



Hope LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER, 2025

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ESALA



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

What kind of a “tude” do you have? You know, “attitude.” The Bible, in Paul’s letter to the Philippians, says that “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” (2:5, NIV) The context there is about servanthood and humility, but this, being the month of Thanksgiving, I began wonder exactly what there is in the Bible regarding Jesus’ “tude” toward thanking. This is what I found: In the upper room with His disciples having His Last Supper before being crucified, which was, by the way, the Passover Meal (Seder), He took bread (unleavened matzo), “gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’” After that, He “took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins...’” (Matthew 26) He was thankful to the Father even in the giving of His own body and blood as a sacrifice for sin. When He fed the five thousand, He first gave thanks; when He met the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and then ate with them, He gave thanks; He gave thanks that the Father had revealed the truth to common people; He thanked the Father for answered prayer when raising Lazarus from the dead, even before there was any evidence that the prayer had been answered – “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” (After) “ He had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” John 11:41-43.

Jesus clearly had a thankful attitude. It’s been observed that people with an attitude of gratitude live fuller, more joy-filled lives, and I think it’s because they focus on the positive rather than the negative. I believe that’s why the apostle Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write these words to the Christians at Philippi: “**Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.**” Philippians 4:8 (ESV)

An attitude of gratitude means **making the conscious habit of expressing appreciation on a regular basis for big and small things alike.** We may be grateful for our relationships, health, business, material items, food in our cupboards, running water in our homes, and our overall sense of well-being.

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

NOVEMBER 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
Nov. 2	Lori	Greg	Ruth & Ruth	Greg	Becky	Dawn	Shorter
Nov. 9	SOS	None	Karol	Karol	none	Dawn	Gideon
Nov. 16	Lori	Paul	Larry & Chris	Paul	Bev	Dawn	none
Nov. 23	Lori	None	Bev	CJ	none	Dan	Shorter
Nov. 30	Lori	None	Marge & Glenda	Herb	none		none

PASTOR'S MESSAGE—CONTINUED

I'm going ask you to start a good practice, even if you only do it for the month of November. It goes like this: Find a piece of paper, a notebook or something like that to use as a journal and do these three things:

1. Write down three things you thank God for – nature, provision, specific loved ones or friends, His grace in Christ, etc.
2. Thank Him for those things in prayer and examine your “tude” toward thankfulness and pray about that too. Write down your observations about your “tude.”
3. Thank at least one person today, face-to-face for what they mean to you, what they've done, how they've enriched your or someone else's life, etc. and write it down alongside their name in your journal.

I'll do this too. I'm starting out by thanking God for you. I share the sentiment of the Apostle who wrote to those same Christians at Philippi: **I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.** Philippians 1:3-7 (ESV)

In Him who shapes my “tude,”

Dan Esala

Dan Esala, Vacancy Pastor and friend

If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice. ~Meister Eckhart

November Birthdays

Bob M.	11/17
Del D.	11/27
Glenda	11/13
Hank S.	11/11
Katherine	11/21
Cecelia	11/22
Beckett	11/27

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION NOVEMBER 23



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.

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

THANKSGIVING MEAL DRIVE

NOVEMBER 16

THANK YOU...

to all who have signed up to provide non-perishable food items and monetary donations for the Thanksgiving meal bags Hope provides to families in Aurora through the Volunteers of America.

The generosity our church and preschool are greatly appreciated to help with the growing need for food in our community here in Aurora.

SIGN UP OPPORTUNITIES

A few sign up opportunities are still available for food donations to be able to complete the 40 meal bags.

Food donations can be placed in the marked bin outside the sanctuary by November 16th.



TOY DONATION UPDATE



The overwhelming donations of infant and toddler toys from Hope's church and the preschool will be a blessing to Redeemer Crisis Center this winter.

Thank you to all who donated these gently used toys that will be distributed through the Babies' Care Program at the Center. 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School continues to meet each week during worship. The youth of Hope will pack Thanksgiving meal bags during church on November 23rd for families in Aurora. All children should come directly to Sunday School upon arrival at church that day to begin packing the many food items donated by church members, friends, and the preschool.

The bags will be brought to the sanctuary at the end of worship to receive a special blessing before being taken to the Volunteers of America in Aurora.

Be sure to join us for this Sunday School Service Sunday for the month!



