



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to our Galaxy VBS! Whether you volunteered your time, donated supplies, prayed for the event, prepared food, decorated, or supported us behind the scenes, your efforts helped make this a wonderful experience for our children.

The children had an amazing time learning about God's love through Bible stories, music, games, crafts, and fellowship. Together we shared the important message that God loves us, so we love each other.

Thank you for helping us shine the light of Christ and make Galaxy VBS a memorable and faith-filled adventure for our kids!



Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship

9:00 am - Traditional Worship Service

10:30 am - Contemporary Worship Service

Watch online every Sunday!

STAY CONNECTED WITH HOPE'S WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://HLCBONITA.ORG](https://hlcbonita.org)



Letter of Hope
August/September 2026

From the Desk of Pastor Richard
Come Hungry, Leave Nourished

When we open the Gospel of Luke, we are reading far more than an ancient biography. We are stepping into a carefully researched account written by someone whose deepest desire was that people would know with certainty who Jesus is and what He came to accomplish.

Luke was not one of the Twelve Apostles. In fact, he was likely a Gentile—the only Gentile author in the New Testament. He was a physician by profession (Colossians 4:14), a careful observer by training, and eventually a faithful companion of the Apostle Paul during many of his missionary journeys. His background shaped the way he wrote. Rather than simply collecting stories, Luke tells us that he “carefully investigated everything from the beginning” before writing his orderly account (Luke 1:3). He interviewed eyewitnesses, gathered reliable testimony, and organized his Gospel so that his reader, Theophilus—and every reader since—could “have certainty concerning the things you have been taught” (Luke 1:4).

That purpose is just as important today as it was in the first century. We live in a world overflowing with opinions, speculation, and competing claims about Jesus. Luke reminds us that the Christian faith is not built on rumor or wishful thinking but on the trustworthy testimony of those who saw, heard, and walked with Christ Himself.

Luke also has a remarkable way of drawing our attention to people who might otherwise be overlooked. Throughout his Gospel we meet widows, children, the poor, the sick, tax collectors, Samaritans, sinners, and outsiders. Luke repeatedly shows us a Savior who notices those whom the world ignores and who extends His mercy to those who know they are in need. Perhaps that is one reason this Gospel has spoken so powerfully to Christians throughout the centuries. It continually reminds us that God's grace is not earned but received.

As we journey through Luke this summer, we are doing more than studying an ancient text. We are sitting at the feet of Jesus. Through the inspired words of Scripture, the Holy Spirit continues to reveal Christ to His people. He comforts the brokenhearted, calls sinners to repentance, strengthens weary disciples, and points us again and again to the cross and the empty tomb.

Our sermon series is titled Luke's Gospel for the Hungry, and that title reminds us of an important truth. Physical hunger can only be satisfied for a little while before we need to eat again. Spiritual hunger is different. It is ultimately satisfied only by Christ, who continues to feed His people through His Word. Every time we gather around the Scriptures, we receive something that the world cannot provide—forgiveness, hope, wisdom, and the sure promise of eternal life.

My prayer is that this series will not simply increase our knowledge of Luke, but deepen our love for the Savior whom Luke so faithfully proclaims. May we come to these pages with hungry hearts, trusting that the Lord who inspired them still delights to nourish His people today.

Peace and Joy!

Pastor Rich
Pastor Richard

*“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of
God and keep it!” - Luke 11:28 (ESV)*

Weekly Prayers August/September 2026



Sunday – Dear Lord Jesus, I repent for forgetting your law at times during my busy day. Forgive me and have mercy on me. In your dear name. Amen.

[1John 1:8-9](#) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Monday – Dear Heavenly Father, when I am not sure what your will is in my life, give me ears to hear and hearts to understand your word. Amen

[Philippians 4:13](#) I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Tuesday – Dear Lord, give me a heart that produces good fruit and that testifies to others, sharing my faith. In Jesus name. Amen.

[1 Chronicles 28:20](#) Then David said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished.

Wednesday – Dear Christ Jesus, help me to say what is helpful rather than what is hurtful when talking about others. In your name. Amen.

[1 Timothy 5:13](#) Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not.

Thursday – Dear Lord, judge of all, keep me from judging others, and thank you for sending your son to take our punishment when we fail. In His name. Amen.

[Matthew 7:1](#) “Judge not, that you be not judged.

Friday – Dear God, I praise and thank you for winning the war of my soul by sending your Son to die on a cross to defeat sin, death and the devil.

[Philippians 2:8](#) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Saturday – Lord God, keep me safe from the storms of life. In Jesus’ name. Amen

[Isaiah 41:13](#) For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not, I am the one who helps you.”

A Look at Hope’s Attendance

At HLC, we live with a very familiar rhythm: some of God’s people are with us year-round, and many others join us during the winter season. A three-year average of worship attendance helps us see that rhythm with a little more clarity.

Our attendance is strongest from January through March, with March averaging the highest. It begins to taper in spring and reaches its lowest point during the summer, especially in August. By September and October, attendance begins to build again, levels off through November and December, and then rises once more in January.

