



JULY, 2026

Hope LUTHERAN CHURCH

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ESALA



Dear Friends in Christ,

Freedom! That's what we Americans are all about – we live in the “sweet land of liberty.” We're proud of our Declaration of Independence. We defend it ferociously. With the 4th of July coming up, we're gearing up as much as possible under our current circumstances to celebrate our freedom. It certainly is something to celebrate with gusto.

But in thinking about this from a biblical point of view, there are many people in America who are not truly free, and there are many people living under totalitarian governments who are really, really, free. That's because there are some people who have Jesus and some who do not. If Christ is not your Lord, then you are still in bondage to the Law and a captive to sin. No freedom there. But if Christ is your Lord by your profession of faith, you are free! As the Apostle John put it in his Gospel, *“So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)*

Paul echoes that truth in writing to the Galatians: *“It was for freedom that Christ set us free...” (5:1)*

Freedom is a funny thing – if you don't know you have it, you don't. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. The moment it went into effect on January 1, 1863, every slave living in the America was legally free. But still, many remained as slaves for up to two or more years because they didn't know they were free. Many didn't know of their freedom until Union soldiers came with hundreds of thousands of copies of the proclamation and passed them out as they made their way through the South.

Let there be no mistake about it, friends, you are free! Christ has made it so. Whether you're American or not, if you are Christ's you are free – free from sin, death, the power of the devil and the yoke of the law. You are under grace, and in God's scheme of things, that makes you a model citizen, one who loves his neighbors, serves the poor and underprivileged, and shows his adoration of God by a good, good life that is meaningful to others. That's what freedom looks like.

So, celebrate heartily this year. Wave the flag, lift high the cross, and reveal your freed heart to the world.

Free in Christ, I remain your brother in the Faith,

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

JULY SERVER'S LIST

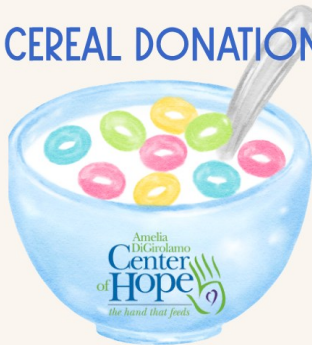
If you cannot serve on your assigned date, please find a replacement and let Dawn know. Thank you for serving.



Date	Music	Worship Assistant	Greeters	Reader	Communion	Sermon/PP	Acolyte
July 05	Lori	Greg	Larry & Chris	Greg	Becky/Bev	Dan	none
July 12	Lori	none	Karol	Karol	none	Dawn	Gideon
July 19	Lori	Paul	Marge & Glenda	Paul	Becky/Bev	Dawn	none
July 26	Lori	none	Ruth & Ruth	Andy	none	Dawn	Shorter

FILL A BREAKFAST BOWL

JULY - AUGUST
CEREAL DONATION



Hope is collecting breakfast cereal for the Center of Hope's Christian Cupboard. The food pantry provides groceries once a month for Portage Country residents in need of food assistance, many of whom are seniors on fixed incomes. The Cupboard has been very low on cereal this summer. Bring a box of cereal and place it in the BREAKFAST BOWL bin. Collection is Sunday July 12 through August 9. If you prefer, see Becky B. to make a monetary donation and shopping will be done for you. This project is supported by a Thrivent Action Team grant.

SUNDAY BRUNCH

AUGUST 30

following Worship

Look for sign up opportunities to bring a dish to share starting in August.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jason	13
Navy B.	14
Phil P.	15
Ruth G.	17
Melissa	21
Marge	23
Justin	27
Gideon	31
Nikki S.	31



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION JULY 26



Hope will celebrate July birthdays on July 26. 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



In June, Hope's youth put together and distributed special gifts for all men.

Hope celebrates the strength, wisdom, and guidance men share with us.

We ask that all God would continue to guide and bless them throughout each day.

No SUNDAY School in July

The Sunday School classes have been singing songs and building bird houses as we learn we are all God's creatures and have a place in His world.

There will be no Sunday School during the month of July.

We look forward to August 2, when Sunday School will resume, and when we will also introduce a new Sunday School staff member.



THANK YOU!

Thanks to Dave B. and Dan C., Hope's outdoor sign recently got a facelift. The surrounding bushes were trimmed, the glass was cleaned, and burned out lightbulbs were replaced. Just like a God who loves us, the messages on the sign continue to be ones that endure.

A campaign is underway to raise money for a new church sign on Chillicothe Road. The expected cost will be near \$30,000 and pledges of over \$4,500 have already been received.

Pledges can be made through Hope's online giving link or by designating donations as 'church sign.' Thank you to everyone who has pledged so far!

Be sure to check out changes inside the church that include a new furniture layout in the entry to create better flow for socializing and entry into the sanctuary.

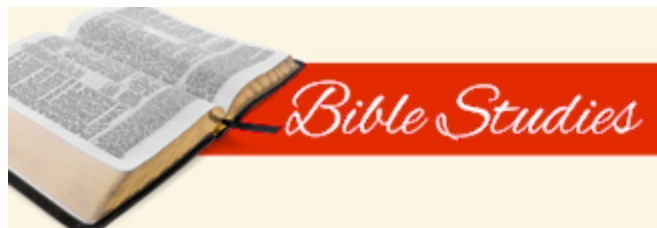
Thanks to some of Hope's Helpers, the church's outdoor space is filled with colorful flowers for the summer. Our entryway is once again blooming with the Spirit!



CHURCH COUNCIL

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

If you have any agenda items for the council to discuss, please see our church president, Greg B., or email him at president@hopelcaurora.org.



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.

July meeting dates are 7/11 and 7/25

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 leading a study on 1 Corinthians.



Did You Know?



America became a free country on July 4, 1776. Did you know that:

- ♦ America is also a nation under God founded on Christian principles.
- ♦ 54 of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence were Christians
- ♦ 27 held Theology degrees
- ♦ Many went on to form Bible societies
- ♦ Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration, believed "God who gave us life gave us liberty."
- ♦ Two of the Continental Congress' first actions were to hire military chaplains and to purchase 20,000 Bibles to remedy a national shortage.



SEPTEMBER 20 - 3 PM

FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE

BY TIM A. GARFIELD

★★★★★★

Learn about the 20th president of the United States, James A. Garfield from his great great grandson, Tim Garfield. President Garfield served from March to September 1881 before being assassinated.

Read the book: *Destiny of the Republic*
Watch the Netflix Series: *Death by Lightning*

Third @ 3

Hope Lutheran Church
www.hopelcaurora.org

America! America! God shed his grace on thee. ~ Katharine Lee Bates

Coffee Fellowship

Sundays
9:30 - 10:00
in the Narthex



Beginning on Sunday, July 19th,
Hope is adding a 'Coffee
Fellowship' to Sunday mornings.

Adult Bible Study is moving
up 15 minutes to begin at 8:45
and end at 9:30.

The coffee fellowship in the
narthex will be from 9:30 to
10:00.

Worship beginning time
remains the same at 10:00.

LWML



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.



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

Twitter: @HLCAurora