



Hope LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH, 2026

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ESALA



Dear Friends in Christ,

Well, here we are, smack, dab in the thick of Lent where our focus is pretty much on ourselves, being introspective, repentant, self-examining, determined to do better as Christians. And rightly so. It's good to recognize our contribution to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross of Calvary. It gives us the proper attitude with which to face God with our sins. It opens our hearts to the largess He wishes to pour into us because of Jesus: acceptance, forgiveness, grace, joy, peace, hope.

It gives us the urge, to be sure, to peek up from ourselves and see what lies ahead, and it's filled with unspeakable joy. It's the resurrection, and it's in the future for every one of us! I don't think any one of us can say enough about what it does to change what happens between now and then.

One thing it does change is that we know that we do have a future. We could certainly call it a preferred future. Encouraged by the future God has purchased for us at the cross, His people work hard to forge a future for the church He's entrusted to us all. The elected leaders of our congregation have been casting a bold and exciting vision for our future, which includes calling a full-time pastor. Their plans include establishing Teams that will lead us through the pastoral search process, building up of our membership, meaningful infrastructure and governance, and the like, the end-all of course, being to expand the Kingdom of Christ in the here and now, to the glory of His name. We all, of course, need to be a part of this preferred future, serving as His agents to bring it into being. We'd all be served well to put our shoulders to the wheel.

Most everyone will be asked to fill vital roles during this great mission. Your contribution is not only your high calling as a Christian, but will be honored by us all.

So, it's O.K. to look up during Lent and peek at the future. It bodes well for us in every respect when Christ is Lord.

Under His grace and in His love,

Dan Esala

Dan Esala, Vacancy Pastor
Hope Lutheran Church



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

MARCH 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
March 01	Lori	Greg	Larry/Chris	Greg	Becky/Bev	Dan	none
March 08	Lori	na	Bev	Karol	none	Dawn	Gideon
March 15	Lori	Paul	Karol	CJ	Becky/Bev	Dan	none
March 22	Lori	na	Ruth/Ruth	Andy	none	Dawn	Shorter
March 29 Palm Sunday		Chris	Larry/Chris	Herb	Becky/Bev	Dawn	Shorter

THIRD @ 3 SCHEDULE

Third @ 3



March 15

Carl Quatraro

“The Wonderful Life of Jimmy Stewart”



April 19

Felicia Zavarella Stadelman

“Through the Eyes of the Artist”



May 17

Jeannie Emser Schultz

“As the Stage Turned—a history of the Front Row”

THIRD @ 3
Presents Carl Quatraro

SPEAKING ON
THE WONDERFUL LIFE OF JIMMY STEWART

Sunday, March 15
3 PM
at Hope Lutheran

Just Like God:

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?"

I mentally polished my halo while I asked, "No, how are we alike?"

"You're both old," he replied.

Happy Birthday!

Jacob B.	04
Ashley M.	06
Linda C.	08
Mary O.	14
Jill B.	19
Russ V.	24
Deacon B.	25
Alison S.	27
Dan C.	31
Pastor Esala	31

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION MARCH 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.



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Members and Friends of Hope –

I wanted to send a short note to let all of you know that after some discussion amongst members of the Church Council, it has been decided that we will not continue to hold Sunday Evening services during Lent this year.

We will of course hold Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and look forward to seeing all of you there.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Pastor Esala..

Greg

2009—PALM SUNDAY

Anyone recognize these two members of Hope? You'll probably see them again on Palm Sunday 2026 — still looking the same!



Hope had a wonderful time honoring the birthdays of members and friends with February birthdays recently at a celebration coffee hour after church. This chance to gather together will take place again for those with March birthdays on March 22nd. Join us after worship that day to celebrate the blessings we have in one another!

The next **church council meeting** will be held on Thursday, April 9th 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.

THIRD @ 3—GUEST SPEAKER

Who knew Cleveland had such a ruthless underworld in the 1970's? Thanks to the 3rd at 3 speaker in February, our large group heard the gripping tale about the life of Danny Greene, the Irish mobster who dared to take on the Italian-American crime family.

Join us on March 15th at 3:00 p.m. to learn all about the wonderful life of Jimmy Stewart from presenter Carl Quatraro. Bring a friend!



