

THE FIRST
Sunday AFTER
Christmas



Welcome to Hope!

We are delighted to have you with us as we gather to worship and prepare our hearts for the season of Christmas. This year, our theme is The Recipe of Christmas, a beautiful reflection on the key ingredients of this holy season: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Together, we explore how each of these gifts points us to the birth of Jesus, the Savior who brings light and life to the world.

May your time with us today fill you with the true spirit of Christmas as we celebrate God's love revealed in Christ!

For Your Information

- **WORSHIP CHECK-IN.** Please take a moment to check in online on the homepage of Hope's website (www.hopelutheranwf.org). We offer a special welcome to guests and visitors this evening!
- **OFFERINGS & TITHES.** All are invited to make an offering today, 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 which these gifts enable!

This Week's Information

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Dr. Bill Seaman

Wesley Spottiswood

Maggie Rockey

Assistant Pastor

Director of Christian Education

Organist

The First Sunday After Christmas

First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 2024 - 8:30 & 11:00 Services

✠ Gather ✠

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & TIME OF GREETING

OPENING CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



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 ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



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

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

ORDER OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

ABSOLUTION

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Congregation is seated

MUSICAL MEDITATION (11:00AM) *The Christ Child Lullaby* – Karen Johnson, Dulcimer

✠Service of the Word✠

OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15

¹The LORD said to Moses, ²"Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine."

³Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. . . .

¹¹"When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD's. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'"

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Colossians 3:12–17

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22–40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Congregation is seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children may come to the front.

Children ages 3 – Grade 2 may leave for Children's Church immediately following the Children's Message.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Angels from the Realms of Glory



- 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.

SERMON

"Redemption" – Pastor Bill Seaman

OFFERING OF PRAYER & PRAISE

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow



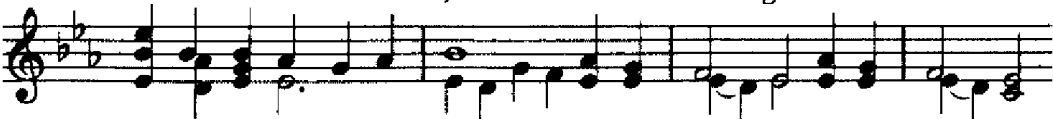
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise



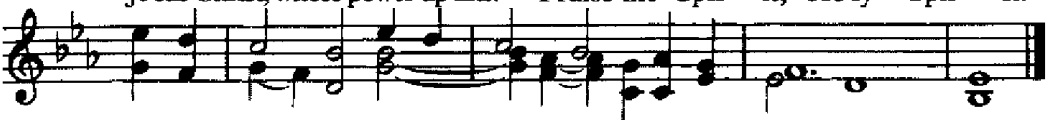
God, all creatures here below: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-



lu-ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise



Je-sus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!



Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

CALL TO PRAYER

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words.

P Lord, in your mercy...

C Hear our prayer.

✠ *Service of Holy Communion* ✠

COMMUNION INFORMATION

Communion Participation: As Christians of the Lutheran faith, we believe Christ's body and blood are truly present with the bread and wine, offering forgiveness of sins to all who believe in Jesus Christ. We ask those who commune to share this unity of faith in Christ and understanding of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Since the Scripture teaches that we are to examine ourselves before eating of the bread and drinking of the cup (1 Corinthians 11:28), if you are not certain of the meaning of Holy Communion or have not been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith, please speak with the Pastor before communing.

Communion and Children: Communion is ordinarily offered at Hope to youth after their first communion classes in the 5th grade. Children and youth who have not been instructed may come to the altar to receive a blessing. Children and youth who have not been instructed should fold their arms over their chest to acknowledge they are receiving the blessing.

Communion Distribution Process: Please form two lines in the main center aisle, proceeding to the altar. After you have received communion, you may return to your pew via the side aisles.

White grape juice is provided in the center of the trays. Individual cups may be placed in the baskets provided by the acolyte. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy Holy Holy



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** 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.

