

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY, 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WOODS

Dear Friends,

In his book, *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer speaks of the importance of setting aside time each day for reading God's Word and praying. Through prayer each and every one of us speaks to God and in His Word God speaks to each and every one of us. This two-way communication keeps us "in the loop" with the Father and the Holy Spirit and draws us all three of us closer together. The Holy Spirit breathes His life into us and strengthens us for meeting the responsibilities of the day, and God promises to love us and care for us.

On one occasion Luther wrote in his diary, "*I have so much to do tomorrow I'll have to spend an extra hour in prayer.*" He had no problem believing that prayer can move mountains. He had seen how God had opened the hearts of millions of people throughout Europe to the Gospel in spite of opposition from the Church of Rome and the Holy Roman Emperor—and he attributed it all to God's Word and to prayer. With that kind of power at our disposal, why would we rely on our own strength?

The usual reason has to do with time—our busy schedules and our need to "get on with the day." Who has time for prayer? We are like a man lumbering up a hill with 100 pounds on his back who refuses a ride offered to him because he doesn't have time to take the load off his back and get in the car.

There's an old saying to the effect that he who does not pray in a specific time and a specific place every day probably doesn't pray at all. So make out a new schedule for yourself: set aside 15 minutes each morning for Word and prayer. I promise you that you will be glad you did.

Pastor Woods

Sunday Services

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



Connect with us!
hlcaurora.org

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Aurora, OH 44202
Ph: 330.562.9660

FEBRUARY 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
Feb 4	Lori	Chris S.	Andrew	Karol & Carol	Chris S.	Dawn	Becky
Feb 11	Pearl	None	Hank	Larry & Chris	Herb	Dan	None
Feb 14 Ash Wed	Lori	Greg		Fred & Sheila	Greg	Dan	Karen
Feb 18	Lori	Paul	Beckett	Becky	Paul	Dawn	Karen
Feb 25	Pearl	None	Deacon	Jim & Cecelia	Bob	Dawn	None

THE THIRD @ THREE

For the past 26 years, Felicia has trained over 400 Art Docents, and delivered art history lectures in schools, libraries and community education centers in the Cleveland area.

She is known as an expert on Mary Cassatt and was filmed in Paris about Mary's life.

Join us for a fascinating lecture on Michelangelo and his religious art.



The Art of Michelangelo



Sunday, February 18

3 PM

Felicia Zavarella Stadelman

February Birthdays

Kelsey	5
Karol K.	7
Dave R.	14
Donna	20
Jeff C.	25
Debi S.	28

BIRTHDAYS AT HOPE



Hope had a wonderful time honoring the birthdays of members and friends with January birthdays recently at a celebration coffee hour after church.

This chance to gather together will take place again for those with February birthdays on February 25th.



Join us after worship that day to celebrate the blessings we have in one another!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Fun Sunday School Activities:



Both Sunday School classes recently discussed Bible stories about the blind. The younger class learned what it might be like to be blind by feeling objects in a bag and guessing what the objects were. They then learned the Bible story about the blind beggar that Jesus helped to see.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next church council meeting will be on Thursday, February 8th at 7 p.m. If you have any agenda items for the council to discuss, please see Dan C. or email him at dcole-mansr@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.

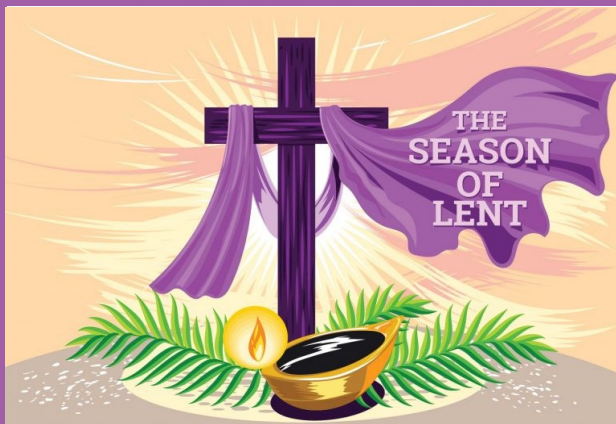
The welcome tablecloth and sign are located on top of the filing cabinets in the office and are available for all church events.



The older Sunday school class learned the Bible story of Saul's conversion from persecuting Christians to becoming a Christian. The class made a "conversion" of their own by turning cream, vanilla, and sugar into whipping cream in a bottle with A LOT of vigorous shaking!

Sunday School in February meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays during worship.

Confirmation class will meet on February 11th and 25th this month following worship until 11:45 a.m.



Lenten Devotional Services

Lenten Devotional Services will be held during the five Sundays of Lent.

Devotions at 5:00 PM
Light Supper at 5:30 PM

February 18
February 25
March 3
March 10
March 17



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH DURING WORSHIP

HOPE WILL WELCOME ITS NEWEST MEMBERS INTO THE CONGREGATION. JOIN US TO SUPPORT THESE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES ON THAT DAY!

EASTER ILLUSTRATION MINISTRY



If you can color, we need you!

During the season of Lent, Hope's members are invited to be a part of a congregation wide illustration that will be on display for Easter.

Thirty six (36) individual parts of a larger picture need to be colored so they can be assembled for Easter. The simple directions and coloring supplies will be available in a basket on the welcome table. All colored pictures need to be returned to the basket by March 17th.

