



the anchor

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

September 2024

From the Pastor...

As I mentioned in my June history article, I was called for a two-year term by the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA to be Hope Lutheran Church's first fulltime development pastor. During those two years – October 1999 to the end of September 2001 – I was charged with helping this 10-year-old Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (SWAC) to come to the point of organization as an official congregation in the denomination.

I knocked on a lot of doors and during those two years, the congregation steadily grew and expanded its ministries.

We all worked hard here in Ellijay, but we were only able to do it because we got some amazing help from Lutheran saints in another state.

In October of 1998, then-Steering Committee President of Hope Lutheran Church Barbara Bell wrote a letter to the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Flatville, Illinois. In that letter she thanked them after just getting word from that congregation that they were making a \$150,000 pledge to the ELCA's *Mission Founders Program* to be paid in \$30,000 installments over five years to help start a mission church. Hope Church in Ellijay was to be the recipient of that pledged money.

An article in the April 1999 edition of *The Lutheran* magazine pointed out that as they were celebrating their 125th anniversary as a congregation, Immanuel Lutheran "decided to do something extraordinary." At the time, the congregation was seriously considering finally air conditioning its sanctuary, but in the end they decided instead to use the money they'd set aside for that work to help get a new Lutheran congregation on its feet.

The folks at Immanuel decided Hope Lutheran Church in Ellijay, Georgia was to be that church. Their pastor, James Lehmann, mentioned in that magazine article that over the generations of its existence, Immanuel Lutheran had helped "mother" four other nearby congregations. "That's our history," Lehmann said and they decided to reach farther afield and help a congregation in Georgia.

Gordon Narvesen, Hope's pastor at the time, said in that same article, "Hope has been struggling for eight years and with Immanuel's gift, we can now call a fulltime pastor/developer."

In late January of 1999, a wonderful in-person relationship was established with the people of Immanuel Lutheran when a group from that church of twelve visitors came to visit the people of Hope. They brought with them from Illinois and presented to the people of Hope Church, a 125th Anniversary Coverlet that celebrates their Lutheran Heritage and all their years of serving the people of Central Illinois. That coverlet can be found proudly hanging on the wall in our fellowship hall.

Later that year in September, a contingent from Ellijay traveled to Illinois and helped the people of Immanuel Lutheran celebrate their 125th anniversary – taking time to thank them for their amazing, congregation-changing gift to Hope. Hope's traveling group included Gunther and Mary Ann Rankenburg, Keith and Barbara Bell, Leda Lee, Betty and Vern Haugen, and Pastor Gordon and Bea Narvesen. Immanuel Lutheran Church was established in 1874 and proudly proclaimed itself "The Cathedral in the Cornfield."

In March of 2000, Immanuel Church and Hope Church had an “exchange of pulpits” with Pastor Lehmann and a contingent from Flatville coming to Ellijay, and me and a group from Ellijay traveling to Illinois.

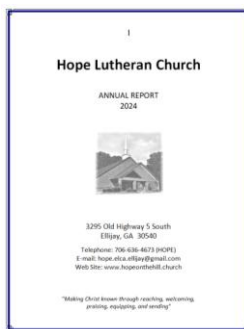
Over the years, it has been gratifying that the people of our two congregations have stayed in touch with each other. From time to time, we have had folks from Flatville who stop by to visit – either because Hope is their destination or because they traveling to Florida for vacation, and a time or two a group have gone up from Hope to visit them.

It was wonderfully gratifying in October of 2001 when Pastor Lehmann and a group came from Flatville to be with us as we formally were welcomed into the ELCA as an organized congregation of the denomination. We truly could not have reached that point in that short a time without the help of our friends from Illinois.

The people of Hope Church truly have been blessed over all our years because of the blessings that have come to us from our friends at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Peace,
Pastor Dave

Annual Meeting of the Congregation



This year our Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be on Sunday, September 15th. We will have a combined worship service at 10:00 AM and the meeting will be convened immediately following the service. Reports will be given, the 2025 budget will be approved, and new Council members will be elected.

The 2024 Annual Report will be emailed to the congregation by September 1st and will be available in print in the narthex for those who are not able to access it on-line. Please read the report, and come to the Annual Meeting with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

2025 Council Nominees Are...

New Congregation Council members will be elected at the Annual Meeting. There are five council terms expiring September 19, 2024. Going off, after serving two two-year terms are: Sybille Bassano, Jim Berman, Charlie Brown and Jordan Pinson. Duane Northrup has completed one two-year term.

Those nominated to serve two-year terms to replace them are: Duane Northrup (a second two-year term), Billy Huff, Carol Townsend, Eileen Ashley and Steven Freese.

Continuing on Council for another year to complete their terms are Barbara Fail, Charlie Kruk, Ann Buehler, Mike Hoover and Vicki Christensen.

Each of the nominees was contacted and has expressed his/her willingness to serve on the Congregational Council in the coming year.

Movie Night September 6



Our next Movie Night will be held on Friday, September 6th in Founders Hall. Join us for a fun evening! Supper will be served at 6:00 and the movie will follow. The movie title will be announced shortly. Bring a friend!

