

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY, 2025

EPIPHANY TRADITIONS



The season of Epiphany begins on January 6. In this season, Jesus' revelation is everywhere: We find the Babe to whom the nations bow; we hear the Father's word, "This is My Son," at His Baptism in the Jordan; we see the inauguration of His wonders as He turns water into wine. These themes reverberate through the church's traditions that accompany the season.

One of the most iconic foods we associate with Epiphany is King Cake, a pastry from the 12th century twisted in the symbolic shape of our Lord's crown. As befits a festive dessert, the sweet dough is enriched with butter and sugar and contains a special surprise! Traditionally, some trinket — a bean, coin or baby Jesus figurine — is discreetly inserted into the cake for one lucky eater to discover. (Recipe: [Epiphany Traditions: King Cake & House Blessing – The Lutheran Witness](#))

Another Epiphany tradition you may try this year is the house blessing. Some people invite their pastor come over and bless each room of their home with appropriate Scripture readings and prayers. This tradition sometimes includes chalking the doorpost with "20 + C + M + B + 25" (for this year). Some say the letters stand for the names of the Magi, but Lutherans often see a Christocentric meaning: Christus Mansionem Benedicat ("May Christ Bless the House"). Of course, this custom reminds us of a central focus of Epiphany: the Christ who loves mankind so much that He came to dwell among us.

Check out the Lutheran Witness. In 2005, they are going to showcase a month-by-month exploration of a few of the rich traditions that you may consider incorporating in your homelife.

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

Written by Kristen Einertson and Tessa Muench

Source: **THE LUTHERAN WITNESS**



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JANUARY 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	Acolyte	Greeters	Reader	Communion	Sermon/ PP
Jan. 05	Lori	Greg	Drew	Becky	Greg	Becky	Dawn
Jan. 12	Lori	N/A	Deacon	Marge & Glenda	Karol	None	Dawn
Jan. 19	Lori	Chris	Beckett	Ruth K.	Chris	Bev	Dawn
Jan. 26	Beth	N/A	Hank	Karol	Herb	None	Dan

ANNUAL VOTER'S MEETING—2024

Hope's members gathered after the service on Sunday, December 15th for the annual voters meeting.

The first item on the agenda was church finances. The recent stewardship program was deemed to be successful with almost identical results as the previous year. From that was built the budget for 2025 which is, again, almost identical to that of 2024. In both, there is a small operating surplus. Hope's financial standing is sound and is projected to remain so. No major repairs or capital expenditures are foreseen in 2025.

The second item was a purely administrative matter of the congregation approving a motion to formally issue a call to Pastor Esala.

Lastly, for the first time in over ten years, an election of officers was held. Dan Coleman had decided to step aside after twelve years as President. Greg Belt was nominated to replace him and the voters approved. A list of all officers and Board members is posted in the church office.

Subsequent to the voters meeting, Doug Benjamin, our Treasurer for the past fifteen years, decided to step aside. Many thanks to Doug for his excellent service in this critical position. Since this created a vacancy of an elected position, appointments have been made. Chris Schwed will become Treasurer and Dan Coleman will take over Chris' current position of Financial Secretary.

The next church council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13th at 3:30 p.m.



Ava B. January 03
 Nancy W. January 27
 Jon B. January 30
 Ruth K. January 30

JANUARY 26
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



AFTER WORSHIP

Join us after worship on January 26 for cake to honor our friends and members who have a January birthday.



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.

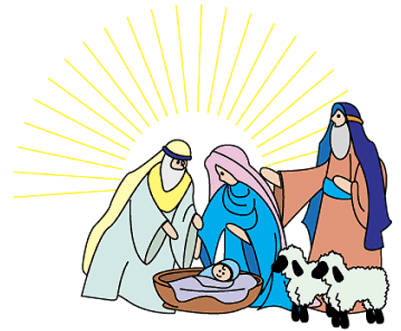
The welcome tablecloth and sign are located on top of the filing cabinets in the office and are available for all church events.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Thank you to the children of our church who brought the congregation a special message on a cold December Sunday morning.

The children reminded us that the greatest gift of any season is the gift of Jesus and the salvation he pro-



TINY BUBBLES!

Hope is collecting shower wash, hand soap, and bars of soap to be delivered to the Center of Hope in Ravenna and Redeemer Crisis Center in Cleveland. Both agencies are food banks supplying food and necessary toiletries when available.

Place donations in the bin marked 'SOAP DONATIONS'. The collection goes until February 16.



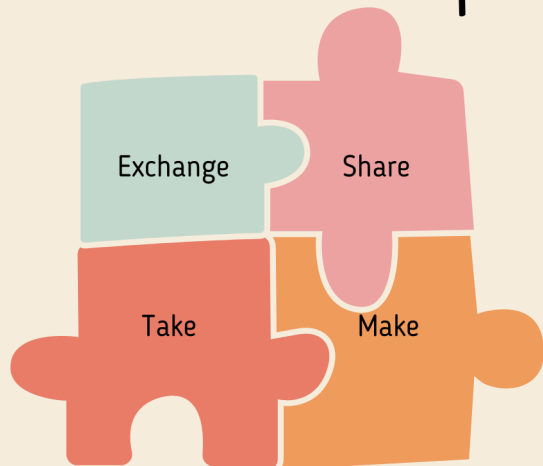
THANK YOU!



Thanks to all of Hope's Helpers who served cookies and punch for the three Christmas programs of Hope Christian Nursery School in December. Thanks to these helpers the preschool staff, children, and families were able to enjoy time together after each program.

The poinsettias beautifying the sanctuary for the Advent season were provided by a grant from Thrivent Financial.

Puzzle Swap



The weather is cold, the nights are long, the reruns are on television, the roads, sidewalks and parking lots are icy. If you are feeling a bit of cabin fever this winter consider making a puzzle or two.

Beginning January 15, there will be a table in the narthex for a puzzle swap. Take one, make one, and exchange it for another. Bring in puzzles you have made to share with others. What a good way to share God's blessings and resources with others while enjoying some brain stimulation. Questions? See Becky B.



Hope's Lutheran Women in Mission will meet on Sunday, January 12th in the fellowship hall following the worship service. We will be discussing what our mission focus will be for 2025 and we would love to have you come and be a part of the process.

The mites collected for November totaled \$30.00! Thanks to all who contributed. Please pick us a mite box on the welcome table and place it in your car, laundry room or anywhere you find loose change gathering and place it in your mite box to support the mission work of LWML. If you would like to see the missions your change and dollar bills support, there is information on the welcome table and the bulletin board in the hallway.

Dates to remember are:

- 2025 **Prayer Service** - February 15, 2025 (snow date 2/22/25) at St. Mark, Chesterland !0 AM with coffee/fellowship at 9:30
- 2025 **Spring Rally** - April 26, 2025 at Our Savior, Mayfield Heights 10 AM with coffee/fellowship at 9:30
- 2025 **LWML Convention** - June 26-29, 2025 in Omaha, NE
- 2025 Fall Retreat - September 20, 2025 at Lake MetroParks Environmental Learning Center (Jordan Creek Park)

If you have any questions, Celia Esala, czesala@aol.com would love to hear from you or check our the LWML at lwmi.org.

"Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10



Hope Christian Nursery School will hold an open house on January 16th from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

All new families interested in the preschool for the 2025-2026 school year are invited to stop in during the evening to meet teachers, learn about the curriculum, and see Hope's engaging classrooms.

Contact Hope's Nursery School Director, Jen L. with any questions at Jennifer@Lynagh.com

BIBLE STUDIES



The **In the Word bi-weekly Saturday** study will resume on January 11th with a 6 lesson study on the Book of James. The study takes place at church and new members are welcome at any time. The cost of the book is \$8.00 and can be paid to Cheryl T. Cheryl can also be reached by email at 505tomaselli@gmail.com

January meeting dates are 1/11 and 1/25

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

The **Sunday morning adult Bible Study** meets at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Pastor Esala leads the study on "Discipleship" by Ray Vander Laan. The study examines what it means to be a follower of Christ through cultural, historical, and contextual lenses of Scripture.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation classes meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month for 45 minutes following worship.

Meeting dates for January are January 12th and January 26th.

Prayer

REQUESTS



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.



Free to a Good Home!
Contact Dave B. if interested!

THE THIRD @ THREE

Hope's "3rd at 3" social group enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of music that truly captured the holiday spirit in December. Many thanks to the Aurora High School Orchestra ensemble for a fantastic performance and for all who attended this seasonal favorite social event!



The Third @ Three is back in 2005 with some exciting presentations!

- ◆ Plan now to watch the movie, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" in January.
- ◆ February brings Jungle Terry and his animals to Hope!
- ◆ March 16—Lost Cleveland presents Rabbi Silver's battle against Cleveland Nazis in 1930.

THIRD @ 3

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
3 PM

MOVIE AND SNACKS




THIRD @ 3

JUNGLE TERRY

FEBRUARY 16 @ 3 PM

FAMILY FUN
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

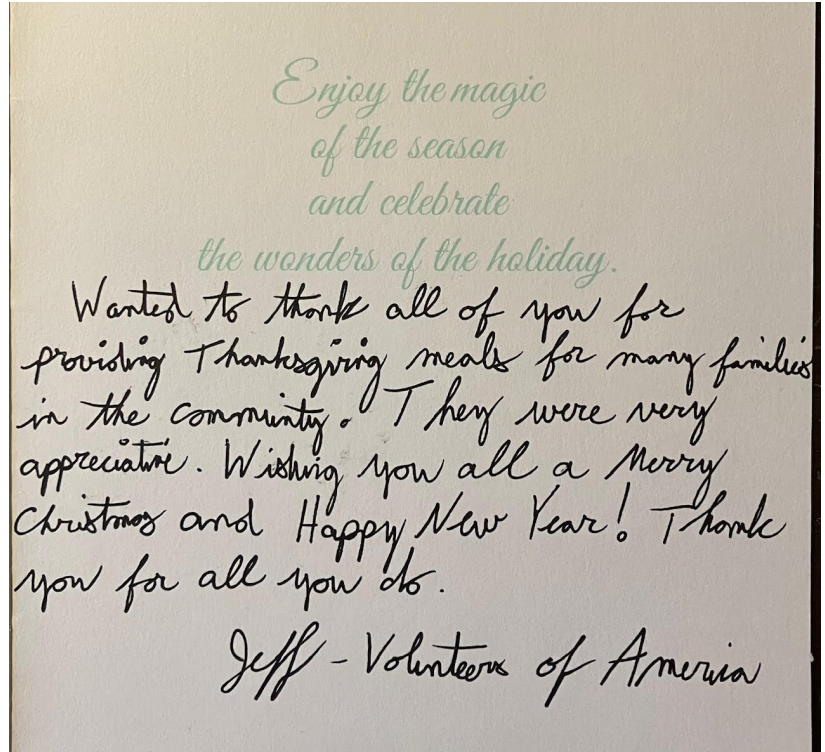


"I would quit all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter."

VOA THANK YOU



A thank you for the thirty-five bags full of Thanksgiving meals that Hope donated to the VOA in Aurora.



**YOU KNOW YOU'RE
LUTHERAN WHEN**



**SHARING THE PEACE
TAKES LONGER THAN
THE SERMON**

LCMS EVENTS

Upcoming LCMS Events in 2025:
Ohio District LCMS youth in grades 6, 7 & 8
March 21 - 23, 2025
Camp Christian in Marysville, Ohio

Ohio District LCMS
24th Regular Convention
June 22-24, 2025
St. John Lutheran Church, Dublin OH
More info at <https://oh.lcms.org/>

The youth of the LCMS are invited to be in New Orleans, July 19-23, 2025

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