



SEPTEMBER, 2026

Hope LUTHERAN CHURCH

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ESALA



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On the first Monday of every September since 1894, our nation has observed Labor Day as a way of paying tribute to working men and women. Their toil, dedication, exceptionalism, and sacrifice are recognized and celebrated. When I look around the church these days and see so many exciting things going on, I realize that none of this would be happening if it weren't for all the men and women who are working so hard to make these things happen. People are stepping up to do the work, and YOUR toil, dedication, exceptionalism and sacrifice are something to behold! Surely something to be celebrated! Thanks be to God for you! Please know that you are deeply appreciated!

I know, I know – it's easy to overlook and take for granted the people who keep showing up to work on the "little things." Actually, there are no "little things" in doing God's kingdom work, and in the church, we need to be sure that we love each other, that we respect each other, that we cherish and honor one another, and that we recognize the important contribution that each of the others bring to the table.

Oh yes, sometimes we get annoyed with one another, sometimes we get in each other's way, we often tussle over little things, step on each other's feet, we even often get territorial. These things are inevitable when we work in such close proximity. But we still recognize how important, how vital, every other person is.

There's a legend that one day all the tools in a carpentry shop were in a terrible argument. They wanted the hammer to leave, because he made too much noise. The hammer protested that if he must leave, then so must the plane, because all his work was superficial. The plane replied that he goes, the sandpaper should go also because she is always rubbing the wrong way.

In the middle of the argument, the Carpenter of Nazareth entered the shop. He put on His apron and began to work – building a pulpit to tell the world about God's love. He picked up the hammer and used it, then the plane, and finally the sandpaper. When He was finished, they all understood that all of them were important to the Master Carpenter's work.

All of us are important too, aren't we? Sometimes we can take others for granted. Sometimes we take our own selves for granted. We don't realize the important role we have in the Master Carpenter's plan.

All we have to do, however, is look at the cross of Jesus to know how important we are to Him. He creates, redeems and sanctifies us to do His work. Our community is His carpentry shop, and there is much work to be done. We are the tools He has chosen for this work. Imagine what we can continue to do in His hands!

Yours in His love,

Dan Esala

Dan Esala, Pastor



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

SEPTEMBER 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
Sept. 06	Lori	Greg	Marge & Glenda	Greg	Becky	Dan
Sept. 13	Lori	none	Karol	Karol	none	Dawn
Sept. 20	Lori	Paul	Ruth & Ruth	Paul	Becky & Beverly	Dawn
Sept. 27	Lori	none	Larry &	Andy	none	Dawn

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Hope warmly welcomed new members to the congregation during the worship service on August 30th. New members and August birth-days were celebrated and honored at Hope's summer brunch that day. Hope is blessed to have Dan M., Phil and Barbara P., Paul K., Erica G., and Llyod and Laurene S. as part of our church family as we all work to grow in faith, love, and service to Him.



Happy September! The world shall now transform into pumpkin everything. ~Keith Wynn

September Birthdays

Becky B. 14
Linda F. 20
Jake C. 20
Joshua 20
Allan F. 28

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



The September and October birthday celebrations will be combined for recognition on Sunday, October 25 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.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES



A loved one can be remembered, a birthday or anniversary celebrated or thankfulness for God's blessings honored by providing altar flowers. Sign up for the last months of the year on the welcome table. Please use the envelopes provided for the \$25 donation and put in collection plate. Questions? See Becky B. or Linda F.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes will begin mid-September. If you have an eligible 6th, 7th, or 8th grader, please email Pastor Esala at pastor@hopelcaurora.org to give input as to time, frequency, and ways you would like your child to learn to walk with Christ.

CEREAL - THANK YOU!

The members of Hope stacked cereal to the ceiling to aid the Center of Hope in Ravenna.

We are blessed with such giving members or our church family.



HELP WANTED—ONE SUNDAY ONLY

Sunday School teacher for older class on Sunday October 11. Materials provided and easy preparation. See Becky or Cheryl with questions.

THANKSGIVING MEAL BAGS & TURKEY SPONSORSHIP

COMING SOON – Thanksgiving meal bags sign up will start the week of October 18. The plans are to again provide 40 families in Aurora with meals complete with turkey, mashed potatoes, vegetables and pumpkin pie.

