

Hope Lutheran Church

Newsletter



Romans 5:8

But God shows
his love for us in
that while we
were still sinners,
Christ died for us.

February
2026

QR Codes for Easy Access



Hope Website:



Office Email:



Giving Form:



Events Page:



Service Times:



Sermons:



How to Use QR Codes

To help make registration and event information easier to access, you'll see QR codes throughout this month's highlights. You can scan a QR code by simply opening your phone's camera and pointing it at the code—your phone will automatically pull up the link for you. If you're reading the digital PDF version of the newsletter, the QR codes are also clickable and will take you directly to the linked information. We hope this makes connecting with events, registrations, and ministry opportunities at Hope even easier and more convenient.

Pastor Letter

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

It was an incredible honor and privilege to receive your call to serve as Hope's Senior Pastor. The time I have spent with you has been the dearest and most joyful of my life. It is with great joy and true satisfaction that I gladly accept your call to serve as your Senior Pastor. I have communicated this decision with the head of the call team, Jerry Garlington, with our circuit visitor Mike Merker, and with our District President Bill Harmon. Although only a small portion of our members were able to be present Saturday the 24th, I also shared this acceptance in service just ahead of the ice storm that hit our community.

I am grateful for your patience these last two weeks as I took time to pray, to listen to the leading of the Spirit, to talk with my family, and to seek wise counsel. It is wise practice in our church body not to rush but to seriously consider what a call entails and enter into it with full readiness. After having your trust to serve the last year and a half in an interim role of leadership, I felt very equipped to understand what is being asked and what this church is seeking. It became very clear to me that the appropriate response to your trust and your call to serve was to accept without any further delay. I have only felt peace in the Lord making that decision.

The work to seek a Senior Pastor was an important time of discernment for us as a congregation. It was appropriate and understandable that in that process strong feelings were expressed, love and passion for the church was laid out, and serious questions of evaluation were discussed. The unifying factor among us through this process has been the drive to make sure the church is led well and that it remains in good hands.

Going forward, my prayer for us is that we can unify upon the one foundation which brings us all together as Christians: on Christ and his cross. It is my solemn promise to you and my sole ambition that I will always and ever, for as long as God gives me to serve at Hope, keep the eyes of every member and visitor of this church focused on Jesus. Centered on him and his gospel, there is no hurt we cannot heal and no purpose that God may have for us as a congregation that we cannot accomplish together by his gracious provision.

Today is a new day together in Christ. A day in which I dearly want to serve you as your pastor, to continue to win your trust, to love you with the deep and abiding love that God has poured out in my heart through the Spirit for each of you. I welcome your counsel. I ask your forgiveness. I humbly request your patience as God continues to equip me to serve you in the days ahead. Though I am a weak sinner as much as any, I am certain the power of God will abound in each us for the sake of Hope and for the community around us which we serve.

Thank you. For making real my lifelong dream to serve when you called me as your associate pastor. Thank you for giving it even further meaning and satisfaction in this greater role as your senior pastor. I cannot wait to see where God will lead us in the days and years ahead as we grow up into Jesus, the head from whom the whole body is nourished.

Your friend and brother,
Senior Pastor Devin Murphy

Letters & Notes

Acceptance Sermon

All members are encouraged to check your email for Pastor Devin's full letter, where he shares more about this important moment and the journey ahead.

Pastor Devin shared his acceptance during Saturday worship.

Please continue to keep Pastor Devin, his family, and Hope Lutheran Church in your prayers as we move forward together in faith.



Ministry Leadership Team Letter of Gratitude

Dear Church Family,

I am writing this letter to express my deepest gratitude for your love, support, and encouragement during my short tenure as your Ministry Leadership Team Chair. Together we were able to accomplish a Senior Pastor Call, further develop our organization, and address multiple items that are important to your church experience. Your prayers and kind words have been a source of comfort and strength during recent times, and I am incredibly blessed to serve a congregation so dedicated to living out the Gospel.

Thank you for your willingness to have conversations and work together to continue the mission of Hope. Going forward, the new MLT Chair will be Amy Ikerd. Continue to support, discuss, pray, and collaborate with her and the other members of the MLT to continue to strengthen our church home and our mission of sharing the Word and Love of Christ.

