

MISSION *Moments*



MAY 2025

THOUGH WE DIE

²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."- John 11:21-27

People sometimes accuse the Bible of being too poetic, too fanciful, to be the authentic experience of real people. Yet there are fewer words more real, more painfully human than Martha's, "Lord, if you had been here...." Even as a Pastor, the many illnesses and funerals at the scale of a church like Hope make it hard not to resonate with Martha's words. For every joyous baptism welcoming children into the rebirth of the kingdom, there is a corresponding tragedy quietly unfolding. The cancer slowly wins. Soon, the oxygen isn't enough. Beloved friends and family seem to slip suddenly into the night.

Perhaps we can't help but find ourselves wishing God's insertion into our lives looked like the miracle that extends our earthly life, but the lesson of Lazarus is that the miracle we need isn't one that avoids or gets away from death. As odd as it may be to accept, the Christian pattern established by Christ himself is one not just marbled but marked with the tragedy of death. Nevertheless, it is also just as clearly shot through with a certainty of life. Jesus seems to say to Martha, that even though Lazarus has died he will live. Jesus doesn't actually need to raise him, extend his temporary earthly life, for that to be true.

Jesus' concern here isn't for Lazarus at all. I think the simple implication is that Lazarus died trusting in Jesus. Even if he had remained in his tomb, he would be secure. It is Martha's faith that needs to be reinforced, it is the living yet winding their way through the trials of life who are at risk of embracing doubt. It is you and I, thinking we need Jesus to do something more, when he's already done the essential thing: grant us eternal life.

So, as we walk through this Easter season, I pray we begin to truly believe that the resurrection and the life has us secure. I hope in the midst of grief you can remember that Jesus doesn't need to extend our earthly lives to be present in them, because he has a more profound life waiting for us beyond the gate of death.

Grieving yet trusting with you,

Pastor Devin

NEWS & EVENTS

VBS Donations Needed

VBS is just around the corner, and your help can make a big impact! We are collecting donations now through June 15 to help create an exciting and memorable experience for the children who attend. We're looking for individually packaged snacks like Goldfish, Teddy Grahams, and fruit snacks, as well as recyclable items like milk jugs, oversized boxes, white sheets, carpet tubes, and artificial Christmas trees. A full list is on the VBS page. Thank you for helping to bring God's Word to life for our kids!

Questions? Contact the VBS Team at vbs@hopelutheranwf.org.

Hope Booth Volunteers Needed

Hope Lutheran Church is looking for volunteers to help represent Hope at various local events throughout the summer and fall! These include recurring events like Friday Night on White in Wake Forest, community celebrations in Youngsville, and more. Volunteers will help by greeting guests, handing out materials, and sharing what Hope is all about. Whether you can help once or multiple times, this is a great way to connect with the community and show the love of Christ in simple, welcoming ways. Interested in getting involved?

Contact Wesley Spottiswood at wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.

Stay Vigilant

. From time to time, members of Hope Lutheran Church may receive texts or emails claiming to be from one of our pastors or staff, urgently requesting financial help or gift cards. Please know that these messages are always scams. Hope will never ask for money outside of official giving channels. We have a dedicated emergency fund in place to help those in need. If you receive a suspicious message, do not respond—contact the church office at office@hopelutheranwf.org to verify its authenticity. Stay vigilant and verify before you act.

NEWS & EVENTS

Little Blessings Expansion

We're thrilled to share that Little Blessings, our Parents Morning Out program, is expanding for the 2025–2026 school year! Due to overwhelming support and growth, we'll be moving into a beautifully reimaged space in the Youth Center beginning in August. This new space includes four age-specific classrooms designed to offer a nurturing, faith-filled learning environment for infants through age 3. We can't wait to welcome our little ones into this fresh new season of ministry!

