

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### Tues, December 9

7pm—Bethlehem Volunteer Meet

#### Sat & Sun, December 13-14

1pm—A Night in Bethlehem

#### Sun, December 21

11am—Christmas Program

#### Wed, December 24

4pm—Family & Praise Service

7pm—Traditional Worship

9pm—Traditional with Choir  
Worship

#### Thu, December 25

10am—Christmas Day Service

#### Sun, December 28

10am—Lessons & Carols Service

No DIT



Hope is a  
Stephen Ministry  
Congregation.



Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ's coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. We hold onto hope because we believe that Christ did come—that's the promise of the season. Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. It's gritty, resilient, and can endure—no matter what we fear or face. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.

11/30/25	We Long for God to Break in	Luke 1:5-13
12/07/25	God is at Work	Matthew 11:1-11
12/14/25	We are called Forward	Luke 1:26-39
12/21/25	Give me your hand	Matthew 1:18-25
12/24/25	Good News is Louder than Fear	Luke 1:1-20



### Bethlehem Helpers Still Needed!

Huge thank yous to all who have already volunteered to help with Hope's Christmas gift to the community! We still need some volunteers for both afternoons, and would appreciate any help you can give. If you can't help that weekend, we also need help with set-up on Sat, Dec 6, and disassembly on Sat, Dec 20. Any help with decorating and undecorating the village the weeks before and after would be appreciated! Please call the church office (536-8383) if you can volunteer anywhere. Thank you for your help!!

### Bethlehem Cookie Bakers Needed!

We are still in need of a variety of cookies to share with the anticipated 1,000 - 1,500 visitors to Bethlehem over the weekend of December 13-14. If you can help by donating 2 dozen cookies, please call the church office (419-536-8383) or Mona (419-360-0661). We appreciate your support of this long-standing Hope Christmas tradition!

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:** 9 a.m. Contemporary Service | 10 a.m. Faith Formation | 11 a.m. Traditional Service

**CONTACT:** office@hopetoledo.net | 419.536.8383 | www.hopetoledo.net | 2201 Secor Rd., Toledo, OH 43606



### Families and Friends

*"The Lord your God is with you wherever you go!"*

*Joshua 1:9. Who's Missing Here?? YOU ARE!!* We have plenty of room, so come join the fun and bring your friends!! We start every Sunday at 10 A.M. You can find us for 1–2-year-olds in the Nursery right outside the Sanctuary and for 3-year-olds to 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the basement. We meet for a brief opening, then head off to class with a snack and a Bible story. Any questions, contact Pam Ferrara at [pferrara@hopetoleado.net](mailto:pferrara@hopetoleado.net)

Don't forget we are taking a break on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> but we will be back and ready to go Sunday, January 4, 2026!!

### DIT Special Service Project

DIT has started collecting new girl's and boy's Pajamas size large or 12/14 to donate to the Isaiah 117 House. If you would like to help us out, there are two bins labeled for this project located downstairs in the DIT area, or you can just give them to Pam Ferrara. If you have any questions, also, see Pam.



### Sunday, December 7 at 5pm

All confirmation and high school youth are invited for a Christmas party. We will meet at Pastor Kevin's house (5535 Radcliffe Rd) for make-your-own pizzas and a white elephant gift exchange. Please RSVP to Pastor Kristin by December 4 so we have a count to make the pizza dough and get instructions for the gift exchange.

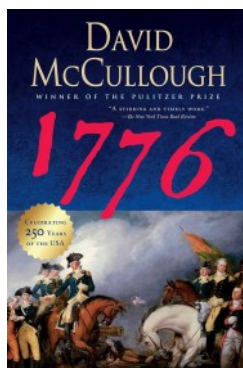


### Do Not Be Afraid

On Sunday, December 21, 2025, during the 11:00 am service, the Children will be putting on the annual Christmas Program. The program is called *Do Not Be Afraid*. The children are very excited! Come and check them out! It is sure to be a spectacular sight!



Registration is now open for the 2026 youth summer mission trip to New York City. We will leave in the evening of July 12 and return early on July 19. We are partnering with Service Learning Camps and Advent Lutheran Church and working with organizations across the city. Cost will be \$275-\$300. All youth in grades 8-12 are eligible to attend. 7<sup>th</sup> graders should consult Pastor Kristin. Registration deadline is February 18 with \$125 deposit. Contact Pastor Kristin for a form and with any questions.



### Book Club—Dec 9th 1pm

*"1776" by David McCullough*

Join us to discuss the story of the year of the Declaration of Independence from the people who's lives were impacted by the birth of a nation.





# Advent Donations for our community

As we approach the celebration of God's great gift to us in Jesus Christ, we seek to live out our core value of generosity through our Advent Collections. Items will be collected each week in worship as well as throughout the week in the church office.

Date	Collection Goal	Donated to
<b>Nov 30</b>	Kroger Gift Cards from \$10-50 <i>Goal: \$2000</i>	<i>Redeemer Lutheran</i>
<b>Dec 7</b>	100 Deodorant Sticks/Sprays; 50 hairbrushes	<i>Old Orchard Elementary</i>
<b>Dec 14</b>	Plastic forks, spoons, & Knives, 1,000 each	<i>MLK Kitchen for the Poor</i>
<b>Dec 21</b>	2,500 diapers (all sizes, but especially sizes 3-5)	<i>Salem Lutheran Church</i>



## Christmas Services

Christmas Eve ~ Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>    Christmas Day ~ Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup>

4pm - Family & Praise Worship    10am - Christmas Worship

7pm - Traditional Worship    Sunday After ~ Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup>

9pm - Traditional Worship with Choir    10am - Lessons & Carols Worship



## Backpacks of Hope

Winter break for Old Orchard Elementary will be 2 ½ weeks. We would like to provide larger food boxes/bags to help the 11 families we support get through the longer break. If you are interested in helping provide extra food or even adopting a family, contact Pastor Kristin. All donations are due to Hope by Sunday, December 14.



Photo Credit: Phillip Kaplan w. Toledo Blade, Nov 2025





## 2025 YEAR-END GIFTS and Estimate of Giving Cards

As you plan your year-end giving, please note that the last day the office will be open in 2025 is Wednesday, December 31st until noon. Any contributions received by noon will be counted towards 2025 giving.

## YEAR-END STOCK & IRA CONTRIBUTIONS

As Christians, we believe in being good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. To that end, consider the advantages of giving stock to Hope Lutheran Church. By donating appreciated stock to a charitable organization, you avoid paying capital gains tax on the increased value of the stock. You may also be able to take a deduction for the market value of the stock at the time it was given. If you plan to give securities to the Church, please notify Cindy Franklin at (419) 536-8383 to help facilitate the process.

Another option is making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA. The gift stays out of your adjusted gross income only if you make a direct transfer from your IRA to the charity. It doesn't count as a tax-free transfer if you withdraw the money first and then make a donation to the charity. Please consult your tax advisor on either matter.

Thank you to everyone that has returned their **2026 Estimate of Giving card**. If you have not done so yet, please consider turning it in to state your intentions for next year. It is helpful for the Hope Finance Team to have an indication of your financial intentions as we prepare the 2026 budget. We realize that you are only offering an estimate and that circumstances can change throughout the year.



On Sunday, November 16, we held our 2nd Friendsgiving Dinner! We had 17 in attendance! There was delicious food served and great fellowship had by all! Pastor Kevin Maxey smoked turkeys while everyone else brought their favorite sides to share! Thanks to Katie Gandert for taking charge this year and making sure everything ran smoothly!! Fun was had by all attended!

