

MARCH 2023

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

*Mission
Moments*



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Spiritual Focus

Have you ever held up a pair of binoculars, or a monocular, and tried to see something off in the distance? You might get lucky and be able to see that object clearly right away. Most often, though, you have to adjust the focus. Usually, there's a little wheel that you have to turn slowly, in order to bring the viewing object into sharp, well-defined focus. It's not a complicated process, but focusing is a necessary process, to use those long-distance viewing instruments properly.

This season of Lent that we find ourselves in is much like that little wheel. The 40 days of Lent bring spiritual focus to our lives. In the whirlwind of our daily lives, with so much heartache and turmoil ever-present, it can be hard to keep our focus on the ways and words of our God. But Lent calls us to zoom in on the cross of Jesus Christ, to center our spirits on the amazing sacrificial love that God has for his people. Lent challenges us to set aside the world's distractions, and to shift our focus away from the temptations which surround us. Lent is a wonderful time to re-focus our spirits, to renew our connection with our Savior, and to re-commit ourselves to discipleship and obedience.

Need some of that focus in your life? It's the Word and Sacraments of God that can make it happen! Join us each weekend during Lent for worship, and for Sunday morning Bible study. Check out the sermon themes and adult education class topics, described in these pages. Make some extra time for spiritual focus on Wednesdays, as the congregation gathers for worship at 7:00PM each week during Lent. Do some extra Bible reading, and allow the Word of God to speak to your heart, using the Gospel Challenge that's laid out in these pages, or any other Scripture sections that you choose.

Lent is here, friends. It's time to focus!
In Christ,

Pastor Wayne Puls

Season of Lent at Hope

Take some time for worship as Lent continues. Special midweek Lent services will be held on Wednesdays, at 7:00 PM, through March 29, along with our regularly-scheduled weekend worship services.

Men of Hope will serve soup and sandwiches before the Lenten services, from 5:30 to 6:30. A free-will donation supports Men of Hope service projects.

Below is a list of the soup and sandwiches:

March 1

The Lineberger: sausage, peppers, and onion sandwich served with pasta fagioli soup

March 8

The Fisher: turkey, bacon and tomato sandwich served with Italian wedding soup

March 15

The Spottiswood: ham and swiss cheese sandwich served with vegetable soup

March 22

The Varner: egg salad and pimiento cheese sandwiches with ham and bean soup

March 29

The Vicar, Meatball parmigiana sandwich served with chicken and rice soup



NEWS & EVENTS



THRIVENT If you're a Thrivent member and would be willing to help Hope access Thrivent Action Grants to support some of our upcoming community service events this spring and summer, please contact Pastor Wayne (wpuls@hopelutheranwf.org). Thanks!

STEPHEN MINISTRY HAS PEOPLE TO HELP

Hope has a group of people who are trained to listen when you are going through a difficult time in your life. This could be the death of a loved one, a challenging illness, job loss, divorce, faith issues, or any other time when you feel that talking with a caring fellow Christian would be helpful. All discussions are strictly confidential. If you would like to consider meeting with a Stephen Minister, please speak with Pastor or one of the following: Andy Barrett (919-349-5599), Jerry Garlington (850-376-0488), Wendi Pallozzi (214-880-1813), Rob Bailey (919-518-6984).

PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? Hope seeks to add instrumentalists to the Saturday PM contemporary service Praise Team, The Brass Ensemble, and to a newly-forming Woodwind Ensemble. If you play guitar, bass, or keyboards, and would be interested in sharing your musical gifts regularly or occasionally, please speak with Pastor Wayne or Paul Taylor at the soundboard. If you play a brass or woodwind instrument, please speak with Organist & Choir Director Rob Varner.

PINE STRAW SALES Are your landscape beds in need of a freshening up? Hope's youth group are selling fresh, premium NC long leaf pine straw for \$6/bale, with free delivery to your house for orders of more than 20 bales. Purchase them online now or at the table on the weekends of 3/5 and 3/12. Delivery/pick up will be on April 1 from 8-11AM.

LANDSCAPING WORKDAY Calling Hope's enthusiastic landscaping volunteers! Please mark your calendar for Saturday, March 25 at 8:30AM to help spruce up the grounds via various tasks. Bring gloves, water, hedge trimmers, extension cords, blowers and rakes if you have them. Youth are welcome to join! Please email Maintenance Tech Phil Phillips at pphillips@hopelutheranwf.org if you plan to come out that day, so that we can email you about any weather/schedule changes.

PRAYERS FOR HOPE'S MINISTRY TEAM

All members and friends of Hope Lutheran Church are asked to pray for God to send us wonderful workers to join our ministry team.