It was a privilege to walk this journey alongside you all. I am honored to have served as your MLT Chair and look forward to what the Lord has in store for our church family.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Mike Owens

Gratitude from the Pfendler Family

To Our Hope family,

Our deepest gratitude goes out to you for the love you showed us throughout Rick's journey with cancer, from his diagnosis last March to the Lord calling him home to rest in December.

We witnessed Christ working through you by the outpouring of support you gave us by your many prayers, notes, meals, visits, monetary and spiritual gifts. Your gifts provided light in often dark moments. Rick loved you, his Hope family, and your blessings continue to give us peace & comfort.

With much love and thanks,
Renee, Chase & Ryan Pfendler

Church News

Little Blessings Teacher Needed

Little Blessings is seeking a new teacher to join their ministry. This role is a meaningful opportunity to serve young children and families while supporting faith-filled early childhood learning at Hope. If you have a heart for working with children and would like to learn more about this position, we would love to connect with you.

Questions?

littleblessings@hopelutheranwf.org

Mulch Day at Hope

Help us get Hope's campus ready for Easter by joining us for Mulch Day on 3/21 from 8:00 AM–12:00 PM. This is a great hands-on opportunity for individuals and families to serve together as we refresh planting beds and outdoor spaces around campus. Please bring shovels, pitchforks, wheelbarrows, gloves, and wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. All ages are welcome, and many hands make light work. Questions?

pphillips@hopelutheranwf.org

Congregational Assembly

All members are encouraged to attend the Congregational Assembly on Sunday, 2/8 from 1–2 PM in the Sanctuary. During this meeting, the congregation will hear updates on ministry and vote on important matters, including the 2026 Budget. This is an important opportunity for members to stay informed, participate in the life of the church, and help shape the ministry and mission of Hope moving forward. Questions?

office@hopelutheranwf.org

Lost and Found Clean Out

It's that time again — our Lost and Found is overflowing. Tables will be set out from February 28 through March 4 in the office work room so you can check for any missing items. We have everything from jackets and toys to glasses and more. Any items not claimed by March 4 will be donated on March 5. Please take a few moments to look through the items before they are gone for good. Questions?

office@hopelutheranwf.org

Super Bowl Chili Sale

Get ready for Super Bowl Sunday with the annual Chili Sale hosted by the Men of Hope. Chili will be available for purchase after Saturday and Sunday worship services, with three delicious options to choose from: vegetarian, white chicken, and beef. Each quart is \$8, the same price for the past seven years. Proceeds support ministry efforts at Hope, and chili typically sells quickly, so plan to grab yours early.

Cozy Coupes Needed

Little Blessings is looking for Cozy Coupes to use for outdoor play during program time. If you have a Cozy Coupe your family is no longer using, we would love to give it a new home where it can bring joy to our Little Blessings kids. Donations can be dropped off at the church office, or you can reach out to coordinate a drop-off. Thank you for supporting our youngest members and helping create fun, engaging outdoor play experiences. Questions?

littleblessings@hopelutheranwf.org

Congregational Study Coming Soon

This Lent, the congregation is invited to participate in a new congregational study that follows along with the Lenten sermon series, Marked by Grace. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, this study offers an opportunity to dive deeper into the Lenten Scriptures, reflect on weekly themes, and grow together as a church family. This shared experience allows us to engage Scripture beyond Sunday worship and walk through the Lenten season together with intention and faith. Questions?

dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org

Altar Flowers & Coffee Hour

Sponsorships for 2026 are open! Each adult may reserve one weekend per year to give more people the opportunity to participate.

If you would like to recognize additional loved ones or moments beyond your altar flower weekend, consider a Coffee & Fellowship Sponsorship, another wonderful way to honor special occasions and bless the congregation. Questions?

bevans@hopelutheranwf.org

Altar Flowers



Coffee Hour



Lots of Love: Sunday Funday

Kids are invited to join us for Lots of Love: Sunday Funday on 2/15 during the Sunday School hour from 9:45–10:45 AM. This Valentine-themed morning will be filled with fun crafts, hands-on activities, and joyful reminders of God's great love for us. It's a sweet and meaningful way for kids to celebrate the season while learning about God's love in age-appropriate and engaging ways. Questions?

mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org

Pine Straw Fundraiser

Support Hope's High School Youth and get your yard ready for spring by participating in the Pine Straw Fundraiser. Pine straw is available for \$6.50 per bale, with delivery options available or convenient self pick-up. Each bale covers approximately 30–40 square feet, depending on depth.

