



Hope LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER, 2025

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ESALA



Dear Friends in Christ,

There are so many good things that go on in our congregation, and I'm truly grateful to be a member here.

One of the things I really enjoy and admire about Hope Lutheran is its 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:

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.

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,



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

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	Sermon/PP	Acolyte
Oct. 5	Lori	Chris	Bev	Chris	Becky/Bev	Dawn	Hank
Oct. 12	Lori	None	Marge & Glenda	Herb	none	Dawn	Gideon
Oct. 19	Lori	Paul	Ruth & Ruth	Paul	Becky Bev	Dawn	
Oct. 26	Lori	None	Karol	Andy	none	Dan	Carl

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

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 E.

Dan Esala, Vacancy Pastor

I have been younger in October than in all the months of spring... ~W.S. Merwin

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE



It has been a fun start to having Sunday School every week. The students placed flowers in bud vases on the altar in celebration of the Sunday School year and have been learning about the teachings of Jesus.

The younger students learned how Jesus takes care of us like a shepherd takes care of his sheep. The older students leaned into what it means to have a lukewarm faith and how to live a life that shows our faith.

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.

THIRD @ 3

Invite your friends and family to an interesting talk by author, Wendy Koile. She has written four books on Ohio and Lake Erie history, mysteries and crime.

She is speaking to us about the strangest items ever found on the shore. These items have been found on beaches all over the world.

Washed Ashore: Strangest Things Ever Found on Shore
 Guest: Wendy Koile
October 19
3 PM
 456 S. Chillicothe Rd.
 Aurora, OH

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

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OCTOBER 26



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? Be sure to let Dawn know the 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.

CLEAN OUT THE TOYBOX

From now until October 19th 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.

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



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Soon we all will be receiving the annual "Stewardship Letter."

This marks the beginning of Hope's annual financial planning which will support our church program in 2026.

Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support our mission to serve our Lord and spread the His Word to all our neighbors.

HOPE PRE-SCHOOL

Thanks to Hope and a grant from Thrivent, all new students to Hope Christian Nursery School received children's Bibles for this school year.



Twenty seven Bibles were purchased and distributed in September. We hope the students remain blessed as they learn continue to learn about God and His promises for all of us.



THANKSGIVING MEAL BAGS & TURKEY SPONSORSHIP

Thanksgiving meal bags food collection and turkey sponsorship for Volunteers of America in Aurora will be underway beginning October 19th. Due to decreased in funding for regional and local food banks there is a greater need for food in our community.

Hope is providing 40 Thanksgiving Meal bags this year (an increase from last year's 35). Opportunities are available to sign up for sponsorships of a turkey and pumpkin pie for \$30.00.

There are also opportunities to sign up to donate instant mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, and boxes of Stove Top Stuffing for the meal bags.

Hope's Preschool will once again be collecting canned green beans and corn.

Please see sign up sheets on the welcome table.

This is a Thrivent Action Team Activity which donates \$250 to the program.

For more info see David B or email at dvdbell@roadrunner.com





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

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 "mitey" ministry!

2025–2027 LWML Mission Grant #3

Forged by Fire Services, U.S. \$100,700

Portable Laundry Trailer

About This Mission Grant

When disasters strike, Forged by Fire Services, a disaster response organization of the LCMS Southern District, is deployed to the Gulf Coast Region and beyond. Sharing the hope in Christ, they provide human care to the victims, volunteers, and first responders affected by natural and man-made disasters. After a disaster, one of the needs of the people and volunteers are clean clothes, but there may be no facility for laundry service available.

Forged by Fire Services would like to provide laundry service by obtaining a professionally built eight-station laundry trailer with all the supporting equipment. The laundry trailer would be set up in the parking lot of an LCMS church. When offering the service, the LERT trained volunteers have an opportunity to talk to the people about the grace, mercy, and love of Jesus Christ. This grant will provide funds for the purchase of the portable laundry trailer.