DCE position: Hope has requested a DCE intern from Concordia University Irvine (CA) to be assigned to our congregation for the 2023-24 year; and the official announcement regarding assignment will be made in late March.



Associate Pastor position: Hope has extended a Call for a seminary candidate to be placed as our Associate Pastor; and the official announcement regarding placement will be made in late April.





Easter Events & Notes

Easter Lilies 2023

Easter lilies adorn the chancel and windows at Hope. They may be purchased in memory or honor of loved ones. The cost is \$13 each with checks payable to Hope, earmarked "Easter lilies." Sign up today at www.hopelutheranwf.org/flowers.

Eggstravaganza

Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 AM

All kids grades 4 and below are invited to Hope's Easter Egg Hunt, complete with egg hunting, chicks, bunnies, bouncing, and celebrating Jesus. Friends and neighbors are welcome to attend! Questions? Contact Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org or 919-554-8109.

Easter Cross of Flowers

The Easter Cross of Flowers will be placed on the church lawn for Easter Sunday. All worshippers are invited to bring one flower (any color, any style) and place it through the wire mesh on the cross before entering the service. It's a great spot for Easter Sunday family photos, a tradition for many families!

Easter Morning Reception

The Fellowship Team will be hosting an Easter Morning Reception after the 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00AM services. Please consider bringing plated and ready-to-serve brunch goodies (baked goods, pastries, bagels, fruit, muffins, coffee cake, and lunch items after the 11:00AM service) and apple juice and come join in the fun!

MISSIONS – LOCAL & TRIPS

The people of Hope Lutheran Church are committed to making a positive, joyful, caring impact on the community around us.

BROWN BAG Join Hope's Brown Bag Ministries for fellowship and service. We will assemble bagged lunches on March 18 from 11:00 – 1:00PM. For signup, go to Hope Missions List.

BROWN BAG MEETING Whether you are a new, current, or past Brown Bag volunteer, we would like to hear from you. We are meeting on Tuesday, March 14, from 6:30 – 7:30PM, in the Conference Room. This meeting will be a time to discuss new ideas and the leadership opportunity for this long-time ministry. If interested, RSVP to Debbie Irgens at dliргens@earthlink.net.

TRI-AREA MINISTRY is the largest food pantry in the Wake Forest, Youngsville, and Rolesville area, serving 1200+ families each month. 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.

HABITAT-LUTHERAN BUILD

Habitat for Humanity is developing a new affordable housing subdivision called “Old Poole Place” in Southeast Raleigh.

One of the homes in “Old Poole Place” is being sponsored by the Lutheran Faith Coalition (12 Lutheran Churches in our area). The Habitat goal is to have this new home turned over to the new family in late June 2023.

Hope Lutheran Church – Wake Forest is a part of this coalition and is supporting the construction of this new affordable home. This build will be done with volunteers from each Lutheran Church in the coalition. To support this effort, we need volunteers.

Saturday, April 22, will be Hope Lutheran’s Primary work day. Work to be performed will depend on how the construction process has gone. We need 15 Volunteers for this work day.

- Work Schedule: 8:15AM to 3:30PM
- Location: Old Poole Subdivision (exact address to be provided at signup)
- Signup at [HTTP://VHUB.AT/LUTHERANBUILD](http://VHUB.AT/LUTHERANBUILD)

If you signup, please let Roger Madariaga, Hope Lutheran’s Habitat Coordinator, know. RogerMadariaga@aol.com or via text 919-608-5273.

ADULT EDUCATION IN MARCH

DAILY BIBLE READING

We all need strength and guidance from God's Word in our lives, and we encourage you to read your Bible daily. Check out the Gospel Challenge on Hope's website (www.hopelutheranwfg.org/adulted) for suggested daily Bible readings in Matthew's Gospel.

RETURN TO THE LORD

March 5, March 12, March 19, April 2

Leader: Vicar Ryan Barnett

All are welcome to join in a four-week study of the book of Joel. This short prophetic book is ideal for the season of Lent, as Joel clearly presents our human need for God's extravagant grace and a vivid depiction of God's passion for his people as he provides hope for them.

MISSION FOCUS

March 26

Presenter: Krista Young

All are welcome to join a lively discussion of local missions here at Hope, and an overview of national/international missions sponsored by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Our "guest" presenter will be Krista Young, former Hope DCE and current Mission Advancement Officer for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

SPRING NEW MEMBER CLASS

We are always happy to welcome guests and visitors to Hope! If you would like to know more about the mission and vision of Hope, we invite you to attend the Spring New Member Class. No pressure, no arm-twisting. The class meets for 8 Sundays, beginning March 5, 9:45-10:45AM, room 300. Activities for children and youth of all ages are available through Sunday School and Nursery Care during class. Contact Pastor Wayne or Vicar Ryan with any questions.



Spring Retreats

MEN'S RETREAT

Ready for a weekend of good food, relaxation, sports, bonding, and Christian brotherhood? All men, 18 years and older, are invited to Camp Cheerio's Mountain Lodge for the 2022 Men's Retreat on April 14-16, 2023. Cost is \$170 a person and includes 2 nights lodging and meals (Friday dinner - Sunday breakfast).

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Café Chocolat is a relaxing chocolate-themed women's retreat. It includes worship, Bible study, and time for laughter as well as time for quiet reflection. And while the name of our gathering sounds indulgent, we'll actually be using chocolate as a metaphor for God's extravagant grace.

March 17-18, 2023 @ Hope Lutheran Church Cost: \$60 includes dinner (3/17) and lunch and snacks on (3/18) All women 18 and older are welcome to register on the Women's Ministry Page on Hope's website. Questions: Amy Minor
aminor1020@hotmail.com

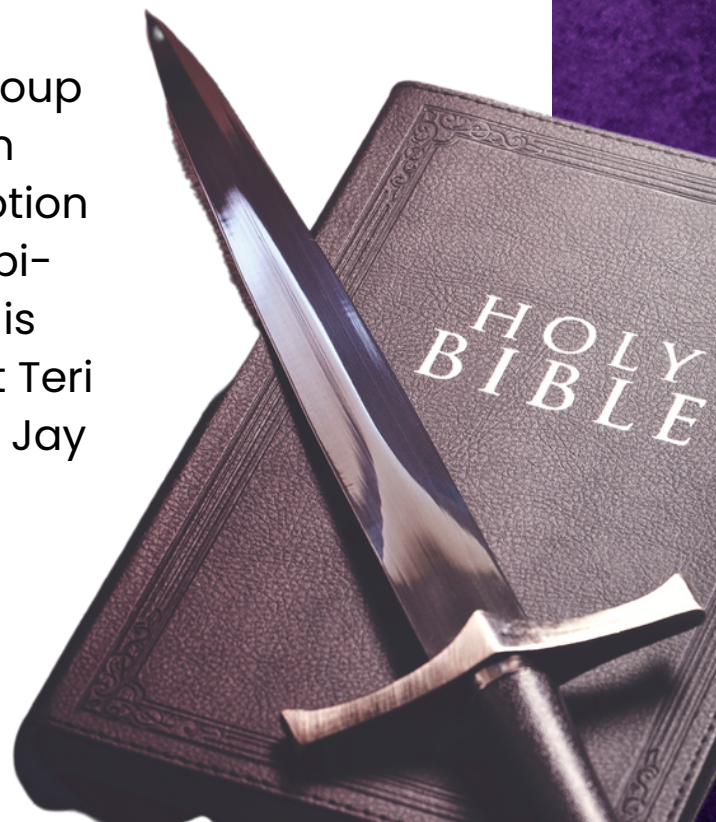
Register now!

Small Group Ministries

NEW SMALL GROUP. Refreshed is a new small group geared for people 30-50 years old. This group will meet once a month for devotion and fellowship, on the second Saturday, in the Youth Center 10-11:30AM. Our first meeting is March 11. Childcare will be provided. Questions: Jillisa Spottiswood (657-348-9160) or Briana Evans (bevans@hopelutheranwf.org).

THE BOOK DIVAS is for Christian women looking to participate in a discussion of fiction books. Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:00AM in room 302. Selections for March and April are "The Friday Night Knitting Club" by Kate Jacobs and "The Helpline" by Katherine Collette. Contact Judy Compton at judygcomp@earthlink.net for more info.

CORK SISTERS is a bi-monthly group that brings women together in fellowship, wine tasting, and devotion and meets the third Thursday (bi-monthly) offsite. The next date is March 16. For information, contact Teri O'Neill (terioneill@att.net) or Pam Jay (pjay0826@gmail.com).



Stitches of Hope

Stitches of Hope likes to do things the old fashioned way. Gathering to share knowledge of hand quilting/ stitching with any women who wants to learn. We work on different projects throughout the year. Our mission is to honor and serve God by making and providing a baptismal quilt for each baptized baby of Hope Lutheran Church, as well as making and providing quilts for those in need.

When: First through fourth Tuesdays at 1 PM

Place: Adult Education floor, room 301

For Information Contact: Lynda Watson, Barbara Reading or Janice Mortensen please email news.stitches@gmail.com.

