



# Hope LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST, 2025

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ESALA



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I'm a dreamer and I make no apologies for it. I have dreams for my family, for my nation, and for my church. I am a dreamer, and guess what? It's biblical! The prophet Joel said it first, and then he was quoted by Peter in his sermon on the day of Pentecost: **“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; (Acts 2:17 ESV)** That's me – I'm one of those old men, and I'm a dreamer. Being able to dream of a preferred future is a gift of the Spirit to the Church.

Today, I want to share with you some of my dreams for Hope Lutheran. They may seem a bit bold to you, but I am a firm believer that **“all things are possible with God,” (Matthew 19:26b ESV)** All things! So, here goes. My foremost dream for Hope Lutheran Church is that we get a full-time, called pastor. This is expensive, and there is a shortage of pastors. Yet, I am convinced that depending on us cheap, old guys does not contribute to the best future for our church. We need someone who does this with passion every day of the week. Only then, do I believe will we begin to be the church God would have us to be. I think we should begin working on this now. I realize there are many things that would contribute to our confidence in doing this such as, additional new families, increased attendance, increased financial commitments and the like. So, let's do this!

The one thing we already have in place is a God through whom all things are possible! The one thing that He expects of us is that we exercise our faith. I don't find anywhere in the Bible where God rewards the lack of faith. But, over and over again, He rewards faith. This means taking steps before we're assured that every "i" is dotted and every "t" crossed. It means trusting God for the outcome of our dreams and efforts.

Are you with me on this? I hope so, because I'm trying to work myself out of a job. Let's do the things that will make this come about, especially working on the faith part.

I also dream of us building another addition. Man, there's a topic that needs attending to. I dream of us being full enough every Sunday to justify adding a second service. I dream of the involvement of the middle and younger generations, working to improve every aspect of Church life. I dream of beautiful music with many musicians, and inspiring worship services. I dream of a full Sunday School, a men's Bible Study, and revitalized women's programming (LWML, for example.) I think that's enough for now, but you get the picture, right? These are not just the musings of an old man, they're the gift of dreams for the church. All it takes to achieve all this is two things: God and you. Let's get 'er done!

Always dreaming because I love you and God, *Dan Esala*

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

# AUGUST 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
August 3	Lori	Paul	Ruth & Ruth	Paul	Dawn
August 10	Lori	None	Karol	Bob	Dan
August 17	Lori	Becky	Larry & Chris	CJ	Dawn
August 24	Lori	None	Becky & Bev	Andy	Dawn
August 31	Lori	None	Marge & Glenda	Karol	Dawn



## CALLING ALL SEWERS/QUILTERS OR WANNA BEs

LWML PRAYER SERVICE  
Hope Lutheran Church  
February 28, 2026  
9 am – 1 pm

Exciting news for our women at Hope! We will be hosting the LWML Northeast Zone Prayer service on February 28, 2026. There will be lots of opportunities to help with lunch and a continental breakfast as the time draws near, but right **now we are sewing/quilting table favors** (see picture at right). We will need to make 75 and can knock this out with your help!

We will be meeting at church on Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup>, 9-noon. We would love to have you gather with us to sew/quilt, iron, pin/mark and cut – something to do for every experience level! We have the fabric (purples & golds for the LWML colors), but if you have a sewing machine, rotary cutter, cutting mat, sewing ruler, iron, small ironing board or pressing mat please it along. This will be a fun time of enjoying each other's company and sharing some love and encouragement with the women who attend the prayer service in February. Questions? Contact Janet Marz.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL HELP NEEDED

Just when things seemed to be in place so that Hope could have Sunday School every week, one of our teachers fell through!



If two people can be a teacher's aide once a month to assist (NOT TEACH) then Hope can stay on track to offer Sunday School each week beginning in September.

If the Holy Spirit touches your heart to work with the youngest in God's kingdom, see Becky B or email [becksbell@roadrunner](mailto:becksbell@roadrunner).

**Email Address Update:** Please note the new email address for Hope's Church Secretary, Dawn G., is now [dghlc456@hopelcaurora.org](mailto:dghlc456@hopelcaurora.org).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School will resume in August and meet during the worship service on August 10<sup>th</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Beginning in September, Sunday School will meet every week. All children ages 3-middle school are welcome to begin worship with their family and will be dismissed to Sunday School following the children's chat.

John G.	1
Colin B.	4
Sarah F.	13
Larry C.	17
Katelyn	19
Austin	20
Patricia	23

### August Birthdays



### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AUGUST 24



### AFTER WORSHIP

Hope will celebrate its members and friends having August birthdays on Sunday, August 24th. Join us after worship that day in the fellowship hall to celebrate with cake, a special song, and time with 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.

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

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next church council meeting will be on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup> 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 ART OF VINCENT VAN GOGH



Third @ 3

## September 21 @ 3 PM



## FELICIA ZAVARELLA STADELMAN

Hope Lutheran Church  
456 S. Chillicothe Road

Get ready for a great series of Third @ 3 speakers!

- ☺ September 21—The Art of Vincent Van Gogh
- ☺ October 26—The Strangest Things Ever Washed Ashore
- ☺ November 16—PhilUP, the Balloon Guy



## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY—AUGUST 17

Join the members and friends of Hope on Confirmation Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. Hope's five confirmation students will affirm their baptisms during the worship service that day.

Join in the fellowship hall following worship to celebrate the hard work and spiritual growth of our confirmands over the last two years.

### MEET HOPE'S CONFIRMANDS



**CJ B.** is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader attending Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy. He enjoys playing sports, being outside, and playing video games. The part of church that means the most to CJ is the sermon. The most memorable part of confirmation is being the reader during the worship service.

**Beckett F.** is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader in Aurora and likes to play sports as well as fish and hunt. He relies on God to help him through school when it gets hard, and the most meaningful part about coming to church is being able to worship God. During confirmation Beckett enjoyed learning about Martin Luther and the changes he made to the church.



**Deacon B.** is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader in Aurora and was baptized as an infant at Hope. He plays football, basketball, and baseball. Coming to church is important to Deacon because it gives him the chance to deepen his faith. Deacon sees God at work in his life by strengthening him for all he has to do in school and in sports.

## MEET HOPE'S CONFIRMANDS—CONTINUED



**Hank S.** is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader in Keston. He is a football player on the high school team this year and also likes video games. Hank was baptized at Hope and has found that sermons are meaningful to him each Sunday. In confirmation class Hank has learned that there are many more things having to do with God on top of what he learns in church.

**Drew P.** is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader in Aurora and enjoys playing baseball with his team through the spring and summer. One thing Drew will remember from confirmation is how Martin Luther created the church as we know it today. Worshiping God in church is meaningful to Drew, and he sees the healing power of God all around him.



**“BLESSED to BLESS”** - During the month of August, our church will be gathering items for Little Annie’s Hope Train to present at our LWML Fall Retreat in September.

**Items needed are bottled water, men’s white tube socks, toilet paper, wash cloths, regular size toothpaste, toothbrushes, men’s roll-on deodorant.** Little Annie’s Hope Train is based out of Mentor, Ohio and assists the homeless, the hungry, and those in need by stocking 19 outdoor food pantries in Lake and Geauga County. You can visit their website for more info at [littleannieshopetrain.com](http://littleannieshopetrain.com).

**LWML Service Project**– Please join us for a morning of sewing/quilting to make table favors for the Prayer Service that the ladies at Hope will be hosing in February. We will meet at church on Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> from 9-noon. See the August newsletter for more details. Contact Janet Marz with any questions or to let us know you’ll be there!

## PROPERTY HAPPENINGS

The month of July brought some heavy rain to Aurora and the flat roof area over the narthex developed a leak at just the wrong time.

Leaks are sometimes difficult to find but it is felt the leaks have been identified. A&B Roofing patched several places on the roof that were suspect. New ceiling tiles will be installed after we are comfortable that the leaks have been fixed.



The windows were all cleaned inside and out in late July.

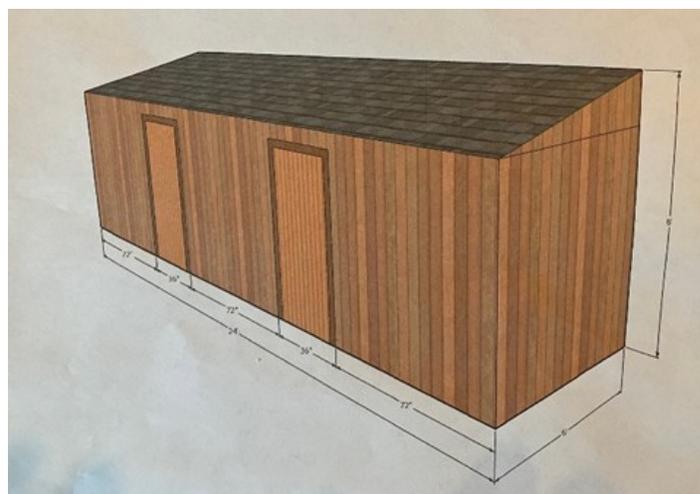
Members of the property committee will be building a shed in the back of the church against the wall between the patio and the back door of the fellowship hall.

