

The Hope Reporter

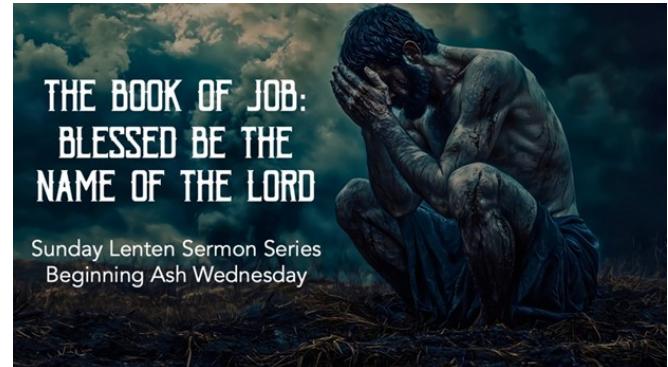
The Book of Job: Blessed be the Name of the Lord

One of the Bible's greatest wisdom books is the book of Job. This Lent, we are going to explore this magnificent composition that is numbered among some of the greatest literature of all time. Nine messages beginning with Ash Wednesday on **February 18th at 10am and 7pm** and following each Sunday after, will help us dig deeply into Job's central message and supporting truths.

The fact is, we all suffer – personally and privately. We also suffer in more public ways. A husband loses a job. A child gets divorced. A parent dies. And now, thanks to the media, we are able to see and experience more and more of the world's catastrophes and suffering. We need the book of Job now, more than ever before!

Martin Luther said, "**Job is magnificent and sublime as no book of Scripture.**" Others have called Job "**The Shakespeare of the Bible.**" Yet, the early Christian scholar Jerome perhaps put it best when he called the book of job an "**eel**", since the more one tries to contain it, the slipperier it becomes! The purpose of our Lenten emphasis is to learn how to apply Job to our lives, so that the book becomes less like an eel a more like a loving companion through life's dark valleys. Here are the themes you can look forward to this Lent:

- Ash Wednesday** – “Flying Blind” (Job 1:1-12)
- February 22nd** – “Sweet Surrender” (Job 1:13-21)
- March 1st** – “Learning to Lament” (Job 3:1-26)
- March 8th** – “It is Enough” (Job 14:1-14)
- March 15th** – “Understanding How it all Works Together” (Job 23:1-17)
- March 22nd** – “God Speaks in the Storm” (Job 38:1-11)
- Palm Sunday** – “On Earth is not his Equal” (Job 41:20-34)
- Maundy Thursday** – “The Good News of a God who Sustains on Our Journey”
(Exodus 16:1-18, 35)
- Good Friday** – “Tearing Down the Spite House” (Job 42:7-9)
- Easter Sunday** – “I Know that My Redeemer Lives” (Job 19:23-26)



Join us this Lenten season at Hope as we journey through the book of Job and learn how he is with us during our times of suffering and struggle.

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor James

Hope Reporter

Happy Birthday to...

Tom White 2	Christine Farneti 16
Marie Rhudy 4	Samantha Serrate 19
Larry Kerley 6	Linda Flanner 26
Barbara Smith 8	Peg Sylvester 27
Kara Matarazzo 9	David Jacobsen 28
Brett Restivo 14	Kathy Mathisen 29



Happy Anniversary to...

Christ & Laura Slater 14	53 Years
Dennis & Elisa Shepperd 14	
Michael & Debi Coran 16	



New Attendance Folders

New Attendance Folders are located near the center aisle of each row. During the service, Pastor James will direct you to fill out the attendance sheet in those red folders and pass them down the row for the next person. Please be sure to fill out all the information in that folder, especially if you commune with us today. If you are a visitor, please mark the appropriate box and give us your email, phone number or address so we can connect with you. Thank you for worshiping with us at Hope!

The Sabbatical Raffle is Going on Now!



In the narthex, we are raffling off a hand-made plate by Elder Rich Sutter and you could take it home with you! We are selling raffle tickets for \$1 for a single ticket and \$20 for five tickets. The winner of the plate will be selected on Sunday, February 15th so make sure you buy your tickets today! All proceeds will go toward Hope's Sabbatical Fund in preparation for Pastor James' sabbatical beginning in April of 2027.



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, February 17

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.



February 2026

Wednesday Evenings in Lent



Not only is the story of the God setting his people free from Egypt is the defining moment for them in the Old Testament, but it is THE Gospel moment of the Old Testament, too. On Wednesday evenings in Lent starting February 25th, we are going to look at the Gospel throughout the book of Exodus as we journey with Moses and the Children of Israel. Here is what we have in store!

February 25th: The Good News of a God Who Hears and Answers Cries, Exodus 2:23–25

March 4th: The Good News of a God Who Reveals Himself to Us, Exodus 3:1–15

March 11th: The Good News of a God Who Sends a Deliverer, Exodus 4:1–20

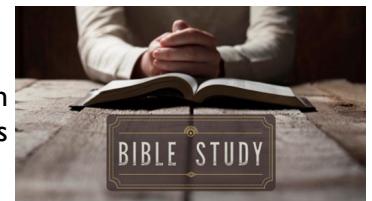
March 18th: The Good News of a God Who Passes over Us in Mercy, Exodus 12:1–14

March 25th: The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us, Exodus 14:5–31

April 2nd (Maundy Thursday): The Good News of a God Who Sustains on Our Journey, Exodus 16:1–18, 35

Join us on Wednesdays throughout the season of Lent for a time of fellowship with our soup suppers at 6pm and Vespers at 7pm as we discover the Gospel in Exodus!

Weekly Bible Studies



- **Sunday Adult Bible Study** - Between services in the sanctuary, Hal Stutsman is presenting "A Brief History of the Christian Church". The Bible study focuses on the events following Christ's resurrection all the way through to the present.
- **Children's Sunday School Classes** meet between services. Preschool-Kindergarten meet in the Fellowship Hall; 1st 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. The men are working through the CPH book *Myth or Faith? Cleaning up Common Misconceptions about Christianity*. The women continue to work through the book, *Strong and Courageous: Studying God's Promises in Joshua* by Donna Snow. All are welcome!
- **Wednesday in the Word Dinner and Bible Study**—We begin our Bible Study each Wednesday at 6:30pm. Along with our study, our Wednesday evening meals begin at 5:45 pm. If you would like to bring a food item for the meal, you may sign up in the Narthex each week. Questions? Please see Leslie (321-507-0587) or Jackie (515-556-6359) with questions.



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 or by scanning the QR code to the left.

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Next Steps Course Beginning February 7



If you have been worshiping 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, February 7th 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.

Chili Cookoff 2026!!



What a wonderful time of fellowship and fun we had at our annual Chili Cook Off. There were 11 amazing chefs in our midst serving anything from chicken to pork and our champion Art Miller with his Venison Bison Chili! Way to go Art. Our second-place winner was Ernie Diebel and third-place was Cindy Livingston. Each of our winners received their very own Chili Superbowl ring and can claim fame... until next year! Thank you to all who donated desserts and items for the luncheon as well as those who set up and took down the event. Hope raised a total of \$763 for Pastor James's Sabbatical Fund. A very gracious Thank You to Mr. Hoover from LCEF for donating \$200 of our grand total on behalf of LCEF.



Hope Travelers - McKee Botanical Garden

On Thursday, February 19th, Hope Travelers will take a trip to McKee Botanical Garden in Vero Beach. The Park is open 11am-3pm and the entrance fee is \$25. There is also a café if our group would like to get lunch or a snack. Please meet at the church for a 10:30am departure; We will be back by 4:30pm. Contact Cindy Livingston or Yvonne Wallace with questions. Signup in the Narthex.

Women's & Men's Bible Breakfast



Our Women's and Men's Bible Breakfast groups will meet next on February 21 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.



February 2026



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 February 5 and 19 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 Walks

All are welcome to walk with us at Wickham Park on Saturday mornings at 7am. 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.

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!



Hope Cares

Hope Cares is a program that matches needs with resources all within our Hope family community. Here are just a few of the categories we could use help in providing:

- Greeting cards to shut-ins and emails
- Meals to homes – mostly after surgery, births, and so on
- Transportation – mostly to church services, appointments, important errands
- Contribute food to funeral lunches, as per the family's request

If you would like to be a resource providing these activities, please fill out a gold half-sheet which is on table in the narthex then check off your choices. Next, please give the form to Deaconess Lois or drop off in the church office. You will receive an email, or phone call, when a request for these items comes up. Hope Cares is truly a blessing to our Hope family. Thank you for your help. If you would like more information, please contact Deaconess Lois Diebel at 321-536-0430 or deaconess.lois@hope-brevard.org

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Thrivent Action Team Cards



THRIVENT
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It's a new year and Linda Miller will be asking Thrivent members to use their Action Team Cards for Hope's Outreach and Inreach programs throughout 2026. She asks that if you have not closed out your cards from 2025 to do so asap. Doing this now will allow you to quickly make your request for a new card. Combined your Action Team cards make \$15,750 of FREE money available for Hope's projects. Thrivent Action Cards are a wonderful source to supplement the outreach programs at Hope Lutheran. If you have cards available, please let Linda Miller know the best way for her to reach out to you by phone or e-mail. Cards are needed monthly for Genesis Food Pantry and Daily Bread. Contact Linda at 321-223-1473 or happy324@aol.com.



Food on the First-Souper Bowl of Caring

Our Food on the First collection will occur on two Sundays in February, February 1 and February 8 to coincide with the Super Bowl game day and Hope's traditional friendly fan competition plus participation in the Souper Bowl of Caring. You may cheer for your favorite team by placing your donations on the team table of your choice—New England Patriots or Seattle Seahawks! All donations will go to the Eau Gallie Blast Program. For February, Blast is in need of pasta, jelly, canned fruit, side dishes and snacks. If you have questions about Blast, please check with Nancy Sutter at 321-537-2717.

Hope for the Homeless-Providence Connects



Providence Connects-Thank you for your donations of bars of soap for January. There have also been backpacks purchased using a Thrivent card. February we will be purchasing sleeping bags using a Thrivent card. Hope members may donate deodorant (stick or spray) for both men and women.



For February, our cookies will go to 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, 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!



Baker's Blessings

Outreach Report for 2025



2025 Outreach Totals- Hope's Outreach expenditures for 2025 totaled was \$29,932.68 which included advertising, external and internal missions. The total income via our 11% of Hope's total income for the year was \$29,105.62. A very generous donation of \$1,050 was added to our Outreach funds via David Heumann's funeral offerings. Thank you, Leslie, for allowing us to honor David. We used eight Thrivent cards for BLAST equaling \$2,000 in addition to donations which gave a grand total of 2,903 items purchased or donated for B.L.A.S.T - Food on the First. As of 12/1/2025, we used 56 Thrivent cards year-round which is an astonishing \$14,000 in extra funds. The 12/31/2025 ending balance in our Outreach account was \$ 15,191.25. It is magnificent to see our wide spread outreach in action as we strive to be people of Hope in our community.



February 2026



February Ministry of the Month

February Ministry of the Month is for Genesis House. IT IS THE MISSION of Genesis House to provide emergency shelter for homeless women and their children, long-term student housing for mothers with children, and a shelter for homeless pregnant women. Genesis House, Inc is committed to providing a safe, supportive, caring environment. Education, self-discipline, self-reliance, and independence from public assistance are earnestly promoted. Counseling, personal improvement classes, and appropriate healthcare are obtained for all residents. They have been serving Brevard County since 1977.

Needs for New Life Mission



New Life Mission- Clothing Closet for Women and Children utilizing the New Life Mission housing on Croton.

- **Volunteering-** a background check is required if anyone finds they want to be involved on a more regular basis in any capacity, they can apply online and follow the steps.
- **Donating Clothes/ Other Items-** best to hold off until the closets are set up first. Once they are, I can provide you with the ongoing specific needs (both used and new).
- **Tuesday night Bible Studies at NLM.** These studies are led in-house, so no services need to be set up. Just need food for 80 people --about 60 of them children. If Hope is interested in rotations or predetermined frequency, information can be provided.

Below are some ideas of what we need. (There is also a wish list for New Life Mission on Amazon that is kept up to date to also assist with selection.)

Women's Clothing (new or lightly used) for 20 to mid-30s aged moms (emphasis on women's sizes 12 -XL)

- Business casual /modest clothing
- Casual/modest clothing
- Scrubs (some of them work in doctor or dental offices) or workout clothes (there's a new onsite Pilates class many are in)
- New only underwear and bras in the larger sizes

Children mostly aged 4-11 (mix of boys and girls)

- New underwear, socks always welcome, shoes
- New or lightly used clothing
- No baby clothing. Of the 60 children, we only have two 6 months + babies and plenty of clothing their size on hand.

We **DO NOT** need general household items (for kitchen, living room etc.) except for:

- **Strong need for used but working Keurig coffee makers (coffee is a treat for the moms and we get lots of K-Cups donated to us by Second Harvest)**
- We occasionally need:
 - o New twin sheets and pillow case sets (in package)
 - o New blankets (in package)
 - o New lightweight bedspreads (in package/but no heavy "filled" kind due to smaller washing machines in apartments) new towel sets

If you would like to help in any way or have questions please contact Cathy Chase or Tori Cooper.

February 2026



Hope Lutheran Church

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 Melbourne FL 32935 Email: 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 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.