SHARING OF PEACE

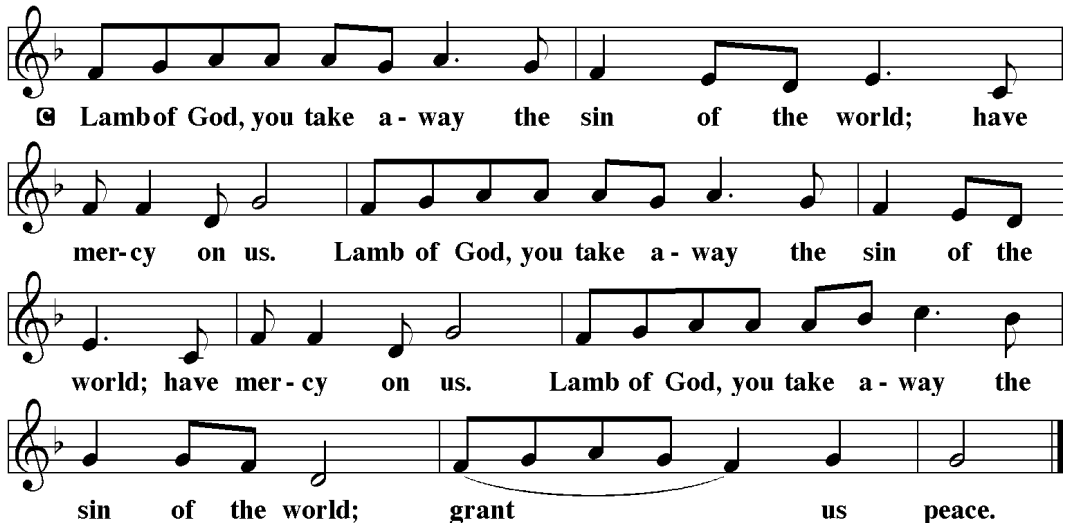
- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

- C** And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God



C Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Congregation is seated

COMMUNION CAROLS

O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin-ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep. No - el, No - el, No -
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went.
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

WORDS OF BLESSING

Congregation stands

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.


✠ *Sending* ✠

BENEDICTION


CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain


Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;




Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

DISMISSAL

- P** The worship is ended.
C The service now begins.
P Go in peace and serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWS & EVENTS
WWW.HOPELUTHERANWF.ORG

SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAK. There will be no Sunday School Education Today. Sunday school will resume January 5, 2025.

The ACTS OF THE APOSTLES. Join us in January as we begin a series working through some of the major stories and gripping events in the book of Acts. Our Epiphany season will focus on Luke's Gospel, so come join us in Bible study to Learn more about Luke's important follow up in his sequel: The Acts of the Apostles.

PUZZLING PIECES. Join us for our Wednesday Night Alive education hour in where we will look at some of the parables and difficult sayings Jesus teaches throughout the four Gospels. Come learn how to interpret, think through, and contextualize Jesus' words so we can better apply them and teach them in our lives.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE (WNA). Starting 1/8, you're invited to join us each Wednesday evening at Hope for dinner, fellowship, music, and faith formation opportunities for all ages! Dinner is served from 5:30-6:15PM, followed by activities for kids, youth, and adults from 6:30-7:30PM. Choirs for children, youth, and adults rehearse throughout the evening. Come grow in faith, enjoy a delicious meal, and connect with our church family in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. For more information, including weekly menus and schedules, visit www.hopelutheranwf.org/WNA.

ALTAR FLOWERS. The 2025 Flower Chart is now available. You may sign up to donate flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones or to observe special occasions. Flowers are \$55.00 to be paid online. To register go to hopelutheranwf.org/flowers. Questions? contact bevans@hopelutheranwf.org.

MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING MLT CHAIRMAN. Please take a moment to read a letter from Rob Niesel, Hope's outgoing Chairman of the Ministry Leadership Team. You'll find it on Hope's website under the "Articles" section.

K1 CREW SNOW MUCH FUN. Join us on 1/12 from 12:30PM to 2:00PM in the Children's Center! Enjoy a pizza lunch, an exciting snowball fight, ice skating, and fun snow-themed crafts. Don't miss this winter adventure! Cost:\$5. Questions? Beth Agner at bagner@hopelutheranwf.org

LEVEL 23 FROZEN MOVIE NIGHT. Get ready for a magical evening with Level 23 on 1/17 from 6:30PM to 8:30PM! Enjoy a screening of Disney's *Frozen 2*, a delicious pizza dinner, and tasty snacks. Don't let it go—mark your calendars for this fun-filled night! Cost:\$5. Questions? Beth Agner at bagner@hopelutheranwf.org

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE MUSEUM DAY-TRIP. Attention all High School Youth! Join us on 1/18 as we travel to the Bible Museum in Washington, D.C. for a day of exploration and discovery! We'll meet at the church at 8:00AM and return around 9:00PM, with stops for lunch and dinner (bring cash). The cost is \$30 for this incredible, faith-filled experience. Parents who wish to attend as drivers are invited, with valid background check. Deadline for registration is 1/12. Questions? wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION. Preschool Registration for the 2025-2026 school year begins online on Tuesday, 1/21. If you are a member interested in enrolling your child, please contact the Preschool office at 919-453-0388 or preschool@hopelutheranwf.org by 1/10 to ensure we have your email in our system. Registration will be done through an email link. More information can be found at www.hopelutheranwf.org/preschool.

BREW BOWLING. Join us on 1/16 at Strike and Barrel at 6:30PM for an evening of Bible study and bowling fun! It's a great opportunity to connect with others, deepen your faith, and enjoy some friendly competition. Don't miss out on this unique combination of spiritual growth and strikes! Questions? Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org

MEN OF HOPE. The Men of Hope will meet for our regular monthly gathering on 1/11 at 8:00AM. All men are invited to join us for fellowship, a light breakfast, and a brief devotion. This is a great opportunity to connect with others and grow in faith together. Come as you are and bring a friend!

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING OPPORTUNITY. Are you looking for an opportunity to support fellow Christians experiencing loss, life crises, or overwhelming situations? If so, consider becoming a Stephen Minister. We will begin a training class early next year and are seeking several volunteers. The training consists of 50 hours, meeting for three hours once a week, and concludes with a weekend retreat. This is a life-enriching experience for both the care receiver and caregiver. For more information, visit stephenministry.org or contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Andy Barrett (919-349-5599), Jerry Garlington (850-376-0488), Wendi Palozzi (215-880-1813), or Rob Bailey (919-518-6984).

STITCHES OF HOPE. Stitches of Hope will hold its first meeting of the new year on 1/7 at 1:00PM in Rooms 301-302. Join us for fun conversation, learn new skills, and help create mission quilts! We look forward to seeing you there. Questions? news.stitches@gmail.com

ESL WINTER SESSION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. We're starting a new ESL (English as a Second Language) session and are looking for volunteers to serve as teachers, assistants, and substitutes. No experience is required—training and guidance will be provided. The winter session schedule is as follows: 1/7 (Testing Day), 1/11 (Teacher Workshop), and 1/14–2/20 (Classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays). If you're interested in helping others improve their English skills and building community, please contact Linda Klose at lindaklose@charter.net or Michael Dennen at m.dennen@icloud.com. Your time and effort will make a real difference!

NIGHT TO SHINE VOLUNTEERS. We are thrilled to announce that Hope will once again host the Tim Tebow Foundation's *Night to Shine* on Friday, 2/7. If you've never experienced it, it's a magical night of celebration for our Special Needs Community. Volunteers are needed for various tasks, including:

- Host/Hostess (Buddy with a guest—most needed)
- Food Crew (7th-8th Graders)
- Special Projects (ahead of time)
- Set Up/Decorate on 2/6 (evening) and 2/7 (daytime)
- Clean Up Crew (after the event)

Volunteer registration has started, and guest registration opens on 12/3. Please sign up before 1/1. To register go to hopelutheranwf.org/nts. We are also seeking sponsors to help support the event's expenses. Note: A background check is required for all volunteers. For questions or to sign up, email us at nighttoshine@hopelutheranwf.org.