More information will be in the October newsletter and weekly announcements. Watch the Welcome Table for sign up opportunities. See David B with questions.

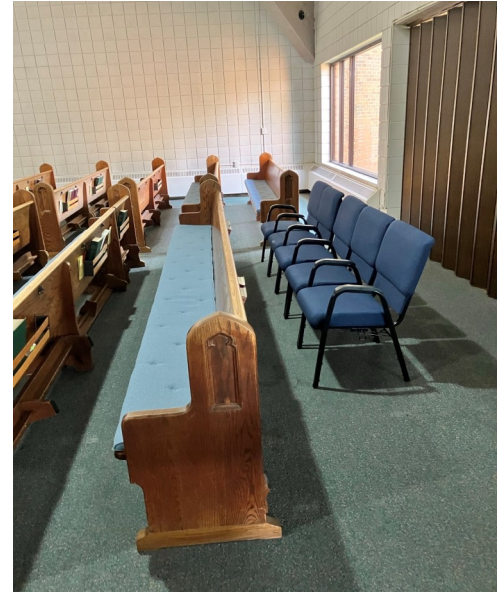


CHURCH IMPROVEMENTS!

New seating has recently been added to several of the back rows in the sanctuary. The new seats provide arm rests to aid worshippers in sitting down or standing up, as well as a more comfort from the cushions on the chairs. Please leave the seats available for those who might need these accommodations the most.



The windows and floors at Hope were professionally cleaned recently. What wonderful reminders that each day we are renewed in the Spirit



The next church council meeting will be on Thursday, October 8th 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.



FIVE DOLLAR FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 6
5:30 PM

Special Performance :
Aspen Glow

At Hope Lutheran Church

A casual meal consisting of sandwiches, sides and dessert

- Bring a friend
- Sign up
- \$5 to benefit Center of Hope



Save the Date!

We are having a Five Dollar Friday casual dinner to aid the Center of Hope. Please sign up on the Welcome Table. Your \$5 will be collected at the dinner.

The casual dinner will be sandwiches, sides, drinks and dessert.

The best part of the evening will be Bonnie's daughter and son-in-law, known professionally as Aspen Glow performing folk songs as we eat. Bring a friend.

"In September, let gratitude be your guiding light."

Third @ 3



Save the dates for some very interesting and informative speakers this year!

September 20—Tim A. Garfield

- Great-great grandson of President James A. Garfield discusses the book and movie about the life of our 20th president.

October 18—Felicia Zavarella Stadelman

- Learn about Odd Artists and their work.

November 15—Meet Betty Ford

- Women in History presents the life of Betty Ford
- Throughout her husband's presidency she maintained high approval ratings, and was considered to be an influential first lady. But what else is known about this lady?

December 13—Annual Christmas concert



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.

September meeting dates are 9/5 and 9/19.

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 8:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Pastor Esala is leading a study on the topic of discipleship.



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

“September: the month where my AC and heater fight for dominance.”

WOMEN OF HOPE IN MISSION MINISTRY

Retreat: To leave a noisy environment to find a quiet, safe place dedicated to rest, learning, or spiritual growth. Doesn't that sound wonderful?! To withdraw from this noisy, angry world for a day. Grab a friend and join me at the 33rd Annual LWML Fall Retreat for a day of "retreating".

REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 9th!



**33RD ANNUAL
FALL
RETREAT**

LWML NORTHEAST ZONE

Devotions and Bible Study
with Pastor Daniel Esala
LWML Northeast Zone Counselor

Music, fellowship, skits and laughter!

LWML Mite offerings & Ingathering Project MKC

PROJECT MKC

Games, activities, Mission project Forbes House, Walk with Billie

REGISTER NOW:
\$25.00/person, includes breakfast, snacks and a light lunch
Registration deadline Sept. 9th
(checks payable to **NE Zone LWML**)
Janet Marz JanetMarz4@gmail.com
☎ 216-513-6073
34200 Brookmeade Court
Apt. 104, Solon 44139

Smile Across the Miles

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

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
JORDAN CREEK
METROPARK, CONCORD**

**Guest Speaker
REV. TOM MOYER**

"Joy in the Journey"

Registration forms and schedule are on the bulletin board in the hall leading to the fellowship hall. Questions? Contact Celia Esala

