

The Hope Reporter

By Grace Alone

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."
— Ephesians 2:8-9

At the end of this month, as we do every October, we will celebrate the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation. But celebrating the Reformation isn't **just** about Luther or an event in history. It is, above all, about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the precious truth that sinners are saved by **grace alone**, through **faith alone**, in **Christ alone**.

St. Paul reminds us that we were "dead in our trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). This means that we can't in anyway, save ourselves. That our good works can't erase our sins, and our efforts to do those good words can't make us right or holy before God. But God does for us what we can't do for ourselves. He sent his Son, Jesus, who perfectly fulfilled the Law in our place and suffered and died on the cross for our sins. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus has won forgiveness and eternal life for us.

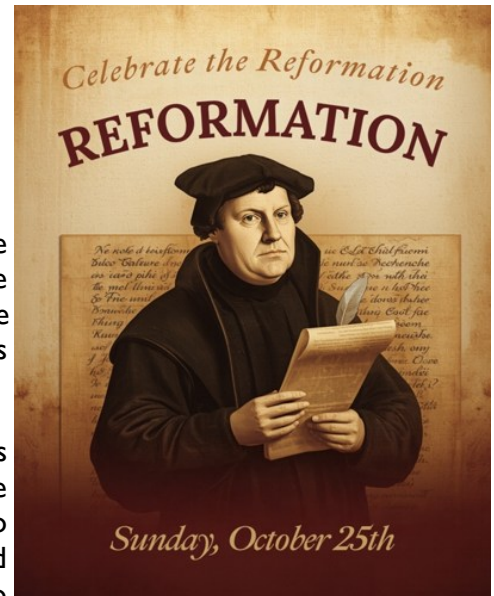
This is why we confess as a congregation, **justification by faith alone**. We are declared righteous and holy before God, not because of our own works or efforts to that end, but because of Jesus' righteousness given to us through the faith we've been given through the proclamation of his Word, and through that Word connected to water in Holy Baptism and to the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Faith itself, as Paul says in Ephesians 2, is God's gift, created and sustained by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel.

Here at Hope, as Lutherans, we treasure those Means of Grace, we treasure the way God delivers his grace to us through his Word, through Holy Baptism, and through the Lord's Supper. That's not to say that our good works **don't** matter because they do, a whole lot! But they aren't the reason we are saved. They are the **fruit** of faith. We don't serve our neighbors in order that God might give us good points on our side of the ledger. We serve because, in Jesus, God has served us and has given us his undeserved favor.

The Reformation draws us back to God's Word and away from ourselves. When our sins accuse us, we look to Jesus. When our consciences trouble us, we cling to the promises of salvation earned for us in the cross. When we worry that we've done enough, we remember that Christ Jesus has done enough...in fact, he's done it all. That is the enduring comfort of the Reformation: **By grace alone, through faith alone, according the Scripture alone, because of Christ Jesus alone**.

So come and celebrate the Reformation with us on **October 25th**. We'll have a special service where we will celebrate the great gift of God's grace, and welcome our newest members to our family here at Hope. Then, we will have a Marty Party at Wickham Park from 12:30pm to 4pm to continue the celebration with some fellowship.

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	Mary Fox 25
Sylvia Hustava-Lonnquist 12	Cathy Chase 26
Hal Stutsman 12	

Happy Anniversary to...