EASTER MOSAIC



LWML MITE BOXES

LWML Mite Collection: The LWML January Mite Box Collection was \$27.00.



Please remember to thoughtfully pray for the of the LWML as you drop coins in your mite box.

Collection boxes can be found on the welcome table as you enter church.

Thank you to all who have taken individual pictures to color for the congregation-wide Easter mosaic. Please consider taking a second picture to color to add to the Easter celebration at Hope. The simple directions and coloring supplies are available in a basket on the welcome table.

All colored pictures need to be returned to the basket by March 22nd.

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, 'Ryan, you be Jesus

"May all your troubles be less, and all your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door!"



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

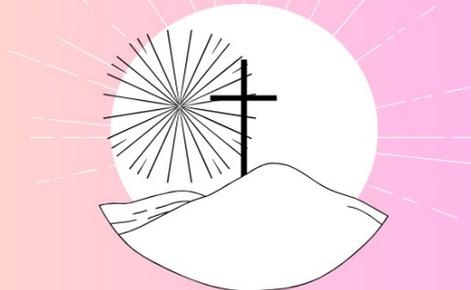
AT HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Holy Week is a time to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We remember Jesus' actions, reflect on his messages and recommit to living as his disciples in the world today.

We hope this schedule helps you plan to observe these important days, both on your own and with others. May you have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Palm Sunday, March 29th

10:00 a.m. worship service.
Sunday School during worship.



Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

7:00 p.m. worship service with communion.

Good Friday, April 3rd

7:00 p.m. worship service.

Easter Sunday, April 5th

10:00 a.m. worship service with communion.
Craft for children during the sermon only.



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

THANK YOU!

(it takes a church)

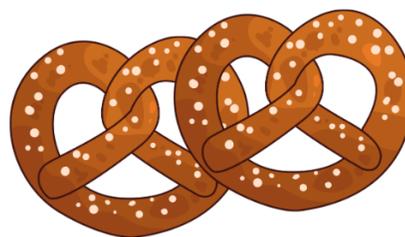
- to everyone who donated items for the Stuff the Slippers project for Redeemer Crisis Center. Each slipper had 2 pocket size packages of tissues, a bar of soap, lip balm, a pair of hand knitted or crochet slippers, a wash cloth, deodorant, and a Valentine heart of chocolates. Hope is so generous when it comes to helping God's children in Cleveland. A thank you also to Thrivent Financial for the Action Team grant which enabled purchase of the deodorant



- to knitters and crocheters, Chris S., Mary O., Ruth K. and Becky B. for making the 50 slippers for the Stuff the Slippers project.
- to Sunday School students, Liam B., C.J. B, Deacon B., Gideon B., Matthew Mc., Evelyn Mc., Katie S., and Carl S. for signing Valentines cards and stuffing 50 slippers for Mom's at Redeemer Crisis Centers Babies Cupboard program.
- Deacon B. for preparing the envelopes with markers, instructions, and coloring pages for the Easter mosaic



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Pretzel Sunday

March 15

after Worship Service

Pretzels remind Christians of prayer and repentance during the season of Lent.

Students will be busy making pretzels from scratch during the Sunday School hour.

Be sure to stop in the fellowship hall and sample and/or admire their efforts after worship.



- Deacon B. for preparing the envelopes with markers, instructions, and coloring pages for the Easter mosaic
- C.J. B. for leading a teen Bible study on Sunday mornings
- to all who have donated funds for church flowers
- Dawn who organizes the readers, acolytes, worship assistants, and communion preparers each month.





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.

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 “mitey” ministry! You can drop off your mite box in the wooden box on the welcome table or the church office.

2025–2027 National LWML Mission Grant #8



Building a Place of Care

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota— \$60,000
The mission of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.

Since 1952, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has touched the lives of more than 43,000 at-risk children and their families. They bring Christ-centered hope and healing to children who have experienced severe psychiatric, emotional, behavioral, and/or developmental challenges due to abuse, neglect, violence, and other heartbreaking traumas.

The Ranch is planning to build the Zurcher Cottage, a psychiatric residential treatment facility, replacing the current cottages. Within the Zurcher Cottage, they plan to create the Reflection Room, which will serve as a safe and calming environment to support the emotional, spiritual, and psychological well-being of the children. Not only will this room benefit the children, but it will also directly support the staff during stressful work shifts and allow them to be more effective caregivers to the children in their care.