THIRD @ 3

PhilUP

THE BALLOON GUY

Every guest gets a balloon animal



Sunday, November 16

3 PM



456 S. Chillicothe Road, Aurora



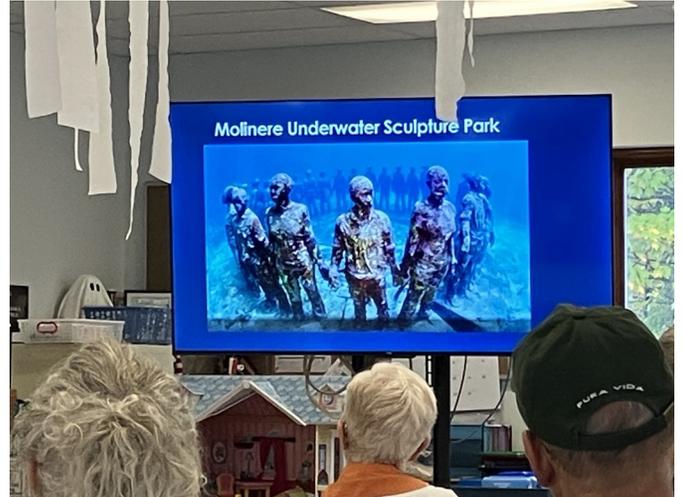
hopelcaurora.org

"On Thanksgiving Day, all over America, families sit down to dinner at the same moment - halftime.

THIRD @ THREE

Hope's Third at 3 social group loved learning about fascinating underwater discoveries and creatures in October. A few of the crowd favorites were a shipwreck of an illegal Prohibition era gambling boat that washes close to the shore of California every so often and an underwater sculpture garden.

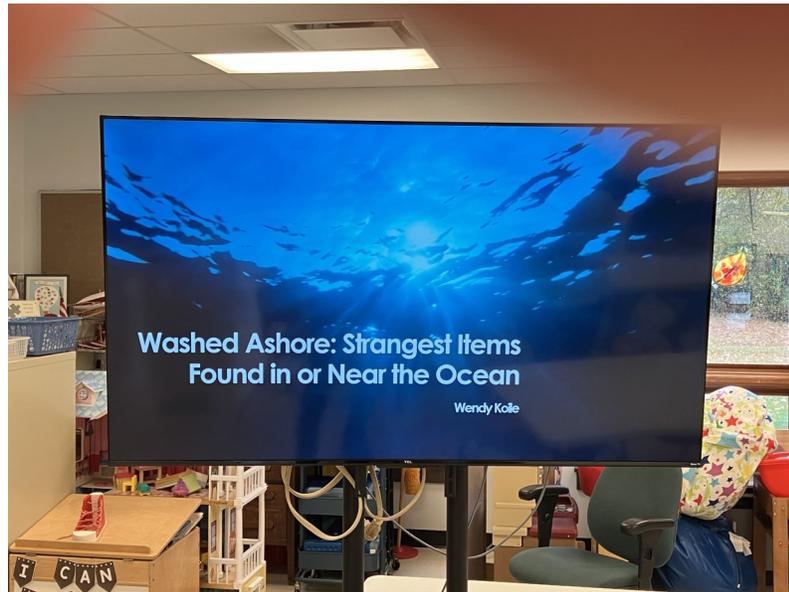
Grab a friend, children or grandchildren for this month's presentation by PhilUp the Balloon Guy on November 16th at 3 p.m.



PLEDGE CARDS

Please prayerfully consider your response on the pledge cards that were mailed to members in October.

Pledge cards help plan the budget for the upcoming year at Hope and can be turned into the collection plate located on the baptismal font in the sanctuary or mailed back to Hope in the envelope provided.



Church
Council
Meeting

The next church council meeting will be on **Thursday, December 11th at 3:30 p.m.**

If you have any agenda items for the council to discuss, please see Hope's church president, Greg B., or email him at president@hopelcaurora.org.



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 grant amount 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! You can drop off your mite boxes in the wooden box on the welcome table or the church office or give to Marge G.