Brett & Sandy Restivo 5	7 years
Sandy & Brian Murren 19	25 years



Weekly Bible Studies



- **Sunday Adult Bible Study:** On Sunday mornings, Pastor leads an adult Bible class in the Sanctuary between services.
- **Children's Sunday School Classes** have resumed! Preschool-1st meet in the Fellowship Hall and 2nd grade and up meet in Pastor's office. All children are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will continue with our Enduring Faith Curriculum.
- **Wednesday Women's & Men's Bible Studies**—Wednesday Women's & Men's Bible Studies meet every Wednesday at 10 am. The women's group meets in the Fellowship Hall and is currently working through a study on the book of Judges. The men's group meets in the Sanctuary and is working through *The Books of History: Joshua-Esther*. All are invited to join us!
- **Thursday Women's Bible Study:** Nancy Pruiem is leading a Women's Bible Class on Thursdays evenings at 6 pm. During this time, she is leading the group through the Concordia Publishing House LifeLight Bible Study of Romans: Part I. The group meets in the sanctuary as there is another group that uses the Fellowship Hall on Thursday evenings. Contact Nancy Pruiem with questions at (407) 620-7817.
- **Wednesday in the Word Dinner and Bible Study**—We hope everyone will join us for our Wednesday in the Word dinner and Bible Study! We begin our Bible Study at 6:30 pm and will be working through the book *God's Word for Today: Revelation*. Along with our Wednesday in the Word study, our Wednesday evening meals begin at 5:45 pm. **Sign up to bring an item for this meal in the Narthex.** Please contact Cindy Livingston (321-432-8222) or Jackie Fernandez (515-556-6359) with any questions.



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. 22nd 5-8 pm with Chili Dinner from 5-7 p.m. (indoor and outdoor seating), Friday, Oct. 23rd 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 24th 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Risen Savior's address is 2220 Port Malabar Blvd NE, Palm Bay. All proceeds go to missions.



October 2026



Marty Party-October 25!!

On Sunday, Oct. 25, 12:30-4 pm you are invited to a Celebration of the Reformation! During this fun event, we will celebrate Martin Luther and the Reformation with devotion, games, and fellowship! This year our Marty Party will be at Wickham Park, Pavilion #1. The Park entrance is located at 2500 Parkway Drive, Melbourne, closest to the pavilion. Brats, hotdogs, sauerkraut and water will be provided by Hope! More details to come! Any questions, contact Rachel Stutsman at [701-471-4751](tel:701-471-4751) or Jackie Fernandez at the office.

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 October 1, 15 & 29. We begin at 10 am and finish around 11:30 am. If you want to learn or just do your own thing with the group, please join.

Hope Walks



All are welcome to walk with us at Wickham Park on Mondays, Wednesday and Saturdays at 7 am. Assemble just inside the main Parkway entrance. Contact Cathy Chase (321-505-1223) for text updates.



Women's & Men's Bible Breakfast

Our Women's & Men's Bible Breakfast groups will meet next on Oct. 17 at 9 a.m. at Grills, 6075 North US 1, Melbourne. This is a chance for a light devotion and good fellowship. For more info, women may contact Cathy Chase (321-505-1223) and Men may contact Gary Rezeau (321-543-4887).

Veteran's Day Tribute

On Nov. 8 Hope will recognize living veterans who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces of the U.S. If you are a veteran and new to Hope or if you have not previously been included, we would like to have you in our slide show. Please contact Dave Roberts at [804-512-1496](tel:804-512-1496) or dlobertsfl@gmail.com by Nov. 1 so that he can get your slide show photo and information.



LWML Space Coast Fall Rally

The LWML Space Coast Fall Rally will be held on October 3 at Faith Lutheran Church on Merritt Island. All women are invited. For more info, contact Bunnie (321-432-4419).

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Operation Christmas Child



We are kicking off our Operation Christmas Child event on Sunday October 18th. There will be a short video during the offerings at both first and second services to showcase the importance of packing a shoe box. We would like to fill 100 physical boxes and 50 ONLINE shoeboxes to reach our goal of 150 boxes (Or MORE) for 2026. Boxes are due Sunday November 11th. There will be two tables of "Shop and Pack" items for any members to take and include in their boxes as we did last year. I will provide a large box in the Narthex for any items anyone wants to add to this table (new or very gently used stuffed animals, McDonalds toys, boxes of crayons/markers/ colored pencils ect). 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 16-20th so we would like all online boxes ordered and physical boxes to be returned by Sunday November 11th 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.

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 OCC in their young life so we want to make these boxes count. There will also be printed shoebox lid Bible Verses to add to the lid of your boxes. 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 noted "for OCC boxes" and the church will send one large shipping charge together. If you have any questions please contact Tori Cooper.



Open Doors With Us on October 8!