Three-Year Average Worship Attendance by Quarter			
Quarter	Months	Average Attendance	Seasonal Pattern
Q1	January–March	323	Highest season, with March averaging the strongest attendance.
Q2	April–June	215	Spring attendance is lifted by Palm Sunday and Easter, then begins to taper.
Q3	July–September	115	Lowest season, especially August, before attendance begins rebuilding in September.
Q4	October–December	206	Attendance continues to rebuild, then levels off through November and December.

Palm Sunday and Easter remain our two highest-attended Sundays, averaging 413 and 672 respectively. Because Easter can fall in either Q1 or Q2, those Sundays were normalized as the first and second Sundays in April for comparison. Even so, the timing of Easter matters: when Easter falls later in April, attendance tends to drop off with it as the season begins to wind down.

Of course, attendance is never just a number. Each person represents someone hearing the Gospel, receiving Christ’s gifts, being encouraged in the faith, and being welcomed into the fellowship of the church. Every season brings its own blessings and opportunities for ministry.

As we look at these averages, we give thanks for both year-round and seasonal worshipers. Whether the church is full in March or quieter in August, Christ is still present with His people, and we are blessed to gather, welcome, encourage, and serve in His name.

In Christ,

Tim Shaffer

Ministry Contacts

Staff

Richard Browning - Senior Pastor
Nikki Boocock - Preschool Director
Sonia Sciallis - Church Administrator
Cori Parmer- Office Manager
Gigi Torres Perez - Admin Assistant
Tina Browning - Faith Community Nurse
David Gomez- Music Director
Ruth Anderson - Choir Director
Alan Lomicka - Organist

Council Members

Julie Marquardt -President
Janet Kettler - Vice President
Chris Corrie - Treasurer
Bob Imig - Secretary
Susan Little - Director
Randall Perry - Director
Lloyd Barge - Director
Jim Maloney- Director
Tim Shaffer- Elder Representative
Paul Henke - Financial Secretary

Foundation Committee

Ron Anderson, Chairman
Susan Schwinn, Secretary
Bill Barnes- Treasurer
Curt Brenner
Marilyn Fenton
Andy Frech
Ron Knautz
Joann Voth

Elders

Tim Shaffer, Chairman
Chris Corrie
Chuck Fieldman
Tim Baum
Tom Steen
Brad Janes

Emeritus Elders

Bob Cory
Dennis Vosberg
Craig Fields
Scott Krawec
Mike Monti

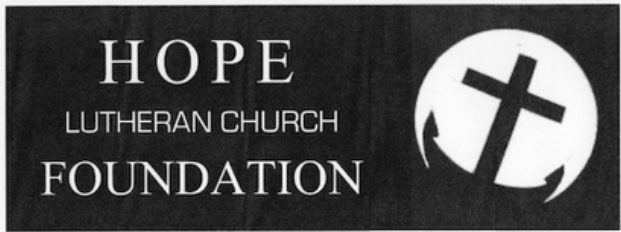
Help Us Keep Our Records Up to Date

As we continue to strengthen connections within our church family, we are updating our membership records to ensure we have the most current contact information for our members.

If your address, phone number, email address, or other contact information has changed, please take a moment to update your records with us. Member Information Update Forms are available at the Connection Center. You may also email your updated information to info@hopebonita.org.

Keeping our records current helps us communicate important church news, ministry opportunities, and provide better care and support to our congregation.

Thank you for helping us stay connected!!



It would not be possible to help any of these organizations doing God’s work without your help and the contributions you give to the Hope Foundation. If you are not contributing to the Hope Foundation, we would ask you to prayerfully consider it.

This year it was our privilege to contribute to 4 KIDS. This organization is a community-based care group that supports the foster care system in southwest Florida. It trains, licenses and supports Christian foster parents. This process includes a foster parent training course that is required by the state of Florida, home visits, extensive background checks and 24/7 placement services. A 4KIDS foster parent support specialist provides weekly check-ins with foster families.

Upon receiving the grant from the Hope Foundation, they responded with a thank you letter that read, “On behalf of everyone at 4KIDS, thank you for your generous grant in support of 4KIDS Southwest Florida. Your Partnership means so much to us, and especially to the children whose lives are being transformed through the support and care they receive trough 4KIDS faith-based continuum of care.

Because of your generosity, we are able to provide children who have suffered from abuse, abandonment or neglect with safe and stable housing and the therapeutic intervention necessary to heal from past traumas. In addition, foster families are provided with the support and tools they need to meet the needs of the children in their care, resulting in greater placement stability.

We are so excited to begin this partnership journey with Hope Lutheran Foundation and look forward to the stories of lives changed through your generosity.”

If you are not familiar with the Hope Foundation, or if you have questions about our endeavors, visit the church website or contact any member of our board. We hope to share more good results from your generosity in the future.

