

A decorative gold geometric frame, resembling a stylized arch or a series of overlapping triangles, is positioned at the top of the page. In the bottom left corner, there is a cluster of pink flowers with green leaves, rendered in a watercolor style. The background is a solid teal color.

April 2023

MISSION MOMENTS

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Holy Week

Mundy Thursday

April 6 at 7:00 PM

*Service of Holy Communion &
Stripping of the Altar*

*As Jesus gathered with his disciples for
a Last Supper before he was crucified,
so we gather around the Lord's Table
on this holy night.*

Good Friday

April 7 at 7:30 PM

Tenebrae Service of Darkness

*One of the most moving and eloquent
worship hours of the whole year. We
hear the seven "Words from the Cross"
that Jesus spoke and remember,
soberly, the suffering and torments of
Calvary.*

Eggstravaganza

**Saturday, April 8 at 10:00
AM**

*All kids grades 4 and below are invited to
Hope's Eggstravaganza event complete
with egg hunting, chicks, bunnies,
bouncing, and celebrating Jesus.*



Easter Sunday

*April 9, 6:45AM, 8:00AM,
9:30AM, 11:00AM*

Hope's celebration of the Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead will remind us all of the meaning and power of Easter for our everyday living as God's people. This glorious day begins with an outdoor Sunrise Service of Holy Communion, with special music led by the Praise Team. Three festival services will follow, in the worship Sanctuary, with special music led by the Handbell Choir, Senior Choir, and Brass Ensemble.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at three of the four Easter Sunday services (6:45, 8:00, and 11:00AM). At the 9:30AM Easter Sunday service, we'll focus especially on the new life given to Christians in the Sacrament of Baptism, as we remember and renew our Baptismal VOWS

Easter Cross of Flowers

The Easter Cross of Flowers will be placed on the church lawn for Easter Sunday. All worshippers are invited to bring one flower (any color, any style) and place it through the wire mesh on the cross before entering the service.

Easter Breakfast

The Fellowship Volunteers will be hosting an Easter Morning Reception after the 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00AM services. Please consider bringing plated and ready-to-serve brunch goodies .

New Start



I'm writing this page a couple of days after the NCAA men's basketball tournament Final Four was set. None of the teams I picked to make it to the finals made it. My bracket is irrevocably busted. But here's the good news. Next season, there's a whole new start! My favorite teams will regroup, reform, and restart a brand-new season. New players will join the squads, new plays will enter the playbooks, and every single team will start from scratch, with the chance for a perfect season ahead.

If only it were that simple in every part of our lives, right? Making a new start after a failure, a tragedy, or a disappointment can be terribly difficult. Maybe you're in need of a new job, or there's a relationship in your life that's soured. Or, it may be that your overall physical health has declined, and you're looking to get your body in better shape. Perhaps you've been away from church for a while, and aren't sure how to make a new start. In many arenas of our lives, new starts may be needed.

This month is a great month to tackle a new start in your life. Start by coming to church during Holy Week (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and especially Easter Sunday). Listen to the miraculous stories of how God provided the ultimate new start for his people. We humans were dead in our sins; and, yet, God has given us new spiritual life through faith in the crucified and resurrected Lord Jesus Christ!

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6-8)

God doesn't ever promise that he is going to rejuvenate every negative situation in our lives, or that he'll make everything in our lives perfect and wonderful. But people of faith and followers of Christ should rejoice every day that God is giving us a new start when it comes to sin and salvation.

Beyond that, when we're struggling to make new starts in other parts of our lives, where do we turn? We look to God's Word for direction and guidance on how to amend our lives, and how to bring about needed changes. We talk to God in prayer, we rely on the power of his Holy Spirit at work in our hearts, and we seek the counsel and aid of our Christian sisters and brothers. When new starts don't come easily, we keep our hope and trust in God's care and eternal protection.

In Christ,

Pastor Wayne Puls

Pastor Wayne Puls

PS: While my bracket is busted in the men's basketball tourney, I still have hope for two of the women's Final Four teams. Hope springs eternal!



VBS COLLECTING ITEMS

Vacation Bible School is coming soon! We are collecting empty two-liter plastic bottles and empty tin cans for some of the materials we need for VBS. It would be amazing if you brought those recyclables to church or drop it off so we can get going with our VBS planning. We appreciate everything! Questions: Makayla Meyer mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

APRIL LANDSCAPING WORKDAY

If you enjoy fellowship in the fresh air, please mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 26 at 8:30AM to help spruce up the grounds at Hope. Bring pruning snips, gloves, water, hedge trimmers, extension cords, blowers and rakes if you have them. Your assistance is very much appreciated as we seek to maintain the grounds in a way that is inviting to visitors. Please email Maintenance Tech Phil Phillips at pPhillips@hopelutheranwf.org if you plan to help that day, so that we can email you about any weather/schedule changes.