Proceeds help support High School Youth ministry and upcoming events. Sign up early to place your order and support our students. Questions?

wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org



Submit Your Photos – Help Us Share Life at Hope

We are gathering photos to help share the life of Hope across many platforms, including social media, digital signage, print materials, and more. If you have photos from Hope events, worship, volunteering, or special moments like baptisms, we would love for you to share them. Please email digital copies to photos@hopelutheranwf.org. If you have printed photos, you may bring them to the church office and we can scan them for you. Let us know what the photo is from, when it was taken, and whether it was taken at Hope or another location. Your photos help us tell the story of what God is doing in and through our church family.

Wednesday Night Alive

Food • Fellowship • Faith

Through February 11 on Wednesdays at 5:30-7:30 PM

Wednesday Night Alive is back! Join us for a welcoming midweek evening where all ages come together to share a meal, connect in faith, and grow in community. Whether you come on your own or with your family, there's a place for you at the table.

Music

Children's Choir - 5 PM
Children's Handbells - 5:35 PM
Adult Handbells - 6:15 PM
Adult Choir - 7:30 PM

Age-Based Groups

After dinner, children, youth, and adults each gather in age-based groups to support faith growth and build relationships at every stage of life.

Congregational Activity

Each evening includes a brief, themed congregational activity woven into the dinner hour. These moments invite us to connect across generations through conversation, reflection, and shared experiences that strengthen our church family.

Dinner Together (5:30-6:15 PM)

Dinner Cost:

- \$6 – Adults & Youth
- \$3 – Children (ages 5-10)
- Free – Children 5 & under
- Family Max: \$22

Dinner Menu:

- 2/4 – Pulled pork
- 2/11 – Brats & mac & cheese



Colossians 3:14

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Join US!

Come grow in community and enjoy midweek moments that matter.

Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

Lenten Season

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Join us for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on Tuesday, February 17, as we gather for a delicious meal and fellowship before the start of Lent. Dinner will be served from 5:30–6:45 PM and includes homemade pancakes (regular, blueberry, chocolate chip, and gluten-free), syrup, sausage, and applesauce. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a church family, enjoy a warm meal, and prepare our hearts for the Lenten Season together.

Ash Wednesday & Lenten Services

As we move from Christmas toward Easter, we invite you to join us for Ash Wednesday and Lenten Midweek Services beginning Wednesday, 2/18 at 6:30 PM. This season offers a meaningful time for reflection, repentance, and spiritual growth as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter. Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org.

Lenten Soup and Sandwiches

Join us for Lenten Soup and Sandwiches each Wednesday during Lent from 5:30–6:15 PM. This simple meal is offered as a time of fellowship and hospitality before our midweek Lenten worship services. A free-will offering will be collected. Each week features a rotating menu prepared by Hope families, with grilled cheese and an additional soup available most weeks. We invite you to come early, share a meal, and spend time together as we prepare our hearts during the Lenten season.

Lenten Menu

February 25

The Murphy Family:

Sausage, onion & pepper sandwich; Pasta fagioli soup

March 4

The Agner Family:

Turkey & bacon sandwich; Italian wedding soup

March 11

The Spottiswood Family:

Ham & Swiss sandwich; Vegetable soup

March 18

The Varner Family:

Egg salad & pimento cheese sandwiches
Ham & bean soup

March 25

The Nicotera Family:

Bacon, lettuce & tomato sandwich; Chicken noodle soup

Each week there is also grilled cheese & additional soup available.

Kids Events

Children's Choir & Youth Bell Choir

Hope's Children's Choir and Youth Bell Choir are now meeting weekly and welcoming new participants. Children's Choir, led by Ms. Abby Kandt and Mr. Rob Varner, meets Wednesdays from 5:00–5:30 PM, and Youth Bell Choir, led by Mr. Rob Varner and Ms.

