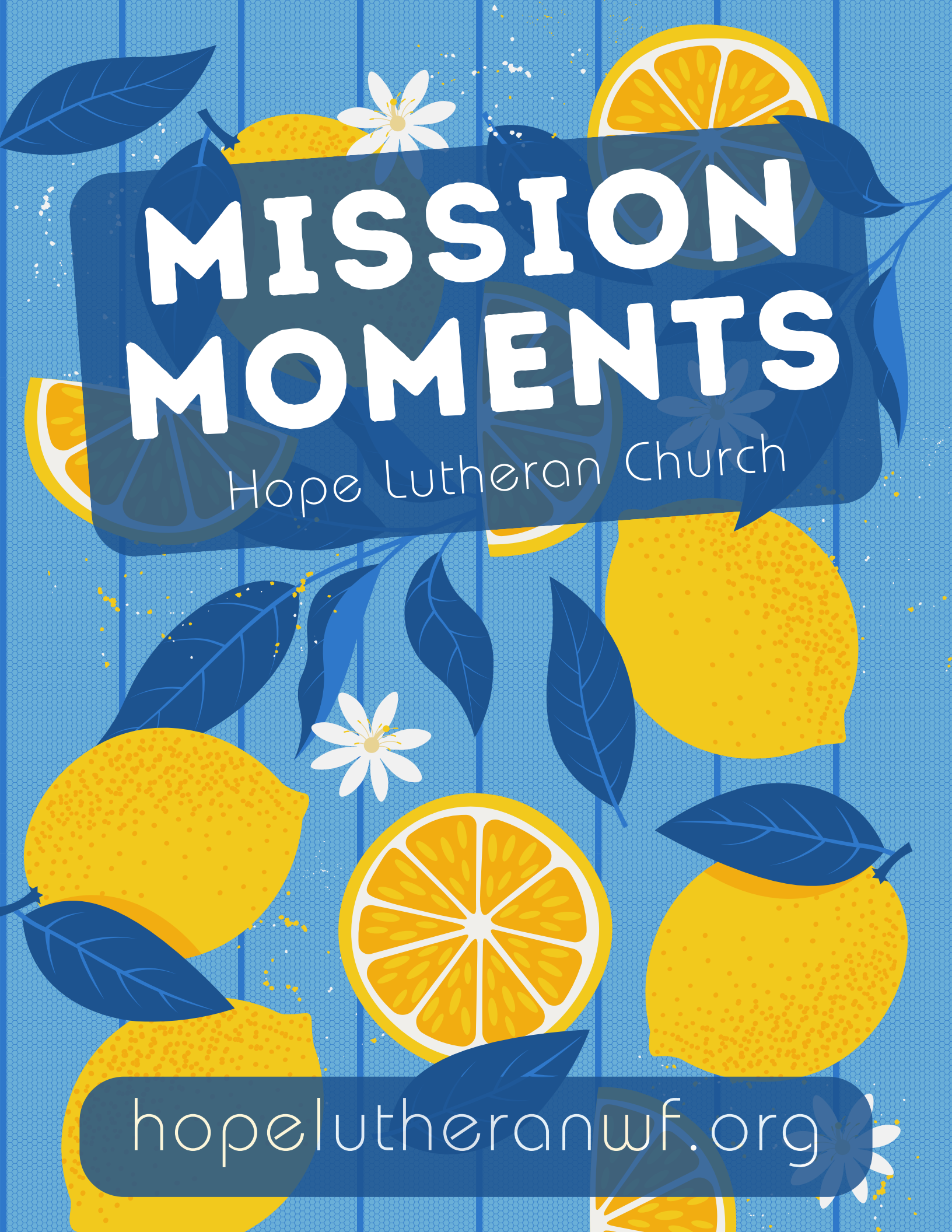


The background is a vibrant blue with a fine, repeating geometric pattern. Scattered throughout are stylized illustrations of lemons in various forms: whole lemons, lemons cut in half to show the segments, and lemon slices. Interspersed among the lemons are dark blue leaves with light blue veins and small, five-petaled white flowers with yellow centers. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and fresh.

