

The Hope Reporter

Killer Silence

"For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer." – Psalm 32:3-4

As the month of March begins, we turn ourselves, ever more gradually with our Lord Jesus, toward Jerusalem. To the place where he would be welcomed to the cheers of young and old alike and heralded as the "blessed one who comes in the name of the Lord." To the city where, just a few days after his Triumphal entry, he would be betrayed, denied, derided, crucified and buried. All this happens in Jerusalem.

And as we stand in horror at the scene that unfolds, we can't help but think about what it is that has brought these horrors upon our Lord. Perhaps, during other parts of the year, we can do our best to compartmentalize our betrayal, we can pigeon-hole our denials, we can justify our derision, and squirrel away our sinfulness. We can do our best to hide it all, and only occasionally do we allow them to squeak out into the open.

But this time of year, as the Sixth Sunday in Lent pushes us toward Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, we are struck with the realization that we can no longer hide. That in our silence, as the Psalmist writes, in our attempts to hide our sin, we've really been wasting away, groaning under the weight of it all, straining under the unbearable pressure to make ourselves look holy and righteous, not just before those around us...but before God himself. This time of year, we are called to take an inventory of how we measure up to what God expects. Is he number one in our lives? Do we love hearing and reading his Word? Is his name kept holy among us? We go through that list, and the pressure builds because, while we've remained silent, we've been dying inside knowing that we deserve the worst.

The list continues, doesn't it? Have I honored those in authority over me? Have I valued the lives of all those around me? Have I let the sinful, lustful desires of my heart get the best of me? Have I taken what doesn't belong to me? Have I defended, spoken well of, and put the best construction on everyone? And the pressure builds. The groaning increases. Strength is dried up. All because we've remained silent, and that silence has been slowly killing us.

But this time of year, as we turn our hearts and minds toward Jerusalem, we remember another one who remained silent. We remember another one who was under such immense pressure that he sweat drops of blood. We remember another one whose felt God's heavy hand of judgment fall on him so hard that it took his very life. We remember Jesus, whose taken all those sins that we don't like to talk about, on himself, so that, as he breaks his silence, we hear the promise **"Father, forgive them, the know not what they do."** And so we are...forgiven.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus, the end of this month we will journey toward the cross during Holy Week, and it is my prayer that as we do that, you will no longer remain silent about your sins, but name them, lay them at the foot of the cross of Jesus because, after all, he took them so that the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 32:5 might be yours: **"I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin."** – Psalm 32:5

Confess your sins, always, but most especially this month as we turn our hearts, with Jesus, toward Jerusalem.
Your brother in Jesus,
Pastor James



Hope Reporter

Happy Birthday to...



Regina Gohier 4
John Stephens 14
Joseph Miller 18

John Turner 19
Jim Gillard 21
James Fernandez 25

David Mennicke 28
Jeanne Zarro 28
Megan Koenig 30



Weekly Bible Studies



- **Sunday Adult Bible Study** meets in the Sanctuary between services each Sunday. Elder, David Heumann, is currently leading a study of Hebrews.
- **Children's Sunday School Classes** are held between services for kids preschool through High School. Students 1st-5th grade meet in Pastor's office; 6th-12th graders meet in the church office; Preschool/Kindergarten students meet in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Wednesday Women's & Men's Bible Studies** – Men's and Women's Bible Studies meet weekly on Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. The men meet in the Sanctuary and are working through a Lutheran Hour Ministries study on Forgiveness. The women in the Fellowship Hall and will begin a Right Now Media Study of 1 Corinthians on March 6. We would love to have you join us! Please contact Jackie Fernandez at 515-556-6359 if you have questions or would like to join us.
- **Wednesday in the Word** is taking a break during Lent and will resume on April 10. Join us for Lenten soup suppers and services each Wednesday evening during Lent. Supper begins at 6 p.m. and Lenten Worship Services begin at 7 p.m. If you can bring a food item for Soup Supper, look for Signup Genius in your email or find a paper signup on the table in the Narthex each Sunday. Hope you can make it. Any questions, please call Rachel Stutsman 701-471-4751 or Jackie Fernandez.



Holy Week



Holy Week Services

- March 24, Palm Sunday Services, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- March 28, Maundy Thursday Service will be at 7 p.m.
- March 29, Good Friday Service will be at 7 p.m.
- March 31, Easter Morning Services will be 6:30 a.m. at Grills and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. at Hope.

Church Council Meeting, March 19th

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.



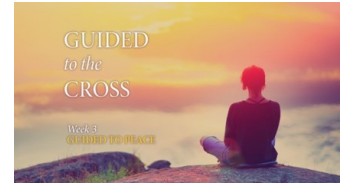
March 2024

2024 Sunday Lenten Schedule

Lent is a season when we are guided to the cross. Throughout this holy time, we are drawn to Calvary to live in forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust, and perseverance. Each **Sunday** in Lent, the services in this series will reveal how Christ and his cross serve as examples for us of how to live our lives for and through our crucified Lord and Savior.

