



Hope LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY, 2026

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ESALA



Dearly Beloved, (???)

Okay, I know that's an odd and archaic way to begin this article, but I do it with a purpose – I wanted to include some form of the word “love” as much as I could in this month's letter.

After all, February is the month of love, isn't it? You know, with Valentine's Day and all.

But it's much deeper than that. It's also the month in which we begin Lent – the ultimate season of love. “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son...” Ash Wednesday (on the 18th of February this year) begins our journey to the cross of Calvary, where we see played out in all its brutal details, the extent to which the greatest possible love of all would go. Death for the innocent Lamb. Freedom for the responsible sinner. Abandonment by the heavenly Father. Placement in the presence of the all-embracing God for the undeserving miscreant. Condemnation taken on by perfect Son of God. Forgiveness poured out for every spiritual miscreant in the world. That, dearly beloved by God, is the greatest love story ever to be uttered by human lips. “For God so loved the world.”

Jesus spoke about love almost incessantly. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind.” “Love your neighbor as yourself.” “Love one another even as I have loved you.” “No greater love has any man than to lay down his life for his friends.” “They will know that you are my disciples by the way you love one another.”

The apostle Paul devoted a whole chapter on love in 1 Corinthians 13. Read it sometime. It ends this way: “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13 (ESV)

So you see, dearly beloved, love is a good thing – actually, it's the main thing about our conduct in the world. We are beloved, and in turn, we love. Not so complicated, is it?

Yes, February is good. Love is in the air, and we're right at the heart of it, aren't we?

So beloved, love one another!

Loving you with all my heart in Christ,

Dan

Daniel Esala, Vacancy Pastor



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

FEBRUARY 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
Feb. 01	Lori	Chris	Ruth/Ruth	Chris	Becky/Bev	Dawn	none
Feb. 08	Lori	na	Larry/Chris	Herb	none	Dan	Gideon
Feb. 15	Lori	Andy	Bev	CJ	Becky/Bev	Dawn	none
Feb. 18 Ash Wed	Lori	Greg	Karol	Karol	Becky/Bev	Dan	Shorter
Feb. 22	Lori	na	Ruth/Ruth	Andy	none	Dawn	Shorter

THIRD @ 3

January Trivia

Thanks to all who participated in our January Bible Trivia. Chris F. did a great job in preparing the questions and tallying the scores.

Congratulations go to Becky and Linda who took first place!

**LET ALL THAT
YOU DO
BE DONE WITH
LOVE.**



CORINTHIANS 16:14

Church Council Meeting

The next church council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12th at 3:30 p.m. If there is anything you would like discussed please see our church president, Greg B., or email him at president@hopelcaurora.org.

February Guest Speaker

Join us February 15 at 3 PM



Learn from Historian Dennis Sutcliffe how Danny Greene rose to prominence in the Cleveland underworld during the 1970s by challenging the Italian-American crime family and creating his own brutal gang that resulted in Cleveland being known as Bomb City USA!

March Guest Speaker

March 15



Carl Quatrara will present the Wonderful Life of Jimmy Stewart.

"I haven't spoken to my wife in years. I didn't want to interrupt her." – Rodney Dangerfield

IT'S SNOWING AT HOPE



Thanks to Dave B. for the beautiful photo of Hope in the snow. We hope you are staying safe and warm during these cold, bitter days!

- Kelsey B. 5
- Karol K. 7
- Nate M. 9
- Kathie D. 12
- Donna M. 20
- Stacey K. 24
- Jeff C. 25
- Debi S. 28



February Birthdays

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FEBRUARY 22



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.

LOST CLEVELAND
MEMORIES PRESENTS

THE DANNY GREEN ERA



Danny Greene and John Nardi tried to muscle in on the Cleveland Mob's operations. The result was a bloody mob war that left Cleveland with the moniker "Bomb City USA!"

DENNIS R. SUTCLIFFE

FEBRUARY 15 AT 3 PM

Hope Lutheran Church
456 S. Chillicothe Road
Aurora, OH 44202
hlcaurora.org

THIRD @ 3

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Stuff the Slippers

February 8

Pocket tissues
Fuzzy socks
Soap
Lip balm
Wash clothes



Thanks to those who have already donated supplies for the Sunday School students to stuff slippers for mothers at Redeemer Crisis Center in Cleveland for Valentine's Day.

Donations of pocket size tissues, fuzzy socks, bars of soap, lip balm (chap stick), and new wash cloths are being accepted until February 8th and can be placed in the basket on the welcome table.

Monetary donations for supplies are also accepted.

See Becky B. with any questions.

Minister Football Terms For the Super Bowl

Halftime - The period between Sunday School and worship.

Backfield-in-Motion - Making a trip to the back (restroom or water fountain) during the service.

Two-minute Warning - The point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings.

Trap - You're called on to pray and are asleep.

ANGELS

Explained by Children

- ♥ I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold. -Gregory, 5
- ♥ Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it. -Olive, 9
- ♥ It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes. -Matthew, 9
- ♥ Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else. -Mitchell, 7
- ♥ My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science. -Henry, 8
- ♥ Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows! -Jack, 6
- ♥ Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead. -Daniel, 9
- ♥ When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath, somewhere there's a tornado. -Reagan, 10
- ♥ Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter. -Jared, 8
- ♥ What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them. -Sarah, 7



"Dying His Death, Living His Life."

