



the anchor

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

October 2025

From the Pastor...

This is an update.

As you'll recall, in the August newsletter I introduced Casey Card to you as our new administrative assistant. Unfortunately, because of life scheduling issues, that wasn't going to work out for Casey.

Since then, we've had the wonderful good fortune to meet and get to know and hire Amanda Brookshire. She's been working with Ellen in the office for the last three weeks and is doing very well. Obviously, Ellen has been with us for a little longer than originally planned but she's graciously extended her time with us through the month of September to help get Amanda trained. Over these past months, Ellen has put together a comprehensive training manual for the administrative assistant position and it's doing everything it was intended to do to help Amanda ready prepared for her new duties.

Below you see a picture of Amanda and now I'll let her introduce herself to you in her own words:

Originally from Georgia, I spent most of my life along the Gulf Coast in Mobile, Alabama, before returning to the North Georgia mountains where my roots run deep. I am a proud mom of two sons. My oldest is 26, and my youngest is a soon-to-be 16-year-old student and football player at Gilmer High School. At home, I'm also "mom" to four German Shepherds, who are my pride and joy.

My professional journey has been shaped by a diverse background in hotel management and banking, but real estate has always been my true passion. Today, I'm proud to serve clients across both the Alabama Gulf Coast and the Georgia Mountains, helping them find homes and investments that fit their lifestyle and goals.

Outside of work, I have a deep love for nature, animals, and giving back. Whether it's guiding families through one of life's biggest transitions or simply offering support where it's needed, I'm committed to making a positive impact on the people and communities I serve. I'm truly looking forward to meeting everyone and being a part of what seems to be a friendly, welcoming group of amazing people.



On behalf of all of us here I'd like to welcome Amanda and let her know how happy we are to have her now be part of our wonderful Hope family!

Peace,
Pastor Dave

My dear Hope family,

Thank you for all the kind words, hugs, and generous gifts over the past few weeks. And what a lovely retirement dinner! Thank you for the support, precious friendships and love you have shown me over the last 18 years.

I will carry them with me as I move into the next chapter of my life. Let's pray for each other as we finish going through this transition, that our Lord will continue to lead and guide us, as individuals and as His Church.

Love always,
Ellen



2025 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held on Sunday, September 21st. We heard reports from Pastor Dave, Congregation President Mike Hoover, and Jan Austin, our Treasurer. We also elected new Council members for the coming year and recognized last year's Council members and several other folks for their service in the past year.

Officers were elected at the September 25th Council meeting: President, Steven Freese; Vice President, Sylvia Negri; and Secretary, Carol Townsend. Council also reappointed Church Treasurer, Jan Austin, and Financial Secretary, Amy Freese. The new Council was installed the following Sunday. In addition to the officers, other Council members are Ann Buehler, Vicki Christensen, Doris Goplin, Carolyn Hill, Billy Huff, Jim Sease. Eileen Ashley resigned her elected position due to the fact that she expects to be moving soon.



Pictured are: Charlie Kruk, Vicki Christensen, Jan Austin, Pastor Dave, Mike Hoover, Jack O'Donovan, Barbara Fail, and Duane Northrup.

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Ted Grener
- 3 Theo Jonason
- 4 Sharon Lombardo Harmon
- 7 Sarah Harbin
- 9 Carolyn Schaag
- 10 Joan Dahlberg
- 12 Kenneth Fakier
- 13 Carri McClure
- 16 Joe Orlando
- 16 Hadley Pollard
- 17 Jamie Pond
- 18 Barbara Fail
- 29 Ann Berman
- 29 Penny Tankersley
- 30 Marie Cowart
- 31 Jim Kroninger

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Mary Anne &
Gunther Rankenburg
- 14 Sandi & Fred St. John
- 15 Sandy & Gordon Hunter
- 25 Ann & Wayne Buehler

New Members

New members will be welcomed into our Hope family on Sunday, October 5th. Their names will be included in the bulletin that day and in the November *anchor*.

OctoberFest Is Fast Approaching

OctoberFest 2025 will be Saturday, October 25th, between the hours of 11 AM and 4 PM. We'll have German brat plates and barbecue plates available for \$12 per plate (\$6 for children and youth). And, of course, we'll have our wonderful craft bazaar – perfect for getting a head start on Christmas! There will also be a bake sale. Then at the end of the day we'll have a drawing for raffle ticket winners.

Plan to join us on the 25th and invite your neighbors and friends! There will be an announcement in the local paper but the very best advertising is word-of-mouth.

ATTENTION CRAFTERS:

Please bring your items for the OctoberFest craft sale to the church on or before October 12th. Leave them in the room downstairs with the sign "Crafts Etc" on the door. There is a table in the room to place them. We will be pricing and setting up that week. I will be calling for workers for the sale Saturday, October 25th. Mark your calendars!

Questions: call Bev Hiscox 478-714-7282. Thank you.

