

CONTACT



Welcome to August at Hope Lutheran Church! Whether you've been part of our family for years or are visiting for the first time, we want you to know that Hope is a place where you belong. Our prayer is that you feel encouraged, connected, and at home here as we proclaim and live the Word and love of Christ together. If you ever have questions, need support, or simply want to learn more, please reach out to us—we're here for you!

Contact Us

Hope Luthean Church 3525 Rogers Road Wake Forest, NC 27587 Phone: 919-554-8109

Email: office@hopelutheranwf.org Website: www.hopelutheranwf.org

Staff Contacts

- Associate Pastor: Devin Murphy dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org
- Lead DCE (Women, Youth, & Children): Beth Agner bagner@hopelutheranwf.org
- DCE (Men, Youth, & Small Groups): Wesley Spottiswood wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org
- Family Ministry Coordinator: Makayla Meyer mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org
- Director of Worship Arts: Rob Varner rvarner@hopelutheranwf.org/

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PASTOR.... OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

Romans 12:17-21

"Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."-ESV

"We've got to fight fire with fire." Maybe you've never precisely said those words yourself, but you've probably heard someone else say it. There comes a point in many conflicts where you can't help but feel your opponent isn't fighting fair. They sometimes go low, act underhandedly, or simply go to lengths you would never expect to get their way. It's difficult in those moments not to simply match their anger, their language, or even their actions in your own response.

This last week when a large group of us went to the LCMS Youth Gathering, we were protested by some very angry people. The things they said and wrote on their signs were inflammatory, hateful, and designed to provoke. It would have been easy to shout back, insult them, or even take the bait and start a fight. Instead, the LCMS Youth Gathering sent out their young adults volunteers (Y.A.V.s) to sing, cheer, wave, and welcome the kids in. They bult a wall not of anger but of love, drowning out words of rage with words of grace and mercy. In the face of being resisted with profound love, the majority of the protestors simply gave up; with no one taking the bait or getting angry, they simply decided to leave.



As difficult as it is, fighting fire with fire simply isn't the Christian way. Our ethos is quite the opposite; we feed our hungry enemies and give drink to our thirsty opponents. Rather than taking personal vengeance, we entrust the process of calling to account to the Lord. In the end, the Creator God will make right his creation, and we can rest confident that he will do so in a righteous and just manner. The only fire we heap is the "burning coals" that singe and challenge the guilty heart. By showing love in the face of hatred, by overcoming evil with good, we put the onus on our enemies to wrestle with the wisdom of their own behavior internally. The hope in the end is that they repent and find grace in Jesus.

It isn't easy, but overcoming evil with good is the destiny of all things. God has won the victory in Christ, the devil's days are numbered, even death itself will be swallowed up one day through life. These trials that tempt us are passing away, and all that awaits us is a better world where we can live in true joy with our God.

Standing with you as we fight fire with a cold cup of water,

Pastor Devin Murphy

A Night of Dancing, Fun, and Fellowship for All Ages!

Event Details

Date: Friday, August 22

Time: 6:00-9:00 PM

Location: Children's

Center

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Register & Pay

Register Now! Find the registration on Hope's Website or on Realm to let us know you're coming and to pay for your spot.

Join us for a 1950s-style evening of fun for the entire Hope family — from kids to adults! Enjoy classic jukebox jams, retro photo booth fun, fellowship with friends, and a tasty spread of appetizers and dreamy desserts. This is a night you won't want to miss!

An event for the whole congregation!

Questions?

Contact dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org

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CALL PROCESS Whole

Next Step: Town Hall Meetings

We are excited to share the next step in Hope's Call Process for our next Senior Pastor!

Town Hall Dates:

- 8/24 at 1:00 PM
- 9/5 at 7:00 PM
- 9/10 at 6:30 PM

After the Town Halls

After all three candidates have been introduced through Town Hall meetings, we will allow time for prayerful consideration before holding a Congregational Meeting to vote. Voting will be for active members only.

What is a Town Hall?

A Town Hall is an open meeting where members can ask questions and get to know the candidate. It's your opportunity to learn more about each pastor before the congregational vote.

Information & Updates

Visit hopelutheranwf.org/ct2025

Candidate Information

In respect for the pastors and their congregations, we will not release names at this time. Each candidate's name will be shared shortly before their Town Hall, along with a brief bio and a link to their congregation's services so you can listen to sermons in advance.

