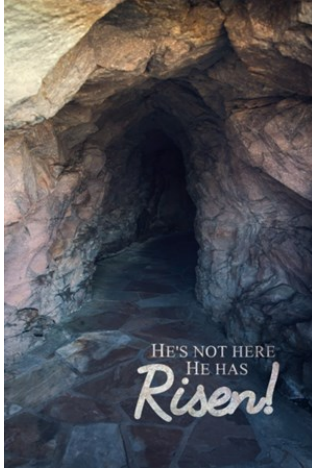


The Hope Reporter



Easter People

And [Jesus] said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." – Luke 24:38-39

We're a few weeks removed from the joy of Easter morning. A few weeks removed from the alleluias being sung at full volume after being boxed away for the weeks of Lent. A few weeks removed from the refrain "**Alleluia! Christ is risen!**" and the response "**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**" A few weeks removed from the Easter egg hunts and the Easter brunches. The Easter lunches and the Easter dinners. A few weeks removed from the beautiful reminder of our new and glorious reality that sin, death, and Satan have no power over us anymore.

A few weeks removed from all of that. And in those few weeks, we've gotten back to life as usual. Those same old struggles are there. Struggles in relationships, at work, or personally. Those same issues are out there in our world. War in Israel and Gaza. War in Ukraine. Rumors of war and conflict in Taiwan. It's all so...to borrow a word from Jesus...**troubling**. And when we see those troubling things swirling around us, no matter what they are, we, like the disciples, begin to have those doubts arise in our hearts.

And this is where it is good for us to be reminded, once again, and indeed every single day, of the refrain and response from easter that "**Christ is risen...risen indeed!**" Jesus' resurrection from the dead, aside from being miraculous and glorious as it is, is the only thing that can destroy those doubts because it holds so much for us. Jesus says to the disciples "**See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.**"

And what is it that we see in the resurrected, scar-marked hands and feet of Jesus? We see sins paid for. Where there is doubt over whether or not you've done enough to atone for your sins, in the hands and feet of Jesus, you see that he's done it all. In the hands and feet of Jesus we see death's defeat. No longer does death mean the end for us, but the beginning. In the hands and feet of Jesus, we see hope and promise. When we look at the darkness that covers the world, we turn our eye heavenward, knowing that Jesus will come again to take us home to be with him.

All that is to say, that yes, we are a few weeks removed from Easter, but let us not let Easter only be a day on the calendar because, when we do that, when we let life get back to normal, the glory and joy of Easter gets buried by those doubts and worries and fears that Jesus came to eliminate. Instead, let us daily be reminded of those scar-marked hands and feet of Jesus, because in those hands and feet, we see promises made and promises kept...and promises made yet again. Every single day, to dispel the doubts caused by our own struggles and the challenges we see in the world at large, let our refrain be that Easter refrain, "**Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**"

Friends in Jesus, let's take Easter with us. Wherever we might find ourselves, let's carry that hope of Easter with us because the joy of Easter is just too wonderful to let it get buried by the doubts and fears that Jesus has already conquered once and for all.

Your brother in Christ, Pastor James

Hope Reporter



Happy Birthday to...

Gabriel Montague 3
Briann Mavrogeorge 4
Norris Overdahl 5

Vallie Listol 13
Tori Cooper 15
Marcia Ridenour 16
Karen Reardon 30



Weekly Bible Studies

- **Sunday Adult Bible Study** meets in the Sanctuary between services each Sunday. Pastor James is leading the class in a longer look at each week's readings.
- **Children's Sunday School Classes** are held between services for kids preschool through High School. Students 1st-5th grade meet in Pastor's office; 6th-12th graders meet in the church office; Preschool/Kindergarten students meet in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Wednesday Women's & Men's Bible Studies** – Men's and Women's Wednesday Bible Studies meet each Wednesday @ 10 a.m. The men meet in the Sanctuary and are working through a Right Now Media study of Ecclesiastes. The women meet in the fellowship hall and are working through a Right Now Media study of I Corinthians. We would love to have you join us! Please contact Jackie Fernandez at 515-556-6359 if you have questions or would like to join us.
- **Wednesday in the Word** meets each Wednesday evening for supper and Bible study. Supper begins at 5:45 p.m. and Bible study begins at 6:30 p.m. If you can bring a food item for supper, look for Signup Genius in your email or find a paper signup on the table in the Narthex each Sunday. Hope you can make it. Any questions, please call Rachel Stutsman 701-471-4751 or Jackie Fernandez.



