



JUNE, 2026

Hope LUTHERAN CHURCH



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ESALA

Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you ever pray to the Holy Spirit? You can, you know. Actually, you should. We pray to the Father. We pray to Jesus, the Son. We've heard of praying *in the Spirit, by the Spirit, and even having the Spirit say words in our behalf when we can't find words to express ourselves to God. All good stuff, but we should also pray to the Holy Spirit.*

In his explanation of the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed, Martin Luther reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who "calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies and keeps us in the one, true faith." So maybe we should be praying to Him to call and gather people into our congregation. Maybe we should pray that He would enlighten and sanctify (make holy) those of us who are already here at an even higher level than we already are. (surely there's always room for spiritual growth, even for us!) Perhaps we should be praying that He would keep every person in our flock close to Him through His Word and Sacraments, and, AND the fellowship of believers, the Communion of Saints, so that every person among us remains in the one, true faith. It's in the congregation, after all, where faith is nurtured and kept alive.

We recently observed the Day of Pentecost, the biggest day on which we normally acknowledge the Holy Spirit and His work among us. Sadly, we often consign Him to that one day of recognition. He deserves more of our attention, especially when it comes to seeking His guidance and influence in living a Christ-like life.

Maybe too much emotionalism is what we Lutherans fear. After all, we do believe that our redemption is based on facts, not feelings, and the Holy Spirit is often associated with those Pentecostal, jumping-up-and -own denominations. But our feelings and emotions are an integral part of who we are. We can't dismiss our sensitive heart any more than we can dismiss our rational brain. But it's important for our faith to keep them in their proper place.

I want to quote my friend, Dr. David Luecke on this from his blog, Reflections on Ministry, in which he strongly promotes dependence on the Holy Spirit. He writes, "We can better appreciate emotions by recognizing that Feelings can and should come at the end of the sequence of three Fs. Start with relying on biblical **Facts**. Then comes trusting them in **Faith**. In third place is the response of **Feelings**. Facts without Feelings can be as dead as Faith without Works. How can a believer not be moved emotionally when the facts of the Gospel are well understood and trusted?" (Reflection Number 2, May 3, 2022)

Sometimes the church inadvertently stifles spiritual creativity by its formulations and practices which, by their very nature imply limitations. Sometimes they impose limitations on our understanding of the great and meaningful activity Holy Spirit.

(continued on page 2)



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

JUNE 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
June 07	Lori	Chris	Larry & Chris	Chris	Becky/Bev	Dawn	none
June 14	Lori	none	Karol	Karol	none	Dan	Gideon
June 21	Lori	Paul	Marge & Glenda	Bob	Becky/Bev	Dan	none
June 28	Lori	none	Ruth &	Andy	none	Dawn	Shorter

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

But we need the Spirit in order to be spiritual. I don't know if it's possible for spirituality to be *taught*. *I think it's mostly caught by the workings of the Holy Spirit through the power and efficacy of His Word and through the divine mechanisms of the Sacraments.*

What is required of us? Simply an open mind and hungering heart for the Holy Spirit's work in us, a sincere acceptance and internalization of His Word, and an avid life of prayer – yes, even to the Holy Spirit.

This would be a great way for all of us to begin the whole season of Pentecost, which is, incidentally, the longest season of the Church year.

Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, and in the grip of grace, I am –

Yours in Christ,

Dan Esala

Pastor Dan Esala



June Birthdays

Lisa B.	2
Hope W.	2
Herbert K.	3
Gary G.	6
Parker L.	11
Jay S.	15
Lynn R.	24
Colby B.	26
Mary S.	30

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

JUNE 28



AFTER WORSHIP

Hope will celebrate June birthdays on June 28. Join us after worship that day in the fellowship hall.



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.

MOTHER'S DAY



Hope's Sunday School youth and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League recently teamed up to honor all women by hosting a coffee hour after church and with a special gift of a flower.

Hope celebrates the love, strength, and sacrifices of women everywhere!

FATHER'S DAY

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me, and always she was correct. But it was fun for me, so I continued. At last she headed for the door, saying sagely, 'Grandpa, I think you should try to figure out some of these yourself!'



Things Dads Never Say!

1. Well, what do you know? I'm lost. We'll have to stop and get some directions.
2. Here are the keys to my new car. Oh, take my credit card, too. Have fun!
3. Football? You want to play football? What about figure skating, son?
4. No, I don't actually know what is wrong with your car.
5. You don't need a job! I have plenty of money for you to spend.

COUNCIL MEETING



The next church council meeting will be on Thursday June 11 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 president@hopelcaurora.org.

THIRD @ 3

Behind-the-scenes stories from the Front Row Theater at May's 3rd @3 speaker did not disappoint!

Jeannie Emser Schultz shared insights about performers like Bette Midler, Liberace, Carol Channing, and The Jackson 5 during her time as director of marketing and publicity.

Thanks to all who came out for these riveting stories. 3rd @ 3 is on a break for the summer, but keep a look out in upcoming newsletters for this fall's speaker lineup.

