### MISSION MOMENTS



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Hope Lutheran Church & Preschool 3525 Rogers Road, Wake Forest, NC 27587 HopeLutheranwf.org

#### Contact US

Church Office: 919-554-8109 | Fax: 919-453-0312 Preschool: 919-453-0388 | Preschool Fax: 919-453-0319 Xplore Track Out & Little Blessings: 919-341-5381

Email: office@hopelutheranwf.org

#### Worship Services

Hope Lutheran Church is a welcoming and friendly worshiping community rooted in our Lutheran heritage. Each service follows a liturgical format and includes the celebration of Holy Communion. Children are invited to share in a special message designed just for them at every service.

Weekly Worship Schedule:

- Saturday at 5:30 PM Blended Service
  - Traditional Liturgy
  - Contemporary Music Led by Hope's Praise Band
  - This service is not live-streamed
- Sunday at 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Traditional Worship
  - Featuring classic hymns and liturgy
  - These services are live-streamed on YouTube

#### Childcare Programs

Little Blessings – Loving weekday care for ages 0-2
Hope Lutheran Preschool – Christ-centered early education for ages 2–5
Xplore Track Out Camp – Themed weekly adventures for elementary-aged children

## HE WILL GUIDE US FOREVER!

Psalm 48:12-14

12 Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers,
13 consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels,
that you may tell the next generation
14 that this is God,
our God forever and ever.
He will guide us forever

We have considered week after week this Lenten season the promises of God about Jesus and the promises Jesus declares to us himself. The Psalmist in turn declares with great power, "He will guide us forever." That promise, that God will guide us, is all the more helpful when we consider our recent vision session we had in February with Dr. Guse. Well over 100 members of the church attended the full day workshop and it was a beautiful moment of unity and open expression. Dr. Guse helped us to frame our desires and wishes for the church in a way that was productive and largely positive.

From that open discussion came numerous points of agreement and appreciation of the church. We are a church focused on the word of God, driven by the mission of Jesus, and excited to serve each other and our neighbor. As we turned to major points of focus, the attendees were all asked to prioritize a handful of major opportunities and dreams for our life together at Hope. The goal was not to levy criticisms, but come up with actionable plans for how to improve and strengthen areas of the church in the next 90 days. The hope was that members would take ownership of the ways they wish to see us grow for the better.

#### 5 major areas of focus rose to the top: Villages

More than just fellowship or small groups, many observed that there is need to develop a network of intergenerational care and support among the members of the church. The goal is to do life together; support each other, connect as friends, raise our kids together, and love one another as fellow Christians. Although these are broad goals, they center on a desire to create meaningful relationships among our members who sometimes only briefly connect before or after service.

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#### Communication

Communication emerged as a strong focus for many people. Key areas of concern were our sound system and live-streaming, upgrading the website, the transition to Realm, the design and information in our bulletins and newsletter, timely responses from church leaders, the creation of a visitor table, and tracking our attendance among other areas. Many of the goals set out were tasks that need direct support from the staff of the church, and some are underway already. The dream here is to have a thriving church communication that leaves people consistently feeling that they understand what is happening in the church and that they have an open door of communication with the staff and leadership of church.

#### The Preschool

Many of the families with younger children expressed a desire to see the school offerings of the church expand. Smaller more achievable goals to extend the reach of the preschool were discussed. Whole new possibilities of expanding into elementary education and beyond were considered and received significant interest from many who attended. Serious interest in pursuing a new building project were brought to the fore and plans were made to see how feasible some of these new offerings would be in the years ahead.

#### **Small Groups**

While great appreciation for the small groups of the church were expressed, the concern that many had grown too large and were closed raised the point that more offerings for small groups was needed. Further, the feeling among many was that they needed some guidance and encouragement on which small groups to join. There was a strong desire to breathe new life into our small group ministry and further expand its reach in the church.

#### Mentoring

Many called for new opportunities to support mentorship within the church. Positive examples of mature Christians providing guidance to anyone seeking further encouragement in their faith. Hope's prior history of offering marriage mentors was offered as a positive example of how mentoring can help set you up for a strong future. The need to help give some guidance and discipleship that comes from mentoring was set as a major goal of the group.

In sum, the focus of the vision event was strongly internal, considering how we can better care for, disciple, connect, communicate with, mentor, and teach our people and children. For the staff, one takeaway is that we have done well as church to reach out to our community, but we need to better consider how we care for the people inside our church. We are confident that the Lord will guide us in this and all our needs. The congregation is invited to an update that will be offered on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 to share what we've accomplished thus far and discuss future plans.

