



AUGUST, 2026

# Hope LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ESALA



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

For this month I want to share two similar stories with you that have radically different outcomes. The first is this:

David Frost, in his book, *BOOK OF WORLD'S WORST DECISIONS*, tells about how in 1910 Olav Olavson, a Swedish citizen, fell upon hard times and decided to sell his body for medical research after his death to the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. The following year he inherited a fortune and resolved to buy himself back. The institute refused to sell its rights to his body, went to court, and won possession of it. Moreover, the institute obtained damages, since Olav had two teeth pulled out without asking their permission as ultimate owner of his body.

The second story goes like this, and it comes from the sixth chapter of 1 Corinthians: ***"You are not your own, for you were bought with a price."*** You hear people say a lot these days, *"My body, my choice."* Well, okay I guess, if you insist. But the Bible tells us a different story. God created us. He sustains us. And when we messed the whole thing up bringing destruction on ourselves, He redeemed us. He bought us back by the shedding of His own Son's blood. We don't belong to ourselves. We, our lives, everything we have, belongs to God. Quite honestly, I'm very happy to be in His hands, under His ownership. Much better than being owned by the Karolinska Institute, or the devil, or the world, or even myself. Just saying...

Belonging to Him, I am also –

Yours in Christ,

*Dan Esala*

Dan Esala, Pastor



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

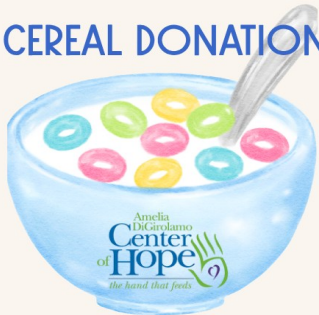
*If you cannot serve on your assigned date, please find a replacement and let Dawn know. Thank you for serving.*



| Date    | Music | Worship Assistant | Greeters       | Reader | Ushers     | Sermon/PP | Acolyte |
|---------|-------|-------------------|----------------|--------|------------|-----------|---------|
| Aug. 02 | SOS   | Chris             | Ruth & Ruth    | Chris  | Dave       | Dan       | none    |
| Aug. 09 | Guest | none              | Marge & Glenda | Bob    | Dave       | Dan       | Gideon  |
| Aug. 16 | Lori  | Greg              | Larry & Chris  | CJ     | CJ & Hank  | Dawn      | none    |
| Aug. 23 | Lori  | none              | Bev            | Andy   | Dan & Dave | Dawn      | Shorter |
| Aug. 30 | Lori  | none              | Karol          | Karol  | Dan & Dave | Dawn      | none    |

### FILL A BREAKFAST BOWL

AUGUST  
CEREAL DONATION



#### Cereal Drive Ends Soon

Thank you to all who have donated breakfast cereal for the Center of Hope's Christian Cupboard. The cereal will help replenish supplies at the food pantry for our neighbors throughout Portage County. Any last minute donations can be placed in the bin by the welcome table through August 9. If you prefer, see Becky B. to make a monetary donation and shopping will be done for you. This project is supported by a Thrivent Action Team grant.

August 30th

## Sunday Brunch



LOOK FOR SIGN UP  
OPPORTUNITIES TO BRING A DISH  
TO SHARE ON THE WELCOME  
TABLE.

THE BRUNCH WILL ALSO SERVE  
AS THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FOR  
AUGUST. SEE YOU THERE!

after Worship Service



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Lisa B. June 02  
 Hope W. June 02  
 Herb K. June 03  
 Gary G. June 06  
 Parker June 11  
 Jay S. June 15  
 Lynn R. June 24  
 Colby B. June 26  
 Mary S. June 30



Hope will celebrate August birthdays on August 30 at the Sunday Brunch after Worship Service!

*"Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." ~ Psalm 37:4*



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

The next church council meeting will be on Tuesday, August 4th at 3:30 p.m.

**\*\*\*\*This is a change from the original date of 8/13.\*\*\***

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).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Join Pastor Esala at Independence Village of Aurora on August 19 at 11 AM for a short 30 minute worship service.

Independence Village is located at 505 S Chillicothe Rd in Aurora. (Across from Hope)

Volunteers are asked just to attend the service!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!

Sunday School resumes August 2. This fall we will be welcoming an additional teacher to the staff.

Beginning in August, Kayla (daughter of Dawn G.) will be teaching once a month. Kayla has a degree in early childhood education and will bring new ideas to our staff.

She will be welcomed August 20, to be introduced to the children and then will teach once a month beginning on August 27.

## HOPE CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL

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

The preschool will host a summer camp on Tuesday August 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday August 27<sup>th</sup> from 9-12.

The preschool will also host meet and greet days for students on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 and 5:00. What a blessing it will be to have students back in



## THANK YOU!



The windows at Hope will be professionally cleaned on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. The floors will also be professionally cleaned on Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Please be mindful of the cleaners if you are in or around the building that day.

Thanks to Dave B. and Deacon B. for spreading mulch in the parking lot island.

The mulch has kept the weeds at bay and has spruced up this area at the front of the church.



## LCMS RESOURCES

The LCMS website has some great resources for parents and kids!

+ + +  
KIDS IN THE  
DIVINE SERVICE  
+ + +

### What does the word "Amen" mean?

The word "amen" (pronounced AH-men) is Hebrew for **"certainly"** or **"truly."**

Martin Luther said that it really means:

**"Yes, yes, it shall be so."** You probably recognize this

word from hearing it or seeing it used in prayer. Maybe you use it in your prayers every morning when you wake up and every night when you go to sleep.



## Thirteen Lucky Rules for Life

1. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
2. Memorize your favorite poem.
3. Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have or sleep all you want.
4. When you say, "I love you", mean it.
5. When you say, "I'm sorry", look the person in the eye.
6. Believe in love at first sight.
7. Never laugh at anyone's dreams.
8. Don't judge people by their relatives.
9. In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling.
10. Remember the three R's: Respect for self; Respect for others; Responsibility for all your actions.
11. Say "bless you" when you hear someone sneeze.
12. Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
13. Call your mom.

*"If summer had one defining scent, it'd definitely be the smell of barbecue." – Katie Lee*

# Third @ 3



Save the dates for some very interesting and informative speakers this year!

## September 20—Tim A. Garfield

- Great-great grandson of President James A. Garfield discusses the book and movie about the life of our 20th president.

## October 18—Felicia Zavarella Stadelman

- Learn about Odd Artists and their work.

## November 15—Meet Betty Ford

- Women in History presents the life of Betty Ford
- Throughout her husband's presidency she maintained high approval ratings, and was considered to be an influential first lady. But what else is known about this lady?

## December 13—Annual Christmas concert



Join the **In the Word bi-weekly Saturday study** and an examination of the Book of Acts. The study takes place at church and new members are welcome at any time.

August meeting dates are 8/8 and 8/22.

- 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 8:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Pastor Esala is leading a study on 1 Corinthians.



**SEPTEMBER 20 - 3 PM**

## FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE

**BY TIM A. GARFIELD**

★★★★★★

Learn about the 20<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, James A. Garfield from his great great grandson, Tim Garfield. President Garfield served from March to September 1881 before being assassinated.

Read the book: *Destiny of the Republic*  
Watch the Netflix Series: *Death by Lightning*

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**Third @ 3**

Hope Lutheran Church  
[www.hopelcaurora.org](http://www.hopelcaurora.org)

*"It's a sure sign of summer if the chair gets up when you do."— Walter Winchell*

# WOMEN OF HOPE IN MISSION MINISTRY

## 33RD ANNUAL FALL RETREAT

LWML NORTHEAST ZONE



**Devotions and Bible Study**  
with Pastor Daniel Esala  
LWML Northeast Zone Counselor



**Music, fellowship, skits and laughter!**



**LWML Mite offerings & Ingathering Project MKC**

**PROJECT**  **MKC**



**Games, activities, Mission project Forbes House, Walk with Billie**

### REGISTER NOW:

\$25.00/person, includes breakfast, snacks and a light lunch

Registration deadline Sept. 9th  
(checks payable to **NE Zone LWML**)

Janet Marz JanetMarz4@gmail.com

☎ 216-513-6073

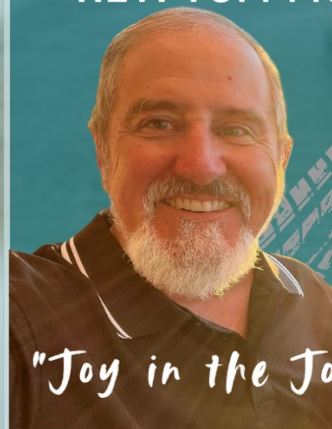
34200 Brookmeade Court  
Apt. 104, Solon 44139



**"A joyful heart is good medicine,  
but a crushed spirit dries  
up the bones."  
Proverbs 17:22**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2026  
JORDAN CREEK  
METROPARK, CONCORD**

