

December 4, 2020



# News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Welcome to Hope's

**"News in the Pews Digital Edition!"**

Watch for a new edition to appear in your inbox regularly.

Have news to share? Please send it to [newsletter@hope2all.org](mailto:newsletter@hope2all.org)

for inclusion in a future edition!

## Third Site Update

**Community of Hope,**

**The impacts of the pandemic are many: physical, emotional, mental, and financial. If there was ever a time for us to live out our mission, "To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known," this is it. It is our desire to fulfill this mission both now and in the future. Your Third Site Team is engaged in the process of procuring information for a southern campus and is in conversation with The Villages as we fulfill the due diligence steps of transition between their responsibilities and our ownership of the 8.25 acres of property Hope has in the Southern Oaks area of The Villages.**

**The property fronts Meggison Road and is located approximately one quarter of a mile north of the Meggison and Warm Springs Ave intersection. The property backs up to the Florida Turnpike and The Everglades Recreation Center can be seen looking across the freeway. It is a great location for a third campus and is golf cart accessible.**

**The Villages is close to completing Meggison Road construction and frontage landscaping is underway. There are three entrances to the property as well as a golf cart path which connects to The Villages multi-modal system. Water and sewer utilities have been stubbed in, and gas and electric**

are readily available. The site is currently overgrown with weeds but The Villages will soon clear the area, level and seed it. We have a "Future Location" sign ready to be installed as soon as The Villages completes their work. Hopefully this will happen before Christmas. Property boundary staking will follow. The Villages has constructed a large retention pond adjacent to the site which we are permitted to use for storm water runoff. This means we can develop the entire site without making provisions for a retention pond.

We are considering offering guided tours of the property with committee members leaving from Hope Central at a date and a time to be determined. More on this in a future newsletter. In addition, we are working with two architectural firms for proposals to produce a rendering of the site with a conceptual building drawing. We hope to have this completed soon and will display it at all three campuses to generate excitement and help facilitate a fund raising campaign which will begin soon.

Along with the base committee, we will eventually form several sub-committees and would welcome interested members. If you want to volunteer and have a particular area of expertise, or just want to help, please contact the church office at (352) 750-2321, any pastor, or a committee member. Committee members are Pastor Bruce, Karen Barnes, David Redding, Bob O'Dell, Susan Blomenberg/Nieman, Rick Schaaf, and myself. Thank you in advance for your willingness to participate in this worthwhile mission

Blessings,  
Bill Wilson  
Building Committee Chair  
willardwilson5@gmail.com

## *2020 Christmas Cantata Information*



**Only one week until the start of the Cantata!**

**December 11, 13 & 14 at 2:00pm and 5:00pm  
Hope Central Campus**

Reservations are required. [Click here](#) and scroll down to Cantata. Select your date and time.

## ***Christmas Cantata Ushers Needed!***

Ushers are needed for our annual Christmas Cantata for all performances. You can choose your own time:

December 11, 13 & 14 at 2:00pm or 5:00pm  
Hope Central Campus

If you would like to usher for any of the Cantata shows, please call the church office at 352-750-2321.



## ***Christmas Gifts for the Church Staff***

This has not been a typical year for anyone, including Hope Lutheran Church. With changes in our Church Council membership, then COVID, followed with changes in church staffing, it has been a particularly challenging year for our Pastors and for our Church Staff. Through all of this we have been constantly blessed with the spiritual guidance and leadership of our Pastors and Staff. Their constant commitment and loyalty on our behalf are truly appreciated.

It has been the tradition of the Hope Lutheran Congregation to acknowledge and recognize them at this special time of the year.

We can show our appreciation to the Pastors and Staff by graciously contributing to a Staff Christmas Gift Fund. As we all know, giving comes from our hearts.

If you wish to participate in this gift, you can do so in one of the following ways: your gift can be included in your offering envelope, identified as "Staff Gift" on the "Other" line; place your gift in a plain envelope marked as "Staff Gift"; or through the online giving system. You can also mail your donation or drop it off at the church office.

We ask that your gift be placed in the offering plate or

delivered to the Church Office no later than December 21, 2020.

On behalf of your Church Council, I wish each of you a Merry Christmas, blessing in the New Year, and to continue "To Know Christ and To Make Christ Known".