Join us for Opening Doors for Women, New Life Mission's fall fundraiser, proudly presented by Galleria of Art and Photography. Step into an evening of hope, possibility and transformation as we come together to open doors for women with children experiencing homelessness in our community. Experience the Behind Closed doors exhibit, a powerful visual storytelling exhibit featuring photographs and quotes that reveal some of the circumstances that led a mother and her children into homelessness. Then, we'll open doors to an unforgettable evening featuring chef-crafted heavy hors d'oeuvres from the area's premier restaurants, drinks, live music, live and silent auctions, and the powerful testimony of a New Life Mission graduate. Your attendance helps make transformation possible. All proceeds benefit New Life Mission families, providing the housing, programs and support they need to move from homelessness to lasting independence. Be part of Opening Doors Thursday, Oct. 8, 6-9 pm at Space Coast Center for Collaboration (1100 Rockledge Blvd, Rockledge).

New Life Mission Dinner



Our next opportunity to provide a hot meal for New Life Mission moms and children for their weekly Bible study is Tuesday, October 13. Hope Outreach will fund the entrée. If you would like to help with sides, please see sign-up sheet in the narthex. Items are needed by **Sunday, Oct. 11, before the 10:30 service**. Also, please note there are NLM background materials, including the current NLM needs list on the table in the narthex. Contact Cathy Chase ([321-505-1223](tel:321-505-1223)).

October 2026



October Ministry of the Month

The LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces supports 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. Our pastors of The LCMS serve honorably and with distinction as military chaplains. From the Civil War through both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, and current areas of conflict, our chaplains bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to those protecting our great nation.

Some chaplains serve on forward bases in harm's way, others onboard ships maintaining vigilant watch over the seven seas, and others walk the flight line on isolated Air Bases engaging Airmen on faith and family as they load fighter aircraft for combat operations. These "pastors in uniform" provide Word and Sacrament ministry while enduring hardship, constant peril and danger.

They assist and train congregations through project Operation Barnabas. The goal is to equip and encourage local LCMS members in compassionate care and witness by training outreach to all military connected people (active, reserve, retired, veterans and their loved ones). They each out to these families through witness and mercy at the local level, whether it is the families of loved ones deployed or assisting those who have served to reintegrate back home with their family, their church and their community.

Food on the First-BLAST



For October 4th, Food on the First (BLAST) is in need of canned fruit, canned vegetables, snacks, pasta sauce, and side dishes. Plastic or cans are preferred. 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](tel:321-537-2717). Thank you for your ongoing support.



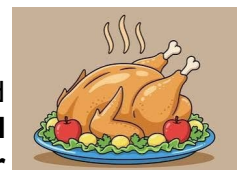
Bakers' Blessings

This month's cookies will go to Sherwood Elementary School. We are asking for 2 ½ dozen cookies to be bagged two to a bag in Ziplock Baggies. When you sign-up in the narthex, 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. Cookies can be left on the bench by the donuts in the narthex or if you need to deliver them early, they can be put in the freezer with a note stating they are for Baker's Blessings. Should you have any questions, please contact Nancy Sutter at [\(321\) 537-2717](tel:321-537-2717). Thank you for your support!

The Sharing Center Thanksgiving Baskets



This year's Thanksgiving Baskets will benefit Providence Connects (formerly The South Brevard Sharing Center and Daily Bread). You can sign-up in the narthex starting October 18th. **All donations are due by November 1st-this is a hard deadline to allow time for shopping, packing, and adding gift cards to pre-packed bags.** You can help by grabbing a shopping list and an Aldi's bag from the narthex and filling it with the requested side dishes and trimmings or by making a cash donation to go towards the purchase of turkeys and additional baskets. Baskets cost \$38 and turkey gift cards cost \$20. If you have any questions, please speak to Nancy Sutter [\(321\)567-2717](tel:321-567-2717). Thank you for helping a less fortunate family enjoy a holiday meal.



October 2026



October we will be purchasing white socks for the recipients at Providence Connects via a Thrivent Card. Hope members can donate hair brushes, combs, hair ties. As always thank you for continuing to sponsor Daily Bread as they transition to Providence Place.

**Hope for the Homeless**

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.