

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY, 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WOODS



Dear Friends,

I was born into a family that never went to church. Religion was never mentioned in our household. When I was in the second grade I found an old Bible on a bookshelf in my parent's bedroom. I opened it and read the first three chapters of *Genesis*. I found them interesting and I would go back from time to time to read them.

Six years later when I was in the eighth grade my class took a field trip to see a church. It was a Methodist church and I was amazed at the beauty of the sanctuary. After school I went back and told the pastor that I wanted to join the church. He told me to start coming to church on Sundays and that after the services he would teach me about Jesus Christ. Several weeks later I was baptized.

After I was baptized my Dad grew tired of taking me to services on Sunday and I stopped going. I turned into an atheist like my parents and decided that religion was nothing but fairy tales. For the next twenty-four years I had no use for the church or the Bible. I turned into a cynical, self-ish human being and even entertained thoughts of suicide.

My wife Karen saw what was going on with me and asked me to start going to church with her. I agreed but had no hope that anything good would come out of it. But the church had a tough Lutheran pastor who with a few well-chosen words made mincemeat of my atheistic sophistry. He turned me back to the faith I had in Jesus Christ in the eighth grade and here I am today—a pastor.

Once He's got hold of us, God never lets go. I ran away from him for half of my life but in the end he brought me home.

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
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MAY 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	Sermon/ PP
May 5	Lori	Paul	Beckett	Joe G.	Paul	Dawn
May 12	Lori	None	Deacon	Becky	Lori	Dawn
May 19	Lori	Greg	Andrew	Marge & Glenda	Greg	Dawn
May 26	Pearl	None	Hank	Jim & Cecilia	Andy	Dan

THE THIRD @ THREE

The Third @ 3 welcomes the City of Aurora Chief of Police, Brian Byard. He will be speaking about scams that are in the area and how to stay safe!

Chief Byard was appointed by Mayor Ann Womer-Benjamin on October 31, 2014. Mr. Byard oversees daily activity over the fifty-two member police department, manages the departmental operating budget, plans and coordinates development projects and programs as well as all public relations.

Before coming to Aurora, Chief Byard worked for the City of Bedford Police Department where he's held many roles since 1998. Mr. Byard's roles have included General Detective, Narcotics Detective, Detective Bureau Supervisory Sergeant, as well as Supervisory Agent of the Southeast Area Drug Task Force.

Chief Byard currently sits on the States OneOhio Region 13 Board of Directors which encompasses Portage, Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula Counties. The Board considers funding and program request utilizing funds derived from the States lawsuit against various pharmaceutical companies. Chief Byard also sits on the states MARCS steering committee and is the President of the Portage County Police Chiefs Association.



May 19 at 3 PM

"For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone." - Song of Songs 2:11-12



Brian W.	4
Judy R.	5
Chris C.	6
Chris S.	10
Jim G.	18
Andy R.	19
Lori F.	20
Doug B.	24
Dan O.	24
Sheila K.	25

Church Council

Church council will meet on Thursday, June 13th 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Sunday School classes recently colored miniature bird houses for spring that they hung by the front door of the church. Just as spring is a season of renewal, the children were reminded that the death and resurrection of Jesus gives us new life.

Sunday School in May meets on May 12th and May 26th during the worship service. Children are invited to sit with their families for the beginning of worship and will be dismissed to Sunday School following the children's sermon.

SUMMER SNACKS



Summer Snack Collection: Without school meals in the summer, food insecurity greatly increases for some families . . . but Hope can help!

Hope will be collecting summer snacks for children who attend a summer program at Redeemer Crisis Center in Cleveland. Members and friends are asked to bring

Goldfish snack crackers, granola bars, and graham crackers to church between now and June 9th so they can be distributed during the summer program.

Donations can be placed in the bin by the welcome table. Not sure about shopping for snacks? No problem! An envelope for monetary donations for snacks is also available.

REV. DAN ESALA

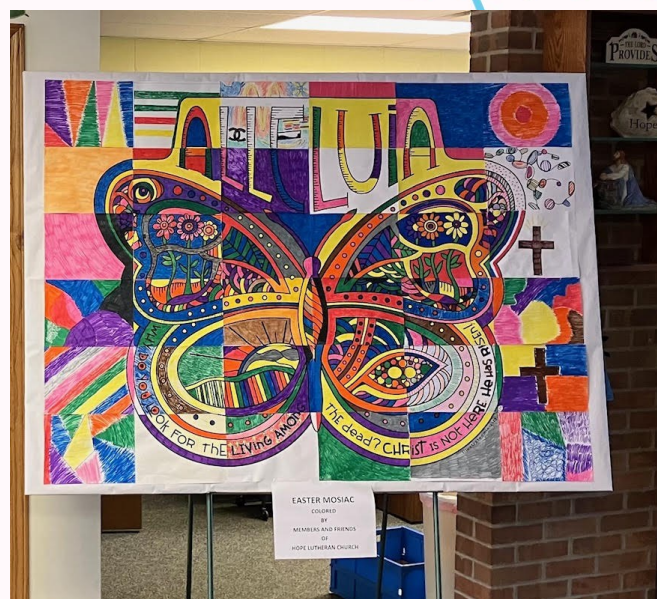
Hope's soon-to-be- new Pastor, Rev. Dan Esala, will be preaching on Sunday, June 9th.

Check the June newsletter for further info!



ART SHOW

Hope's Easter mosaic colored by members and friends was recently included in Hope Christian Nursery School's art show. Students created art works according to the seasons as well as lessons on renowned artists. Their creations were displayed in a wonderful year show for their families.



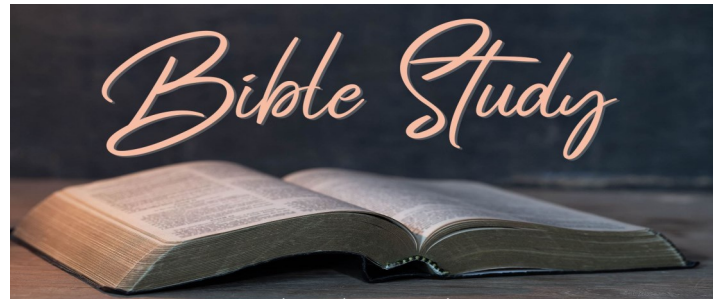
"A mother's hug lasts long after she lets go." —Unknown

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

Mark Your Calendar:

Hope will honor the birthdays of members and friends having May birthdays with a celebration coffee hour after church on May 12th.

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



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.

May meeting dates are 5/4 and 5/18.

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 current topic of study is the Book of Ezekiel.

The **Sunday morning adult Bible Study** meets at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall to continue discussing the Gospel of Matthew.

Prayer Requests

The words 'Prayer Requests' are written in a purple, cursive font. To the right of the text is a stylized yellow flower with a pink heart in the center and green leaves.

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.



Confirmation class will meet on May 12th this month in the conference room following worship until 11:45 a.m. This will be the final meeting of the Confirmation class until the fall.

Church news, updates, and reminders are posted several times a week on Hope's website as well as on Hope's Facebook, Instagram, and X (Twitter) accounts. Be sure to check these resources often to stay up to date.

Website: hlcaurora.org
Twitter: [@HLCAurora](https://twitter.com/HLCAurora)

Facebook: Hope Lutheran Church in Aurora, Ohio
Instagram: [hopelutheranchurchauroraohio](https://www.instagram.com/hopelutheranchurchauroraohio)

"God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers." —Rudyard Kipling