Kent Hamdorf  
Congregation and Church Council President



## *Wednesday Evening Prayer Continues at Hope Central at 6:00 pm*

We continue to offer in-person evening prayer each Wednesday in the sanctuary at Hope Central at 6:00 p.m. As with all of our in-person worship services, we ask you to make a reservation on our webpage ([hope2all.org](http://hope2all.org)) or [click here](#). Reservations will open each Monday at 8 a.m. (same as weekend services), and close at noon on Wednesday. We will continue to make our evening prayer available online for those not yet comfortable with in-person gatherings. (For those worshipping online, [click here](#) for the worship bulletin) Also, as with all of our worship services, our safety protocols will be in place (you must wear a mask, your temperature will be taken, etc.)

For those who have not prayed evening prayer with us, this ancient prayer service of the church contains a hymn, chanted responses, a psalm, a reading and prayers and lasts about 20 minutes. It is a wonderful way to quiet your heart at the end of the day and experience the peace of God offered in this beautiful communal prayer.

As you do on the weekend, we would ask that you enter through the narthex door which will open 20 minutes before the service begins. We look forward to seeing you there and praying together!

Blessings,  
Pr. Bruce

We hope you will join us

for one of our nine  
Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Services  
offered this year!

# Christmas Eve at Hope Lutheran Church



December 24<sup>th</sup>

Hope Central Campus:

2:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm & 10:00pm

Hope Lake Weir Campus: 6:00pm & 8:00pm

Hope at Everglades Rec Center: 2:00pm & 4:00pm

Reservations are necessary. Tickets will be available  
December 18 at 12:00pm.

## *Christmas Eve Ushers Needed!*

Ushers are needed for all Christmas Eve services at Central  
Campus - 2:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm & 10:00pm

If you would like to usher for any of the services, please call  
the church office at 352-750-2321.



## *Seasonal Decorations Donations are now being accepted!*

Each year, Hope's Seasonal Decorating Team decorates for  
our Christmas services. A list of donor names and honorees  
is then made available in the days leading up to Christmas.  
Unfortunately, this year, we will not be using live poinsettias  
as in past years. If you would like to donate "in honor of" or  
"in memory of" a loved one, you may do so by writing  
"Seasonal Decorations" in the memo line of your check. The  
donations will go towards purchasing new and maintaining  
existing decorations.

## *Food Pantry Advent Calendar*

Each day add an item - [click for Advent  
Calendar](#) - to a box and donate on Christmas  
Eve. (Substitutions are acceptable) The Food



Pantry is busy distributing food each week and preparing for a Christmas meal. During this season of Advent, this may be a way for you to think about sharing our abundance with the less fortunate.

Anita Dillman /anitadillman1@gmail.com

Tonia Brock /brocklg@aol.com

Debbie Bennett /debbie@hope2all.org



## *Angel Tree Update*

People of Hope,

A big Thank You to all that have made donations for the 25 families from Lake Weir Middle School for The Rock Christmas. I have been busy contacting each family and now have a list of children's ages, sizes and Christmas wishes. Some of the stories are heart breaking. Many have told me that times are extremely rough because of Covid 19. One mother told me that her 3 year old was a premature birth and has developmental problems. The child is unable to walk. Mom's number one Christmas wish was a walker for her baby. Because of your generosity the walker will be delivered before Christmas. Some of the families don't ask for toys. They just would like hygiene products, underwear, socks, shoes and clothing for their children. As I talk to them I have been making referrals to the Hope Food Pantry and Love INC for additional help. You are blessing these families in so many ways. Thank you.

**You are the people of God, the people of Hope!**

**Sunday**  
**December 20th 4:00pm**  
**Hope Central Campus**



**Is this year's holiday season overshadowed by grief, loss, anxiety, or stress? Are you concerned about celebrating the holidays while you deal with difficult feelings?**

**Join your family of Hope for our annual Blue Christmas worship service. You'll sing familiar carols of hope and faith, light candles of remembrance, offer quiet prayers, and find**

peace in the midst of a gentle community. You will be able to worship God and celebrate the birth of Jesus in peace without fanfare. We will close with the singing of Silent Night.

This service is intended to serve the entire Villages community and those close by. You are encouraged to invite friends, neighbors and others. Reservations are needed due to limited seating. For tickets, [click here](#) or call the church office 352-750-2321.

