

Mission Moments



The Recipe of Christmas

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The Recipe of Christmas

Merry Christmas and a happy Advent to all!

Although people cook, bake, and celebrate in the Bible, there are only a few places that I would describe as giving a recipe. Perhaps the funniest example in the Bible is obscured a bit by the measurements used. When the Lord comes to meet Abraham in Genesis 18, Abraham hurriedly asks Sarah to make cakes out of three seahs of flour, which translates to roughly 21 quarts' worth of flour!

So while the Bible does not frequently refer to a recipe, it still often does give important combinations of factors, elements, and events to show God's decisive work in the world. Paul gives a good example in Galatians 4:4-7:

*"4 But **when the fullness of time had come**, God sent forth his Son, **born of woman, born under the law**, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."-ESV*

Notice how Paul points out the need for the fullness of time, Jesus to be born of a woman, Jesus to be born as Jew under the Law, and how each of these elements are a kind of recipe that lead to adoption, sonship, the gift of the Spirit, and even being heirs.

There are many other examples like this in the Bible, and in Advent we celebrate with our Advent candles the mix of hope, peace, joy and love. Each of these are an essential part of the recipe of Christmas. Hope for Jesus' coming and rule in the world; peace that comes through Jesus' blood which forgives our sins and breaks down the walls of enmity; the joy that overflows living in the promises and goodness of our God; the profound love God has for in Jesus.

We are only scratching the surface of course, but this focus on hope, peace, joy, and love gives us a central focus and recipe for our hearts and minds going into this season. We need these things not only for our families and personal lives, but in our witness and walk in the world around us. So while many of you will surely be working by recipe in the days ahead, remember God's recipe of Christmas for you: the wonderful gifts of hope, peace, joy and love that he offers you again and again through his Son Jesus and which are made manifest in the Holy Spirit in your lives.

Hoping your Advent is full of all the good gifts of our God,

Pastor Devin Murphy



News & Events

2023 WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

January 1 - February 25.

WNA is Hope's midweek ministry opportunity for all ages to gather for dinner, Bible study, fellowship, and fun.

YEAR-END GIFTS

All gifts and offerings must be postmarked or received by Saturday, December 31, 2024 in order to be included in your 2024 year-end record of giving. Thank you for all your gifts and contributions in 2024!

COOKBOOK RECIPES NEEDED!

This year's annual Christmas Eve giveaway will be a special Hope Cookbook for visitors and members. Submit your favorite holiday recipe by December 1st using the form on our website under "Holiday Recipe Collection." Thank you for helping us create something memorable!

STITCHES OF HOPE CRAFT SALE

Mark your calendars for the Stitches of Hope Craft Sale on 12/7 and 12/8, before and after all church services! We will be raffling a beautiful quilt and a baby doll bunk bed set, including a doll. Visit us in the Children's Center to find that special Christmas gift. Questions? contact news.stitches@gmail.com

LITTLE BLESSINGS: HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE

Little Blessings is requesting your help to replenish their holiday book collection for the classrooms! We're looking for themed books for Fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Spring, and Winter. Donations can be placed in the donation bin labeled "Little Blessings" in the narthex or brought to the Little Blessings office near the nursery. Thank you for supporting our classrooms! Contact Little Blessings at littleblessings@hopelutheranwf.org

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).



Flowers

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Add to the beauty of the season by sponsoring a poinsettia adorning the chancel and windows at Hope during this Advent and Christmas season. These flowers may be purchased in memory or in honor of loved ones. Sign up by 12/15 online at www.hopelutheranwf.org/flowers. Cost: \$15 each. Questions? contact bevans@hopelutheranwf.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2025 Flower Chart is now available. You may sign up to designate 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.

Advent at Hope

Advent Worship

The Advent season begins with weekend services on December 1 and continues through December 22. Wednesday evening services will be on December 4 & 11 at 6:30PM.

Live Nativity

Every year the people of Hope work together to share the Biblical story of Christmas with our community. Mark your calendar for our two Live Nativity performances: Saturday, December 14 at 6:45PM; and Sunday, December 15 at 7:00PM.

Cantata- Angels Preparing the Song

Presented by Hope's choirs and musicians, the story of Christ's birth is celebrated in the sacred songs of the season on December 8 at the 8:30AM & 11:00AM services.

Annual Kid's Ministry Christmas Pageant

Hope's children have been busy learning lines, making costumes, and singing joyful songs celebrating the birth of Jesus! Everyone is invited to the pageant on December 18 at 7:00PM.



Christmas Eve at Hope

Children's Service (3:30 & 5:00 PM)

A fun celebration of Christ's birth, designed for kids and families, with lots of songs, interaction, and child-friendly battery-operated candles.

Candlelight Service (6:30 & 8:00 PM)

A festive service for all ages, featuring Christmas carols, special music, and "Silent Night" by candlelight.

Candlelight Communion Service (11:00 PM)

A beautiful late-night service with vocal, handbell choirs, and brass, along with Christmas carols, candlelight, and Holy Communion.



Missions

ANGEL TREE

Our annual Angel Tree event begins 11/30 and continues through 12/10. There will be over 200 angels to choose from. Help us bring Christmas joy to 20 families in the Wake Forest and Rolesville communities. We appreciate each of you who take one (or more) angels, purchase, wrap, label (with name and family number) and place it back into the family boxes. Boxes will be in the Narthex until 12/11, when we must have all the gifts back.

On December 14, Hope is sponsoring our second Angel Tree Christmas Party from 10-Noon. Families will be able to come for some fun and fellowship and collect their gifts. To do this, we will need volunteers to make this event a success. Please sign up on Hope's Website. Thank you for your help and support.

Any questions please call or text Claudia Van Hook at 717-579-2077.

BROWN BAG

Join us on 12/21 for a special Christmas edition of Brown Bag! We will meet at 11:00AM to make sandwiches. For easy sign-up, visit Hope's mission page. To learn more or find out how you can help behind the scenes, contact Nancy Repak at kapernan@gmail.com. Let's share the love of Jesus this Christmas!

TRI-AREA MINISTRY

Tri-Area Ministry is the largest food pantry in the Wake Forest, Youngsville, and Rolesville area, serving 1200+ families monthly. Donations of cereal are especially requested at this time. 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.



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 18 and up. For questions or to sign up, email us at nighttoshine@hopelutheranwf.org.

Guests

We are thrilled to announce that Hope will once again be hosting the Tim Tebow Foundation Night to Shine on Friday, February 7th. Registration opens December 3. If you've never experienced it, it's a magical night of celebration for our Special Needs Community. This event is for people (ages 14+) with special needs. The goal of the evening is to celebrate our honored guests with corsages/boutonnieres, crowns, a red carpet walk, professional photos, a photo booth, karaoke, limo rides, appetizers, a DJ, and a dance floor.

Contact our Night to Shine Team at nighttoshine@hopelutheranwf.org for more information. To register visit hopelutheranwf.org/NTS.



Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School on 12/22 or 12/29. On 12/22, we invite everyone to join us for a Christmas Family Hour in the Children's Center! All are welcome as we come together as a congregation to make ornaments for our Hope Family Tree, located in the Narthex—and one to take home for your own tree. Let's celebrate the joy of the season together!

ADULTS

GUEST TEACHER HIGHLIGHT

Join us on December 1-15 for a mix of studies by Hope's many talented guest pastors and lay instructors. Each week will focus on a different theme near and dear to the heart of our teachers. Come with open hearts and minds to study the word and encourage your brothers and sisters as they continue to share their gifts of teaching, wisdom, and knowledge.

YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL

High school will be studying the book of Mark.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

This month we will be studying Psalms.