Lisa Vockeroth, meets Wednesdays from 5:35–6:10 PM. These groups offer a joyful opportunity for children and youth to grow in faith, music, and fellowship while serving in worship. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend and join at any time. Questions?

rvarner@hopelutheranwf.org

Father Daughter Dance

Join us for the Father Daughter Dance on 2/7 from 6-8:30 PM, a special evening designed to celebrate family, connection, and joy. This year's theme features a fairy-tale atmosphere where guests can enjoy dancing, photo opportunities, and hors d'oeuvres.

Whether attending as a father, grandfather, or special father figure, this event creates memories that last a lifetime. Cost:\$15 per person with a \$45 family max. You can find registration on Realm or Hope's Website. Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org



Mother Son Event 2026

Moms and sons are invited to a special Mother Son Event on 3/21 from 6:00–8:00 PM at Hope. This fun-filled evening will include games, a great dinner, and meaningful time to connect and create memories together. Whether your son is young or growing fast, this event is designed to celebrate relationships and enjoy a night of laughter and togetherness. Sign up early to save your spot.

Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org



Squishmallow Party

Kindergarten and 1st graders are invited to a fun-filled Squishmallow Party on Sunday, 3/1 from 12:30–2 PM in the Children's Center. Kids will enjoy a pizza lunch, games with Squishmallows, squishy crafts, and a Squishmallow Talent Show where they can bring and show off their favorite Squishmallow. This playful afternoon is designed just for K1 Crew to connect, create, and have fun together. Sign up early to save your spot. Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org



Youth Happenings

Middle School - Mini Masters

Middle school students are invited to Mini Masters: Youth Tournament on 3/27 at 6 PM for a one-of-a-kind mini golf experience at Hope. For this special event, the church will be transformed into a full mini golf course featuring creative holes

like water hazards, elevator golf, and bounce house golf. This high-energy night is designed for fun, laughter, and friendly competition as students connect with friends in a totally unique way. Sign up early to save your spot. Questions?

mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org



High School All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Dinner

High School students are invited to an all-you-can-eat Pancake Dinner and Game Night on Tuesday, 2/17 from 5:30–8:00 PM in the Youth Center. Enjoy a fun evening of pancakes, games, and time together as we celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Cost is \$8 per person. Sign up early to save your spot.

Questions?

wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org



Middle School Service Event

Middle School and Confirmation students are invited to serve together during a special Night to Shine Prep Night on 2/12 from 5:00–7:30 PM. Students will help with preparations for Night to Shine while learning what it means to serve others with joy and purpose. Pizza will be provided for dinner as we work together to get ready for this special outreach event.

Questions?

mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org

Middle School District Youth Gathering

Middle school students are invited to attend the District Youth Gathering in Williamsburg, VA, hosted at King of Glory Lutheran Church. This multi-day gathering brings together students from across the district for worship, learning, fellowship, and fun. The cost includes lodging, meals, and admission to the Southeastern District event. Register by February 28 to receive the early rate of \$250. After that date, the cost increases to \$275. This is a meaningful opportunity for students to grow in faith, build friendships, and experience the wider church community. Questions?

mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org



Adult Activities

BREW Bowling

BREW is heading out for an afternoon of bowling and fellowship on 2/8 at 1:00 PM at Strike and Barrel. we'll gather for a fun and relaxed time together on the lanes. The \$15 cost includes lane rental and shoe rental. Bring additional money to purchase food or drinks. This is a great opportunity to connect, unwind, and enjoy time together as a community. Questions?

mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org



Trivia Night Showdown

The entire Hope family is invited to a night of dinner, laughter, and friendly competition at Trivia Night Showdown on 3/6 from 6–8 PM. Enjoy dinner, drinks, and dessert while putting your trivia skills to the test with questions for all ages. Our middle school students will serve as hosts and servers as this event supports their upcoming summer trip to see the Ark in Kentucky. Bring a group and come up with a creative team name, and get ready for a fun evening of fellowship. Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org.



