

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER, 2024

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Well, look at that! It's already October, and do I have a list of things to do. In the first place, I have to write this newsletter article. Then, I need to choose a Memory Challenge verse for the month. Let's try this one on for size: **"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9**

Okay, now that we have that taken care of, in October I also need to remember my wife's birthday.

She doesn't like the attention, but I remember it because I love her. Then there's Halloween, which I think has gotten way bigger than it deserves. I don't know why people are attracted to the creepy. Oh wait, maybe because that's part of the fallen nature of humanity. I know, I know, many people just get into it because it's fun. I think that's okay, as long as it doesn't supplant living for Jesus. You see, what troubles me is that more kids are out trick or treating than are in Sunday School.

Okay, enough of my monthly rant, for at about the same time as Halloween, comes our joyful celebration of the Reformation. How refreshing and renewing to be reminded that God loves us in spite of ourselves, that salvation is far less complicated than we try to make it, that it's as simple as, **"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:8** Oh yes, and we get to practice our Latin: Sola Gratia (grace alone), Sola Fides (faith alone), Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone) and Sola Christus (Christ alone). What a time!

October is also a time for raking leaves, putting away lawn furniture, and so much more. All in all, a pretty good month! It can also be a bit exhausting. So, the passage of the month is an appropriate encouragement, along with a promise: **"let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Gal. 6:9**

A blessed October to you, Friends!

Abiding in Hope,

Dan Esala



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A year and a half ago, we announced a program called "Revitalization." At the time, there was a feeling that our church life could use a lift or some change. So, we held a workshop in March of last year to identify those areas and seek solutions.

The workshop was very productive. Key themes that emerged were:

- A need for improved communications
- More opportunities for fellowship
- Growth through new members

The response to those needs so far has been:

- A Communications Director position was created and filled:
 - Weekly "Hope's Happenings" are now emailed to members
 - Hope's website has been completely rebuilt
 - Our social media presence is greatly enhanced
 - The driveway sign is regularly updated
- A Saturday morning Bible Study was established and is ongoing
- The Prayer List was revised for Sunday distribution with announcements
- A Welcome Table in the narthex was created
- A keyboardist was engaged for the "contemporary" service
- The 3rd Sunday @ 3 programs were created and are ongoing
- Monthly birthday celebrations are held
- Welcome packets have been made available for visitors
- The area behind was altar cleaned up to enhance the appearance of the sanctuary
- A Time and Talent Survey was completed

All of this was made possible with the dedication and support of Hope's family. We are blessed to have the resources, both human and financial, to make Hope what it is today.

But we are not done. Remember the story of the Buick idling at the traffic light? The passengers were comfortable, but the car wasn't going anywhere. Well, the light has turned green and we are moving, but we're still in first gear.

So, what are we to do now? Jesus had a couple of things to say that might guide our thinking:

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - *Matthew 28*

³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' - *Matthew 25*

Soon, we will all be receiving that annual stewardship letter asking for a financial pledge. While this may not be our favorite time in the church year, it does give us an opportunity to reflect on how Hope might grow as more of a 'Matthew 25' or 'Matthew 28' community and how each one of us can use our gifts to contribute to that growth.

Blessings, Dan C

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." ~ Corrie ten Boom

October Birthdays

Sarah W.	3
Jill B.	7
Edgar H.	9
Donna P.	11
Jacob B.	17



The next church council meeting will be on **Thursday, October 10th at 7 p.m.**

If you have any agenda items for the council to discuss, please see Dan C. or mail 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Sunday School classes recently studied Mark 16:15 – “Jesus said to them: Go into all the world and preach good news to all creation.”

The classes discussed ways they can share the good news with others then created chalk drawings about the love of Jesus at the entrance of the church for all to see.

Sunday school will be meet on October 13th and October 27th this month. Children are asked to attend worship with their families and will be dismissed to Sunday School following the children’s chat in the service.



Check out the chalk! Sunday School students were busy coloring crosses on the sidewalk at Hope.

THE THIRD @ 3

Third @ 3

CASSIE L. CHADWICK

Most infamous Cleveland financial con-artist



October 20th
3 PM



WOMEN IN HISTORY
STEPPING OUT OF THE PAGES TELLING THEIR STORIES




OCTOBER 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
October 6	Lori	Paul	Becky & Beverly	Paul	Becky	Drew	Dawn
October 13	Lori	None	Marge & Glenda	Karol	None	Deacon	Dawn
October 20	Lori	Greg	Ruth & Ruth	Greg	Bev	CJ	Dawn
October 27	Lori	None	Karol	Herb	None	Hank	Dawn

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, 'Ryan, you be Jesus.'



Annual VOA Thanksgiving Bag Pack

Plans are in the works to collect food that will be assembled in bags and distributed to local families through the Volunteers of America for Thanksgiving.

Watch for more info in weekly announcements and the opportunity to donate beginning on October 6.

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



Hope will honor the birthdays of members and friends having October birthdays with a celebration coffee hour after church on October 27. Join us after worship that day for cake and to celebrate the blessings we have in one another!



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

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.

October meeting dates are 10/12 and 10/26.

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 October are October 13th and October 27th.



CHRIST *Lutheran* CHURCH

OCT 5th Fall Festival

11am - Opening Pledge of Allegiance - Lead by Scouts

Potato Pancakes are available.

Pumpkins for sale.

Raffle basket sales open.

Kids crafts and games open

Car & Tractor Show opens

12-Childrens Costume Parade

1pm- Pet Costume Contest

2pm-Car/Tractor Judging and
announcement of winners after

2:30pm-Raffle Basket winners pulled

3pm-Wrap up and head home.