PRAYERS FOR HOPE'S MINISTRY TEAM

All members and friends of Hope Lutheran Church are asked to pray for God to send us wonderful workers to join our ministry team.

- DCE position: Hope has requested for a DCE intern from Concordia University Irvine (CA) to be assigned to our congregation for the 2023-24 year. The official announcement regarding the assignment was made late March, after the publication of this newsletter.
- Associate Pastor position: Hope has extended a Call for a seminary candidate to be placed as our Associate Pastor; and the official announcement regarding placement will be made in late April.

Wednesday Night Alive

April 19, 26 & May 3

Dinner 5:30 – 6:15 PM

The Men of Hope 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.

- 4/19/23 spaghetti and meatballs with salad and dessert
- 4/26/23 chicken and beef tacos with salad and dessert
- 5/3/23 Coming Soon

Music

- Children's Choir – (Grades K-5) at 5PM.
- Children's Handbells (Grades 2-5) at 5:45PM
- Adult Handbells at 6:15PM
- Senior Choir at 7:30PM

Kids & Youth 6:30–7:30PM

- Ages 2 & Under in the Nursery
- Ages 3- 4 Grade in Children's Center
- 5&6 Grade Youth Group in the Youth Center
- 7&8 Grade Youth Group in the Youth Center

Adult Education 6:30–7:30PM

God's Holy Word & Our Lutheran Confessions
Room 301





June 26-30

Morning Session 9-12

Evening Session 6-8

Registration open!

Participants (ages 4 years - 5th grade)

Must Register on Website to participate (while spots are available.)

Volunteers (6th Grade and Up)

Must Register on Website to participate as volunteer (while spots are available.)

hopelutheranwf.org/vbs

Local Missions



BROWN BAG

Join Hope's Brown Bag Ministries for fellowship and service. We will assemble a bagged lunch on April 15 from 11:00AM - 1:00PM. For signup, go to Hope Missions List.

TEAM SWEET VS TEAM SALTY. If March brought madness to your bracket, Brown Bag has an April contest for you. Show your support for Team Sweet or Team Salty. Support Team Sweet with granola/cereal bars or Rice Krispie treats. Support Team Salty with single serve bags of chips or cheese and cracker packs. Donations may be placed in the Brown Bag bin in the Café area. Look for the final score in the May newsletter.

TRI-AREA MINISTRY

This ministry is the largest food pantry in the Wake Forest, Youngsville, and Rolesville area, serving 1200+ families monthly. Bring your donated items to Hope, and drop them in the collection bins in the Gallery area (near the red doors). Items needed are food, personal hygiene products, and paper products.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VOLUNTEERS

Two fantastic opportunities this spring! Contact Roger Madariaga (919-608-5273) or Pastor Wayne Puls (wpuls@hopelutheranwf.org) with questions on how to get involved in loving your neighbors. All skill levels welcome.

- Volunteers from several local Lutheran churches are sponsoring a home build in Southeast Raleigh this spring. Hope's designated workday is Saturday, 4/22, and we need 15 volunteers. Sign up at <http://vhub.at/lutheranbuild>.
- Hope is part of a coalition of churches in Wake Forest that is working on home preservation projects in our town. Workdays will be 4/22 and 4/29, and work will include general maintenance, painting, ramp/deck repairs. Sign up at <http://vhub.at/northernwake>.





Adult Ministry Events

Men

Men 18+ are invited to sign up for the annual Men's Retreat, April 14-16, at Camp Cheerio (Glade Valley, NC). Historically great food, lots of fun recreational opportunities, time for spiritual reflection and growth, opportunities to build Christian friendships, and more. The Men's Retreat is open to members and friends of Hope. Invite a friend or two, and sign up today (www.hopelutheranwf.org/men).

Women

Join the Women's Ministry Team for a night of fun and fellowship as we try out duck pin bowling. We will meet at Strike and Barrel on April 20 at 7:00PM. The cost of the event is \$20. Please register on the Women's Ministry page on the Hope's website. Please pay online so we can reserve a spot for you.

Questions: Claudia VanHook
claudiavanhook@gmail.com.

Adult Education

Sunday

“Peter: Learning to Be Like Jesus.”