2025-2027 National LWML Mission Grant #4

The Perpetual Call for Pastors and Teachers
LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, US \$100,000



About This Mission Grant Recipient

Set Apart to Serve is a LCMS Synod-wide initiative focused on forming and recruiting full-time pastors and church workers. Supplying the church with church workers is one of the highest priorities of the LCMS, since pastors and commissioned church workers preach and teach the Word of Christ through which the Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith. The demand for more pastors, Lutheran school teachers and commissioned church workers is urgent. **Set Apart to Serve** is providing resources to encourage

intentional conversations with youth to pursue a church work vocation. This is leading to increased enrollment in the church worker formation programs at the LCMS Concordia universities and the seminaries. Districts and churches are being encouraged to reach out to their youth through workshops and conferences. This grant will help to cover a part of the expenses of creating resources, travel and presentations at workshops and conferences and staffing.

"Autumn is a season followed immediately by looking forward to Spring." - Anonymous



The Ohio District Northeast Zone (the zone that Hope belongs to) of the LWML holds a Prayer Service each year during Epiphany or Lent for the purpose of strengthening prayer life through Word and song.

This year Hope has the privilege of hosting the Prayer Service on

Saturday, February 28, 2026.

9:30am Coffee and Fellowship

10:00 am Service begins

11:45 lunch

Mite Offering - \$6 Registration

We have enough beautiful, quilted mug rugs for our table favors! Thank you to Mary O., Marge G, Bonnie M., Linda F., Celia E., Donna P., Janet M., Pam K., and Gail K. A special shout out to Janet M. and Pam K. for finding a pattern for us, teaching us and to Janet for making the matching quilted center pieces for the tables.

At our November 9th meeting we will be finalizing menus and deciding how many volunteers we need to help. If you have a gift of organization, join us at our meeting. Our lunch menu at this point will be soups and salads and crusty bread. Doesn't that sound like a wonderful meal for a day in February?! **If you have a special salad or soup you would like to share, please let Celia E. know.**

And finally, Women of Hope, I do hope you will join us on that day to connect with other Lutheran women during this special Lenten service. There will be much more information on the service to share, so keep reading your newsletter in the coming months.



A few of the 70+ quilted coasters that we will give to our sisters in Christ at the LWML Northeast Zone Prayer Service in February



Another great opportunity to gather with other Lutheran women is the Ohio District Convention. If you can't make the entire two days, there is a worship service on Friday night that you won't want to miss! I'll be sharing more in the coming months to give you an idea about our convention. This month I'm highlighting our Keynote Speaker, Christina Hergenrader.



Christina Hergenrader grew up in Galveston and now lives in Friendswood, Texas. She is wife to Mike (25 years!), mother to Catie (19), Sam and Elisabeth (twins, both 16), and Nate (13).

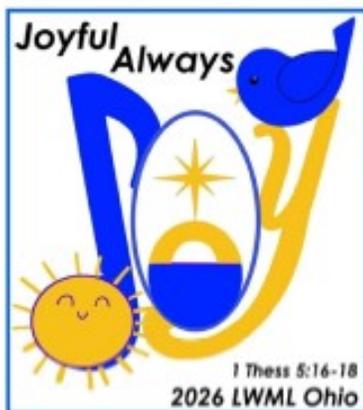
Christina was bible study leader at the 41st Biennial Convention in Omaha and will be Keynote Speaker for our Ohio District Convention on Saturday during the convention.

She is the author of 12 books, including *God Loves Moms*, *Starring Roles*, *Love Rules*, *Family Trees & Olive Branches*, *Last Summer at Eden*, *Shine*, and *Inspired*.

Christina is a gifted and enthusiastic speaker. She is passionate about connecting with women and teens. Christina holds a Master's Degree in Creative Writing and is a certified Growth Coach. She understands modern women's pressures and concerns and brings warmth and inspiration to everything she does.

In her free time, she enjoys teaching theology to high schoolers, spending time at her family's beach houses, and walking her rescue greyhounds.

See more about Christina at christinahergenrader.com



Ohio District LWML Convention

"Joyful Always"

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

CHILDREN SAY:

(The following statements about the Bible were written by children and have not been retouched or corrected, i.e., original spelling has been left in.)

- The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
- A Christian should have only one spouse. This is called monotony.
- Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.
- Noah built an ark, which the animals come on to in pears.
- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
- Samson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
- Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
- The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten ammendments.
- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
- Moses died before he ever reached North America.
- Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
- The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
- David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finklesteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.
- Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- The epistles were the wives of the apostles.



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

November meeting dates this month are 11/1 and 11/15 and 11/29.

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.



Hope Lutheran Church
is a congregation
In the
Ohio District
of the
Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod

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

Twitter: @HLCAurora