Hope Lutheran Church

October 2026 Newsletter



Pastor Letter

The Changing Seasons

Acts 1:6-8

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."-ESV

The disciples come to Jesus wanting to know if now, in light of the resurrection, whether the manifestation of the kingdom will take place and be restored to Israel. For so many reasons, this seems like the right time, the right season, the right moment for Jesus to fulfill and bring to fruition everything expected of the coming messianic age. Imagine their surprise to hear Jesus' gentle rebuke: it is not for you to know times or seasons...

Likewise, as we embrace a new season in nature, we cannot help but look to God at times and wonder when a new season or time in life will come. Medical troubles, deaths in the family, struggles at home, trouble finding work, the challenge of raising children, the concern with aging family, and so many other things leave us yearning for a change. Sometimes our hearts cry is to know, when God will restore, when he will save and deliver, when he will make the change.

"It is not for you to know times or seasons..." As much as we want to know, as much as we yearn, the answer is simply not to know the Father's timing, but to accept that the Father has it well in hand. The answer is not to know the duration of the season, the answer is not to know the length of trial, the answer is to remember the God who has everything firmly, fully, in hand.

Similar to the apostles, beyond the simple rest of the Father's timing, Jesus promises to give us the power we need, to be witnesses during the seasons of our life. The tragedy is present, but the opportunity to speak a word of Gospel comes too. The trial is real, but so too is the word of God on our lips. The stress is real, but God empowers us to be witnesses of his mercy in the middle of the hard season rather than moving us from it.

In time, the season will change, the time will come, every tear will be wiped away, the kingdom will be established, and the Lord will return. Until then, we rest in the Father's timing.

Bearing witness boldly with you,
Pastor Devin Murphy

In Celebration & In Remembrance

2027 Altar Flowers & Fellowship Sponsorships Are Open

Looking ahead to 2027? Altar Flower 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

Litany of Remembrance – All Saints Weekend

All Saints Weekend will be observed on 10/31 and 11/1. As we remember the faithful who have gone before us, we invite you to share the names of loved ones who have passed away since All Saints 2025. Their names will be included in our Litany of Remembrance during worship as we give thanks for their lives and celebrate the eternal hope we have in Christ. Please email office@hopelutheranwf.org with your loved one's name and their connection to you (for example: mother, grandfather, friend, or neighbor) by 10/25.



Updates & More

New Member Class

Interested in learning more about Hope Lutheran Church? Our New Member Class begins 9/27 and meets Sundays from 9:45-10:45 AM through 11/1. Together, we'll explore Lutheran theology, Hope's mission and ministries, and what it means to be part of our church family, with plenty of time to ask questions and get to know one another. Attending the class does not require you or your family to become members—it's simply a place to learn, connect, and consider your next steps. The session concludes with a New Member Breakfast on 11/7 and recognition during worship that weekend. Please register each person in your family who may potentially be joining Hope, including children. We're excited to get to know you! Questions? dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org

WE NEED YOU! Help Make Trunk-or-Treat a Success

We need YOU to help make Trunk-or-Treat a success! We expect to welcome more than 1,000 children from Hope and our community on 10/24, and we need our whole Hope family to help make this incredible night possible. There are two big ways to help: decorate and host a trunk or donate bags of individually wrapped candy. Get creative with your trunk, team up with friends, family, or your Small Group, or simply grab an extra bag (or two!) of candy while you're shopping. Every trunk and every bag of candy helps us create a fun and welcoming evening for the families who come through our parking lot. Help us get ready to welcome our community to Hope!

Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org

Worship This Fall

Fall brings fuller schedules and changing routines, but there's always a place for worship in the weeks ahead. Hope offers three liturgical worship services each weekend with the same sermon. Saturday at 5:30 PM has a more relaxed feel with contemporary music, while Sunday at 8:30 and 11 AM features traditional music. We invite you to worship at whichever service best fits your family's schedule and stay connected to God's Word and your Hope family throughout the season. And when cold and flu season means you need to stay home, join us for Sunday worship or catch up on past services on Hope's YouTube channel. Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

The Lutheran Witness Subscription

Stay connected to what's happening across the LCMS with a subscription to The Lutheran Witness, the official magazine of our Synod. Each issue offers Christ-centered articles, biblical insights for everyday life, and news and stories from across the LCMS. Hope members can now subscribe for the 2027 cycle for $26. Sign up and pay by 10/26 at 1 PM to receive your subscription for the coming year.

Questions? bevans@hopelutheranwf.org

Thank You from the Mobile Food Ministry Team

The Mobile Food Ministry Team would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for Joshua Messick: Hammered Dulcimer Concert! We were blessed by an incredible turnout, beautiful music, and the generosity of so many who gave donations throughout the evening. A special thank you to Joshua for sharing his amazing talent with us and to everyone who helped make the concert possible. We are so grateful for the support of our Hope family and community and for such a wonderful evening together!

