

The Hope Reporter



Trusting Only Thee

"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" – 1 Timothy 1:15

The hymnwriter proclaims:

*"I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus, trusting only thee;
Trusting thee for full salvation, great and free."*

What a confident faith! What a rock-solid confession! And what a blessing to have a hymn that reminds us of all that Jesus has done for us!

And we constantly need that reminding, don't we? As we live our lives, there are countless ways that we let others down when we forget to do the things we promised, and so we try to make up for it in some way. Countless ways that we let ourselves down, and try to be better the next time. Countless ways that we let God down and try to do what he tells us to do in hopes that he'll notice and love us more.

There's no doubt that we should try to make up for the wrongs we do to those around us. When we let ourselves down, it's good to try to be better the next time. And even when we let God down, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are given the ability to discern right from wrong and to do the things that he wants us to do. But the thing is, when it comes to our relationship with God, doing those things he wants us to do doesn't make God love us more...nor does doing those things that go against his Commandments make him love us less. That's why the words of our hymnwriter are so important for us to remember. The salvation of Jesus is full, and it's great...and most importantly, it's **FREE**. We don't have to do anything to earn it. Jesus earned it for us.

In 1517, Martin Luther began a movement that, no doubt, was the inspiration for this hymn. In Luther's day, salvation was great, but it certainly wasn't **FREE**. The Roman Catholic Church sought to put a price tag on salvation through the practice of indulgences, pieces of paper that a person could buy declaring that they were forgiven and would be in heaven when they die. But Luther saw this practice for the scam and perversion that it was. The selling of indulgences completely ignored the truth of the Scriptures that "...**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**"

Did you hear that? **Christ Jesus** came to save sinners. Not a pope, priest, or pastor. Not a piece of paper, not a list of prayers or good works to do. **Christ Jesus** is the one who came to save us and only he alone. That's why this saying is so **trustworthy** that's why it's deserving of **full** acceptance. To place our salvation in any place **other** than in the very capable hands of Jesus is to give your salvation away.

This month, on Reformation Sunday, **October 26th**, we are once again going to be reminded of that full and great and free salvation that Jesus has won for us as we reflect on the work of Martin Luther and the great reformers to wrest control of salvation from the hands of broken men and place it back where it belongs... in the very capable hands of Jesus. So join us for Reformation Sunday and celebrate with us the great and free salvation we have in Jesus, the one in whom we place all our trust!

Your Brother in Christ, Pastor James

Hope Reporter



Happy Birthday to...

Ed Mathisen 5	Jackie Fernandez 22
John Koenig II 5	Christina Koenig 24
Alice Pavia 7	Laura Slater 24
David Sutter 10	Cathy Chase 26
Sylvia Hustava-Lonnquist 12	Art Miller 28
Hal Stutsman 12	

Happy Anniversary to...

Brett & Sandy Restivo 5	6 years
Linda & Austin Miller 14	49 Years
Ron & Judie Paul 21	64 Years



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 have begun a new book called *Strong and Courageous: Studying God's Promises in Joshua* by Donna Snow. All are welcome!
- **Wednesday in the Word Dinner and Bible Study**—We begin our Bible Study each Wednesday at 6:30pm. This fall, we are watching Season 5 of The Chosen and participating in discussion afterwards. Along with our study, our Wednesday evening meals begin at 5:45 pm. If you would like to bring a food item for the meal, you may signup in the Narthex each week. Questions? Please see Leslie (321-507-0587) or Jackie (515-556-6359) with questions.



LWML Space Coast Fall Rally

Registration is open for the LWML Space Coast Fall Rally on October 4 at Christ Lutheran in Cape Canaveral. Registration is \$7 and all women are welcome! Additional information and a sign-up sheet are available on the narthex table. For more info, contact Bunnie (321-432-4419).

Risen Savior Fall Festival

Our sister LCMS church, Risen Savior in Palm Bay, will host their annual Fall Festival and Christmas Bazaar this month. Thursday, Oct. 16th 5-8 pm with Chili Dinner from 5-7 p.m. (indoor and outdoor seating), Friday, Oct. 17th 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 18th 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Risen Savior's address is 2220 Port Malabar Blvd NE, Palm Bay. All proceeds go to missions.



October 2025



Marty Party-October 26!!

Marty Party is our celebration of the Reformation Sunday, October 26, 12:30-3:30pm. In honor of Reformation, with a hint of Oktoberfest, we will have a picnic for all at Wickham Park, 2500 Parkway Dr, Melbourne, FL. We have reserved Pavilion #1, which is near a restroom building and playground. Hope will be providing and grilling brats (thank you Scott Cooper). The remaining side dishes will be volunteered through Signup Genius in early October. Hope will bring a few outdoor games. Alcohol is allowed in

Wickham Park in cans only. Any additional questions can be directed at Jackie Fernandez (321-622-6126) and Rachel Stutsman (701-471-4751).

Mah Jongg with Kathy Mathisen



Time Change! Beginning September 30, our Mah Jongg group will meet on Tuesdays 1-3 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. If interested, please let Kathy Mathisen know at 321-345-4770. All are welcome!



Crochet Crew

Crochet Crew will be meeting on October 9 & 23 at 10 am to crochet and enjoy fellowship. If you have any questions or want to learn, please call 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. We walk clockwise, so if you are late, start walking counter clockwise to find us. Provide your phone number to 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 October 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! There will be signup sheets in the Narthex. Women may contact Cathy Chase at 321-505-1223 with questions. Men may contact Dave Roberts at 804-512-1496. Hope you can make it!

