

Mission Moments

December 2023



Merry Christmas



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Welcome!

What's one of the most important things you can do every week, when you come to church? The list is long, and no doubt varies from person to person. We think of answers such as pray, confess, respond to God's Word, commune, greet friends, be humble before God, receive forgiveness, serve as a volunteer, reflect on life situations, be convicted of sin, and much more. A great many very important things go on in church every week!

Here's another answer for you to consider today. One of the most important things you can do in church, week after week, I think, is welcoming the stranger. Our church is blessed with guests and visitors every single week, at all three worship services. Taking a few minutes to greet those whom you don't know can make a tremendous difference in the worship experience of a newcomer. Warm smiles, friendly greetings, and brief casual conversation is all that's needed. Making every visitor and guest feel noticed and welcomed at Hope is tremendously important. Our simple words and actions go a long way in helping a person determine whether or not to return for another worship service.

At our New Member Breakfast last month, I encouraged the folks who were joining Hope Lutheran Church to find ways to get involved, and to participate in the congregation's ministry in ways that suit them. But I invited all of them to make welcoming the stranger a part of their weekly routine at church. Even if they're brand-new members of Hope, they can join in this important task. So can you! As Christ's warm, embracing love welcomes you every time you enter the sanctuary, join in sharing that love freely with everyone -- and especially the stranger.

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35)

"He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him" (John 1:11)

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Wayne Puls



News & Events

2023 WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

January 10 – February 7.

WNA is Hope's midweek ministry opportunity for all ages to gather for dinner, Bible study, fellowship, and fun.

YEAR-END GIFTS

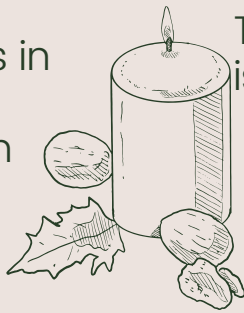
All gifts and offerings must be postmarked or received by Saturday, December 31, 2023 in order to be included in your 2023 year-end record of giving. If you have questions about your giving, contact Operations Manager, Hilary Tew, htew@hopelutheranwf.org. Thank you for all your gifts and contributions in 2023!

COPELAND MEMORIAL

A group of Mike Copeland's friends are gathering to honor and remember Mike. This will not be a formal church service. It will be held on Saturday, December 9th at 2PM at the Del Webb Traditions clubhouse, The Regency Manor. If you would like to say a few words, please let Tom Reading or Andy Barrett know. Please let them know if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly.

WHEELCHAIR AVAILABLE

If you, or someone you know, is in need of a basic wheelchair, please contact Briana Evans, in the church office at bevans@hopelutheranwf.org.



DO YOU LIKE TO TRAVEL?

Consider traveling with Pastor Mike & Liz Lutz to Croatia & Slovenia and the Adriatic Coast October 3-16, 2024 departing Raleigh-Durham Airport. This is their twenty-sixth group tour. An explanation of the tour is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00PM at the Clubhouse of the Enclave Hidden Lake Community – 225 Winged Elm Drive, Youngsville, NC 27506. If you are interested or have any questions, please let them know at 586-739-3568 or lutzmichaelj04@gmail.com. They have a website with the link: <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1219043> for more information.

DISASTER RESPONSE CONFERENCE

Members and friends of Hope are invited to a Disaster Response Conference & Training, sponsored by the Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Join others interested in disaster response ministry on January 25-26, 2024 for two exciting days (and an optional third half-day) of practical training sessions, reports from the field, enjoyable fellowship, inspiring first-hand ministry stories, and information on upcoming service opportunities. The conference will be held at Crown Reef Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC. For further information and to register, visit Hope's website at www.hopelutheranwf.org/missions. The deadline for discounted room rate is 12/24/23.

Flowers

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

These beautiful seasonal flowers will adorn the chancel at Hope during the Advent and Christmas season. They may be purchased in memory or honor of loved ones. Sign up online at www.hopelutheranwv.org/ under About/Resources/Christmas Poinsettias. The cost is \$12 each with checks payable to Hope, earmarked "poinsettias." The poinsettias may be taken home after the 11:00PM Christmas Eve Service.