If you would like to learn more about the Forge by Fire Ministries and pictures of their laundry trailer go to LWML.org, click on Missions, click on 2025-2027 mission grants, click on #3 Portable Laundry Trailer

Mission: To serve people in need with meals, comfort, and spiritual care, following the biblical principle of meeting both body and soul needs.

Services: Their core service includes providing prepared meals to communities affected by disasters. They also aim to offer a place for showers and laundry at disaster sites.

Vision: They envision a "Comfort Village" at disaster sites to offer broader support, including food, showers, laundry, and spiritual care.

Funding: Forged by Fire Ministries is a 501 (c)(3) charity, meaning it is a tax-exempt non-profit organization.

Partnerships: They have collaborated with organizations such as the [Lutheran Women's Missionary League \(LWML\)](http://Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)) and utilized vendors like C'est Tout for disaster relief deployments.

Inspiration: The name comes from a verse in God's Word, reflecting the deep feelings and commitment of the founders to serve others in their difficult times.

"So that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1st Peter 1:7 ESV



32nd Northeast Zone Fall Retreat held September 20, 2025

From the beginning to the end, God blessed us with a beautiful day and time of refreshing, growing in His word, singing praises, seeing old friends & meeting new ones. We even had a history lesson from Ruth Pangrace highlighting the way women served in the Revolutionary War, and especially the Molly Pitchers and how they got their name. It was fascinating and I wondered where Ruth was when I was learning history!

I thank Marge Godale and Linda Fogarty & Pastor Esala for joining me for the day. It's always good to share time with my sisters & brothers in Christ and strengthen the bond that we have as we serve Christ in our mission at Hope. **AND I thank all of you that contributed to the**

Little Annie's Hope Train. It filled the back of my car!

There was a monetary collection taken at the retreat for LAHT that amounted to \$276.00 as well as a mite collection that amounted to \$494.80. God's people are truly generous in blessing others as they have been blessed.

I want to share a few photos I snapped while at the retreat, but they only give you a glimpse of the day. I hope you will join us next year and enjoy a day of "The Refreshing of the Lord" as a time of spiritual renewal, restoration, and revival that come from God's presence.



As you know ladies, you will have an opportunity on February 28th to enjoy this same fellowship of our local Northeast Zone. We will be hosting the zone prayer service right here at Hope! Can I get a Whoot Whoot!

QUILTERS). Keep watch for how you can serve Christ by serving others.



"Why don't skeletons fight each other? They don't have the guts."



Ohio District LWML Convention

June 26-27, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Westlake OH

Musician and Presenter	Hannah Nunnenkamp-Engelman
Keynote Speaker	Christina Hergenrader
Proclaimer	Rev. Dr. David Buegler
Bible Study Leader	Steve Schave

Mark Your
Calendar Now Ladies



This month we will have a Lutheran Women in Mission Focus Sunday worship service. We will share information about LWML that Sunday, but you can also ask Celia Esala, Marge Godale, Mary Osicky or Janet Marz more about this Lutheran women's organization. Or you can gather with us when we meet the second Sunday of every month after worship.

Our vision is for all the women of Hope to find a way of using their talents to serve God and love His people.

THIRD @ 3—SEPTEMBER

Hope's "3rd at 3" social group loved a deep dive into the life of Vincent Van Gogh by Felecia Zavarella Stadleman in September.

We learned that Vincent relied on his close relationship with his brother his entire life and sold only one painting during his lifetime.

We are planning on having Felicia return with another interesting story. Stay tuned . . .

And, remember:

Be sure to join us next month for a fascinating presentation by Wendy Koile on the Strangest Things Washed Ashore on October 19th at 3 p.m.





