

Good Hope Lutheran Church
 12030 Market Street
 North Lima, Ohio 44452
 330-549-2406
www.goodhope-elca.org



August 2024

Through Christ we put God first by teaching reaching and loving all!

The R E A C H O U T

⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." ⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6: 47-69)

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This is a very difficult teaching!! I don't know how to soften the blow. It affects our lives whether we believe it or not! Especially if you come to believe this is your church. You see when they wandered, following Jesus, their biggest fear was protecting Jesus. Now days we have to protect the Bible, the church, the building, our pride, our windows and our stuff in the church. Think about all we have to protect! Seriously, take a moment and think about all we have to lose.

²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:24-25)

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? (Matt. 16:24-26)

We at Good Hope are here at the will of the father. What is/was our mission and what is our mission now? Churches were put here in the United States to be a place to nurture the believers so they might sow their faith as they sowed their fields. We continue to have the local community as our flock. Reaching out to feed, strengthen, and nurture our members so they may reach out to feed, strengthen, and nurture our neighbors. We do it in here by Word and Sacrament. They do it in the community with food, shelter, and encouragement.

Wendy and I just had a call from the police about a family who needs shelter, food, and gas. We met with them and encouraged them. We assured them we could work a miracle and get the Dad a job. I made a call to someone who also made a call and we got this person two jobs. He did not show up. He had a sign that said he would work for food and he had his family there with him as he stood by the road with his sign will work for food. But when we got him a job, he was a no show. My friends the reason I tell you this story is so that you understand now those people we called to open up jobs for the homeless will be gun-shy and not be so willing to open up the positions for people we try to help. Trying to help will get harder the next time. We need to gather and tell stories. So that we can get through these times and not let them scare us from future endeavors to help the homeless. By having a place to hear the Word and receive the Sacrament, we can be fed and nurtured. We can hear stories that it is not always easy to serve God through our neighbor. But we know that we have support from the Body of Christ that is behind us.

We as a church also understand we do things with heart. It is not easy but everyone gives what they can, so that the mission of this church is done. If we don't pass out the five loafs and two fish we cannot receive leftovers. We take from our little and we thank God for it and we pass it out to those in need and we receive back abundance. We are the body of Christ! If we don't have faith and belief, who will? Who does? I hope and pray that you each have had time to rejuvenate. I hope that the Word flows through you and all your families. I hope and pray you feel genuinely fed so that you might feel generous with the abundance that God has blessed you! I pray we don't ever get so caught in the ownership of the church that we stop giving it away. I pray that we each feel the importance of what we give and that it is not one person who looks to be able to give the most but that we all understand when we give our most, we get the left-over. Come be fed by the bread of life. You and your commitment to God is the most important thing for you. God gives us what God has promised. Do we give God what we have promised God? I am not giving to a church. I am not giving to a budget. I am not giving to beat my neighbor or to be seen by those around me. I am giving to God what I promised I would give. May the left-overs fill you to overflowing.

God, thank you for your gift of these families to our church. Wendy and I have been sooo blessed. They understand and get that the work that we do for you is important for the vitality of this community. From the beginning of time, you have asked us to love each other and care for our neighbors. Thank you! Your people are continually encouraging me. I lift the people of Good Hope Lutheran Church in my prayers to you. Please strengthen them and feed them and give them life. Amen.

Pastor Ralph

Sundays & Seasons Worship Planner

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DATE	EVENT	COLOR	READINGS	INTRODUCTION
August 4th	11th Sunday after Pentecost	green	Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15 Psalm 78: 23-29 Ephesians 4: 1-16 John 6: 24-35	Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.
August 11th	12th Sunday after Pentecost	green	1 Kings 19: 4-8 Psalm 34: 1-8 Ephesians 4:25--5:2 John 6: 35, 41-51	Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other.
August 18th	13th Sunday after Pentecost	green	Proverbs 9: 1-6 Psalm 34: 9-14 Ephesians 5: 15-20 John 6: 51-58	Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.
August 25th	14th Sunday after Pentecost	green	Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18 Psalm 34: 15-22 Ephesians 6: 10-20 John 6: 56-69	In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