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

Take a Look at Your 2026 Giving

As we enter the fourth quarter of 2026, now is a great time to take a moment in Realm to review your giving history for the year. Your faithful generosity makes an incredible difference in the life and ministry of Hope and in the many ways we serve our community. Thank you for your continued support and for the many gifts that have helped make ministry possible throughout 2026.

Need help accessing your Realm account? office@hopelutheranwf.org.
Questions about viewing your giving history? kfaris@hopelutheranwf.org.

Wednesday Night Alive

Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 pm

WNA is Through October 28!

Join your Hope family each Wednesday for dinner, fellowship, a fun congregational activity, and opportunities for Kids, Youth, and Adults to grow in God's Word. Whether you come for the whole evening or the parts that work for your family, WNA is a midweek chance to slow down, connect, and spend time together as One Hope. Check out the weekly menus and themes below and make Wednesday nights part of your fall routine!

Dinner, Theme, & Activities

Cost

$6 – Adults & Youth $3 – ages 5–10 Free – 5 & under Family Max: $22

Date	Dinner Menu	Theme	Activity
10/7/2026	Meatloaf	Twisted Together	Chocolate-dipped pretzel station & pretzel activities
10/14/2026	Chicken Tetrazzini	Fall Festival Bingo	Fall-themed Bingo with seasonal prizes
10/21/2026	Brunswick Stew	Pumpkin & Plaid Night	Flannel & mini pumpkin decorating
10/28/2026	Pulled Pork	Halloween Costume Night	Family-friendly costumes, candy guessing & trick-or-treating



More Information

Visit the WNA Page for more infromation.

Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

Sunday School

Join us Sundays from 9:45-10:45

What Are Hope Kids Learning in October?

There's lots to discover in God's Word this October! Each Sunday, Hope Kids are learning and growing through lessons created just for their age group.

- Preschool — Praise Party
- K1 Crew — God Helps Us Be Brave
- Level 23 — Heroes vs. Villains: God Is My Hero
- Club 45 — The Chosen One

Ask your Kids what they're learning each week and keep the conversation going at home!

People of the Bible – Youth Sunday School

Join us each Sunday in October as Youth Sunday School continues our year-long study, *People of the Bible*. Together, Middle and High School students are discovering how God worked through ordinary people in extraordinary ways and how those same truths continue to shape our lives today. Each week builds on the last through Scripture, discussion, and real-life application, making it a great time to jump in and grow in faith alongside friends.

Nailing It Down – Adult Sunday School

Join us in October for Nailing It Down, an Adult Sunday School study diving deep into some of the most central tenets and concepts of our Lutheran theology. If you want to learn more about our faith, more about church history, and more about why we find it such a gift to be part of this church body, come prepared to dive in and gain a new appreciation throughout the month.

Kid's & Youth

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

Trunk-or-Treat

Trunk-or-Treat is back at Hope! Grab your costumes and join us on 10/24 from 6:30-8 PM for one of our favorite fall traditions. Trick-or-treat your way through decorated trunks, venture through our not-so-scary haunted house, grab dinner from the food trucks, and enjoy even more family fun throughout the evening. Want to be part of making the night happen? Decorate a trunk and help us fill the parking lot with plenty of fun stops for our trick-or-treaters! Invite your friends and neighbors and join us for a fun fall night at Hope. Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org

Level 23 at Hill Ridge Farms

Level 23 is heading to Hill Ridge Farms for a morning of fall fun on 10/17! Kids will enjoy unlimited rides and activities, pick out a pumpkin to take home, and finish the adventure with a sweet treat from the shop. Families can drop off at Hope before 9 AM for transportation to the farm or meet us at Hill Ridge Farms at 9:15 AM. Cost is $20, so save your spot and register today! 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

Acolyte Training

Looking for a way for your child to get more involved in worship or earn volunteer service hours? Students in 5th Grade through Middle School are invited to Acolyte Training on 10/15 at 5:30 PM in the Sanctuary! Acolytes have an important role in our worship services and a special opportunity to serve their Hope family while becoming more involved in the life of the church. We'll walk through everything they need to know, so no previous experience is necessary. Come learn what it means to serve as an Acolyte and see if it's a good fit! Questions? bagner@hopelutheranwf.org

Middle School Monster Mash Madness

Middle School Youth, get ready for a night of Monster Mash Madness! Join us on 10/30 from 6-8 PM for a Halloween-themed night with a Monster Mash dance, scavenger hunt, and plenty of fun with your Middle School friends. Cost is $10, so grab your friends, bring your best Monster Mash moves, and get ready for a fun night at Hope! Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org