**Guest Speaker  
REV. TOM MOYER**



**"Joy in the Journey"**

**Registration forms and schedule are on the bulletin board in the hall leading to the fellowship hall. Questions? Contact Celia Esala**

*"I bet deep down you still wish your mom would take you clothes shopping every August for the new school year." – Bridget Willard*

## An invite from Celia...

I would like to personally invite all the Women of Hope to join me in a day of spiritual renewal, mission projects, a powerful speaker, fun and singing at

the LWML Zone Fall Retreat and delve into how to experience the joy of Jesus in this life that is not always joyful. Celia

An ingathering (collection) will be taken at Hope August 30-Sept. 13 for the following items:

### FULL SIZE

Bar Soap

Men's 3-in-1

Women's Shampoo

Women's Conditioner

Children and Adult Toothpaste

Children and Adult Toothbrushes

Children's 3-in-1 (Shampoo/Conditioner/Body Wash)

These items will be taken by the Women Hope in Mission to the LWML Fall Retreat to help with the ministry at Project MKC (Making Kids Count) located in Youngstown/Boardman, OH-check them out at [projectmkc.org](http://projectmkc.org)!

## AND

Our Mission project, that we will assemble at the retreat, is women's feminine hygiene kits to be donated to Forbes House, a women's shelter that empowers individuals and families to end the cycle of domestic abuse.



Small Box. Big Impact.

Mite Boxes are used to collect money for missions.

**A dollar gets divided 75% used for the Ohio District's mission grants and 25% is sent to support the National mission grants.**

Mite money is used to further God's Kingdom through the mission grants selected by delegates at District and National conventions

Place your Mite Box wherever you can feed it; dressing table, office desk, laundry room, car, kitchen counter. Share a Mite Box with family members and friends.

Return your filled Mite Box to the wooden mite box on the welcome table in the gathering area.

*Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me all that I have. Bless these mites that I give back to You so that they can be used to spread the Good News of Jesus' love here and throughout the world. Amen.*

## LCMS YOUTH OF HOPE MINISTRY



# 2028 LCMS National Youth Gathering July 3-7, 2028 San Antonio, TX

Welcome to San Antonio! LCMS Youth Ministry is thrilled to invite you to the 2028 LCMS Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX! This incredible city has welcomed the Gathering before, and we are excited to return and experience all that it has to offer—its rich history, vibrant culture, and warm hospitality. As we prepare for this time together, we look forward to seeing thousands of youth and adult leaders come together to worship, serve, and grow together. Stay tuned for more details as we journey toward 2028!

Age requirements for participants... 14 years old at the time of the Gathering or entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade at the time of the gathering.

*"My favorite summer activity in August is hiding indoors."*



## LCMS OHIO DISTRICT SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING

November 20 – 22, 2026  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
530 McNaughten Road  
Columbus, Ohio

*This event is for students in 9th – 12th grades and their chaperones. Included in the weekend events:*

- Off-site service projects
- Bible study
- Discussion groups
- Food, games, and time to meet new people
- Worship and fun at Scene 75

*Lloyd Garrelts is our music leader for the*

*weekend.*

*Cost per person: \$80 (DOES NOT INCLUDE HOUSING!) Recommended hotel: Home2Suites.*

*Registration information – coming soon!*  
[www.oh.lcms.org](http://www.oh.lcms.org)



## Mite Boxes

June & July

\$122 was collected!



# Coffee Fellowship

**Sundays**

**9:30 - 10:00**

**in the Narthex**



Every Sunday morning we are having a 'Coffee Fellowship' before Worship service.

Adult Bible Study is from 8:45 to 9:30.

The coffee fellowship in the narthex will be from 9:30 to 10 AM. Come for the conversations and stay for the Worship service at 10 AM!

## LAUGH A LITTLE

A young boy had just gotten his driver's permit and inquired of his father if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said he'd make a deal with his son.

"You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, get your hair cut and we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed upon it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, I've been real proud. You brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm real disappointed you haven't gotten your hair cut."

The young man paused a moment then said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair and there's even a strong argument that Jesus had long hair."

To this his father replied, "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"



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](http://hlcaurora.org)

**Facebook:** Hope Lutheran Church in Aurora, Ohio

**Instagram:** [hopelutheranchurchauroraohio](https://www.instagram.com/hopelutheranchurchauroraohio)

**Twitter:** @HLCaAurora