Next Steps

Learn the
Basics of Faith



Next Steps Course Beginning May 11th

If you have been worshipping with Hope for a while, or even if you've only joined us a couple of times, we want to invite you to consider coming to our **Next Steps** course beginning **Saturday, May 11th at 10am!**

Over the four weeks of our **Next Steps** course, you are going to learn about Hope's vision and mission, and we'll cover the basics of the faith we share. Throughout the course, we'll cover the important roles **worship, education, service, and fellowship** play in helping us to transform into people of hope here in our community while looking at how all those things fit with what we learn in Luther's Small Catechism.

If you're interested in learning more about the Christian faith and what makes Hope a unique place to grow and live out that faith, then our **Next Steps** course is for you! Contact Jackie or Pastor James.

April 2024



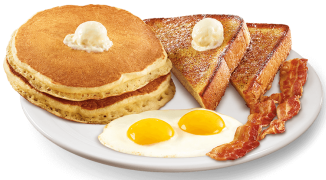
VBS Sponsors Still Needed!

Our 2024 Scuba VBS will be July 15-19 and registration will open May 1! We hope to host 50 children from our church and community and would love for your help in sponsoring them as a way to cover the costs of their individual materials. If you can help, we are still in need of 21 sponsors! In sponsoring a VBS student for \$25, your donation will cover a child’s Scuba T-shirt, a Scuba Gospel of John, Scuba brag tags, individual craft materials, a Watch for God bracelet and more!! Sign up to sponsor in

the Narthex. Mark your donation “Sponsor a Student” and drop in the offering plate. See Jackie for more information and thanks so much for your support!

Crochet Crew

Crochet Crew will be meeting on April 18. Our class will run from 10-11:30 am. If you are interested in learning or improving your skills, please join us. Any specific questions, please call Rachel Stutsman at 701-471-4751.



Women’s & Men’s Bible Breakfast

Our Women’s and Men’s Bible Breakfast groups will meet next on April 20th at 9 a.m. at Grills, 6075 North US 1, Melbourne, FL. This is a chance for a light devotion together and some good fellowship. All are invited! There will be signup sheets in the

Narthex. Women may contact Cathy Chase at 321-505-1223 or Rachel Stutsman 701-471-4751 with questions. Men should contact Dave Roberts at 804-512-1496. Hope you can make it!

LWML Space Coast Spring



Registration is now open for the LWML Space Coast Spring Rally on April 20 at Trinity Lutheran in Holly Hill. Registration is \$6. Additional information and a sign-up sheet are available on the narthex table. For more info, contact our LWML president Debi (321-848-6697) or our district treasurer Bunnie (321-432-4419).



Congregational Voter’s Meeting, May 19

The 2024 Spring Congregation Meeting of Hope Lutheran Church will be held Sunday, May 19. A light lunch will be served after the second service followed by the meeting at 12:00. The meeting will include an election of 4 council members as well as brief reports. The nominating committee will nominate Leslie Heumann for Vice President, Cathy Chase for Secretary, Ernie Diebel for Head Elder, and Kenn Baker for Trustee. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Hope Reporter

Texas Fire Relief



Orphan Grain Train +

Orphan Grain Train Texas Fire Relief- Our outreach team has agreed to send \$750 in relief funds for the ongoing fires in Texas via the Orphan Grain Train. Funds were sent on March 22, 2024. If you would like to send additional funds to this disaster you may donate online at [Orphan Grain Train | Kindful](#) donate under the Domestic disaster Relief Initiative.



Operation Christmas Child

I hope you're ready to launch a new year of sharing the gospel with children around the world through OCC! Before we get into a new year of Operation Christmas Child we want to celebrate all God did in 2023. There will be a special event on April 27th at Port St. John First Baptist Church, Cocoa located at 3900 Fay Blvd, Cocoa FL 32927. Doors open at 9:15am for registration, CONNECT station Visits and Networking. Program begins at 10:00am. Prepare for Great Things! They will recognize each church in attendance who donated shoeboxes in 2023. we will share the number of boxes we donated in 2023 and in past years. If you would like to join Tori Cooper at this event please contact her by April 14th to ensure we have an accurate headcount.

Ribbon Cutting at Helen's House!



Helen's House is almost ready for the ribbon-cutting ceremony! This long-awaited building project for women and children is very near completion so that Helen's House will celebrate their ribbon-cutting on Thursday, May 2 at 11:30 a.m. Helen's House, which is an offshoot of CITA Mission for Men, is located at 1033 Carlton Drive, Melbourne. Everyone is invited to share in this joyous occasion.



Hands on Hope @ New Life Mission

Hands on Hope! Hope will be doing an outdoor work activity (as yet unspecified) at New Life Mission on Saturday, May 11 from 9-11:30 a.m. New Life Village is located at 326 Croton Road, Melbourne. There will be a signup sheet on the narthex table to indicate that you can help; see Nancy Roberts (804-513-5375) for more information. On Sunday, April 28, Hope will welcome Amy Lyons, CEO of New Life Mission, to give a presentation of the work at NLM and give us a clearer picture of their ministry.

Come and See New Life Mission



Come and See New Life Village-take a tour of the homes, kids Academy, visit the transformation shop and see the impact YOUR gifts have made. Thursday May 16 4-6pm. New Life Mission 326 Croton Road Melbourne FL. Current needs- kid friendly snacks (cheeze-its, goldfish, chips), Pull ups 4t and 5t boy/girls, Huggies or pampers size 5 and 6, baby food/ snacks.

April 2024



Hope Helpers

Much like our “Hope Cares Team” that provides meals and rides for members who have been hospitalized, recently given birth or have lost a family member or need funeral arrangements we have decided to add a new way to help members within our Family at Hope. “Hope Helpers” will be a list of able-bodied men and women who are willing to help when members need handyman type services in their home. This may include but is not limited to helping do lawn work, light housework duties, fixing minor items like light bulb changes, fan repairs, swapping out door handles/ locks or anything else not requiring a licensed electrician, plumber or contractor. This list will include 5-15 members of Hope who would be willing to help with various items and can be contacted as needed. We will create a “sign up application” for anyone willing to be added to this list that includes work experience or willing to work on (fill in the blank). Be on the look out for more information as we create this wonderful team. We know it can be hard to ask for help but know that everyone at Hope is family and we treat our family with kindness, comfort and dignity.

Thanks for Your Help!!



Many thanks to Hope folks who signed up to help with the CITA dinner and worship service on April 11. It is a very rewarding activity and is appreciated very much by the CITA residents. Thanks to those who helped with the military care packages which were sent to Chaplain Potts and his Air Force Special Forces Unit. Please include these airmen in your prayers!

Thank You



Hope for the Homeless

In March, members donated 8 deodorants, 1 bag of clothes, multiple bags of razors and 1 pair of shoes. We also donated 400 drawstring backpacks and a pack of socks using the March Thrivent card. For the month of April we will be using a Thrivent card to purchase Feminine Hygiene items for the women at Daily Bread. Hope members can contribute by donating 3 in 1 shampoo/ conditioner/ body washes. Thank you to all those who have continued to donate to this very worth cause in our community.

Daily Bread Chili Cookoff!



Daily Bread will host a Chili Cookoff Sunday April 14th from 4-7pm at 2205 Front Street, Melbourne FL. Sponsorship and tickets available at dailybreadinc.org/chili. There will be live music, live auction, adult beverages, delicious eats and treats, fun for the whole family. This event helps sponsor and support Daily Bread.



Habitat for Humanity



It has been a while, but several Habitat homes are nearing completion. That means that our collection of items for the dedication cleaning baskets will begin soon. Watch for the sign up sheets coming out on April 28.

Hope Reporter

Trinity Lutheran School News



Dear members of Hope Lutheran,

He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed, Alleluia! We are so thankful to share the message of God's free gift of salvation to our students and families at Trinity. We are looking forward to a visit from the National Lutheran Schools Accreditation team this month. They will spend a few days with us, gathering feedback, checking our procedures, and making sure that we pass our accreditation review.

April is also the time for our standardized testing. Students in elementary grades will be taking the Iowa Basic Skills test. We pray our students perform their best during the assessment.

Registration for the 2024-25 school year is now open! If you have a child, grandchild, or friend in K-6th grade and are interested in them attending Trinity, please contact our school office at 321-636-5431. Florida State Scholarships are available and cover the cost of tuition. We would be happy to give you a tour of our campus! We are also having an Open House on Thursday, April 25 th from 5:30-6:30 pm if you know anyone that wants to check us out.

In April, our students of the month will be recognized for Fruit of the Spirit, Gentleness. This is our last month of Wednesday tutoring. If you are interested in helping, please contact me (Becky Houston) at Trinity Lutheran School. My email is bhouston@trinity-rockledge.org. Our school phone number is 321-636-5431. We have Chapel services every Wednesday morning at 8:40 a.m. You are always welcome to attend.

Thanks again for all your support! Blessings, Becky Houston, Principal, Trinity Lutheran School



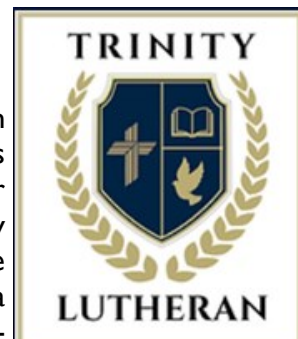
Teacher Appreciation!