This grant will help fund the construction and furnishing of the Reflection Room on the Ranch’s Minot campus.



The Ranch is called to give each child the chance to meet Jesus, learn about Him, and discover how His love, grace, and peace can help them find and become their best selves.



The Ranch is called to give each child the chance to meet Jesus, learn about Him, and discover how His love, grace, and peace can help them find and become their best selves.



Ohio District LWML Convention "Joyful Always"

June 26-27, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Westlake OH

Convention Musician and Presenter Hannah Nunnenkamp-Engelman



Hannah is a dedicated educator and worship leader with over 13 years in music education. She has served in public and private schools, including the past two years at Concordia Lutheran School of Omaha. Currently, she is studying to become a commissioned Lutheran teacher through the CUNet Colloquy program. She has led worship for LWML district conventions in both Kansas and Nebraska and is passionate about sharing the Gospel through music and ministry.



Northeast Zone
Ohio District

2026 Northeast Zone Prayer Service- PraiseRememberAskYieldExcitementRejoice

Over 50 women joined their voices, praises and prayers here at Hope for the annual LWML Service of Prayer. It was filled with a time of sharing of faith stories and fellowship building as we sang, ate, prayed, and praised God as women joined together with one Mission...to joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. Over \$500 was collected for Mite Missions!!!
AND we made over \$75 from the sale of the extra quilted mug rugs for



mites.

The Lord provided us with a beautiful day of sunshine that carried into the sanctuary where the music and singing was amazing! It was fun to hear the cacophony of voices and laughter as we enjoyed a wonderful lunch and the ladies received their quilted mug rug squares and bag of goodies.

I want to thank everyone who was there to make this prayer service a special event. Ken Kohler for sound, Pastor Esala for leading the service, Janet Marz, Marge Godale, Gail Kohler, Mary Osicky, Katie Shorter, Chris Swed, Sally K., Linda Fogerty, Celia Esala.





Northeast Zone LWML SPRING RALLY

“Caring by Serving”

April 25, 2026,
Faith Lutheran Church,
8125 Mentor Av., Mentor

Begins at 9:30 am with continental breakfast fellowship,
meeting at 10 a.m. followed by a light lunch.



**Deaconess
Katherine Rittner**

Our keynote speaker will be from the **Director of the Food and Clothing Co-Op at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Deaconess Katherine Rittner**. This will be a wonderful way to learn about one of our higher learning Lutheran institutions.

The Food & Clothing Co-Op is open to all students enrolled in classes at Concordia Theological Seminary located in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Food, clothing and household items are available at no charge. Students volunteer service time for the privilege of shopping. The Food Co-Op is in the lower level of the Student Commons and is set up like a small grocery store. The Clothing Co-Op is housed in a former dormitory and has fourteen shopping areas. The Food & Clothing Co-Op relies solely on the generous donations of perishable and non-perishable food items, clothing, household items, and monetary gifts from individuals and organizations.

There will be two in-gatherings.

1. A mite offering to be used for mission grants.
2. Donations for the Lutheran Seminary Food and Clothing Co-Op located in Fort Wayne, Indiana. There is a complete list of items to donate on the bulletin board, but a few are ketchup, mustard, mayo, BBQ sauce, soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce, salad dressing, hot sauce, pancake syrup, tomato paste. There will be a collection basket in the gathering room next to the welcome table for donations.

Your registration can be made with the secretary of Faith Lutheran Church at (440) 255-2229 or emailing her at faith.lutheran@att.net Cost is \$6.00 when you arrive.

EASTER LILIES



Easter Lilies will be available to purchase as we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection and His gift of eternal life for those who believe.

Details will be shared soon.



Hope Lutheran Church
is a congregation
In the
Ohio District
of the
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



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.

March meeting dates are 3/8 and 3/22

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

The **Sunday morning adult Bible Study** meets at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Pastor Esala is currently leading a study on 1 Corinthians.

*May your troubles be less
& your blessings be
more and nothing
but happiness come
through your door.*

Irish Blessing

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](https://www.instagram.com/hopelutheranchurchauroraohio)

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