



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anchored in His Word

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship

August 30, 2026

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen**

Opening Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW 705

Greeting

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

This is the Feast

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together. O God, **we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

[Sit]

Youth Message

"Following Jesus"

Holy Baptism

This morning at the 10:00 service we celebrate the baptism of Hudson Beau Bremm. Hudson is the son of Emma & Jonathan Bremm. He was born on December 2, 2025. His grandparents are Maureen Bremm Waid, Robert Bremm, Shanda Long and Ryan Long. Hudson's sponsors are Bradley Andrew and Kirsten Elmore .

PRESENTATION

Hudson's family and sponsors gather with the minister at the font. The assembly stands.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

The presiding minister addresses the family and sponsors.

Do you desire for Hudson to be baptized into Christ? **We do.**

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support Hudson and pray for him in his new life in Christ? **We do.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses Hudson's family and the congregation.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes Hudson. Water is poured on his head as the presiding minister says:

Hudson Beau Bremm, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give Hudson new birth, cleanse him from sin, and raise him to eternal life.

Laying his hand on Judson's head, the minister prays:

Sustain Hudson with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen**

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on Hudson's forehead. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Hudson, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen**

WELCOME

A candle is lighted and handed to Hudson's sponsors. The presiding minister says:

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The minister and the baptismal group face the assembly.

Let us welcome Judson into the Lord's family:

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

First Lesson

Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 26:1-8

(Congregation speaks together.)

¹**Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.**

²**Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³**For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.**

⁴**I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵**I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.**

⁶**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷**singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.**

⁸**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

Second Lesson

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

[Stand]

**Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**



Matthew 16:21-28

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ**

[Sit]

Sermon

"Listen Up!"

[Stand]

Hymn of the Day

Jesus Loves Me!

ELW 595

Prayers

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

[After each petition, the congregation responds with: **Receive our prayer.**]

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

(The congregation is asked to greet one another with the words of Christ: "Peace be with you.")

Offering

[Sit]

Offertory

[Stand]

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. God our provider, **we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy . . . *(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

[Sit]

Communion

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

We're nourished together by the body and blood of our Lord.

Communion Hymns

Let Us Break Bread Together
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 471
ELW 596
ELW 798

Post-Communion Canticle

[Stand]

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ry one what he has done.
Let ev'ry one who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray together. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Hymn

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

ELW 536

Benediction

The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

"The Peace of God"

Whatsoever things are honest,
 whatsoever things are true,
Whatsoever things are pure and lovely,
 think on these things.
Whatsoever things are wholesome,
 whatsoever things are good,
If there be any virtue, be any praise,
 think on these things.
And the peace of God
 that passes all understanding
Shall keep your hearts,
 shall keep your minds
 on Jesus Christ.

Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"Our worship is ended; our service and our witness continue!"

* * * * *

Reprinted from Sundays and Seasons, copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the NRSV Bible, copyright 1989 Div. of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgy from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress; and Lutheran Book of Worship ©1978 admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SBX0057670. Hymns streamed under ONE LICENSE #A-730066. All rights reserved. "Find Us Faithful" by Jon Mohr, © 1987 Birdwing Music; "The Peace of God" words adapted from Philippians 4:7-8 and music by Douglas E. Wagner; © 1983, Harold Flammer Music, a Division of Shawnee Press, Inc.; used by permission of CCLI Streaming License #2735566

Today's Heavenly Helpers

* Assisting Minister	10:00 service	John Hanson
		Carol Townsend
* Director of Music		Sandy Hunter
* Lector	10:00 service	Karen Baker
* Greeters	10:00 service	Ann & Jim Berman
* Ushers	10:00 service	Barbara Fail & Jack O'Donavan
* Communion Assistants	10:00 service	Karen Baker & Ellen Hancock
* Counters		Karie Rench & Mike Hoover

Last week's attendance, in person and streaming: 116

Calendar of Events for This Week

Monday	- Knitting & Crochet ministry, 2 PM
Tuesday	- Men's Bible Study/Ellijay, 9 AM, Mike's Restaurant
	- Ladies Bible Study, 12:15
Wednesday	- Food Pantry, 8 AM-1 PM
	- Choir rehearsal, 6 PM
Thursday	- Quilters, 10 AM
Friday	- Movie Night, 6 PM

Next Week's Scripture Readings Are...

First Reading – Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm – Psalm 119:33-40
Second Reading – Romans 13:8-14
Gospel – Matthew 18:15-20

Mid-Week Altar Guild – June Edgemon 9/6

Next Week's Worship Assistants Are...

8:15 **Lector** - Jan Austin
 10:45 **Lector** - Aaron Engels
Greeters – Fred & Sandi St. John
Ushers – Leon & June Edgemon
Communion Asst – Aaron Engels
Counters – Mary Leden & Karen Baker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Pastor Paula

Next Sunday, September 6th, will be Pastor Paula Smith's first Sunday with us. Come greet and welcome her to Hope! There will be a cookie reception for her after each of our services.

2026 Annual Report and Annual Meeting

The *2026 Annual Report of the Congregation* will be distributed by email to Hope members. If you do not have email access to the report, printed copies will be available in the narthex on Sunday, September 6th. The document covers ministries and activities of Hope Church this past year and a proposed budget for our next fiscal year, which begins September 1st. Final reports for the fiscal year just ending will be distributed as soon as they are ready.

The entire report will be presented at our Annual Meeting on September 20th for your approval. Please read through the report and bring any questions to the meeting, or ask a Council member ahead of time. New Congregation Council members will also be elected at the meeting. We will have one worship service that day, at 10 AM, and the meeting will follow.

Ye Old Funsters – Revision

Our next meeting will be **Friday September 11th**. Meet at the church at 10 am for carpooling to Helen, Ga. Additional details will follow. We anticipate we will eat at Hofer's Bakery and Cafe, 8758 N. Main St., Helen Hwy in Helen Ga. Following lunch, we can explore the town and then drive home.

Pastor Dave's Retirement Celebration

Hope Lutheran Church invites you to join us in celebrating Pastor David E. Smedley, Jr. as he retires after 27 years of faithful service as our called pastor. We hope you will join us as we honor Pastor Smedley, thank him for his many years of ministry, and wish him well in this next chapter. See the invitation below.



**You are cordially invited to a reception celebrating
Pastor David E. Smedley, Jr.
on his retirement as called pastor of
Hope Lutheran Church in Ellijay, Georgia
after 27 years of service**

**Saturday, September 19, 2026
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

**Legacy Event Hall
772 Maddox Drive, Suite 110
(Clock Tower Center)
East Ellijay, Georgia 30540**

**Baskets will be available for cards of
congratulations and a Thank You cash purse.
Light buffet will be served.**

**RSVP to: sylvianegri@live.com
404-550-5376**

Hope Lutheran Church

Ministering in His Mountains



3295 Old Hwy 5 South

Ellijay, GA 30540

Telephone: 706.636.4673 (HOPE)

Email: hope.elca.ellijay@gmail.com

Web site: www.hopeonthehill.church

Pastor: Rev. David Smedley

Ministers: The People of Hope Church

*"Making Christ known through reaching, welcoming,
praising, equipping and sending"*