

The Hope Reporter

A Day For Celebration

“God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.”
– Genesis 2:3



As I've been preparing for my sabbatical, I've taken up the task of trying to understand what **rest** really is and what it means and how I can take that with me into the three months that I will be away from you all. As I've done that, I've been reading a book by Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann titled **“Day 7: For Work, Rest, or Play”**. One of the things Dr. Biermann does right out of the gate is give a more clear understanding of what **sabbath**, or **rest** means in the Bible, and what I've learned has shaped my perspective in a profound way that I hope and pray helps you as you, too, prepare for me to be away next spring.

What I've learned is that the word **rest** in Genesis 2 as God rests from all his work is far more than just ceasing to do work, which makes complete sense. God is God, he doesn't get tired like we do and so, he doesn't need to rest from his labors. Certainly as he lays out the command for God's people to rest in Exodus, ceasing from work is part of it, but when you dig deeper, you find that **rest** has a nuance in Hebrew that has a specialized meaning of **“celebrate”** as well. Dr. Biermann says it like this:

“In other words, the point is not that God caught his breath or stretched out for a bit...The rest from work is attended by a deep moment of heartfelt celebration over a job well done.”– Day 7: For Work, Rest, or Play pg. 48

So, God, in completing creation, doesn't just rest to recover, but he rests to celebrate all that he has done. It's sort of like when I finish mowing the grass at home and I step back and rejoice in the perfectly straight lines and the wrestling mat consistency of my lawn. That's what God is doing.

Rest, then, isn't just stopping work, but it's an opportunity for us to rejoice in all that God has created. It makes sense, doesn't it? And the reality of this rejoicing hits even harder when you realize that the first full day that Adam and Eve enjoyed in the creation God had given them was that very first **Sabbath day**. *When God created Adam and Eve, they celebrated right along with him in the joy of what he had done for them.*

For you and for me, as I prepare for my sabbatical, this it is my hope and prayer that you see resting in the same way. Not simply as ceasing your hard work, you need that and so do I, but as an opportunity to rejoice with God in all that he has made for you, in all that he has done for you. And this is no more joyful than when we gather in worship on a Sunday morning to rest and rejoice in the Lord of the Sabbath, our Savior Jesus, who has given his very life for our sins and salvation. Now THAT is something to rejoice about!

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor James

Hope Reporter

Happy Birthday to...



Brianna Small 1
 John Koenig, Jr. 2
 Dennis Sheppard 5
 Mark Engel 5
 Claudia Irvine 6
 Ruth Nichols 8
 Bunnie Koelsch 9
 Tom Knoepfel 11
 Chris Slater 11
 Scott Cooper 15

Wyatt Anderson 18
 Cindy Livingston 24
 Emma Hintz 25
 William Gohier 26
 Beth Hazley 27
 Taylor Aldrich 29
 Kimberly Sutter 30
 Melissa Sutter 30
 Linda Miller 30

Happy Anniversary to...

David & Tammy McLeran	10	48 Years
Allen & Jo Crittenden	13	62 Years
Jim & Marcia Ridenour	18	
John & Suzanne Kluge	18	8 Years
Linda Flanner & Kenneth Pagurek	24	31 Years
Dan & Tracey Spradling	25	10 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 Crafting Days

VBS Crafting/Prep Days will be June 6, 9-12 pm and July 11, 9-12 pm! Each date, there will be a variety of activities to help with, so you can be sure to choose what you would like to do. On July 11, we will finalize all craft/prep projects and we will complete full VBS setup to get ready for VBS Week!! All are welcome to come join the fun!!

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.



June 2026



LWML District Convention

Attention, all ladies! The LWML Florida-Georgia District Convention will be held Sept. 18-20 at the beautiful PGA Resort in Palm Beach Gardens, FL...and you are invited to attend. There are numerous activities besides the meetings (our Hope delegates are Debi Coran and Cindy Livingston) including service and fellowship opportunities. Registration forms and information sheets are available on the narthex table; registration by June 30 is \$200. If you have questions, please contact Bunnie Koelsch (321-432-4419) or Debi Coran (321-848-6697). Please consider joining your fellow Lutheran Women in Mission at this exciting event.

Church Council Meeting, June 16

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, June 16 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.



Save the Date—Beach Day June 21

Please join us for fellowship, lunch and beach time 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, ocean side, free parking). Our lunch will be served at 12:30 pm and eaten INDOORS at the Community Building. This building has AC, tables & chairs and bathrooms. The beach is only steps away. We will put up at least two tents on the beach. Please bring your own beach chairs and toys. For those who want to be inside, we can play board games, cards, corn hole, and of course fellowship! We will be dining around 12:30 and snacks all day!! Hope will be providing the two meats for dining. Side dishes will be provided by members including salads, desserts, drinks and some junk food for the afternoon. A big thank you to Thrivent for their generous gift card.

