



Hope LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER, 2025

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ESALA



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A retired United Methodist bishop once said: "If you are at the stage of life or age of life when your back goes out more than you do, do not let your aches get in the way of your alleluias." That's a good message for us in September. So here we are at the approach of Fall.

That's why our focus for this month's article is "HOPE." I believe that HOPE is the great distinguisher between believers and unbelievers. Unbelievers can only have the kind hope that is wishful thinking – I hope it doesn't rain today, or I hope my stocks do well in September. It's wishing against the odds, and of course, we all do it from time to time. Nothing wrong with that. But Christian HOPE is living in the confident assurance that something will come to pass. It's not like we really, really, believe we're going to win the lottery, or get into Harvard Law because we're praying so hard, but rather it's the confidence that God is both sovereign and gracious and that all things do, without reservation, work out to the good of those who love Him. Even, even, if sometimes that means death.

Hope animates us more than just about anything else. Without it, life has no purpose, and without purpose, life is not really life at all, is it. The Psalmist nailed it: Listen to these verses from **Psalm 130**:

- ⁵ I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;**
- ⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**
- ⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.**

And, from the book of Hebrews: **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (11:1)**

Continued on page 2



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

Connect with us!
hlcaurora.org

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

SEPTEMBER 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	Sermon/ PP
Sept. 7	Lori	Greg	Marge & Glenda	Greg	Becky	Dan
Sept. 14	Lori	None	Ruth & Ruth	Karol	none	Dan
Sept. 21	Lori	Cheryl	Karol	Cheryl	Becky Beverly	Dawn
Sept. 28	Lori	None	Larry & Chris	Andy	none	Dan

Church Council Meeting

The next church council meeting will be on Thursday, October 9th 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.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE—CONTINUED

If we are struggling with pain, loneliness, a lack of direction, a feeling we are cast adrift without much hope, where can we turn to find the way through our dark and difficult times? The Apostle Paul provides us with a clue here also when he states: **"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."** (Romans 15:4)

The inspired Apostle also wrote this **"May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."** (Romans 15:13)
All we can say to that is -- Amen!

As Fall approaches, school starts, the harvest awaits, and the news is sometimes bad and sometimes good, it's HOPE that animates us.

And so we are, the people of HOPE.

Because of Jesus, I am yours,

Dan Esala

Dan Esala, Vacancy Pastor

September is nature's way of reminding us that the year is still not over, but our summer goals definitely are. Unknown

Happy September Birthday

Becky B.	14
Kayla G	15
Allan F.	28



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER 28



AFTER WORSHIP



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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY WEEK!

On Sunday September 7th Sunday School will begin meeting every week. To kick off every week Sunday School, students will place flowers in the sanctuary. Students should arrive at 9:50 that day and will enter worship during the first hymn each with a flower in a bud vase to place on the flower stand.

On communion Sundays, there will be no children's sermon. Students will be dismissed to class at the beginning of the readings. The children will later accompany parents to the rail to receive a blessing during communion.

Once a month combined class service projects (Service Sundays) are in the works. Some of these projects include Hope's annual Thanksgiving Bag Pack and fall treat bags for worshippers

Be watching for new acolytes that will be enhancing worship at Hope. Take a moment to thank these young people for their service.



THE ART OF VINCENT VAN GOGH



Third @ 3

September 21 @ 3 PM



FELICIA ZAVARELLA STADELMAN

Hope Lutheran Church
456 S. Chillicothe Road

SEPTEMBER PROPERTY HAPPENINGS

Nursery School Shed Project

In August members of the board of property and helpers built a shed paid for by HCNS to store playground equipment. Thanks to Greg B, Colin B, Gideon and Jon B, Dave B, and special thanks to Dan C who designed the shed, generated the bill of materials, and was the supervisor during the week long construction. The board would also like to thank Terry Wendel owner of Aurora Roofing who supplied much of the roofing material and donated man-power for the shed roof.



Rubbermaid Storage Shed

Now that the new shed has been built, there is a smaller Rubbermaid storage shed that is not needed. The shed is 4 feet wide X 6 feet tall X 2 feet deep with two doors. It is easily assembled and in good condition. If anyone interested in purchasing the shed please contact Dave B.



Carpet and Floor Cleaning

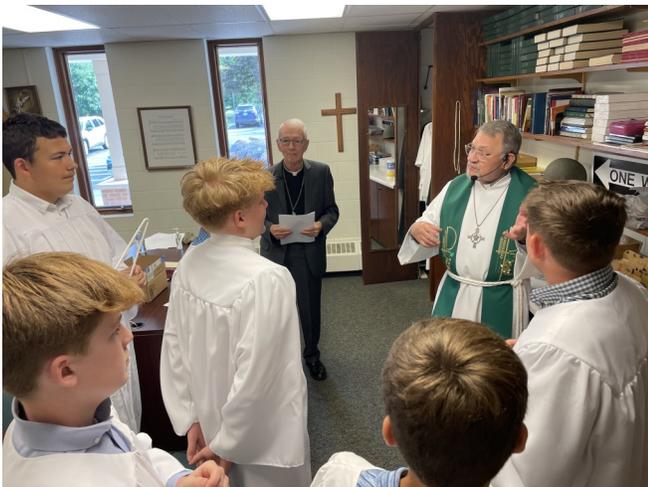
In late August the carpets were cleaned and the fellowship hall and hallway were stripped and re-waxed ready for another church and school year. What a difference!