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Trinity Lutheran School News



Thank you, Hope Lutheran, for your help during our recent Work Day. Your time and effort made our campus shine and created a welcoming space for students as they returned to school. The first weeks of school have been full of energy and joy as students settle into their routines, make new friends, and begin their learning. We are grateful for your continued prayers and support for our students, staff, and families. Our tutoring program will be starting up again in September. If you are interested in volunteering for this opportunity to support our 1st through 6th grade students in math and reading, please contact Theresa Barnewall at tbarnewall@trinity-rockledge.org or (321) 636-5431. Thank you again for the many ways you continue to support our school ministry. We appreciate your prayers, service and encouragement.



Wanted: Trunk or Treaters for New Life Mission!

This year New Life Mission will be doing a Trunk or Treat activity for their Autumn Harvest Festival on October 30, a change from the previous Fall Festivals of the past two years. They are keeping it simple this year and focusing on family friendly fun. The evening will start with Pizza on the Plaza at 6 p.m. for the families and all volunteers to join together for a meal. At 6:30 p.m. the families will start visiting trunks. As in the

past, activities will take place at New Life Village, 326 Croton Road, Melbourne.

Hope has been invited to participate in this year's festival by providing Trunk or Treat vehicles with treats, and we have committed to at least 5 vehicles. We are asking for Hope volunteers who would be willing to bring their vehicles for this event, arriving at 5 p.m. to set up their trunks. Thrivent is helping us provide decoration kits with religious themes (including Jonah and the whale, David and Goliath, etc.) and will also purchase candy and Halloween goodies; for creative souls, you may decide on your own original trunk design. Volunteers may choose to dress in costumes that are fun but not scary.

If you are interested in participating in this activity (also consider going together with another family) and/or need additional details, please contact Nancy Roberts at nlr7clover@gmail.com or 804-513-5375 by October 19. This should be a wonderful opportunity to mingle with the NLM families and to show that we are Hope in our community!

Food on the First-BLAST



For October, BLAST is especially in need of soup, breakfast items, pasta, and side dishes. As always, all non-perishable, non-expired food items are useful and appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nancy Sutter at 321-537-2717. Thank you.



The Sharing Center Thanksgiving Baskets

Be on the lookout for more information regarding our Thanksgiving donation baskets this year to help support The Soth Brevard Sharing Center. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex mid October if you would like to help donate a basket of items for our community. All items will be listed on a provided sheet and will be placed in an oversized ALDI bag which has also been pre-purchased and provided for your convenience. Due to unforeseeable circumstances, we will be using Outreach funds instead of a Thrivent card to support the purchase of gift cards to be used to purchase Turkeys via the families whom receive the Thanksgiving baskets. Thank you for being an important part of supporting our community.

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October September Ministry of the Month

The month of October is dedicated to The LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces. They support all LCMS chaplains who serve on active duty, in the reserves, the National Guard, Civil Air Patrol, and Coast Guard Auxiliary. LCMS chaplains deliver Word and Sacrament ministry to our military personnel and their families. The LCMS cares deeply for those who currently serve, for those who have donned the cloth of our nation in uniform, and for those who served our nation and live in our communities. Please consider donating to this worth cause.

Operation Christmas Child



We are kicking off our Operation Christmas Child event on Sunday October 4th. There will be a short video during the offerings at both first and second services to showcase the importance of packing a shoe box. This year we have 67 physical boxes to fill which will be located in the narthex. We would like to also fill 33 ONLINE shoeboxes to reach our goal of 100 boxes for 2025. In 2024 we collected 81 boxes and in 2023 we collected 50. I think we can meet or even surpass our 100 boxes goal this year.



It is very important to sign the sign-up sheet as you take the boxes and as you return them. I will also have an "ONLINE ONLY" sign up for those who prefer filling their boxes online. The link to our ONLINE Goal Page will be provided at the OCC table in the narthex. Online boxes are \$30 which includes the items you select via the dropdown menu along with the shipping/educational materials. National box collection week is November 17-21st so we would like all online boxes ordered and physical boxes to be returned by Sunday November 9th to allow time for a Blessing and a drop off to the designated drop off church in Melbourne. You may pick from the following selections Boy 2-4 years old, Boy 5-9 years old, Boy 10-14 years old OR Girl 2-4 years old, Girl 5-9 years old or Girl 10-14 years old.

In addition, Tori Cooper has been collecting items year-round to help fill our boxes this year. The "SHOE BOX SHAKE" ensures that each box is filled to the brim with quality toys and items for these children who otherwise would not receive a Christmas gift. If you shake your box and you hear the contents move, there is more space to squeeze in a few more items. These children will only ever receive ONE box from Operation Christmas Child in their young life so we want to make these boxes count. There will be plastic shoeboxes OVERFLOWING with items for you to take and FILL your boxes up. Think of this as a mini "HOPE SIZED" packing party as we do not have the space or storage for a traditional packing party. All the items are available for you to take and make your box extra special. There will also be printed shoebox lid Bible Verses to add to the lid of your boxes for even more fun. Each box MUST have the Shoebox Label attached on the outside of the box with the denotation of BOY or GIRL and which age level. There is a \$10 per physical box charge for shipping/educational materials. PLEASE do not add check or cash to the box itself. If you choose not to donate via the online site provided on the pamphlet you can leave your donation in the collection plate with a note "for OCC boxes" and the church will send one large shipping charge together. If you have any questions please contact Tori Cooper.



Baker's Blessings

For October, our cookies will go to Johnson Middle School, and will be due on October 19th. 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!

October 2025



October we will be purchasing deodorant for the recipients at Daily Bread (Providence Connects). Hope members can donate Band-Aids or toothbrush kits (dollar tree). As always thank you for continuing to sponsor Daily Bread as they transition to Providence Place.



Hope for the Homeless

Hope Lutheran Church

4541 N Wickham Road Phone: 321.622.6126
 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 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.