

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER, 2024



PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Life sure is an incredible thing, isn't it? To be able to feel the wind on my face, or to taste a hamburger, or to smell my wife's perfume; to be able to experience love, and to be warm and dry when the weather is just the opposite – that too is incredible. Life is good, and the highest honor there could be is to be called into it. I like that – we are called into life, into being, into existence, by God. Thank you. God for calling us into being. Thank you that we can feel, and smell, and taste, and love and be loved! In addition, I have a house, two cars, a bunch of tools, friends, fellow travelers in the Christian faith. I have music and TV, the Browns (Okay, not everything is perfect in life), I have grandkids that hug me and kids that still say they love me. I have a good doctor, who has excellent nurses. Life is good, and I have so much.

I think most of you could recite the same kind of litany of the great things there are about our lives. Yet, the way we sometime grouse about how bad things are, you'd think that life really stinks, that we're poverty-ridden outcasts who have been treated unfairly, and we have no hope of ever achieving the American Dream. Oh, my friends, we've gone way beyond whatever our grandparents thought the American Dream was, and I hope that deep down in our hearts most of us know that. Sometimes we just get into the bad practice of grouching, even when we're on top of the world.

November, with Thanksgiving Day, even though it's only a secular holiday, does remind us of how blessed we are. It reminds us of our blessings, both material and spiritual, of God's abundant provision, of His care and love for humankind, and of His will to sustain the lives He's called into being.

I realize, of course, that there is also much pain experienced in life, many heart-aches and losses. But somehow, we survive, and here we are, fat and sassy. I know that sounds kind of undignified, but isn't it true? I think it's just this kind of thing – you know, knowing you're favored by God, experiencing untold blessings, relishing those blessings, being content with not being richer than Elon Musk, and, AND considering God's redemptive plan in Jesus Christ, that give a non-grouching attitude, much like that of the Psalmist who wrote, ***“What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?” Psalm 118:29*** What, indeed! Maybe we can start with a truly thankful, non-grouching spirit. Although we know that we are saved by grace through faith, and not our works, God will surely not let such a grateful attitude go unrewarded in this life.

So, smell, taste, feel, love and all the other good things your existence offers. For life is really good. Thank you, Jesus! And thanking God for you, I am-

Yours in Christ, Dan Esala

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

 Connect with

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

THE THIRD @ 3



Hope's "3rd at 3" social group enjoyed a treat in October.

One of America's great con artists, Cassie Chadwick, came to life and shared her secrets on how she swindled banks out of millions of dollars right here in Cleveland.



ADVENT SUNDAYS

Coming in December: Advent Sunday evening services will be held on December 8th, 15th, and 22nd. These services include a brief Bible devotion followed by a potluck supper. Look for further details in the December newsletter.

THIRD @ 3



AURORA HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA
 UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JASON BURDETT
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 15, 3PM
 CONCERT AND PIZZA DINNER





LWML NEWS



Hope's unit of the Northeast Zone of the LWML will begin meeting the second Sunday of the month. Our first meeting will be on **Sunday, November 10th**

following the worship service.

All women are invited to attend and be a part of the local and global mission work LWML accomplishes.

A Northeast Zone Prayer service will take place on February 15, 2025 (snow date 2/22/25) at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Chesterland, OH beginning at 9:30 am.

There will also be another Northeast Zone event, our Spring Rally, on April 26, 2025 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Mayfield Heights beginning at 9:30 am.

These gatherings of other Lutheran women are not only inspiring, but you get to know other women who share Christ's mission and encourage you along the way.

There is some information on the welcome table along with mite boxes to collect your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and yes, even dollars!

If you have more questions, please contact Marg Godale, Mary Osicky or Celia Esala.

LCMS EVENTS—2025

The dates for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering have been set! The youth of the LCMS are invited to be in New Orleans, July 19-23, 2025.