CONFIRMATION

It was blessing for Hope to celebrate the confirmation of five students in August. These young men affirmed their baptisms after two years of study, reflection, and spiritual growth. We look forward to supporting them in the next steps of their faith journeys! Thank you to those who made the day especially meaningful:

- ◆ **Dan C.** for the beautiful handmade wooden crosses for the confirmands.
- ◆ **Dawn G.** for the thoughtful and special confirmation certificates as well as all of the lovely details involved with the reception after the service.
- ◆ **Becky B.** for making arrangements for special altar flowers.
- ◆ **Gideon B.** for stepping in to acolyte (his first time!).
- ◆ **Cheryl T.** for stepping in to be the worship assistant as well as serve cake at the reception.
- ◆ **Pastor and Karen Woods** for making time in their schedules to attend the confirmation for this beloved group of boys.



The difference between try and triumph is just a little umph! -Marvin Phillips



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

I hope you've heard by now that the total national 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 "mity" ministry!



2025–2027 LWML Mission Grant #2

Help for Ukraine's Orphans and Displaced Persons
— Orphan Grain Train, Europe \$100,000

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) has been involved in humanitarian aid to Ukraine since the war began. In the past year, seventeen shipments of donated food, clothing and medical supplies were sent to various locations in the Ukraine.

OGT is assisting twelve orphanages in the Kherson area and 3 orphanages in the Kyiv area. OGT is working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine and other Christian churches as it distributes the aid. The impact the donations have is both lifesaving and soul-saving. The donated supplies assist people who have lost all their worldly goods and help children whose parents have been killed in the war. Through acts of mercy shown by followers of Jesus, recipients see the love of God. This grant will cover the cost of shipping up to seven containers loaded with food, clothing, and medical supplies to the country of Ukraine.

What is Orphan Grain Train?

Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.

OGT Mission Statement

In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as a bandage well applied, and sometimes as a child well fed.

Hope's LWML Quilting Bee

Hope Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
September 13 9 am – 1 pm



We had so much fun at our first LWML Quilting Bee learning to make quilted mug rugs. These will be table favors for the LWML Prayer Service we will host here at Hope in February. If you would like to gather with us, we have various levels of help needed-marking, ironing, cutting, pinning, sewing. The plus is you get to learn a new skill and share a few laughs with your Christian sisters! If you have a portable sewing machine, please bring it, and any friends that would like to help. If you have any questions, please see Janet Marz. Coffee will be available.

Thank you to my friends Pam, Bonnie, Linda, Mary, Marge, Gail, Janet, Donna and Celia who shared their time with us to begin the first stage of our quilting bee mug rugs. And to Janet for teaching us!

Midweek announcements....

Hope's LWML Quilting Bee– Please gather with us for a morning of quilting to make table favors for the LWML Prayer Service that the ladies at Hope will be hosting on Saturday, February 28, 2026. We will get together at church on Saturday, Sept. 13th from 9-noon. If you have a portable sewing machine, please bring it along. See the September newsletter for more details. Contact Janet Marz with any questions or to let us know you'll be there!

LWML – The LWML Northeast Zone Fall Retreat will be happening on Sept. 20th. Registration forms are on the bulletin board and due by September 4th Contact Celia Esala with any questions

Jordan Creek Lake Metro Park
7250 Alexander Rd., Concord Twp., Ohio
Cost -- \$25.00/person

Altar Flower Signup

Thanks to those who have signed up to provide altar flowers in September. A few spots are left in the next two months. 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 with any questions.



September 2025

Church Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:30—2 Pastor Office Hours	2	3 7 p—Worship Team Meeting	4	5	6 9:30 Revelation Bible Study 7p—AA Meeting
7 9 Adult Bible Study 10 Worship Service	8 8:30—2 Pastor Office Hours	9	10 7 p—Worship Team Meeting	11	12	13 7p—AA Meeting
14 9 Adult Bible Study 10 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 LWML Meeting	15 8:30—2 Pastor Office Hours	16	17 7 p—Worship Team Meeting	18	19	20 9 LCMS Fall Retreat 9:30 Revelation Bible Study 7p—AA Meeting
21 9 Adult Bible Study 10 Worship 3 PM Third @ 3	22 8:30—2 Pastor Office Hours <i>First Day of Fall</i>	23	24 7 p—Worship Team Meeting	25	26	27 7p—AA Meeting
28 9 Adult Bible Study 10 Worship 10:15 Sunday School <i>Cake Sunday</i>	29 8:30—2 Pastor Office Hours	30				



Singers Wanted



Do you enjoy making a joyful noise to the Lord or the chance to gather with others?

Join the Hope-fuls,

Hope's singing group, on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. to practice for 30-45 minutes. The group will be singing during select worship services.



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

September meeting dates this month are 9/6 and 9/20.

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

The **Sunday morning adult Bible Study** meets at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Pastor Esala is leading a 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.

PRE SCHOOL

Hope's preschool will welcome students for the new school year beginning September 2nd.

Please consider keeping all of the students, families, and teachers in your prayers as they transition to new school experiences this year!

For more information about Hope Christian Nursey School contact Preschool Director Jen L. at Jennifer@Lynagh.com

COMMUNION ALTERNATIVES

Grape juice is available at communion for anyone who is interested in an alternative to wine.

Gluten free communion wafers are also available for anyone who is interested in this alternative to the traditional communion wafer.



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)