WOMEN OF HOPE IN MISSION MINISTRY



An ingathering (collection) will be taken at Hope August 30-Sept. 13 for the following items:

FULL SIZE
Bar Soap
Men's 3-in-1
Women's Shampoo
Women's Conditioner
Children and Adult Toothpaste
Children and Adult Toothbrushes
Children's 3-in-1 (Shampoo/Conditioner/Body Wash)

These items will be taken by the Women Hope in Mission to the LWML Fall Retreat to help with the ministry at Project MKC (Making Kids Count) **located in Youngstown/Boardman, OH-check them out at projectmkc.org!**

AND



Our Mission project, that we will assemble at the retreat, is women's feminine hygiene kits to be donated to **Forbes House**, a women's shelter that empowers individuals and families to end the cycle of domestic abuse.

All About LWML Mites

Small Box. Big Impact.

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.



2025–2027 MISSION GRANT NO. 12

GOSPEL OUTREACH THROUGH THE DIGITAL MISSION FIELD

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES, U.S. | \$100,000

*"Bringing Christ to the Nations" — Through the Internet*

The mission of Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is "Bringing Christ to the Nations®—and the Nations to the Church." With the help of this mission grant, they are using technology to spread the Gospel.

The world is increasingly shaped and connected by the internet today. The impact of this mission grant is life changing. People are connected through technology, and LHM is dedicated to finding more ways to share the Gospel in this digital way.

LHM's digital resources and social media platforms: websites, blogs, podcasts, and online communities reach people from all walks of life. They have digital resources that are geared for people of all ages, including children and youth. Families and individuals are able to benefit from these resources, which enable LHM to connect with people that have never entered a church building. People receive hope, comfort, and guidance in the Gospel through the sharing of a Scripture reading or hearing an uplifting message.

Several established media platforms that can be utilized to share the Gospel include Thred, a digital media platform for Millennials and the Gen Z population, and Gospel Adventures, a free online mission curriculum and weekly radio show/podcast for children and youth.

The internet expands the reach of the Gospel so that lives may be transformed in new and innovative ways. Through these unique platforms, the Gospel connects with a wide reach of people to help them understand the message of Jesus Christ. LHM is embracing this exciting future of the digital mission field as a strong future-focused strategy that opens the door to new opportunities.

We pray that through the use of these online resources, many will be introduced to our Lord and Savior and that the number of saints will be expanded, bringing "Christ to the Nations®—and the Nations to the Church."

*Behold, I am doing
a new thing; now
it springs forth, do
you not perceive it?
I will make a way in
the wilderness and
rivers in the desert
(Isaiah 43:19).*

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

"Labor Day: the only day where doing nothing is officially encouraged!"

LCMS YOUTH OF HOPE MINISTRY



2028 LCMS National Youth Gathering July 3-7, 2028 San Antonio, TX

Welcome to San Antonio! LCMS Youth Ministry is thrilled to invite you to the 2028 LCMS Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX! This incredible city has welcomed the Gathering before, and we are excited to return and experience all that it has to offer—its rich history, vibrant culture, and warm hospitality.

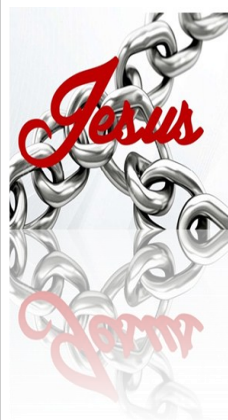
As we prepare for this time together, we look forward to seeing thousands of youth and adult leaders come together to worship, serve, and grow together. Stay tuned for more details as we journey toward 2028!

Age requirements for participants... 14 years old at the time of the Gathering or entering 9th grade at the time of the gathering.



LCMS OHIO DISTRICT SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING

November 20 – 22, 2026
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
530 McNaughten Road
Columbus, Ohio



This event is for students in 9th – 12th grades and their chaperones. Included in the weekend events:

Off-site service projects
Bible study
Discussion groups
Food, games, and time to meet new people
Worship and fun at Scene 75

Lloyd Garrelts is our music leader for the weekend.

Cost per person: \$80 (DOES NOT INCLUDE HOUSING!) Recommended hotel: Home2Suites.

Our next meeting on September 13th, following worship, we will be making cross necklaces to send to Forged by Fire to share with those who are impacted by a disaster and look to them for food and laundry services. Ladies come and join us as we carry out this mission project and learn a little more about Forged by Fire.