Ohio District LCMS 24th Regular Convention

June 22-24, 2025

St. John Lutheran Church, Dublin OH



Happy NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY

Hank S.	11
Glenda C.	13
Bob M.	17
Paul S.	20
Katherine S.	21
Cecelia G.	22
Del D.	27

CAKE SUNDAY November 24

Hope will honor the birthdays of members and friends having November birthdays with a celebration coffee hour after church on November 24th. Join us after worship that day for cake and to celebrate the blessings we have in one another!



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 UPDATE



The Sunday School classes in October began studying the book of Daniel. Students discussed how they can choose to follow God even when it's not the popular thing to do.

Students appreciated some of God's gifts during fall by making leaf rubbings. Sunday school classes meet during worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month and class will be held on November 10th and November 24th this month.

Students appreciated some of God's gifts during fall by making

WORSHIP CARDS



Worship Cards Now Available: Are you looking for an easy way to share Hope's worship information with a friend, neighbor, or group?

Postcard sized worship cards are now available on the welcome tablet that can easily be passed along to others.

Be sure to grab a few on your way into or out of church!

Third @ 3



The Art of

Dr. Seuss™



November 17 3 PM

FELICIA ZAVARELLA STADELMAN



NOVEMBER SERVER'S LIST

If you cannot serve on your assigned date, please find a replacement and let Dawn know. Thank you for serving.

Date	Music	Worship Assistant	Greeters	Reader	Communion	Acolyte	Sermon/ PP
Nov. 3	Lori	Greg B.	Ruth K.	Greg B.	Becky	CJ	Dawn
Nov. 10	Lori	None	Karol	Andy R.	None	Deacon	Dawn
Nov. 17	Lori	Cheryl T.	Larry & Chris	Becky B.	Bev	Beckett	Dawn
Nov. 24	Lori	None	Fred & Sheila	Herb	None	Hank	Dan




CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING



The next church council meeting will be held on Thursday December 12th at 3:30 p.m. If you have any agenda items for church council, please see Dan C. or email him at dcolemansr@windstream.net

Volunteers of America Thanksgiving Meal Bags



Thank you to all who have signed up to provide non-perishable food items and monetary donations for the Thanksgiving meal bags Hope provides to local families through the Volunteers of America. **A few sign up opportunities are still available for food donations** to be able to complete the 35 meal bags.

Food donations can be placed in the marked bin outside the sanctuary by November 24th. The generosity of Hope combined with a grant from Thrivent will meet the growing need for food in our community here in Aurora.

“The harvest of autumn is not in the fields, but in the soul that has learned patience through seasons of waiting.”
~ Unknown



VOTER'S MEETING

The annual voter's meeting for church members will briefly take place following worship on Sunday, December 15th.

Reminder: Please prayerfully consider your response on the pledge cards that were mailed to members in October.


Pledge cards help plan the budget for the upcoming year at Hope and can be turned into the collection plate located on the baptismal font in the sanctuary.



**Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good; his love
endures forever.**


—1 Chronicles 16:34

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.



BIBLE STUDIES

The **In the Word** bi-weekly Saturday study continues to examine the Book of Genesis. The study takes place at church and new members are welcome at any time.

November meeting dates are 11/9 and 11/23.

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 **Sunday morning adult Bible Study** meets at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Pastor Esala leads the study on "Discipleship" by Ray Vander Laan. The study examines what it means to be a follower of Christ through cultural, historical, and contextual lenses of Scripture.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month for 45 minutes following worship.

Meeting dates for November are November 10 and November 24.

TOY DONATION

The overwhelming donations of infant and toddler toys from Hope's church and especially the preschool will be a blessing to Redeemer Crisis Center this winter. Thank you to all who donated these gently used toys that will be distributed through the Babies' Care Program at the Center. This program provides diapers, wipes, new and used seasonal clothes, books, used toys and other baby items to pregnant parents and parents of children up to the age of 2 ½ years. Parents must attend a monthly informational meeting to receive items.



Why Go to Church?

Author Unknown

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time, I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

Are you following Hope? 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

Facebook: Hope Lutheran Church in Aurora, Ohio

Instagram: hopelutheranchurchauroraohio

Twitter: @HLCAurora

"Good mashed potato is one of the great luxuries of life." – Lindsey Bareham