

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY, 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WOODS

Dear Friends,

When Jesus' disciples saw Him walking on the water in the midst of a storm they were terrified because they thought he was a ghost. Peter, however, recognized Jesus and said, 'Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water.' Jesus said "Come," and Peter boldly stepped out of the boat and began to walk toward Jesus. This took great faith—not to mention courage—on Peter's part.

But then, we are told, "...when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'" As long as Peter kept his gaze firmly fixed upon Jesus, the stormy waters had no claim upon him. But when he began to pay attention to the storm that was howling around him, he began to sink.

Jesus immediately, "put out his hand and caught him," and then said, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" The implication is that our faith is strengthened when we give Jesus and His kingdom priority in our thoughts and words and actions, but that if we allow ourselves to become preoccupied with storms that rage in this worldly kingdom, we will be assailed by doubts and fears.

This last year has been an especially stormy year in the kingdom of this world. From Ukraine to Gaza, from Harvard to the Mexican border, storms of one kind or another are raging. And it is tempting to let these storms capture our attention and turn it away from the One who can "reach out and keep us from sinking."

In all probability 2024 will be a lot like 2023. What we can be certain of is that Jesus will continue to hold out His hand to us and say, "Come."

Have a blessed new year.

Pastor Woods

Sunday Services

9 AM Adult Bible Study
10 AM Worship Service
1st & 3rd Sundays—
communion



Connect with us!
hlcaurora.org

456 S. Chillicothe Road
Aurora, OH 44202
Ph: 330.562.9660

JANUARY SERVER'S LIST



If you cannot serve on your assigned date, please find a replacement and let Dawn know of that change.

Thank you for your service.

Date	Music	Worship Assistant	Acolyte	Greeters	Reader	Communion	Sermon/ PP
Jan. 07	Lori	Greg	Hank	Becky	Greg	Becky	Dawn
Jan. 14	Pearl	N/A	Deacon	Jim & Cecilia	Lori	None	Dawn
Jan. 21	Lori	Andy	CJ	Marge & Glenda	Andy	Karen	Dawn
Jan. 28	Pearl	N/A	Beckett	Ruth K.	Karol	None	Dan

THE THIRD @ THREE

Hope caught a little more of the Christmas spirit at December's 3rd at 3 social event with a fantastic performance by members of the Aurora High School Orchestra. The music was wonderful and the large crowd thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon! Many thanks to those who continue to organize these chances to gather. Be sure to join our next event on January 21st at 3 p.m.



"What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year." Vern McLellan



- Ava B. January 03
- Nancy W. January 27
- Jon B. January 30
- Ruth K. January 30

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, February 8
7 p.m.

If you have any agenda items for the council to discuss, please see Dan C. or email him at dcolemansr@windstream.net



Do you have an event you are planning at Hope? Please be sure to let

Dawn know details of your event.

She will add it onto the new master calendar located in the hallway between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.

The welcome tablecloth and sign are located on top of the filing cabinets in the office and are available for all church events.

BIRTHDAYS AT HOPE

New for the New Year: Hope will be honoring the birthdays of members and friends of each month with a celebration coffee hour after church. These chances to gather together will include light refreshments including cake and a special blessing for those having birthdays during the month.

The birthday celebration for the month of January will take place on Sunday January 28th. Be sure to stay and celebrate the blessings we have in one another.

MILITARY OUTREACH

Coming in February: Hope members will have the chance to share their love with others through an outreach to military service members. Be on the lookout for details in weekly announcements and in the February newsletter.



THANK YOU!



Thanks to the work of some of Hope's helpers, Jeff C., Linda C., and Becky B, the church entrance was beautified for the season of Advent as well as for the winter months. Enjoy this warm welcome as you prepare your hearts and minds to enter God's house.

Thanks to all to purchased poinsettias to decorate the altar for the Advent season. The flowers brightened up the sanctuary for the Christmas season!

Are you in need of an updated church directory? Be sure to have the most up to date information by picking up a new directory available on the welcome table outside of the sanctuary.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

With children from ages 3-13, Hope's children's Christmas program during worship one rainy Sunday in December was one of the best yet.

Thanks to all who helped with the program (particularly one of Hope's members playing the role of the Big Star) and especially to the kids for reminding us that "...in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." (Luke 2:11)



THE THIRD @ THREE—JANUARY TRIVIA

Foster Brown, our scheduled speaker for January's The Third @ Three is having surgery and has to reschedule.

We will welcome him in April or May after he heals.

BUT . . . Get your thinking caps on and get your team ready!

We will have a Bible Trivia Day on Sunday, January 21 at 3 PM at the church.

Drinks, cookies and prizes!

BIBLE TRIVIA



SUNDAY
JANUARY 21
3 PM

Twenty question Bible Trivia
Individuals or Teams
Prizes!



Hope Lutheran Church
456. S. Chillicothe Rd.



Do you know anyone of preschool age?

Be sure to spread the word that Hope Christian Nursery School is holding an open house for all of its classes for the 2024-2025 school year on January 25th from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

For more information, please email Hope's Preschool Director, Jen L. at Jennifer@Lynagh.com

We're grateful for those who generously gave their time to serve cookies and punch as an outreach to Hope Christian Nursery School following the Christmas program for each class in December!

Prayer Requests



Do you have a prayer request on your mind and heart? Prayer requests can be emailed to Hope's church secretary, Dawn, at dghlc456@gmail.com.

A prayer list is distributed to the congregation each Sunday after worship and prayers remain on the list for one month.



Looking for something new in 2024? Join the **In the Word bi-weekly Saturday study** and an examination of the Book of Genesis. The study takes place at church and new members are welcome at any time.

January meeting dates are 1/13 and 1/27.

9:15 coffee and fellowship; 9:30 small group study; 10:30 Q&A with the pastor.

For more information, please email Karen W. at karenwoods@yahoo.com

The **Men's Tuesday morning Bible Study** is on a break and will return on Tuesday, January 16th to continue discussing the Book of Revelation. The men meet at church on Tuesday mornings at 8:45 a.m. except for the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

The **Sunday morning adult Bible Study** meets at 9:00 a.m. and will continue discussing the Gospel of Matthew in January.

Hope's website is entering a new era this month!

Be on the lookout for an announcement that Hope's upgraded website is "live" with all the latest church information and news.

THE THIRD AT THREE

Join us on the third
Sunday of the month at 3
PM for our speakers and
events.



Our Awesome Speakers and Events:



Bible Trivia

Twenty Question Trivia
January 21



Felicia Zavarella Stadelman

Art of Michelangelo
February 18



Haitian Missionaries

March 17