Please remember:

- Be respectful of the candidate, his current call, and his congregation.
- Maintain confidentiality and honor their privacy as they continue serving their present congregations during this process.

WESLEY'S AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE AT THE LCMS YOUTH GATHERING IN NEW ORLEANS

The high school youth had an unforgettable experience this past month at the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. With nearly 20,000 Lutheran young people from across the country and world coming together, the event was a powerful blend of worship, learning, service, and fun. During the day, youth attended impactful sessions at the convention center on topics like "Understanding Your Parents," "Grace and Endurance," "Gaming for Christ," "Where Does Life Begin?," "Biblical Immigration", and much more. These sessions challenged the students to grow in their faith, ask deep questions, and connect biblical truths to everyday life. Each youth got to choose what topics they wanted to attend.

Each night, the group gathered in the iconic Superdome for worship, inspiring speakers, and music that stirred hearts and brought joy. One highlight was hearing from Bethany Hamilton, the "Soul Surfer" who courageously shared how her faith helped her endure after losing her arm in a shark attack. Bands like Rend Collective and Lutheran rapper Flame led in mass worship led the crowd in high-energy praise, uniting everyone in one voice to worship our enduring God. Our group of 42 sang our hearts out and danced to songs like "My Lighthouse" and "Build Your Kingdom Here".

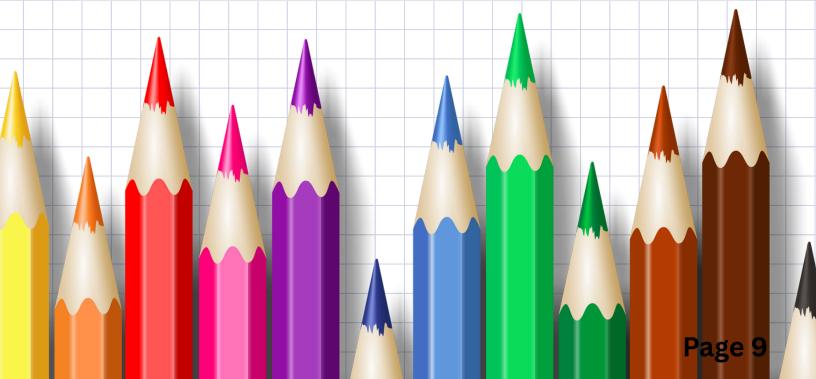
Churches attending the gathering could also participate in service projects from packing over 160,000 meals to donating 560+ pints of blood, stamping more than 320 braille books of the Bible, cleaning up streets and more and more. Some of Hope's youth made sleeping mats for the homeless out of plastic bags, the group truly lived out Christ's love in action.

....Starrletter

Exploring the rich culture of New Orleans added even more to the experience. The group walked nearly 10 miles each day, taking in the sights and sounds of the city. They toured Mardi Gras World, cruised on a swamp boat, visited Jackson Square, and tasted local favorites like crawfish, gator sausage, gumbo, and po-boys. They even made a sweet stop at Café du Monde for beignets!

The 2025 theme, Endure, became more than just a word—it became a lived-out truth. Through worship, learning, service, and fun, our youth grew closer to Christ and to one another. The LCMS Youth Gathering was truly a life-changing experience for all who attended as we remember Christ has endured the cross, defeated death, and still meets us today with grace. We are never alone. Christ is with us. And in Him, we endure.

If you want to hear more about the trip and hear from some of the youth that attended please join us in room 300 Sunday August 10 during Sunday School hour.



NEWS..

Volunteering At Worship Services

Hope is growing—and so is our need for volunteers! We're looking for adults ready to serve during worship in roles like Altar Care, AV Tech for Saturday night, Children's Church leader, Greeter, Usher, Coffee Hour host, Offering Counter, Communion Server, and more. Whether you're tech-savvy, detail-oriented, or simply have a heart to serve, there's a place for you. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others..." (1 Peter 4:10). **Questions? Contact Briana Evans** at bevans@hopelutheranwf.org.