MISSION MOMENTS

Hope Lutheran Church

hopelutheranwf.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor Letter	Page 4
VBS Recap	Page 5
News & Events	Page 6
Xplore	Page 8
Sunday School	Page 9
Letter From Rob	Page 10
Small Groups	Page 11
Outreach Ministries	Page 12
Now Hiring	Page 13
Realm Update	Page 14
Just For Fun	Page 15

CONTACT INFORMATION

Hope Lutheran Church
3525 Rogers Road
Wake Forest, NC 27587
919-554-8109
hopelutheranwf.org
office@hopelutheranwf.org

Preschool
919-453-0388

Xplore Track Out &
Little Blessings
919-229-0196

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday at 5:30PM
Sunday at 8:30AM & 11:00AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45-10:45AM
Sunday School for ages 3 – grade 12
Adult Bible Studies 18+

KINGDOM SEEDS

Matthew 13:8-9 ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear."

Every year I am blown away by the joy of hearing hundreds of children sing songs of praise to Jesus during our vacation bible school. VBS is an enormous amount of work that comes and goes quickly in the span of a week. In that week though, children learn the stories of the Bible, how to sing and praise God, how to make art and express themselves, bond as friends, and experience profound love from staff and volunteers that they have often just met. It is a beautiful thing to witness even if it is exhausting work.

VBS, like so many moments in ministry, is a planting of small seeds in the hearts and minds. Only God will know the impact or the story of what took root, but we plant and labor in hope. In some cases, it opens doors to further connections with the church, other events and even worship. In others, it is a solitary touchpoint between us and so many families and children in our community. In either case, we are convinced that God will work through this telling and living of the Gospel to shape and transform the lives of people in ways we probably could only begin to imagine.

It is one of the great joys of ministering at Hope that I frequently see this spirit of care and trust in the power of God to work through small seeds. It could be a quilt made by the ladies of our church for one of our precious baptismal babies, a selfless act of care demonstrated by distributing a packed lunch, or even the courage to invite a friend or neighbor to service. Every act of Christian love and proclamation has the potential to be the turning point in someone's life towards a real and lasting relationship with Jesus.

Of all of Hope's many good traits, I pray that this Spirit of sowing, the hopefulness to wait for God's harvest in our lives and the lives of those around us never leaves us. It is who we are, who we are called to be, and what we need in our lives.

Sowing always with you,
Pastor Devin Murphy

VBS 2025 RECAP



Thank you for your incredible support of Vacation Bible School 2025! With your prayers, donations, and helping hands, VBS was a tremendous success. We are so grateful for our Hope family who made this joyful week of faith, fun, and learning possible.

Fun Facts:

- 450 Kids
- 105 Volunteers
- 12 Directors
- 3,600+ Snacks
- 200 Milk Jugs
- 20 Christmas Trees
- 800+ lbs Carpet Tubes

On Day 1 alone, we moved 260 cars through carpool in just 45 minutes!

VBS 2026

For the first time ever, Hope will be hosting a completely original Vacation Bible School written by our very own DCE team! Join us June 22-26, 2026, for Road Trip USA – a high-energy, faith-filled journey across the country as kids discover the love of Jesus through Bible stories, music, crafts, games, and more. It's going to be a fun-filled, engaging week of adventure you won't want to miss. Registration opens April 1, 2026.



NEWS & EVENTS...

Community Events Volunteers Need

Hope Lutheran Church is looking for volunteers to help represent Hope at local events throughout the summer and fall! These include Friday Night on White in Wake Forest, community gatherings in Youngsville, and more. Volunteers will greet guests, hand out materials, and share what Hope is all about. Whether you can serve once or regularly, this is a meaningful way to connect with our neighbors and shine the light of Christ. Interested in getting involved? Contact Wesley Spottiswood at wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.

Fall New Member Class – Save the Date

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). 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. Questions? Contact Pastor Devin Murphy at dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org.