One of the most complex and compelling of all Bible characters, Peter spent a lifetime learning to follow the example of his Lord. How does the story of Peter’s relationship with Christ impact your faith life? Join in the Bible study and discussion each week (April 16–May 21), 9:45–10:45AM, Room 301.

Wednesday

God's Holy Word & Our Lutheran Confessions.

As Lutherans, we hold fast to God’s Word as the source and norm of our doctrines and practices. But we also have another set of documents, known as the Lutheran Confessions, to clarify our beliefs and teachings. What’s the relationship between the Bible and the Confessions? Why are both significant, and which is more important? Dive in with Pastor Wayne and Vicar Ryan for a discussion on the crucial roots of our Lutheran belief system, on Wednesday evenings this spring (April 19, April 26, May 3), 6:30–7:30PM, in Room 301. Specific weekly discussion topics will include “The Church,” “Free Will,” and “Good Works.”



Daily Bible Reading Plan

The ACTS Challenge

After Easter, join other members of Hope in reading through the book of Acts. These inspired narratives tell the amazing story of how the Holy Spirit moved the early followers of Jesus Christ to spread the Good News far and wide. Stay on schedule with a short reading every day, or read through Acts at your own pace.

April 10	Acts 1:1-11
April 11	Acts 1:12-26
April 12	Acts 2:1-13
April 13	Acts 2:14-41
April 14	Acts 2:42-47
April 15	Acts 3:1-26
April 16	Acts 4:1-36
April 17	Acts 5:1-16
April 18	Acts 5:17-42
April 19	Acts 6:1-15
April 20	Acts 7:1-32
April 21	Acts 7:33-60
April 22	Acts 8:1-25
April 23	Acts 8:26-40
April 24	Acts 9:1-19a
April 25	Acts 9:19b-43
April 26	Acts 10:1-23
April 27	Acts 10:24-48
April 28	Acts 11:1-18
April 29	Acts 11:19-30
April 30	Acts 12:1-19
May 1	Acts 12:20-25
May 2	Acts 13:1-12
May 3	Acts 13:13-52
May 4	Acts 14:1-28
May 5	Acts 15:1-21

May 6	Acts 15:22-41
May 7	Acts 16:1-15
May 8	Acts 16:16-40
May 9	Acts 17:1-15
May 10	Acts 17:16-34
May 11	Acts 18:1-17
May 12	Acts 18:18-28
May 13	Acts 19:1-22
May 14	Acts 19:23-41
May 15	Acts 20:1-12
May 16	Acts 20:13-38
May 17	Acts 21:1-26
May 18	Acts 21:27--22:1
May 19	Acts 22:2-21
May 20	Acts 22:22-30
May 21	Acts 23:1-22
May 22	Acts 23:23-35
May 23	Acts 24:1-27
May 24	Acts 25:1-22
May 25	Acts 25:23-27
May 26	Acts 26:1-23
May 27	Acts 26:24-32
May 28	Acts 27:1-26
May 29	Acts 27:27-44
May 30	Acts 28:1-16
May 31	Acts 28:17-31



B.

Bible Studies

COLLEGE-AGE -On Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM, all young adults 18-25 are invited to Hope for Bible Study in Room 213. Building Relationships and Exploring the Word – that's what BREW Young Adult Ministry is all about! Questions? vicar@hopelutheranwf.org.

H.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS- Looking to connect with other Christian young professionals in the area? Young adults 25-35 years old are invited to our monthly gathering. We get together on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Norse Brewery for good drinks & discussion. Next meeting is on 4/20 at 7:00PM, at Norse Brewery. In BREW we're all about Building Relationships and Exploring the Word. Questions? Conor Hellmann (919-426-9530).

E.

Events

Saturday, April 8th - An afternoon outing at Drive Shack. Please contact Connor Hellmann (919-426-9530) for details. RSVP by April 1.

A.





Small Groups

THE BOOK DIVAS

The Book Divas group is for Christian women looking to participate in a discussion of fiction books. Meetings are on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00AM in room 302. For book selections and more information, contact Judy Compton at judygcomp@earthlink.net for more info.

REFRESHED

Refreshed is a new small group geared for people 30-50 years old. This group will meet once a month for devotion and fellowship, on the second Saturday, in the Youth Center 10-11:30AM. Our next meeting is March 11. Childcare will be provided. Questions: Jillisa Spottiswood (657-348-9160) or Briana Evans (bevans@hopelutheranwf.org).

STITCHES OF HOPE

Stitches of Hope meets Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in Room 301. We are considering making one of those Tuesdays an evening meeting if interest is out there. If you are interested in an evening Stitches meeting (6PM) please send an email to News.Stitches@gmail.com.