This is a HCNS project that the committee members are supplying the labor for and are seeking a volunteer...or volunteers... to paint the outside wood when the shed is completed. If you are interested in being a helper please contact Dave B.



Thanks to Stephen Illich (See Genesis 6-8) 05-19-2005

**WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE TAKING CREATURES THAT CAME TO YOU IN PEARS**



The floors throughout Hope will be professionally cleaned on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please be mindful of the cleaners if you are in or around the building that day.

*"I need summer to be longer so I have more time to do nothing."— Unknown*

## HCNS



Hope Christian Nursery School is gearing up for the school year!

Teacher meet and greets will be held on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30 (4's class) and 5:00-7:00 (3's and Pre-K classes). Please consider praying for these students and families as they become familiar with their classrooms teachers for the upcoming school year.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

A few spots are left to provide altar flowers through October to mark a special occasion or as a memorial remembrance.



The new Do It Yourself approach allows individuals to sign up to provide flowers they purchase or flowers they grow. The vase to be used must be no more than 19 inches tall.

Flowers must be on the altar by 9:45 on your Sunday. If you would prefer not to make an arrangement, simply sign up for a Sunday and donate \$25 to the Flower Fund. In order to have donations and memorials listed in the weekly Hope's Happenings, please sign up on the welcome table at least two weeks in advance.

See Becky B. or email [becksbell@raodrunner.com](mailto:becksbell@raodrunner.com) with any questions.



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

August meeting dates this month are August 9 and 23.

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)

The **Sunday morning adult Bible Study** meets at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Pastor Esala is leading a new study on the Book of Proverbs. Join the study to learn more about seeking God's truth, living a wise and Godly life, and embracing obedience to His ways.

News from a Neighbor:

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**CLOTHING MINISTRY**  
**AUGUST 9**  
**3 4 PM**



2560 Post Rd.  
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087 Questions? Call: 330-840-0628

Bring a bag. No little children unless in a stroller.

**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)

*"It is a grave error to assume that ice cream consumption requires hot weather."* – Anne Fadiman



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 women 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

Please  
register by  
**SEPT 4<sup>th</sup>**

We will be  
collecting:  
**bottled water**

**men's white  
tube socks**

**toilet paper**

**wash cloths**

**regular size  
toothpaste**

**toothbrushes**

**men's roll-on  
deodorant.**

Please see info  
about Little  
Annie's Hope  
train where  
these items will  
be donated.



I hope you've heard by now that the total mission grants amounts awarded was **\$2,622,270.00** to **33 different ministries for 2025-2027**. I will share a write up each month on one of the ministries. Thank you to all who use a mite box to contribute your change to make LWML such a "mitye" ministry!

## 2025–2027 LWML Mission Grant #1

Regional Disaster Response LERT Shower Trailers

\$81,500

LCMS Office of National Mission, Disaster Response Ministry, U.S

[Lcms-lert.org](http://Lcms-lert.org)

Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) serve thousands of individuals and families who are suffering from loss in the wake of disasters like hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, fires, and tornadoes. When deployed, LERT teams traditionally use congregations in the disaster areas as their base camps. The host congregations provide a place for the LERT teams to sleep, eat, rest, recover, and receive spiritual care during their time of service. Host congregations are incredible to work with as the teams help them rebuild their communities and share the life-changing message of the Gospel. One challenge for team members has been the lack of showers and laundry facilities at a host church. LERT members have showered at national gym chains, in members' homes, in personal campers, or even under cold garden hoses. This grant will fund half the cost of two combination bathroom/shower/laundry trailers to be used during disaster response work.



LWML – The LWML Northeast Zone Fall Retreat will be happening on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are on the bulletin board. Contact Celia Esala with any questions

### "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

**Jordan Creek Lake Metro Park**

7250 Alexander Rd., Concord Twp., Ohio

Cost -- \$25.00/person

**Please register by September 4th**