

# The Hope Reporter

## **Resurrection Realities** **A Sermon Series on 1 Peter**

So often, after Easter, we take a deep breath and relax. All the extra services are done. We've recovered from getting up early for sunrise service and attending to all our other Easter celebrations with family and friends. It feels good to have a time to breathe and for our lives to be less busy. But, I wonder, have you ever thought about what life was like for Jesus' disciples in the days, weeks, and months after the resurrection?

Far from being a time of rest and relaxation, it was a time of fear and joy and a new commission to head out into the ends of the earth as witnesses of all that Jesus had done and said. This time of joyful busyness was true for all the disciples, but for Peter, it was especially busy.

Peter's life was forever changed by the empty tomb of Jesus. The reality of the resurrection began on Easter morning when John outran him to our Savior's tomb. When Peter was with the other apostles on Easter evening, Jesus came and said, "Peace be with you." On the next Sunday, Peter watched as Thomas saw Jesus and confessed, "My Lord and my God." Jesus also appeared on the shore of Galilee and, Peter, fishing with his friends, jumped out of the boat and swam to Jesus who was cooking breakfast for the disciples. This fisherman turned disciple was also there when Jesus ascended into heaven. All told, Peter was an eyewitness to the risen Jesus on at least four different occasions. Then, around 65 AD with the help of Silas, Peter composed his first letter and it **explodes** with resurrection power and joy.

During the Sundays of Easter, we are going to be embarking on journey with a sermon series titled "**Resurrection Realities.**" All of our Epistle readings during the season of Easter are going to be from 1 Peter and our messages are going to help us discover how the realities of Jesus' resurrection transform our lives.

The season of the Church after Easter Sunday isn't a time for us to sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride. It's a time for us to continue the journey and to learn from Peter the **Resurrection Realities** of our new life in Christ. Invite a friend and join us this month! Here is what you can expect in the weeks to come:

**April 12<sup>th</sup>** – "Resurrection Realities on Suffering" – 1 Peter 1:1-9  
(Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. Paul Deterding)

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** – "Resurrection Realities on Lifestyle" – 1 Peter 1:17-25

**April 26<sup>th</sup>** – "Resurrection Realities on Relationships" – 1 Peter 2:19-25

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>** – "Resurrection Realities on Identity" – 1 Peter 2:2-10

**May 10<sup>th</sup>** – Resurrection Realities on Evangelism" – 1 Peter 3:13-22

**May 17<sup>th</sup>** – "Resurrection Realities on Satan" – 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

Your Brother in Christ,  
Pastor James



# Hope Reporter



## Happy Birthday to...

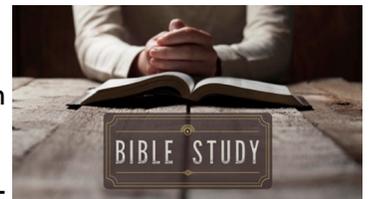
Gabriel Montague 4  
Vallie Listol 13  
Tori Cooper 15

Marcia Ridenour 16  
Karen Reardon 30  
Paul Fox 30



## Weekly Bible Studies

- **Sunday Adult Bible Study** class meets in the Sanctuary between services each Sunday.
- **Children’s Sunday School Classes** meet between services. Preschool-Kindergarten meet in the Fellowship Hall; 1<sup>st</sup> and up meet in Pastor’s office.
- **Wednesday Women’s & Men’s Bible Studies** – Wednesday Women’s & Men’s Bible Studies meet each Wednesday at 10 am. Women meet in the Fellowship Hall and the Men meet in the Sanctuary. These studies will resume on April 15.
- **Wednesday in the Word** begins after Easter break on Wednesday, April 15. Wednesday in the Word Dinner begins at 5:45pm, with Bible Study beginning at 6:30pm. A paper signup for this meal is on the Narthex table if you would like to provide a food item. Contact Leslie (321-507-0587) or Jackie (515-556-6359) with questions.



## Holy Week Services

- April 2, Maundy Thursday Service will be at 7 p.m.
- April 3, Good Friday Service will be at 7 p.m.
- April 5, Easter Morning Services will be 6:30 a.m. at Grills and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. at Hope.



## Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide altar flowers for a Sunday, sign up to reserve the Sunday on the flower chart in the narthex, and indicate who/what the flowers are in honor of. You would then provide your own flowers by Sunday morning, prior to the early service. No donation should be made and there are vases you can use in the kitchen. Flowers can be taken home after late service.



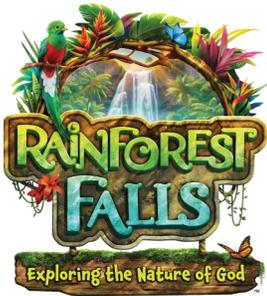
## Altar Flower Procedure

## Church Council Meeting, April 21

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.



April 2026



## 2026 Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School

Save the Date! Kids kindergarten through fifth grade can join us July 13-17 for our 2026 Rainforest Falls VBS-Exploring the Nature of God! Be sure to mark your calendars so you can join us! Registration will open on April 15 at <https://vbspro.events/p/3d8d64>. We would love to see you there!

## We're Halfway There!! - Rainforest Falls VBS Sponsor a Student



Our 2026 Rainforest Falls VBS is scheduled for July 13-17<sup>th</sup>! We hope to host 50 children from our church and community and would love your help in sponsoring them as a way to cover the costs of their individual materials. In sponsoring a VBS student for \$25, your donation will cover a child's Rainforest Falls T-shirt, a Rainforest Falls Book of Psalms, Rainforest Falls Bible Buddies and much more!! Sign up to sponsor in the Narthex. Mark your donation "Sponsor a Student" and drop in the offering plate. See Jackie for more info and thanks so much for your support!