## *Update on Service Capacity*

Beginning this weekend, we will be increasing capacity for services at central campus. All pews will be used for seating with some distancing. Reservations will increase from 95 to 165 per service.

*H.O.P.E. University  
News for the  
upcoming week.....  
From Pastor Bruce*



**Monday, December 7--Zoom Discussion of Chapter 4**  
If you would like to participate in a discussion of the questions from last week's chapter of "By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism" (Chapter 4) on The Lord's Prayer, we will offer a Zoom meeting this coming Monday from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. This discussion is optional for those of you who are viewing the class presentations, but come if you like. Zoom information is as follows:

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://zoom.us/j/93385779978?  
pwd=cWZMbzR0TmgrMFJyWkp0RU5lYkw5UT09](https://zoom.us/j/93385779978?pwd=cWZMbzR0TmgrMFJyWkp0RU5lYkw5UT09)

**Meeting ID: 933 8577 9978**

**Passcode: 260919**

**Wednesday, December 9--Class presentation of Chapter 5**  
Join us live at 10:00 a.m. (or watch later in our archive section or on YouTube) in our presentation of Chapter 4 on The Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Confession. If you have purchased the book it is helpful to have read the chapter

before Wednesday's class. Notes for the class are available [here](#). Come as we read what Martin Luther said in his catechism and apply his words to our lives today!



We extend our love and sympathy to the family of ***Dominic Salvino*** who went to his heavenly home on November 29, 2020.

He was widowed in 2016. Dominic joined Hope Lutheran Church on October 26, 2003.

*Interment will be at Bushnell National Cemetery.*

Please keep Dominic's family in your hearts and prayers.

You are invited to join our Faith and Fellowship gatherings via Zoom, every Monday, at 9:30 am. This is an opportunity for us to continue to grow in God's Word, to pray together, to connect and check in with one another, and to offer and receive support in our journey of faith especially during such challenging times. Please use the link provided below to join us. You are welcome to invite others as well. Looking forward to seeing you soon!  
Pastor Rani



Topic: Faith & Fellowship  
Time: Mondays @ 9:30 am

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/95259014615>

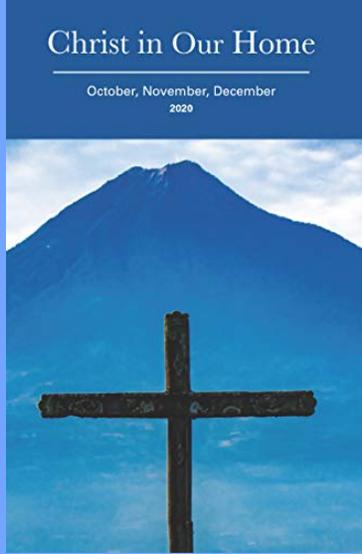
Meeting ID: 952 5901 4615  
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+19292056099 ID 95259014615#

**Christ in Our Home**  
October, November, December

*Bringing you a daily message*

*of God's amazing grace!*

The newest issue of *Christ in Our Home* is now available at the Central Campus. Copies are located in a basket on the bench under the covered walkway at the front of the church. Several copies of the July, August, September issue are also available.



### **CURBSIDE COMMUNION**

**Available at Central Campus**

**Mondays from 9am - 10am**

**Enter parking lot from Morse Blvd**

**Receive Holy Communion & have prayer with a pastor**

**Available at Lake Weir Campus**

**Mondays from 8am - 9am**

**Our prerecorded weekend worship service will include the communion liturgy and the pastors will administer the Words of Institution as they commune you with communion of one kind (bread only).**

## ***Need a Pastor?***

**If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact the church office at 352-750-2321 and we will get you in contact with a pastor. If your call is after hours or on a weekend, the recording provides an emergency number to contact.**

**Remember...Our pastors are ALWAYS available to you by phone and will see you by appointment if needed.**

**Scripture Readings for December 5-6**

*Joel 2:12-13, 28-29*

*Luke 11:11-13*

**Scripture Readings for December 12-13**

*Isaiah 61:1-11*

*Luke 4:16-21*

Visit our website: [www.hope2all.org](http://www.hope2all.org)

Send us an email!

STAY CONNECTED:

