

May, 2025

# A Message from Pastor Esala



Dear Friends in Christ,

Spring has sprung, Christ has risen, and Pentecost is on its way! This is where we're once again reminded of the great power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It's just as Jesus promised as He was about to ascend into heaven: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

(ESV)

We don't exactly understand that power, but we know where it comes from, and we know, by the grace of God, when it's at work in us. For some reason, we have faith! We have faith in God's plan of salvation through Christ's life, death, and resurrection. We have faith that one day, we like Jesus will rise to everlasting life in paradise. We have faith that He attends us in all we do, He is with us always. We have faith in the good outcome of everything that happens because we believe the Bible when it says, "all things work together to the good of those who love Him." (Romans 8:28). And we have faith that we can accomplish incredible things that we could never accomplish apart from faith in Him.

In the first place, we can be His witnesses everywhere and anywhere. We don't have to be articulate. We don't need a dynamic, engaging personality. We don't need to have a sterling reputation. All we need is to be redeemed. And we are. We don't need to analyze that too much or we'll begin to suffer from analysis paralysis. Let's just do it without fear or shame.

Sunday Services 9 AM Adult Bible Study 10 AM Worship Service 1st & 3rd Sundays communion That Holy Spirit power allows us to achieve many other things as well, and I think it's time we started seeing them through to completion. We have a Parish Planning Meeting coming up on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. where we can all dream dreams for the Kingdom of Christ right here at Hope Lutheran Church, as well as resource them with money, people and plans. *(continued on page 2)* 



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### May 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	Sermon/PP
May 4	Lori	Cheryl	Drew	Marge & Glenda	Chris	Dan
May 11	Lori	None	Deacon	Ruth & Ruth	Bob	Dawn
<b>M</b> ay 18	Lori	Paul	CJ	Karol	Paul	Dawn
May 25	Lori	None	Hank	Larry & Chris	CJ	Dan



Son: "Mom can I get twenty bucks"

Mom: Does it look like I am made of money Son: "Well isn't that what M.O.M stands for?"

## PASTOR ESALA'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

We have a parking lot that needs work; a choir to build (let me know if you're willing to sing); young people to mentor; a men's group to initiate; souls to bring into the kingdom of salvation; and yes, a fulltime pastor to call as the Lord wills it. It sounds like a lot, but it's not really that much. Not when you work for a risen and living Lord, through whom all things are possible.

Let's get behind these things and get them done. Volunteer, contribute financially, talk it up, pray about our kingdom work here at Hope Lutheran. Let's just do it! After all, Spring has sprung, Christ has risen, and we've got the Holy Spirit working His power in the world through us. Let's make ourselves available to Him.

Under His grace and in His care,

### Dan Esala

Dan Esala, Vacancy Pastor



Brian W. Judy R. Chris C. 6 8 Chris D. Chris S. 10 19 Andy R. Lori F. 20 24 Doug B. Dan O. 24 Sheila K. 25

# MAY 25 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AFTER WORSHIP

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.

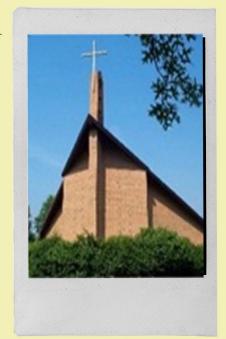
The welcome tablecloth and sign are located on top of the filing cabinets in the office and are available for all church events.

### CHURCH WORKSHOP

All members and friends are invited to be a part of Hope's church workshop on

Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

The workshop will discuss the results of the recently completed church survey and next steps moving forward.



Light refreshments will be served.



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

Hope will celebrate its members and friends having May birthdays on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Join us after worship that day in the fellowship hall to celebrate the gifts we have in one another.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next church council meeting will be on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. If you have any agenda items for the council to discuss, please see please see our church president, Greg B., or email him at Greg belt@att.net



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



The ladies of Hope's LWML made up Easter bags of candy, a mug rug quilted by Janet Marz, and other items to send to our shut-ins when Pastor Esala visited them before Easter. We were also able to put together bags for the preschool teachers to wish them a Blessed Easter. We had a lot of fun and laughs when Janet taught us the proper way to add the tissue paper. Thanks Janet!



The Northeast Zone of the Ohio District LWML gathered for our Spring Rally on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Mayfield Heights. We had a devotion tied to our theme of "Faith Not Sight", a hilarious skit featuring the three little pigs, and a short business meeting during which we elected our zone VP, Ann Marie Bollas and secretary, Erin Cardina. Mary Osicky, Marge Godale, Celia Esala, Pastor Esala represented Hope.

Thank you to all who contributed to the "Blessed to Bless" food drive. As you can see it was a

great success!!



VP Ann Marie Bollas, Sec. Erin Cardina Pastor Don Beaumont

"Blessed to be Blessed"



"It Could Be Worse-but God has a Plan!" is the theme of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Northeast Zone Retreat September 20,2025. All ladies are invited to come to Jordan Creek Park in Concord Township. Bible study and devotion led by Pastor Steve Berndt and a presentation by Ruth Pangrace with her portrayal of Molly Pitcher. More details soon!

# THIRD @ 3



We had a great turnout for our Third @ 3 speaker, Dennis Sutcliffe from Lost Cleveland Memories.

He lectured on the 1930's storm troopers who were marching in Parma and recruiting local auto-workers for jobs in German factories. He told us how Rabbi Silver's League for Human Rights led the fight against the fascists in Cleveland.



### Free Popcorn!



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

May meeting dates this month are 5/3, 5/17, and 5/31.

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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month for 45 minutes following worship.

Meeting dates for May are May 11<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup>

## 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.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS







Students in the Sunday School classes continued learning about the events leading up to and following the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our younger class lead a parade for the older class on Palm Sunday. The older class has worked to put together a timeline of the events leading up to Holy Week. Sunday School will meet on May 11th and May 25th this month.

Thank you to all who colored the individual pieces for our vibrant congregationwide Easter mosaic this year. The pieces came together beautifully to enhance Hope's celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

Also, many thanks to Dave B. for thoughtfully assembling the entire picture!

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to Jeff Tomaselli for his donation of time and material to repair the two large potholes that were in the church driveway and parking lot.

### **PRESCHOOL**

Hope Christian Nursey School Update: Hope's preschool recently held its second annual end of the year art show for all three classes. Families enjoyed a wonderful evening celebrating the artwork created by the students throughout the year. The church's congregation-wide mosaic was also highlighted in the show. The preschool will celebrate its students moving on to kindergarten with an evening graduation ceremony on May 21st. Please keep these students and families in your prayers as they make this important transition in their school lives.

# Thank you to all who purchased Easter lilies to beautify the sanctuary for our Easter Worship

Bonnie McGimpsey (2 plants) in memory of Marie Benyo and Sidney McGimpsey

Rev. Daniel and Celia Esala to the glory of God

Chris Clark in memory of the family members who have gone before us

Bev Stedman in memory of loved ones

Margaret (Marge) Godale in memory of Charles Godale (Chuck), dad and Mark Godale, son

Janet Marz in honor of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Lynn and Andy Richner in memory of Bob Richner

Ruth Kosinar to the glory of God

Sheila and Fred Kressierer to the glory of God

Dave and Becky Bell to the glory of God

Dan Colman (3 plants) to the glory of God

Gail and Ken Kohler (2 plants) in memory of the Meadows and Kohler family saints that have gone before us and in honor of Our Lord and Savior's precious grace

### He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

**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