VBS Volunteers Needed

We need your help! From June 23–27, over 400 kids will attend daytime Vacation Bible School, with another 100 joining us each night—and we need a team of passionate volunteers to help make it all happen. Whether you're great with crafts, snacks, stories, music, or helping behind the scenes, there's a role for you. Volunteer registration is now open for adults and youth (rising 6th grade and older). Adults 18+ will need a background check.

Questions? Contact the VBS Team at vbs@hopelutheranwf.org.

Hope Is Moving to YouTube

To make livestream worship more accessible and engaging, Hope Lutheran Church is now streaming services on our new YouTube page: Hope Lutheran Church – Wake Forest. Visit us at youtube.com/@hopelutheranwf and be sure to like and subscribe so you'll receive notifications when we go live. This change allows us to better serve our members and reach even more people with God's Word.

Questions? Contact Briana Evans at bevans@hopelutheranwf.org.

Vision Update Assembly

Join us on Sunday, May 18, at 12:30 PM in the Sanctuary for a Vision Update Assembly. This is an opportunity for the entire Hope family to hear the insights and outcomes gathered from our recent Vision Casting event. Pastor Devin and assembled groups will share updates and reflections on the future direction of ministry at Hope. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this important time of unity, encouragement, and direction.

SPECIAL NOTE

FROM PASTOR WAGNER

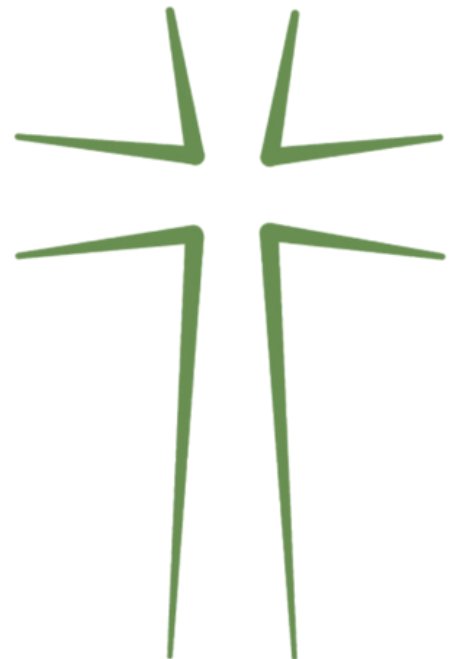
Friends of Hope,

It has been a privilege to serve the past six months with Pastor Murphy, Pastor Lutz, and Pastor Seaman here at Hope. I want to share with you that I am stepping back into full retirement mode as Pastor Emeritus on April 30th. As the 53rd year of my ordination into the Holy Ministry looms on the horizon, it is time for more personal rest and family focus! My heart and life are forever thankful to serve at Hope, and Lana and I are so blessed to remain members of such a growing and caring community of Christians!

Please continue to keep the Pastor's, DCE's, Church and Preschool staff, the Ministry Leadership Team, and all the dedicated workers and volunteers at Hope in prayer during this transition time at Hope. The recent congregational visioning day, and the on-going call process for a Senior Pastor, provides hope and promise for the shared mission of "proclaiming and living the Word and love of Christ."

God bless you in this Holy Season **OF** Easter!

Pastor Wagner



REVIEW OF EASTER

Powerful Holy Week & Easter at Hope

What an incredible Holy Week and Easter at Hope Lutheran Church! From quiet reflection to joyful celebration, we were blessed to welcome thousands into worship and fellowship.

Holy Week + Easter = AMAZING!

Holy Week 1,080

- Good Friday – 204
- Maundy Thursday – 326
- Eggstravaganza – 550

Easter Sunday- 1,589

- 6:45 – 161
- 8:00 – 315
- 9:30
 - Traditional – 292
 - Children's – 126
- 11:00
 - Traditional – 547
 - Children's – 148



Thank you, Hope family—Christ is risen!

VACATION *Bible* SCHOOL

JUNE 23-27

Get ready for an unforgettable week at Vacation Bible School from 6/23 - 6/27, where kids will be "Trusting Jesus in a wild world." Children ages 4 (potty-trained) through 5th grade are invited to join us for a week filled with exciting Bible stories, music, games, and hands-on activities.

