

# The Hope Reporter

## America The Beautiful

*“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” – Philippians 4:8*



As I sit here in my office, our country is just three days away from celebrating its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. And what a thing to celebrate! To celebrate that we are able to gather together with friends and family. To celebrate that we are able to speak freely without fear of reprisal. To celebrate that we are still part of this great American experiment that is an inspiration to millions around to the world. But, perhaps for us as followers of Jesus, to celebrate that we are able to gather and worship our God freely and without fear, to receive the good gifts he has to give us each and every Sunday.

And even as we celebrate our 250<sup>th</sup> birthday as a nation, it's almost impossible to not acknowledge that there is sharp division among us as Americans. Racial division. Economic division. Political division. We see it in the news every day, and, if we're honest, it breaks our hearts. If you're anything like me, you think to yourself, "We're Americans! We're better than this!"

So, on this 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States, as we turn our hearts and minds to the next 250 years, perhaps we can take to heart the words of Paul from Philippians 4. Paul tells us to think about those things that are honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and praiseworthy. But so much of our days are filled with the dishonorable, the unjust and impure, the ugly, the damnable, and the abysmal. We see these things on our TVs, we see them in our community, and yes, we even see them in our lives. These things don't move us to songs of praise, but they move us to songs of lament and sorrow.

But what if we really do take to heart Paul's words? What if, in our own lives, we think about all those good, holy things? What if we praise instead of tear down? What if we point out how God is working in mighty ways in our lives, in the lives of others, and even in our country, flawed as it may appear at times? I think if we shift our minds to the things above, we won't be so dragged down by the things we see happening here below.

There's a phrase that maybe you've heard, "Be the change you want to see in the world." While it's certainly not one found in the scriptures, I do think we can apply it to our lives nonetheless. If we want to see change in the world around us, it starts with us, and it starts with keeping our mind on the good, holy, right, pure, and true things of God. When our minds are filled with those things, then we can't help but share the praises of God with those around us. And when his praises go out, God can, and will, do amazing things with that. After all, we can't really change anything. Only God can, and only God HAS though the death and resurrection of Jesus. And he has put us here in this place as his agents to effect that change through our thoughts, words, and actions.

So, on this 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of our beloved country, let us keep our minds trained on things above, on the good things God has given us and blessed us with here in this country. Let's praise him for that, and let's invite our neighbors to do the same, because that is how God will effect change in our community.

Your Brother in Christ,  
Pastor James

# Hope Reporter

## Happy Birthday to...



Tom Decker Sr. 1  
 Scott Minister 3  
 Elisa Sheppard 3  
 Rachel Stutsman 4  
 Jo Strecker 6  
 Debi Coran 9  
 Keenan Myers 11

Karen Coker 13  
 Nancy Sutter 13  
 Robert Irvine 18  
 Judy Mennicke 19  
 Timi Mitnik 21  
 Jan Pettis 24  
 Alex Molina 25

## Happy Anniversary to...

Bill & Jan Pettis	5	41 Years
Pastor James & Jackie Fernandez	9	21 Years
Kelley & Cindy Livingston	26	46 Years
Dave & Nancy Roberts	30	21 Years



## Weekly Bible Studies

- **Sunday Adult Bible Study** meets in the Sanctuary between services each Sunday.
- **Children's Sunday School Classes** will be taking a break for the summer months.
- **Wednesday Women's & Men's Bible Studies and Wednesday in the Word** will be taking a break for the summer months.



## 2026 Rainforest Falls VBS Prep & Setup Day

Our next crafting/prep day will be July 11, 9-12 pm! That morning, we will sort snacks, finalize all projects and complete full VBS setup to get ready for VBS Week!!

## 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.



## Church Council Meeting, July 21

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

July 2026



**RESTAURANT  
BREWHOUSE**



## Hope Dines Out at BJ's on New Haven!

Hope members and friends are invited to share a time of food and fellowship at BJ's Restaurant at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8. BJ's is located at 1700 W. New Haven Ave., Melbourne. There is a signup sheet on the narthex table for you to indicate that you will join us. If you have questions, please contact Leslie Heumann (321-507-0587). Please consider joining your Hope friends for an evening of fun and fellowship!

## Hope Travelers-Treasure Time!



Join us for an exciting day visiting two treasure museums in Sebastian and having lunch at Mulligan's in Sebastian. We will gather in the church parking lot at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 29. Our first stop will be Mel Fisher's Treasure Museum, followed by a visit to the McLarty Treasure Museum. Mel Fisher's Museum admission for those over 65 is \$6.00, under 65 is \$8.00. McLarty Museum admission is \$2. Lunch at Mulligan's will follow museum visits. Please sign up in the Narthex, so we know you are planning to attend. Don't forget to wear your HOPE T-SHIRT. We look forward to seeing you!