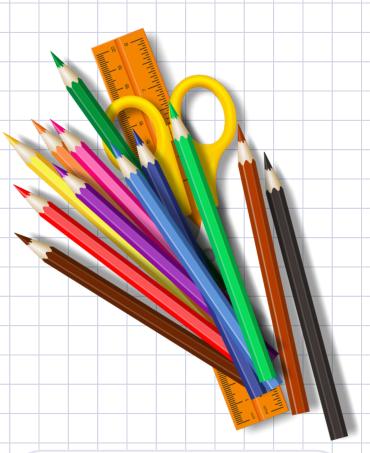


MLT Minute - August Update

Please join us in welcoming our new Mission Leadership Team (MLT) members: Amy Ikerd, Don Ketter, Joseline Kirkendoll, and John Nugent! We look forward to partnering with them in supporting Hope's staff, preschool, and congregation. Recent updates from the MLT include approvals for several key on-site improvements: preschool repairs, parking lot upgrades, Youth Area HVAC enhancements, and the expansion of Little Blessings. Looking ahead, the MLT is also planning congregational meetings to strengthen communication across the church. Questions? Contact us at mlt@hopelutheranwf.org.

Let Us Pray for You

Need prayer? Whether it's for strength and healing during illness, comfort and peace while grieving, or praise and thanksgiving for joyful moments—Hope is here to pray with you and for you. We believe in lifting up every joy and burden, and everything in between, to our loving God. You can submit your prayer requests anytime on by contacting the church office by emailing us at office@hopelutheranwf.org.



2025 Fall New Member Class

Mark your calendar! Hope's Fall New Member Class will run from 9/7-10/12 during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 AM) in Room 300. This six-week class is a great opportunity to learn about Lutheran teachings and practices, and to explore the ministries and mission of Hope Lutheran Church. There's no pressure to join—just a chance to get to know us, and for us to get to know you. Know someone who might be interested? Invite them to come along! Please register on Hope's Website. Questions? dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org.

Pentecost Sermon Series: Teachings From The Road

Join us this Pentecost season for our sermon series, Teachings from the Road: Journey to Jerusalem.
Each week, we'll explore the wisdom and powerful stories
Jesus shared while traveling toward the cross. Through
Scripture, reflection, and Christ's own words, this meaningful journey will draw us closer to His heart and purpose. Come walk the road with us as we grow in faith together.



DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP ATUS

Sharing Our Favorite Hymns...

"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord." Ephesians 5:19

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their favorite hymns with all of us at Hope. It's not too late to submit them and you can share them any time. I enjoyed compiling the list of all these great hymns of the faith and reading the comments shared. We had a total of 445 entries so far and I would like to share with you the top ten hymns of HLC for 2025:

No. 1 Amazing Grace

No. 2 How Great Thou Art

No. 3 It is Well with My Soul

No. 4 The Old Rugged Cross

No. 5 A Mighty Fortress & Abide with Me

No. 6 Be Thou My Vision

No. 7 Holy, Holy, What a Friend We Have in Jesus

No. 8 Great is Thy Faithfulness & In Christ Alone

No. 9 Be Still My Soul, Blessed Assurance, & Crown Him with Many Crowns

No. 10 Beautiful Savior, In the Garden, Just as I Am, & On Eagle's Wings



This is a wonderful list of songs that you the congregation can sing together and lift your voices in praise to God! Each song shared is a true testament to God's glory. We thank Him for these hymn writers who have spread His Word throughout the ages with their crafted texts of musical poetry...a true testament of enhancing the Word of God through the gift of music and song.

Amazing Grace according to Hymnary.org, appears in 1,502 hymnals. It was written in 1773 by John Newton and was first printed in 1779 in Olney Hymns by Newton & Cowper. American composer William Walker wrote the melody entitled "New Britain" in 1835 and is the most popular tune used to sing this beloved hymn.

Hymns serve as a prayer of thanksgiving and an expression of commitment and faith in God. These songs allow the singer to proclaim their belief in Jesus Christ and together all God's people share as one body of believers their praise, love, and devotion to the Lord their God.

Jubilate Deo! ~ O Be Joyful in the Lord!

Rob Varner Director of Worship Arts

MUSIC AT HOPE

Choral Music At Hope

Lift your voice in joyful song with Hope's Adult and Children's Choirs!

The Adult Choir rehearses Wednesdays from 7:30-9:15 PM in the balcony and sings a variety of sacred music throughout the church year. The Children's Choir, open to kids in K–5th grade, meets weekly to learn music fundamentals and offer their voices in worship. Come sing, grow, and glorify God through music!