FLOWER CHART

The 2024 Flower Chart is now available. You may sign up to donate flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones or to observe special occasions. Flowers are \$55.00 with checks earmarked "flowers."

To register go to Hope's website under About/Resources/Flowers.

Advent

at Hope

Advent Begins!

The Advent season begins with weekend services on December 3, and continues through December 24. Wednesday evening services will be on December 6 & 20 at 7:00PM.

Live Nativity

Every year the people of Hope work together to share the Bible story of Christmas with our community. Mark your calendar for our two Live Nativity performances: Saturday, December 9 at 6:45; and Sunday, December 10 at 7:00PM.

Cantata: Gloria In Excelsis Deo!

On Sunday, December 10, Hope's choirs and instrumentals will present their annual Christmas Cantata at the 8:30 and 11AM worship services. Mark your calendar and invite your friends as we take the journey together in welcoming the Christ Child through music and song. We will join our voices strong and join together to sing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah at the conclusion of our musical offering.

Annual Kid's Ministry Christmas Pageant

Hope's children have been busy learning lines, making costumes, and singing joyful songs celebrating the birth of Jesus! Everyone is invited to the pageant on December 13 at 7:00PM.



Christmas Eve

at Hope

Sunday Morning Service (10:00AM)

We will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent in the morning, with Holy Communion and live streaming available, followed by five afternoon and evening Christmas Eve services.

Children's Service (3:30 & 5:00 PM)

A fun celebration of Christ's birth, designed for kids and families, with lots of songs, interaction, and child-friendly battery-operated candles.

Candlelight Service (6:30 & 8:00 PM)

A festive service for all ages, featuring Christmas hymns, special music, and "Silent Night" by candlelight.

Candlelight Communion Service (11:00 PM)

A beautiful late-night service with vocal, handbell, and brass choirs, along with Christmas hymns, candlelight, and Holy Communion.



Missions

ANGEL TREE

One of the great joys of the coming Christmas season is to offer love to people in our community in the name of the Savior, and to share our blessings with those who are less fortunate. You are invited to participate in Hope's Angel Tree program again this year. On December 2, 3, 6, 9, and 10, you'll be able to pick up a tag from the tree in the Narthex, and to purchase the requested gift for that family. All gifts are to be wrapped and returned to Hope by December 12. Drivers are needed to distribute Angel Tree gifts. If you're interested in helping, text Claudia Van Hook (717-579-2077).

BROWN BAG

Join in the fellowship and service 12/16, 2023, 11AM - 1PM. For December we will meet in the Narthex to pack our Brown Bags with a nutritious meal and Bible verse. Please sign-up on Hope's website.

TRI-AREA MINISTRY

Tri-Area Ministry is the largest food pantry in the Wake Forest, Youngsville, and Rolesville area, serving 1200+ families monthly. Donations of cereal are especially requested at this time. Bring your donated items to Hope, and drop them in the collection bins in the Gallery area (near the red doors). Items needed are food, personal hygiene products, and paper products.



Mission Trips

PUERTO RICO MISSION REVIEW

Members of Hope, God is so good. In early 2023, we began a vision for the construction of an outdoor kitchen at Inglesia Lutherana Principe de Paz in Mayaguez Puerto Rico. This is a mission field for Hope Lutheran. The creation of an outdoor kitchen will enable Pastor Gustavo and the congregation to help serve the community in an outreach opportunity.

In July Hope formed a team to go and build it. God provided an incredible leader in Lucas Tew, a member of Hope who is an engineer and welder. Seven other members of Hope also joined his team; David Neher, Bobby/Susan Johanson, Rodney/Cheryl Farlow, Chris Sorensen, and Rick Hall.

We started with a concrete pad and constructed a couple of kitchen “islands”, a grill, an “oven”, and an outdoor sink. All are covered with a sheet metal roof, supported by metal posts. Luke fabricated many brackets at his home, and together we brought them to Puerto Rico.

It was a privilege to do this. None of our team has ever done anything like this before. God answered our prayers, and together we built this kitchen. In addition, we did several other projects (ceiling fan installation, fence design/ completion, etc). All was done for the glory of God.

