



OCTOBER, 2026

Hope LUTHERAN CHURCH

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ESALA



Dear Friends in Christ,

I love October. The leaves are changing color, the air is crisp, everything is beautiful. “Octo” comes from “eight,” and is related to “octopus” (eight legs) and “octagon,” (eight sides). October was actually the eighth month until the Julian calendar inserted January and February at the beginning of the year making it the tenth month, but they just never changed the name. Otherwise it might be called “dectober.” It’s one of seven months with 31 days.

My wife was born in October and I agree with the assessment of the Urban Dictionary which states that “people born in October are fun loving and energetic...” and that “October is the best month to be born in.”

But then, October is also the month in which goblins, witches, batman and monsters of every kind come knocking at our door to beg for decay-producing sugar products. Halloween – it’s become one of the most celebrated events of the year in America, and I’m just a bit uncomfortable with the prominence of something based on pagan practices and principles. That, however, hasn’t stopped me from doing it myself and sharing in my children’s and grandchildren’s loot from the night over the years.

That’s because I’m so comfortable with one of the most important things about October, which also happened on October 31st – the posting of Luther’s 95 Theses on the chapel door at Wittenberg, Germany.

An otherwise unremarkable event, the posting of this particular document set in motion a conflict that reshaped the history of western civilization. It is hard to overestimate the consequences of posting these 95 Theses. One man, a monk dedicated to the truth of scripture, challenged the leaders of his Church to debate the nature of justification, the act of being made right with God.

"This one and firm rock, which we call the doctrine of justification," he wrote, "is the chief article of the whole Christian doctrine, which comprehends the understanding of all godliness."

What he observed from the book of Romans: *This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus (3:22-24).*

And again in chapter five: *Therefore, since we have been **justified through faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand (vv 1-2).*



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

OCTOBER 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
Oct. 04	Lori	Greg	Bev	Greg	Becky & Bev	Dawn
Oct. 11	Lori	none	Marge & Glenda	Andy	none	Dawn
Oct. 18	Guest	Paul	Ruth & Ruth	Paul	Becky & Bev	Dan
Oct. 25	Guest	none	none	Karol	none	Dawn

PASTOR ESALA'S MESSAGE—PAGE 2

Justification through faith. Faith alone. *Sola fide*. Christ paid the penalty for my sin, and by the grace of God, I believe it. So, no matter what else happens on October 31, I'm good. Not a bad month, October.

In faith and under grace,

Dan Esala

Pastor Dan Esala

CHURCH COUNCIL

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 please see our church president, Greg B., or email him at:

president@hopelcaurora.org

ODD ARTISTS

BY FELICIA ZAVARELLA STADELMEN



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

October 18

3 PM



"In October, I'm just a pumpkin spice latte away from perfect happiness."

October Birthdays

Sarah W.	3
Bev S.	4
Jill B.	7
Evelyn M.	9
Donna P.	11
Jacob B.	17
Celia E.	19



Reformation Day

Traditionally celebrated on October 31st, Reformation Day is a Protestant holiday that commemorates the Reformation movement started by Martin Luther in the 16th century.



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.

NEW CHURCH SIGN UPDATE

The new roadside sign for the church was recently approved by the city of Aurora. Stewart Signs submitted the sign into manufacturing production and Hope is awaiting a completion date.

Many thanks to all who donated to upgrade this fixture for the church.

WORSHIP SERVICE INPUT

Do you have a suggestion or comment on the content or format of the worship services at Hope?

Please give your input directly to one of the members of Hope's Worship Committee -Lori F., Dawn G., Phil P., Larry C., or Bev S.- so that the committee can add it to the discussion at their next meeting.

THANKSGIVING MEAL BAGS

For at least 10 years, Hope has provided Thanksgiving Meal Bags for Aurora families through the **Volunteers of America**. Hope started with providing 20 bags, increasing over time and need.

This year the goal is 40 bags. Check out the Welcome Table to sign up to provide a turkey and pumpkin pie (total of \$30), Stove Top stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, packet of turkey gravy, a large or small can of sweet potatoes, or cranberry sauce.



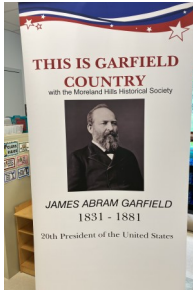
Sign up begins on October 11, and donations will be gathered starting Sunday, October 18th in a bin by the welcome table.