October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 9:30 Revelation Bible Study
5 9 Adult Bible Study 10 Worship Service	6 8:30—2 Pastor Office Hours	7	8 7 p—Worship Team Meeting	9 3:30 p—Church Council Meeting	10	11 7p—AA Meeting
12 9 Adult Bible Study 10 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 LWML Meeting	13 8:30—2 Pastor Office Hours	14	15 7 p—Worship Team Meeting	16	17	18 9:30 Revelation Bible Study 7p—AA Meeting
19 9 Adult Bible Study 10 Worship 3 PM Third @ 3	20 8:30—2 Pastor Office Hours	21	22 7 p—Worship Team Meeting	23	24	25 7p—AA Meeting
26 9 Adult Bible Study 10 Worship 10:15 Sunday School Cake Sunday	27 8:30—2 Pastor Office Hours	28	29	30	31	

EMAIL SCAM WARNING



Some email scammers have taken a very deep interest in Hope Lutheran Church. We have had multiple members receive (and respond) to scam emails over the past several months.

The scam email contents differ from message to message, but in all of the messages scammers start by impersonating Pastor Esala using a phony (but somewhat legitimate looking) gmail account. They send out very short and sincere sounding pleas asking you to "help the Pastor" because he is busy at a church conference, prayer meeting, etc.

IF YOU RESPOND to that initial contact, the scammers will engage you in further conversation and attempt to convince you to purchase gift cards for Pastor to hand out to deserving members of the congregation as a reward for various things they have done for the church.

Please do not respond to the scam if you receive it. There is no effective way to stop 100% of such scam emails (although it should be possible to configure the spam filter on most of the popular email systems to filter such messages out). The best defense will always be to educate yourself on how to spot the scam and avoid answering it.

The first email of the scammer:

Always check the email address of the sender:

THIS IS NOT PASTOR'S EMAIL ADDRESS:

<danesalahopelcaurora@gmail.com>

Hello (name), This is Pastor. Dan Esala when you have a moment, could you please return my message , I have a small favor to ask.

Blessings!

Look for mistakes:

- He identifies himself in the first sentence
- 2 typos
- no signature

Still not sure? Email/call Pastor and ask!

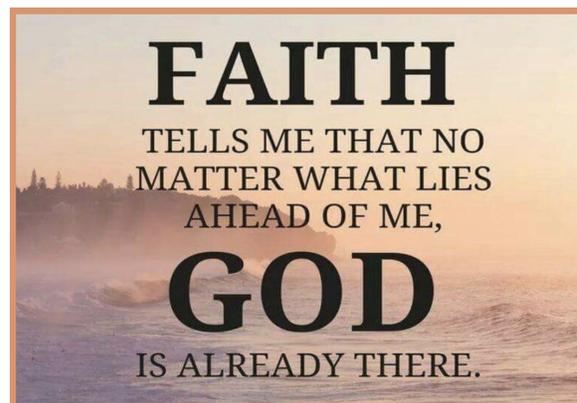
We are updating all Hope's email accounts and they should be sent from:
@hopelcaurora.org

A bit skeptical, the teacher asked if she could really quote the entire psalm.