Morning Session 8:30 AM-12 PM (Almost Full)

Evening Session 5:30-8 PM

Participants (ages 4 years - 5th grade)

Must Register on the Website to participate (while spots are available.)

Volunteers (6th Grade and Up)

Must Register on Website to participate as a volunteer.

Background check required for volunteers 18 and over.

Questions?

Contact VBS Team at
vbs@hopelutheranwf.org.

Items Needed:

Recyclable & Craft Materials:

Cleaned white/translucent milk jugs
Oversized large boxes
Carpet tubes
White flat sheets
PolyFil
White tablecloths
Artificial Christmas trees
(can be discarded after use)

Snacks (individual bags):

Goldfish
Fruit snacks
Teddy Grahams
Oreos
Assorted chips
Pretzels
Chocolate chips

SUNDAY SCHOOL: FOR ALL AGES

KID'S LESSONS

Preschool Jam, K1 Crew, & Level 23

On 5/4-11, Preschool Jam, K1 Crew, and Level 23 will be diving into "Giants: Giant Problems Call for God!" Come learn how God helps us face anything - no matter how big!

Club 45

On 5/4 & 5/11, we'll explore who the Holy Spirit is and how He helps us live out our faith every day. Don't miss this powerful lesson just for preteens!

No Sunday School

We'll take a break starting 5/25 – we'll see you again in August!

Family Fellowship Hour

This summer, join us every Sunday for Family Fellowship Hour—a time for faith, fun, and connection in the Children's Center! From June 1 to August 17, Hope's Kids Ministry is bringing families together for engaging activities, Bible lessons, and community bonding. While children learn and play in a safe and joyful space, parents will also have time to connect and encourage one another in faith. It's the perfect way to grow together as a church family!

Nursery

While older kids head to Sunday School, our littlest ones have a safe and joyful space to play and grow. Nursery care is available so the whole family can learn and connect.

YOUTH LESSONS

Books of The Bible

During May, youth will dive into exploring the Books of the Bible—and how these texts still speak to our lives today. Middle and high school students are invited to discover connections between Scripture and the challenges, questions, and opportunities they face in their daily walk.

ADULT LESSONS

Marriage and Family

Join us in May as we explore some of the Scriptures' rich teachings on marriage and family life. We'll reflect on how our faith informs the way we parent, love our spouses, care for our families, and navigate life together. Whether you're single, married, raising kids, or caring for aging parents, this series offers meaningful wisdom for every season of life.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOPE

DINE & SHINE- EVERYONE WELCOME

Join us for a night that sparkles with fun and purpose at Dine & Shine! Hosted by the Kids Ministry, this exciting event includes dinner and a talent show for the whole family, with proceeds supporting the Middle School Summer Trip. Come enjoy home-cooked food, cheer on your favorite acts, and celebrate our youth in action. It's just \$10 per kid, \$15 per adult, and \$50 max per family. Let's make this night one to remember—see you May 16! Register online or Realm.

Questions? Contact Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

HOPE SPORTSMEN'S GROUP ANNUAL YOUTH OUTING

Fifth graders and above are invited to join the Hope Sportsmen's Group for the Annual Youth Outing on Saturday, June 7, from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM at Mike Meehan's farm. The day includes shooting instruction, a raffle with great door prizes, and a hearty cookout featuring burgers, hot dogs, and more. A safety briefing is mandatory for all participants, and equipment will be available for those who don't have their own. Every child under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, and all participants must sign a liability release. Space is limited, so please contact Ted Bachman at tedbachman@mindspring.com or 919-606-3477 to reserve your spot and receive directions.

GOODBYE SCHOOL, HELLO POOL!

School's out and the fun is in! Middle school students, you're invited to Goodbye School, Hello Pool!—an end-of-year celebration just for you. Join us on May 31 at Holding Park Aquatic Center from 1:30–4:30 PM for pool time, pizza, and a celebration of all you've accomplished this year. It's just \$12 per person, and everything's included. Come out and kick off your summer with a splash! Register online or Realm.

Questions? Contact Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

HIGH SCHOOL MOVIE EVENT

Hope's High School Youth are headed to the movies to celebrate the end of the school year! Join us on May 23 for a group outing to see the new Lilo & Stitch movie at Wakefield 12 Theatre. Cost is \$15.50 per person. Time is TBD based on the theatre's schedule. RSVP is required by May 12. This is a great chance to hang out, relax, and enjoy a classic story with friends and popcorn! Register online or Realm.

Questions? Contact Wesley at wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org.

BREW

Ready to throw some axes and test your golf swing? Join BREW for a fun night out at Strike and Barrel on Friday, May 30 at 6:30 PM! For just \$20, enjoy axe throwing and access to the golf simulator. Food and drinks are available for purchase, so come hungry and ready for a great time. Register now on Realm and invite a friend—this is one you won't want to miss!

Questions? Contact Makayla Meyer at mmeyer@hopelutheranwf.org.

OUTREACH AT HOPE

MOBILE FOOD MINISTRY TRAINING

New to Mobile Food Ministry and want to jump in confidently? This is your chance! Join us on June 7 from 9 AM–12 PM in the back parking lot at Hope for full hands-on training. You'll walk through a simulated food distribution event, learn how to handle equipment and the trailer, and enjoy lunch with fellow volunteers—all as part of the learning. Sign up today and discover what it looks like to serve with purpose and community!

TRI-AREA MINISTRY

Tri-Area Ministry continues its important mission to serve families in need through ongoing donations from the Hope community. Collection bins are available in the Café area for non-perishable items. This month, there's a special request for soup, cereal, peanut butter, and baby wipes. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors in need.

HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands is a flexible volunteer ministry that supports members of our congregation when they need it most. Whether it's providing a meal during a difficult season, preparing food for a funeral reception, or blessing new mothers with a Meal Train, you'll be part of a network of care that brings hope and comfort through food. Volunteers are contacted only as needed, and you may only be asked to help once every few months. Want to lend a hand in God's work through simple acts of kindness? Reach out to Pam Jay at pjay0826@gmail.com to get involved.

SMALL GROUPS

TREASURE SEEKERS

Treasure Seekers is a new women's small group launching May 17! Meeting every 3rd Saturday of the month from 9:00–10:30 AM in Room 300, this group will explore the treasures found in God's Word and what it means to grow together in Christ. Women of all ages are welcome—whether you're new to small groups or a seasoned seeker. Come be encouraged, equipped, and surrounded by a supportive community. Questions? Contact Carole Ketter at caketter6@gmail.com or 919-559-0814.

HOMILY

Looking for a small group centered on Scripture and Sunday messages? Homily is a new small group that meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 7:00–8:00 PM at the Marchese house. Open to all ages, this group will reflect on the homilies shared during Hope's regular worship services and take a deeper dive into God's Word together. It's a welcoming space to ask questions, build community, and grow in faith. Interested? Call Jack and Ruth Marchese at 240-731-3685.

REALM UPDATE

The Realm Challenge:

May- Find Your People, Find Your Place

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: \$30 credit toward Hope event or Hope swag.
- Deadline: Complete the challenge by May 27 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.

Coming Soon:

Hope will begin launching Groups in Realm this May. This will give you a new way to stay connected with Bible studies, ministry groups, and more—all in one place.

Be on the lookout for more information.

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.