March 3rd

Guided to Peace – We are drawn to Calvary to receive peace. In this service we will think about how to live lives of peace in our hearts, souls and minds through Christ, who brought peace between us and God through the Cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

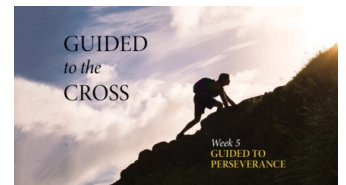


March 10th

Guided to Trust – We are drawn to Calvary to deepen our trust. In this service we will think about how to live lives of trust in God, who entrusted his Son, Jesus, on the cross for our sake. (1 Timothy 1:15)

March 17th

Guided to Perseverance – We are drawn to Calvary to grow in perseverance. In this service we will think about how we can live lives of perseverance in the midst of strife in the name of Jesus, who endured the cross to the very end for us all. (Ephesians 6:10)



Wednesday Evenings in Lent

Throughout Lent, each Wednesday evening, Hope Fellowship is hosting soup suppers followed midweek Lenten Worship services. Supper begins at 6 p.m. with worship to follow at 7 p.m. This year, our Wednesday evening services will be following a series titled **Were You There?** Here are the themes for each week. Join us for a time of fellowship and worship!



March 6th—*Were You There When He Was Accused?* – Jesus stands before Pilate in Luke 23:1-5 and stands wrongfully accused by those who wish to see him dead. Even though he is completely innocent and the charges brought against him are false, Jesus stands accused for us.

March 13th—*Were You There When He Was Condemned?* – We'll look at Matthew 27:24-26 as Pilate releases the criminal Barabbas and puts Jesus in his place to be crucified. As Jesus is condemned, we stand released and set free.

March 20th—*Were You There When He Was Crowned with Thorns?* – The agony of Jesus continues in Matthew 27:27-30 as the soldiers strip him, mock him, and crown him with thorns. Are you there? Are you mocking Jesus with the way you think, act, and speak?

Hope Reporter



Save the Date for Scuba VBS!!

The dates for our 2024 "Scuba" Vacation Bible School have been set for July 15-19th. Be sure to mark your calendars so you can join us! We will have a sign up for our Sponsor-a-Student program out soon.

Crochet Crew



Crochet Crew will be meeting on March 14. Our class will run from 10-11:30 am. If you are interested in learning or improving your skills, please join us. Any specific questions, please call Rachel Stutsman at 701-471-4751.



Women's & Men's Bible Breakfast

Our Women's and Men's Bible Breakfast groups will meet next on March 16th 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 or Rachel Stutsman 701-471-4751 with questions. Men should contact Dave Roberts at 804-512-1496. Hope you can make it!

Altar Flower Procedure



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. If you have questions, see Jackie.



Altar Flowers



THRIVENT
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Direct Your Thrivent Choice Dollars

A reminder for Thrivent account holders: be sure to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2023 by March 31. Choice Dollars are offered by Thrivent as a fraternal entity, and your Choice Dollars may be directed in support of numerous worthy organizations, including Hope Lutheran. If you need assistance with your Choice Dollars, please contact your agent or check with Jackie.

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.



March 2024



Loving Stitches Starting Up Again

Loving Stitches is ready to start up again. We have taken a break as we worked on partnering with VITAS Healthcare sewing for those who have entered hospice care. Our project this year will be making Veteran's Bed Scarves for veterans who have entered hospice. Deaconess Lois will be getting some sewing kits together soon. There will be a sewing workshop at VITAS Offices, Melbourne, in which we are invited to participate. We have no details currently. If you are interested in joining Loving Stitches sewing group or are interested in more information, please contact Deaconess Lois via email, deaconess.lois@hope-brevard.org, or in person after church.

Sign Up for Hope Cares!



Here at Hope, we have the *best* Outreach, we also have a wonderful program to take care of our Hope family. The beginning of a new year is a great time to sign up for Hope Cares. There are lots of categories in which you can participate; such as, sending greeting cards to our shut-ins, bringing a meal to someone that has had injury or surgery, making a phone call, or giving someone a ride to church or to do errands. All you have to do is pick up a golden colored half-sheet and check off the items which interest you. If you are already signed up, check to see that you still are interested in those items that you checked. It's a great way to help others in our Hope family and share your blessings. Please contact Deaconess Lois via email, deaconess.lois@hope-brevard.org with questions.



Hope for the Homeless

We look forward to continuing our trend of community outreach in 2024. We will be doing more face-to-face donation with our time and talents which will include 5th Sunday volunteering at the Daily Bread for their Breakfast/Lunch events. There are four 5th Sundays in 2024 (March 31, June 30, September 29 and December 29) and we are looking for a group of 6-8 Hope members to volunteer from 10:30am-1:30pm. This would allow you to attend first service at Hope then volunteer for a very worthy cause after. What better way to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community.

There is a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex for our first event on March 31st from 10:30am-1:30pm. It happens to be Easter on this Sunday, what better way to praise our Lord than to be the hands and feet of Jesus. There are Volunteer Applications next to the sign-up sheet that **MUST** be filled out completely and returned to Tori Cooper before the event date. All volunteers are required to fill out this form per Daily Bread rules and regulations. We will wear our Hope t-shirts (Blue, Yellow or White- not Thrivent shirts) and sneakers.