AUGUST

Serving in God's house	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25
Lector 8:00 and liturgy Lector 10:30 and liturgy	Greg Razo Kathy Kramer	Nancy Crouse Andy Tesyk	Greg Razo Kathy Kramer	Nancy Crouse Andy Tesyk
Communion bread	Loetta Haller	Loetta Haller	Loetta Haller	Loetta Haller
Altar Guild		Andy Tesyk		Andy Tesyk
Chrema	Nancy Barret Wendy Edwards Tammy Chuey	Nancy Barret Andy Tesyk	Sandy Kuntz Tammy Chuey	Wendy Edwards Andy Tesyk

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

SEPTEMBER

Serving in God's house	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
Lector 8:00 and liturgy Lector 10:30 and liturgy	Greg Razo Kathy Kramer	Nancy Crouse Andy Tesyk	Greg Razo Kathy Kramer	Nancy Crouse Andy Tesyk	Greg Razo Kathy Kramer
Communion bread	Pastor Ralph and class	Pastor Ralph and class	Pastor Ralph and class	Pastor Ralph and class	Pastor Ralph and class
Altar Guild		Andy Tesyk		Andy Tesyk	
Chrema	Andy Tesyk Wendy Edwards Tammy Chuey	Nancy Barret Andy Tesyk	Nancy Barret Sandy Kuntz Tammy Chuey	Wendy Edwards Andy Tesyk	need

Our Prayer List

Ruth Thompson
 Maria Neopolitan
 Ava Viviano
 Debbie Haines
 Jeffrey Scheffert

Linda Lude
 Jeff McMurray
 Harry Grant
 Gary Elliot

In the military:
 Alyssa
 Bryce Liberty
 Jakeb Fry
 Lyndsey Miller
 Daniel McMurray



Our weekly intercessory
 prayer for the people of our
 congregation :