Hope's Handbell & Instrument Ensembles

Make a joyful noise with Hope's
Handbell and Instrumental
Ensembles! Our Adult Handbell
Choir rehearses Wednesdays from
6:15-7:30 PM and shares beautiful
anthems throughout the year.
Children in 2nd–7th grade can join
the Children's Handbell Choir,
rehearsing from 5:30-6:00 PM to
learn ringing basics and perform
in worship. If you play an
instrument and are in high school
or older, we invite you to share
your musical gifts during special
services and celebrations.



Music
Ministry
Interest &
Sign Up



Questions?

rvarner@hopelutheranwf.org.

WENDESDAY Wight ALIVE

Come be a part of Wednesday Night Alive, a midweek experience full of fun, faith, and fellowship for all ages! Happening every Wednesday from 9/3–10/29, each evening includes themed nights, dinner, Bible lesson, music, and group activities designed to connect families and individuals in a meaningful way.

Schedule:

Dinner: 5:30 - 6:30 PM Activity: 6 - 6:30 PM Group Time: 6:30 -7:30 PM

Dinner Prices:

\$6/adults, \$3/kids (ages 5-10), under 5 free, \$22 family max

September 3

Dinner: Cookouthamburger/hotdogs, baked beans, salad and desserts Theme: God's Creation Night

September 10

Dinner: Fried Chicken, green beans, salad and desserts Theme: Bingo Night

September 17

Dinner: Tacos (beef/chicken), salad and desserts Theme: Fiesta Night

September 24

Dinner: Spaghetti/meatballs, salad and desserts Theme: Superhero Night



ADULT Ministries

Brew Bonfire & Movie Night

BREW is hosting a Bonfire and Movie Night on August 7 from 7:00–9:00 PM on the Circle of Hope Lawn! Come hang out with friends for a cozy evening of s'mores, firelight, and a retro movie—chosen by you! It's a relaxing summer night you won't want to miss. Please register on Hope's Website. Questions? Contact Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

Men's Oktoberfest

Men 21 and up are invited to join us for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship at Hope's annual Oktoberfest celebration. Enjoy beer, brats, German food, corn hole, music, and trivia with your brothers in Christ. The event will be held outside under the tent with plenty of space to relax and connect. September 19 from 6-9 PM. Cost: \$25. Register online or through Realm. Questions? wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.



SMALL Crowns

Connections Age 25-35

Join the Connections Small Group for ages 25-35 as we gather for Bible study, connection, and conversation. Whether you're new or have been attending for a while, this is a great chance to build meaningful relationships with others in your age group. We'll meet in Room 300. Cost: Free. Questions? 919-279-3800.

3 B'S.

Men 21 and older are invited to gather for 3 B's – Bible, Beverage, and Brotherhood. This one-night event will take place at the Bailey Household and features casual fellowship and a short Bible study. Bring your own beverage and come ready for great conversation. Questions? wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.

Small Group for Grandparents

Come join us for a brand-new Grandparents Small Group, open to all grandparents looking for connection, support, and encouragement in their walk with Christ. This group will meet monthly for Bible study, prayer, and mutual support as we share the joys and challenges of grandparenting. If you are looking for a small group focused on fellowship and faith, this may be a great fit for you. Please contact Wesley Spottiswood at wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org for more information.

Need Help Finding a Group

Please contact Wesley Spottiswood at wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org for more information about small groups at Hope.

KID'S & Youth

Back To School Blessing

Mark your calendar for Hope's Back to School Blessing on Sunday, 9/7 during both the 8:30 and 11:00 AM worship services. All students and teachers—preschool, elementary, middle, high school, college, Sunday School, Little Blessings, Track Out, and beyond —are invited to come forward during the Children's Message to receive a special blessing and a small gift. Whether you teach or learn, we want to encourage you as you begin a new school year! Please join us and invite others to come too. Questions? mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

High School Youth Group Kickoff

All rising high school students are invited to our Youth Group Kickoff event! Join us in the Youth Center for a pizza dinner, welcome games, and time to connect as we kick off a new year together.

Come hungry and ready for fun.

Questions? wspottiswood@

hopelutheranwf.org.