Pastor Devin Murphy

PSALM 48:12-14 PAGE 5

# Mews & EVENTS

#### Little Blessings Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously donated books to Little Blessings. Your contributions will bring joy, learning, and faith-filled stories to the children in our community. Your kindness and support are truly appreciated.

Questions? Contact Tracy Zwickis at littleblessings@hopelutheranwf.org

#### Hope Booth Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to represent Hope Lutheran Church at Wake Forest's Friday Night on White events. Volunteers are needed on the second Friday of each month from April through September to help staff our booth, connect with the community, and share information about Hope. If you enjoy engaging with people and want to help spread the word about our church, we'd love for you to join us!

Interested? Contact Wesley Spottiswood at wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.

#### Eggstravaganza Egg

#### **Donations**

Help us make this year's Eggstravaganza a success by donating pre-filled eggs for the event! We are collecting donations from 4/1 - 4/16, and all contributions will go toward creating a fun and exciting egg hunt for the children of Hope. If you'd like to help, please bring pre-filled eggs to the designated collection bins. Thank you for supporting Kids Ministry and making this Easter season extra special!

Questions? Contact Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org or Beth Agner at bagner@hopelutheranwf.org.



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#### Landscape & Mulch Day

Help keep Hope's grounds looking beautiful by joining us for Landscape & Mulch Day on 4/5 from 9 AM - 1 PM. Volunteers of all ages are welcome as we work together to spread mulch, trim bushes, and refresh our outdoor spaces. If you can, bring wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, pruning shears, loppers, or hedge trimmers. Come ready to work, enjoy fellowship, and make a visible impact on our church grounds. Flexibility: Can't make it for the entire time? No worries—any time you can join us is greatly appreciated! Please register on Hope's Website.

Questions? Contact Phil Phillips at pphillips@hopelutheranwf.org.

#### Hope is Moving to YouTube

Hope Lutheran Church is transitioning its livestream to YouTube! Going forward, services will be streamed on our YouTube page, Hope Lutheran Church - Wake Forest. You can find us at

https://www.youtube.com/@hopelutheranwf. Be sure to like and subscribe to receive notifications when we go live. This transition will opening up more possibilities for streaming and engagement. We will also be gradually transferring some older services to YouTube.

Questions? Contact Briana Evans at bevans@hopelutheranwf.org.

#### Scam Alert: Stay Vigilant From time to time, members of Hope receive

From time to time, members of Hope received emails or texts claiming to be from one of Hope's pastors or staff, urgently requesting financial help. Please be aware that these messages are always scams. Hope Lutheran Church will never send messages asking for direct financial assistance, as the church has a dedicated emergency fund for those in need. If you ever receive a suspicious message, do not respond—contact the church office to verify its authenticity. Hope will never ask for money outside of our proper giving channels.

If you have concerns, please email office@hopelutheranwf.org. Stay vigilant and verify before you act.

#### Church Yard Sale

Support Hope's High School Youth attending the LCMS Youth Gathering this summer by donating and shopping at our Church Yard Sale on May 3 from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Donations will be accepted beginning April 27 through May 2 during the following dropoff hours: April 27 from 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM, April 28-30 from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, and May 1-2 from 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM. All proceeds from the sale will go directly toward helping our youth participate in this life-changing event. Thank you for your support. Questions? Contact Wesley Spottiswood at wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.

## Lent & HOLY WEEK

#### Lent Midweek

- Lenten Meals 5:30-6 PM
  - Consists of Soup and Sandwich
- Services April 2 & 9 6:30-7:30 PM
  - Will be Live Streamed

#### Palm Sunday

- Services: 8:30 & 11 AM
- Will be Live Streamed

#### Maundy Thursday

- Service 6:30-7:30 PM
- Will be Live Streamed

#### Good Friday

- Service 7:30-8:30 PM
- Will be Live Streamed

#### Eggstravaganza - Egg Hunt

Join us for a morning of Easter fun at Hope's Eggstravaganza on April 19 from 10 - 12 PM. This family-friendly event includes an egg hunt, bounce houses, a petting zoo, and a special skit about the true meaning of Easter. Come celebrate with us and enjoy a morning filled with excitement and joy. Bring your baskets and your friends!

Questions? Contact Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

#### **Easter Lilies**

Easter lilies grace the chancel and windows at Hope on Easter Sunday, symbolizing renewal and hope. They may be purchased in memory or in honor of loved ones, and each lily is available for \$14. All purchases must be made by 4/7, and payment must be made online. Please register on Hope's Website.

