



Without a Vision...

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law. -ESV

You might have heard this somewhat famous verse in the King James Version of the Bible: Prov. 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish: But he that keepeth the law, happy is he." The ESV is probably the better translation, but the KJV translation certainly paints a more memorable and starker statement: for lack of a "vision" the people "perish." This would seem to suggest we need a vision in our lives lest we come to some real harm.

What kind of vision though? The visions we set out are often human contrivances. We make plans, we set grand goals, we speak confidently about the future (even though James warns us against such confidence, James 4:13-17). Like so many things in life, "vision" can become something plastic, trite, or meaningless. We string together catch phrases, slogans, and the like all with the hope that it will inspire and undergird our plans. Sometimes though, even if we see the value in looking forward, there is something in us that resists these plans and feels disconnected from these "visions." There is something in us a Christians that yearns for something of real substance that is rooted in God's will and ways.

The recipe for a good vision is already in the verse. We need a vision that is prophetic, that is, rooted in God's revelation and word. Any plans we make, must stand firmly within God's plan for his people. We have to understand his priorities not only for us, but for the world around us. At the very center of that priority is the proclamation of Jesus Christ and his good news for the whole world. Any vision we make must honor Christ as Lord and display his cross as the banner of salvation for us and for all the nations.

Likewise, the vision we need must be built out of God's Law. God's Law will always expose our sin and reveal our failings. Yet at the same time, God's Law has another function to provide a vision of human flourishing. God's word doesn't just provide arbitrary rules and regulations; it is a guidebook to what is good, a warning against what is evil, it is a shepherd's crook leading the sheep away from rocky terrain and towards good pastures. As Proverbs points out, to keep that Law is only to experience the happiness that comes forth from God's blessing upon us.

Whatever vision we work on together this month, it must live firmly within God's own priorities, concerns, and will. From that starting point, it is wholly appropriate to take stock of our resources, the gifts we have received as people, the needs of those in our church and the needs of our neighbors who desperately need God's Gospel firmly in their lives. Whatever we settle on together is a small attempt to bring God's kingdom, his rule and reign, into the center of our lives and push back the darkness of the world here in Wake Forest. We and our community need a vision of Christ that will transform us into people set apart and focused on Jesus at the center of all things.

My prayer for us at this time is that such a vision might help create a refreshed sense of excitement and unity among us at Hope. We are together brothers and sisters in one family of God, beloved children redeemed by Christ for his purposes. We are working together for a shared goal of service and proclamation of the Gospel to everyone around us. Whatever hurts there may be among us, I pray we would be tenderhearted and forgiving toward one another as we come together for God's work.

Hoping that we firmly commit to a vision built on the foundation of Jesus,

Pastor Devin Murphy



Through February 26 www.hopelutheranwf.org/wna

Weekly Schedule

Dinner: 5:30-6:15 PM

Enjoy a freshly prepared meal served by the Men of Hope Small Group. Dinner includes a main dish, dessert, and drinks. Cost: \$6 for adults & youth, \$3 for children ages 5-10, free for kids 5 and under.

Family Maximum: \$22

Kids & Youth Activities: 6:30-7:30 PM

Kids of all ages are invited to explore God's Word through fun, interactive lessons and activities. What to Expect: Age-appropriate lessons, hands-on activities, and Bible stories tailored to each age group. High School Students: Opportunities to gain leadership skills by helping with younger groups.

Adult Education: 6:30-7:30 PM

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.

Music Schedule

- 5:00 PM: Children's Choir (Grades K-5)
- 5:45 PM: Children's Handbells (Grades 2-5)
- 6:15-7:30 PM: Adult Handbells (Sanctuary)
- 7:30-9:15 PM: Senior Choir (Sanctuary)

Join us for Wednesday Night
Alive, a fun-filled evening for all
ages! Each week features a
delicious dinner, engaging
activities for kids and youth,
dynamic adult education, and
music rehearsals. There's
something for everyone to enjoy in
this relaxed, family-friendly
atmosphere.

Weekly Themes, Family Activities, & Dinners

February 5: Cozy Campfire Night

- Dinner: Spaghetti & Meatballs
- Family Activity: Enjoy indoor s'mores and a family-friendly movie night.

February 12: Love Your Community Night

- Dinner: Tacos
- Family Activity: Paint kindness rocks to share God's love in your community.

February 19: Disney Night

- Dinner: Chicken Tetrazzini
- Family Activity: Disney trivia and crafts to bring a little magic to the evening.

February 26: Bingo Night

- Dinner: Mac and Cheese with Bratwurst
- Family Activity: Wrap up the season with another round of family-friendly Bingo.