On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

"Anyone can catch your eye, but it takes someone special to catch your heart." - Author Unknown




HOPE HAS A HEART FOR AMERICAN MILITARY TROOPS through Operation Gratitude. This program provides opportunities for American people to express gratitude for military service and to show that what they do matters.

Hope will be collecting ChapStick to add to Care Packages. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase very specific items to be included in Care Packages.

Most importantly, note cards to express your thanks for service members will be available. Please consider writing a few lines, contributing Chap Stick, and/or making a donation for other items through the month of February.

See the Welcome Table for a collection basket and note cards.

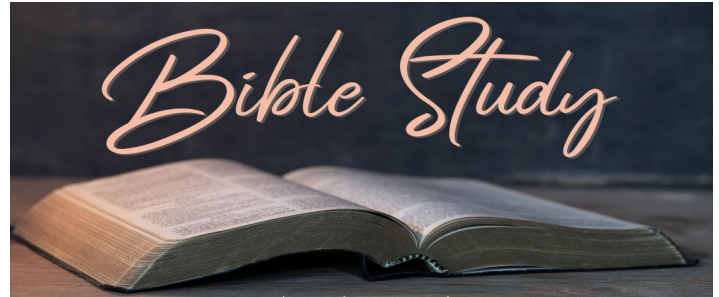




Prayer Requests

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.



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.

February meeting dates are 2/10 and 2/24.

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** meets at church on Tuesday mornings at 8:45 a.m. except for the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The group is currently studying the Book of Revelation.

The **Sunday morning adult Bible Study** meets at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall and is continuing to study the Gospel of Matthew.



The season of Lent will begin with an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 14th at 7:30 p.m.

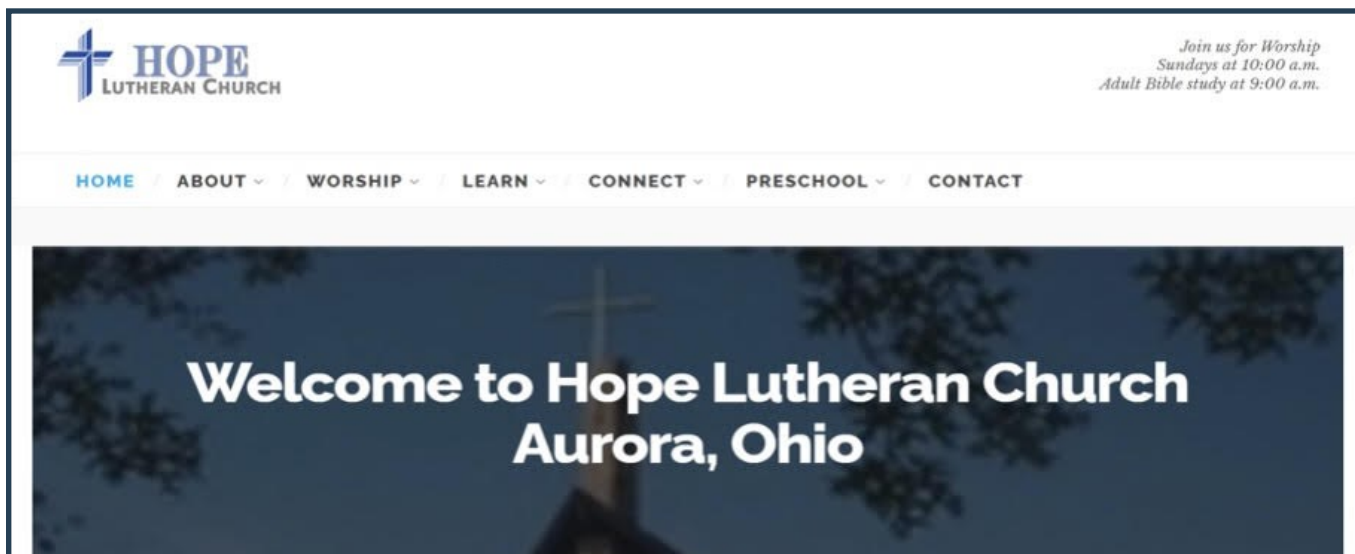
The service will include the imposition of ashes as well as the distribution of communion.

HOPE'S NEW WEBSITE

Out With the Old, In With the New! Hope's new website is up and running and is full of information for you! The texts and audio versions of sermons each week are available as well as news each week.

Looking to submit a prayer request? It can be done through the website as well. Be sure to check out the new look of Hope's website and save it to your favorites at hlcaurora.org.

Thanks to Lisa for all her hard work.



Valentine's Day Facts

- Every year, more than 36 million heart shaped boxes of chocolates are sold across the country.
- The average man spends \$130 on Valentine's Day, while women spend about \$70.
- Every year, around 9 million people buy their pets a Valentine's Day gift.
- February 14th is the second largest card giving day of the year, just after Christmas.
- Teachers receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by kids, mothers, wives and girlfriends.
- Hallmark was one of the first to mass produce a Valentine's Day card, all the way back in 1913.



VOA THANK YOU

Dear Becky, David & church,
 Thank you so much for helping us with Thanksgiving again this year. Your donation is a huge help in providing a special holiday meal for those in need. Your generosity means everything to us and to the community we serve. Thank you again for your kindness and continued commitment.

Lynn Jeff VOA

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