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 after 11:00 AM, Offering Counter, and Communion Server. 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.

Scam Alert – Stay Vigilant

Stay vigilant. From time to time, members of Hope Lutheran Church may receive suspicious texts or emails pretending to be from a pastor or staff member asking for urgent financial help or gift cards. These are always scams. Hope will never ask for money in this way. We have official giving channels and an emergency fund in place to support those in need. If you receive a suspicious message, do not respond—report it to the church office at office@hopelutheranwf.org. Verify before you act.

WNA- Save the Date

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. Dinner is served from 5:30-6:15 PM, followed by activities from 6:15-7:30 PM. There's something for everyone—kids, youth, and adults! Questions? Contact the church office at 919-554-8109.

...CONTINUE

Church Office Closed July 21–25

Please note that the church office will be closed July 21–25 due to limited staffing.

During this time, we will be monitoring emails and responding to urgent matters as quickly as possible. If you have an urgent need, please email office@hopelutheranwf.org and we will do our best to assist you promptly.

Prayer Requests –

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 by contacting the church office at office@hopelutheranwf.org.

Please Pray for Our Youth

Please keep our youth in your prayers as they travel for two exciting summer events filled with faith and fellowship!

From 7/10–7/13, our middle school students will head to Washington, D.C. for a trip packed with spiritual growth and sightseeing. Then, from 7/19–7/23, our high school group will attend the LCMS National Gathering, a life-changing experience of worship, learning, and connection. We are excited for the fun and transformation these trips bring. Thank you for supporting our youth with your prayers!

Streaming on YouTube

Hope's worship services are now streaming on YouTube! You can find all recent services on our official page, Hope Lutheran Church – Wake Forest. Whether you missed a weekend or will be out of town, you can still worship with us anytime. Visit youtube.com/@hopelutheranwf, and don't forget to like and subscribe to stay connected. Questions? Contact Briana Evans at bevans@hopelutheranwf.org.

Call Team Information and Updates

Stay informed about the Pastoral Call Process by visiting our Call Team Information and Updates page at hopelutheranwf.org/ct2025. This page includes team member bios, meeting notes, congregational input opportunities, and the latest updates on where we are in the process. Check back regularly as we walk together through this important season in the life of our church.

Realm Worship Check-In Update

Please take a moment to check in for worship using the Realm Connect App. Beginning 8/3/25, we will no longer be using the Wufoo platform for check-ins. Checking in through Realm helps us stay connected and keep accurate attendance records. If you need help with your Realm account, please email Briana Evans at bevans@hopelutheranwf.org.

XPLORE

Track Out Camp

Early Care 7:30 AM - 8 PM
Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM
Half-Day Options Available
Late Care 5 PM - 5:30 PM

Looking for fun, faith-filled care during your child's school break? Xplore Track Out Camp at Hope Lutheran Church is open to children in grades K-5 and offers weekly themed camps packed with activities, games, and friendships. Whether your child is on a year-round calendar or home for summer break, Xplore is a great way to stay engaged and have fun in a safe, Christ-centered environment.



**Explore upcoming themes and register today at
hopelutheranwf.org/xplore.**

Questions? Contact the Xplore Team at xplore@hopelutheranwf.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Kids

There will be no Sunday School for Kids' Ministry during the summer months, as we take a short break to reset and prepare for an exciting new year. Sunday School will resume on 8/24 with our big Kick-Off event filled with fun, faith, and celebration. We can't wait to welcome everyone back soon!

Youth

Youth Sunday School in June 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. No registration needed.

Adult

Come join us for Sunday Adult Education: Tracing Luke, a four-week Bible study exploring the Gospel of Luke in conjunction with our sermon series. This series runs throughout July during Sunday School and is open to all adults. We'll dive into whole chapters of Luke, discovering his unique focus on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, rich with teachings, miracles, and powerful lessons for our lives today.

WORSHIP ARTS AT HOPE

I want to start off and say how truly excited I am to have the chance to reach out to the congregation and have you share your favorite hymns with me.