Below is what we will be focusing on each week of April. Always remember you can bring whatever project you are working on and join us as we do these activities. It's always more fun working on a project with like minds to talk to about your projects!

4/4 - Mission quilts sandwiching

4/11 - Sewing Machine Tutorial

4/18 - Mission block sewing - using tutorial training.

4/25 - Unfinished/individual projects - (request for assistance)

We welcome any and all levels of knitters, crocheters and quilters - and also if you simply want to learn!

Youth Ministry

ACOLYTE TRAINING CLASS

Being an acolyte is a great way for Hope's youth to get involved with Hope's worship life. A training class will be held on Tuesday, 5/2, 6:00-7:30PM in the Sanctuary. If you are in the 5th grade or above, and have a desire to help out and be involved, then plan to attend this class. Talk to Vicar Ryan for any further details or if you have any questions.

GAME DAY 5-6 GRADE

Come join for a fun day on April 23, 12:00-2:00PM. We will have gaga ball, video-games, board games, and more! No sign-up needed. Pizza lunch will be included. Cost: \$5.

MOVIE DAY 7-8 GRADE

April 29, 3:30-5:30PM, meet in the Youth Center for a movie, popcorn, drinks, and more! No sign-up is required.

HIGH SCHOOL COLOR WARS

Get ready for a big color mess on April 29, 6:30-8PM. We will be throwing colored chalk that sticks to cloths for a fun dodgeball event. White shirts will be provided. Meet in the back preschool grass field. Cost is \$10, and sign-up is required. Friends are welcome. Do not miss this event!



Youth Mission Trips

6-8 GRADE SUMMER MISSION TRIP

JULY 9-14

This year our current 6-8th graders will be traveling to Jacksonville, NC to serve in a unique way. We'll be partnering with Calvary Lutheran Church to plan and provide a Vacation Bible School Program. Then in the evenings we will go to the beach, and explore the area! Registration is open until May 1 or until space fills up. Sign up now to secure your spot.

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER MISSION TRIP

JULY 23-29

This year our current 9-12th graders will be traveling to Ashville, NC to serve in a unique way. We'll be partnering with Emmanuel Lutheran School to plan and provide a Vacation Bible School Program. This will allow them to connect with their community and reach kids and families in their area with Christ's love. We'll take everything we've learned from hosting our own VBS at Hope and use those skills to support a smaller congregation in their rebuilding efforts. Participants will gain a broader perspective on serving Christ, valuable leadership skills, and lasting memories. Plus, we'll get to bond together through hikes, free time and other local adventures. Registration is open until May 1 or until space fills up as we can only take up to 30 people! Sign up now to secure your spot.

Last Month's Events

Kids Ministry

1-4 graders

COME PICKING WITH MOM. What a great time of year to spend outside with important women in your life! Our 1-4 graders and their mothers, or another important woman in your life, will be heading to Hunts Strawberry Farm on May 7 from 2-3PM. Sign up on our website under Kids Ministry. You pay by the gallon with cash at the end of picking.

Whole Family

EGGSTRAVAGANZA. Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 AM All kids grades 4 and below are invited to Hope's Eggstravaganza event complete with egg hunting, chicks, bunnies, bouncing, and celebrating Jesus.

SPRING FAMILY PARK DAY. On April 30 we would love for you and your families to come out to Joyner Park, follow the balloons, and have a Spring Family Fun Day with us. Bring a picnic lunch, clothes to play in and if you want some outdoor activities. We will be at Joyner Park from 12:30 – 2:30PM. Questions: Makayla Meyer mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

HOPE IS HIRING

- **LITTLE BLESSINGS PARENTS' MORNING OUT PROGRAM** is looking for enthusiastic people who love to work with kids to join our Team, working 4-5 hours per day, 2-3 days per week. Children ages 0-2 come to this program to gain social skills and build a foundation for their education. Teachers are responsible for story time, music with the kids, the safety of the children, and providing a loving Christian environment for these families. Please send your resume to Tracy Zwickis, Director of Little Blessings, at littleblessings@hopelutheranwf.org.
- **NURSERY.** We are looking for paid workers to care for children ages birth to 4 years old for Sunday morning services, Sunday School, and Bible studies. Contact Lead DCE Beth Agner (bagner@hopelutheranwf.org) if interested.
- **XPLORE.** Need a summer job? Have fun with kids? Want a job with flexibility? Then Xplore is the place for you! Come join us for a fun-filled summer full of games and activities. We are hiring for Lead and Assistant Counselors. Pay is \$13-\$16 per hour. Questions? Xplore@hopelutheranwf.org.