We will be using a Thrivent Card to purchase drawstring/ reusable bags for Daily Bread. Hope members can donate deodorant (men's/ women's- regular or aerosol form). Thank you to all those who donated clothing and hygiene items.

If you have any questions about our ongoing Daily Bread collections or about volunteering to help at a meal, please contact Tori Cooper at Outreach@hope-brevard.org or Tori65roses65@yahoo.com.

Hope Reporter

Trinity Lutheran School News



Dear members of Hope Lutheran,

During Lent we are thankful to God and His great love for us. He sent Jesus to die and rise again to save us from our sins. Our Spring Break will be the last week of March, so it will end on Easter Monday!

Registration for the 2024-25 school year is now open! If you have a child or grandchild in K-6th grade and are interested in them attending Trinity, please contact our school office at 321-636-5431. Florida State Scholarships are available and cover the cost of tuition. We would be happy to give you a tour of our campus! We are also having an Open House on Thursday, April 25th if you know anyone that wants to check us out.

Our students' artwork was on exhibit at the Lift Every Voice event on February 18th in honor of Black History month. Our 4-6th grade students participated in the Florida-Georgia District Music Festival at the end of February. We are grateful for our music teacher, Mr. Duperon and all of his efforts. We are proud of our students for giving it their best! In March, our students of the month will be recognized for Fruit of the Spirit, Faithfulness.

Our spring tutoring is underway. If you are interested in helping, please contact me (Becky Houston) at Trinity Lutheran School. My email is bhouston@trinity-rockledge.org. Our school phone number is 321-636-5431. We have Chapel services every Wednesday morning at 8:40 a.m. You are always welcome to attend.

Thanks again for all your support! Blessings, Becky Houston, Principal, Trinity Lutheran School



Outreach Committee Meeting

Our next outreach meeting will be March 14th at 6:30pm in the Hope sanctuary. All are invited to participate in our Outreach Committee! You may contact Outreach

Director Tori Cooper at Outreach@hope-brevard.org or Tori65roses65@yahoo.com with questions or just show up!!

Baker's Blessings



This month's cookies will go to the Sarno Rd Sheriff's Office. 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 to church, 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!



Seminarian Davin Alberson

We had a lovely Zoom meeting with Davin and his family. We welcomed his new baby girl and sent the family a sweet card and \$200 Walmart gift card to be used for the new baby. Please continue to keep his family in your prayers as he continues his studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO.

March 2024



March Ministry of the Month

This March we are donating \$750 to Helen's House. Utilizing Christian principles, Helen's House endeavors to help homeless individuals overcome their hardships and become self-sufficient. Provide funding for room and board, mentoring, counseling and life skills training for homeless, addicted and at-risk individuals.

Provide room and board, mentoring, and life skills training for homeless women.

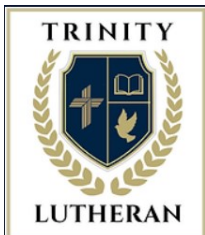
Monetary Ministries of the Month



For the month of March we will be donating \$500 to Nana's House. Their mission is to provide housing and wrap around support for foster families in Brevard County. These foster families care for the neglected, abused, needy, and abandoned children in our state foster system. Nana's House helps foster parents provide a safe, loving home for the child. They work to provide housing, utilities, transportation, clothing, school supplies, toys, household items, and anything else the foster families and the children they serve may need. The children live in a home with two foster parents – mother and father – and other children – up to five per home.



Opportunities for the child to participate in whatever extracurriculars they may have an interest in, be it dance lessons, team sports, swimming lessons – all of which are above and beyond what the child would have experienced in their former life. They provide all of this and more to the foster families in our program.



We are also donating to Trinity Lutheran School Lunch Angels- (\$500) for the month of March. This donation will help alleviate some of the parent's lunch accounts for their children. Students are charged \$5 a day per student for lunch. Parents with multiple children often find it hard to keep up with this payment weekly/ monthly.



Souper Bowl of Caring

Many thanks to all who made donations to our Souper Bowl of Caring/Food on the First collection for Genesis Food Pantry. The Chief's table received 152 food items and \$20 and the 49ers table received 154 food items! Our Thrivent card of \$250 purchased an additional 223 items for a grand total of 529 items donated. What a blessing! Thank you

for being Hope in our community! B.L.A.S.T of Eau Gallie High school will be the recipient of all future Food on the First Donations.

Food on the First—B.L.A.S.T!



We will continue to do Food on the First, however we will be supporting Eau Gallie High School's B.L.A.S.T's food pantry beginning with our March 3rd Food on the First collection. BLAST hosts a food and clothing pantry for Eau Gallie High School students in need. We will be using a Thrivent card monthly from March to May and August to December (8 months equaling \$2,000 in Thrivent dollars) as we will not donate during the school year's summer break. In addition to the Thrivent cards used for the year, a \$750 donation was made in January as our Ministry of the Month. We are working on getting the director at BLAST to come for a short presentation in February.



March 2024

Hope Lutheran Church

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Melbourne FL 32935 Email: pastor@hopebrevard.org
www.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.