



the anchor

Hope Lutheran Church
3295 Old Hwy 5 South, Ellijay, GA 30540

November 2024

From the Pastor...

Our original Hope Church land purchase amounted to about eleven acres with our 6,000-square-foot, three-story building at the top of the drive on the northern end of the property. With the wonderful professional help of members Ed Day and Rudy Jasperson and a cadre of Hope members, the downstairs and second levels of the building were finished off and made ready for worship, office and classroom space.

Worship furniture (altar, etc) and liturgical fixtures (candle sticks, cross, book stand, offering plates, hymnals, etc) were given by Lutheran churches in the area. Chairs (which we still use in our fellowship hall) were purchased from a company in Rome, Georgia.

We had a small kitchen down at the back of the first floor – by the offices and the bathrooms. And we had tables on the second floor for classroom and fellowship purposes. Not long after I got to the church, the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atlanta (my former parish), gave us a bunch of room dividers and furniture that we used up on the third floor to make more formal classroom space.

The only complaint I ever heard concerning our worship space was that there were no windows to let the sunlight in. We probably could worship about 50 or 60 people comfortably in that space. It served us wonderfully well.

Over the next two years the congregation grew steadily. More and more people signed our charter document. Our goal was to reach about 120 members by my two-year mark at the church so we could take the next step to officially organize as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). My call-letter from the synod as a development pastor was for two years, terminating at the end of September, 2001. As we planned to have our bishop with us so we could officially become an organized congregation by the end of that time, I got a call from Bishop Warren telling me we'd have to push our celebration back a month to the end of October because of a conflict in his schedule.

That meant I'd not be under call for a month as my call letter extended only – as I said – to the end of September... SO - I have in my files a one-month interim call letter from the synod that took me to the beginning of November.

Sadly, there was a lot of confusion in the relationship we shared with our mission director before that transition from mission church to officially organized congregation. We just couldn't get answers from him about what continuing funding for our ministry would be like moving forward. Understand that congregations weren't expected to be self-supporting getting started.

So Steering Committee (what we used to call our church council) Chairman Rudy Jasperson and I flew up to Chicago (ELCA home office) to square things away with the Director of Mission Development Dick Magnus and our mission director. Thankfully, we got things ironed out, were apologized to for any misunderstandings, and were able to move forward without any further hitches.

Back at the church we got ready for the big day. It was Reformation Sunday. We had our usual 10:45 service, took in new members (including Jim Berman who is still with us today), and got ready for a service with the bishop later that afternoon.

The bishop – who'd been in Alabama earlier that day - arrived about an hour-and-a-half before the service started. Our Mission Director - who'd been in South Atlanta – didn't arrive until communion time in the service. I think Bishop Warren was not pleased.

Otherwise? It was a glorious day in the life of Hope Lutheran Church! We shared a fabulous meal and we had visitors from several other Atlanta churches. Pastor James Lehmann and a wonderful contingent of folks came down from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Flatville, Illinois, to share this day with us. These were the faithful folks who'd been supporting Hope financially for the previous three years!

We were off and running! Next month I'll tell you about long-range planning, adding a second worship service, buying some more land, expanding our sanctuary, growing our ministries and more.

Peace,
Pastor Dave

All Saints Sunday, November 3rd

At our All Saints service Sunday, November 3rd, we will remember church members, relatives, or close friends who have passed away since November 2023. Forms will be available in the church narthex through Sunday, October 27th.

Names can also be emailed or called in to the church office until Tuesday, October 29th to be included this year. Please be sure to include your name with your request.

Daylight Saving Time Ends



All Saints Sunday, November 3rd, is also when the time changes again. Remember to adjust your clocks and "Fall Back" an hour before you go to bed Saturday night. You wouldn't want to be the one arriving at church an hour earlier than everyone else!

Many thanks to everyone who helped make this year's OctoberFest another success! All proceeds will be sent to the Synod for Disaster Relief from the recent hurricanes.

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Joyce Adamson
- 2 Evan Pierce
- 2 Sylvia Negri
- 2 Jordan Pinson
- 3 Douglas McClure
- 4 Erin Wimberly
- 7 Tom Strickland
- 9 Steve Austin
- 10 Butch Hinton
- 10 John Hiscox
- 11 Jason Fort
- 12 Emma Claire Fakier
- 13 Nicholas Christensen
- 14 Billy Huff
- 17 Andy Marquez
- 24 Cristina Cook
- 25 Doris Goplin
- 25 Miriam Niemira
- 26 Ron Rogne
- 26 LeRoy Polk
- 29 Bryan Bremm

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Sylvia & Herb Andes
- 6 Janet & Pastor Dave Smedley
- 7 Rena & Stan Ashworth
- 7 Lori & Andy Marquez
- 9 Maureen & Ted Grener
- 11 Jordan & Chad Pinson
- 22 Nancy & Butch Hinton
- 24 Beverly & John Hiscox
- 24 Shela & Billy Huff
- 26 Sheila & Ed Bohon

Christmas Appeal and Bike Blessing

As in recent years past, our community Christmas gift appeal this year will be held throughout October to support our local American Legion Christmas Toy Ride. We're looking for **unwrapped** toys with a minimum price of \$10 for boys and girls aged birth to 14 years. Cash gifts will be gladly accepted! Make checks to Hope Lutheran Church with "Toy Ride" on the memo line. Boxes for toys will be set up in our narthex to receive these gifts through November 3rd.