KIDS

- PRESCHOOL JAM: Lights of Christmas: Hope Shines Bright
- K1 CREW: Lights of Christmas: Hope Shines Bright
- LEVEL 23: Lights of Christmas: Hope Shines Bright
- CLUB 45: Waiting for the King



Kid's Ministry

Christmas Party

Oh, what fun! Let's get ready for the jolliest time of the year! Join us on 12/14 from 3-5:15PM for Christmas games, festive treats, and tons of holiday fun just for YOU! The entire family is welcome to stay afterward for a family dinner. Questions? contact bagner@hopelutheranwv.org

Save the Date

Father-daughter dance. Save the date for hope's annual father-daughter dance on 2/8! Ticket registration opens on 1/8. Don't miss your chance to join us for a night of fun and cherished memories. Stay tuned for more details and get ready for an unforgettable evening!





Childcare at Hope



Hope is dedicated to a safe Christ-centered environment for all ages.

LITTLE BLESSINGS (AGES BIRTH TO 2 YEARS)

Registration will open for Hope Members in February. For more information email littleblessings@hopelutheranwf.org.

PRESCHOOL (AGES 2 YEARS TO 5 YEARS)

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.

XPLORE TRACK OUT (PRE-K TO 5TH GRADE)

"Xplorers" spend their school breaks at a safe, local, Christ-centered camp, having fun with friends while playing games, enjoying outdoor sports, going on nature walks, and getting crafty with food, art, and fun-themed activities. Visit hopelutheranwf.org/xplore.

PARENT'S DAY OUT - XPLORE'S CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL. Do you need a morning without the kids? Whether it's shopping, gift wrapping, or just downtime, we've got you covered! Join us on Saturday, 12/7 from 9:00AM to 1:00PM for Xplore's Christmas Carnival. The cost is \$20 per child, with a maximum of \$60 per family. For an additional \$5, kids can enjoy a pizza lunch with a side and drink. Sign up through your Procure account today! Questions? contact xplore@hopelutheranwf.org

Youth Ministry

Youth Group

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School youth group is on hold through the holidays. We will restart January 8, 2025.

HIGH SCHOOL

Mark your calendar that there is no youth group Dec 22, and 29.



Christmas Parties

MIDDLE SCHOOL

WAFFLES AND PAJAMAS. Middle schoolers, get ready for our Christmas Party on 12/15 from 5:00PM to 7:00PM! We're having breakfast for dinner —pancakes, anyone? Wear your comfiest, coziest Christmas PJs and join us for fun games, Christmas prizes, and ending the night at the live nativity. Questions? contact mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

HIGH SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS PARTY. It's time for our annual Christmas party on 12/15 from 7- 9PM! Join your friends for Christmas-themed games, a Live Nativity, and a White Elephant gift exchange. Never played before? It's a fun game where you bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10. Youth take turns opening gifts, with the option to swap for an already-opened gift or take a chance with a new one! There is no cost to attend—just bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10. No sign-up needed, just show up! Questions? contact wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

Adult Ministry

BREW CHRISTMAS PARTY

Take a break from the holiday hustle and join us on 12/21 at 6:30PM for a chill night with friends! We'll start with a short devotion, then enjoy a Christmas movie, dinner, and dessert. Don't forget to bring a White Elephant gift to keep things fun and festive! Questions? contact mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

MEN'S CHRISTMAS BONFIRE

Calling all men! Join us for an evening of fellowship, snacks, a bonfire, and devotion on 12/7 from 7-9PM at the Spottiswood Homestead, 108 Kent St., Youngsville. Bring your own drinks and a chair. Text (818) 642-7570 to RSVP by 12/6. We look forward to a great evening together!

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS EVENT

Join us for our Annual Women's Christmas Event on 12/6 from 6:30-9PM at Hope Lutheran Church. We'll enjoy coffee, tea, other beverages and light finger foods as we come together for song, prayer, and devotions. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with other women of Hope and share in the joy of the season. Please bring a wrapped ornament for our festive ornament exchange at the end of the evening. Let us know you're coming by signing up on Hope's website. Questions? contact bagner@hopelutheranwf.org.