Questions? Contact the church at office@hopelutheranwf.org

#### Cross of Flowers

All worshippers are invited to bring a flower of any color or style and place it through the wire mesh on the cross on the church lawn before entering the service. This beautiful tradition is a meaningful way to celebrate the resurrection and is a favorite spot for Easter Sunday family photos.



Join us for a joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection through meaningful worship, Holy Communion, and special moments for families and children. Whether you prefer a quiet sunrise, a traditional service, or a kid-friendly environment, there's a place for you this Easter at Hope.

#### Sunrise Service – 6:45 AM

A peaceful outdoor service to begin Easter morning as the sun rises, symbolizing the dawn of Christ's resurrection. Held in the traffic circle with Holy Communion.

These services will not be live-streamed.

#### Traditional Communion Services – 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

This traditional worship service follows a liturgical format and includes Scripture readings, hymns, prayers, and Holy Communion.

This service will be live-streamed on YouTube.

#### Baptism Service - 9:30 AM

This special service will focus on the Rite of Holy Baptism, celebrating new life in Christ and the renewal of baptismal promises.

This service will be live-streamed.

#### Children's Services – 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Interactive, family-friendly worship designed for young children and their families.

The 9:30 AM service includes Holy Communion; the 11:00 AM service does not.

These services will not be live-streamed.

#### Additional Information

- Nursery Care will be available for children 4 and younger at the 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 AM services.
- Questions? Contact the Church Office at office@hopelutheranwf.org or call 919-554-8109

Luke 24:6-7 PAGE 9

## Joel OUTREACH

#### Adopt-A-Highway

Join Hope Lutheran as we care for our adopted stretch of Forestville Road between Rogers Road and Burlington Mills Road on April 12 from 9:45 - 11:45 AM. This is a great opportunity to serve our community by keeping our roads clean and beautiful. Volunteers of all ages are welcome, and children ages 12-18 may participate with a guardian. A signed DOT waiver is required and can be completed on the day of the event. Safety vests, gloves, and water will be provided, but all participants must wear long pants and shirts. Questions? Contact Andrew DiGiovanni at lizcitypirate@hotmail.com.

#### Tri-Area Ministry

Hope Lutheran partners with Tri-Area Ministry, the largest food pantry serving Wake Forest, Youngsville, and Rolesville, to provide food and essential items to over 1,200 families each month. Donations are always needed, and cereal, pasta, and peanut butter are the most requested items at this time. Other needed items include canned goods, mac 'n cheese, rice, crackers, diapers, wipes, hygiene products, and household essentials. Donations can be placed in the collection bins in the Gallery area near the red doors. Your generosity helps serve those in need in our community. Questions? Contact Jill Schaefer at jmschaef@yahoo.com.

#### Habitat of Wake

#### County

Hope Lutheran is making a difference in the community by helping 28 families gain access to quality, affordable housing at 2608 Forestville Road. Our involvement began with hosting a neighborhood engagement meeting on 6/13/24, followed by planning board and council meetings. On 1/7/25, the rezoning for this project was officially approved. The next step is property development, which includes putting in new roads and extending utilities—a process that will take several months. Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to get involved. Questions? Contact Roger Madariaga at RogerMadariaga@aol.com.

#### Brown Bag

Come roll up your sleeves and spread some kindness! Join us on Saturday, April 19 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM as we pack and deliver lunches for our neighbors in Wake Forest. It's a hands-on, high-impact way to serve—and a great opportunity for individuals, families, and groups to make a difference. All ages are welcome to help out, and it's a fun, feel-good way to kick off your weekend. Want to help out this month or plan ahead? Visit Hope's Missions Page to sign up. Questions? Contact Nancy Repak at kapernan@gmail.com.



### June 23-27

Get ready for an unforgettable week at Vacation Bible School from 6/23 - 6/27, where kids will be "Trusting Jesus in a wild world." Children ages 4 (potty-trained) through 5th grade are invited to join us for a week filled with exciting Bible stories, music, games, and hands-on activities.

#### Morning Session 8:30 AM-12 PM Evening Session 5:30-8 PM

**Participants** (ages 4 years - 5th grade) Must Register on the Website to participate (while spots are available.)

**Volunteers** (6th Grade and Up)
Must Register on Website to participate as volunteer.
Background check required for volunteers 18 and over.

Questions?
Contact VBS Team at vbs@hopelutheranwf.org.