Women's Spring Retreat @ Hope

Join us for the Women's Spring Retreat at Hope on 3/13–14, a meaningful time set aside for rest, renewal, and connection with God and one another. Whether you are looking for spiritual encouragement, deeper connection, or simply a pause to refocus, this retreat is designed to bless and refresh you. Questions?

mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org



Men's Retreat

Men are invited to spend a weekend away at Camp Cheerio in the mountains of North Carolina for the 2026 Men's Retreat, 3/13–15. This retreat offers time to step away from everyday distractions and focus on faith, fellowship, and renewal. Participants will enjoy meaningful Bible study, worship, and connection with other men from Hope, along with outdoor activities such as archery, basketball, fishing, golf, and more. The weekend also includes incredible meals and shared time together in a beautiful mountain setting. This retreat is a great opportunity to grow in faith and build lasting relationships. Questions?

wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

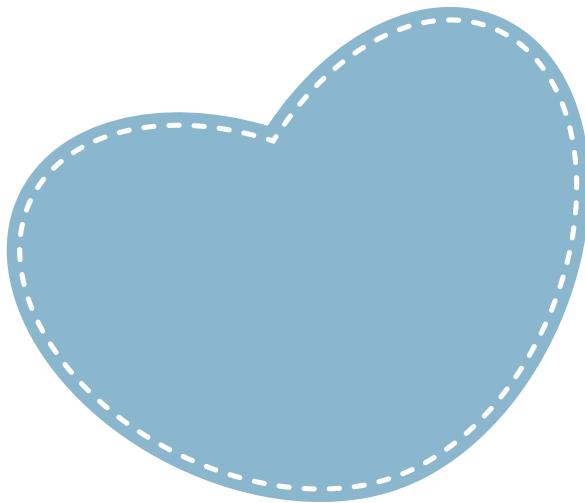


Small Groups

Grandparent Small Group

Are you a grandparent, soon-to-be grandparent, or someone who plays a grandparent role in the life of a child? This small group is a welcoming space designed for connection, encouragement, and faith-filled conversation. Participants will gather for devotion, discussion, prayer, and mutual support as they walk alongside one another in this meaningful season of life. If you are looking to join a small group and build relationships with others who share this role, this group is a great place to start. Questions?

hopegpsg@gmail.com



3 B's Small Group

Men ages 21 and up are invited to join the 3 B's Small Group on 2/19 from 6:30–8:00 PM for an evening of fellowship, conversation, and connection. This offsite gathering will be held at Hershal Miller's home and offers a relaxed environment to build relationships and grow together in faith. Bring your drink of choice and come ready for meaningful discussion and community. Questions or need the address?

wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

1 Corinthians 13:13

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Care Ministry

Helping Hands Ministry

Helping Hands is a ministry of care and compassion that supports families during times of loss by providing food and serving for funeral receptions at Hope. This ministry allows grieving families to focus on what matters most while knowing their church family is walking alongside them. Volunteers help prepare, serve, and clean up meals as needs arise. If you feel called to serve in this quiet but meaningful way, we invite you to join the Helping Hands Realm group or reach out to learn more. Questions?

pjay0826@gmail.com

Outreach Opportunities

Habitat for Humanity – Wake Forest Preservation Project

Hope Lutheran Church is partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Wake County for an upcoming Wake Forest Preservation Project. Volunteers will help replace an existing back deck that is in very poor condition, serving a local family and sharing Christ's love through hands-on service. Hope has committed to provide three volunteers each day to work alongside Habitat FOH team members. If additional volunteers are interested, we may be able to open more spots. No construction experience is required—just a willing heart and helping hands. Questions? rogermadariaga@aol.com



Brown Bag Ministry

Informational Meeting

All are welcome to attend the Brown Bag Ministry informational and planning meeting on 2/12 from 6:30–7:30 PM in Room 300. This meeting is an opportunity to learn more about Brown Bag, ask questions, and share ideas as we look ahead to future ministry opportunities.

Whether you are already involved or simply interested in learning more, we would love for you to join us. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Questions?

kapernan@gmail.com

Brown Bag Ministry

Brown Bag Ministry continues to serve our community through fellowship and outreach. Join us on 2/21 from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM in the Children's Church Foyer as we gather to share a meal and support this ongoing ministry. Questions?

kapernan@gmail.com



Mobile Food Ministry – February & March Serving Opportunities

Join Hope's Mobile Food Ministry as we serve our community through two upcoming outreach opportunities. On Sunday, 2/22, volunteers will help provide meals to individuals experiencing homelessness in Raleigh. On Wednesday, 3/4, we will serve alongside the Boys & Girls Club in Durham. These events are a meaningful way to share Christ's love through service and hospitality. Volunteers of all experience levels are welcome. Sign up early to help us plan and prepare. Questions?

Gismay@afcurgentcare.com



Night to Shine – Need for Volunteer Buddies

Night to Shine is quickly approaching, and we are in urgent need of Volunteer Buddies to help make this an unforgettable evening

for our honored guests. Buddies play a vital role by walking alongside guests throughout the night, offering encouragement, support, and friendship. All buddies are required to attend one training session on either 2/4 or 2/11 to be fully prepared to serve. If

you are able to help, please register now and plan to attend training so we can ensure every guest experiences a joyful and meaningful night. Questions? nighttoshine@hopelutheranwf.org



Tri-Area Ministries Needs You

Tri-Area Ministries needs your help this winter as they continue serving our neighbors in need. Please consider donating non-perishable food items and personal hygiene products to support individuals and families facing food insecurity. This is a meaningful way for busy families and individuals to give and make a difference, even with limited time. Your generosity helps share Christ's love in practical ways during the colder months. Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

Heritage High School Blood Drive

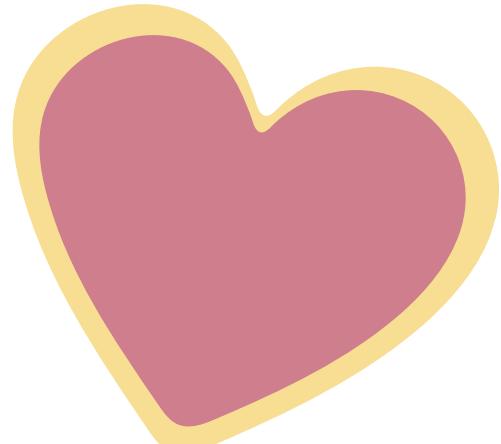
Heritage High School will be using Hope's parking lot to host a community blood drive on Wednesday, 2/11, from 3-7 PM. This is an opportunity to support lifesaving work in our community by donating blood through The Blood Connection, the organization coordinating the drive. While the event is hosted by Heritage High School, Hope is glad to support this important outreach by providing space for the drive. Questions?

office@hopelutheranwf.org



**Romans
12:9-10**

**Let love be genuine.
Abhor what is evil; hold
fast to what is good.
Love one another with
brotherly affection.
Outdo one another in
showing honor.**



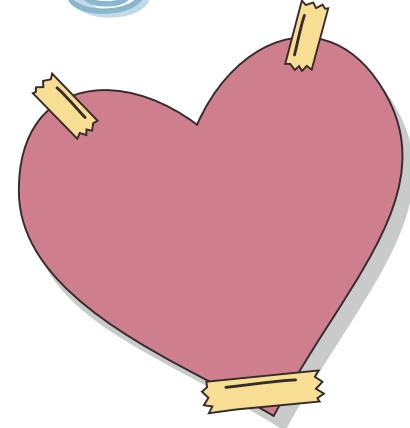
Volunteer Recognition

Volunteer Dinner

All adult volunteers are invited to a Volunteer Dinner on 2/21 from 6:30–8:30 PM in the Children's Center. This evening is a time to celebrate and thank everyone who helps make Hope what it is, from worship support and community outreach to events for kids, youth, and adults. We are grateful for the many ways you share the light of Jesus through your service, and we look forward to honoring you together.

Please register early so we can plan accordingly. You can find registration on Realm or Hope's Website. Questions?

dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org



Volunteer Hero Voting

Thank you to everyone who took time to nominate Volunteer Heroes at Hope. Every volunteer plays an important role in making Hope a warm, welcoming, and faithful church community, and we are grateful for each person who serves. Now comes the fun part — voting! Members are invited to vote for nominated volunteers across several areas of ministry. If there is a category you do not feel familiar enough to vote in, you are welcome to skip that section. The MVP Volunteer section is required and includes a space to share a special note or meaningful memory about the person you are voting for. Voting will close on 2/18/26 at 4:00 PM. All volunteers will be honored at the Volunteer Dinner as we celebrate the many ways God works through His people at Hope. Questions?

office@hopelutheranwf.org