August 4

Corey Williamson
 Katie Williamson
 Lana Wilt
 Jessica Wirkner

August 11

Mike Wirkner
 Julie Wyse
 John Yenges
 Jan Yoakam

August 18

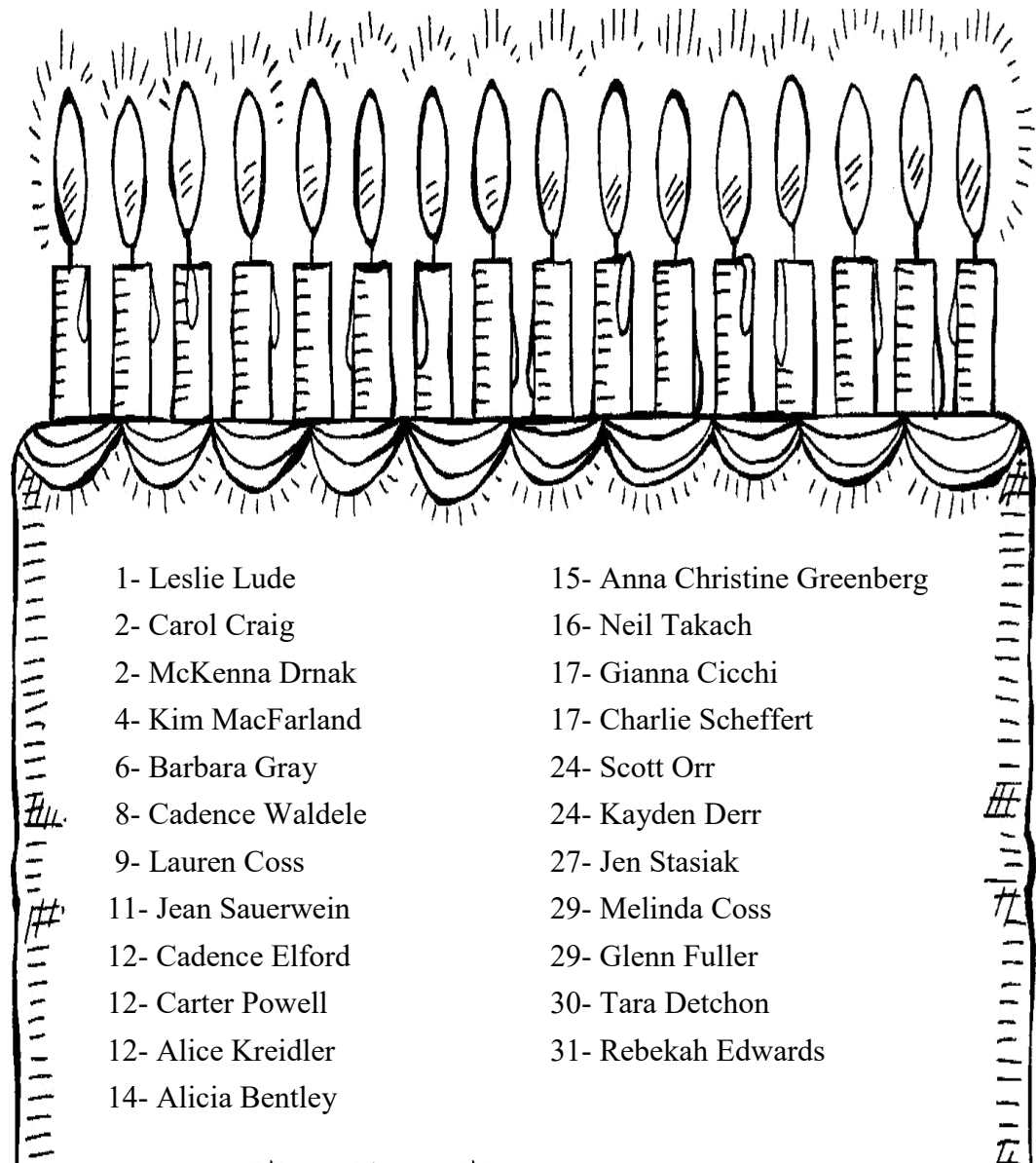
Doug Albertson
 Joanne Albertson
 Dianna Allen
 Sam Allen

August 25

Anna Anderson
 Chad Anderson
 Natalie Anderson
 Nathan Anderson



6- Baylee & Johnithan Vinkler
 6- Anna & Chad Anderson



1- Leslie Lude
 2- Carol Craig
 2- McKenna Drnak
 4- Kim MacFarland
 6- Barbara Gray
 8- Cadence Waldele
 9- Lauren Coss
 11- Jean Sauerwein
 12- Cadence Elford
 12- Carter Powell
 12- Alice Kreidler
 14- Alicia Bentley

15- Anna Christine Greenberg
 16- Neil Takach
 17- Gianna Cicchi
 17- Charlie Scheffert
 24- Scott Orr
 24- Kayden Derr
 27- Jen Stasiak
 29- Melinda Coss
 29- Glenn Fuller
 30- Tara Detchon
 31- Rebekah Edwards

A New Initiative: Isaiah 43

Whenever Pastor Ralph mentions things like the *Synod Assembly*, or even *The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, how many of you think to yourself: “the **WHAT?**” For that reason, as he and I talked on the ride home from the Synod Assembly in Akron last June, we agreed that it couldn’t hurt to review some background on the subject and provide additional information on a new initiative.

The organizational structure of the ELCA is called a Synod. According to the ELCA website (elca.org): “Synods unite the work of congregations within their areas, serve as regional support, and guide pastoral and other staff candidates.” The ELCA's 65 Synods vary greatly in size, geography, membership, staffing and program. The annual Synod Assembly is a prime example of Clergy and Laity gathering to support the work of member congregations.

On Sat., June 1, the Rev. Dr. Laura Barbins, Bishop of the ELCA, welcomed Clergy and Laity to the John S. Knight center in Akron to conduct the business of the **Northeast Ohio** Synod. Bishop Barbins highlighted the great diversity in the Lutheran World, emphasizing the work of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (which includes Israel and the Palestinian territories). In addition to our presence in that region, the ELCA, in conjunction with the whole Evangelical Lutheran Church, and often in collaboration with the Lutheran World Federation -- walks side by side with Lutheran churches in 24 African countries as well as in Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition, the ELCA supports seven seminaries and many other programs both here and abroad, providing financial aid to seminary students, Youth and Young Adult programs; and Camping Ministries. The ELCA is a lot bigger than you might think, and our reach goes well beyond the corner of Rt. 7 & 165 in North Lima.

Naturally, all of this requires money, and it wouldn’t be a church meeting without at least *talking* about finances. In this case, Bishop Barbins pointed out that if more churches would pay a larger portion of their tithes to the Synod, the more funding would be available to support seminaries, spiritual needs, and clergy student loan support. She pointed out that the judicious use of **Time, Energy, Skills and Resources** is necessary for the ELCA to Succeed in supporting the Body of Christ – the church.

Following Barbins’ presentation, Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Jonathan Stufft, introduced a discussion of the need for the ELCA to adjust to the ever-shrinking pool of pastors available to draw from. Sadly, for a variety of reasons, fewer and fewer people enter seminary (Lutheran and otherwise) every year. As a result, in the ELCA there are currently **558 open churches** ready to begin the process of calling a pastor, but **just over 300 available pastors**.

Rev. Stufft said that the “Big C” Church – THE BODY OF CHRIST -- will remain, but that in order for local churches, individual congregations, to endure, it’s going to require the increased involvement and participation of the members in the pews.

Since spring, Bishop Barbins and the Northeastern Ohio Synod Staff have been holding presentations on what they have named the **Isaiah 43** initiative. The Common English Bible translates **Isaiah 43** as “Look! I’m doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don’t you recognize it? I’m making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.” Each **Isaiah 43** event included a brief presentation on the subject and was also heavily focused on conversations and brainstorming sessions as we think together about the future of Lutheran Christianity.

What became evident in these conversations is that the future is going to rely heavily on what Martin Luther refers to as “**The Priesthood of All Believers.**” In other words, the people in the pews are going to have to step up, become involved, and participate in the life of not only their local congregation, but also in the congregations with whom we may be asked to collaborate.

Again, from the ELCA website: “We truly believe that God is up to something in Christ’s church – that there is a reforming in the making. Our working hypothesis is that congregations are being called together in groups of 4-6 to be the Body of Christ together. These consortiums or collaboratives of congregations would have a shared mission and vision within their communities. They would be served by a staff of at least two pastors and potentially a deacon who would help shepherd the life of the consortium” and perhaps more important, “**each congregation would maintain their own building and their own worship** – and would be led at least in part by a trained lay minister who could effectively lead worship when one of the pastors or the deacon could not be present.” Yes, there will be challenges to creating such a model, not the least of which would be geography, competition for attention, theological differences. etc. That said, please consider this: congregations in the new collaborative effort will also share expenses related to maintaining the new staffing model.

Now, before you decide ,**No Way**, that’s the dumbest idea I’ve ever heard – please think about it. We’ve all survived school consolidations, corporate mergers, job transfers, and many other changes in our way of life, we can survive this too. Let me give you something to think about: due to the shortage of ordained ministers in the ELCA, the average wait time for the Call Process when a congregation is waiting for a new minister is *two years*, and even then, it is very likely you will end-up sharing a pastor with at least one another congregation.

