

The Hope Reporter

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-Isaiah 40:3



"Being Prepared"

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– Isaiah 40:3

How do you prepare to go to your dentist appointment? If you're anything like me, you make up for all the time that you've not flossed for the last six months since your last appointment the night before in hopes that it will fool the hygienist into thinking that you've been diligent about flossing all along. And, of course, the hygienist is on to you. Your gums are bleeding when you go in and there's still remnants of the backlog of non-flossing stuck between your teeth. And each time you leave the dentist, you make a commitment to floss every day so you don't reap the whirlwind of your dentist the next time around. And sure, you keep up with it for a few days...but you it always kind of drops off the radar by the end of the week.

Being prepared is important in all different areas of life, not just in the sphere of dental hygiene. Being prepared is especially important when it comes to being prepared for Easter. And that's what the season of Lent is all about...**being prepared**. During this contemplative time of the church year, we strive to think about the things Christ did while here on earth. The miracles, the teachings, the way he interacted with those around him. And we really drill down and focus on what he did for us during Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday this month.

During Holy Week, we think about his kingly reception to the cries of "**Hosanna!**" We think about his last meal with his disciples and all that it means for us today. We think about his betrayal, his trial, and his crucifixion. As we hear these things again, and as we remember that it is our sin that put him on the cross, it causes deep sorrow in our hearts. But at the same time, our hearts are filled with profound gratefulness that Jesus went through such great pain and suffering to earn forgiveness for us. And all of this, the season of Lent and the events of Holy Week, help us to prepare well for the message of Easter.

When we wake up with the sun on Easter, we're ready to jump for joy, to rejoice that Jesus has risen from the dead and that we, ourselves, are promised that same resurrection when our Lord calls us home to be with him forever.

As God's children, let us not put off being prepared for Easter as if it were one of those dreaded dentist appointments. Instead, let us forge ahead during this Lenten season by starting each week off in worship where he delivers his forgiveness through his Word and Sacrament. Let us remain constant in prayer for ourselves and for others. Let us continue steadfast in our study of his Holy Word. Doing these things will ensure that we are well prepared, not just for Easter this year, but for every Easter to come, and for that wonderful day when we will see Jesus face-to-face in the joys of paradise.

May the Lord bless and keep you as you continue your journey through Lent, on to Holy Week, and toward the empty tomb of Easter!

Your Brother in Christ,
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

Happy Anniversary to...

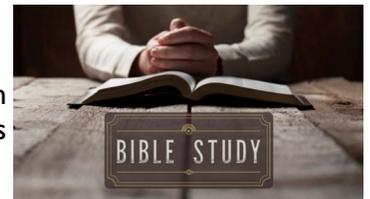
Tom & Cindy White 1 2 Year



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 will be working through some individual LWML studies in the coming weeks. All are welcome!



Save the Date for Rainforest Falls VBS!!

The dates for our 2026 "Rainforest Falls" Vacation Bible School have been set for July 13th -17th. Be sure to mark your calendars so you can join us!

Save the Date-Spring LWML Rally!!



The LWML Spring Space Coast Zone Rally will be May 2 at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Titusville. Gifts from the Heart will be for Redeeming Life Maturity Home and the guest speaker will be Sheryl DeWitt. Please join us for a day of fun and fellowship. All ladies are welcomed!



"Thank You" from Linda Miller

Thank you to all who helped with Austin's Memorial service. Unfortunately I had, and still have, "Funeral Brain" so I don't know all who participated. Pastor James and Kathy Burrier for the formal service; Jim Gillard and others who made this the first "live stream funeral;" and those who provided the luncheon (including pie), set up and clean up. Bless you all!

March 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 during Lent, we are taking a 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!

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! [Sign up for Soup Supper food items in the Narthex each week.](#)

New Member Welcome, Sunday March 1

Be sure to join us on **Sunday, March 1** as we celebrate and welcome the newest members of Hope Lutheran Church family!



Our new members are:

Wyatt & Julia Anderson
Zachary Colon
Allen & Pearl Crittenden

Frank & Carole Engi
John & Suzanne Kluge

We thank and praise God that they have joined us here at Hope! Be sure to introduce yourself to them, if you haven't already!



Women's & Men's Bible Breakfast

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

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.



Hope Reporter

Crochet Crew

Crochet Crew will be meeting on March 5 and 19 at 10 am to crochet and enjoy fellowship. Contact 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. Contact Cathy Chase (321-505-1223) to receive text updates.

Superhero 5k on April 25th!

Save the date! The 14th Annual Superhero 5K and one mile fun run on behalf of Friends of Children of Brevard will be on Saturday April 25th, 2026 at the Avenue Viera. A signup sheet will be made available soon. Come join the fun—Superhero capes will be available to decorate with your signup confirmation. We have the option to have a table space at the race. If you are interested in manning a table possibly for individual prayer warriors or just to be the face of Hope in our community and do not necessarily want to RUN, please contact Tori Cooper for more information. Prayer warriors will not be required to sign up for the race or pay the race fee.



March for Meals Awareness Walk

While we are focused on providing meals for children, it is also good to be aware of the need for meals for seniors in Brevard County. On Saturday, March 21, Aging Matters in Brevard is coordinating a Brevard March for Meals Awareness Walk at Wickham Park. The event starts at 9 a.m. at the Wickham Park Senior Center, and walkers/runners may register for a 5K or a one-mile event online with a \$30 entrance fee. Though we will not have an official team from Hope, you are encouraged to participate and/or donate in support of Meals on Wheels. The website is RunSignup.com; then go to "Find a Race"; then Search: Brevard March for Meals. Meals on Wheels provides for the delivery of hot, well-balanced meals to seniors along with a friendly visit and safety check. To donate or for more info about Meals on Wheels, check agingmattersbrevard.org. Contact Nancy Roberts with questions (nlr7clover@gmail.com or 804-513-5375).

Direct Your Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2025 must be designated by the end of this month. If you are a Thrivent member, be sure to direct your Choice Dollars to a favorite charity before they expire on March 31. Hope Lutheran Church is one of the options available.



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL



Food on the First-BLAST

For March I Food on the First, BLAST is in need of pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned veggies, mac & cheese and snacks. As always, any non-perishable, non-expired food items are appreciated and useful. Should you have any questions, please contact Nancy Sutter (321-537-2717.)

March 2026



March Ministry of the Month

Our March Ministry of the Month is Helen's House, a planned refuge for homeless women and children. For years the CITA Mission for Men has received requests for help from women, and Helen's House, named for Helen Ellison (wife of CITA founder Johnny Ellison), is envisioned as a shelter for homeless women and children. The goal is to provide "a safe haven for women and children where grace will restore, train, and transform lives." The capital campaign for the Helen's House building project is well underway, and like the CITA Mission, no state or federal funding is involved. A residence for up to 48 people is planned to operate with the same principles as CITA (Christ Is the Answer). The website at CITArescuemission.org/helens-house gives additional information about Helen's House and also includes visuals of the residence hall plans. Helen's House Thrift Shop is located at 1734 Aurora St., Melbourne.

Hope for the Homeless—Providence Connects



Thank you to those who have donated to Providence Connects for 2026. So far Thrivent cards have purchased backpacks (January) and sleeping bags (February). Bars of soap and deodorant were donated by Hope members. Thank you for continuing to bless this very worthy ministry. In March, we will be using a Thrivent card to purchase bug spray and Hope members are asked to donate baby wipes.



Baker's Blessings

Our March cookies will go to Sherwood Elementary School staff and will be due March 29. 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. Contact Nancy Sutter (321) 537-2717) with questions.

Hope Cares



Hope Cares Hope Cares is a program that takes care of our Hope family. There is a lot that all of us can do to be of help to others here at Hope Lutheran. It may be donating food items for funeral and memorial services or sending out sending greeting cards to the homebound or those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Perhaps you would like to bless someone by bringing a meal to them in their time of need, due to injury or surgery, or by giving someone a ride to church. We serve our Lord and share our blessings.



Getting involved is easy. Just pick up a goldenrod (yellow/gold) colored half-sheet that lists all the activities we offer and simply choose your interests. Be sure to add your contact information to be added to email lists for chosen activities. You will receive an email to let you know you are added. If you have any questions, my contact information is below. If you ever need to change your list of activities for the program, it's no problem, just let me know. Deaconess Lois Diebel deaconess.lois@hope-brevard.org

March 2026



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.

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.