



# The Hope Reporter

## Living in the Spirit

You can imagine how the disciples felt as they watched the resurrected Jesus ascend into heaven at the beginning of the book of Acts. Not long before that day, they'd been gathered in the Upper Room, fearing for their lives that they would meet the same fate as their teacher and friend, Jesus. Then, that same Jesus, appeared to them, risen from the dead with the scars to prove it, filling their heart with inexpressible joy. And now, they were there, eyes trained on the sky, their minds reeling with the mission they'd been given to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. What a task! But how would they be able to do it?



But Jesus made them a promise that they wouldn't be left alone to figure it out. He said to them **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”** (Luke 1:8). Jesus was going to send them a helper, and that helper came upon them 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead, filling them and giving them the ability, not just to speak in different languages, but to do so with boldness and confidence knowing that the God who rose Jesus from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit to them, would be with them as they carried out their mission to the ends of the earth.

That very same Holy Spirit lives in us and on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, we are going to celebrate that first Pentecost and be reminded that we are made alive by the Holy Spirit. This is the same Spirit who entered Jerusalem 50 days after that first Easter and changed the world forever. Through our message, our readings, our liturgy, and our songs, we are going to celebrate living in the spirit day-by-day in what we do and say, directed by the divine.

So, join us at Hope on Pentecost Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, and celebrate with us how we are made alive by the Spirit!

Your brother in Christ, Pastor James

## Rummage Sale, May 15-16!! Bring your Stuff! Help with the Sale!



Just around the corner is this year's rummage sale, and lots of help is needed. First of all, we are asking for your donations; please note: gently used clothing and shoes will be accepted, but no large furniture items. You may start bringing your sale items to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 3 before or after services. Thereafter, you may bring them on May 5-8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The last official drop off day will be Sunday, May 10.

We will be using the sanctuary space for the sale and will need help in setting up after second service on May 10. From May 11-14 we will need helpers to sort, organize, and price items, and on the sale days, May 15-16 we need volunteers to be cashiers and shopper assistants. If you have clean plastic bags, we will be collecting them in a box in the Fellowship Hall. Then, on Saturday, after the sale, we will need help in packing up unsold items and in restoring the sanctuary to our regular worship space.

The sale proceeds will be going to the Sabbatical Fund, and many workers will be needed to make the sale a success. We are especially in need of helpers on sales days. Please consider how and when you may help, and feel free to sign up several times on the signup sheets in the narthex located on the donut table today. If you have questions, please contact Carole Engi (321-745-0283), Sandy Murren (321-917-0415), or Nancy Roberts (804-513-5375).

# Hope Reporter



## Happy Birthday to...

Nancy Roberts 2  
Julia Anderson 5  
Keith Mitnik 13  
Carolyn Sutter 16  
Christine Molina 20

Gabby Molina 20  
Sandy Restivo 21  
Mark Burrier 23  
Kelley Livingston 24  
Cindy White 24

Teresa Serrate 25  
Kathy Burrier 28  
Anna Miller 29  
Karen Landy 31  
Dan Spradling 31

## Happy Anniversary to...

Scott and Tori Cooper 14 10 years  
Art & Anna Miller 19 25 Years  
Ray and Jo Strecker 23 56 years  
Hal and Rachel Stutsman 28 43 years



## Weekly Bible Studies



- **Sunday Adult Bible Study** class meets in the Sanctuary between services.
- **Children’s Sunday School Classes** meet between services. We will meet through May 24th and then will break for the summer.
- **Wednesday Women’s & Men’s Bible Studies** – Wednesday Women’s & Men’s Bible Studies meet each Wednesday at 10 am. Women meet in the Fellowship Hall and the Men meet in the Sanctuary. We will meet through May 27 and then break for the summer.
- Our **Wednesday in the Word** dinners and Bible study will continue to meet each Wednesday through May 27. Wednesday in the Word Dinner begins at 5:45pm, with Bible Study beginning at 6:30pm. A paper signup for this meal is on the Narthex table if you would like to provide a food item. Contact Leslie (321-507-0587) or Jackie (515-556-6359) with questions. We will meet through May 27 and then break for summer.



## May 17 Congregational Meeting



The 2026 Spring Congregation Meeting of Hope Lutheran Church will be held Sunday, May 17. A light lunch will be served after the second service followed by the meeting at 12 pm. The meeting will include an election of 3 council members as well as brief reports. The nominating committee will nominate Jim Wapshott as Trustee. Leslie Heumann will stand as the nominee for Vice President and will serve until she moves in December. At that time, we will hold a special election for a person to fill out her term. Additionally, we are seeking a nominee for Congregational Secretary. If we do not have one for the meeting, we will take nominations from the floor.

## Desserts, Desserts, Desserts

We are in need of desserts for the luncheon on the day of the congregational meeting, May 17. The desserts will need to be brought to church by 11:30 a.m. on the 17th. Please sign on the narthex signup sheet to indicate your name and dessert. If you have questions, please contact Leslie Heumann. Thanks so much for your help!!



May 2026



## 2026 Rainforest Falls VBS News

• Save the Date! Kids kindergarten through fifth grade can join us July 13-17 for our 2026 **Registration is Open Now!!** Our Rainforest Falls VBS will be July 13-17, 9am-12pm! During VBS this year, we will be Exploring the Nature of God! You may register your Kindergarten-5th kids, grandkids, friend(s) of the family with birthdays between the dates of September 2015-Sept. 2021 at <https://vbspro.events/p/3d8d64!!>

- **Sponsor a Student-Goal Complete!!** Thank you to all who have signed up to sponsor a student for VBS! We now have sponsors for all 50 students we hope to host! If you still need to submit your donation, you may mark it "Sponsor a Student" and drop in the offering plate. Thank you again! We could not make this event such a success without your help!!



## Save the Date-Spring LWML Rally!!

The LWML Spring Space Coast Zone Rally will be May 2 at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Titusville. If you plan to attend and would like to carpool, please meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. that morning. Gifts from the Heart will be for Redeeming Life Maternity Home and the guest speaker will be Sheryl DeWitt. Please join us for a day of fun and fellowship. All ladies are welcomed! You may sign up for the rally in the Narthex.

## Save the Date—Beach Day June 21

Looking for something different to do for Father's Day? Please join us for lunch and beach time on Sunday, June 21 beginning at noon and ending around 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 RSVP attendance (through Signup Genius OR paper signup in Narthex) so we can have appropriate food for all. Signup will begin on Monday, June 1 watch for Signup Genius through emails.**

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

# Hope Reporter

## Hope Travels: Brevard Zoo Illumi-Nature!



Our next trip is a local one to a very special experience at the Brevard Zoo. The Illumi-Nature at the zoo is a night-time illumination of more than 1000 whimsical displays of animals, flowers, mythical creatures and more using over half a million lights. The zoo will be transformed into a wonderland of lights spread over 10 acres on a behind-the-scenes path located off the Wild Florida boardwalk. Everyone is invited to join our Hope travelers on **May 1 at 7 p.m.** at the main entrance to the zoo. **Tickets for the event need to be purchased ahead of time online** at [brevardzoo.org](http://brevardzoo.org) (go to Events, then Illumi-Nature); cost is \$30 per zoo member and \$35 for each non-member. There is a signup sheet in the narthex for you to indicate your interest, but you are responsible for getting your own tickets. If you have questions, please contact Leslie Heumann (321-507-0587). Please wear your Hope Lutheran t-shirt; we will meet up outside the front gate. Join us for an illuminated evening of fun and fellowship!

# BREVARD ZOO

## 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 May 28 beginning at 10am 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.



## Women's & Men's Bible Breakfast

Our Women's and Men's Bible Breakfast groups will meet next on May 23 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.

## Bakers' Blessings



We will be taking the month of May off. Baker's Blessings will resume in June. June's cookies will go the Sarno Road Sheriff's Department.



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## May Ministry of the Month

Trinity Lutheran Church and School- \$500 Trinity Lutheran Rockledge Church and School is the only Lutheran school in Brevard County. We continually support Trinity as we know the spiritual education of these students are so important. There are many ways to help Trinity some of which Hope has provided include "Lunch Angels" for students who have an outstanding lunch balance, outdoor/ indoor work days, back to school events and teacher appreciation brunches. We wholeheartedly support Trinity and their positive educational system.

## Hope for the Homeless—Providence Connects



Thank you for your April donations of reading glasses to Providence Place. In May we will be using a Thrivent card for single use camping tents and Hope members may donate tooth brush/ tooth paste kits (found at dollar tree or Walmart). To clarify below are the items purchased using Thrivent cards. I noticed I missed one as it arrived late and was used midway through the next month. January-Backpacks (24 purchased), February- Sleeping Bags (24 purchased), March- Bug Spray (36 cans purchased), April- Dude Wipes (72 packs 48ct purchased), May- Single use camping tents (Not purchased yet).



## Food on the First-BLAST

For May, BLAST is in need of side dishes, snacks, cereal, canned veggies, peanut butter, and jelly. As always, any non-perishable, non-expired food items are welcome and appreciated. This will be our last collection for this school year, so please make sure all items are dropped off by Sunday, May 3rd. Otherwise, please hold your items until the first Sunday in August when Food on the First resumes. Should you have any questions regarding this, you can speak to Nancy Sutter at 321-537-2717. Thank you for your support.

## Sherwood Teacher Appreciation Brunch



It's teacher appreciation time! We will be doing a breakfast for the teachers at Sherwood Elementary on Tuesday, May 5. We still need help with a couple of meal items and also with serving. Specific information is available on the sign up sheets in the narthex. See Nancy Roberts (804-513-5375) if you have questions or need more information. Please consider helping as we show our appreciation to these individuals who serve our community each day!



## New Life Mission "Come and See" Tours

Everyone is invited to a "Come and See" tour at New Life Mission, 326 Croton Road, on May 2. The 45 minute tours are done from 10 a.m.-12 noon. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the NLM property and discover more about their mission to transform the lives of homeless women and their children. You may register online at [newlife-mission.org](http://newlife-mission.org) or by calling 321-480-9100, prompt 5. If you have questions, you may check with Cathy Chase.

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

## 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.