



the anchor

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

October 2026

From the Pastor...

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.” Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

The above is a rather long piece of scripture, but one of my favorites, because it reminds me of the ebbs and flows of life and it keeps me grounded in God’s word. As I write this, summer is coming to an end, but autumn has not yet approached us. I see it as an “in between” moment in time. I believe that would be an apt definition of our time here at Hope. We are all, currently in an “in between” moment.

Your pastor of many years has retired, and so something new must be coming, but we don’t know what. Some of us are anxious, and some are questioning, but the Holy Spirit is at work in this congregation as God makes all things new! I am here as your interim, and although I’m new to you, I’m not new to interim ministry. I’m not your “forever” pastor, nor am I a substitute for your retired pastor. I am the “in between” pastor. I am the one who is here for you when you need an ear, an understanding heart, maybe even a hug. I’m here to walk with you as you grieve your long-time pastor’s retirement, and I’m here to share in the community of Christ that is the congregation of Hope Lutheran Church.

I have said many times that this is probably the friendliest congregation I’ve ever met! I deeply appreciate the warm welcome I have received from all of you, and I hope our time together in the service of God’s kingdom here on earth in the “in between” will be one that makes God smile. “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

Be Blessed!
Pastor Paula



Thank you from Pastor Dave

Dear Folks,

Please know how great it was to be with you all again this past Saturday at your wonderful and much appreciated retirement party for me. I've missed you all terribly! Thank you for all your kind words. And thank you for your many generous gifts.

Janet and I are headed to the Poconos in Pennsylvania at the end of September for a week. Our hope in the near future is to make a trip to Barbados where I spent five of my growing up years.

I'm adjusting to this retirement life and think I just might get used to it. You all stay in my thoughts and prayers.

Love and Peace,
Pastor Dave



2026 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held on Sunday, September 20th. We heard reports from Congregation President Steven Freese, and Jan Austin, our Treasurer. We also elected new Council members for the coming year and recognized last year's Council members and several others for their service in the past year.

Officers were elected at the September 24th Council meeting: President, Steven Freese; Vice President, Sylvia Negri; and Secretary, Karie Rench. 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 June Edgemon, Karie Rench, Shela Huff, Vicki Christensen, Doris Goplin, Carolyn Hill, Jim Sease and Carol Townsend.



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



OctoberFest Is Fast Approaching

OctoberFest 2026 will be Saturday, October 24th, between the hours of 11 AM and 2 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 24th and invite your neighbors and friends! There will be an announcement in the local paper but the very best advertising is word-of-mouth.

Raffle Tickets Available!

Don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets! Tickets will be available for sale after church each Sunday and will also be available during the Craft Sale on October 24th. Be sure to get yours for a chance to win!

Outreach Team News

Fall is here!

The Outreach Team will be having a meeting to pack snack bags for elderly shut-ins on October 7th 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



Ladies Fall Luncheon – Trick or Treat!

Ladies, join us for a fun Fall Trick or Treat Luncheon!
Saturday, October 10 at 11:00 AM downstairs in Founder's Hall

 Bring a bag with a "Trick **OR** Treat" inside!

 Bring something delicious to eat and share!

If you've made crafts for Oktoberfest, please bring them with you to the luncheon. Come enjoy good food, fall fun, and wonderful fellowship! Questions? Call Bev at 478-714-7282.

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 4th – by having their pets blessed. We will again be hosting a *Blessing of the Animals* here at Hope the day before, Saturday, October 3rd, 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!

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 7	5 PM	Outreach Team snack bag packing
Saturday, Oct 3	10 AM	Blessing of the Animals
Thursday, Oct 15	4 PM	Congregation Council
Tuesday, Oct 20		November <i>anchor</i> deadline
Saturday, Oct 24	11 AM – 2 PM	<i>OctoberFest</i>
Sunday, Oct 25		Reformation Sunday

Weekly Activities

Monday:	2pm - Knitting & Crochet ministry
Tuesday:	9am - Men's Bible Study/Ellijay, Mike's Restaurant
	10:30am - (2nd) - Apple Country Quilt Guild
	12:15pm - Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday:	8am to 1pm - Gilmer Food Pantry
	6pm - Choir rehearsal
Thursday:	10am - Hope Quilters
	2pm - Co-ed Bible Study

October Worship Assistants

8:15 Lectors

4 Sue Marler
11 Jan Austin
18 Duane Northrup
25 John Kilpatrick

4 Aaron Ingles
11 Carol Townsend
18 Mike Hoover
25 Karen Baker

10:45 Lectors

4 Aaron Ingles
11 Carol Townsend
18 Mike Hoover
25 Karen Baker

Counters

4 Karie Rench & Steven Freese
11 Mary Leyden & Barbara Mefford
18 Sylvia Negri & Steven Freese
25 Karie Rench & Mike Hoover

10:45 Greeters

4 Ann & Jim Berman
11 Maureen & Ted Grener
18 Art & Wanda Dodge
25 Kathy & Joe Orlando

Mid-Week Altar Guild

4 Doris Goplin
11 June Edgmon
18 Ann Berman
25 Micky Northrup

10:45 Ushers

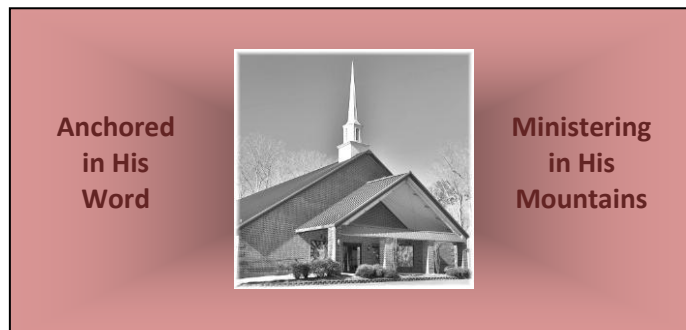
4 Jeannine Sieck & Janice Weber
11 Mike Hoover & Barbara Fail
18 Amy & Steven Freese
25 June & Leon Edgmon

10:45 Communion Assistants



The Hope Staff

Church Office	706.636.HOPE (4673) hope.elca.ellijay@gmail.com
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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	Karie Rench
Treasurer	Jan Austin
Financial Secretary	Amy Freese

Council Members

Shela Huff	Doris Goplin	Carol Townsend
Vicki Christensen	Carolyn Hill	Jim Sease
	June Edgemon	

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 4:00 PM.