Before retiring, I worked for over 26 years as an Administrative Assistant in an office of the United Methodist Church. I mention that now, because the UMC has been using a collaborative model similar to the ELCA proposal for many years, and I’m telling you that it can work! No, it’s not ideal, but it sure beats the sad alternative of closing churches because there aren’t enough ministers available to staff them or because they simply can no longer afford to pay a pastor or support a ministry. That said, it’s not only the small, aging congregations that close once affluent, elderly members die off. Many times, it’s also the lack of emphasis on doing God’s work in their community that causes a church to cease to be viable. Couple this with the lack of new clergy coming into the system, and the Isaiah 43 model makes more sense all the time.

Stay tuned -- we’ll be hearing a lot more about Isaiah 43 in the coming weeks and months.

Contributed by Kathy Kramer

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes for July 24, 2024

present: Kim, Carl, Mike, Ken, Pastor Ralph, Wendy, Greg

Pastor Ralph opened the meeting with prayer.

At the July 15 meeting, resignations were turned in by Mark Nemenz, Natalie Keenan, Jean Ketzel, Chris Herubin, and Lauren Newton.

Pastor's Report –July– 2024

Area of Focus Last Month:

- I had 16 counseling sessions and numerous significant contacts with members and others.
- 1 funeral service- Ed Holisky
- I had 27 contacts by phone for significant help.
- We had our regular number of Saturday night and Sunday morning services.
- Over the past month I have presided at 13 worship services and prepared 5 sermons.
- ◆ June 1 Synod Assembly
- ◆ June 2 -12 Wendy and Pastor Ralph on vacation
- ◆ Jun 8-9 replacement for both Saturday and Sunday worship- Kathy Kramer and Loetta Haller
- ◆ June 13 Lauren and Jon wedding rehearsal
- ◆ June 14 Justin and Aislinn wedding rehearsal
- ◆ June 15 replacement for Saturday worship- Loetta Haller and Kathy Kramer
- ◆ June 15 Justin and Aislinn wedding 12:30pm
- ◆ June 15 Lauren and Jon wedding 4:30pm
- ◆ June 24 First Responders QRP Instructor Training for Suicide Prevention
- ◆ June 30 Naomi Sparks will be away. Special Music by Coria and Chris Brock.

Secretary's Report:

June 3-12- vacation

June 13- Mennonite Mutual answers

June 17- council meeting

June 20- financial meeting with Naomi

June 22- baptism Konnor Klim

June 25- funeral Ed Holisky

Restocked supplies in pews

Answered calls for 3 c's

Updated electronic sign

Organized clothing shed

Emailed reports and meeting minutes to council

Completed office duties

Prepared bulletins and power point services

Prepared and distributed the Reachout

All bills and statements to Naomi

New Business:

- a. Pastor Ralph motions to accept Ken Lude and Greg Razo as temporary council members until the next congregational meeting. Carl seconds. Motion carried.
- b. Council has elected Greg Razo as president, Ken Lude as vice president, and Wendy Edwards as secretary.
- c. Carl Frost and Ken Lude are signatories for the Thrivent accounts.
- d. Greg Razo and Mike McMurray are the signatories for Mission Investments.
- e. Carl Frost and Naomi will remain as signatories for the Farmers account.

Old Business:

- a. Greg will lead the rummage sale in August.
- b. Fellowship will not be held August 3rd and 4th. Pastor Ralph will announce the next fellowship and put out a one call.
- c. There will be a church picnic September 14th at 6pm. Greg will grill and a sign-up sheet will be available for side dishes and desserts.
- d. Wendy will ask Naomi to prepare the 2025 budget and also will assist with gathering the information.
- e. Pastor Ralph motions to accept Isabella Tukalo into membership at Good Hope as of July 13, 2024. Mike seconds. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Treasurer's Report June 1- June 30, 2024