Hymns are the heartbeat of worship.

Each hymn enhances the service in its own unique way. They have the ability to set the pace, tone, and mood of the

worship experience along with enhancing the theme and message of the day.

Crafting worship takes on many components and the way that the hymns, liturgy, and music working together with God's Word, creates a sense of community and connectedness throughout the worship experience. I look forward to embracing this list of hymns and sharing them with all of us in worship.

God gave us the gift song so that we can lift our voices together and glorify His holy name. Years ago, back in 1994 at the Kutztown Fair I had the chance to visit an artist's booth where he had just finished a painting with the text "Music is the greatest joy we mortals are to know, a little sound from heaven shared with us below." Thirty-one years later, this framed art is a daily reminder to me of the many joys and gifts God shares with us...a gift that connects us together and inspires us to share those melodious sounds of joy! This joy He creates forms a full circle by drawing us closer together by giving us the chance to unite and lift our voices on high singing songs of praise together as one body of believers... returning that joy and praise back to Him... the never-ending song, that "little" sound from Heaven that fills each of our hearts with His special joy. Amen!

HYMNODY

One of the first hymns I received for Our Favorite Hymn List is the hymn Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord is based on the text of Psalm 34:8 and sung to hymn tune OLD 124th from the Genevan Psalter of 1551. The text is dated back to c 680 and was composed at Bangor Abbey, Northern Ireland and was first translated by John M. Neale in 1851. This communion hymn appeared in church hymnals starting in 1874 and first appeared in the 1941 edition of "The Lutheran Hymnal" Concordia Publishing House. The closing line of the final verse reads "In this Thy feast of love be with us now." Each time we commune and come to the Lord's table, we come as one body of believers. We thank God for the gift of salvation through His son's ultimate sacrifice. At His feast He shares with us and reminds us of His love for us through the Spiritual nourishment.

Rob Varner



SMALL GROUP

Something for everyone!

Are you looking for a place to belong? Seeking Christian friends to share life's journey? Wanting to grow deeper in faith? Hope's Small Group Ministry may be the answer! With over 25 small groups meeting in different ways—both in-person and online—there's a place for everyone, no matter your age or stage of life. You don't have to be a member to join; all are welcome! Get connected and find a group that fits you.

Bridge Group

Looking for a little friendly competition and fellowship? Join the Hope Bridge Group on the second Monday of each month at 1:00 PM in Room 300! Whether you're a seasoned player or a beginner wanting to learn, this welcoming group is open to all levels. It's a wonderful way to relax, connect, and enjoy the classic game of Bridge together. A free-will offering of \$1 is collected at each session. Come shuffle in!

New 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.

Tabletop Gamers –

Not your average board games!

Come join our Small group, Tabletop Gamers, a fun and casual gathering open to anyone who enjoys playing board games beyond the usual Monopoly or Scrabble. The event takes place on 7/12/25 at 6:00 PM at the Kirkendoll's house—email Joseline for the address. Bring a snack to share and be ready for a night of laughter and strategy! Please note: children under 10 will need to arrange separate childcare, as the games played will not be suitable for young kids. Questions? Contact Joseline Kirkendoll at jslaldin@yahoo.com.

Small Group Survey

We want to hear from you! Whether you're in a small group already or looking to get connected, please take a few minutes to fill out Hope's Small Group Survey. Your feedback will help us plan future groups, support current ones, and make it easier for everyone to grow in faith and fellowship. Please fill out the form on Hope's Website. Questions? Contact Wesley Spottiswood at wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Brown Bag Ministry

Serve your neighbors in need by volunteering with Brown Bag Ministry on Saturday, July 19 from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM. Each month, volunteers come together to pack and deliver lunches to individuals experiencing food insecurity in our area. This is a meaningful opportunity for all ages to serve together and share Christ's love through a simple meal. Brown Bag is currently collecting granola bars and single-serve chip bags for the upcoming event. Please register online and come be the hands and feet of Jesus!

