



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH



DECEMBER, 2023

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WOODS

Dear Friends,

A comedian by the name of Tom Lehrer once wrote a song satirizing the commercial spirit that has come to dominate the celebration of Christmas. It contained lines like the following: “Hark the *Herald Tribune* sings; advertising wondrous things!” and, “God bless ye merry merchants may ye make the Yuletide pay!” and “Angels we have heard on high tell us to go out and BUY!”

It is nothing new to say that Christmas in America has come to be all about buying and giving gifts. It is ironic that the only time in the Bible when people give gifts to each other is when Satan silences the church and forbids the Word of God to be spoken. (*Revelation 11:7-10*)

In many communities throughout the country local courts have banned religious displays from public property. Again, ironically, they cite the 1st Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, which forbids the government to make any law prohibiting the free exercise of religion as a basis for prohibiting religious expression in the public square.

This should come as no surprise to Christians. Government is part of the kingdom of this world, and the Kingdom of God is not: it is IN the world but not OF the world. The kingdom of this world is temporary and destined for destruction; the Kingdom of God is eternal. Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem was the first sign of the arrival of the Kingdom of God on earth—yet it went unnoticed by most of the world. But that’s how God works. “How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.”

I wish you all a blessed and merry Christmas!

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

DECEMBER SERVER'S LIST

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



Date	Music	Worship Assistant	Acolyte	Greeters	Reader	Communion	Sermon/ PP
Dec 03	Lori	Chris S.		Becky	Chris S.	Becky	Dawn
Dec 10	Pearl	None	C. J. Binns	Jim & Cecilia	Karole C.	None	Dawn
Dec. 17	Lori	Paul S.		Marge & Glenda	Paul S.	Karen	Dawn
Dec 24 Christmas Eve	Lori	Greg B.		Karole & Carol	Greg B.	Karen	Dawn
Dec 25 10 AM	Beth	Andy R.		Larry & Chris	Andy R.	Karen	none
Dec 31	Lori	None		Fred & Sheila	Bob M.	none	Dan

COUNCIL MEETING

The church council will meet on Tuesday, December 5th at 7 p.m. If you have any agenda items for the council to discuss, please see Dan C. or email him at dcolemansr@windstream.net

DECEMBER SERVICES



JOY TO THE WORLD

NO REGULAR 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE DECEMBER 24TH

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION AT 4:00 P.M.
CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION AT 10:00 A.M.

DUE TO SEVERAL SCHEDULING CONFLICTS, ALL ADVENT SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES ON DECEMBER 3RD, 10TH, AND 17TH THIS YEAR ARE CANCELED.

"I hope you'll be able to look for all the different ways that people have of showing that they love you." ~ Mr. Rogers

DECEMBER



B	Fred K.	03
i	Nathan W.	05
R	Dawn G.	07
T	Elliott F.	11
H	Chuck S.	17
D	Emily G.	19
A	Decker B.	19
Y	Aaron S.	25
S	Sue D.	30

Voter's Meeting

Please plan to briefly stay after worship on Sunday, December 10th for an annual voter's meeting for church members. The church's budget will be discussed and voted on at the meeting.



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 located in the hallway between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.

The welcome tablecloth and sign are located on top of the filing cabinets in the office and are available for all church events.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Come experience the
Children's Christmas Program during worship on
December 17

The children of the church and one mystery member playing the role of the "Big Star" will present a Christmas message in place of the sermon that day.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School Children's Christmas program will be presented during worship on December 17. After the presentation children will return to the fellowship hall to decostume, celebrate Jesus' birthday with a celebratory snack, and make a Christmas craft.

In preparation Sunday School children are asked to stay after worship on Sunday December 10 for about 20 minutes to do a short run through. Parts for the program will be handed out and costume matching will be during the Sunday School hour on December 10. Any questions, see Becky or email becksbell@roadrunner.com

THANKSGIVING BAGS



Many thanks to all who generously stepped up donations for the growing need of the Thanksgiving Meal Bag packing event this year. Thanks to HCNS for donating corn and green beans.

Eighteen families provided nonperishable food items and 19 families donated funds to purchase turkeys. A special thank you to one generous donation in the name of Norma M. and Jennifer M.

The 35 bags were assembled by the children of the church and received a special blessing before being taken to the Volunteers of America to be distributed to local families.

HOPE CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL



As an outreach to Hope Christian Nursery School, the church provided advent calendars for every student in the 3's, 4's, and Pre-K classes.