110827 Main St, Mantua

Check out our Facebook page.



HCNS NEWS



Thanks to Hope and a grant from Thrivent Financial, all new students to Hope Christian Nursery School will receive children's Bibles for this school year. Twenty-six (26) Bibles have been purchased and will be given to students this fall.



This fall Pastor Esala has begun holding a chapel time each week for the students in Hope's preschool. The students are loving the messages Pastor Esala shares and look forward to their chapel time each week!

THIRD @ 3

Hope's "3rd at 3" social group enjoyed Foster Brown's storytelling and songs about nature in September. Join us next month for an exciting presentation on Cassie L. Chadwick, Cleveland's most infamous financial con artist. You won't want to miss this dramatic performance!



CLEAN OUT THE TOYBOX

"Babies' Care Program" at Redeemer Crisis Center

Please place toys in the marked bin near the welcome table beginning October 1.

Questions? See Becky B or email: becksbell@roadrunner.com

During October Hope Lutheran Church and Hope Preschool are collecting infant and toddler toys in good working condition.

The toys will be distributed as part of the monthly "Babies' Care Program" at Redeemer Crisis Center in Cleveland. 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. Please place toys in the marked bin near the welcome table beginning October 1.



Fifty-one women and two pastors of the Northeast Zone of the Ohio District LWML, gathered together for their fall retreat at the beautiful Jordon Creek Park educational center in the Lake Metro Parks. **Marg Godale, Mary Osicky & Celia Esala from Hope** were blessed to attend this event and enjoy the harmony of the women singing together, a beautiful walk through the park with scripture readings and making scarves for the Salvation Army to give away.

Our theme was God's Gift of Rest (Relax-Enjoy-Seek-Trust) based on Exodus 33:14 "The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest". Pastor Steve Hackman from Shore Haven Lutheran Church shared a presentation on "Sabbath, a Time of Rest". Pastor Steve Berndt, our zone counselor, taught a bible study entitled "God's Promises of Rest in Scripture".

The generosity of the women was evident by the money they gave for two projects. The first was an ingathering of over \$1,000.00 for **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**. This is an organization that builds and delivers beds to children who do not have a bed. Their motto: "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!" The second offering was a special mite offering that collected over \$500 to be given in thanksgiving to help fund **LWML Mission Projects** in memory of Jack Schilmelmann. Jack was the husband of Jeannie Schilmelmann, who is a past president of the Ohio District LWML.



If you would like to know more about the LWML, you can find information of the national LWML at lwml.org or the work on the Ohio District level at lwmlohio.org.

Marg, Mary and Celia will be setting up a time to meet and invite all the ladies of Hope to join us as we work together with Lutheran women everywhere to engage in mission education, mission inspiration, mission service, and mission support.

Mark your calendars now! There will be a Northeast **Zone Prayer Service** on February 15, 2025 held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 11900 Chillicothe Road in Chesterland, OH and the **Zone Spring Rally** held at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2154 SOM Center Road in Mayfield Heights, OH on April 26, 2025.

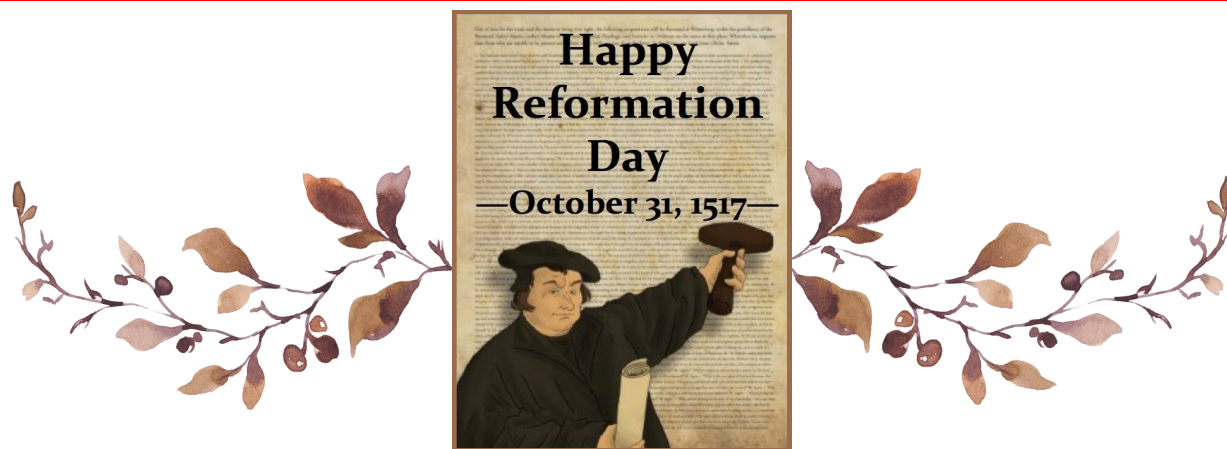
If you have any questions, please contact Mary, Marg or Celia

ELECTION PRAYER GROUP

[Starts October 1 thru November 5, 2024](#)

Please join a unique prayer group to pray for the most important thing regarding the upcoming election which is GOD'S WILL AND GUIDANCE. This group will not meet, but instead pray wherever we are daily at 7 PM for about 5 minutes. We will know that we are praying collectively for our country.

No matter what side of the political fence you fall, we can pray collectively for God's will to be done. There will be a short handout prayer to follow if you wish and then add your own personal prayer. Our country now, more than ever, needs our eyes on God. Please pray for yourselves, your loved ones, neighbors and fellow citizens to seek God's will.



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](https://www.instagram.com/hopelutheranchurchauroraohio)

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