The season of Lent will begin with an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00 p.m. The service will include the imposition of ashes.

Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday, 7 pm "Dying to Sin, Living in Forgiveness"

Feb. 22 - Sunday Eve Service 5 pm "Dying to Pride, Living for Others"

March 1 - Sunday Eve Service 5 pm "Dying to Greed, Living for the Treasures of Heaven"

March 8 - Sunday Eve Service 5 pm "Dying to Doubt, Living by Faith"

March 15 - Sunday Eve Service 5 pm "Dying to Turmoil, Living in Peace"

March 22 - Sunday Eve Service 5 pm "Dying to Judgment, Living in Grace"

March 22 - Sunday Eve Service 5 pm "Dying to Judgment, Living in Grace"

March 29 - Palm/Passion Sunday - Morning Service 10 am

April 2 - Maundy Thursday - Seder Meal - 7 pm

April 3 - Good Friday Tenebrae Service - 7 pm

April 5 - Easter Sunday Celebration - 10 am

We are also planning meals for the Sunday Evening Lenten Services.

There will be a sign-up sheet available as well, for the purchase of Easter Lilies.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Join the children of Hope on February 8 as they lead the congregation in singing of a hymn they have been practicing.

To prepare, students have been making snow flakes and a snow man as visual aids to this hymn.

Be sure to join the students to admire their work and learn how snow can represent a message of love.

HELP NEEDED

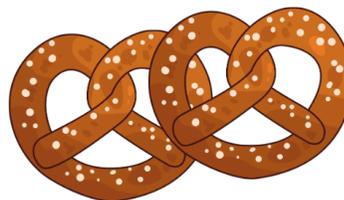
The Sunday School will be down a teacher on Sundays March 1 and 8. Lessons will be provided and the choice of class is yours. See Cheryl T. to offer help.



Lenten services and suppers will be held on Sunday evenings during the season of Lent beginning February 22nd through March 22nd. A brief service marking the season of prayer and reflection begins at 5:00 p.m. followed by a light supper.

Sign up sheets to attend each week will be available on the welcome table. See Dawn G. with any questions.

Back
by POPULAR Demand!



Pretzel Sunday
March 15

after Worship Service

Sunday March 15 children will be making Lenten pretzels to share with worshippers. This is always a fun event for children as they learn about the meaning of Lent.

Be sure to delight in their efforts after worship that Sunday and enjoy a pretzel.

Sunday, February 8 during the Sunday School time, students will be stuffing slippers with the items that have been donated by the congregation.

A Thrivent grant was also received to help enhance the slippers with some Valentine treats. The slippers will be distributed at Redeemer Crisis Center's Babies Care Program on Friday, February 13 to mothers of the infants and toddlers in the program. Thank you for warming hearts and feet.



Lutheran Women *in Mission* PRAYER SERVICE 2026

We have some really exciting news for you! The LWML ladies of N. E. Ohio are holding their annual prayer service at Hope Lutheran this year. Yes! **We** have the honor of hosting this event, and we sure would love to see as many women as possible from Hope Lutheran involved.

What a delight it will be as we give all our concerns to God, confident that He answers prayer and share in the joy of a confident faith with your sisters in Christ through word and song.

Please plan to be there, mark your calendars, sign up on the sheet located on the welcome table and we will see you there.

 **Lutheran Women *in Mission*
PRAYER SERVICE 2026**
February 28th

PRAISE
REMEMBER
ASK
YIELD
EXCITEMENT
REJOICE

HOPE LUTHERAN
456 South Chillicothe Rd,
Aurora, OH
Coffee & Fellowship @ 9:30am
Service @ 10:00am
Mite offering taken
Luncheon following service

Registration due February 23rd
Janet Marz
JanetMarz4@gmail.com
216-513-6073
Registration fee- \$6.00

\$6.00 registration fee due at the door when you sign in.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

"February: The month of love... or chocolate consumption, either works." – Fay Collins



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. Thank you to all who use a mite box to contribute your change to make LWML such a "mityey" ministry! You can drop off your mite box in the wooden box on the welcome table or the church office or give to Marge G.



2025–2027 National LWML Mission Grant #7 A Place of Refuge (APOR) South Wisconsin \$75,000

A Place of Refuge (APOR) is a sanctuary of life ministry that positively impacts the lives of unwed, homeless pregnant women and their preborn children. Both mom and baby are equally worthy of Jesus' love, as He commands their safety and protection, which motivates APOR to offer valuable services. Women can reside at the Refuge House for their entire pregnancy and up to a year following the birth of the child. APOR teaches life and parenting skills. The women attend worship at a local LCMS congregation every Sunday. The current staff is teaching the Catechism to the moms. The Holy Spirit has brought many moms and babies to the baptismal font. This grant will fund the purchase of a new van for transportation to church, Bible studies, doctors' appointments, and grocery shopping, plus a set of five parental skill books to be gifted to each new mom.

If you would like more information, please go to aplaceofrefuge.org.



HINT! Place a mite box in your car and stuff it with the loose change from the drive thru.