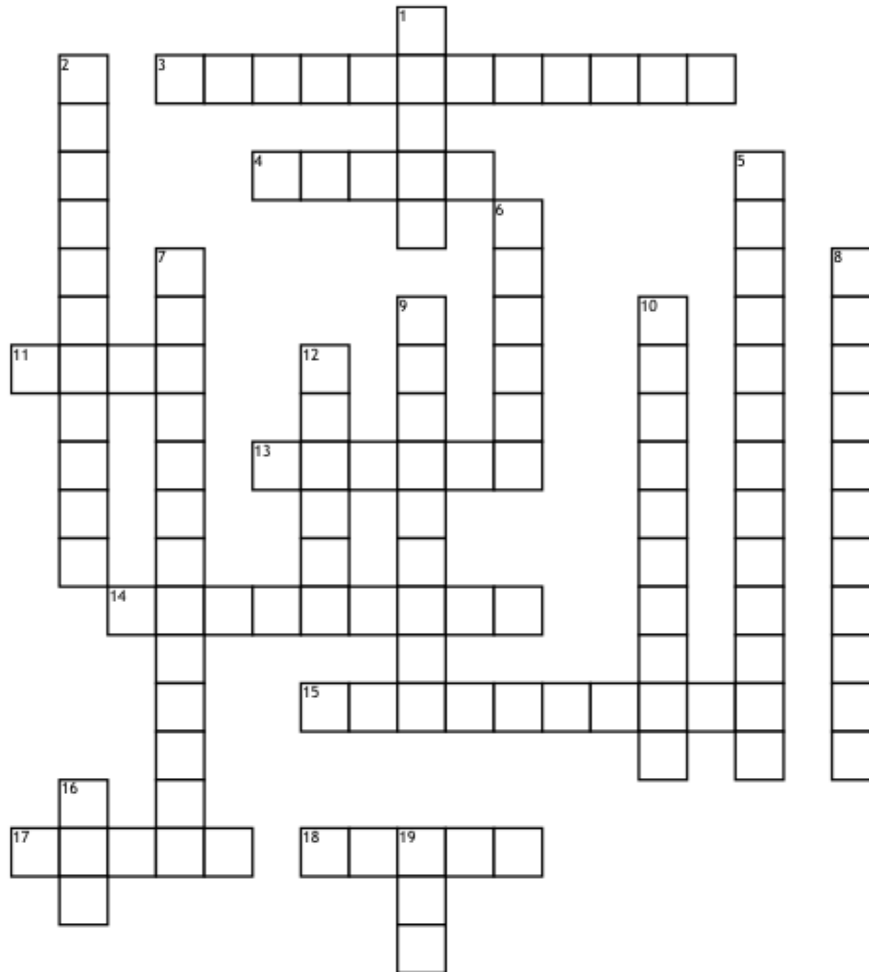
Contact for Help:

Briana Evans

bevans@hopelutheranwf.org

JUST FOR FUN

Holy Week, Resurrection and Ascension



Across

3. The event of Jesus rising from the dead is called what?
 4. The name of the disciple that betrayed Jesus
 11. This drink represents Jesus' blood.
 13. The first part of the trinity?
 14. The process of Jesus going to heaven is known as the ?
 15. Jesus was arrested in the Garden of ?
 17. Christians believe Jesus was taken to heaven how many days after his resurrection?

18. After Jesus died, he rose from the dead how many days later?

Down

1. This food represents Jesus' body
 2. The method of execution the Romans used to kill Jesus
 5. Jesus' final meal with his disciples
 6. Holy week is the week before what celebration?
 7. According to the Gospels, Jesus told his disciples he would send what to comfort and guide them after he left earth?

8. Christians believe Jesus' resurrection and ascension confirm their belief in what?

9. The symbols of bread and wine are important in a Christian ceremony known as the ?
 10. The day Jesus died
 12. Jesus went where after he ascended?
 16. Jesus represents what in the Trinity?
 19. The colour associated with Good Friday?

Word Bank

The Holy Spirit	Son	Ascension	Red	Gethsemane
The Last Supper	Bread	Judas	Easter	Wine
Holy Trinity	Resurrection	Heaven	Crucifixion	Three
Forty	Good Friday	Eucharist	Father	