

# Hope LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE, 2025

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ESALA



Dear Friends in Christ,

There are so many good things happening in our congregation right now, and I'm so excited, I could jump out of my shoes! The powerful focus on the future, the spiritual growth among our members through Bible Study, the Hope Lutheran Preschool graduation, completion of Confirmation classes for the year, and the attention of all of our good Lutheran Christian members on the kindness and care given to one another in time of need, and more.

One of the things I truly love about Hope Lutheran is our commitment to the values of warmth and Christian hospitality. I realize that it gets a little strained at times, because every new thing and every new face that comes along kind of puts us to the test. There's comfortability in sameness, and anything that's out of place from last week or last year makes us uneasy. But we're committed to the Gospel, and we're committed to making others feel at home among us.

In that spirit, and with apologies to the original author of the following Church Welcome for not acknowledging them properly since I can't find his/her name, I offer their thoroughly sacred approach to being a welcoming church, which they publish in their weekly bulletin:

*Welcome to our church*

*Welcome to this church. We welcome those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, "o no habla inglés." We offer a special welcome to the crying newborn, to those skinny as a rail, as well as to those who could afford to lose a few pounds.*

*We will welcome you if you can sing like an angel, but we will also welcome you if you can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up, or just got out of jail. To those who can claim they were an "Every Sunday Attender" where they used to live and to those who seldom darken the door of any church, we say, "Come on in."*

*You are welcome here if you are a teenager growing up too fast or if you over seventy and never grew up. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, and junk-food eaters.*

### Sunday Services

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



Connect with us!  
[hlcaurora.org](http://hlcaurora.org)

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

## JUNE 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	Sermon/PP
June 1	Lori	Chris	Larry & Chris	Chris	Dawn
June 8	Lori	None	Becky & Bev	Karol	Dan
June 15	Lori	Greg	Marge & Glenda	Greg	Dawn
June 22	Lori	None	Ruth & Ruth	Herb	Dan
June 29	Lori	None	Karol	Bob	Dawn

## PASTOR ESALA'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

*We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We are especially equipped here at this church to welcome you if you are "down in the dumps" or having some sort of life crisis. In this congregation you can probably find at least one person able to identify with your struggle — purely from personal experience.*

*If you happen to be one of those folks who just does not like "organized religion," you will love this church. This congregation has raised being "unorganized" to an art form.*

*We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, are looking for work, or never intend to find a job. We will welcome you even if you just blew your last paycheck at the casino.*

*We will welcome you if can't spell or have illegible handwriting. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, or both. We will even welcome you if your tattoos are illegible or have misspellings. Perhaps you came to church this morning because grandma is visiting. She wanted to go to church and she needed a ride. Welcome. If you got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake, welcome.*

*We especially welcome those who could use a prayer right now or those who had religion shoved down their throats as kids. We welcome tourists, seekers, doubters and bleeding hearts, but we especially welcome you!*

God grant that this should always be our kind of welcoming spirit, and that among all the other good things happening here we would remember to do everything we can to reach the world for Jesus.

In His love and grace,

**Dan Esala**

Dan Esala. Vacancy Pastor



Lisa B.	2
Hope W.	2
Herbert K.	3
Gary G.	6
Parker L.	11
Jay S.	15
Lynn R.	24
Colby B.	26
Mary S.	30

## JUNE 29 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



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.

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 NEWS



Students in the Sunday School classes have been learning about the building and growth of the church after Jesus died.

Students in the older class used the colors M&Ms to represent how people are all different shapes, sizes, backgrounds, and circumstances but Jesus came to save everyone.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Hope will celebrate its members and friends having June birthdays on Sunday, June 29th. Join us after worship that day in the fellowship hall to celebrate with cake, a special song, and time with one another.

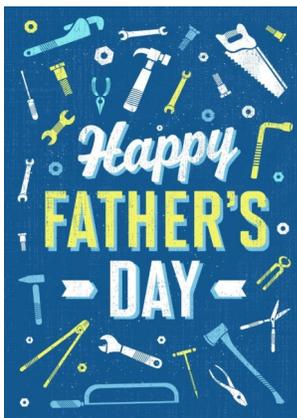
## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next church council meeting will be on Thursday, June 12 at 3:30 p.m. If you have any agenda items for the council to discuss, please see our church president, Greg B., or email him at [president@hopelcaurora.org](mailto:president@hopelcaurora.org).

## THIRD @ 3

The last Third @ 3 event was the showing of the movie, A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood. Everyone enjoyed learning about Fred Rogers while eating popcorn!

Plans are underway for the new year of the Third @ 3 that will begin in September. Do you have ideas that might be of interest for Hope's 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3 monthly learning programs? See or email Lori F. ([fosterl615@aol.com](mailto:fosterl615@aol.com)) or Becky B. ([becksbell@roadrunner.com](mailto:becksbell@roadrunner.com)) with suggestions or with any contacts you may have for the 2025-2026 program year.



Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," he called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

*"When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant, I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years." —Mark Twain*



Hope's unit of the LWML meets **the second Sunday of every month** in the fellowship hall following worship. All ladies are welcome to help us plan for future ministry outreach opportunities. If you would like more information on LWML please visit [LWML.org](http://LWML.org)

Northeast Zone

## LWML 32<sup>ND</sup> FALL RETREAT



### IT COULD BE WORSE- BUT GOD HAS A PLAN!

*"AND WE KNOW THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD WORKS FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM, WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.: ROMANS 8:28 NIV*

Jordan Creek Park, Concord  
7250 Alexander Rd., Concord Twp., Ohio  
(off Route 608)

\$25.00/person, includes breakfast, snacks and a light lunch  
Deadline for registration is September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### Little Annie's Hope Train – Ingathering

The recipient of our ingathering will be Little Annie's Hope Train. This nonprofit organization stocks 19 outdoor food pantries in Lake and Geauga Counties. The items most needed to keep these outdoor food pantries ready to help and assist the needy are: 1) bottled water; 2) men's white tube socks; 3) toilet paper; 4) wash clothes; 5) regular size toothpaste; 6) toothbrushes; and 7) men's roll-on deodorant

#### RUTH PANGRACE RETURNS FOR HER PORTRAYAL OF MOLLY PITCHER



Ruth Pangrace, a notable actress and enthusiastic historian, will inform and entertain us with her portrayal of Molly Pitcher, an American Revolutionary War hero. During an ongoing battle, Molly brought water to the thirsty soldiers. She was in the midst of thick gunfire when a cannonball ripped through her skirt. Molly was quoted as exclaiming "That could have been worse." Enjoy a special performance of a woman of action and courage as only Ruth Pangrace can present!

#### QUESTIONS AND REGISTRATION:

CONTACT  
• JEANNE SCHIMMELMANN  
440-943-5497  
JJJ3SHIM@SBCGLOBAL.NET  
• RUTH MOWERY  
440-951-3139  
JRMOWERY@SBCGLOBAL.NET

DEVOTIONS AND  
BIBLE STUDY WITH  
PASTOR STEVE  
BERNDT, LWML  
NORTHEAST ZONE  
COUNSELOR  
MUSIC, GAMES,  
ACTIVITIES,  
FELLOWSHIP AND  
FUN!

We would love for you to enjoy this beautiful retreat with us in Sept! It is a time of rest and building community & faith with your sisters in Christ at Hope and from other Lutheran churches. More info is located on the bulletin board with the registration form OR you can ask Mary Osicky, Marge Goodale, or Celia Esala about their experience last year.

Pastor & Celia will be attending the National LWML Convention in Omaha in June. Please keep us and all who travel to Omaha in your prayers for safe travel and that the projects selected will be to further God's will & kingdom on earth!

*"Dad taught me everything I know. Unfortunately, he didn't teach me everything he knows." —Al Unser*

## HOPE'S LWML PRAYER SQUARE MINISTRY NEWS

Are you looking for ways to use the prayer squares? Try witnessing with them by giving them to someone you are praying for as a reminder that someone cares enough about them to pray on their behalf and maybe they will be encouraged to pray for their situation also.

Please share any ways you are using your squares to give the hope we have in God and His promises! We'd love to share and help others to give them in different ways.

I will be sharing squares with 11 high school youth and 5 chaperones from Christ Mantua and Valley Chagrin Falls who will attend the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July to let them know I will be praying for them. The squares will travel to New Orleans in their backpacks to and from and during the gathering. A reminder that Jesus is with them wherever they go and just a prayer away!

**Below is a little information about the gathering and I hope it encourages our youth and parents to be a "Future Focused Church" and attend the next gathering. The theme for this year is based on Hebrews 12: 1-3**



Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

The Gathering is more than the five days of the event. The preparation process for the Gathering brings together young people and supportive adults to encourage each other in their baptismal identity. The Gathering provides young people a vision for the vastness of Christ's Church and equips them for vocational service as they continue their walk with Jesus.

This event is organized by [LCMS Youth Ministry](#) in Saint Louis, MO. For additional ways to connect to LCMS Youth Ministry, please visit [www.lcms.org/youth](http://www.lcms.org/youth).

## PRE SCHOOL

Congratulations to the many students from Hope Christian Nursery School who recently graduated and will be moving on to kindergarten in the fall!



This June the nursery school will host a summer camp from 9:00- 12:00 on June 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> as well as June 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

For more information email Hope's Preschool Director, Jen Lynagh at [Jennifer@Lynagh.com](mailto:Jennifer@Lynagh.com)



The **In the Word Bible** study takes place at church and new members are welcome at any time.

June meeting dates this month are 6/14 and 6/28

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

For more information, please email Cheryl T. at [505Tomaselli@gmail.com](mailto:505Tomaselli@gmail.com)



Thanks to Dan C. for building a replacement flower box and filling it with flowers at the front of church.

Our entryway is once again blooming with the Spirit!

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.

### Top Five Most Popular Christian Hymns

1. Amazing Grace
2. How Great Thou Art
3. Holy, Holy, Holy
4. It is Well
5. Great Is Thy Faithfulness



**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](http://hlcaurora.org)

**Facebook:** Hope Lutheran Church in Aurora, Ohio

**Instagram:** [hopelutheranchurchauroraohio](https://www.instagram.com/hopelutheranchurchauroraohio)

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