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 Thursday from 6:30–8:30 PM. No language skills or teaching experience are required—just a heart to serve and a commitment to one day per week. 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.

Mobile Food Ministry July Event

Come serve with the Mobile Food Ministry as we provide dinner for 125 community members at Olive Branch Baptist Church on 7/30. Volunteers are needed for prep, cooking, serving, cleanup, transportation, and prayer. Shifts vary between 1:30–7:30 PM, and your help will make a meaningful impact. This is a great way for adults to share God's love through service. Please register on Hope's Website or Realm. Questions? Contact David Critchley at david.w.critchley@gmail.com.

Support Tri-Area Ministry –

Fill the Bins with Love!

Let's fill the bins with love! Tri-Area Ministry is one of Hope's ongoing missions to support local families facing food insecurity. This month, the greatest needs are soup, cereal, peanut butter, and baby wipes—simple items that make a big difference. Collection bins are located in the Café area and are accessible throughout the week and on Sundays. Thank you for being a church that shows up for its neighbors! Questions? Contact Jill Schaefer at 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. This important outreach ministry relies on dedicated volunteers willing to give a few hours of their time to help our neighbors. Please prayerfully consider donating your time to this important ministry. Questions? Contact Pam Jay at pjay0826@gmail.com.

NOW HIRING

Hope Lutheran Child Care Programs

Preschool Lead Teacher

Hope Lutheran Preschool is seeking a caring and enthusiastic Lead Teacher for the 2/3-year-old classroom on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for the 2025–2026 school year. This is a wonderful opportunity to nurture young children in a faith-based environment, working alongside a dedicated and supportive team. If you have a passion for early childhood education and love sharing God's love with little ones, we'd love to hear from you! Questions? Contact Angela Whitted at awhitted@hopelutheranwf.org.

Little Blessings Classroom Teacher

Little Blessings is hiring a loving and dependable classroom teacher to work with our youngest children, ages birth to 2 years old. This part-time position is for 2–4 mornings per week and is ideal for someone who enjoys nurturing little ones in a faith-based environment. Little Blessings operates only in the mornings, offering a predictable and rewarding schedule. Questions? Contact Tracy Zwickis at littleblessings@hopelutheranwf.org.

Xplore Afternoon Counselor

Xplore is hiring afternoon counselors to join our awesome team this fall! This is a perfect after-school opportunity for responsible high school students who get out of school early and enjoy working with children. The shift runs from 12:30–5:00 PM and involves caring for kids ages 4 through 5th grade in a fun, faith-filled environment. Make a difference while gaining great experience and having fun! Questions? Contact D'etra Shelly at xplore@hopelutheranwf.org.



REALM UPDATE

The Realm Challenge: July - Your Strengths Matter

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

- This month's challenge: Join a group or ministry to be entered to win.
- Win: \$20 credit toward Hope event or Hope swag.
- Deadline: Complete the challenge by July 29 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.

This month, we're encouraging everyone to share the interests and skills they're willing to offer at Hope. Whether you're passionate about prayer ministry, youth activities, or skilled in areas like arts & crafts, IT, writing, or engineering – we want to know! While not every gift will be used right away, having your strengths on record helps us reach out when opportunities arise. To select an interest or skill, log into Realm Connect and edit your profile. For more information on how to do this, visit hopelutheranwf.org/Realm.

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

JUST FOR FUN!

Word Scramble

All of the words in this puzzle can be found in this newsletter, and appears in the order they show up in the newsletter. From ministry highlights to event recaps, these words reflect the heart of Hope's mission and activities this month. Use this puzzle as a fun way to engage with the newsletter content and see how many words you can recognize from what you've read!

MIOINSS MSOMENT

TARENHUL

KDOMGNI SSDEE

LUKE

ARO PTRI UAS

VEENRTOUL

RAERYP

LLCA AEMT

EPRLXO

NDUYSA CSOLOH

NHMSY

ATEPTOLB EAMGSR

EPARASRTNDGN

OMILEB DFOO RSYITINM

NRUCECHHT

HGNIIR

DHCIL CEAR