Negative shown in parentheses	Actual June	Budget June	Actual Jan. 1- June 30	Budget over/under Jan. 1- June 30
Income	\$15,392.52	\$16,159.92	\$85,264.84	(\$11,694.68)
Expense	\$14,749.16	\$16,000.83	\$91,034.48	\$7,855.50
Net Total	\$643.36	\$159.09	(\$5,769.64)	(\$3,839.18)

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

July: 7= 65 14=85 21=53 28=76

Thank you to all who signed up to serve in God's house!
Please notice on page 4 that some of the duties have been added.
Pastor Ralph will hold a class September 7th at 11am for those who signed up to bake the communion bread. Please attend even if you already bake.
He will hold a training for anointers September 8th at 9:15am. Please attend even if you already are anointing.

Office Notes

Please use this link to join the 10:30 worship. Please join about 10:15.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94263012735?pwd=UIA0L1FjMEpDT0ZWQUdsY250VzIuUT09>

Meeting ID: 942 6301 2735

Passcode: 197098

Used greeting cards are collected all year long. Please put them in the container on the table in the Narthex. These cards are donated to the Alzheimer facility so they can be used to make crafts.

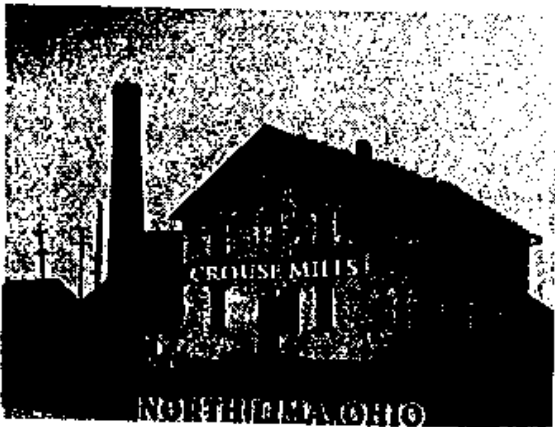
The 3 C's collection bin is available in the narthex. You may bring canned goods and other non-perishable food items to donate to the food pantry.

Please bring your business cards to Good Hope. They will be displayed on the corkboards and put in the newsletter.

Bible study will start back up September 11th at 6pm. Please read Matthew 21- 28.

Next week is day camp week so the office hours will be scattered. You may still bring donations for the rummage sale. If the door is locked please leave your items outside the office door. Please text me at 330-718-6228 if you need help unloading your car. Thanks!

Please see Naomi if you wish to participate in this year's Christmas concert.



Crouse Mills
True Value

11788 Market St.
 North Lima, OH

Mon - Sat: 8am - 5pm

Phone: (330) 549 - 2143

Email: truevaluetrains@gmail.com

Visit us at www.truevaluetrains.com

Mark Your Calendar

August 5- 9th- Community Day Camp- register at WWW.MTOLIVETUCC.ORG

August 9 and 10- Rummage sale at Good Hope 9am- 5pm

August 11- Worship at Shaker Woods 8:00am

August 20- council meeting 6pm

August 31- Levites at Mt. Olivet breakfast 9am

September 7- bread baking training at 11am

September 8- anointing training 9:15am

September 11- Bible study at 6pm

September 14- Church picnic 6- 8pm

Dear Church Family,

I hope this card finds you well.
I just wanted to express my
sincere gratitude for your
generous graduation gift. Your
support means alot to me, and
I truly appreciate your kindness.

Thank You

Warm Regards
Kara Houn

RUMMAGE SALE & BAKE SALE AT GOOD HOPE

August 9 & 10 9am- 5pm

Please bring your baked goods Thursday August 8th.

Drop off your donations by the office door if Wendy isn't in.

**Weather permitting and items left to sell will determine if the sale will
continue on Sunday.**

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Return Services Requested

Through Christ we put God first by teaching reaching and loving all!

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12030 Market Street
North Lima, OH 44452

Worship Services

Saturdays—5:00 pm

Sundays—8:00 & 10:30 AM & noon

Children's Sunday School during 10:30 worship

Church Office

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