#### Items Needed:

Recyclable & Craft Materials:
Cleaned white/translucent milk jugs
Oversized large boxes
Carpet tubes
White flat sheets
PolyFil
White tablecloths

Artificial Christmas trees (can be discarded after use)

Snacks (individual bags):

Goldfish
Fruit snacks

Teddy Grahams

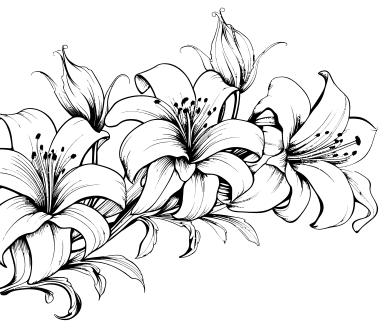
Oreos

Assorted chips

Pretzels

Chocolate chips

## Hault MINISTRIES



B.R.E.W. - Hiking Day

Join BREW and rising college students (current high school seniors) for a refreshing day on the trails! We will meet at Falls Lake Dam on 4/26 at 10:00 AM to hike, explore, and enjoy time outdoors. Be sure to bring a sacked lunch to eat along the trail. This is a great opportunity to connect with others and enjoy nature together. . Questions? Contact Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

#### Women's - Retreat @ Hope

Step away from the busyness of life and join us for Journey to the Cross, a Women's Retreat at Hope from 4/11-4/12 in the Adult Education wing. This special time together will focus on Holy Week, offering reflection, fellowship, and renewal. The cost is \$75, which includes all retreat materials and meals. Set your heart on Christ as we journey through His final days leading to Easter. Please register on Hope's Website. Questions? Contact Beth Agner at bagner@hopelutheranwf.org.



## Imall GROUPS

#### NEW SMALL GROUPS

#### Homily

Looking for a Bible study-based small group? Homily is a new small group meeting on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 7:00 - 8:00 PM at the Marchese house. This group is open to all ages and will focus on diving deeper into the homilies used during Hope's regular worship services. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, contact Jack and Ruth Marchese at 240-731-3685.

#### Treasure Seekers

Looking for a new small group for women? Treasure Seekers is a new small group meeting on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:00 - 10:30 AM in Room 300. Beginning May 17, this group will focus on mining God's Word to discover the treasures He has given us while learning and supporting one another as we grow in Christ. Women of all ages are welcome. Questions? Contact Carole Ketter at 919-559-0814 or caketter6@gmail.com.

#### SMALL GROUP HIGHLIGHT

#### Connections

Connections is a small group for adults ages 25–35 to build friendships, grow in faith, and enjoy meaningful time together. Whether you're new to Hope or just looking to connect with others in your season of life, this group offers a welcoming space through Bible studies, casual meetups, and fun social events. Questions or to RSVP? Contact Michele Repak at 919-279-3800

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

- o Coffee Meet & Greet: Sunday, April 13, 9:45-10:45 AM, Children's Center
- Bowling & Brews: Friday, April 4, 6:30–8:00 PM, Strike & Barrel \$12/per person
- Bible Study- Book of John: Thursday, April 24, 7:00–9:00 PM, Norse Brewery

## SCHOOL SUNDAYS 9:45-10:45 AM

#### Kid's

#### **April 6**

- Preschool JAM: Jesus' Easter Mission
- K1 CREW: Jesus' Easter Mission
- LEVEL 23: Emotions & How God Uses Them for Good
- CLUB 45: Connected Easter

#### April 13 & April 27

- Preschool JAM: Jesus' Easter Mission
- K1 CREW: Jesus' Easter Mission
- LEVEL 23: He Rode What
- CLUB 45: Connected Easter

#### Youth (Middle & High School)

In April, Middle and High School Sunday School classes will journey through the books of Matthew and Exodus. Students will explore powerful stories of faith, deliverance, and Jesus' teachings that continue to shape our lives today. Encourage your youth to attend each week as we grow together in God's Word. Sunday School meets during the education hour between services.

#### Adult

THE METAPHORS OF JESUS. Join us in April, as we look at some of the major metaphors of Jesus. Come learn more about Jesus as the door of the sheep, the light of the world, and the bread that came down from heaven. See how these seemingly ordinary descriptions give deep insights into Jesus' nature, his mission, and promises.

#### No Sunday School on Easter Sunday

There will be no Sunday School classes on 4/20 in observance of Easter Sunday. We invite everyone to join us for worship as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Sunday School will resume on 4/27. Questions?

Contact the church office at office@hopelutheranwf.org.

## Fouth MINISTRIES

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### HIGH SCHOOL

#### Backyard Bash

Calling all middle schoolers! Join us for a night of fun at the Middle School Backyard Bash on 4/25 from 5:30 - 8:00 PM. Enjoy backyard games like tug-of-war, relay races, and Gaga ball, or take part in low-key activities like watercolor painting. Food will be provided, and the cost is \$5 per student. If it rains, we'll move inside to the Youth Center. Please register on Hope's Website.