It's time for teacher appreciation once again! We will be providing breakfast items for the Sherwood Elementary teachers on April 23, and we are looking for Hope members to sign up for food items and/or to help serve at 7 a.m. at the school on the 23rd. Complete details are on the signup sheet in the

narthex. Also, the same week on April 26, we are doing the teacher appreciation breakfast for the Trinity Lutheran School teachers at Trinity Lutheran School in Rockledge. Again, we need help with food items and also the serving at the school. Details are on the narthex signup sheet. Please contact Nancy Roberts at 804-513-5375 if you have any questions.

Trinity Lutheran Church-Rockledge

Trinity's Lutheran Church in Rockledge is currently experiencing financial hardships. As an Outreach team we have decided to send a committed \$250 a month for the next 3 years to help Trinity grow their church. This donation will begin once we have confirmation for the FL-GA District. We have decreased our Ministry of the Month from \$750 per monthly ministry down to \$500 (the set amount we had been giving for all previous years before 2024). This total is in reflection of the Florida- Georgia District committing \$4,000 a month for the next three years to support the Calling of a full-time Mission Pastor. Although Trinity Lutheran Church I and School are solvent, there are not enough funds to support a Pastor.



April 2024

Aging Matters

IN BREVARD



April Ministry of the Month

Ministry of the Month April- Aging Matters in Brevard “Meals on Wheels” donation of \$500. Meals on Wheels delivers hot, well-balanced meals to homebound seniors in Brevard. Meals on Wheels allows senior adults to live at home when they are no longer able to cook for themselves. Trained volunteers visit each weekday around noon, providing Brevard seniors with a hot meal, a friendly visit, and safety check. They can refer participants to additional services and can even initiate an emergency response if necessary.

Monetary Ministries of the Month



Lutherans for Life- \$500, Lutheran Center of Religious Liberty- \$500, Teacher Appreciation for Sherwood Elementary and Trinity Lutheran School- Roughly \$1500 total, Home of Grace- \$1,000.



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**



Addiction Recovery

Our Outreach team has added “Home of Grace” to our Monetary Missions for the month of April with a donation of \$1,000. CHRIST-CENTERED RECOVERY SINCE 1965- The Home of Grace, a nationally known addiction recovery program, has helped tens of thousands of individuals battle various types of addiction. In operation since 1965, we have used hands-on experience to build an addiction recovery program filled with success stories. OUR MISSION- Offering freedom from addiction through Christ-centered recovery since 1965. OUR VISION- To be the leader in successful recovery by introducing Jesus Christ as the catalyst for Hope, Healing and Quality of Life. HomeofGrace.org



Home of Grace

Shoes for Sherwood



We have received an e-mail from our sweet nurse Elca at Sherwood Elementary requesting a donation of shoes for her students in need. We have applied for two Thrivent cards (One boys shoes and one girls shoes) to be used to purchase new shoes for these children. We are asking Hope Members to donate children’s socks boy/girl to add to our shoe collection. A sign up sheet and bin for socks will be available in the Narthex. Please return the socks by Sunday April 14th. This is a two week turn around.



Baker's Blessings

This month’s cookies will go to the Melbourne Police Department. We are asking for 2 ½ dozen cookies to be bagged two to a bag in Ziplock Baggies. Please take a bag of “Baker’s Blessings” labels and put one on each bag of cookies. When you deliver your cookies to church, please put a check mark in the “Cookies Delivered” box. Should you have any questions, please contact Nancy Sutter at (321) 537-2717. Thank you!

April 2024

Hope Lutheran Church

4541 N Wickham Road Phone: 321.622.6126
 Melbourne FL 32935 Email: pastor@hopebrevard.org
www.hopebrevard.org Facebook: [@hopebrevard](https://www.facebook.com/hopebrevard)



Striving to be people of **HOPE** in our Community.

Carrying the **HOPE** of Jesus to our community by growing together through worship, education, service and fellowship.



Worship

Worship is very important to us here at Hope. It's a time where we can gather together as followers of Jesus and come into contact with our God, who loves us and forgives us. When we come together in worship, we pray, praise and give thanks to God for His grace delivered to us through His Word and Sacraments.



Education

In order to be people of Hope in our community, we believe it is vital for each of us to grow in our understanding of the God who loves and and forgives us through Jesus. This is why Hope provides a variety of educational opportunities as you continue to explore the faith we share. Go to www.hopebrevard.org to get plugged in!



Service

Serving our community has been a part of Hope's mission since we were planted as a church in 2005. This legacy continues still today as the first 11% of our budget every year is dedicated to our outreach ministry. Through this ministry of service, Hope provides many opportunities for our members to reach into our community with the Hope of Jesus.



Fellowship

We all appreciate when we have a friend or two to walk alongside us as we experience the joys and sorrows that we encounter along life's way. Through our times of fellowship at Hope, we deepen the relationships we have with one another and learn how we might best bear one another's burdens.