Don't want to shop? See Dave B. or email him at dvdbell@roadrunner.com to make a donation for canned goods.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Hebrews 13:16

THIRD @ 3

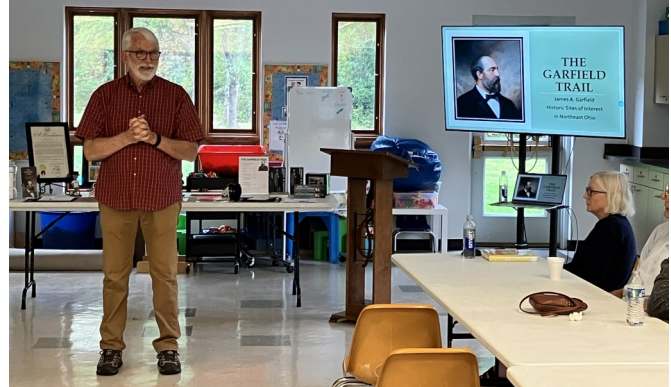


Hope's "3rd @3" social group loved exploring President James Garfield's remarkable journey from our local community to the White House.

The President's great great grandson spoke of his legacy and how Garfield's true story differed from his life in the Netflix historical drama, "Death by Lightning."

Join us next month on October 18th at 3 p.m. when the popular art historian, Felicia Zavarella Stadleman, will speak on a number of odd artists.

Grab a friend a join us to hear the most outrageous tales about some of our most famous artists.



Autumn

Is God's way
of showing us how

Beautiful change can be



Hope conducted a worship service with our neighbors at Independence Village (across the street from the church) during each of the months of August and September. Thank you to those who were able to attend. Be on the lookout for an October date for this chance to gather together in the presence of the Lord!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Miss Kayla has been welcomed to a once a month teaching spot. The children in the preschool – kindergarten class have enjoyed her. She will continue to teach at least until the end of the year.

A good problem to have . . . There is a need to have a third Sunday School class of 2 – 3rd graders. These children have outgrown the preschool class and not quite ready for late elementary and middle school class. A once a month commitment to teach this class during worship would help bring the message of salvation in with age appropriate discussions. See Becky B. or Cheryl T. if you are willing to consider this ministry.

Sunday School Save the Date in November –The youth of the church will pack Thanksgiving Meal Bags needed by members of the community on during worship on November 22nd. The bags will be presented for a blessing at the end of worship. Always a fun hour of chaos and children engaged in following Jesus command to love one another.

"Autumn is the season that teaches us that change can be beautiful."– Unknown

Third @ 3



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

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

- ✧ Jason Burdett and Jessie Barr will play the favorite songs of the holiday season



Join the In the Word bi-weekly Saturday study and an examination of the book, Jesus Said What? The study takes place at church and new members are welcome at any time.

October meeting dates are 10/10 and 10/24

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.

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.

"Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."— Unknown

WOMEN OF HOPE IN MISSION MINISTRY

LWML Fall Retreat: 45 women and 2 pastors of the North-east Zone travelled with "Smiles Across the Miles" to Jordon Creek Lake Metro Park for our 33rd Fall Retreat. Much joy in the journey was experienced as we served, prayed, learned, sang and walked; it was evident in the sounds of laughter wherever the women were.



We served 2 local organizations... Fobes House with 50 hygiene bags for the women, a collection of \$445 for MKC for the children served by them, and Mites donations for the Ohio District were \$216.30. We thank God for the gift of laughter and His enduring love experienced as we journey through life!



Full House



Church donations for MKC families



Busy making bags to hold hygiene products for Forbes House women

**2027 retreat will
be on September
25th**

Mark your calendars
now!

"Only on Halloween can you knock on a stranger's door, demand candy, and not get arrested."

YOUR MITE DONATIONS AT WORK

2025–2027 MISSION GRANT NO. 17
MOBILIZING AFTER SCHOOL CARE FOR TEENS
OUR PLACE AFTER SCHOOL CARE INC.
HASTINGS, NE | \$69,500



Handicapped Accessible Van for Teens with Special Needs



“Our Place After School Care” is a caring, Christian program for teenagers with special needs. This program was started in a church basement as there was a need for after-school care for teens between the ages of thirteen and twenty who had aged out of the area daycares. Programming designed to promote academic, social and life skills is provided, as are opportunities to grow spiritually through community service and enrichment activities.

Teenagers attend public and private schools during the school day, but often their school day is over before their parents have completed their own workdays. After school options for families were few. Parents often had to adjust their own work hours.

Our Place is open for these teenagers until their parents can get them after work. It provides a safe and enjoyable environment, education, and fellowship, but there is a problem regarding how to get them from their school to Our Place. Many of the teenagers are in wheelchairs and require a wheelchair lift for transportation.

This mission grant will enable Our Place to purchase a vehicle equipped with a wheelchair lift to transport them from school. It will also extend educational and recreational opportunities within the community. There are activities, events, and even volunteer opportunities that will be available for the students when the transportation issue is solved.

This vehicle will be a blessing to the teenagers and to the staff at Our Place. It will enhance their quality of life and spread God's mercy to the community. Our prayer is that God will bless the students and staff by the addition of this vehicle with a wheelchair lift and that it will be an asset for years to come.