Our Evangelism Team and Men's Group are going to host a *Blessing of the Bikes* (and Bikers) on Saturday, November 9th to kick off the Toy Ride and deliver your gifts to prepare for the Legion Christmas party. Please know how much the folks at the Legion appreciate your generosity for the sake of the children in our community!

Thanksgiving Dinner

On Sunday, November 24th, we will enjoy our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner Lunch-In downstairs in Founders Hall following the 10:45 AM service. The church will provide the turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and rolls. The congregation is asked to bring favorite casseroles and side dishes, salads, or desserts to share.



A freewill offering will be taken up to help with our youth scholarship fund.

Outreach Team News

Happy Thanksgiving!

The Outreach Team met on October 16th and filled 141 snack bags to be delivered by the Gilmer Senior Center in November, January, and March. We are excited to welcome four new members to our group! They are Barbara Bell, Miriam Niemira, Penny Strickland and Lori Marquez. Everyone is welcome to join us. We meet approximately 4 times a year before choir practice. Our projects are the elderly snack bags, our annual diaper drive and filling the closet at Mountain View School.

Thank you for all your generosity!
The Outreach Team

25 Years as Pastor of Hope Church

On October 6th Pastor Dave Smedley marked his 25th anniversary as Pastor of Hope Lutheran Church.



Council President Mike Hoover presented Pastor Dave with a certificate of "Thanks" from the congregation. Following the service we celebrated with a lovely cake to recognize the occasion.

(Photo credit to McKenzie Duncan)

Looking Ahead to December

Our personal calendars fill up quickly as the holidays approach. Here is a sneak peak of what will be happening here at Hope so you can include these special events in your family plans. We will have greater details as we get closer to Christmas.

- Sat. Nov. 30, 10 AM – Decorate for Advent
- Sun. Dec. 1 – First Sunday of Advent
- Sat. Dec. 7. 11:30 AM – Ladies Christmas Luncheon
- Sat. Dec. 14, 10 AM – Choir final Christmas rehearsal
- Sun. Dec. 15, 10 AM** – Combined worship, choir Christmas cantata
- Tues. Dec. 24, Christmas Eve schedule:
 - Festival Christmas services, 4 PM and 7 PM
 - Christmas Dinner buffet, 5:30 PM
- Dec. 26-Jan. 1 Church office closed
- Sun. Dec. 29, 10 AM** - Combined worship, 5th Sunday

Poinsettias for the Altar

We will again be decorating the altar with poinsettias given in honor or in memory of special people in your life. Signup sheets and pricing will be available by mid-November. Watch the bulletin and weekly emails for details.



November Worship Assistants

8:15 Lectors

3 Wayne Buehler
10 Ann Buehler
17 Sue Marler
24 John Kilpatrick

10:45 Lectors

3 John Hiscox
10 Judy Kruger
17 Janet Smedley
24 Barbara Fail

10:45 Greeters

3 Jim & Ann Berman
10 Art & Wanda Dodge
17 Joe & Kathy Orlando
24 LeRoy Polk & Jack O'Donovan

10:45 Ushers

3 Mike Hoover & Barbara Fail
10 Jeannine Sieck & Janice Weber
17 Steven & Amy Freese
24 Rudy & Judy Kruger

10:45 Communion Assistants

3 John Hiscox
10 Judy Kruger
17 Janet Smedley
24 Barbara Fail

Counters

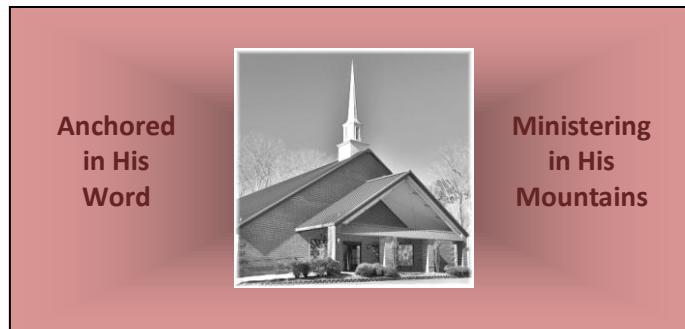
3 Eileen Ashley & Karen Baker
10 Mary Leyden & Mike Hoover
17 Amy Freese & Sylvia Negri
24 Barbara Mefford & Steven Freese

Mid-Week Altar Guild

3 Doris Goplin
10 June Edgemon
17 Ann Berman
24 Micky Northrup

The Hope Staff

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Church Pianist: Sandra Hunter	404.729.1244 smbnotes@aol.com
Custodian: Jeannine Sieck	contact the church office
Website	www.hopeonthehill.church



Our Mission Statement:
Making Christ known through reaching, welcoming, praising, equipping and sending

Officers & Congregational Council

President	Mike Hoover
Vice President	Vicki Christensen
Secretary	Carol Townsend
Treasurer	Jan Austin
Financial Secretary	Jack O'Donovan

Council Members

Eileen Ashley	Barbara Fail	Charlie Kruk
Ann Buehler	Steven Freese	Duane Northrup
	Billy Huff	

Please contact any council member if you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns. Council meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM.