

# The Hope Reporter

## New Year's Blessings

*"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him." – Psalm 103:11*



With all the Christmas decorations put away, all the wrapping paper in the trash, all the sweaters, toys, TVs and whatever other gifts we got this Christmas in their proper place, with all the visitors gone and life getting back to normal, it's good for us to slow down for a little bit and take stock in all the blessings that God has given us over the last year.

For Jackie and I, we celebrated 20 years of marriage in 2025 and took a nice, relaxing vacation at Disney. We welcomed two new little kitties into our family, and we were blessed to Celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus with our family who came to Florida to visit, and with our Hope family at all our Advent and Christmas services. Truly, we have been blessed over the last year! But what about you? How have you been blessed in the last year?

As you page through the memories of 2025, it's good to remember also how and why God has blessed each and every one of us. It's not because we were extra good this year. It's not because we achieved a marriage or family milestone. God has blessed us simply because that's who he is. God's steadfast love, his grace, is always shown to those, as the psalmist says above, **"who fear him."** That doesn't mean that we cower in a corner because we're afraid that he might punish us. Far from it. To fear the lord means to serve him, to love him, to stand in awe of his amazing grace, mercy, and love that he has for us.

That's the **why** of God's blessing us, but what about the **how**? Certainly we can look at the material blessings of the last year and give thanks for his provision, but he blesses us in so many other, simpler, smaller, and yet, more significant ways, too. Think about the 66-book love letter he give us in his Word. When we open the Bible, when we drink deeply from its waters, we take in his love for us. Each and every word on those pages, every phrase and verse is God inviting us to see, hear, taste, touch, and feel his love. When we hear God's Word preached to us, it's God himself comforting, encouraging, strengthening, blessing, and inspiring us to be the people he has called us to be. The Bible is a picture of God himself: loving, righteous, all-powerful, ever-present, and all-knowing. God blesses us with his Word and so, in the New Year, let us drink of it daily.

And within the pages of the Bible, we hear about how God blesses us with the blood of his Son, Jesus, poured out for us. It's often said that blood donors **"give the gift of life."** Jesus gave his life, sacrificed himself on the cross, and through that sacrifice, our sins were nailed to the cross right along with him. And as he breathed his last, he gave us the gift of eternal life. So then, along with drinking deeply of his Word in the New Year, let us eat of his body and drink of his blood at his table every Sunday and receive the rich blessing of forgiveness poured out for us all.

God's blessings to you in 2026! Your Brother in Christ, Pastor James

*Thank  
You*

**A Heartfelt Thank You!!**

The Staff at Hope would like to thank the members of Hope for their abundant generosity and kindness shown to us throughout the year, but especially through the wonderful gift you gave to each of us for Christmas this year. We are so very blessed to serve alongside such wonderful people and we can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for us in the year to come! Thanks again and may God bless each of you in the New Year!

## Hope Reporter

### Happy Birthday to...



Rich Sutter 1  
Kathleen Allison 2  
Avery Hintz 6  
David Roberts 7  
David McLeran 9

Melanie Landy 11  
Joline Irvine 19  
Linda Mueller 23  
Caroline Koenig 24  
Jenny Snyder 24

Michael Coran 30

### Happy Anniversary to...

Jordan & Briann Mavrogeorge 5 6 Years  
Alex & Taylor Aldrich 8 3 Years



### 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; 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. 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.



### Church Council Meeting, January 20th

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

### Chili Cookoff 2026!!



This year's Hope Chili Cook-Off will be taking place on Sunday, January 25th after our late service here at Hope. The cost for the Cook-Off will be \$5 and you'll be able to purchase extra tickets to vote for your favorite chili for \$1 each. All proceeds for this year's Chili Cook-Off will go toward Hope's Sabbatical fund as Pastor James prepares for his Sabbatical in the Spring of 2027. Invite your friends and come hungry and ready to crown this year's Hope Chili Cook-Off Champion!



January 2026



## Next Steps Course Beginning February 7



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, 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.

Please email Pastor James at [pastor.james@hope-brevard.org](mailto:pastor.james@hope-brevard.org) if you have any questions or go to [www.hopebrevard.org/education/next-steps](http://www.hopebrevard.org/education/next-steps) to register!



## Women's & Men's Bible Breakfast

Our Women's and Men's Bible Breakfast groups will meet next on January 17 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.