Here is a “before” and “after”. Please continue to pray for Pastor Gustavo and his congregation, that they reach more that need to know of God’s love for everyone.



Sunday School

Sunday School will continue through December 17, then we will be off for Christmas Eve (December 24) and New Year's Eve (December 31). Sunday School and Adult Education will be back up and running on January 7.

ADULT ED

JOHN: THE WORD MADE FLESH.

Come on December 3 and 10 as we begin a congregational study on the Gospel of John that will extend through the Epiphany season in January. Our study will cover John's Gospel verse by verse from 1:1 through 12:9 in a combination of sermons, Sunday morning Bible studies, WNA evening classes, and home studies written by our called staff. Join us as we explore the beautiful vistas of John's Gospel and learn more about Jesus, the Word made flesh. Questions? dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org

THE HERODIAN DYNASTY.

Sit in on December 17 as we take a brief but impactful look at Herod the great and his children as their lives and influence took shape in the Herodian dynasty. Discover more about these historical figures who came in contact not only with Jesus' life but also with the lives of the people to whom Jesus ministered and preached. Learn with us how a greater understanding of the Herodian dynasty can give us new insights into the stories of our Gospels. Questions? dmurphy@hopelutheranwf.org

YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL

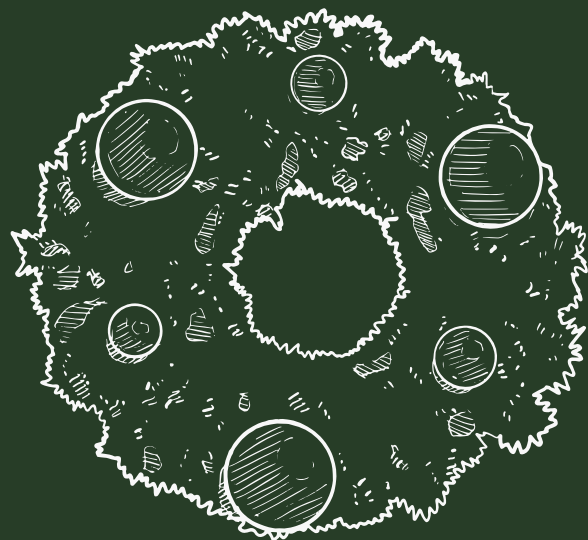
High schoolers will be voting on 12/3 during Sunday school to see what our next Book of the Bible will be diving into. Join us in Room 101

MIDDLE SCHOOL

This month we will learning about the early years of Jesus' life. Come join us on Sundays in the Youth Center, Room 102.

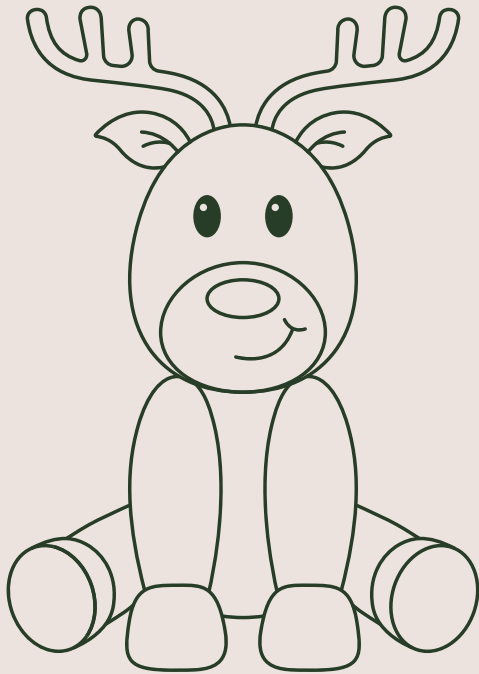
KIDS

Each age group will be learning about the birth of Christ in an age appropriate manner, with fun songs games and lessons. We will continue to learn Christmas pageant songs at the start of each class.



Kids Ministry

Christmas Parties



K-3 GRINCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come to the Kindergarten-Grade 3 Christmas party where we steal back the true meaning of Christmas with a Grinch-themed party. Games, snacks, and crafts that will make your heart grow three sizes. On 12/9, from 3-5:30PM. At 5PM all families are encouraged to come to our free-will offering dinner for food and fellowship before service and Hope's live nativity. Questions? bagner@hopelutheranwf.org.