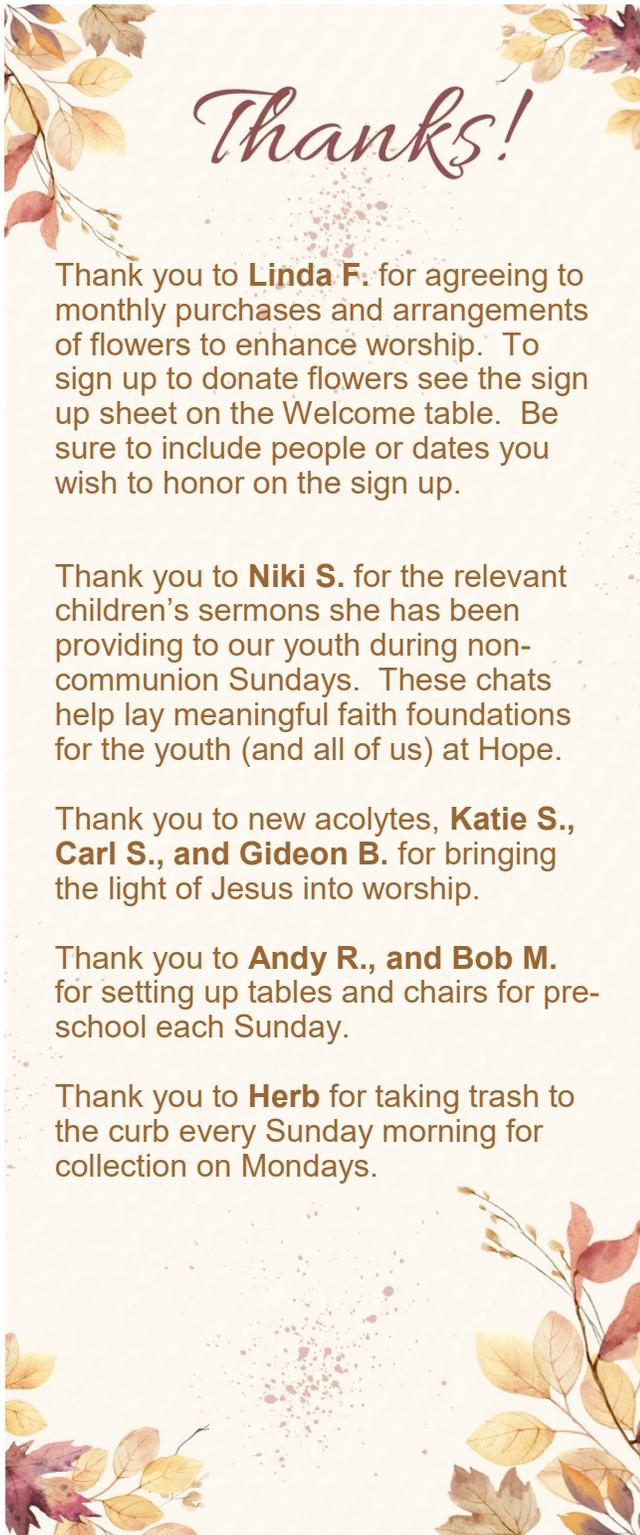
The little girl came to the front of the room, faced the class, made a perky little bow, and said, "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want."

She bowed again and went and sat down.

That may well be the greatest interpretation of the 23rd Psalm ever heard.



"Why did the skeleton stay home in October? He had no guts to go out!"



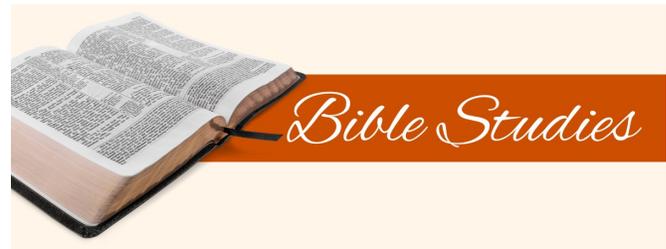
Thank you to **Linda F.** for agreeing to monthly purchases and arrangements of flowers to enhance worship. To sign up to donate flowers see the sign up sheet on the Welcome table. Be sure to include people or dates you wish to honor on the sign up.

Thank you to **Niki S.** for the relevant children's sermons she has been providing to our youth during non-communion Sundays. These chats help lay meaningful faith foundations for the youth (and all of us) at Hope.

Thank you to new acolytes, **Katie S., Carl S., and Gideon B.** for bringing the light of Jesus into worship.

Thank you to **Andy R., and Bob M.** for setting up tables and chairs for pre-school each Sunday.

Thank you to **Herb** for taking trash to the curb every Sunday morning for collection on Mondays.



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

October meeting dates this month are 10/4 and 10/18.

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.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Format for Weekly Announcements
Coming in October!

Hope's Happenings Weekly Announcements will take on a new format starting soon. The weekly email will contain all of the news, updates, and information as usual, but will have an updated look as well as some interactive links.

Look for the new email coming to your inbox soon!

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