

# The Hope Reporter

## Don't Worry

*"And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?"*

– Luke 12:25-26

Do you worry? Do you turn on the TV or read the headlines on the internet and worry? Do you look at your bank statement or your credit card statement at the end of the month and worry? Do you send your kids off to school, off to college, bid them godspeed in their adventures and relationships and worry? If you can answer "YES" to all those things...and more like them...then please know that you aren't alone.

But I wonder, where do you go when you worry? Often times I go to Jackie with the things I worry about or to my parents or other people who've got a more wisdom and years in life under their belt than I do. But sometimes, maybe even a lot of times, the response I get from people who hear my worries come back with that phrase that does little to nothing to cast my worries aside. I know you've heard it before: **"Don't worry about it."**

To say that someone telling me **"Don't worry about it"** is less than helpful is the understatement of the century. Moreover, I am guilty of uttering those same unhelpful words myself. But I think we say that to one another for one of two reasons. First, we say it because we don't fully understand the situation the other person is in and, second, we don't really *want* to fully understand the situation and just say **"don't worry about it"** and walk away all together. Again, not helpful, not comforting to say the least.

But the good news is, we do have someone in our Lord Jesus that we can go to when we are worried about things. But did you notice how he responds to our worries? Well, to paraphrase Jesus in Luke 12:25-26, **"Don't worry about it."** But where that phrase is not so helpful when our friends or family say it about our worries, it's deeply helpful when Jesus says it to us.

When Jesus tells us not to worry, we ourselves don't have to worry that he doesn't understand our situation at all. Later in Luke 12, he reminds us that our Heavenly Father knows absolutely everything we need and provides it all for us. He reminds us that the very same God who takes care of the sparrows and the lilies of the field, he the same God who created us and knows us so well that he's numbered all the hairs on our heads. Jesus tells us not to worry because we have a God who knows our situation so well that he gave his only Son for us to give us what we truly need more than anything...the forgiveness of sins.

When Jesus tells us not to worry, he shows us that he understands that we have limitations. That sometimes we can't see beyond our circumstances and situations in life, but that he came for that very purpose. That he came to live in our limitations, to experience our lives first-hand so that he might deliver the promise of something better.

Dear brothers and sisters, sometimes when we go to others with our worries, they might pass those things off with a wave of a hand and say **"Don't worry about it"** as they're walking away. But Jesus, he says **"Don't worry about it"** and walk toward us, reminding us that he understands, that he cares, that he's done it all, that he provides it all. So, don't worry. Don't be anxious. Instead, take your worries to the one who has you and your best at heart, and promises to be there when your worries get the best of you.



Your Brother in Jesus,

Pastor James Fernandez

# Hope Reporter

## Happy Birthday to...



Ernie Diebel 4  
Carol Overdahl 8  
Nancy Wapshott 12  
Lydia Mavrogeorge 15  
Lois Diebel 17  
Judie Paul 19

Sawyer Molina 20  
Jim Ridenour 21  
Forrest Moser 22  
Leslie Heumann 28  
Steve Tabor 29

## Happy Anniversary to...

Scott & Tori Cooper	4	10 Years
Pat & Karen Landy	12	36 Years
Ernie & Lois Diebel	15	44 Years
Del & Sylvia Lonnquist	29	7 Years



## Weekly Bible Studies



- **Sunday Adult Bible Study** - Beginning Rally Sunday, September 7, between services in the sanctuary, Hal Stutsman will be presenting "A Brief History of the Christian Church". The Bible study will focus on the events following Christ's resurrection all the way through to the present, with an emphasis on what happened next, as well as why it happened next. Pour yourself some coffee, and join us for something a little different.
- **Children's Sunday School Classes** will resume on Sept. 7, Rally Day!
- **Wednesday Women's & Men's Bible Studies and Wednesday in the Word** will resume on Sept. 10. Watch for more information.



## LWML FL-GA Retreat

The LWML FL-GA Retreat, "Hope Doesn't Let the Story End," will be Friday, Sept. 5 – Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025 at Epworth by the Sea Retreat Center. To Register and information, go to: [www.flgalwml.com](http://www.flgalwml.com). Contact Bunnie Koelsch with questions at 321-432-4419 or [bunniek49.bk@gmail.com](mailto:bunniek49.bk@gmail.com).

## Wednesday in the Word Fellowship Team Meeting



We will be having an all-hands-on-deck WITW Fellowship Team Meeting on Thursday, August 21 at 9:30 am. This is for all individuals who would like to help run Wednesday in the Word Meals and Advent/Lenten Soup Suppers. We will ask volunteers to sign up with a partner for just one month of Wednesday night meals. All menus are preplanned, and responsibilities would include ensuring all items on the menu are accounted for each Wednesday of your assigned month along with set up and clean up on those dates. Please contact Leslie Heumann (321-507-0587) or Jackie Fernandez (515-556-6359) with any questions. We hope to see you there!!



# August 2025



## Women's & Men's Bible Breakfast

Our Women's and Men's Bible Breakfast groups will meet next on August 16 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 with questions. Men may contact Dave Roberts at 804-512-1496. Hope you can make it!

## Mah Jongg with Kathy Mathisen



We are learning and playing Mah Jongg at Hope on Wednesdays this summer from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. If interested, please let Kathy Mathisen know at 321-345-4770. All are welcome!

\*\*\*Watch for a new day/time in September.



## Hope Walks

All are welcome to walk with us at Wickham Park on Friday mornings. Note our new start time for the summer is 6:45 a.m. Assemble just inside the main Parkway entrance. We walk clockwise, so if you are late, start walking counter clockwise to find us. Provide your phone number to Cathy Chase (321-505-1223) to receive text updates. \*\*\*Meet up time will change to 7 a.m. for September and October due to sunrise and change in park opening time.

## Crochet Crew



Crochet Crew will be meeting on August 14 and 28 at 10 am to crochet and enjoy fellowship. If you have any questions or want to learn, please call Rachel Stutsman at 701-471-4751 for more information.



## Hope Lutheran's 20th Anniversary Celebration!

What's Happening at Hope? We're celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a congregation on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>! On that day we will be worshipping at our regular times of 8:30 & 10:30, with a special guest preacher, our Founding pastor, the Reverend Doctor Mark Moreno, dedicating a new Altar Cross and candlesticks, and our refurbished and polished handbells.

And there's more! At 4:30 p.m. we will be further celebrating our anniversary with a slide showcase from our past 20 years, a delicious dinner prepared by our members and caterer Beth Hazley -of Two Chicks and a Pot, and special gifts for our members... This event will be held at Faith "Viera" Lutheran Church, Building E, 5560 Faith Drive, Rockledge, FL 32955.

You won't want to miss it, so mark your calendars! See you on September 14<sup>th</sup>,  
Your 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee  
Llonda Bins-Lohman, Diane Gillard, Jim Gillard, Leslie Heumann



# Hope Reporter

## A Little More Hope Lutheran History



The leadership of Hope was looking ahead to the future in a Visioning Retreat held in 2018, and the thrust was to gain involvement of members in establishing 100 Biblically competent believers in 100 neighborhoods in Melbourne. This concept along with training was a work in progress for many months. An official call was issued to Sister Lois Diebel to serve as Hope's deaconess, specifically to be involved with Christian education and the Hope Cares program. Exciting news for Hope was that the Viera Land Company had land available west of I-95 which it was interested in selling; realistically, Hope was not in a financial position to take advantage of the offer at the time, but it pushed people to think about Hope's future and direction of ministry.

Big changes were in store for Hope, the biggest being Pastor Moreno's acceptance of a divine call to Family of Christ in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with his farewell on March 31, 2019. Despite our sadness at the departure of the Morenos, we still trusted that God cared for Hope and would provide. It turned out to be a busy year: ten ladies from Hope attended the LWML Convention in Mobile in June; Hope developed a signature ministry for Habitat home dedications and also again took part in the Faith Build; Rev. Mark Jurkowski, "Chap Skee," became our adopted chaplain in the LCMS "Adopt a Chap" program; regular worship services were conducted by many local pastors, including our own Pastor John Turner and Pastor Norm Barnette; a special recognition for our veterans was a part of the November activities; our regular education and fellowship programs, Mission Week, and ministries continued. The nursery was moved into the Fellowship Hall to create a separate office space for a new pastor.

The pastoral call committee was formed in May, 2019. After many meetings, completing a church self-study, and looking at calling an intentional interim pastor, they were given the recommendation by circuit visitor, Pastor Brian Roberts, that it was time to proceed with calling a regular pastor. The committee narrowed down the list of names, conducted interviews, and in March, 2020, finally had a recommendation for the congregation: Rev. James Fernandez.

Tune in next month for more of our church's history! Leslie Heumann and Nancy Roberts



Redeeming Life  
Outreach Ministries Inc.



## August Ministry of the Month

Women who come to Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries need so much as they face their crisis pregnancy and prepare for independent living. *Each resident finds a secure home, personalized help, and true hope for the future as they prepare for the birth of their baby.* With rising costs for food, utilities, and programming, ministry costs more now than ever in our twelve-year history. **Will you help today?** Your generous gift supports moms and babies! You can make the difference for women who need help. Your support funds everything from housing to help with employment and education, transportation to training. A gift of \$50 funds a monthly bus pass for a resident. \$75 pays for two weeks of newborn diapers. \$250 provides nutritious food for a week in our maternity home. \$1000 helps fund the personalized programming each woman participates in to gain skills and knowledge for full and independent living.

## Trinity Back-to-School Breakfast



Our annual back-to-school breakfast at Trinity Lutheran School will be held on Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex for items needed, and to sign up to help with serving the breakfast. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Leslie Heumann at 321 -507-0587. Thank you for being a person of Hope in our community!





August 2025



## Sherwood Back-to-School Breakfast

Our annual back-to-school breakfast for Sherwood Elementary School staff will be held at the school this year instead of at Hope. The date is set for August 8th at 8 a.m. We are in need of people to help with breakfast items and also as servers on the 8th at the school. The sign up sheet in the narthex is available for you to indicate how you may assist in this outreach project for our community. Nancy Roberts (804-513-5375) may be contacted if you have questions.

## Food on the First-BLAST



For August, food items will not be due until August 10th. Any non-expired non-perishable items are appreciated. Some of the most needed items are peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, cereal, macaroni and cheese, and granola bars. Should you have any questions, please speak with Nancy Sutter. You can reach her at 321-537-2717. Thank you for your support.



## Sherwood School Supplies

Our Sherwood Elementary backpack and teacher supply donations drive was a hit yet again this year. We were able to fill 14 backpacks with an additional grade level bag of supplies this year. In addition, we were able to supply well over \$300 in teacher only supplies via Thrivent cards which included Clorox wipes, tissues, paper towels, dry erase markers, sanitizer, permanent markers and most importantly copy paper for the many teachers who bless our communities' children here in Melbourne. It is thanks to you, Hope, for valuing the need to help our teachers give their all each year. Your generosity is appreciated!

## Great Places to Take Your "Stuff"



We will not be having a rummage sale at Hope this year. So, what should you do with your "stuff" that you have been saving? We are looking at another opportunity to be Hope in our community by donating to local thrift stores and perhaps doing some shopping there as well.

Following are several thrift stores that you might donate to, many of which support our local outreach ministries. It would be wise to check for hours of operation online or call to have specific questions answered. Some stores will pick up large items.

Lamb Shoppe Haven Thrift Store, 1765 S. Patrick Dr., Indian Harbour Beach, 321-777-6606;

CITA-Helen's House Thrift Store, 1734 Aurora Rd., Melbourne, 321-259-6232;

CITA Campus Thrift Store, 2322 S. Harbor City Blvd., Melbourne, 321-676-4650;

Genesis Boutique, 541 E. New Haven Ave., Melbourne, 321-312-6062;

Ascension Catholic Thrift Shop, 1208 Aurora Rd., Melbourne, 321-610-8742;

Habitat ReStore, 4515 S. Babcock St., Palm Bay, 321-728-4009;

Village Thrift-Love INC of Brevard, 830 N Apollo Blvd., Melbourne, 321-253-9542;

SPCA Thrift Store & Boutique, 790 S Apollo Blvd., Melbourne, 321-327-8305;

Holy Trinity Thrift Shop, 1800 S. Babcock St., Melbourne, 321-727-2797;

Salvation Army Family Store, 2400 W. New Haven Ave., Melbourne, 321-676-6496.



August 2025

**Daily Bread News**

Items are always welcomed year-round. We are purchasing underwear using Outreach funds this month. Hope members can help by supplying socks unisex, men's or woman's. We plan to alternant Outreach funds and Thrivent funds to allow for more Thrivent activities throughout the church. As always, if you have any questions please contact Tori Cooper.

## Hope Lutheran Church



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**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.