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carole English
- 1 Kevin Pierce
- 3 Avery Engels
- 8 Dean Carlsen
- 9 Ann Buehler
- 13 Kim Peterson
- 16 June Edgemon
- 16 Gunther Rankenburg
- 19 Linda Hoover
- 20 Jaymie Pierce
- 21 Sally Harbin
- 22 Penny Strickland
- 22 Len Norwillo
- 24 Cindy Williford
- 24 Matthew Newton
- 25 Patrick Rench
- 26 Carol McCurdy
- 28 Jim Crawford
- 29 Jeannine Sieck
- 29 Trevor Pierce
- 30 John Hanson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Donna & Mike Wren
- 14 Jean & Len Norwillo
- 17 Traci Kruger & Jim Richards
- 22 Jeanne & Don Rosenbaum
- 24 Kay & Rich Hein

5th Sunday Worship

Sunday, September 29th is a 5th Sunday and we will worship together at 10:30 AM that morning. There will not be Sunday School.

Adult Confirmation Classes Offered

Pastor Dave will be convening an adult Confirmation Class starting in October of this year. Watch the bulletin for the start date. We'll study all the traditional Lutheran confirmation topics: the 10 Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, Baptism and Holy Communion.

The class will convene once or twice a month for about an hour and will conclude in time for y'all to affirm your baptism on Pentecost Sunday next year. For more information, call Pastor Dave at 404-226-6833.

Food Pantry Canned Fruit Report

During the month of August we collected 140 cans of fruit along with some cash for the Gilmer Community Food Pantry. Thank you!! Your generosity is very much appreciated.

La Buena Fe Café Report

Thank you for your great support of the Beno's annual medical missionary trip to Honduras. Later this fall Dr. Luke, and possibly Katy, will be taking with them medicines needed by people living in the mountains of Honduras. Through *La Buena Fe Café* and other donations, Hope Church has raised nearly \$3,000.00 this year.

Shoes for Orphan Souls Report

Diana Barbato reports that there have been donations of 178 pairs of shoes, 421 pairs of socks, and 13 sets of laces for our annual collection. Thank you for your generosity!

Children around the world will receive new shoes and the message that Jesus loves them. You have made this another banner year for a very worth ministry.

Thank You, from the Austins

Thank you to all for the prayers, cards and condolences on the loss of my father, Julian Austin. He was an active member of the Methodist church his entire 99-year life, attending Sunday school and church the very Sunday before he passed. He understood as do we, the value of a church family.

Steve & Jan Austin and family

Thank You, from Donna Carlsen

Thank you to my caring church family. Thank you to the Angels of Hope for the cards, angels and encouraging scriptures. Other members sent cards and called to check on me. Thanks, too, for the beautiful shawl from the Knit and Crochet ministry.

Dean and I know we are surrounded in prayer and are assured you'll be with us in the journey ahead.

Donna and Dean Carlsen

September Worship Assistants

8:15 Lectors

- 1 Wayne Buehler
- 8 Ann Buehler
- 15 NA (10 AM Worship)
- 22 Sue Marler

10:45 Lectors

- 1 Janet Smedley
- 8 Sylvia Negri
- 15 Carole English
- 22 Janice Weber
- 29 Judy Kruger

10:45 Greeters

- 1 Janice Weber & LeRoy Polk
- 8 Jeannine Sieck & Jack O'Donovan
- 15 Tom & Carole English
- 22 Jim & Ann Berman
- 29 Art & Wanda Dodge

10:45 Ushers

- 1 Leon & June Edgemon
- 8 Frank & Suzie Quido
- 15 Rudy & Judy Kruger
- 22 Mike Hoover & Barbara Fail
- 29 Steven & Amy Freese

10:45 Communion Assistants

- 1 Janet Smedley
- 8 Sylvia Negri
- 15 Ann Berman
- 22 Janice Weber
- 29 Judy Kruger

Counters

- 1 Mary Leyden & Amy Freese
- 8 Barbara Mefford & Steven Freese
- 15 Mike Hoover & Eileen Ashley
- 22 Amy Freese & Sylvia Negri
- 29 Karen Baker & Sylvia Negri

Mid-Week Altar Guild

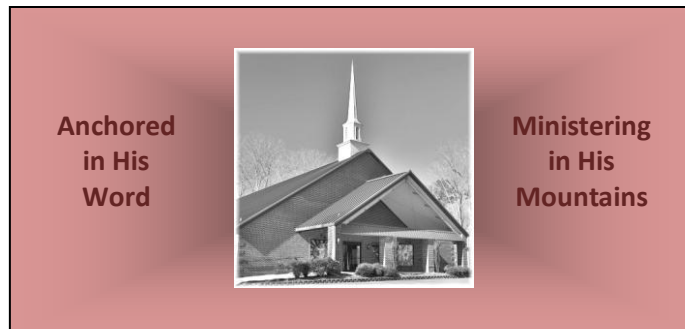
- 1 June Edgemon
- 8 Ann Berman
- 15 Micky Northrup
- 22 Ann Buehler
- 29 Doris Goplin

Outreach Team Meeting in October

The next meeting of the Outreach Team will be October 16th at 4:30 PM, before choir, to fill snack bags for *Meals on Wheels* clients. Contact Amy Freese with any questions.

The Hope Staff

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Administrative Asst: Ellen Hancock	706.253.2060 eshancock84@gmail.com
Choir Director: Matthew Newton	706.331.7297 mnewton@etcmail.com
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	Charlie Brown
Treasurer	Jan Austin
Financial Secretary	Jack O'Donovan

Council Members

Sybille Bassano	Ann Buehler	Duane Northrup
Jim Berman	Barbara Fail	Jordan Pinson
	Charlie Kruk	

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.