We have some great speakers planned for September to May's Third @ 3, but if you've got a suggestion, please let Becky or Lori know.



“It’s a cruel season that makes you get ready for bed while it’s light out.” – Bill Watterson

JUNE RELIGIOUS DAYS

In June, the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) observes several feasts, festivals, and commemorations in its Church Year calendar.

These days are set aside to honor saints, significant events in the Gospel, and other important occasions in the Christian tradition.

Key June Days in the LCMS Church Year

- **June 11 – St. Barnabas, Apostle**

Honors the first missionary of the New Testament, known for his role in the early church and his work with the apostles.

- **June 24 – The Nativity of St. John the Baptist**

Celebrates the birth of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus Christ, as prophesied in the Old Testament.

- **June 29 – St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles**

Commemorates the martyrdom of the two great apostles, who are central figures in the early church and the spread of the Gospel.



Happy
Father's
Day

"When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

~Mark Twain



Saturday In-the-Word Bible Study

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.

June meeting dates are 6/13 and 6/27

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

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

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

HCNS GRADUATION

Hope Christian Nursey School Update: Congratulations to the many students from Hope Christian Nursery School who recently graduated and will be moving on to kindergarten in the fall!

Please keep these students and families in your prayers as they make this important transition.



Hope's unit of the LWML meets the second Sunday of every month in the conference room 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. Our LWML unit at Hope collected \$40.00 to support the mission of Christ by supporting missions throughout the world. Thank you to ALL who share their change for Missions such as the following...

2025–2027 National LWML Mission Grant #11

NOT ALONE: Gospel Help for Families in Crisis

Lutheran Family Service, Iowa | \$92,500

Fully Funded! Praise God



About This Mission Grant...

Satan, the author of lies, uses the divisive issues of gender identity confusion, the ravages of mental illness, and family separation to pull young Christians away from their faith and prevent them from living the life God desires for them.

The number of young people and their parents who are devastated by this cultural and mental health tsunami is rising every day, destroying faith, lives, and families. The number of people who identify as transgender has doubled in recent years. Young people who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual are more likely to have mental health problems and suicidal thoughts and act on them by attempting suicide.

Because of the stigma surrounding these topics, it is often difficult for Christian families to ask for help. When they do reach out, they want to know that help is scripturally sound and Gospel-focused.

Funds from this grant will provide teams of LCMS pastors and licensed mental health therapists to bring help through in-person and virtual educational events, lead support groups, and provide individualized, Gospel-focused care. This help will be offered to the increasing number of families with children experiencing a crisis with gender identity confusion or transition, mental illness, suicide risk, or a history of these challenges to prevent alienation, separation, or loss.

Regardless of their physical location, families will receive needed help through confidential virtual links, connecting them to informational presentations and groups led by qualified professionals, and to other Lutheran parents facing shared concerns. Many LCMS parents facing these circumstances will learn

“Being a mom is like being a superhero, but without the cape—mostly because it’s in the laundry!”

that they are not alone. They will find help from their church, and Christian fellowship with others from their LCMS family across the Synod who face the same challenges. Others who are not currently connected with a church will find a welcome entry to a community of faith able to help them with their most difficult challenges and be invited to a local LCMS congregation.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10).

Mission Grant Story | Learn more at lwml.org/mission-grants



Northeast Zone
Ohio District



Our very own Pastor Esala, was chosen to be the pastoral counselor for the Northeast Zone of the LWML! He will assist our Zone in its objectives and give spiritual guidance, attend all Zone functions and Executive Board meetings and attend the Ohio District Convention this June.

We thank God for Pastor Esala's willingness to serve in this capacity and give his support to the LWML.

Our LWML women of Hope were excited to partner with the Sunday school youth to honor the women of our church on May 10th. Coffee and cookies were served by LWML and the youth handed out beautiful carnations to all the women in attendance. Thank you to Janet and Linda for serving, Becky for arranging for the carnations and all our Sunday school youth in sharing a special gift with the women of Hope!



Fall Retreat - September 19, 2026

"Smiles Across the Miles!"

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

Jordan Creek Lake Metro Park
7250 Alexander Rd., Concord Twp., Ohio
(Off of Route 608)

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

REGISTER EARLY (Deadline is September 8th, 2026)

Registration forms are on the bulletin board in the hall leading to the fellowship hall.

If you have a mom, there is nowhere you are likely to go where a prayer has not already been. ~Robert Brault



Ohio District LWML Convention
“Joyful Always”
June 26-27, 2026
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Westlake OH

This LWML Ohio District Convention, to be held this June, is where the new 2026-2028 OH District grants will be revealed as voting was done via computer ahead of the convention.

Your delegates to the convention are Celia and Janet and Pastor Esala will attend as NE Zone counselor. We will be reporting in July, the mission grants selected from the ones submitted.

We hope to bring the excitement and joy from gathering with our sisters in Christ back to our congregation. Please pray for safe travel for all and the Lord’s will be done

All About LWML Mites



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.*



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

Facebook: Hope Lutheran Church in Aurora, Ohio

Instagram: hopelutheranchurchauroraohio

Twitter: @HLCAurora