2027 LWML Northeast Zone & National Events

Prayer Service

February 27th
Zion Lutheran Church, Painesville

Spring Rally

April 17th
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Solon

National Convention

July 8-11
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

“Trick or treat: life's best negotiations start with sugar.”

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.*



Sunday

**We will celebrate LWML
Sunday on October 11th**

This year's theme continues a four-year cycle focusing on the LWML Mission Statement — As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. For Lutheran Women in Mission

Sunday 2026, we focus on **Supporting Missions**.

Christ Jesus our Lord asks us to be wise stewards of His good gifts. St. Paul, while proclaiming the Gospel, was also concerned for those who suffered. As believers today, we also are eager to follow the example of Christ and aid those in need. The Spirit of God places that eagerness to serve upon our hearts. We can't be everywhere to aid the missions, firsthand, that are set before us. The Lord does allow us to support those efforts that go forth in His name. May the Lord grant to us supportive hearts.

Thank you to ALL who donated to the LWML "Blessed to be a Blessing" collection for MKC that will give comfort to families they serve. I pray you were blessed with joy in your giving!



If you would like to see more about mkc.org.

you can find them at project-mkc.org

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 136:1

ABOUT MKC



In February of 2010, founder Jenny Kennedy came across an article that really inspired her. It was about a non-profit organization across the country who threw birthday parties for homeless children. Jenny decided that this was something she

wanted to take on herself. After running the idea by her daughter, Shelly Marlowe, and her daughter-in-law, Jana Coffin, they decided to form Project MKC.

Jana graduated from Capital University Law School and Shelly graduated from Youngstown State University with a Business Administration degree. The combination of Jenny's determination, and the two daughter's degrees and enthusiasm about the organization really helped get MKC off the ground.

Together, they came up with a twist to the original article's mission. They weren't just going to do birthday parties; they were going to expand their mission to be able to reach out to individuals on a personal basis. They decided they didn't want to just work with those in poverty, but with all children and their families who may need a helping hand.

In September of 2012, Project MKC hired Colleen Eisenbraun as Program Director. Colleen graduated from Youngstown State University with an Art Education degree.

Justin joined the team in September of 2020. He is an Ohio State University alum and a former teacher and basketball coach with the Boardman Schools for over a decade.

Over the years and with the help of many volunteers, Project MKC has continued to expand their efforts across the Mahoning Valley and beyond to serve our community's most vulnerable children and families.



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.*

*Registration information – coming soon!
www.oh.lcms.org*

Who was the first person to download something from a cloud to two tablets?
 Moses!



LMLW Etc. . .

 Remember, we have prayer squares to share with someone who may need a little encouragement. Keep one in your pocket to share with someone the Lord may bring into your everyday life.

 Don't forget to bring your mite boxes to church and put them in the wooden mite box on the welcome table.

 Women of the congregation, the Fall Lutheran Women's Quarterly magazine is on the welcome table.

There is an interesting article about Mary Ann Hanusa, a Lutheran, who worked under three presidents, directed the office of a U.S. Senator, ten years as a legislator in the Iowa House, and currently holds the position of County Auditor for her community.

WOMEN IN HISTORY - BETTY FORD

Wife of Gerald Ford, 38th President of the United States

Third @ 3

November 15
3 PM



Betty Ford started out as a dancer and model, but became First Lady when her husband, became president after the resignation of Richard Nixon



Coffee Fellowship

Sundays

9:30 - 10:00

in the Narthex



MORNING PRAYER



Dear Lord,

So far I've done all right.
I haven't gossiped,
haven't lost my temper,
haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish,
or overindulgent.
I'm really glad about that.

But in a few minutes, God,
I'm going to get out of bed.
And from then on,
I'm going to need a lot more help.

Hope Lutheran Church

Christmas Concert

December 13
3 PM

Jason Burdett & Jessie Barr



THANK YOU!



♥ Dana W. once again providing flowers that graced our worship on Sept. 13 and 20. She has a very creative colorful flair for flower arranging.

♥ to Phil & Barbara P. for the flowers in honor of their anniversary on Sept 27.

♥ Andy R. who is again staying after worship to set up tables and chairs for preschool. He often has help, but he is the main force.

♥ Dave B., Dan C., and Larry C. for often missing coffee and goodies after service to serve counters.

♥

♥ Marge G. for making coffee and providing goodies for Sunday morning Bible study

♥ Cheryl T. for continuing to organize Women's Saturday morning Bible Studies and for organizing a wonderful church brunch in August.

♥ Third at Three committee for organizing another 9 months of informative and interesting speakers, September through May.

♥ Thank you to Becky B. for beautifying the entry to the church during this fall season with festive mums and a pumpkin.

Did You Know?

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible, and is an acrostic poem composed of 22 sets of 8 verses, each line of a set beginning with the same Hebrew letter, progressing through the alphabet from aleph to taw.

The word Bible comes for the Greek word Biblia, which literally means "books." So, reading the Bible is like reading 66 books.



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