FROM THE CENTER OF HOPE



1081 West Market Street \ Ravenna, Ohio \ 330.297.5454 \ axessfamilyservices.org

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

August 17, 2026

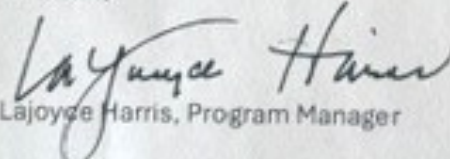
Dear Members of Hope Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Center of Hope, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation of 118 boxes of cereal. Your kindness has made an immediate and meaningful impact. Because of you, 118 families and senior citizens in our community will begin their mornings with a nourishing breakfast.

Your willingness to step forward and support our mission reflects a spirit of compassion that strengthens our entire community. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and for the hope you have shared with neighbors who rely on us.

Thank you for choosing to make a difference. We look forward to walking alongside you in service and gratitude.

Sincerely,

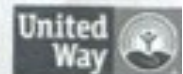

Lajoyce Harris, Program Manager

EIN: 34-1735884:

Advisory Board

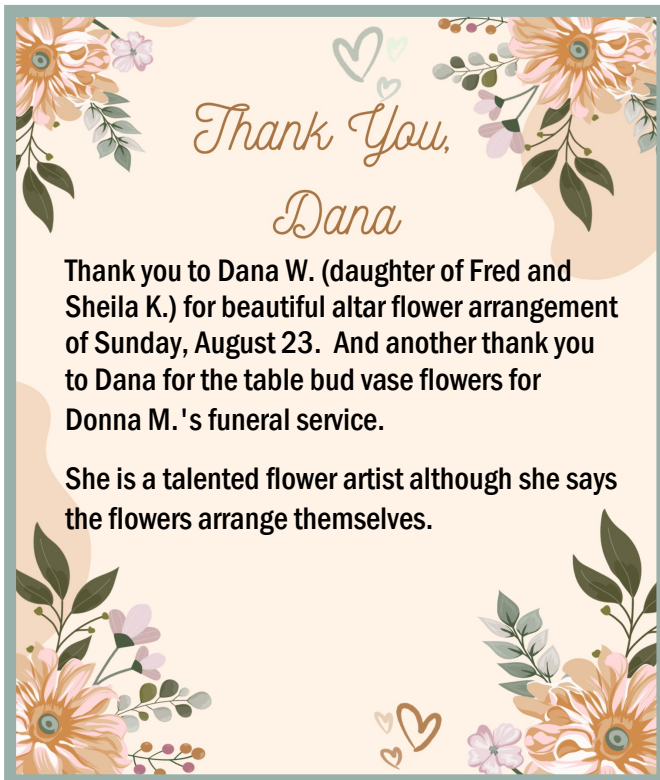
Julie Piccione Beach \ Margaret Courtney \ Patty Dean \ Pam Fleishman \ Gail Pytel
Lorie Marozzi \ Angie Reedy \ Margo Keren \ Debbie Stewart \ Amy Young

Lajoyce Harris Program Manager



United Way
of Portage County

f you think education is expensive, try buying all the back to school supplies.



High School Teens

The **Ohio District Youth Ministry Team** is looking for one or two high school teens to join the team!

We're looking for youth who are innovative, enthusiastic, and eager to grow in their faith while helping plan opportunities to celebrate and connect with other Christian youth.

As a Youth Ministry Team member, teens will be expected to:

- Help plan and lead youth events and activities.
- Participate in approximately four or five planning meetings.
- Take an active role in the events they help create.
- Share ideas and bring a teen perspective to the Ohio District Youth Ministry Team.
- Encourage and celebrate faith with other Christian youth.

Know a high school teen who would enjoy serving on an Ohio District leadership team?

Contact Karen Dutton at:

Office: 440-235-2297 ext. 123

Cell: 216-496-1799

Email: duttonk@oh.lcms.org

Come share your ideas, grow in faith, and help make a difference!

The Youth Ministry Team of the Ohio District is a group of high school teens and some adult leaders. The adults are both church professionals and lay leaders. They meet regularly to plan and carry out the Jr. High Gathering, Sr. High Gathering, Youth and Family Funday, and at times, regional meetings or activities, too!



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