Acolyte Training

Students in 5th–7th grade are invited to serve as acolytes in worship. Come to a short training on 8/3 from 10:00–10:45 AM in the Sanctuary to learn how you can be part of this important role. This is an excellent way to serve the church, and we are especially looking for helpers at the 8:30 service. Please register on Hope's Website. Questions? bagner@hopelutheranwf.org.

Confirmation Registration

Confirmation Registration is open for all 6th–12th grade students preparing to affirm their faith!
Orientation for families will be held on 8/24. If your child will be participating this year, please register on Hope's Website. This program provides students with the opportunity to grow in faith, ask questions, and build relationships with their peers and mentors. Questions? Contact Beth Agner at bagner@hopelutheranwf.org.

SUNDAY School

Kids - Sunday School Event

We are BACK! Kids Ministry invites all children Preschool through 5th Grade and their parents to our BIG Sunday School Kick-Off on 8/24 from 9:45–10:45 AM in the Children's Center. Get ready for a celebration with music, Heyo Jesus, a fun skit, and of course—ICE CREAM! Parents and children will have the chance to meet teachers, see classrooms, and get excited for the new season of Sunday School fun.



Youth - Books of the Bible

Youth Sunday School in August is all about exploring Books of the Bible and discovering how Scripture still speaks to us today. Middle and high school students are invited to join us each Sunday at 9:45 AM in the Youth Center for engaging discussions that connect God's Word with the real-life challenges and questions youth face today.

Adults - Christ in Colossians

Join us all August as we dissect the rich Christology and teaching found in the book of Colossians. Learn more about this impactful letter from Paul that both reveals new layers to Jesus' nature and reign while teaching practical insights for our daily lives.

OUTREACH ACHAR

Brown Bag Ministry

Join Hope's Brown Bag Ministry on Saturday, 8/16 from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM as we prepare and deliver bagged lunches to those in need. Volunteers are still needed for August, so please consider signing up through Hope's Website. In addition to serving, we're collecting nonperishable snacks—especially granola bars and individual bags of chips. Donations may be placed in the Brown Bag bin in the café area any weekend. Questions? kapernan@gmail.com

ESL Volunteers Needed For Fall.

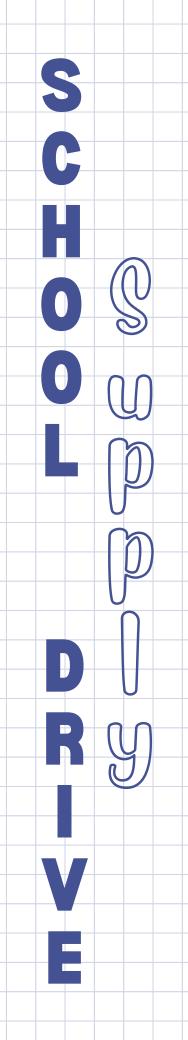
Hope's ESL Ministry is preparing for the fall session and seeking volunteers to serve as teachers, assistants, or substitutes from 9/30–11/13, every Tuesday and/or Thursday from 6:30–8:30 PM. No language skills or teaching experience are required. We are also looking for two ESL coordinators to assist with room setup, attendance, and student support. Questions? Contact Mike Dennen at m.dennen@icloud.com.

TRI-AREA MINISTRY

Tri-Area Ministry continues to serve families in our local community through food assistance and essential items—and your ongoing support makes it possible! Whether you're donating shelf-stable food, organizing your small group to serve, or simply spreading the word, your involvement brings hope to those in need. Want to learn how to help in simple, tangible ways? Questions? jmschaef@yahoo.com

ChurchNet Foundation Volunteers Needed

ChurchNet Foundation is in need of volunteers to continue providing vital support to those in need throughout our community. Please prayerfully consider donating your time to this important ministry. Questions? Contact Pam Jay at pjay0826@gmail.com.