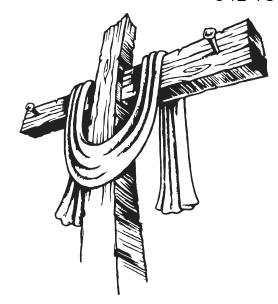
#### Summer Trip

Middle school students, including rising 6th and rising 9th graders, are invited to join us for an unforgettable trip to Washington, D.C., from 7/10 - 7/13. We will explore the Bible Museum, visit famous landmarks, and spend a day at Kings Dominion theme park. The total cost for this exciting adventure is \$425, with upcoming fundraising opportunities to offset cost. Please register on Hope's Website.

Questions? Contact
Makayla Meyer at
mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

#### Class Dinner

High school students are invited to connect over dinner on 4/13. Ninth and tenth graders will meet at Culver's from 5:00 - 6:00 PM, and eleventh and twelfth graders will meet at MOD Pizza from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. Bring your own money for dinner and enjoy fellowship with your classmates. There will be no youth group that evening. If you plan to attend, please text Wesley at (818) 642-7570.



Questions? Contact
Wesley Spottiswood at
wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

# TRACK OUT

Looking for a fun, safe, and Christ-centered camp while school is out? Xplore Track Out Camp is packed with weekly themed adventures like "Let the Games Begin," "Wet & Wild," and "Baking Boot Camp!" Each day includes creative crafts, awesome games, Bible time, and hands-on fun. Whether your child joins for a full week or a single day, they're in for an unforgettable time!

Attendance Type	Full Day (8 AM – 5 PM)	Half Day (8–12:30 or 12:30–5)
Full Week	\$220	\$150
Single Day	\$50	\$30

#### Additional Information

- Extended Time Available (before or after camp inquire for rates)
- Consecutive Multi-Week Rate (On Full Day & Full Week Registrations)
- Discounts Available (On Full Day & Full Week Registrations: One Discount per week)
  - Sibling Discount
  - Registered Member Discount

#### Contact Information

- Phone: 919-341-5381
- Email: Xplore@Hopelutheranwf.org
- Webpage: hopelutheranwf.or/xplore

## Meet THE GROUPS



#### Kid's Groups

Preschool Jam - Birth through 5 yrs old K1 Crew - Kindergarten & First Grade Level 23 - Second & Third Grade Club 45 - Fourth & Fifth Grade

Questions? Contact Beth Agner at bagner@hopelutheranwf.org Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org

#### Youth Groups

Middle School - Sixth through Eighth Grades High School - Ninth though Twelfth Grades

Questions? Contact
Beth Agner at bagner@hopelutheranwf.org
Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org
Wesley Spottiswood at wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

#### Adult Groups

B.R.E.W. - Ages 18-25

Questions? Contact Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org

Women's Ministry - Women ages 18 and up Questions? Contact Beth Agner at bagner@hopelutheranwf.org

Men's Ministry - Men Ages 18 and up. Questions? Contact Wesley Spottiswood at wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

#### Small Groups

With over 30 groups Hope is bound to have something for you. For help finding the right group for you contact Wesley Spottiswood at wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

MATTHEW 18:20 PAGE 17

## Realm UPDATE

## Although our *Welcome to Realm* classes have ended, help is always available!

The Realm Challenge: Your Realm, Your Profile

Join the Realm Challenge and take part in monthly goals from April through August to enhance your Realm experience.

- This month's challenge: Log in and update your profile.
- Win: Two winners will be drawn on April 29, each receiving a Hope Swag prize.
- Deadline: Complete the challenge by April 28 at 10 AM.

Each month brings a new step to help you get the most out of Realm—like connecting with others, uploading a photo, or checking into events. The more you participate, the more chances you have to win.

#### Coming Soon:

Hope will begin launching Groups in Realm this May. This will give you a new way to stay connected with Bible studies, volunteer teams, ministry groups, and more—all in one place. Be on the lookout for:

- Step-by-step guides to joining and using groups
- How-to classes to help you navigate new features
- Opportunities to engage with your group and church community throughout the summer

Watch for more information.

#### Need Help with Realm?

Visit our Realm Page for the Welcome to Realm How-To Guide and more resources.

Can't find your email invite? We're happy to resend it or check the email on file to make sure it's up to date.

#### **Contact for Help:**

Briana Evans bevans@hopelutheranwf.org

# FOR FUN

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EASTER APRIL BIRTH HOP

BUNNY CHOCOLATE SUNDAY HUNT

CHICK EGGS GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY

ECCLESIASTES 8:15 PAGE 19

# FOR FUN