High School District Youth Gathering

High School Youth, get ready for a weekend away with other Lutheran Youth from Maryland to South Carolina! Hope is heading to Camp Watermark in Virginia for the District Youth Gathering, 11/20-11/22, for a weekend centered on faith, fellowship, and time together with Youth from across the district. We'll meet at Hope on Friday at 2:30 PM and return Sunday around 5 PM. Cost is $250, and scholarships are available. Register by 10/6 and join us for a great weekend of growing in faith, making memories, and connecting with the wider church! Questions? wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

Get Back Into the Rhythm of Youth Group

School is back, schedules are filling up, and it's a great time to get Youth Group back into your routine! Middle and High School Youth are invited to spend their evenings at Hope growing in God's Word, building friendships, and enjoying time together with their Hope friends and leaders. There's a place for you. Come get connected and make Youth Group part of your fall rhythm!

High School Youth Group

- Sundays
- 6:30-7:30 PM

Middle School Youth Group

- Wednesdays
- 6:30-7:30 PM



For Women



Women's Retreat

Sometimes you need a little time away to slow down, reconnect, and be refreshed. Women ages 18 and up are invited to join us in Lynchburg, VA beginning 11/13 for Hope's Women's Retreat—a chance to step away from the everyday routine for time in God's Word, fellowship, and connection with other women at Hope. Several pricing options are available to make the weekend work for you: $75 without housing, $175 with a shared room, or $300 for a private room. Make plans for a weekend away and register early! Questions? bagner@hopelutheranwf.org



New Small Group



Law and Gospel 101

Dig deeper into one of the foundations of our Lutheran faith with Law and Gospel 101. This Small Group will study Law and Gospel and explore how they work together, giving participants an opportunity to grow in their understanding of Scripture and Lutheran teaching. The group will meet in Room 301 from 3:30-5 PM on 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 11/7, and 11/21. Whether this is a new topic for you or something you'd like to understand more deeply, you're invited to join the conversation. Questions? pugsandbirds@gmail.com



For Everyone



Hope Hoedown

Dust off your boots and get ready for a night of fun with your Hope family! Hope Hoedown is coming up on 10/9 from 6-8:30 PM, and everyone is invited to join us for an evening of dancing, fellowship, and plenty of good old-fashioned fun together. This is a whole-church event for all ages, so bring the family, invite a friend, and come ready to kick up your heels! Cost is $10 per person. Register now and join us for a fun fall night together at Hope! Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

Community Outreach

Adopt-A-Highway: Help Clean Up Our Community!

Roll up your sleeves and help make a visible difference in our community! Join Hope's Adopt-A-Highway cleanup on 10/24 from 8:45-11 AM as we work together to care for the community right outside our doors. We'll meet in the Circle at 8:45 AM before heading out together. Adults and Youth ages 12+ are welcome, and this is a great opportunity for Youth looking for volunteer service hours! A parent or guardian must sign a waiver for participants ages 12-17. Grab a friend, lend a hand, and help us leave our little corner of Wake Forest better than we found it. Please sign up in advance so we can plan accordingly. Questions? lizcitypirate@hotmail.com

Brown Bag Ministry
Serve with Joy!

Serve with joy this October! Join Hope's Brown Bag Ministry on 10/17 at 11 AM as we prepare and distribute lunches to neighbors in our Wake Forest community. This is a simple, hands-on way to serve together, meet a local need, and share Christ's love with our neighbors. Youth looking for community service hours are also encouraged to join us. We'll meet in the Children's Church Foyer before heading out to distribute lunches. Volunteers going offsite must provide their own transportation. Questions? kapernan@gmail.com

Serve with Hope's
Mobile Food Ministry

Join Hope's Mobile Food Ministry on 10/15 as we serve dinner at the Boys & Girls Club of Wake Forest. Your helping hands make a meaningful difference as we serve our neighbors and share God's love in our community. Volunteers are needed in a variety of roles, including planning, transportation, food preparation, cooking, serving, and cleanup. There's a place for everyone to help, so find the opportunity that works for you and sign up today! Questions? billstevens783@gmail.com

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Save the Dates

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER

November

11/13–11/15	Women's Retreat
11/26	Thanksgiving Service 10 AM

December

12/2 & 12/9	Advent Services 6:30 PM
12/6	Christmas Cantata
12/12 & 12/13	Live Nativity
12/16	Christmas Pageant 6:30 PM
12/24	Christmas Eve Services

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

12/4	Women's Tea
12/12	Kids Min Christmas Party
12/13	Middle School Christmas Party
12/13	High School Christmas Party

