

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL, 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WOODS



Dear Friends,

As all of you know I will be retiring this year. I have been a pastor for almost thirty years now—seventeen at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Solon and a little over twelve here at Hope. Ministry is actually my third career: I started out as a teacher then went into the business world and finally entered the ministry. I guess my fourth career will be as a retiree. When people ask me what I intend to do with myself after I retire I tell them: “absolutely nothing—and I can’t wait to get to it!”

I am happy to tell you that the man who will be replacing me is one of the finest pastors I know. His name is Dan Esala and he was pastor at Valley Lutheran Church in Chagrin Falls for many years before serving as pastor at Christ Church in Mantua. Dan has four qualities that make him a good pastor. First of all, he loves and enjoys people. Second, he is an excellent preacher. Third, he is an optimist and tends to see the bright side of things. And fourth, when things don’t seem so bright he has a sense of humor!

I want you all to know that the time I have spent as your pastor here at Hope has been a blessing to Karen and me. You are a loving congregation and you have made us feel welcome and loved all the time we have been here.

Parting is sorrowful but we can be comforted by the fact that we **will** see each other again in heaven.

Love,

Powell and Karen

Sunday Services

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

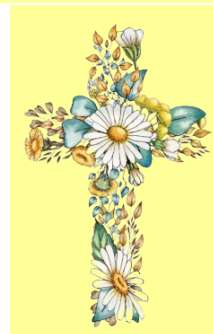


Connect with us!
hlcaurora.org

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

APRIL SERVER'S LIST

If you cannot serve on your assigned date, please find a replacement and let Dawn know of that change. Thank you for your service.

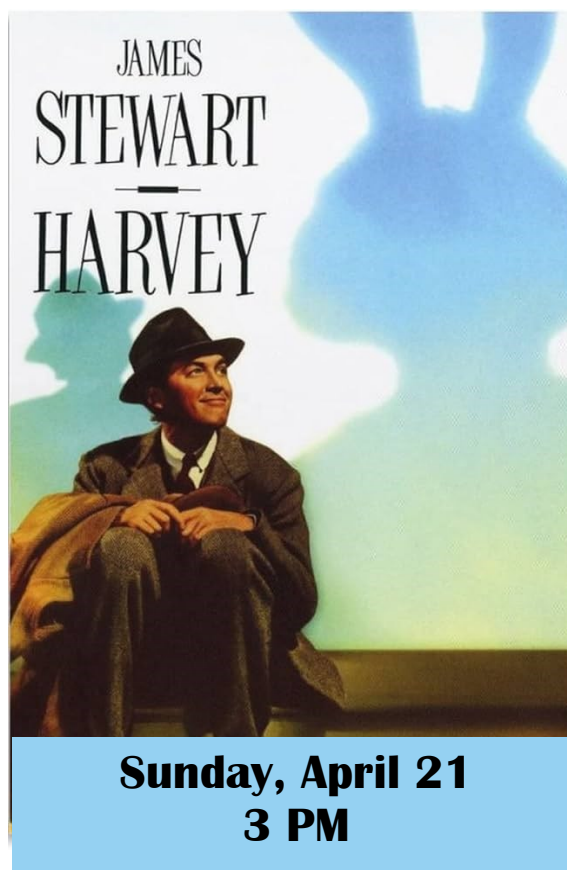


Date	Music	Worship Assistant	Acolyte	Greeters	Reader	Sermon/ PP
April 7	Lori	Greg	Beckett	Marge & Glenda	Greg	Dan
April 14	Pearl	None	Deacon	Ruth & Ruth	Herb	Dawn
April 21	Lori	Chris	CJ	Karol & Carol	Chris	Dawn
April 28	Pearl	None	Andrew	Larry & Chris	Bob	Dawn

THE THIRD @ THREE

Put it on your calendar for April 21 when we have a special guest speaker. Pastor Woods will speak on the movie Harvey and its religious connections.

Don't worry if you've never seen the movie. We will be watching Harvey at 3 (yes, there will be popcorn!) and then Pastor will speak about Harvey, the 6' 3 1/2" rabbit that can only be seen by Elwood.



"The time is always right to do what is right." — Martin Luther King, Jr.



- Dave B. 04
- Cheryl T. 07
- Carl S. 10
- Peggy R. 11
- Greg B. 11
- Marge G. 23
- Alex G. 30

COUNCIL MEETING

The next church council meeting will be on **Thursday, April 11th at 7 p.m.**

If you have any agenda items for the council to discuss, please see Dan C. or email him at dcolemansr@windstream.net



Do you have an event you are planning at Hope? Please be sure to

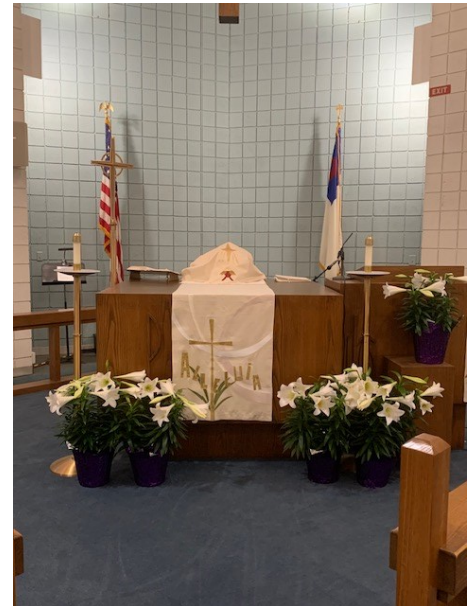
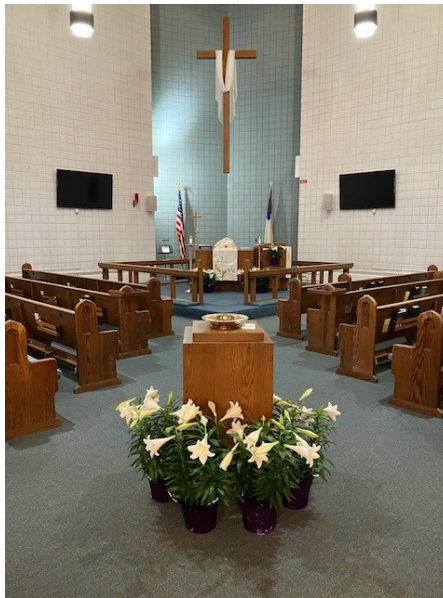
let Dawn know details of your event.

She will add it onto the new master calendar located in the hallway between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.

The welcome tablecloth and sign are located on top of the filing cabinets in the office and are available for all church events.

EASTER LILIES

Thank you to all who purchased a lily to beautify the sanctuary for Easter. The fragrant lilies enhanced the joy and the hope found in the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Our Sunday School and Confirmation classes worked hard to make fresh Lenten pretzels for the congregation one Sunday in March.

The classes were reminded that the twisted shape of the pretzels resemble two arms crossed in prayer. Making these pretzels for over 30 years has served as a tasty reminder that Lent is a season of prayer and reflection.



children's sermon.

Sunday School in April meets on April 14th and 28th during the worship service.

Children are invited to sit with their families for the beginning of worship and are dismissed to Sunday School following the

HELPING HAITIANS



Many thanks to Cheryl T. for inviting the founders of Helping Haitians in Need to talk about the conditions in Haiti at this month's social event.

Paul and Mary Ellen shared about cultivating gardens to give nutrition to children who usually exist on three meals of beans and rice a day.

Also, a reservoir was just completed to contain water from the rainy hurricane seasons to expand the garden. Hope's generosity in the past has aided Helping Haitians in Need and there is much to be done to assist these rural Haitian families.

Want to know more? See HHN board member Cheryl T.

THINK ABOUT IT

In his beautiful book, "I Shall Not Want," Robert Ketchum tells of a Sunday School teacher who asked her group of children if anyone could quote the entire 23rd Psalm. A golden-haired, four-and-a-half-year-old girl was among those who raised their hands.

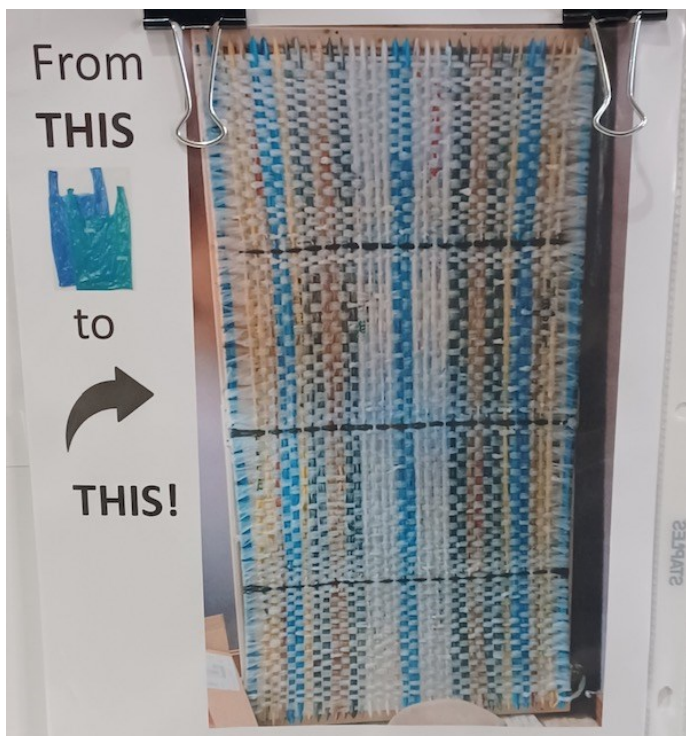
A bit skeptical, the teacher asked if she could really quote the entire psalm.

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.

PLASTIC BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS



The thoughtfulness of Hope will make a difference for the homeless in Cleveland this year.

Thanks to all who brought in plastic bags for Saint Rita's social justice organization that collected bags to make sleeping mats for the homeless.

Thanks, too, to Dawn G. who collected and delivered the bags to Saint Rita.

The school has worked with us, and Thrivent in the past to collect toiletries, books and socks for Redeemer Crisis Center.

What a great giving community we have!



Mark Your Calendar!

April 14

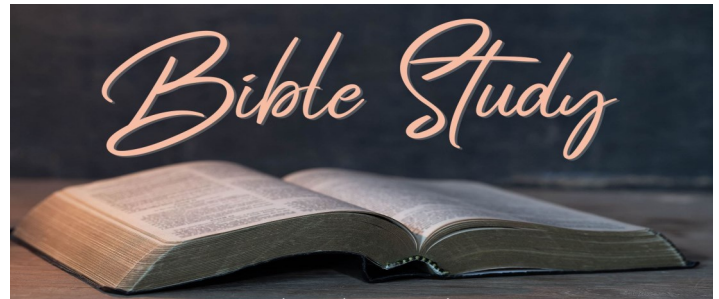
Hope will honor the birthdays of members and friends with March and April birthdays with a celebration coffee hour after church on April 14th. Join us after worship that day to celebrate the blessings we have in one another!

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY



Do you have a prayer request on your mind and heart? Prayer requests can be emailed to Hope's church secretary, Dawn, at dghlc456@gmail.com.

A prayer list is distributed to the congregation each Sunday after worship and prayers remain on the list for one month.



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

April meeting dates are 4/6 and 4/20.

9:15 coffee and fellowship; 9:30 small group study; 10:30 Q&A with the pastor.

For more information, please email Karen W. at karenwoods@yahoo.com

The **Men's Tuesday morning Bible Study** meets at church on Tuesday mornings at 8:45 a.m. except for the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The current topic of study is the Book of Ezekiel.

The **Sunday morning adult Bible Study** meets at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall to continue discussing the Gospel of Matthew.



Confirmation class will meet on

April 14th and April 28th

this month in the conference room

following worship until 11:45 a.m.

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
Twitter: [@HLCAurora](https://twitter.com/HLCAurora)

Facebook: Hope Lutheran Church in Aurora, Ohio
Instagram: [hopelutheranchurchauroraohio](https://www.instagram.com/hopelutheranchurchauroraohio)

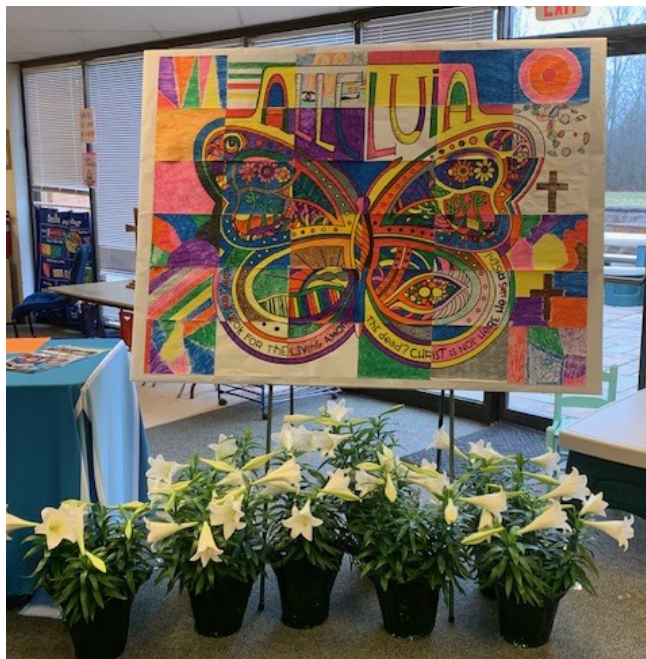
For some people, going to church is going home. In a very profound sense, I would say the same thing. Home is where Christ is. ~Frederick Buechner

THE ROCKIN' APOSTLES



Easter Sunday ended with a fine rendition of Shine, Jesus, Shine by Hope's own Rockin' Apostles.

EASTER MOSAIC



Thirty six members stayed in the lines and completed their share of the Easter mosaic.

HOPE'S HELPERS



Hope's Helpers did a great job of decorating the entrance to the church this Easter.

What a welcoming display!



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Website: hlcaurora.org

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Instagram: hopelutheranchurchauroraohio

Twitter: @HLCAurora

God recycles. He made you from dust. ~ Unknown