OctoberFest Raffle Tickets

Raffle Ticket packets are now available for you to pick up after each of our Sunday church services. They're in quantities of 30 tickets per envelope. The cost of a ticket is \$1 each, or 6 for \$5.

The prize list will be announced on Sunday, October 5th when the first ticket packets will be picked up. They'll be similar to what we've had in past years.

The drawing will be held at the close of *OctoberFest*, October 25th, at 3:00. Ticket holders do not have to be present to win a prize.

Outreach Team News

Fall is here!

The Outreach Team will be having a meeting to pack snack bags for elderly shut-ins on October 1st at 5:00 before choir. We will be packing approximately 140 bags containing ramen noodles, two fruit cups, trail mix, crackers, cookies and; granola bars. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Thank you,
The Outreach Team

Animal Blessing

St. Francis of Assisi is recognized as the patron saint of animals. Many Christians mark the feast of St. Francis of Assisi – October 6th – by having their pets blessed. We will again be hosting a *Blessing of the Animals* here at Hope the day before, Saturday, October 4th, at 10 AM. You're invited to bring your pets that day and participate.

We'll gather under the drive-through at the front entrance. There will be treats for the pets and a snack table for the proud owners! We'll publish this in the Jasper and Ellijay newspapers and invite the larger communities! Come join us!

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.

Our Evangelism Team and Men's Group are going to host a *Blessing of the Bikes* (and Bikers) in early November 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! Boxes for toys will be set up in our narthex to receive these gifts.

Upcoming Events

Going forward, rather than print a full-page calendar for the month, we will be listing upcoming scheduled activities. Please refer to the bulletin and anchor articles for details of each event.

Wednesday, Oct 1	5 PM	Outreach Team snack bag packing
Saturday, Oct 4	10 AM	Blessing of the Animals
Thursday, Oct 16	5:30 PM	Congregation Council
Tuesday, Oct 21		November <i>anchor</i> deadline
Saturday, Oct 25	11 AM – 4 PM	<i>OctoberFest</i>
Sunday, Oct 26		Reformation Sunday

Weekly Activities

Monday:	2pm - Knitting & Crochet ministry
Tuesday:	9am - Men's Bible Study/Ellijay, Mike's Restaurant 10:30am - (2nd & 4th) - Apple Country Quilt Guild 12:15pm - Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday:	10am to 12:30pm - Gilmer Food Pantry 6pm - Choir rehearsal
Thursday:	10am - Hope Quilters 2pm - Co-ed Bible Study

October Worship Assistants

8:15 Lectors

5 Duane Northrup
12 Carole English
19 Wayne Buehler
26 Jan Austin

10:45 Lectors

5 Wanda Dodge
12 Mike Hoover
19 Karen Baker
26 Barbara Fail

10:45 Greeters

5 Pam Guenther & Luis Santiago
12 Jeannine Sieck & Janice Weber
19 Wanda & Art Dodge
26 Maureen & Ted Grener

10:45 Ushers

5 Amy & Steven Freese
12 Judy & Rudy Kruger
19 Mike Hoover & Jack O'Donovan
26 Amy & Steven Freese

10:45 Communion Assistants

5 Wanda Dodge
12 Mike Hoover
19 Karen Baker
26 Barbara Fail

Counters

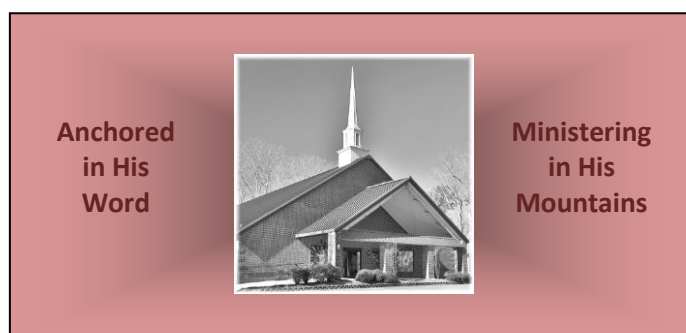
5 Eileen Ashley & Barbara Mefford
12 Steven Freese & Sylvia Negri
19 Mike Hoover & Karie Rench
26 Mary Leyden & Karen Baker

Mid-Week Altar Guild

5 Ann Buehler
12 Doris Goplin
19 June Edgemon
26 Ann Berman

The Hope Staff

Church Office	706.636.HOPE (4673) hope.elca.ellijay@gmail.com
Pastor Dave Smedley	404.226.6833 davesmedley@hotmail.com
Administrative Asst: Amanda Brookshire	706.889.4498 hope.elca.ellijay@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	Steven Freese
Vice President	Sylvia Negri
Secretary	Carol Townsend
Treasurer	Jan Austin
Financial Secretary	Amy Freese

Council Members

Ann Buehler	Doris Goplin	Billy Huff
Vicki Christensen	Carolyn Hill	Jim Sease

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.