

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER, 2023

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR WOODS

Dear Friends,

Every Thanksgiving we are encouraged to give thanks to God for all the blessings He has given us. We are reminded that we live in the richest country on earth and enjoy freedom of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and that we ought to be more thankful than we are for it. So why do we need to be reminded to be thankful? Why doesn't thankfulness flow naturally from our hearts?

The dictionary defines thankfulness or gratitude as "*an appreciative awareness of benefits received.*" Well, we know we've received many benefits, so why aren't we more "appreciatively aware?" Why do we have to make a conscious effort to stop and say, "Wait a minute: I DO have a lot to be thankful for!"

If it will make you feel any better, God's people have always had a problem with being thankful.

In the *Book of Deuteronomy*, Moses urges the Israelites to be thankful after they have entered the Promised Land God is about to give them and to remember that He is the source of all their blessings: "*When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.*" Moses goes on to warn the Israelites: "*Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God...when you settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied....you may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.'*" If you should ever begin to think that way, Moses says, God's response will be devastating: "*If you ever forget the Lord your God...I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed.*"

It is so easy to forget about God and thank ourselves for all that we have, forgetting that, as Martin Luther said, "*We are all beggars, this is sure.*"

This Thanksgiving let's get down on our knees and thank God from the bottom of our hearts for everything that we have.

That will make this a truly great Thanksgiving!

Pastor Woods



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

NOVEMBER 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
Nov. 05	Lori	Greg B.		Ruth K.	Greg B.		Dawn
Nov. 12	Pearl	None	Beckett	Karol & Carol	Herb K.	None	Dawn
Nov. 19	Lori	Andy R.		Larry & Chris	Andy R.		Dawn
Nov. 26	Pearl	None	Drew	Fred & Sheila	Bob M.	None	Dan



MEETING

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

THE THIRD @ THREE

Dr. James Tomko

November 19 - 3 PM

Nature in Aurora



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

Free Lecture
Open to the public



"Even though we're a week and a half away from Thanksgiving, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." ~ R.



Hank S.	11
Glenda C.	13
Carol E.	27
Bob M.	17
Paul S.	20
Katherine S.	21
Cecelia G.	22
Del D.	27



Save the date:

The annual voter's meeting for church members will briefly take place following worship on Sunday, December 10th.



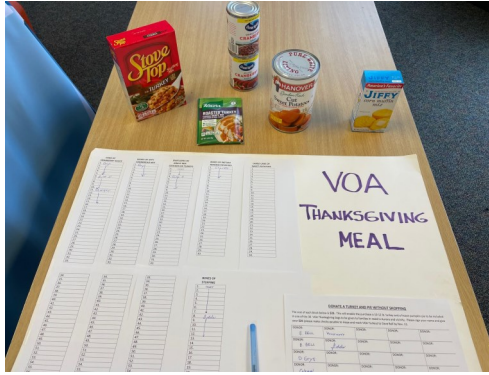
Do you have an event you are planning at Hope? Please be sure to let

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.

VOA THANKSGIVING MEALS

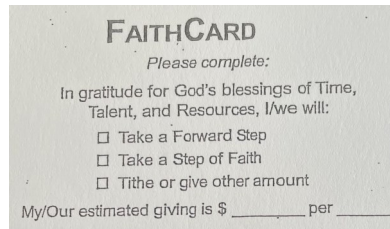


The deadline is approaching for collecting food and monetary donations for the Thanksgiving meal bags Hope provides to local families through the Volunteers of America.

Food donations can be placed in the marked bin outside the sanctuary by

November 12th. Many thanks to all who have pledged support and donated to the growing need of this local outreach this year.

PLEDGE CARDS




Reminder: Please prayerfully consider your response on the pledge cards that were mailed to members in October.

Pledge cards help plan the budget for the upcoming year at Hope and can be turned into the collection plate located on the baptismal font in the sanctuary.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Greg B. for his presentation on God and the Nature of Time at Hope's "3rd at 3" social event in October. Not only was the event well attended, but Greg's presentation was insightful and thought-provoking!





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

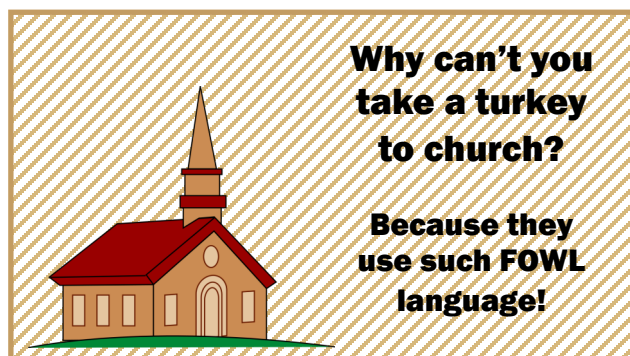


COMING IN DECEMBER

Advent Sunday evening services will be held on December 3rd, 10th, and 17th.

These services include a brief Bible devotion followed by a potluck supper.

Look for further details in the December newsletter.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

What was Christmas like when you were a child? What traditions did your family follow? Hope is collecting these brief insights of days gone by to be shared in a special publication in December.

Look for Christmas Memories forms to fill out on the table outside the sanctuary. Please return your memories of **no more than 100-150 words** by November 26th to Becky B., put in the Education box in the office, or email them to becksbell@roadrunner.com.

(If you would rather share these memories orally, contact Becky B. who will be happy to write them down.)

New Christmas Tradition

Beginning December 1, read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening.

There are 24 chapters.



On Christmas Eve, you will have read an entire account of Jesus's life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

November 12, Sunday School and confirmation students will meet after the children's sermon in the fellowship hall where they will pack the VOA Thanksgiving bags.

Students will bring the bags forward at the end of the service for a blessing for all who will receive the turkeys and "fixins".

There will also be Sunday School November 26.

Plans are in the works for the Children's Christmas Program on December 17 during worship. Watch weekly announcements for more details.



BOOK CLUBS

A BOOK CLUB will meet Thursday, November 16 to review the book "The Museum of Ordinary People" by Mike Gayle. See Becky B. or Cheryl T. for time and place.



The Tuesday Book Club will meet Tuesday, November 28 at 5:30 at Evexia Café in Aurora. The book to be discussed is West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge.



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.

November meeting dates are 11/4 and 11/18.

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 Tuesday** morning Bible Study continues to meet every Tuesday except the second Tuesday of the month at 8:45 at church.

The **Sunday morning adult bible study** is beginning a discussion of the Gospel of Matthew starting November 5. Light refreshments are served each week.



MISSIONARY NEWS

Missionaries Pastor Phil and Deaconess Rachel Jaseph supported by Hope recently completed a year of serving in Uruguay.

A short time ago, The Jasephs shared Pastor Phil accepted a call to serve back in the United States at Martini Lutheran in Baltimore, Maryland.

Please continue to pray for the Jasephs as they transition to their new ministry and await the arrival of their daughter in February.

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:



Dr. James Tomko
Nature in Your Backyard
November 19



Christmas Concert
Aurora High School Orchestra
December 17



Foster Brown
Cleveland Metro Parks
January 21