SUPER BOWL CHILI SALE

Get ready for game day with delicious homemade chili prepared by the Men of Hope! On 2/9, beef, vegetable, and chicken chili will be available—all made "mild" so you can spice it up to your liking. Cost: \$8 per quart. Chili will be available for purchase after all weekend services on 2/8-2/9. Don't miss out on this tasty opportunity to support Men of Hope and enjoy a warm bowl of chili!

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Interested in becoming a Stephen Minister? Join us on 2/2 at 9:45 AM in the conference room in the office area. Stephen Leaders will be available to answer questions and distribute applications. This is a great opportunity to learn how you can provide Christ-centered care to those in need.

SENIOR PASTOR NOMINATIONS

The Call Team will begin accepting nominations from the congregation on 2/2. Nomination forms will be available in the Narthex starting 1/25. Hand completed forms to a member of the Call Team or return them to the church office. Your participation is crucial in helping us find the right leader for our congregation.

ALTAR FLOWERS 2025

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. This is a meaningful way to beautify our worship space and celebrate special moments in your life. Flowers are \$55.00 to be paid online. To register, visit hopelutheranwf.org/flowers. Questions? Contact Briana Evans at bevans@hopelutheranwf.org.



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.

BROWN BAG Join us for this exciting event hosted by Brown Bag Ministry on 2/15 from 11:00AM-1:00PM at the Children's Center Foyer and offsite distribution location in Wake Forest. Whether you're a first-time volunteer or a longtime supporter, everyone is welcome to come and serve our community by packing and distributing meals to those in need. Please register on Hope's Website. Questions? Contact Nancy Repak at kapernan@gmail.com.

BASIC LERT TRAINING CLASS. Are you ready to serve in times of disaster? Join us for the Basic LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) Training on 3/22 from 8:30 AM until 3 PM in Rooms 301 and 302 of the Adult Center. This free training will equip you with the skills and knowledge to respond effectively to disasters and provide support to those in need. Whether you're new to disaster relief or looking to refresh your skills, this class is a great opportunity to get involved. Please register on Hope's Website. Questions? Contact Wesley Spottiswood at wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.

MOBILE FOOD MINISTRY DINNER. Hope's Mobile Food Ministry provides hot meals to people in need both locally and at disaster sites. As one volunteer put it, "There is nothing quite like putting a warm meal in a hungry belly!" To date, we have joyfully served over 2,500 people, and we need your help to continue this important mission! Volunteers are the heartbeat of this ministry, and we need more hands across various roles in planning, preparing, and serving meals. Join us for a free dinner on 3/21 at 6 PM in the Children's Center to learn more about this exciting and fast-growing ministry. Discover how we respond swiftly in times of need and see if there's a volunteer role that fits your desire to serve. Sign up by 3/16by registering on Hope's website. Questions? Contact Greg Ismay gismay@afcurgentcare.com.

To see more of Hope's Missions, please go to Hope's website for a full list. www.hopelutheranwf.org/missions

Sunday School 9:45-10:45 AM Every Sunday Morning

Grow in Faith, Build Connections, and Discover God's Word! At Hope Lutheran Church, our Sunday School & Education Hour offers engaging classes for all ages—children, youth, and adults. From hands-on activities for kids to in-depth Bible studies for adults, there's a place for everyone to learn and grow in their faith. Join us each Sunday from 9:45–10:45 AM and be part of a community dedicated to exploring God's love and serving others.

Kids

PRESCHOOL JAM: I Can Help, I can serve Jesus

K1 CREW: I Can Help, I can serve Jesus

LEVEL 23: God Is Love

CLUB 45: The I Ams of Jesus

Youth

We will be merging Middle School and High School students they will be meeting in room 101 to go over The Book of Mark.

Adults

The ACTS OF THE APOSTLES. Join us on February 2-23 as we continue 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.



Father Daughter Dance

Get ready for a special evening filled with dancing, fun, and unforgettable memories at our Father Daughter Dance on 2/8 from 6:30-8:00PM in the Children's Center. This event is perfect for fathers and daughters of all ages to enjoy a night together with music, delicious treats, and wonderful fellowship. Cost: \$15 per person, with a family max of \$45. Please register on Hope's Website. Questions?

Contact Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

Mother Son Event

Moms and sons, get ready for a fun-filled night of bonding and adventure at our Mother Son Event on 3/7 from 6:00-8:00 PM in the Children's Center! Enjoy exciting activities, great food, and a memorable experience designed to bring you closer together. Whether you're racing through challenges or sharing a laugh, this is a night you won't want to miss! Cost: \$15 per person, with a family max of \$45. Please register on Hope's Website. Questions? Contact Beth Agner at bagner@hopelutheranwf.org.