Our meetings for March have these highlights:

- March 7 – Myra's Angels Foundation – Alexa and Myra will be joining us to share info about Myra's Angels. We have recently donated 10 quilts to their organization.
- March 14 – A group from the Durham Rescue Mission will be coming to explain their work and to accept a donation of quilts for their residents.
- March 21 – We will be working on Mission Quilts.
- March 28 – We will be learning more about the piecing of quilt squares as we tackle a new pattern. All supplies will be on hand unless you have a specific material you choose to use. Let us know if you choose to bring your own, and we'll let you know the yardage.



B.R.E.W.

(BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, EXPLORING THE WORD)

Being a young adult isn't easy – it's a strange, transitory time in your life. It's a time when we need solid friends, personal growth, and God's wisdom more than ever. We hope and pray that you will find all those and more through Hope's young adult ministry because God knows we need it. Check out our groups below and send us an email to get more information, get connected, and get grounded in Christ. Building Relationships and Exploring the Word – that's what B.R.E.W. is all about.

Brew-College

On Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM, all young adults 18-25 are invited to Hope for Bible Study in Room 213. Building Relationships and Exploring the Word – that's what BREW Young Adult Ministry is all about! Questions? vicar@hopelutheranwf.org.

Brew- Young Professionals

Looking to connect with other Christian young professionals in the area? Young adults 25-35 years old are invited to our monthly gathering. We get together on the 3rd Thursday of each month at local breweries for good drinks & discussion. Next meeting is on 3/16 at 7:00PM, at Norse Brewery. In BREW we're all about Building Relationships and Exploring the Word.

Check out Hope's Brew page for more information and upcoming events.

HopeLutheranWF.org/Brew

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth ministry at Hope Lutheran focuses on friendships, faith, and service for youth in grades 5-12.

5 & 6 / 7 & 8 GRADE YOUTH GROUP

During Lent, the Wednesday night youth groups times will be adjusted to 6:00-6:45 PM. Afterwards, youth will sit together 7:00-7:45pm for Lent service. Pick-up will take place in the Narthex following the service.

DUCK PIN BOWLING NIGHT 5-6 GRADE.

Got some time to spare March 10 from 6:30-8:00PM? Make sure to pin this date on your calendar! Roll on over to Strike and Barrel for a fun night of bowling. You'll have a ball! Duck Pin Bowling is easier than regular bowling. It has a smaller ball and fatter pins! And no need to split up - your friends are invited too! Space is limited so sign up now. Cost is \$12. Meet at Strike and Barrell at 6:30pm. Questions Wesley Spottiswood wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.

HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING NIGHT.

March 7 from 6:00-8:00PM meet at Strike & Barrel Bowling in downtown Wake Forest. You'll have a ball! And no need to split up - your friends are invited too! Space is limited so sign up now on Hope's Youth page. Cost is \$12.





KID'S MINISTRY

KID'S MINISTRY MOVIE NIGHT. Love movies? Love hanging out with your friends on a Friday night? Come to our super fun Movie Night on March 3, 6:00 – 8:00PM. Our 1-2 graders will eat pizza and popcorn while watching Puss In Boots: The Last Wish. Cost: \$5.00. Sign up on Hope's website under Kids Ministry. Questions: Beth Agner bagner@hopelutheranwf.org.

LUCKY CAMPER LOCK-IN. 3-4 graders are Lucky Campers this St. Patrick's Day! At our very own Lock-In on March 17, we will be camping in the Youth Center. There will be awesome games, food, and possibly catching a leprechaun. To end the night, we will be snuggled up in our tents and sleeping bags, watching the movie "Lucky." Parents will drop off at 6:30PM on March 17 and pick up by 8:00AM on March 18. Only \$15.00. Register on the Kids Ministry page on Hope's website. Questions: Makayla Meyer mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

VBS COLLECTING ITEMS. Vacation Bible School is coming soon. We are collecting empty two-liter plastic bottles and empty tin cans for some of the materials we need for VBS. It would be fantastic if you brought those recyclables to church, by June 1, and drop it off as we get going with our VBS planning. We appreciate everything! Questions: Makayla Meyer mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.





Egg'stravaganza

Hope's Easter Egg Hunt!

Join the Kid's Ministry and enjoy fun skits and music, a petting zoo, and bouncy houses and don't forget hunting for eggs!

WHEN: APRIL 8TH 2023

TIME: 10:00 AM

WHERE: Hope's Children Center

WHO: EVERYONE!

Questions?

Makayla Meyer

mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org