



“Gloria in
Excelsis
Deo!”

- Luke 2:14

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
6:30 & 8:00 PM*

Merry Christmas

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH



www.hopelutheranwf.org

A WARM WELCOME TO ONE AND ALL!

Merry Christmas! The joy of our Savior's birth fills our church tonight, and our hearts rejoice at the love God has for his people. Jesus Christ is the incomparable gift of God that we celebrate on this holy night. We are happy to welcome you tonight, and hope that you find peace and comfort in the Christmas story.

Please take a moment to check in online tonight, on the homepage of Hope's website (www.hopelutheranwf.org). You are invited to worship with us again on Saturdays at 5:30PM, or Sundays at 8:30 & 11:00AM.

SPECIAL THANKS to all the musicians from the Praise Team, Children's Choir, Adult Handbell Choir, Senior Choir, Brass Ensemble, and Soloists assisting with all the Christmas Eve services.

OFFERINGS & TITHES. All are invited to make an offering tonight, as a worshipful expression of thanksgiving to God, and in support of the ministries of Hope Lutheran Church. You may place your gift in the offering plate next to the sanctuary exit doors as you leave. May God bless our offerings and tithes, and bless the ministry that these gifts enable!

LEADING WORSHIP TONIGHT

Rev. Wayne Puls
Rev. Devin Murphy

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor



Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service
December 24, 2023 ~ 6:30 & 8:00PM

★ Gathering ★

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"I Wonder as I Wander"

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregation stands

CHRISTMAS CALL TO WORSHIP (from John 1)

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

C: **He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.**

P: In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

C: **And we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

P: We worship on this holy night in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen!**

CAROL

"Angels, from the Realm of Glory" (LBW50)



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry; now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new-born king.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION PRAYER

God, our Father, we confess our sins to you. We admit that we are imperfect and unfaithful. We have failed to love you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are blessed to be your children, but often we rebel against you or ignore you. Please forgive our sins, dear Father, not for our sake, but for the sake of your perfect Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Congregation is seated

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CHRISTMAS CANDLE PRAYER

O God, as light comes from this candle, may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us, warming our hearts and brightening our way. May Christ our Savior bring light into the darkness of this world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. Amen.

★ *The Savior Is Born* ★

PROPHECY OF THE CHRIST CHILD

Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³ And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Congregation stands

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Congregation is seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (6:30PM)

Pastor Devin Murphy

CAROL

"What Child Is This" (LBW40)



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERMON

"Gloria In Excelsis Deo!"

Pastor Wayne Puls

SOLO

(6:30) "Away in a Manger" Joe Walter, soloist

(8:00) "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Sarah Crawford, soloist

Congregation stands

PRAYERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

P: Lord, in your mercy ...

C: Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

★ *The Light of Christmas* ★

Please tip unlit candles to receive the flame from those already lit.

Parents of small children, please share a candle with your child.

P: From the dawn of creation,

C: **God has brought us light:**

P: The sun to rule the day,

C: **The moon and stars to rule the night.**

P: But now he has brought us the One who is the Light of the world,

C: **Jesus Christ the Lord.**

P: From this day on, O Jesus,

C: **Enlighten us with your love.**

P: From this day on, O Savior,

C: **Enlighten us with your peace.**

P: From this day on, O Christ,

C: **Enlighten us with your hope.**

P: From this day on, O Son of God,

C: **Brighten our lives with your presence.**

CAROL

"Silent Night, Holy Night" (LBW65)



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - dian't beams from your ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.



BENEDICTION

After extinguishing candles, please hold upright and allow wax to cool.

CAROL

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (LBW60)



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er-last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na-tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car-nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

CHRISTMAS DISMISSAL

P: Christ, the Savior, is born!

C: Joy to the world!

P: Go in peace, and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC

"Fantasy of Joy"



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Selected hymns from Lutheran Book of Worship, © 1978 by Augsburg Fortress, Used by permission. Onelicense.net#A701721.

Christmas Poinsettias

The poinsettias were given to the glory of God and to honor and remember loved ones. Poinsettias may be taken following the 11:00PM Christmas Eve service.