## Save the Date-Spring LWML Rally!!

The LWML Spring Space Coast Zone Rally will be May 2 at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Titusville. Gifts from the Heart will be for Redeeming Life Maturity Home and the guest speaker will be Sheryl DeWitt. Please join us for a day of fun and fellowship. All ladies are welcomed! You may sign up for the rally in the Narthex.

## Support Hope through Online Giving

Your generosity goes a long way in helping Hope fulfill God's mission in Melbourne and beyond! We thank you for supporting our ministry! You can give at [hopebrevard.org/give](http://hopebrevard.org/give) or by scanning the QR code to the left.



## Save the Date—Beach Day June 21

Please join us for a beach / game day at Irene Canova Pavilion in Indian Harbour Beach on Sunday, June 21 beginning at noon and ending at 4 pm. Our destination is Irene Canova Park, 2285 Hwy A1a, Indian Harbour Beach (one block north of Eau Gallie & A1A intersection, oceanside, free parking). Our lunch will be served and eaten INDOORS with AC and bathrooms. The beach is only steps away. We will put up at least two tents on the beach. Look for more details in later notices. Any questions, please contact Jackie at Hope office or Rachel Stutsman at 701-471-4751.

# Hope Reporter

## Mah Jongg with Kathy Mathisen

Our Mah Jongg group meets Tuesdays, 1-3 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. If interested, please let Kathy Mathisen know at 321-345-4770.



## Crochet Crew

Crochet Crew will be meeting on April 2, 16 & 30 at 10 am to crochet and enjoy fellowship. Contact Rachel Stutsman at 701-471-4751 for more information.

## Hope Walks

All are welcome to walk with us at Wickham Park on Saturday mornings at 7am. Assemble just inside the main Parkway entrance. Contact Cathy Chase (321-505-1223) to receive text updates.



## Women's & Men's Bible Breakfast

Our Women's and Men's Bible Breakfast groups will meet next on April 18 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! Sign up in the Narthex. Women may contact Cathy Chase at 321-505-1223 with questions. Men may contact Jim Gillard at 612-209-3858.

## Hope Travelers - Planning Meeting April 12

The Hope Travelers will meet on Sunday, April 12th after the 2nd service. We will be discussing future trips and various other housekeeping items. All are welcome to attend! Please contact Leslie Heumann with any questions (321-507-0587).



## Superhero 5k on April 25th!

Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 8:00 AM. The Avenue Viera 2261 Town Center Ave. Melbourne, FL US 32940 Friends of Children of Brevard presents- The race against Child Abuse. A sign-up sheet will be available for anyone who would like to join the race. The cost is \$33 each runner, if you would like to submit your receipt for the race Outreach will reimburse you. Please sign up in the Narthex and preregister using the following website: <https://runsignup.com/race/fl/viera/superhero>. We did not create a "team", please sign up under the individual option. Please contact Tori Cooper for any questions. Please also wear your HOPE in our community shirt to represent Hope Lutheran Church.

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# Aging Matters

IN BREVARD



## April Ministry of the Month

Aging Matters in Brevard's "Meals on Wheels" program is a vital service that provides hot, well-balanced meals to homebound seniors in Brevard County. The program is designed to support the independence, health, safety, and quality of life for seniors. Trained volunteers deliver meals on a weekly basis, ensuring that seniors can continue to live at home while receiving nutritious meals and safety checks. The program also offers additional services such as referrals to other community resources and emergency response services in case of need. For more information please visit <https://agingmattersbrevard.org/services/meals-on-wheels>

## Hope for the Homeless—Providence Connects



In April, a Thrivent card will purchase Dude Wipes, while Hope members are invited to donate reading glasses/ readers. Thank you for your donation of baby wipes for March and the Thrivent card purchase of 24 sleeping bags. As always, your donations help so many in our community receive a hand up, not a hand out.



## Bakers' Blessings

Our April cookies will go to Johnson Middle and Trinity staff and will be due April 26. We are asking for 2 1/2 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, please put a check mark in the "Cookies Delivered" box. Contact Nancy Sutter (321) 537-2717) with questions.

## Teacher Appreciation Brunches



Spring is time for Hope's annual teacher appreciation brunches. Our brunch dates for Trinity Lutheran School and Sherwood Elementary have not yet been set, but watch for information to be coming out soon. We will be looking for help with food and with onsite serving to show our gratitude to these faithful workers in our community.



## Hope Helpers

Last year Tori Cooper compiled a Hope Helpers list of Hope members willing and wanting to help our church community with household tasks such as yardwork, dishes, laundry, grocery shopping, basic electrical and plumbing, minor household repairs and much much more! You may pick up the list of Hope Helpers in the church office to have on hand if ever a need should arise. And remember, we are a church family so no one should hesitate asking for assistance.

We are all so willing to help where we can!

April 2026



## Food on the First-BLAST

For April 5<sup>th</sup> Food on the First, BLAST is in need of pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned veggies and mac & cheese. As always, any non-perishable, non-expired food items are appreciated and useful. Should you have any questions, please contact Nancy Sutter (321-537-2717.)

## Hope Lutheran Church

4541 N Wickham Road Phone: 321.622.6126  
 Melbourne FL 32935 Email: [pastor@hopebrevard.org](mailto:pastor@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](http://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.