## Women's & Men's Bible Breakfast

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

## 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 July 9 & 23, 2026. We begin at 10 am and finish around 11:30 am. If you want to learn or just do your own thing with the group, please join. Any questions, please contact Rachel Stutsman at 701-471-4751.

## Hope Walks



All are welcome to walk with us at Wickham Park on Saturday mornings at 6:45 am. Assemble just inside the main Parkway entrance. Contact Cathy Chase (321-505-1223) to receive text updates.



# Hope Reporter

## Mah Jongg Game Day – August 29<sup>th</sup>

Join us on **August 29<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm** for an unforgettable day of strategy, friendship, and relaxation! Immerse yourself in the world of Mah Jongg with fellow enthusiasts. Whether you are a seasoned veteran or just getting started, you are welcome to join us! The cost is \$25 to enter and you'll get lunch, desserts, and PRIZES! We'll have a 50/50 raffle and gift basket raffles, too! Contact Joline Irvine at 786-393-8241 to reserve your spot today! All proceeds will go toward Hope's Sabbatical fund!



## Hurricane Emergency Action Response Team

Hope Lutheran has a new initiative called HEART, Hurricane Emergency Action Response Team. It's leader is a new member, Bill Pettis. The main function of HEART will be to create a team of people who will be trained and willing to help our members and other community members after a hurricane, specifically in clearing entrances and driveways. An insert will be in your bulletins on July 12 and will also be on the Narthex table. The insert will explain what HEART is all about. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for this new team, please call or text Bill Pettis at 321-427-1428. We are excited to get this team up and running so we can all be Hope to each other and our community in need! \*\*Hurricane preparedness booklets will also be in the narthex if you would like to pick one up.

## Trinity Lutheran School News

God's blessings to our sisters and brothers in Christ at Hope Lutheran Church. We are delighted to share that Trinity Lutheran School has just completed another successful school year, with growing enrollment that reflects the trust families in our community place in Christian education. Each day, we have the privilege of making a lasting difference in the lives of over 100 students in VPK through 8th grade, nurturing both their academic growth and their faith. We would also love your help as we prepare for the coming school year — our Campus Work Day is scheduled for August 1st from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and all are welcome to join us! For more information, please contact our office at (321) 636-5431. Your partnership in this ministry is a true blessing, and we are grateful to walk alongside you in serving the children and families of Brevard County. Theresa Barnewall, Principal, Trinity Lutheran School.



## Outreach Committee Meeting

Our next Outreach meeting is on Thursday July 9 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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## July Ministry of the Month

*life recaptured*REFUGE  FREEDOM

Fighting Against Human Trafficking

Life Recapture's Mission is to offers women who are trapped in sexual exploitation a way to refuge and freedom. Working with the community, we strive to eradicate sex trafficking through awareness, prevention, and restoration. We offer a complete approach to bringing solutions to end sex trafficking and heal survivors through physical and mental health care, case management, spiritual guidance, and mentorship. Their Vision is "Through the teaching of God's words and love, we are committed to end the epidemic of sex slavery and oppression. Life Recaptured provides a safe and compassionate haven where women can find healing, education, and empowerment to take back their lives." They focus on three key goals at Life recaptured. **AWARENESS**- Training is pivotal. We provide the most updated information and equip our community with awareness of this everchanging industry. **PREVENTION**- Impacting the Law: Working closely with our local law enforcement as well as contacts in other areas, we are making an impact for change. **RESTORATION**- Our residential safe homes provide refuge and freedom for our residents. As we strive to transform as many lives as possible, strive with us. **"LIFE RECAPTURED IS NOT A TEMPORARY SOLUTION, BUT A LIFE-LONG STRATEGY FOR RESTORATION."**

## Sherwood Backpacks

Sign Up for Sherwood Backpacks and supplies will be provided on July 12th with a drop off date of July 28<sup>th</sup>. Again, please do not return items during VBS July 13-17<sup>th</sup> as we will be using the Narthex and will not have room to store items. We will be using Thrivent cards to purchase the children's backpacks. You will only need to purchase the items listed on the provided school supplies list. More information to come.



We have taken a break for our BLAST program for the summer but will resume our collections in August (the 3rd is the first Sunday). As always thank you for continuing to help provide items for needy children at Eau Gallie High.



## Food on the First-BLAST

## Hope for the Homeless—Providence Connects

There will be a Thrivent card used to purchase Men's white T-shirts. Our Hope members may donate shampoo/ conditioner. As always, any items donated are greatly appreciated.



## Bakers' Blessings

This month's cookies will go to the Melbourne Police Department and will be due on July 26. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. 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!

July 2026

## 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.