## 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 January 8 and 22 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 Reporter

### Thrivent Action Team Cards



**THRIVENT**  
FINANCIAL®

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](mailto:happy324@aol.com).



**SEL DISTRICT**  
Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod



### January SELC District Support

Our 2026 SELC District and Synod Offering is \$5,635.80 which is a 1% increase from our last years offering. It is important to put the District and Synod first at the start of each new year. Their mission statement "In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world."

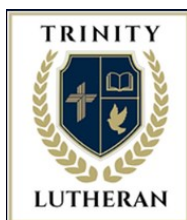
### Trinity Lutheran School News



Dear Hope Lutheran Church, Thank You for Your Generosity-We extend our heartfelt thanks to the members of Hope Lutheran Church for the generous gifts given to our teachers. Your kindness and support were a meaningful blessing and a wonderful encouragement to those who faithfully serve our students each day. We are grateful for your continued partnership in Christian education. National Lutheran Schools Week-During the last week of January, we will joyfully celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week. Throughout the week, students will participate in daily activities that highlight faith, learning, and community. We are also excited to host a World Culture Fair, where students will showcase their learning and celebrate the diversity of God's world. In addition, we look forward to a special Grandparents Day, welcoming grandparents to campus to celebrate their important role in the lives of our students. This week is a wonderful opportunity to thank God for the blessing of Christian education and the families who make it possible. We pray God's blessings on you and your family as we begin the new year together. With peace and love, Theresa Barnewall, Principal



### Trinity Mission Pastor Fund



Our Outreach committee will continue to support Trinity Lutheran School in finding and supporting a Mission Pastor. We began this 3 year monthly commitment in May of 2024. Each month we donate \$250 toward the fund with this January being donation number 21 of 36. We pray for Trinity as they navigate this journey.

### Outreach Committee Meeting



Our next Outreach meeting is on Thursday January 8th 6:30-8pm. Come and join us to see what our Outreach Committee discusses and agrees upon for our church and our community needs.



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## January Ministry of the Month

In January we will be supporting B.L.A.S.T food pantry as our Ministry of the Month. The B.L.A.S.T. program was designed to meet the needs of Exceptional Education Students (ESE) who are 18-22 years old. It focuses directly on transition opportunities and postsecondary goals of students who have deferred their diploma. This student driven/teacher led program strives to work toward a level of independence for every student in the four main domains of transition: Independent Living, Vocational and Employment, Personal and Social, and Recreation and Leisure. Members of the B.L.A.S.T. program participate in a variety of Brevard Public Schools' transition programs, Community Based Instruction, and Community Based Vocational Experiences. Members also participate fully in all aspects of developing and implementing a school-based enterprise. Through hands-on learning centers and labs, members also gain knowledge and experience in a variety of independent living and self-determination skills. Young adults in the program will be encouraged to make choices, participate in work experiences, interact with others in the community, strengthen their confidence level and develop their social and communication skills across all settings. Mission Statement "Supporting students as they transition to adult life with high expectations resulting in excellence for all."

## Hope for the Homeless-Providence Connects



A very big THANK YOU to everyone in our Hope community for going above and beyond in 2025 to bless Daily Bread with much needed resources. It amazes me how generous our little church can be when we reach for and accomplish our goals to be people of Hope in our community. I thank each and every one of you for putting Providence Connects on your heart and supporting this very important community mission. For January, a Thrivent card will be used to purchase backpacks and Hope members can provide bars of soap.



For January, our cookies will go to Sarno Rd Sheriff's Department and will be due on January 25. 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



## Thank You!!—Sweater Ministry

A "Thank You" from Morrison County Social Services in Minnesota for the beautiful sweaters, ponchos, hats, etc. that the Sweater Ministry and the Crochet Crew created and sent at the end of last year: "We here at Morrison County extend our heartfelt thanks for your donation of knitted items. They went especially fast this year due to lack of donated coats for kids and the early cold weather we had. We appreciate your time and talent, but also thoughtfulness of choosing our agency each year! We appreciate your time and talent, but also thoughtfulness of choosing our agency each year! Happy Holidays to you! Shannon Wilczek, HHS Office Services Supervisor."

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## 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](https://hopebrevard.org/give) or by scanning the QR code to the left.

## Hope Lutheran Church

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 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 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](https://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.