CLUB 45 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Attention Club 45! It's beginning to look a lot like a Club 45 Christmas Party. On 12/10 from 5:00-7:00PM, we will be having ourselves a holly, jolly Christmas with games, crafts, and more! After our merry time, we will be caroling and attending Hope's live nativity. We would love for our Club 45 kids to join us for a very Merry Christmas and a rockin' night. Questions? bagner@hopelutheranwf.org.



Childcare at Hope



Hope is dedicated to a safe Christ-centered environment for all ages.

LITTLE BLESSINGS (AGES BIRTH TO 2 YEARS)

Registration will open for church members on Monday, February 19, 2024 at 8AM. The link will be available on Hope's website under Child Care/ Little Blessings.

PRESCHOOL (AGES 2 YEARS TO 5 YEARS)

Registration begins Tuesday, January 16 and will be done online. If you are a member and are interested in enrolling your child for the 2024-2025 school year, please contact the Preschool office at 919-453-0388 or preschool@hopelutheranwf.org by January 5. Registration will be done through an email link, so we must have your email in our system before registration begins. More information can be found on our website at www.hopelutheranwf.org/preschool.

XPLORE TRACK OUT (PRE-K TO 5TH GRADE)

"Xplorers" spend their school breaks at a safe, local, Christ-centered camp, having fun with friends while playing games, enjoying outdoor sports, going on nature walks, and getting crafty with food, art, and fun-themed activities.

For more information on these groups please go to Hope's Website.



Youth Ministry

Youth Group

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wednesdays will look a little different this month. 12/6, 13, & 20 we will meet at 6:30PM for games, and then head upstairs for our Advent services. Parents come and sit and join your kids for the service. There will be no Youth Group on 12/27. Look forward to seeing y'all there.

HIGH SCHOOL

Youth group will not meet on Dec 24 & 31 due to holidays. Youth Group will resume Jan 7.



Christmas Parties

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Come join us on 12/10 from 2-4PM for our Christmas Party. We will be doing a gift exchange so bring a gift that is around \$5-\$10, and no gift cards. We are going to celebrate the holiday with themed snacks and games. Sign up on Hope's website. Questions? madamec@hopelutheranwf.org.



HIGH SCHOOL

All High School youth are invited 12/17, from 6:30-8:00PM for the annual Christmas Party. Join us for a party complete with food, hot cocoa, games, a white elephant gift exchange, and an ugly sweater contest. Make sure to bring a wrapped gift valued at around \$15.

Upcoming

HIGH SCHOOL NIGHT OF LIGHTS

High School Youth are taking a trip to the NC Chinese Lantern Festival. Come experience a night of lights like none other. On 1/14 meet at the Youth Center at 5:00PM. Cost is \$17. Sign up today!

Adult Ministry

BREW CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come to the BREW Christmas Party on 12/16 from 6:30–8:30PM. Bring a dish to share and a White Elephant gift exchange. Bring a gift of no more than \$7, to participate in the gift exchange. Sign up on Hope's BREW website. Questions? madamec@hopelutheranwf.org.

MEN'S CHRISTMAS BONFIRE

Calling all men. Come out for an evening of fellowship, snacks, bonfire, and devotion 12/16, 7–9PM at the Spottiswood Homestead 108 Kent st. Youngsville. Bring your own drinks and a chair. Text (818) 642–7570 to RSVP by 12/6.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS EVENT

Come and join the Women of Hope for our annual Christmas event. We will meet in Room 300 at Hope on 12/8 from 6:30–8:30PM. Our evening will include devotion, light refreshments, a craft, and an ornament exchange. The cost to attend is \$20, and you must bring an ornament. Please sign up on the Hope's website under Women's Ministry. Questions: bagner@hopelutheranwf.org



B.R.E.W.

AGES 18-35

Bible Studies

COLLEGE AGE

We will only be meeting 12/14 at Margo's Apt. Contact her for the details.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

We will only be meeting 12/21 this month. Join us at Norse Brewing at 7PM for a night of Fellowship and Bible Study.



QUESTIONS?

MADAMEC@HOPELUTHERANWF.ORG.

