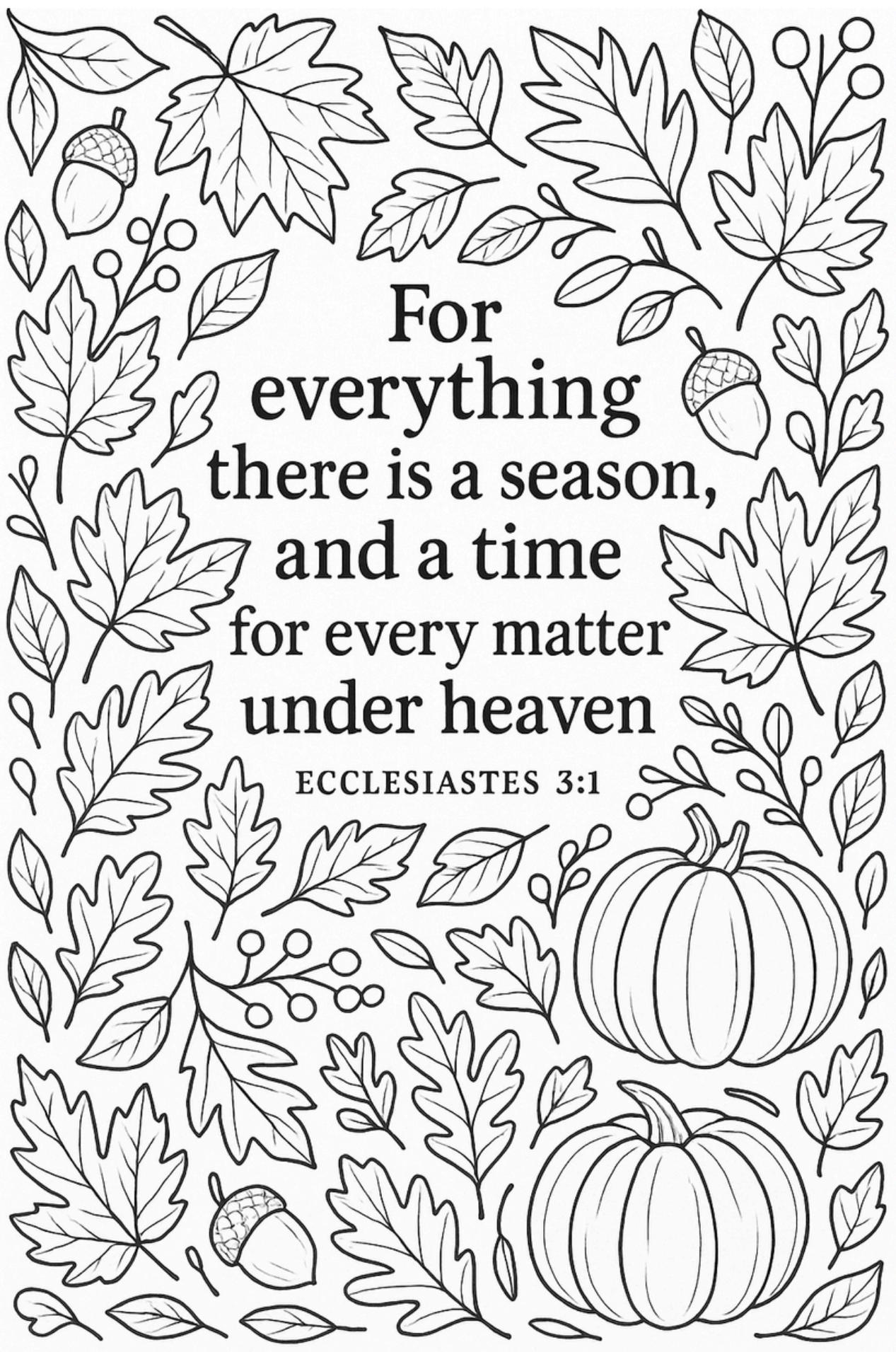
Panic Point High School Event

High schoolers, get ready for a spine-chilling night at NC's #1 haunted house! Join us at Panic Point on 10/5 at 7 PM for a night of thrills and scares. The event runs until 9 PM—just meet us at Panic Point and come prepared for haunted trails and unforgettable memories. Cost:

\$35 to pay for your own ticket.

Questions? Text Josh Agner at 919-757-2075

Just For Fun



**For
everything
there is a season,
and a time
for every matter
under heaven**

ECCLESIASTES 3:1