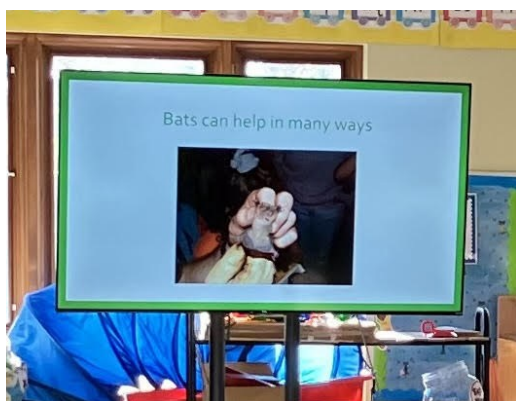
We hope these calendars will bring the children and families a joyous reminder of this season of hope and renewal as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

HCNS Christmas concerts are Tuesday December 12, Wednesday December 13, and Thursday December 14th. If you can help with cookies, you'd need to be at the church at 5:45. Let Dawn know.

THE THIRD @ THREE

Our 3rd at 3 social event for November did not disappoint! We learned a lot from Dr. Tomko about the Moebius Nature Center here in our community, as well as the birds and animals all around us.

What a great afternoon to gather and learn!



THE THIRD @ 3

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Presented by members of the
Aurora High School Orchestra under the direction
of Jason Burdett

Sunday, December 17 at 3 PM

Free Concert

Hope Lutheran Church
Aurora, OH



"Christmas is a box of tree ornaments that have become part of the family."— Charles M. Schulz

COMING IN 2024

Hope family and friends monthly birthday celebrations. Watch January newsletter for more information.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Be on the lookout this month for a special Christmas Memories publication. Hope's members contributed stories of Christmases gone by to share with one another.

Grab your copy from the welcome table when they become available!

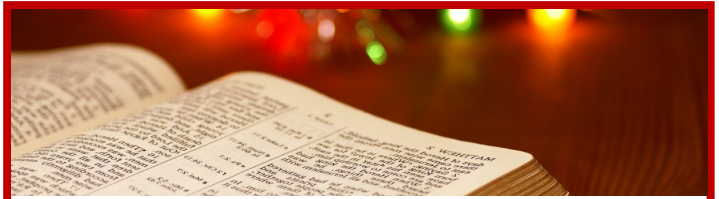


*Look at the candy cane. What do you see?
Stripes that are red, like the blood shed for me.
White is for my Savior, who's sinless and pure.
"J" is for Jesus, My Lord, that's for sure!
Turn it around, and a staff you will see.
Jesus, my shepherd, was born for me.*



Do you have a prayer request on your mind and heart? Prayer requests can be emailed to Hope's church secretary, Dawn, at dghlc456@gmail.com.

A prayer list is distributed to the congregation each Sunday after worship and prayers remain on the list for one month.



— BIBLE STUDIES —

The **In the Word** bi-weekly **Saturday** study continues to examine the Book of Genesis. The study takes place at church and new members are welcome at any time.

December's only meeting date is December 2. The study will resume again on January 13th. 9:15 coffee and fellowship; 9:30 small group study; 10:30 Q&A with the pastor.

For more information, please email Karen W. at karenwoods@yahoo.com

The Men's Bible Tuesday morning Bible study schedule for December is as follows:

- December 5th: **No meeting** due to Pastor being out of town
 - December 12th: regular meeting
 - December 19th regular meeting
 - December 26th: no meeting
 - January 2nds; no meeting
 - January 9th: Bible study resumes again.
- All meetings are held at 8:45 a.m. at church.

COMING SOON

HOPE'S WEBSITE IS UNDERGOING A MODERNIZATION AND THE NEW WEBSITE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN JANUARY. LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER ABOUT THIS UPGRADED CHURCH RESOURCE.

DECK THE HALLS—CHURCH



Many thanks to the hard work of Dave and Becky B, as well as Jon B., Lisa B., Deacon B., and Gideon B., for decorating and preparing the sanctuary for the Christmas season.



A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"



Celebrate Advent with Us

Cancelled
due to scheduling conflicts

Join us for a season of hope and renewal as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

December 3rd
December 10th
December 17th
5:00 p.m.

All services will include a brief devotional followed by a light supper.

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

THE THIRD AT THREE



Join us on the third
Sunday of the month at 3
PM for our speakers and
events.

Our Awesome Speakers and Events:



Christmas Concert

Aurora High School Orchestra
December 17



Foster Brown

Cleveland Metro Parks
January 21



Felicia Zavarella Stadelman

Art of Michelangelo
February 18