Items Still Needed with Quantity Needed

- Purple Plastic Pocket Folders with Prongs 73
- Any color/design Pocket Folders with Prongs 73
- Red Plastic Pocket Folder with Prongs 68
- Yellow Plastic Pocket Folders with Prongs 63
- Blue Plastic Pocket Folders with Prongs 60
- Highlighters Multicolored 53
- Skinny black dry-erase markers 51
- Manila File Folders 50
- Inexpensive Earbuds 50
- Water Bottles 50
- Drawstring Bags 50
- Black Sharpies 50
- Rolls of Clear Scotch Tape in Dispensers 47
- Composition Notebook 46
- Zippered Pencil Pouch (No Boxes) 45
- Crayola Markers 43
- 3 Subject Spiral Notebooks 42
- Primary Composition Journal 40
- Box of Colored Pencils (12 Count) 40
- 2 Pocket Folder 39
- 5 Subject Spiral Notebooks 32
- Backpack: Elementary 30
- Green One Subject Spiral Notebook 27
- Yellow One Subject Spiral Notebook 25
- Green Plastic Pocket Folders with Prongs 23
- Blue One Subject Spiral Notebook 20
- Kid Scissors 19
- Red One Subject Spiral Notebook 16
- 1-inch Binder 12
- Pack of Dividers 10
- Backpack: Middle 5



Need Help With Realm.

Need help getting started with Realm? Visit our Realm Page at hopelutheranwf.org/realm for the Welcome to Realm How-To Guide and other helpful resources. Can't find your email invite? We're happy to resend it or double-check the email we have on file. Briana will occasionally be available in the Narthex to answer Realm questions or you can reach out to schedule a time to meet in person.

The Realm Challenge: Be Present, Be Connected.

Be Present, Be Connected during the month of August by checking in for worship services using the Realm Connect app or the kiosk in the Narthex. Each check-in gives you a chance to win a \$20 credit toward a Hope event or Hope swag. Participate any weekend in August.

Deadline to enter is 9/1.

Realm Pages

Realm Website: onrealm.org

App: Realm Connect (Available for Apple & Android)

Hope's Realm Update: hopelutheranwf.org/Realm

Questions?

Briana Evans at bevans@hopelutheranwf.org.

JUST FOR

Word Bank

- Amazing Grace
 Music Ministry
- Brown Bag
- Call Update
 Oktoberfest
- Choir
- Confirmation
- Fellowship
- Hope Sock Hop
 Worship

- New Orleans
- Small Groups
- Town Hall Meeting
- Volunteer
- Handbell
 Wednesday Night Alive
- Lutheran
 Youth Gathering

F X Q F V Y X H D L F F C H X X M S K S N E R W Y D P D T T TFPEW | WNAUHPNEECYNOAD | TYWCHLRV ZSMALLGROUPSMFKOWQLFNMBAFEBOAV R S M W T V N W G E W D K Z N X P K U Z C M C H O I R C Z V D Y R O Q H B W G C N O O C H P C | W R G | | U F H P Z S F W B W R G N N K | B K O N E W O R L E A N S X F G O B S Y Q YM | SGNUSR | AGMUS | CM | N | STRYPRQSD CHQHHMULSKQHHE | QKOMW | RVKDEOT | I TATIVZKNTEBYTUDURMKEMYMUKSWUVK ZOLPEQOEBWPZHHCHKVKDKPXDWONANI KAWL | AHKYG | DMMN | MDSNPTYMNCBBS I RDENUFMAWLAJXASWBIZEIABAIKAMHN YQTFHPQTYBWBUPWGHUESVMDXRHGLII WFAQOADSOKINILOAAAODWFPECOPCVZ WXGFURLALECPHBEMNPBAOZOJXPQCMN AMDKWEXLTRDTEPZADYMYOQHAVISOUA N I | V N | W Q M E Q G S P W Z B A K N D O V C S U E N Y Q X U Z T I C L F D E K | N S I I E H U I S S O Y M P E F | B HMVBHQSQKPECQYHNLWLGDGLAPAB I PB IVTPQGJQMQPTTMIGLYCHCQUXFHXRPY AM L K R E E T N F G P I D T G J S M T Y V N U E W H M V G K B | T N S F G D K Y W C N N R C B X A T T T W L X P A U B KYVGWR J J D E N H Q K G A M H M L Q S E G L G T T C L NOKTOBERFESTASZCZSIIVPEYOWPIYY Q P P B F D C Q J R T J Y G S E N H V V T M R Y W Y O O N D ESBPKPLYWN J A FUWUPQYEQNS FST FN S M RXXVQPDWVCTDDRYZBZYUOVGPHOOZRW J I K X I L F W C Q L N W Y V B P O T A X O P D I H F G R K SUPLUTHERANQHIXAMUGHPQWWPVCPFG IBBIIYXAKYMYOUTHGATHERINGCNAQK