Peace be with you-
Susan Schwinn
Secretary, Hope Lutheran Church Foundation

Season Awareness

By Parish Nurse, Tina Browning BSN, RN, FCN

As we enter the late summer months in Florida, our congregation is reminded that caring for our health is an essential part of our calling as God's people. August and September bring unique challenges—heat, humidity, storms, new school routines—and also fresh opportunities to support one another with compassion and prayer. This season invites us to slow down, pay attention, and practice intentional care for ourselves and our neighbors.

Staying Safe in the Florida Heat

The combination of high temperatures and intense humidity can quickly lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, or heat-related illness. Please take extra care when outdoors, especially during midday hours. Keep water with you, wear lightweight clothing, and rest in shaded or air-conditioned spaces. If you know someone who is elderly, homebound, or without reliable cooling, a simple check-in can make a tremendous difference.

Hurricane Season Awareness

August and September are historically active months for tropical storms. Now is the time to review your emergency plans, gather supplies, and ensure medications are refilled. A small “go kit” with essentials—water, snacks, flashlights, important documents, and medications—can provide peace of mind. If you have questions about health-related storm readiness, our Faith Community Nurse is available to assist and pray with you.

Back-to-School Wellness

As students, teachers, and staff return to classrooms, healthy routines become especially important. Please join us in praying for our schools, families, and educators as they begin a new year filled with growth and opportunity. Consider reaching out to a teacher or school staff member with a note of encouragement—they carry a heavy load during these early weeks.

Supporting Emotional & Spiritual Well-Being

Whether you are navigating illness, grief, or simply the weight of daily life, you are not alone. Our congregation is here to walk with you. Reach out for prayer, conversation, or a visit. Christ's peace meets us in every season. May the Lord keep us safe, healthy, and encouraged as we move through these hot months together.

Tina@hopebonita.org. (239) 227-2065

Happy Birthday !!!

**Happy Birthday to all celebrating in August & September
May God bless your year ahead!**

Cole Bridges Aug 1
Collin Davis Aug 1
Margo Wirtjes Aug 1
Michael Konicke Aug 2
Aybri Bradley Aug 3
Fred Wenk Aug 4
Theresa Heidmann Aug 5
Evelyn Taylor Aug 5
Anne Barnes Aug 7
Jean Geiwitz Aug 8
Carol Heinrich Aug 10
Barbara Hennig Aug 10
Mark Myhre Aug 11
Beverly Van Bavel Aug 13
Peggy Prideaux Aug 19
Edward Wright Aug 19
Jodie Fox Aug 20
Anne Gienapp Aug 20

Peter Rocheford Aug 21
Carol Terlecky Aug 22
Paula Corrie Aug 24
Bob Bineau Aug 26
John Browning Aug 28
Richard Hacker Aug 28
Janice Johnson Aug 28
David Nesbit Aug 28
Dennis Vosberg Aug 29
Mary Cory Aug 31
Curtis Deterding Aug 31
Shirley Hite Sep 1
Tom Steen Sep 2
Nacy Benjamin Sep 5
Julie Schafer Sep 5
Craig Bonar Sep 7
Thomas Singstock Sep 7
Erik White Sep 11

Casey Monti Sep 12
Mike Liesmann Sep 14
Kurt Paternoga Sep 14
Gloria Knautz Sep 15
Sharan Weickelt Sep 16
Lynda Rehse Sep 19
Glen Lose Sep 20
Susan Vosberg Sep 20
Jan Boerman Sep 23
Karen Evenson Sep 23
Susan Schwinn Sep 23
Joan Davis Sep 25
Shari Mink Sep 25
Jan Jonas Sep 26
Sue Kammer Sep 26
Chuck Wolkerstorfer Sep 26
Pam Wilmer Sep 28



August/September Wedding Anniversaries



Mike & Julie Rohrbach Aug 2
Rick & Millie Bittner Aug 7
Charles & Deanne Schmidt Aug 10
Dick & Bernita Cornish Aug 13
Larry & Sandy Brown Aug 17
Jim Jones & Jodie Fox Aug 17
Paul & Karen Bradley Aug 18
Bruce & Donna Breckenfelder Aug 19
Ken & Linda Keyes Aug 19

Bill & Anne Barnes Aug 21
James & Judy Lieske Aug 25
Alan & Arlene Strawn Aug 29
Richard & Tina Browning Aug 31
Chris & Paula Corrie Aug 31
Jim & Carol Sauder Aug 31
Bob & Margaret Liptay Sep 1
Jim & Anne Gienapp Sep 2
Mark & Sharon Myhre Sep 7

Dennis and Karen Berens Sep 9
Lyle and Theresa Heidmann Sep 10
Craig and Wendy Bonar Sep 12
Mike and Vicki Liesmann Sep 12
Paul and Jean Geiwitz Sep 14
Phil and Del Jennings Sep 21
Lyle and Gloria Raguse Sep 24
Eugene and Lorraine Kelly Sep 26

Did we miss your Birthday or Anniversary? Let us know by emailing us at info@hopebonita.org.