★ Paul & Rene Hieter in honor of loved ones ★

★ Sandee & Jim Kosmar in memory of their parents, Ann & John Kosmar & Agnes & John Miller ★

★ Bill & Sue Seaman in memory of Luke Edwards ★

★ Bill & Sue Seaman in memory of their parents ★

★ Bob & Vickie Herring in memory of their parents ★

★ Bob & Vickie Herring in honor of Carol Lippard and Barbara Gundersen ★

★ The Repak Family in memory of John & Josie Repak & Edward, Mary, & June Galusha ★

★ Bill & Darlene McKenney in memory of Keith McKenney ★

★ Beth & Michael Webb in memory of Joe Beatty ★

★ Jerry & Liz Garlington to the glory of God ★

★ Dick Faucher & Diane Ryals in memory of their parents, Janice Faucher and Gene Ryals ★

★ Bryan & Heather Weitzel in memory of their grandparents & Heidi Christine Ziegler ★

★ Barbara & Ken Newcomer in memory of Ted Fleagle★

★ David & Lisa Rummel In honor of our children Bryce, Stephanie, & Connor ★

★ Cynthia Tench in memory of James "Jim" Tench Jr ★

★ Pam & Mike Montgomery in honor of our grandchildren, Hudson & Emelia Thieme ★

★ Phillip Sebastian in memory of Linda J. Sebastian★

★ Victoria Morales in honor of their beloved mother who turned 80, Happy Birthday ★

★ Linda Hutson in loving memory of Ilga Rady-Pentek & Helen Hutson★

★ Pam Harrell in memory of Warren Harrell ★

★ Julie & Barry Bowling in memory of Joseph & Shirley Bowling ★

★ Julie & Barry Bowling in memory of Samuel Harvey★

★ Julie & Barry Bowling in honor of the wonderful staff at Hope ★

Weekends at Hope

Hope is a place to worship God and to grow in faith. We have three worship service times to fit your needs. During our education hour, all age groups can find classes in which to engage in a meaningful way.

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30PM; Sundays at 8:30 & 11:00AM

Adult Education (will resume January 7)

9:45-10:45AM

JOHN: THE WORD MADE FLESH. Come join us as we continue a congregational study on the Gospel of John that will extend through the Epiphany season in January. Our study will cover John's Gospel verse by verse from 1:1 through 12:9 in a combination of sermons, Sunday morning Bible studies, WNA evening classes, and home studies written by our called staff. Listen in as we explore the beautiful vistas of John's Gospel and learn more about Jesus, the Word made flesh. Questions?

dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org

Sunday School (will resume January 7)

9:45-10:45AM

Ages 2 & under- Nursery

Preschool Jam- Preschool Room 1

K1 Crew- Lower Level Children Center Room 1

Level 23- Lower Level Children's Center Room 2

Club 45- Room 219- across from Nursery

Confirmation - designated area based on the schedule

Middle School- Youth Center

High School- Youth Center

Nursery Care

Ages 4 and under are welcome to join our nursery team for a fun and safe place to play while you are in church services.

Children's Church

Ages 4 through Grade 3 are able to join Children's Church following the Children's Message.



Wednesday Night Alive

January 10 - February 7

This winter, you're invited to Hope for Wednesday Night Alive. There is something for everyone – dinner, adult education, youth & kid activities, and choir rehearsals – in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Visit www.hopelutheranwf.org/WNA for more information and the weekly menu.

Dinner

5:30-6:15 PM

The Men of Hope Small Group provides a delicious meal, dessert, and drinks each week. The cost is \$6 for adults & youth, \$3 for children ages 5-10, and kids 5 and under are free. There is a \$22 family maximum.

Adult Education

6:30-7:30 PM

JOHN: THE WORD MADE FLESH. Come join us as we continue a congregational study on the Gospel of John that will extend through the Epiphany season in January. Our WNA studies will pick up our verse-by-verse coverage of John that coordinates with our sermons, Sunday morning Bible studies, and home studies. Listen in as we explore the beautiful vistas of John's Gospel and learn more about Jesus, the Word made flesh. Questions? dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org

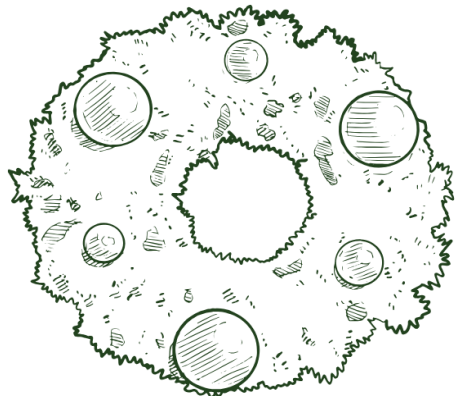
Kids & Youth Activities

6:30-7:30 PM

3 -5 years - Nursery
K1 Crew- Preschool Room 1
Level 23- Children's Center
Club 45- Club 45 Room
6-8 Grade Youth Group in the Youth Center

Music

5:00 Children's Choir (Grades K-5)
5:45 Children's Handbells (Grades 2-5)
6:15-7:30: Adult Handbells in the Sanctuary
7:30-9:15: Senior Choir in the Sanctuary



Local Missions

As a church, we are outward-focused in many ways. We believe Christ's Word and love has made a profound impact on our lives, and we are excited to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. You are welcome to join in any of the following opportunities listed below or find more opportunities online at www.hopelutheranwf.org/missions.



Adopt-A-Highway

As part of Hope Lutheran's commitment to serving the Wake Forest community, Hope has adopted Forestville Road, between Rogers Road and Burlington Mills Road. Four times a year a clean-up day is organized, and volunteers spend time picking up trash that has accumulated on the sides of Forestville Road.

Night to Shine

Night to Shine is a prom held annually in February for people (ages 14+) with special needs. The goal of the evening is to celebrate our honored guests with corsages/boutonnieres, crowns, a red carpet walk, professional photos, a photo booth, karaoke, limo rides, appetizers, a DJ, and a dance floor. Volunteers will be needed to help with a myriad of fun tasks. Night to Shine 2024 will take place on Friday, February 9.

ESL Classes

English as Second Language classes will be held at Hope on both Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00-8:00PM, January 16 - March 7, 2024. The classes are for anyone in the community who would like to practice English and is willing to commit to a six-week session. The minimum age is 18. Sign up on our website at <https://hopelutheranwf.org/esl/>

Mobile Food Ministry

Hope's Mobile Food Ministry is an initiative that began after disaster response volunteers saw Gulf Coast Lutheran volunteers cooking and serving meals to survivors, recovery workers and volunteers after hurricanes. Volunteers from Hope's version of this ministry, now turning two years old, originally jumped in with both feet at the opportunity to serve hot, hearty meals to refugees in the Raleigh area. The group then began experimenting with different recipes that can be cooked in the field and served en masse after disasters, testing the model by partnering in different community food security events. A little over a year ago, the ministry received grants and donations and was able to purchase a used equipment trailer. Shortly thereafter, the food ministry responded to the Hedingham (Raleigh) mass shooting, serving hundreds of meals in that neighborhood just 24 hours after the devastating losses of a police officer and four other neighbors. Hope's Mobile Food Ministry has continued serving alongside various groups in the community, practicing the feeding model and acquiring the necessary equipment to be able to deploy to a natural disaster in the southeast or beyond.

Kids & Youth



Preschool Jam

Preschool Jam is programming for 3, 4, and 5 year olds. The primary focus is building a foundation that allows for children to gain an understanding of who Jesus is, and how he is part of their life. This group participates in family programming to allow for an environment of fellowship and fun.

K1 Crew

K1 Crew is for our Kindergarteners and first graders. This group builds off of the lessons learned in preschool and works on developing their relationship with Jesus as well as with Christian friends. This group participates in a combination of family fellowship activities as well as activities just for them specifically.

Level 23

Level 23 is for our 2nd and 3rd grade kids. This group focuses on Bible literacy. Learning how to navigate and find verses in the Bible as well as starting to connect Bible learnings to their personal lives. This group's milestone is to receive a Bible in their 2nd or 3rd grade year. They participate in a combination of family fellowship activities as well as activities just for them specifically.

Club 45

Club 45 is for 4th and 5th grade kids. This group spends two years going through a Bible Overview as a preparation for Confirmation classes (in 6th and 7th grade). They spend time learning about prayer and how to feel comfortable praying to God within a group. This group's milestone is to receive first communion in the 5th grade after attending a 3 weekly classes in January. They participate in a combination of family fellowship activities as well as activities just for them specifically.

Middle School

Here we focus on our Middle Schoolers (6-8 Grade) not only having fun and making friends but also learning about God. Our discussions center around how to live as young people of God, using his word as our guide. Youth group meets Wednesday nights where we play games and eat snacks all while hearing what God has to say to us.

High School

Hope's youth learn what it means to be a child of God amidst the world we face today. Each month we dive into a hot topic that affects the youth's daily life, all paired up with fun food and friends. Youth group meets weekly on Sunday nights with monthly events, and pop-up events. These events can be anything from Lock-in's to meeting for lunch at Culvers.