Please look for a Sign Up Genius tomorrow, Monday, June 1 in your email. There will be a paper sign up on the Narthex table on Sunday, June 7. Please RSVP your attendance and willingness to bring a dish to share.

Any specific questions, please ask Rachel Stutsman at (701-471-4751) or Jackie Fernandez at Hope Office (321-622-6126).

Hope Travelers: Charles Hosmer Morse Museum



Join us for an exciting day of museum, church, and lunch. We will gather in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 18 th. Our first stop will be the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum in Winter Park followed by a stop at the largest church in the SELC District, St. Luke's Lutheran in Oviedo. After a brief tour we will proceed to Miller's Ale House in Oviedo for lunch. Museum admission for those over 60 is \$7.00, under 60 is \$8.00. Lunch at the Ale House is usually \$25-30. We should return back to the church around 4:30 p.m. Don't forget to wear your HOPE T-SHIRT. We look forward to seeing you!



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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 June 11 and 25. Class will begin at 10 and finish around 11:30am. If you have questions or if you would like to learn, 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. ***Note the 6:45 am time change that will begin in June.



Women's & Men's Bible Breakfast

Our Women's and Men's Bible Breakfast groups will meet next on June 20 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 Dines Out @ Red Lobster!

Hope members and friends are invited to share a time of food and fellowship at **Red Lobster at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10**. Red Lobster is located at 2355 W. New Haven Ave., West Melbourne, 32904; the website is redlobster.com/fl/2355-w-new-haven-ave if you are interested in checking the menu ahead of time. 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!



Bakers' Blessings

This month's cookies will go to the Sarno Rd Sheriff's Department and will be due on June 28th. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. 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. Should you have any questions, please contact Nancy Sutter at (321) 537-2717. Thank you!

June 2026



June Ministry of the Month

New Life Mission- Mission Statement: In a Christ-centered environment, we equip homeless women with children to transform their families for generations. Through education, accountability, and goal advancement, our program empowers families to become self-sufficient and break the cycle of homelessness. Our ReNewed Life Program serves women with children who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We are not an emergency shelter or a temporary housing solution. We are a four-phase residential program that consists of education, accountability and goal advancement – all in a Christ-centered environment. \$50 provides breakfast, lunch and snacks for 1 child for 1 week, \$100 provides meals, activities and field trips for 1 teenager for 1 week, \$250 provides meals for 5 children for 1 week. When children are cared for in a safe, loving environment, our moms are able to focus on setting goals to move their families forward. By providing no-cost childcare to the families in our program, we are able to remove the barrier many women face in finding safe, affordable care for their little ones. At the Transformed Shop- We are helping women move beyond their experiences of homelessness, trauma and abuse to find hope, healing and creativity.

Thrivent Action Teams! Help Wanted!



Thrivent Coordinator- As many of you know, Linda Miller has been coordinating Thrivent cards for various Hope Ministries for many years now. Unfortunately, she will be moving by the end of this summer and will no longer provide this service for Hope. We thank her immensely for all the time, dedication and organization she has provided for Hope. We have been able to use Thrivent cards for well over \$15,000 a year on projects, events and missions throughout our community and beyond. We are looking for someone to step up and step into this job title to ensure our Thrivent cards are used appropriately throughout the year. We have systems in place to make this transition go as smoothly as possible. If you would be interested in taking on this task please contact Tori Cooper. Thrivent is vital to our Mission success here at Hope.



Thrivent Cards- In addition, if you are NOT a Thrivent member and would like more information, please contact Linda Miller or Tori Cooper. If you a NEW Hope member and ARE a Thrivent member please inform us so that we can get you on our supporters list. In the last two years, due to those who have passed on to the Lord or those who have or will be moving we have lost roughly 20 Thrivent cards which makes a big impact on our outreach missions balance each year. Thank You for your continued support!



Habitat for Humanity Home Cleaning

It's getting close to Dedication Day for a Habitat home! One of the ways Hope can help is by doing post-construction cleaning to help prepare homes for dedication; in recent years onsite work for Habitat has been limited, and we are excited to have this opportunity to work at a Habitat home. Hope has been invited to help with cleaning on June 4 at 2618 Lipscomb St., Melbourne, 32901 (the 3D printed home). Cleaning and check-in will begin at 9 a.m., and you are invited to bring your favorite cleaning tools if you wish. Please sign on the sign-up sheet in the narthex to indicate that you intend to help with cleaning. Contact Nancy Roberts at 804-513-5375 if you have questions or need more information. Thank you so much for your support of Habitat and for serving our community!

June 2026



Habitat Home Dedication, June 16

Habitat
for Humanity®
of Brevard County, Inc.

The next Habitat home dedication will be a very special one: the dedication of Space Coast Habitat's first 3D printed home. Dedication day is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, at 10 a.m. at 2618 Lipscomb St., Melbourne, 32901, and it is expected to be well attended by the community. Pastor plans to be there to present a cross, cleaning basket, and Walmart gift card from Hope. Everyone is invited to attend this exciting event!

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 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.