Middle School Lock-In

Calling all middle schoolers! Join us for an epic overnight adventure at the Middle School Lock-In on 2/21, starting at 6:30 PM in the Youth Center. Get ready for a night packed with games, food, and tons of fun with your friends. Stay up late, enjoy exciting activities, and make unforgettable memories. Cost: \$10 per kid. Please register on Hope's Website. Questions? Contact Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

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Super Boul Party

High schoolers, get ready for the ultimate Super Bowl Party at the Youth Center on 2/9 at 6:30PM! We'll kick things off with snacks, football, and a special devotion. This is the perfect opportunity to hang out with friends, enjoy the big game, and share some great fellowship. Pick-up will be 10 minutes after the game ends, so don't miss out on the fun! Cost: Free.

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

Child Care At Hope

LITTLE BLESSINGS

Hope Lutheran's Little Blessings

program is now accepting

registrations for the upcoming

year! Registration for members

start 2/17 at 8:00AM. Secure your

spot in this nurturing and Christ
centered environment. Don't miss

out on this opportunity to provide

your little ones with a loving and

faith-filled experience. Questions?

Tracy Zwickis at

littleblessings@hopelutheranwf.org.

SUMMER EXPRESSIONS
Don't miss out on this great
opportunity with Hope Lutheran
Preschool happening on 2/21/2025
at 8:00AM in the Preschool. Secure
your child's spot for a summer
filled with fun, learning, and
friendship! Whether your child is
returning or joining us for the first
time, we can't wait to welcome
them. Cost: \$50 Registration Fee.
Please register on Hope's Website.
Questions? Contact
Preschool@hopelutheranwf.org.

XPLORE TRACK OUT CAMP

Looking for a safe, Christ-centered camp for your child during school breaks? Hope Lutheran Church offers the Xplore Track Out Camp for children in Pre-K through 5th grade. Campers enjoy games, outdoor sports, nature walks, and creative activities in food, art, and science. Each day includes two short devotions to help campers grow in their faith. Full-day and half-day options are available, with early and late care for your convenience. For more details on hours, pricing, and what to bring, please visit https://hopelutheranwf.org/xplore/. Questions? Contact the Xplore office at 919-341-5381.

BREW BIBLE STUDY

Join us for an evening of faith and fellowship at Brew Bible Study on 2/13 at 6:30PM at Real McCoys. Whether you're a regular or new to the group, this is a great opportunity to dive into God's Word in a relaxed atmosphere while enjoying good company and conversation. Questions? Contact Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.



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2025 MEN'S RETREAT

Get ready for an unforgettable weekend at Camp Cheerio from 3/21-3/23! Join other men for a time of fellowship, exciting outdoor activities like archery and BB gun shooting, and insightful biblical sessions focused on perseverance.

Enjoy delicious meals and comfortable cabin accommodations in the beautiful mountains. The cost is \$300. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in faith and build lasting friendships. Please register on Hope's Website.

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

GALENTINE'S TRIVIA AND TREAT

Ladies, it's time to celebrate friendship and fun! Join us on 2/13 from 6:30-9 PM in the Youth Center for a night of laughter, trivia, and sweet treats. Whether you're a trivia master or just in it for the fun, come enjoy a great time with friends old and new. Please register on Hope's Website. Questions? Contact Beth Agner at bagner@hopelutheranwf.org.















To see more of Hope's Small Groups, please go to Hope's website for a full list. hopelutheranwf.org/small-group-list/

DONATING FABRIC ETC!

Stitches of Hope is no longer accepting donations of fabric or sheets. We appreciate all we have received and will let everyone know when we are again in need. THANK YOU! Questions? Contact Lynda Watson at watson.lynda@gmail.com or news.stitches@gmail.com.

CONNECTION: NEW SMALL GROUP

Calling all people ages 25-35! Are you looking to connect with others your age to grow in faith and fellowship? Connection is a new small group for men and women that will meet twice a month. One meeting will be activity-based, including events like bowling and dinners, while the other will focus on Bible study and spiritual growth. If you are interested in learning more or joining the group, please contact DCE Wesley Spottiswood at wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org or Michele Repak at 919-279-3800.

MEN OF HOPE BREAKFAST MEETING

Come and be part of the Men of Hope gathering on 2/8 from 8:00AM at the Children's Center Foyer. This is a great chance to enjoy fellowship, a hearty breakfast, and discuss upcoming events, including our Super Bowl chili cook-off! Whether you're a regular attendee or new to the group, we'd love to have you join us. Questions? Contact Rick Hall at rwhall57@gmail.com.

3 B'S

Men of Hope, join us for an evening of Brotherhood, Bible, and Beer on 2/13 from 6:30PM to 8:00PM at The Garlington Household. This casual gathering is the perfect opportunity to connect, reflect, and enjoy great fellowship in a relaxed environment. Feel free to bring your own beverage and unwind with friends, old and new. Cost: Free. Questions? Contact Wesley Spottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.